The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

March 2025 | אדר תשפ"ה

We are sure that at some point you may have heard that Purim is referred to as the "Jewish Halloween." After all, both holidays involve dressing up, indulging in treats, and having a blast. But that's where the similarity ends.

The contrast between Purim and Halloween highlights these celebrations' distinct cultural and historical contexts. Purim, rooted in Jewish history, commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from a plot to destroy them, as recounted in the Book of Esther. It tells how Queen Esther bravely saved her people, the Jewish community, from a terrible fate. The villain, Haman, had plotted to destroy them, but Esther, with courage and wisdom, revealed Haman's plot to the king. Because of her bravery, the Jewish people were saved, and they celebrated their rescue. It's a story of courage, identity, and triumph over adversity! Dressing up in costumes during Purim symbolizes the hidden nature of the miracles and the theme of concealment and revelation.

On the flip side, Halloween originated in ancient Celtic festivals and is mostly about spooky fun, trick-or-treating, and a time to embrace the supernatural. Not even close!

Don your best costumes on Thursday evening, **March 13, at 7:30** pm for our Megillah reading and celebrate this historic Jewish story at CBI- There will be lots of joy, feasting, and l'chaim's!

Chag Purim Sameach!

The CBI Editorial Team

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR DEVICE

DURING OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear Friends,

The word for happiness in Hebrew is **Simcha**. Simcha can also translate as **joy** or other words in English that connote satisfaction and contentment in life. But there's one thing that the word does not imply: words that indicate a sense of wanton levity and the type of activities that don't give us "true" happiness. Think shiny, materialistic goods that neither make us feel inherently good nor increase our emotional well-being—or other things of that nature.

So when the sages in the Talmud instructed us to "**increase in happiness**" in the month of Adar (the month of Purim), it was the former kind of happiness that they were referring to.

Granted, on Purim, we engage in levity that is over the top and which is somewhat wild compared to other times of the year, but there is always a sense of emotional health and spirituality connected to any levity within Judaism. Yes, we go crazy sometimes, but the goal is "Simcha," which is happiness that comes from things that make us internally happy.

What are those things, you might ask?

Well, in the famous decades-long Harvard Study of Adult Development, the answer is clear: The study found that happiness stems from healthy relationships and community building. That is Simcha!

So "increasing in happiness" essentially means getting more involved with your community, making new friends, building lasting relationships, and, put another way, getting to Shul and getting involved.

Aren't we all lucky that the building blocks for that sense of happiness are already there at CBI? Now, all you have to do is decide to engage more so you can take advantage of this gift that we have.

You can do it every week on Shabbat or start this Purim, on March 13, at our fun, happy, joyful evening with elements of, gasp, levity thrown in (see flyer).

And if you attend on Purim, wear a costume, for crying out loud.

Happy Purim!

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events

YOU'RE INVITED TO
CELELBRATE AT A SPECIAL
BIRTHDAY KIDDUSH FOR

ELLEN ZIMEL

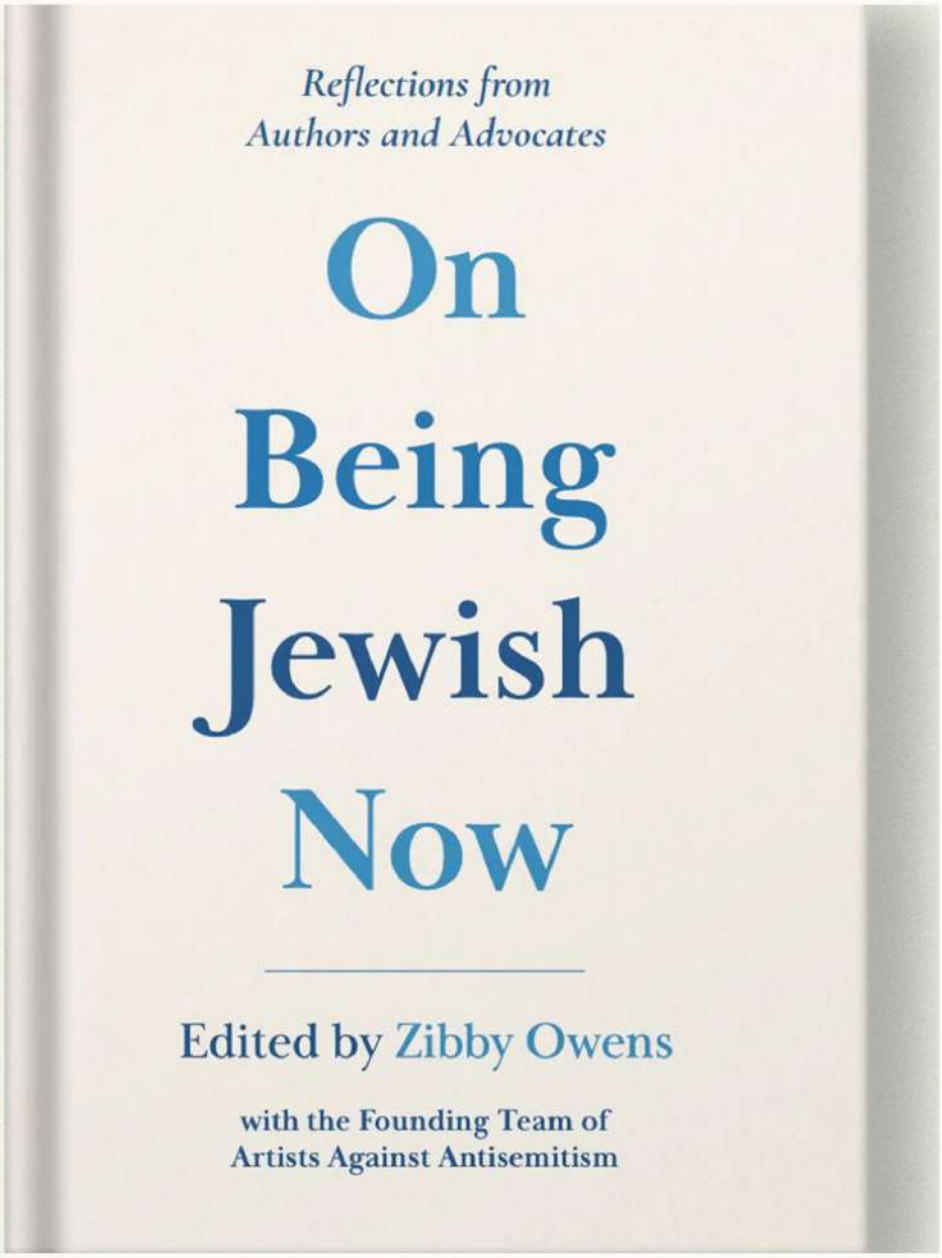
HELP HER CELEBRATE THIS
GREAT MILESTONE

Shabbat
March 15
10 AM
Kiddush luncheon to follow

RSVP required by March 9
by texting Roberta at
917-446-7983

Our Inaugural Book

Get it. Read it.



GOOD BOOKS, GOOD TEA, AND GOOD COMPANY

CBI BOOK CLUB

Facilitated by Mindy Leeper

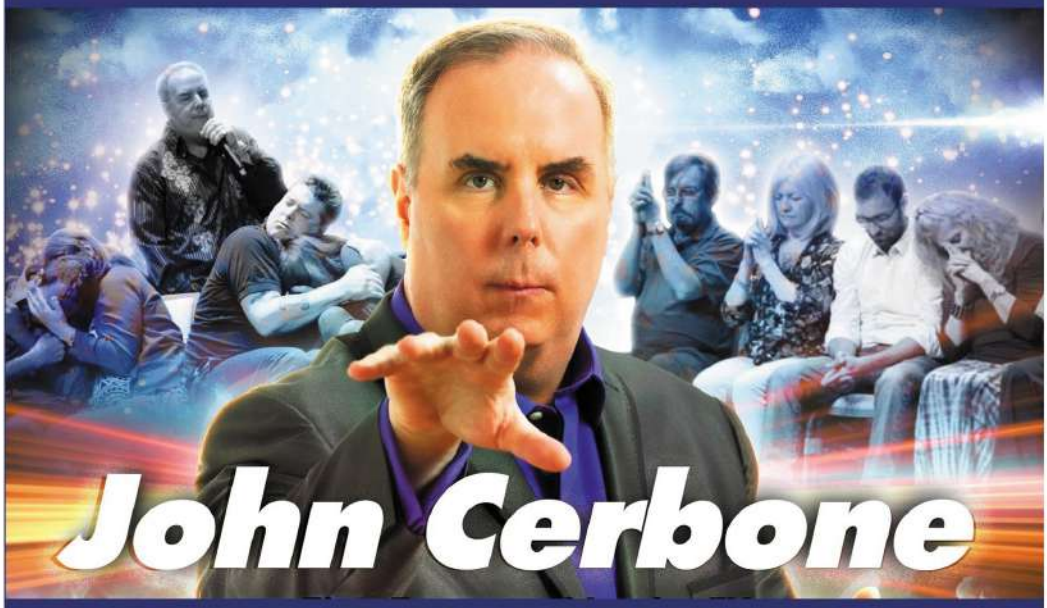
Stay tuned for first
in-person meeting details

WWW.CBICG.ORG

Save the Date

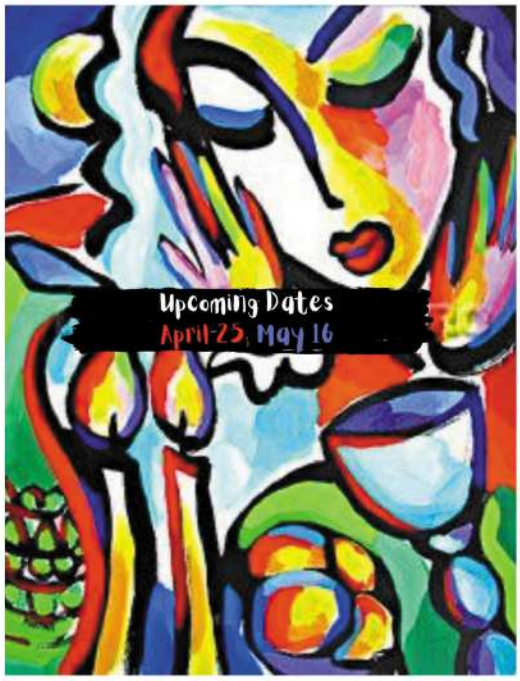
Saturday Evening
MAY 10, 2025

CBI PRESENTS
More Than Just A Show
An Entertainment Event Like No Other



The Trance-Master™
Comedy Hypnosis Experience

Admission:
$40 CBI members; $45 Non-members



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights
March 21
April 25
May 16

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

cbi
congregation beth israel
Presents
BACK TO JEWISH SCHOOL
WITH RABBI ABE
Wednesdays @ 8 PM
On Zoom by clicking here

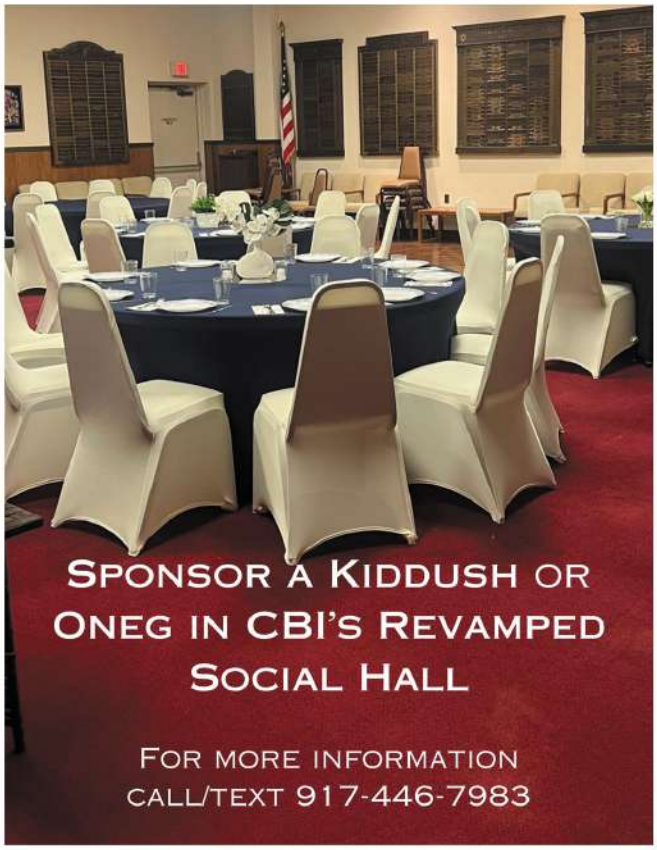
CBI Game Day: MAHJONG
Every Tuesday @noon at CBI
All Levels Welcome
Cover: $5
Bring your
kosher lunch and friends
RSVP by Monday to
Judi Slatsky at
jels244@aol.com
or 917-575-5443

CBI Super Bowl LIX Fundraiser

WINNERS

First Quarter: $150	Sondra Bernstein
Half Time: $300	Shari & Irv Miljoner
Third Quarter: $150	Ilene & Rob Rothschild
Final Score: $400	Marvin Bernstein

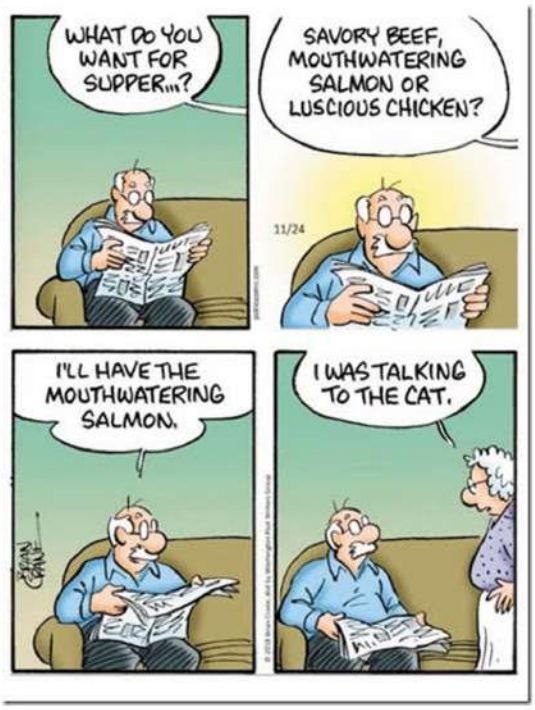
Congratulations to the winners



A BIG thank you to:

Adele Murphy
for hosting her lavish 70th birthday celebration with her friends and family at CBI

Judi Slatsky and Laura Levy
for hosting a delicious kiddush in honor of their children and grandchildren



Come on, laugh a bit.
It will do you good— and
then some.

Honor the memory of your loved one on CBI's Digital Memorial Board

Share a bio, photo, or anecdote as shown above
(Click here to see the board online)

For more info, please contact Marianne Baker at 516-486-5140

March Yahrzeits

Shlomo Gutman	3-2	Edith Brandes	3-16
Joseph Shulman	3-2	Marvin Friclas	3-16
Blanche Zaum	3-2	Murray Kitain	3-17
Leon Sabbas	3-3	Ruth Volin	3-17
Paul Skulsky	3-3	Martin Levy	3-21
Dorothy Goldsmith	3-4	Morris Goldsmith	3-23
Harriette Schved	3-4	Siegfried Rothschild	3-24
Adrienne N Mantis	3-5	Issac Rosenkranz	3-25
George Glasser	3-11	Joseph Brass	3-26
Norma Atlas	3-11	Abraham Kaputkin	3-27
Marvin Bernstein	3-12	Harriet Seifman	3-30
Efthia Sabbas	3-12	Rose Skulsky	3-31

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Alan Mantis (yahrzeit of his wife, Adrienne and her cousin, Marvin Fricklas)
Tilda Lovinger (yahrzeits of my brother, Claude Herscovicci)
Ilene & Rob Rothschild (yahrzeits of Siegfried Rothschild and Joseph Brass
Cindy & Jeff Skulsky (at the 4th yahrzeit of my dad, Paul Skulsky)

Donations

Susan Bass (Aliyah)
Marvin Bernstein (a quarter of his Super Bowl win)
Marlene Cepeda (wishing Happy Birthday to Roberta Bauer, Adele Murphy and Ellen Zimel; in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Krauss at their first anniversary; Best wishes to Rabbi Abe & Allie in celebration of Ezra's Pidyon Haben; In memory of Wolf Genuth
Judi Slatsky (Mazal Tov to Adele Murphy on her birthday)

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Looking to promote your business, professional services, or the opening of a new venture?

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by advertising in our monthly newsletter.
Please reach out to info@cbicg.org
or 516-489-1818 for more info.

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