The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

June 2025 | סיון תשפ"ה

This month, we welcome **Shavuot**, a joyful celebration of unity, faith, and shared purpose. It commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, a moment when all the people of Israel—men, women, and children—stood together as one. This powerful image reminds us that the Torah was not given to individuals in isolation, but to a united community, bound by a shared covenant and responsibility. That same spirit of togetherness continues today at CBI and in most synagogues, where building community is central to Jewish life.

When we come together to learn, pray, and celebrate on Shavuot, we honor the moment our ancestors stood as one. Whether it's preparing a festive meal (with cheesecake, too!), decorating the synagogue with flowers, or studying Torah late into the night, every act becomes a thread in the fabric of our own community. Working side by side strengthens relationships, builds trust, and brings joy to all involved.

Shavuot teaches us that we each have a role to play, just as every soul was present at Sinai. When we join together in our synagogue with open hearts and willing hands, we recreate that moment of holy unity, making our beautiful community a place of inspiration, warmth, and shared purpose. Shavuot is not just a memory—it's a celebration of what we build together.

Our **Shavout (and Yizkor) service will be observed on Monday, June 2nd at 10 am**. We look forward to celebrating with you!

THE CBI EDITORIAL TEAM

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Rabbi

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Dear CBI members,

Our election for the officers and board of trustees will be held on Sunday, June 22, at 10 am. Please note that only members in good standing will be allowed to vote. There will also be a very important congregation meeting following the election.

In early June, you will be mailed a candidate packet with brief bios, qualifications, and goals for each candidate. There are 15 people running for 12 positions on the board of trustees.

Please note that you are only allowed to vote for 12 candidates. If you vote for more than 12 candidates, your ballot will not be counted.

All members of our executive board, except for the office of the president, will be running unopposed.

The option of voting by absentee ballot is being offered only to congregants unable to attend the meeting. The absentee ballot, which will be included in the packet, is only valid by signing and dating it. The ballot must be returned by return mail by June 22. Any ballots received after the election will not be counted.

We strongly encourage you to attend the meeting, where each candidate will speak briefly about themselves. In addition, very important congregational business will be shared with you. Please make every effort to attend.

In Memorium

MURIEL LEVINE

One month shy of 101 years old, CBI lost a beloved member of its community on May 5.

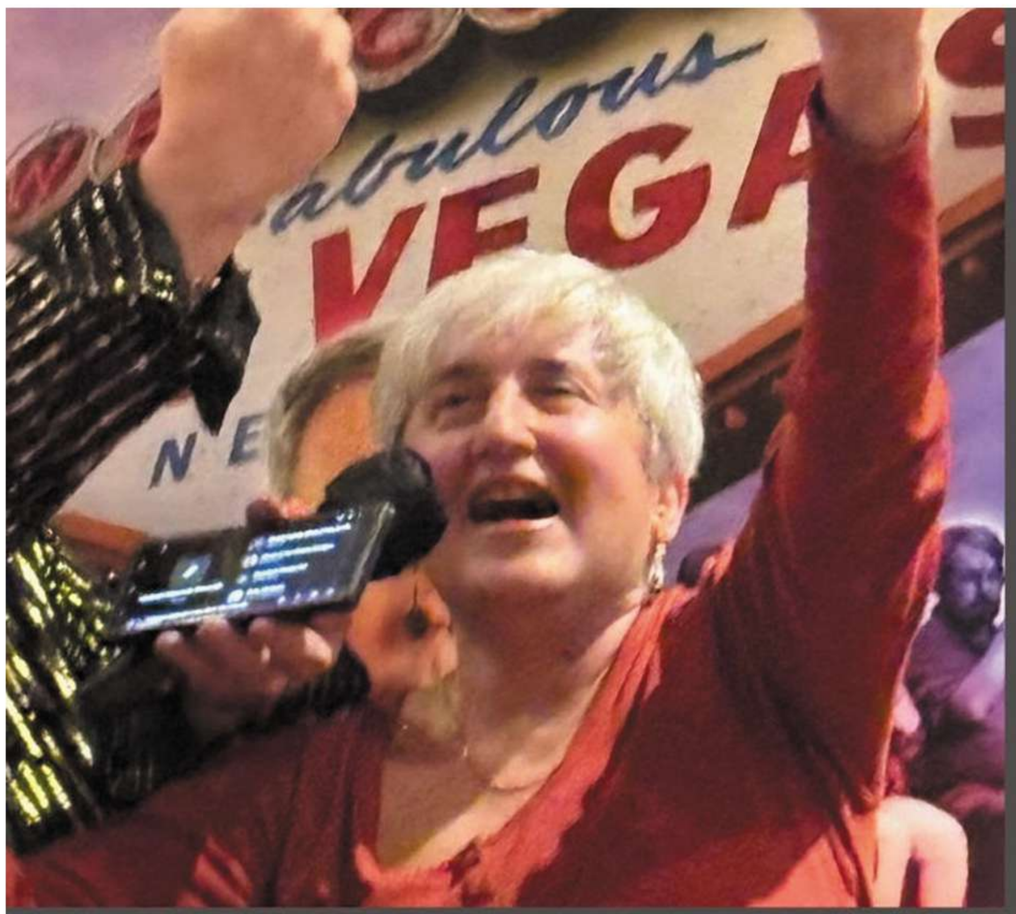
Muriel served in numerous leadership roles at CBI with grace and humility for decades, exemplifying what this community is all about. She took great pride in raising funds for our synagogue with its High Holiday Flower Fund.

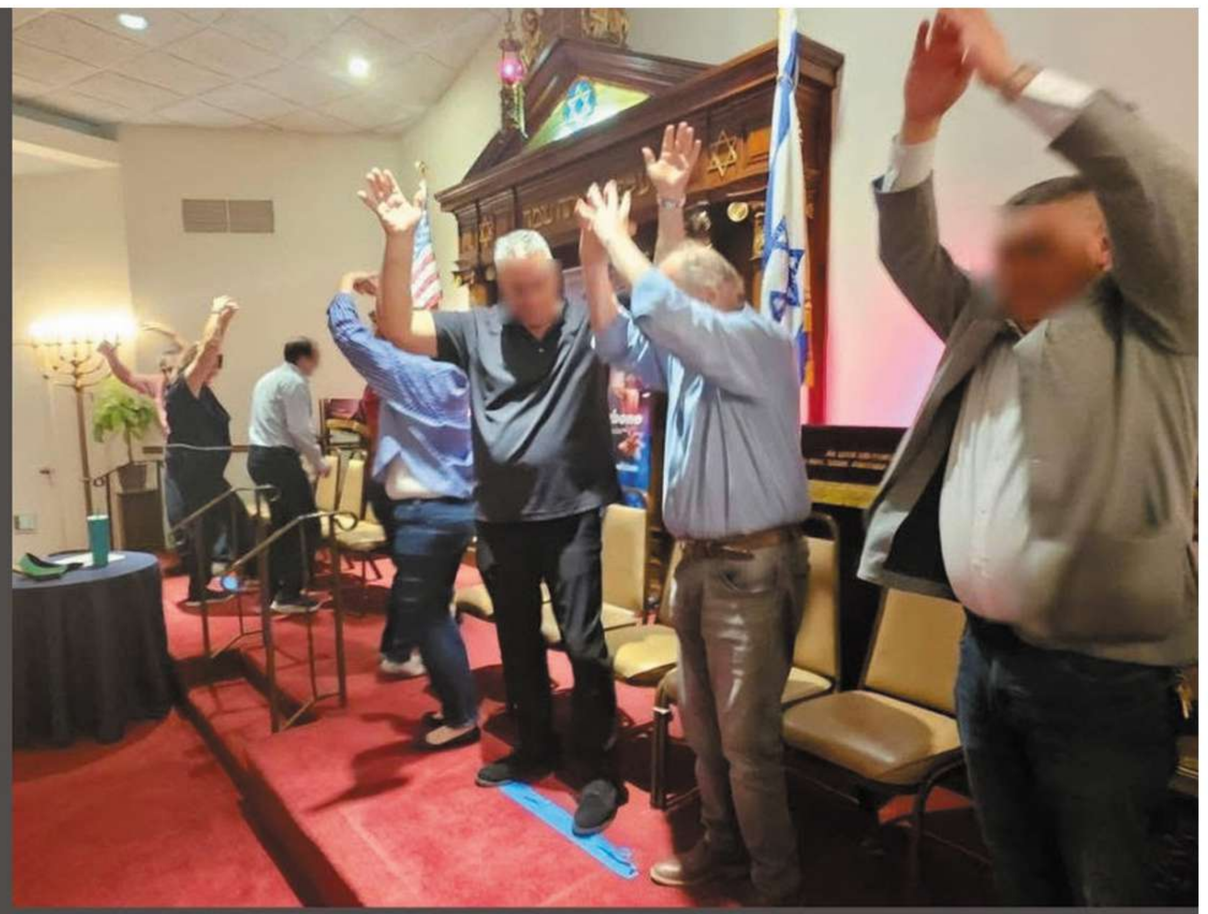
In her memory and honor, commencing this High Holiday season, we are changing the name of the fund to the Muriel Levine HH Flower Fund.

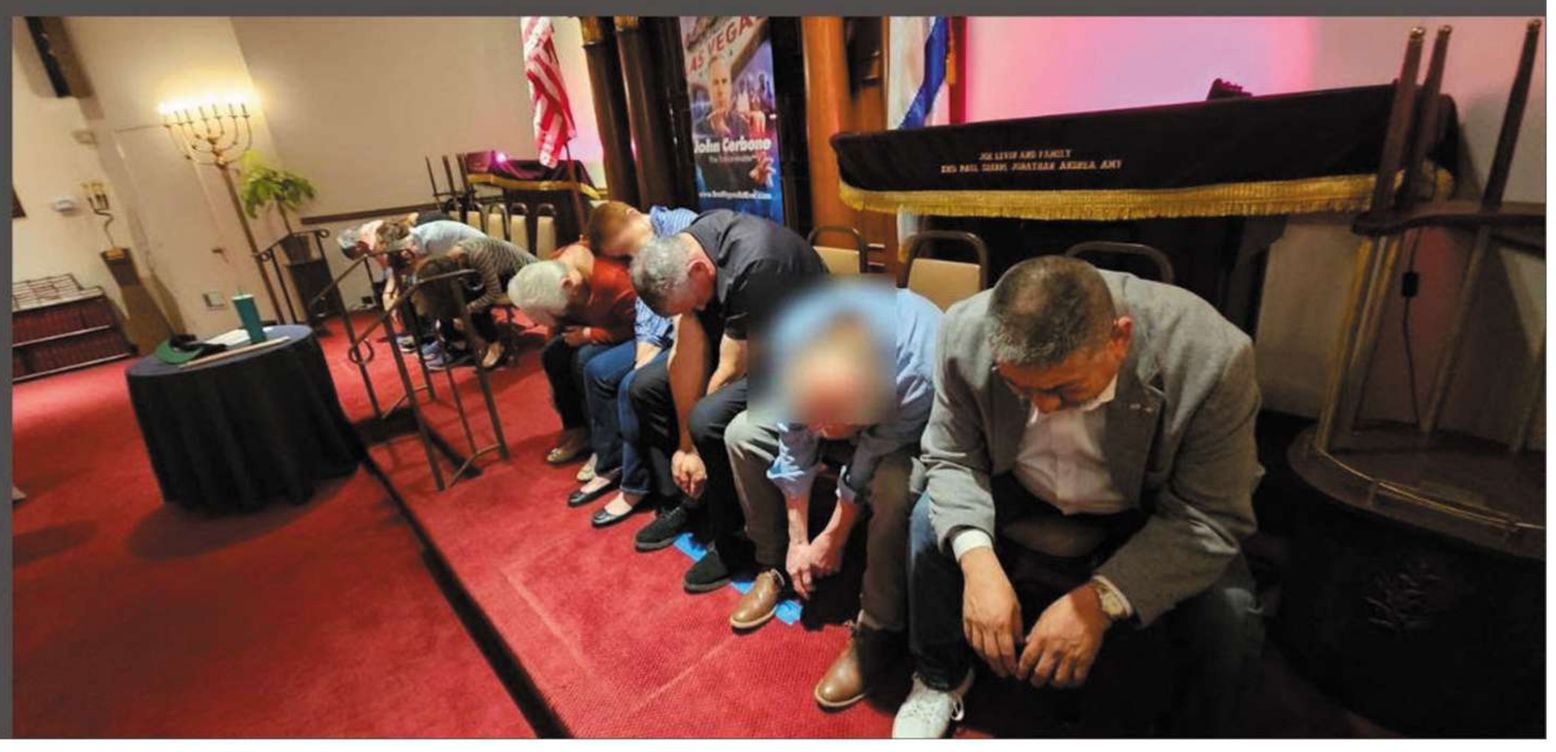
May her memory be a blessing in our lives.

CBI's Comedy Hypnosis Fundraiser

j







What an evening to remember!
A good time and a night full of laughter was had by all, and the fundraising component was equally successful. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

As we find ourselves on the cusp of summer, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the success of our recent fundraiser and the sense of forward movement in our community, despite our ongoing challenges. The dedication to our community is truly inspiring, and the new additions, alongside the old guard, are making things exciting and making all the difference.

Speaking of the old guard, we have just lost a great lady in **Muriel Levine** when she passed away this past month, and this has saddened us all. However, we have also gained some new members in the past month and received new pledges of dedication from those we already have. Muriel was someone who cared deeply about this community, and no one would have liked to see it continue growing more than she did. I can sense Muriel looking after us from the spiritual realms she now belongs to, and may her dedication and optimism be a motivation for us all to continue in her ways.

As we celebrate the Holiday of Shavuot and look forward to the summer, let us all remember that **we are CBI, and CBI is us.**

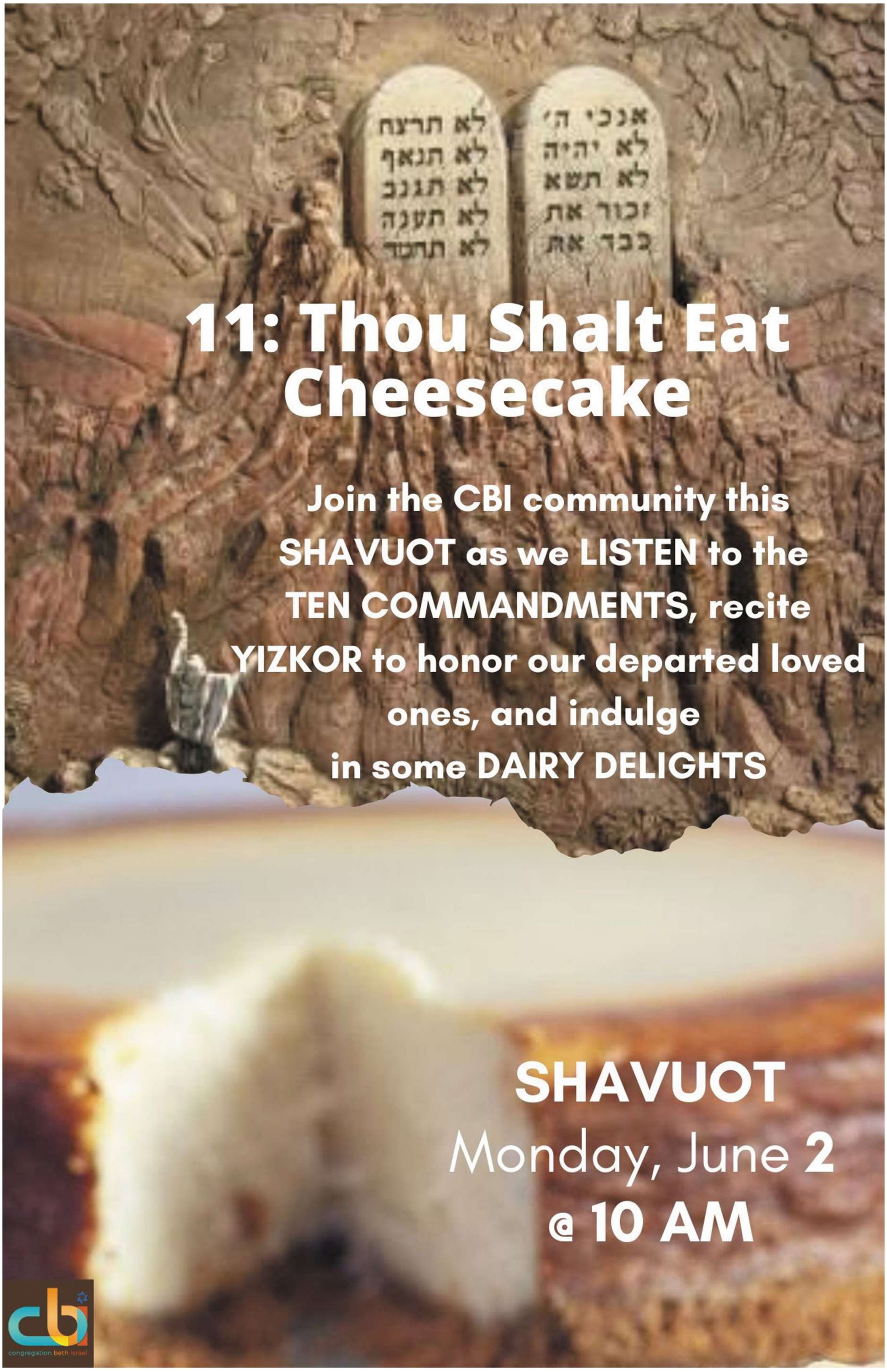
As I relayed in my past sermon and discussed in our recent Wednesday class, when the Israelites were offered the gift of the Torah all those years ago, they famously responded with **"Naaseh V'nishmah—we will obey, and then understand."** In other words, they were committing to the great cause and mission because they knew it was the right thing to do, and the details and the hows and the whys, they figured, they would get to eventually. However, they recognized that to build a thriving community, commitment was required not just by a few but by many. This strategy worked because we are still here today, a people writing about our history more than 3,300 years later.

I look forward to continuing to build with all of you, each of us contributing the precise skills and talents that we each bring to the CBI table. As a recent potential member told me before they joined: "We are looking for a new Spiritual Home." Our community and shul is, indeed, a **Spiritual Home**, and only due to all of our souls that reside in every inch of brick of our sanctuary and in any iota of any idea that we generate in its walls and beyond.

Simply put, **we all are the souls of CBI,** and let's continue on that path, with those whose souls are not fully committed yet to be found there soon enough because they are inspired by those of us who already are.

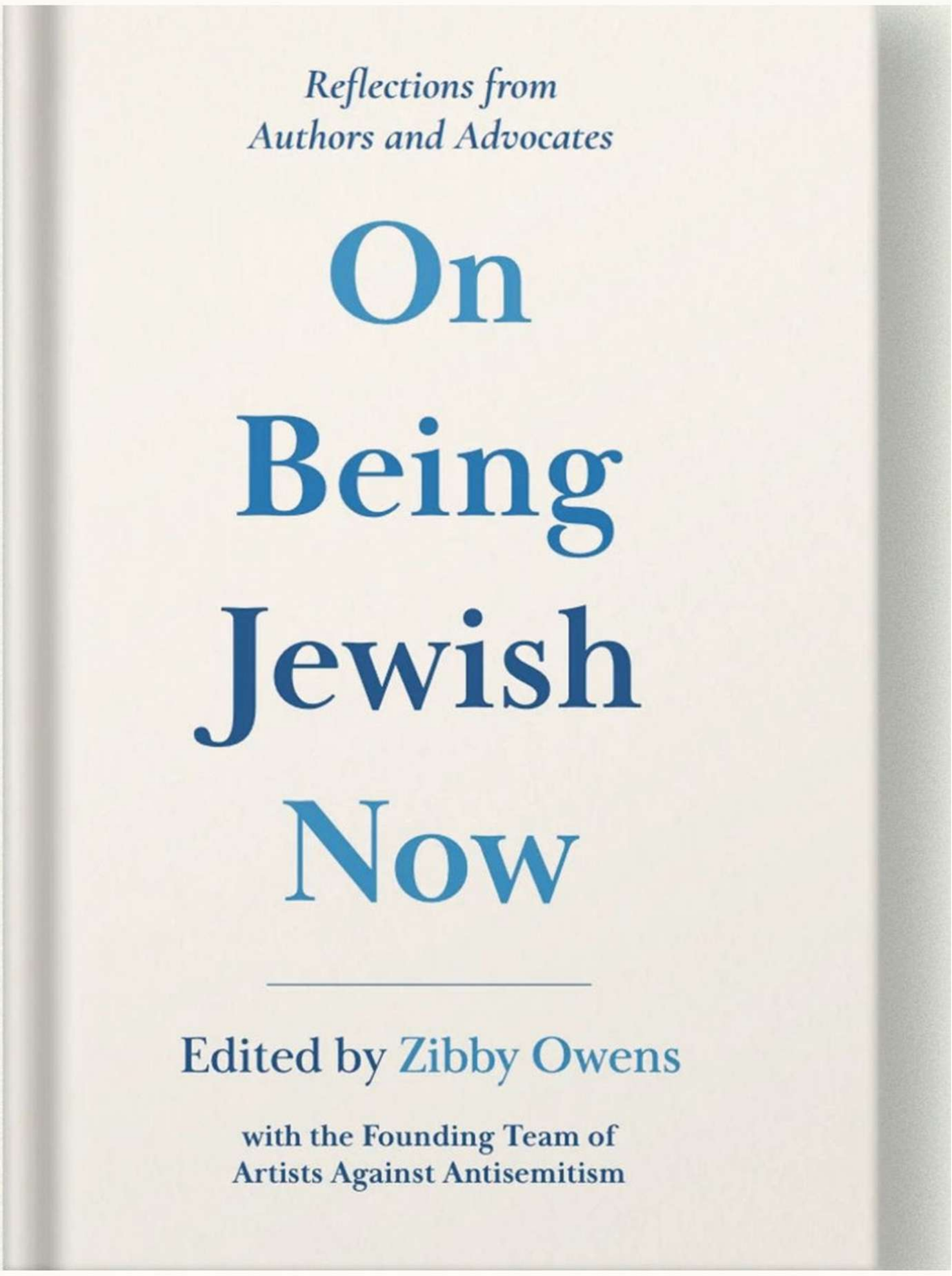
Warmly
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events



Our Inaugural Book

Get it. Read it.



GOOD BOOKS, GOOD TEA, AND GOOD COMPANY

CBI BOOK CLUB

Facilitated by Mindy Leeper

Sunday, June 8, 2025

11 AM - 1:00 PM

Text Mindy by June 1 at 516-680-2862 to RSVP and for directions to her home.

WWW.CBICG.ORG

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

June 20

July 18

August 8

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

congregation beth israel

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
congregation beth israel

Sponsor a Kiddush or
Oneg in CBI's Revamped
Social Hall
For more information
call/text 917-446-7983

A BIG thank you to:

Ellen Zimel
for preparing and creating the delicious kiddush
on May 24

&

Mindy Leeper
for her contribution of the delectable kugel

"This time lick my entire body."

"This time lick my entire body."

Come on, laugh a little 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

June Yahrzeits

Julius Weinstein	6-1	Nathan Zaum	6-15
Joseph Goldman	6-7	Robin Krauss	6-21
Gail Terry Schwartz	6-7	Joe Levin	6-23
Isaac Janvey	6-8	Bette Jaffe	6-23
Fannie Mandell	6-12	Saul Smith	6-23
Joseph Bernstein	6-14	Samuel Stone	6-27
Abraham Rosenthal	6-15	Irving Rothman	6-28
		Samuel Skulsky	6-29

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Abraham Sabbas: yahrzeit of my mother and father, Eftihia & Leon Sabbas
Rick Schwartz, yahrzeit of my wife, Gail Terry Schwartz
Alan Mantis: in memory of my cousin, Gail Terry Schwartz
Marianne Baker: in memory of my friend, Muriel Levine, a great loss to CBI and the mahjong group
Alan & Frieda Brodsky: in memory of my father, Dr. Benjamin Brodsky, and Muriel Levine, a devoted and longtime temple member
Sharyn & Bruce Zinn: in memory of Muriel Levine
Maritza Garcia: in memory of Muriel Levine
Enid Carruth: in honor of my extraordinary dad, Joe Levin, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Nicole Balnis: in memory of Muriel Levine
Marvin Bernstein: in memory of Muriel Levine
Ellen Zimel: in memory of Muriel Levine
Debbie & Richard Krauss: In memory of Muriel Levine, a real lady and dedicated member of our synagogue for many years. She will be missed but never forgotten. She was our recording secretary for many years!
Robin Cinnamon: in memory of Muriel Levine
Roberta Bouer: honoring the memory of a dear lady, Muriel Levine. I will miss her greatly
Noel & Robin Ratner: in memory of Muriel Levine
Linda & Steven Krull: In memory of my father, Joseph (Yussi) Dolgow. May his bemory be a blessing
Linda & Steven Krull: In memory of my dear Mother, Edith Dolgow, the creator of CBI's needlepoints. May her memory be a blessing

Other Donations

Alan & Frieda Brodsky: general donation
Marsha Mandell: for the yahrzeit of Fannie Mandell
Angel & Marlene Cepeda: 1. a speedy and complete recovery to Josie Genuth, 2. in honor of Mindy & Monte Leeper's anniversary and beautiful kiddush, 3. to Roberta Bouer for all her hard work with the great fundraiser for CBI, 4. a speedy and complete recovery to Alan Mantis
Roberta Bouer: donation of her winnings in the 50/50 on May 10
Robin Cinnamon: general donation
Alan & Frieda Brodsky: for the speedy recovery of Alan Mantis
Stephanie Zaro: general donation

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Please reach out to info@cbicg.org
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