The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

July 2025 | תמוז-מנחם אב תשפ"ה

A Joyful Jewish July Bucket List

July is bursting with sunshine, long days, and endless possibilities—and while it's not a heavy month for Jewish holidays, that doesn't mean there's any shortage of ways to infuse the summer with Jewish spirit, meaning, and community. Here's a fun Jewish spin on your July bucket list!

1. **Shul and Chill:** Commit to attending CBI Shabbat and/or Kabbalat Shabbat services at least twice this month—not out of obligation, but as a grounding, spiritual refresh. Bonus points for staying for our tasty kiddush & shmoozing

2. **Shabbat Outdoors:** Let's have a Friday night picnic in the park or on your patio. Bring candles, challah, grape juice, (or wine) and good friends. Let nature become your sanctuary. (We have something in the works; stay tuned for details)

3. **Tikkun Olam Project:** Choose a small act of kindness to help heal the world—whether it's volunteering at a food pantry or organizing a beach clean-up to honor of Jewish value of bal tashchit (the mitzvah not to waste or destroy).

4. **Jewish Summer Reading:** Following our successful book club gathering and discussion, read another Jewish-themed book—maybe a historical novel, a Torah commentary, or even something witty by an iconic Jewish author. (Stay-tuned for our next book club pick and join us)

5. **Farmers Market Kashrut:** Shop locally for fresh fruits and veggies, and take on the challenge of creating a delicious kosher-style meal that celebrates the season. Our Shabbat kiddush crew would be delighted to taste-test your newest dish!

6. **Reconnect with Roots:** Call a bubbe, zayde, or older friend and ask them to share a Jewish memory or recipe.
7. **Gratitude Journal:** Every day, jot down one Jewish moment or mitzvah that made you smile.

Make July count—not just with sunscreen, but with soul.

Best wishes for a happy & safe 4th!

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Thank you!

We would like to acknowledge and thank our previous board trustees for their years of dedication and service to our congregation.

We gratefully appreciate:

Judi Levy Slatsky
Luis Robayo
Lenny Goldberg
Laura Levy

High Holiday Book of Life

The amount per individual name to be listed in this year's Book of Life remains $18 as in previous years.

Also, this is not a "check-only" donation. Any CBI donation is payable online through our website. Please indicate the names of your loved ones in the notes section and it will be included in our newly designed memorial format.

The $25 amount indicated in the HH mail packet was an error.

Of course, you can always give as much as you'd like.

CBI has sent out its dues invoice for 2025-2026.

Please be aware that our dues have increased by $150. The new **$600 annual dues** will help cover our increased expenses and minimize our deficits.

We appreciate your support of this necessary change. We thank you for your prompt attention to pay this invoice by check or online.

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

They say that the first couple of years of a child's life pass very quickly, and things change rapidly. Before you know it, your child is walking and talking, if all goes well, God willing. I think of that specifically now as I sit down to write the Scoop message, and I find myself thinking as I look around and realize that July of 2025 is upon us, and ask myself, "How did we get here so quickly?"

Now, as you all know, I do have a child whom I have the privilege of witnessing grow daily. Yet, at the same time, when I look at Ezra, I realize that it's hard for me to "watch grass grow," and I'm not able to see the incremental growth every single day as he learns new nuances of crawling, talking, and other motor and cognitive skills. Here, a little new maneuver with his leg, there a new sound or clicking that his mouth produces, over here a new recognition of how a toy operates, and, presto, it all builds up to the grand expression of full mobility and verbal articulation. Each day builds upon the previous one, and the next day builds upon the current one. It's hard to see that when observing things up close, but when we pull back, it's evident that there's not a day that does not count.

For us, too, as adults, each day counts, and we have the privilege and ability to make each day significant. However, as adults, our growth is even less visible because, at a certain point, we physically stop growing; yet, emotional and spiritual growth is still present, especially if we are intentional about our lives. We tend to celebrate the big finale moments instead of the seemingly mundane aspects of everyday life. Still, things happen every day, and not a day goes by that we remain metaphorically still—if we choose not to.

That is what we try to do each day as Jews. We are living, breathing creatures that should always be moving forward and upward. Even if we experience a regression, we should take that step backward to continue growing after it is over.

Just as with a baby, when there are moments of regression, there is usually a flowering of growth that emerges from that seeming setback, so too should it be with us adults. We are not meant to sit still. We were born to move, physically and metaphorically.

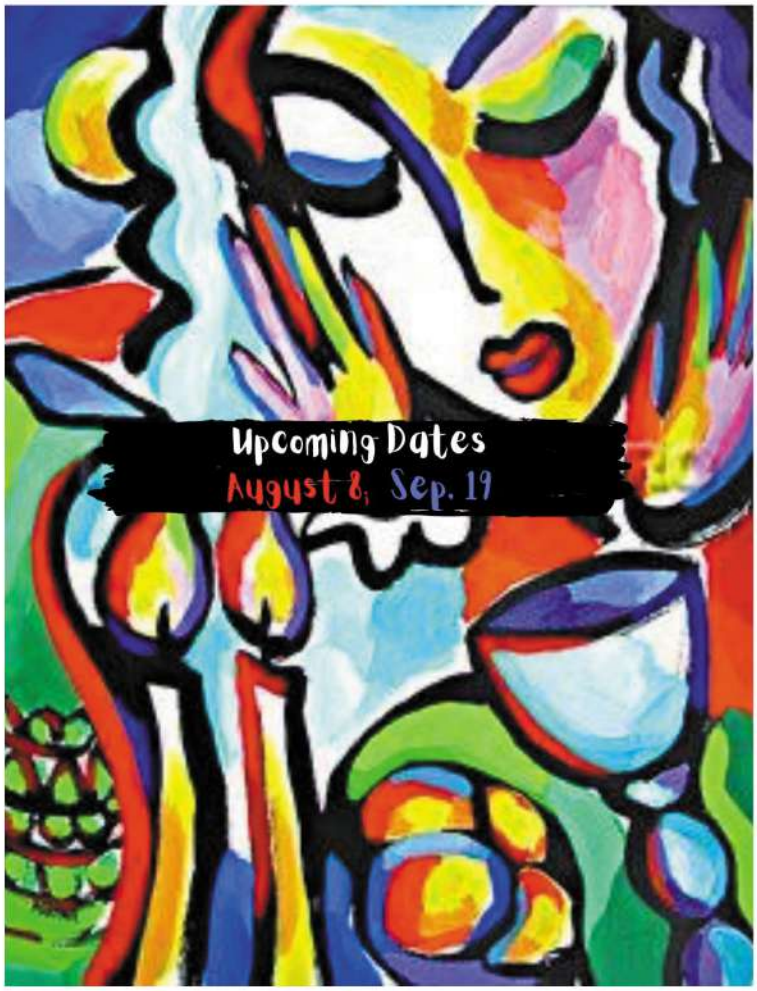
As we enter the summer, when people tend to be a little more lazy and relaxed, just remember that relaxation is a natural environment in which to grow and prosper. We sit back to recharge—and then hopefully we choose to charge forward. That is the hope.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the next two months, as we bring our best recharged versions of ourselves to our community at CBI.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy, and meaningful summer,

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

July 18

August 8

Sep. 19

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

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

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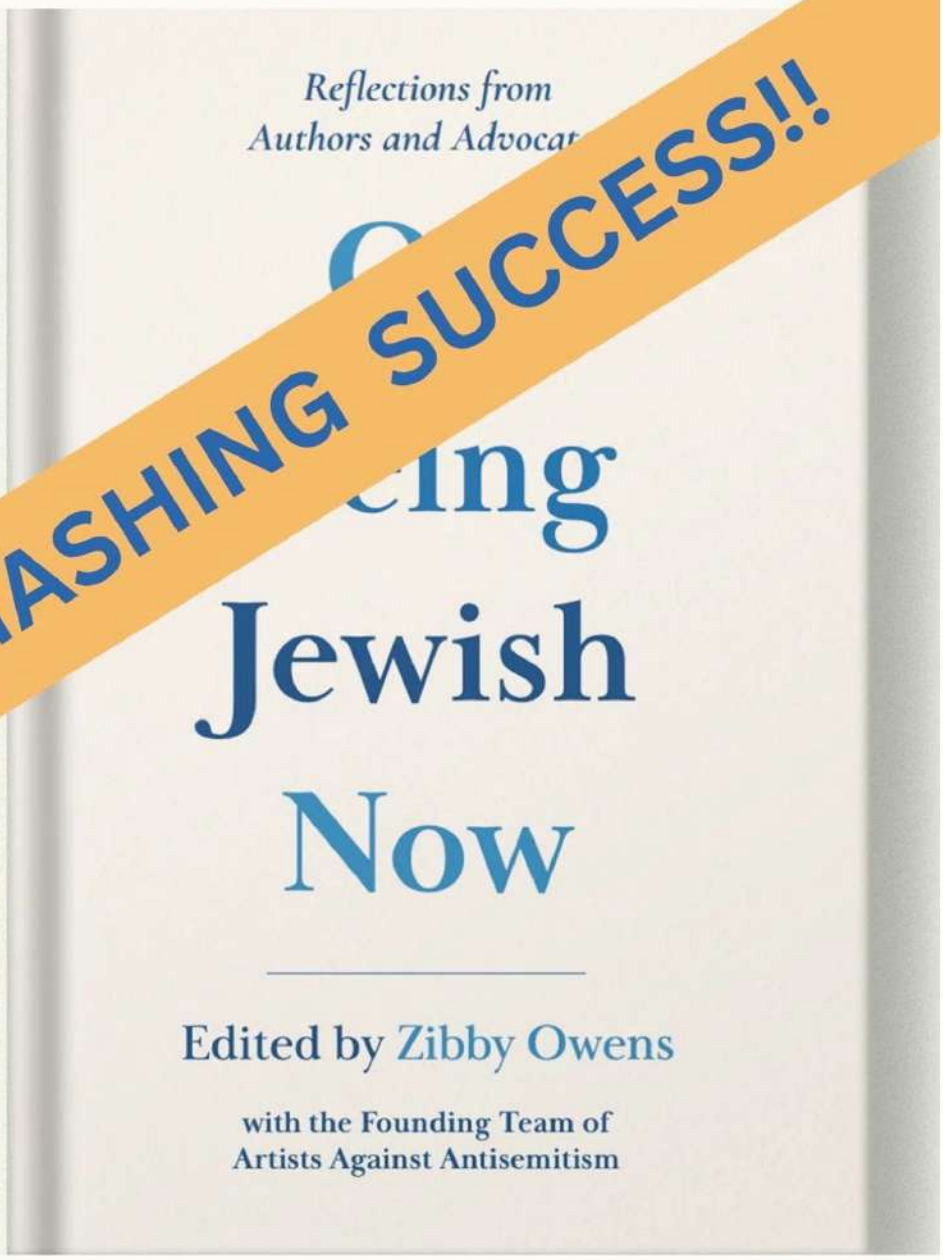

A SMASHING SUCCESS!!

GOOD BOOKS, GOOD [illegible], 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

A BIG thank you to:

Roberta Bouer
for sponsoring a lavish Kiddush on June 14 in honor of her Bat Mitzvah Anniversary and sharing her 50/50 winnings as a "give-back" to our community.

Adele Murphy
for her preparation of her delicious, savory salads and more for our Oneg on June 20.

Laura Weill
for her outstanding homemade challah--a really tasty treat for us all.

Sam Seifman
for sponsoring a delicious Italian feast in honor of his two sons, Matt and Travis on June 28

"I thought I was a writer,
but it turned out to be a chemical imbalance."

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

July Yahrzeits

Abigael Robayo	7-2	Henrietta Genuth	7-14
Maria O. Cedeno	7-4	Esther Hanft	7-15
Samuel Herscovicci	7-4	Martin Garber	7-16
Molly Janvey	7-4	Seymour Rosen	7-19
Fannie Becker	7-7	David Volin	7-19
Florence Slosberg	7-8	Saul Bouer	7-23
Milton Ratner	7-11	Fannie Glasser	7-26
Abraham Seifman	7-12	Elaine Broder	7-29
Edna Weinstein	7-13	Isidore Guberman	7-30

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Marilyn & Sander Levine: to the Flower Fund, in memory of our aunt, Muriel Levine
Matilda Lovinger: in memory of a very nice lady, a joy to talk to, Muriel Levine
Alan & Frieda Brodsky: in honor of Roberta Bouer, her haftorah reading and all she does for CBI
Angela Sabbas: yahrzeit of my mother, Maria Cedeno
Marlene & Angel Cepeda: for the yahrzeit of my dad , Martin Garber
Shari & Irv Miljoner: In memory of our special friend and beloved CBI congregant Muriel Levine (of blessed memory)

Other Donations

Marlene & Angel Cepeda: 1. speedy and complete recovery to Alan Mantis; 2. for the complete recovery of Josie Genuth; 3. to Robertra Bouer and her crews for all her hard work and efforts for CBI; 4. congratulations to my daughter Candice and husband Charles on the birth of ELIZA HOPE!
Marianne Baker: for Roberta's chanting of her bat mitzvah haftorah and for the donuts and iced coffee that she shlepped to Alan Mantis, fulfilling a wish/hope
Marianne Baker: congratulations to Marlene and Angel Cepeda on becoming grandparents
Ellen Zimel: In honor of Roberta Bouer for her generosity and deep dedication to our beautiful Temple. You did a terrific job today.
Marion K. Salomon: Thanks for welcoming my mother & her aide warmly when they attended Shabbos services
Shari & Irv Miljoner: In recognition of thoughts and prayers said by our CBI friends for Shari's procedure and recovery

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