

C.B.E. CHAI LITES

Phone: 805-581-3723
Fax: 805-581-3160

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May-June, 2014 / Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz-5774

Rabbi's Message

A Journey through "Sepharad"



Dear Friends – Shalom Chaverim!

I hope you'll join us on Friday, May 9, for our first Fiesta Shabbat! We'll start with a Mexican dinner at 6:30 (\$6 each, RSVP to Marilyn in the Temple office), followed by a special service at 8 PM. The choir has learned a Ladino song, "Cuando el Rey Nimrod," a popular Sephardic folk song, about the birth of Abraham – of course as a Sephardic Jew! You'll love hearing the lyrics in Ladino, Judeo-Spanish, a combination of old Spanish and Hebrew- the Sephardic counterpart to Yiddish. Cantor Russ will sing two of the "regular" prayers to Sephardic melodies. Temple members of Sephardic descent will share their family's history. (See Flyer on page 3)

Our Fiesta Shabbat is in honor of Jewish culture and diversity. Judaism is one of the oldest continuous traditions; Jews have lived in many lands and enriched each of the countries where they have lived. "Sepharad" is the Hebrew word for Spain – and Jews of Spanish origin are called "Sephardim." Actually, the word "Sepharad" occurs once in the Bible, in the prophetic book of Obadiah, where the prophet speaks of "the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad." Legend has it that "the captivity of Jerusalem" refers to a Jewish settlement in Spain after the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586 bce; however, Jews probably began to settle in Spain only in the first centuries of the Common Era. By the 900's and 1000's, the Jewish communities flourished there – hence this time is referred to the Golden Age of Spain. Ironically, this great *convivencia* occurred primarily when Spain was under Moslem rule. However, that wasn't all so grand either; the famous Maimonides from Cordoba had to flee with his family in 1148 when the fanatical Almohades took control of that region. After many years of travel, the family settled in Egypt. In 1492, with the fall of Granada and the uniting of the kingdom under Ferdinand and Isabella and strict Catholicism, the Jewish residents of Spain were forced to convert, flee or be killed. That summer about 150,000 Jews left; many went to Portugal, others to North Africa, Turkey, Italy and later Amsterdam. The Sephardic culture, customs and language traveled with them. In fact, the first Jews to reach the Americas were Sephardim! So, let's celebrate our beautiful, rich heritage!

Am Yisrael Chai!

עם ישראל חי

Hasta Luego y Bueno Shabbat!

Rabbi Michele Paskow

Michmich805@gmail.com

There are 2,200,000 Sephardic Jews

16 % of the World Jewish population

Most of them live in
Israel, France, and the United States



*Maimonides statue
in the Jewish Quarter
"Juderia" in Cordoba*



*Cordoba Synagogue with
beautiful tile with Hebrew
lettering*

President's Message by Mitchell Salberg



Shalom,

Well, spring has sprung! I hope everyone had a nice Passover. With the temple elections over I would like to personally thank the past Board of Directors for their exceptional service to Congregation B'nai Emet. Your support of CBE was greatly appreciated by all. During my first year as President of CBE, the Board instituted a lot of memorable and exciting changes. I want to list just a few that you might have or have not noticed. The Board was able to refinance the temple mortgage. With the new mortgage, CBE will save thousands each year. More noticeable happenings were the new garden plantings, our beautiful new sign and the CBE Preschool opening a second location on our property where Montessori used to be. There were several exciting events that were hosted by CBE. Among them was our Beautiful 35th Anniversary party and the Comedy Night.

As my second year as CBE President begins, I would like to welcome the New CBE 2014-2015 Board of Directors. CBE is fortunate to have a complete Board of Directors for 2014-2015. Most of the past Board members were willing to stay for another year. I would like to welcome the new faces to the Board. Emily Doepping and Tracie Breiter volunteered to be Co-Vice Presidents of Programs. I am sure they will do an exceptional job. Eric Bordo has joined the Board as Financial Secretary and Michael Hollander enjoys being on the Board so much that he has volunteered to be co-VP of Membership. Welcome again and thank you all for your support.

As I said in my High Holiday speech, keep your eyes open for more exciting changes! Have a great spring!

Mitchell Salberg

CBE President

Are you curious about **Havurah**? New and renewing members who would like more information about joining a friendly group of like-minded CBE members, call or email Penny Neugroschl at 805-526-1570 or PennyNeugroschl@yahoo.com



The minutes of CBE Board meetings are available to all members in the Temple office. Black and white hard copies of the newsletter are also available in the Temple office

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Board of Directors and Affiliates

Rabbi	Michele Paskow
Cantor	Michael Russ
President	Mitchell Salberg
Immediate Past President	Michael Hollander
Executive Vice President	Ryan Richmond
Secretary	Debbie Knecht
Treasurer	John Elhai
Co-VP/Membership	Bridget Baskin
Co-VP/Fundraising	Michael Mutal/Shelly Botan
VP/Programs	Emily Doepping/Tracie Breiter
VP/Havurah	Penny Neugroschl
VP/Religious School	Jennifer Rosenstein
VP Social Action	Carla Shaw
Financial Secretary	Eric Bordo
Sisterhood	Janine Enright
Men's Club	Michael Enright
Temple Adm. Asst	Marilyn Hollander
Preschool Director	Lindy Schneider
Preschool Office Mgr.	Robyn Voigt
Preschool Newsletter	Robyn Voigt
Rel. School Admin.	Meridith Patera
Chai Lites Editor	Suzanne Epstein
Gift Shop	Bobbie Sion
Choir Director	Irwin Cohen
Photographer	Max Patera



Congregation B'nai Emet



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Congregation-Bnai-Emet-Simi-Valley-CA/133861023341661>

Bat Mitzvah



Shalom! My name is **Rebecca** but you can just call me Becca. My last name is a long and complicated one. Do you still want to hear it? Well, it's Zalmanowitz. I live in Simi with my mom Debbie, my dad Alan, my brother Josh, and my two dogs Lucky and Dickens. I am currently attending Valley View Middle School and I am in 7th grade. My hobbies

include sports such as basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, and tennis. I also love rollerblading, arts & crafts, singing, and dancing.

My Bat Mitzvah is important to me because it makes me a Jewish adult. I will celebrate all the things I have learned about the Jewish history with family and friends. I'm glad I live in a time when girls and ladies can have a Bat Mitzvah. I'm learning new things about all things Jewish each and everyday. I'm soo excited for my Bat Mitzvah! It's going to be a great day,

"Bulletin Bytes"

- Thank you & *yasher koach* to **Sandy Leon** and **RuthAnn Rossman** who worked so hard to make this year's Passover Seder a great success.
- Yasher Koach to **Irwin** and **Judy** for the lovely music. Everything was wonderful!
- Thank you to **Carla Shaw**, our V.P. of Social Action, for organizing this year's Purim Carnival. Thank you to everyone who helped out that day!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE JUDAICA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SERVICE ON FRIDAY NIGHT JUNE 13TH

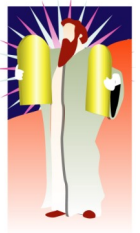
Lillian Knecht and Josh Moss will be confirmed:



SHAVUOT – THE NEXT JEWISH HOLIDAY!

"Shavuot" or "Shavuos" is the next holiday we'll celebrate, on June 4th. While originally it was a harvest holiday, the rabbis of the Talmudic period gave this holiday a new historical connection – namely that it celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. This is a powerful and meaningful image which strengthens our connection to the Torah and to generations past and it becomes as if we, too, are actually receiving the Torah ourselves!

The Torah is our most sacred object for it contains our holy teachings, our sacred stories, our covenant with God. One Chassidic teacher wrote, "We study Torah for no other reason than this: that by studying Torah we might become Torah." In other words, we study to learn and to be uplifted by our religious and moral teachings. The Zohar, the main book of Jewish mysticism, notes, "If you study the Torah, you are joined to the Tree of Life" (152b).



As we approach the Shavuot holiday, I hope you will renew and strengthen your commitment to Jewish life, values and learning. Read a Jewish book, study a little Torah, come by the synagogue and be an active part of Jewish life in Simi Valley. We will be having Shabbat services throughout the summer – I hope to see you!

Fiesta Shabbat!



Friday May 9

Buffet of Mexican food at 6:30 - \$6 per person

**Shabbat evening service at 8
beautiful Ladino song by the CBE choir
"Cuando el Rey Nimrod", Sephardic melodies,
stories of Sephardic heritage and culture**



**Congregation B'nai Emet
9 W. Bonita Drive
Simi Valley, CA 93065**

More info & RSVP for dinner: (805) 581-3723

Women of CBE

Sisterhood has had a busy couple of months. Several of our members baked hamantaschen for the Purim service and the Purim Carnival. Then at the Carnival, we held our world famous Chicken Soup Cook-Off. Congratulations to Emily Doepping, who sold the most tickets and won Tasters' Choice for her tasty broth. Other equally awesome chefs were RuthAnn Rossman, Tami Plotkin Julia Richmond, Michelle Levine and Suzanne Epstein. Thank you to RuthAnn for her hard work and clever contributions to getting the Cook-Off going.

In March, we had a terrific Purim Party Hoedown at the temple. Kol HaKavod to Cheryl Hirsch and Kathy Smith for giving us so much fun (and profit!). (See photos in this issue). We also had a delightful evening at our meeting that month when Martha Abbey Miller presented a program on Margaret Mitchell. Then in April we enjoyed dinner at the Elephant Bar as we installed our new Board. Doreen Hawbecker from our local WRJ Pacific Board performed a lovely installation ceremony. Thank you to retiring Board member Carole Picker for serving so well for so long. Special thanks to our wonderful Program Co-VPs Cathy Holst, Sylvia LeVine and Ronnye Sacks for arranging everything.

For our meeting on May 13, they have arranged another program at which all of you are welcome: "Confronting Antisemitism", with speakers from the ADL. See the flyer on this page for details. Before that, on May 4, don't miss our marvelous Mah Jongg Tournament at the temple, organized by Miriam Hintz, our new Fundraising VP.

So what are we doing with all those funds? Among other things, we are purchasing a new computer and laser printer for the Temple office so that Marilyn won't have to bother her son for tech help all the time. We donated \$125 to help sponsor the CBE Booth at the Cajun Festival, gave \$250 to the Religious School to cover supply costs for the rest of the school year, and matched the Temple's contribution to the Simi Valley Samaritan Center for the Homeless.

Our calendar planning meeting will be in May. Watch for all the exciting events and programs we will hold in the coming twelve months and join us for another great year of Sisterhood fun and fund raising.

Here is our new Sisterhood Board for 2014-2015:

President: Janine Enright
Executive VP: Meridith Patera
Membership Co-VPs: Cheryl Hirsch & Kathy Smith
Fundraising VP: Miriam Hintz
Programs Co-VPs: Cathy Holst, Sylvia LeVine & Ronnye Sacks
Treasurer: Geri Brandler
Secretary: Erica Weiner

Janine Enright
President, Women of CBE



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
STRONGER TOGETHER



THE WOMEN OF CBE

invite you to our next general meeting:

CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM

(IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT HATE)

Tuesday, May 13, 7 PM at the temple

Open to all men, women & older students

Cyndi Silverman and Elliot Krigel from the Santa Barbara Tri Counties Region of the Anti Defamation League will talk about the roots of antisemitism, the new antisemitism and lead the group in interactive activities designed to empower and equip the Jewish community with constructive and effective responses to antisemitic incidents and the persistent antisemitic stereotypes that are often at the root of such incidents.

**A CONVENIENT
HATRED:
THE HISTORY OF
ANTISEMITISM**

Photo: Keston
Foreword by
Sir Harold Evans

Our speakers will have the book, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism*, supplied by the ADL, available free for those who would like a copy.

RSVP to:

Sylvia LeVine, [805.582.0147](tel:805.582.0147) or boliviansylvia@roadrunner.com
or Ronnye Sacks, rehsacks@att.net or [805.527.2036](tel:805.527.2036)
or Cathy Holst, catherine3484@yahoo.com

sisterhood Installation Dinner



I am a Jew,
who is a woman
And I pray.

I braid the dough for the challah,
and bless the Shabbat candles,
and wrap myself in the tallit I have woven.

And I pray.

I am a link between those who stood at Sinai
and those who survived the Shoah;
those who would dream and build futures
and those who will gather the shattered shards of glass
to heal the world.

And I pray.
I am a woman,
Who is a Jew.

Beginnings & Endings by Cantor Michael Russ



There is the story of young David coming home from Hebrew School and says to his mother, "Is it true what they told us in religious school that we come from dust?" His mother answers, "Yes, of course!" David continues, "And is it also true that when we die we return to dust?"

Yes, that is our belief." his mother replies. David says, "Well, under my bed, I don't know if someone is coming or going!"

I have found it most interesting that when a baby is born, friends and relatives are all excited and want to visit the newborn infant. Of course a newborn child cannot talk and exchange thoughts with anyone, but it is a delight to introduce yourself and make funny faces and noises, hopefully getting a response from the baby.

When someone is at the end of their life's journey, and especially when that person is unable to speak or respond, most people have a great deal of trouble coming to visit him or her. After all, what can we say or do for someone in that condition? And even if the person dying is able to respond, what should I say? How do I say goodbye? I have had this same difficulty myself when I have been in the position to visit the dying.

Our tradition teaches us to recite the "Kaddish" prayer after someone has died. We normally say this prayer at the end of the memorial service at the cemetery and continue each day for a year after. We also are taught that this "Kaddish" prayer sanctifies God over and over again. This is our way of thanking God for giving life to the one we are mourning.

Saying goodbye is so much more difficult than saying hello; but both are very important. I have also found that not saying goodbye can be a burden that we can carry for a long time.

When someone dies suddenly we have no chance to give our last "goodbye" or our last "I love you. Thank you for being part of my life." Let's take the time each day, each week to let each other know that we care for each other and that the time between "Hello" and "goodbye" is just as important. Beginnings and endings are very important, but so is the living, caring and letting each other know each day or each time we get together of our appreciation and love.

Religious School

Purim and Passover are now past and we look forward to a Bunco and Barbeque fundraiser on May 17th. All the proceeds will benefit the Religious School. Everybody had a lot of fun last year, and I am confident that will happen again, especially since our wonderful school administrator has graciously agreed to MC the event. You can find the flyer in this newsletter (below), on the CBE website, and sent home with your child at Religious School.

I will need to borrow card tables from whomever I can. They can be dropped off at the temple anytime prior to May 16th. Please make sure your name is on it.

June 1st will be the last day of Religious School for this year. On that day we will raffle off a special Leap Frog learning toy donated by Carla Shaw. This would make a spectacular gift. You may purchase raffle tickets at Friday Night Services or at Religious School, beginning May 4th.

Shalom,
Jen Rosenstein
Religious School VP



**Join us for an exciting night of
Barbecue and Bunco!**

**Saturday, May 17th
at the Temple, 9 W Bonita Ave.**

The men's club will serve a delicious BBQ dinner @ 6pm; followed by Bunco, an easy and fun dice game, at 7 p.m.

Dinner: \$10.00 (Includes hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides)

Bunco : \$10.00 (Includes prizes and snacks)

Both: \$18.00 (An awesome deal!)

Join us for all or part of the evening!

To get more information, or to RSVP, contact Jen Rosenstein at (818)384-0339 or jenrosenstein@sbcglobal.net

by May 12th

Pay [online](#) or at the door!

All proceeds will benefit CBE Religious School.

<http://congregationbnaimet.org/events.php>

Join us for Special Shabbat Services!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THESE
AMAZING STUDENT-LED SERVICES!



May 2 - 7:00 PM
ISRAEL BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION

Shabbat Evening Service led
by the Fourth & Fifth Graders



June 6 - 7:00 PM
Shabbat Family Service
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
GRADUATION &
STAFF APPRECIATION
Join us as the 7th Grade
Class leads the service and
CBE honors our dedicated
Religious School staff.



June 13 - 8:00 PM
CONFIRMATION
of Lillian Knecht & Josh Moss
Shabbat/Shavuot Evening
Service led by students of the
Judaica High School Class



Religious School Calendar

MAY

- 4 - SUNDAY SCHOOL-SESSION #28
- 5 - JUDAICA HIGH SCHOOL-SESSION #28
- 12 - JUDAICA HIGH SCHOOL-SESSION #29
- 18 - SUNDAY SCHOOL-SESSION #29
- 19 - JUDAICA HIGH SCHOOL-SESSION #30



JUNE

- 1 - SUNDAY SCHOOL-SESSION #30

Israel Faire – 5/4 AT TEMPLE

A MESSAGE FROM CBE'S FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

WHAT WE NEED! WHAT YOU GET!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK A 3-HOUR SHIFT AT
CBE'S PIZZA BOOTH AT THE SIMI VALLEY CAJUN/
BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL DURING MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, **MAY 24-25**.

ENTRANCE FEE IS \$22. **WORK A SHIFT AND YOU GET
IN FREE!!!** HOURS TO BE COVERED EACH DAY WILL
RUN FROM 11AM TO 8PM. THE JOBS THAT NEED TO BE
FILLED ARE CASHIER, ORDER ASSEMBLER, PIZZA
WARMER (EAST COAST PIZZA LOCATED IN THE REGAL
PLAZA WILL PREPARE OUR PIZZAS),
ORDER SERVER, AND DRIVER.

ENJOY THE FESTIVAL AND HELP THE TEMPLE AS WELL.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT:
MICHAEL MUTAL – 805 587-9210

Oneg Sponsors

March 7, 2014

The Bienenfeld Mutal family in honor of Michael's
birthday
The Rosenstein family in honor of Rachael &
Jen's birthdays

March 14, 2014

The families of Sam Patera's class
Carole Fineberg in memory of her mother Jean Greenberg

March 21, 2014

The Schultz family in honor of Wayne's birthday
Ken & Suzanne Epstein in memory of Mary Hollander
Irwin Cohen in honor of Adam Cohen's birthday
& granddaughter Natalia being selected as student
of the month for academic achievement at West
Hollywood Elementary School
The LeVine family in honor of Ron's birthday
The Botan family in honor of Shelly's birthday
The CBE Choir in honor of Irwin Cohen's birthday
Eliot & Judy Epstein in honor of Matthew passing two of
his securities tests. We're very proud of him.

March 28, 2014

Lynne & Barry Selbst in honor of Barry's birthday
The Melnick family in honor of Stan's birthday
The Russ family in honor of Merle's birthday

April 11, 2014

Dan & Geri Brandler in honor of their 43rd anniversary
Suzanne Epstein in honor of Ken's birthday
Laura & Louis Tepfer in honor of their anniversary
The York family in memory of Holly's nephew,
Jesse Orellano

April 18, 2014

Michele Stevens in honor of her birthday
Cathy Holst in honor of Michelle Holst's birthday
Peppi Lamm in memory of Irving Lamm

April 25, 2014

The York Family, in memory of Holly's
father, Arthur Korn



Summer is almost here.

Join us for

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS

on the 3rd Friday of each summer month:

June 20, July 18, August 15.

A 6:30 pot-luck dinner on the patio will
precede each 8 pm service.

Purim Events

Purim Service



Purim Carnival

Sign Dedication



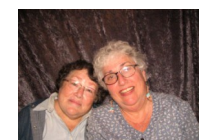
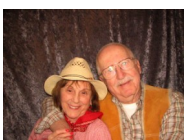
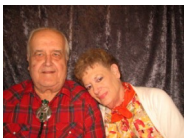
Chicken Soup Cook-off



Purim Carnival

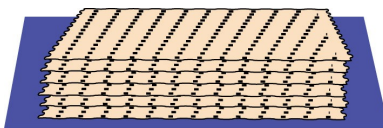


Purim Hoedown





CBE Community Seder



The Community Seder was just lovely. It seems to get better each year. (See the pictures on this page.) It was so nice to have Susie Fintz here with us from Indiana. It is always great to see her. The rabbi celebrated her birthday leading the seder, and the kids put on the best show we have ever had to conclude the service.

Thank you to many. The Men's Club for moving the pews; Susie Stern, Cheryl Hirsch, Karen Ribstein, and Alan Leon for their help in setting up; Marilyn Hollander for her constant communication and follow-through with the reservations; Irwin Cohen and Judy Sternberg for their musical talents; Michael's Flowers for the gorgeous centerpieces; for those who took home dishes to wash; and anyone else that we might have forgotten to mention. Putting on a seder is a huge endeavor and well worth it.

Thank you,

Sandy Leon and Ruth Ann Rossman

Seder Co-Chairs



Recent Donations

Building Fund Donations

Bella Hananel – in memory of Joseph Hananel and
Charlie Stein
Ronnye Sacks – In memory of Daniel Small
CBE Men's Club

Memorial Donations

Marvin and Sandra Sussman – in memory of Lewis Greene
Robert and Judith Sternberg – in memory of Pearl Bloch
Alice Fiducia – in memory of Pearl Bloch
Nat and Margaret Nusbaum – in memory of Shirley
Nusbaum
Maxine Seidel – in memory of Thomas Sumner
Anthony and Laura Luskin – in memory of Aron
Pichkhadze
Guenter and Gayle Menke – in memory of Marie Menke
Lawrence and Marsha Kaufman – in memory of Arthur
Lefton
Shimon and Carol Paskow – in honor of Rabbi Michele
and Barbara Israel Bortniker
Simon Boostanfar – sponsoring Rembrandt Speaker
Michele Paskow
Michael and Julie Mutal
Lloyd and Carole Picker – Mi Sh'Beirach for daughter's
surgery
Michael and Merle Russ – in memory of Oscar Keimon
Sheldon and Joan Liebmman – in memory of Jacob Landau,
Joyce Alexman and Gail Lenore Shapiro
Ronald and Sylvia LeVine – in memory of Lisa Weissbrod
Peter and Jennifer Rosenstein
Women of CBE

Social Action Donations

Susie Fintz

Tree of Life Donation

Barry and Lynne Selbst – in memory of Murray Schneider

Tribute Donation

Jacqlyn Teichner Abramson – in honor of Lesli Friedman
and Gabe Perez Marriage

General Donation

Pearl Bloch Bequest
Ryan and Natalie Richmond
Barry and Lynne Selbst - Purim Carnival Donation
Simon Boostanfar, MD – in appreciation of Rembrandt
Program
Sandra and Marc Elson - in appreciation of Rembrandt
Program

Tzedakah

Men's Club

Come be a part of the CBE Men's Club. We have a great time at our Poker Night every other month. There is always good food and camaraderie. We also help with many temple activities, moving pews, setting up for events, and using our new Bar-B-Q to provide good food.

The Men's Club holds a meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 9:15 am at the Religious School. Coffee and donuts are served. We also meet for breakfast at 9 AM, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, at The Junkyard Café, 2585 Cochran Street, Simi Valley (Cochran Street just west of Sycamore). Call Alan Mann, (805) 341-3836 or write to alanmann60@att.net so that he can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Contact Men's Club President Michael Enright for more info at lamigra223@yahoo.com

Michael Enright

Men's Club President

SIMI 4 MARCH

Mah Jongg Tournament Sponsored by
the Women of Congregation B'nai Emet



Sunday, May 4, 2014
Congregation B'nai Emet
9 W. Bonita Drive
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(118 fwy, exit Madera,
South to Bonita, right to
temple on right)

Schedule of Festivities:

8:30-9:00 -
sign in / fresh, delicious bagels, muffins, coffee, juice
9:00-12:00 -
session 1 (three rounds)
12:00-1:00 - Wonderful Fall Salad Lunch Buffet
1:00-4:00 -
session 2 (three rounds) followed by prizes and awards

***don't forget your 2014 card with your
name on it!**

For more information, contact Judi Nachenberg
(818) 764-6240 or Miriam Hintz 805-581-3723 or
miriam.hintz@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

May 03 Jeremy Scharf
 May 05 Emily Doepping
 May 08 Minnie Anzo-Ackerman
 May 09 Michael Foster
 May 09 Julie Ranelletti
 May 09 Ronnye Sacks
 May 09 Dara Tolchin
 May 10 Carol Rosado
 May 11 Keith Kelly
 May 12 Robert Sternberg
 May 13 Marilyn Kaufman
 May 14 Alicia York
 May 14 Jennifer York
 May 16 Carole Picker
 May 17 Alan Mann
 May 17 Gabrielle Moss
 May 18 Stephen Friend
 May 18 Aaron Mutal
 May 20 Marion Leon-Doten
 May 22 Michael Moss
 May 22 Ruth Ann Rossman
 May 23 Meridith Patera
 May 25 Robin Kelly
 May 26 Geri Brandler
 May 26 Steve Rossman
 May 26 Zachary Dylan Rossman
 May 27 Penny Neugroschl
 May 28 Kevin Kieselbach
 May 28 Joshua Zalmanowitz
 May 29 Rebecca Zalmanowitz
 May 31 Adam Mutal
 Jun 01 Aaron Poehls
 Jun 02 Kellie Elhai
 Jun 02 Peppi Lamm
 Jun 02 Michelle Levine
 Jun 02 Jeffrey Sherden
 Jun 04 Anthony Luskin
 Jun 05 Benjamin Bahr
 Jun 05 Andrew Gering
 Jun 07 Rebecca Hintz
 Jun 07 Karen Holst
 Jun 09 Thomas Hintz
 Jun 12 Heather Leon
 Jun 13 Janine Enright
 Jun 13 Adi Levy
 Jun 15 Daniel Brandler
 Jun 15 Julia Farago
 Jun 15 Susan Fromer
 Jun 17 Sandra Leon

Jun 21 Claudia Caudill
 Jun 21 Sarah Salberg
 Jun 21 Seth Salberg
 Jun 21 Julie Storry
 Jun 21 Julie Tepfer
 Jun 22 Michael Enright
 Jun 22 Linda Mann
 Jun 23 Stephen Storry
 Jun 23 Eric Weiner
 Jun 26 Arnold Kaufman
 Jun 26 Martin E. Richter
 Jun 27 Michael Hollander
 Jun 28 Bridget Baskin
 Jun 29 Barbara Poehls

May 05 Thomas and Miriam Hintz
 May 21 Robert and Lori Sherden
 May 30 Kathy and Lee Smith
 Jun 04 Brett and Michael Moss
 Jun 08 Eliot and Judy Epstein
 Jun 10 Renee and Dave Kieselbach
 Jun 14 Ken and Suzanne Epstein
 Jun 18 Dr. Ronald Forster & Dr. Chen
 Mu-Forster
 Jun 22 Cantor Michael and Merle Russ
 Jun 25 Glen and Debbie Knecht
 Jun 25 Lloyd and Carole Picker
 Jun 26 Ryan and Natalie Richmond
 Jun 27 Eric and Cherie Bordo



A Note from Irwin Cohen

The other evening at Friday Services, the Rabbi invited members of the congregation to express things for which they might be thankful or grateful. Many expressed thoughts of joyous Seders, good health, family. I, in a semi-light-hearted fashion, said how glad I was that my dear friend Minnie was Jewish. It got a good laugh. The rabbi's follow-up question was perfect: Why? I didn't want to take up more time from the service so I begged off responding then.

If Minnie, with whom I spend much of my time, was not Jewish, it would certainly dilute my commitment and devotion to things Judaica. I would probably not attend Services or observe holidays with as much frequency as I do now. The little traditions we practice at these events (which sometimes require an explanation) are simply automatic because we've been doing them all our lives. Our families would probably not be sharing these occasions because our commitment has already been strained and the succeeding generations have already been tempted to wander elsewhere or to honor other commitments to other practices. (No doubt these too have also experienced a little watering down.)

I would have to slowly introduce Gefilte fish, kishka, cold cuts on rye bread and regret that I am enjoying these delights alone. I would have to stop using little Yiddishisms to color my conversation because they would fall on unaffiliated ears.

I am also too old to encourage a close non-Jewish friend to seek the Jewish education that I hope might bring us closer together.

So, Minnie, I repeat: I'm so glad you're Jewish. Would you like a bagel?

Yahrzeits

May 01	Leslie Goldhammer	Iyar 1	Jun 01	Milton Schoen	Sivan 3
May 02	Burton Borrok	Iyar 2	Jun 02	Matilda Behar	Sivan 4
May 02	Simon Mitchel	Iyar 2	Jun 02	Miriam Stein	Sivan 4
May 03	Ida Axelrod	Iyar 3	Jun 03	Angela Berns	Sivan 5
May 03	Helen Borden	Iyar 3	Jun 03	Cynthia Miller	Sivan 5
May 04	Cathy Mae Bourland	Iyar 4	Jun 04	James Bloch	Sivan 6
May 04	Helen Eichner	Iyar 4	Jun 04	Suzanne Brotz	Sivan 6
May 05	Philip Goldstein	Iyar 5	Jun 04	Sally Mittelman	Sivan 6
May 05	Stanley Kubik	Iyar 5	Jun 05	Ray B. Bourland	Sivan 7
May 05	Phyllis Pass	Iyar 5	Jun 05	Estelle Guest	Sivan 7
May 05	Lewis Stone	Iyar 5	Jun 06	Kurt Fleischmann	Sivan 8
May 06	Addie S. Friedman	Iyar 6	Jun 06	Fred Sacks	Sivan 8
May 06	Oliver Gottlieb	Iyar 6	Jun 06	Fannie Theodore	Sivan 8
May 06	Michael Kelson	Iyar 6	Jun 07	Leroy Ackerman	Sivan 9
May 06	Miriam Mann	Iyar 6	Jun 07	Fanya Bronfermachev	Sivan 9
May 07	Al Chudler	Iyar 7	Jun 10	Dr. Leonard Bellenson	Sivan 12
May 07	Rita Priest	Iyar 7	Jun 10	Herman Russ	Sivan 12
May 08	Maude Leibert	Iyar 8	Jun 12	Kim Rosado	Sivan 14
May 08	Stanford Weinstein	Iyar 8	Jun 12	Adrienne Weinstein	Sivan 14
May 09	Kate Shaw	Iyar 9	Jun 13	Dina Pichkhadze	Sivan 15
May 11	Louis Forman		Jun 13	Gilbert Roethler	Sivan 15
May 12	Marvin Cohen		Jun 13	Rose Roethler	Sivan 15
May 12	Sarah Davis	Iyar 12	Jun 14	Victor Weiner	Sivan 16
May 12	Angela Mann		Jun 17	Samuel Fishman	Sivan 19
May 12	William Rogen	Iyar 12	Jun 17	Julius Fleischmann	Sivan 19
May 12	Rosa Zimmerman	Iyar 12	Jun 18	Marlene Bloch	Sivan 20
May 15	Tina Schultz		Jun 18	Harry Landau	Sivan 20
May 15	David Tratner		Jun 18	Julius Schwartz	Sivan 20
May 16	Werner Hollander		Jun 19	Hannah Fintz	Sivan 21
May 16	Ernest Koretz		Jun 20	Josef Bromberger	
May 17	Dora Sharapan	Iyar 17	Jun 20	Normand Meyer	Sivan 22
May 19	Mordecai R. Eskenazi	Iyar 19	Jun 21	David Heimann	Sivan 23
May 21	Bertha Liebmman	Iyar 21	Jun 21	Bernard Rich	Sivan 23
May 21	Alexa Wiener	Iyar 21	Jun 22	Herb Van Brink	Sivan 24
May 22	Trevor Scharf		Jun 23	Leo Brady	
May 23	Bertram Marx	Iyar 23	Jun 23	Manuel Lieber	Sivan 25
May 24	Richard Auerbach	Iyar 24	Jun 23	Osias Schwartz	Sivan 25
May 25	Sarah Etz Chayim	Iyar 25	Jun 24	Rose Firestein	Sivan 26
May 26	Mary Brady		Jun 24	Max LeVine	Sivan 26
May 27	Sarah Melnick	Iyar 27	Jun 24	Morris Pass	Sivan 26
May 27	Steven Schwartz	Iyar 27	Jun 24	Ronnie Tabak	Sivan 26
May 28	Sara Saffrin	Iyar 28	Jun 24	Benny Zaltzman	Sivan 26
May 30	Rose Friedman	Sivan 1	Jun 26	George Lazarus	Sivan 28
May 30	Bernice Hearn	Sivan 1	Jun 26	Sheldon Raab	Sivan 28
May 30	Mildred Ertel Jessel	Sivan 1	Jun 29	Milton Grossman	Tammuz 1
May 30	Rita Seidel	Sivan 1	Jun 29	Marion Pfefer	Tammuz 1
Jun 01	Dorothy Glazer	Sivan 3	Jun 30	Leon Brody	Tammuz 2



Please check the current Yahrzeit information on the data sheet you received in your membership packet. Verify its accuracy and call the office with any changes or new Yahrzeit information.

During the year, you will receive reminders for upcoming Yahrzeit dates. We want to have complete and accurate information.

Call Michael Hollander with any questions regarding Yahrzeit data.

Thank you.

How to observe a Yahrzeit at C.B.E

Light a 24-hour memorial candle in your home at sundown on the evening that begins the yahrzeit (anniversary of death.) It is also customary to attend Shabbat services at Temple and recite the Kaddish. At Congregation B'nai Emet, names of your loved ones are read on the Friday evening **before** the Yahrzeit. If you observe the **Gregorian (English)** date, the name will be read **following** the yahrzeit date. It is suggested that you make a contribution to the Temple so that the memory of your loved one can be honored with an act of love and kindness.



Condolences to:

Michelle Scharf on the passing of her mother-in-law, Lillian Scharf.

Beatrice Roth attended our High Holiday services for many years. She recently passed away and bequeathed funds to CBE for the construction of handicap access to the temple. We're grateful for her thoughtfulness and sorry that she is no longer with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

What is Lag BaOmer?

Lag BaOmer is a festive minor holiday that falls during the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot (May 17/18, 2014). This period of time is known as the *Omer*. An *omer* is an ancient Hebrew measure of grain, amounting to about 3.6 liters. Biblical law forbade any use of the new barley crop until after an *omer* was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of Leviticus (23:15-16) also commanded: "And from the day on which you bring the offering...you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete." This commandment led to the practice of the *Sefirat Ha'omer*, or the 49 days of the "Counting of the Omer," which begins on the second day of Passover and ends on Shavuot.

Lag BaOmer is the shorthand way of saying the 33rd day of the *omer* (the time from the second day of Passover to Shavuot). It is celebrated to commemorate the day a plague ended in which thousands of students of Rabbi Akiba, a Talmudic scholar, died during the Counting of the Omer. The period of counting is traditionally observed as a period of mourning. The mourning, however, is set aside on Lag BaOmer, making it a day of special joy and festivity. Lag BaOmer is not mentioned in the Torah and only hinted at in the Talmud. Consequently, there is no formal ritual, but rather a series of customs that the people found attractive and meaningful. In the Israeli traditional community, it has become a day when three-year-old children get their first haircuts. Parties and picnics abound, and at least in Israel, hundreds of people attend midnight bonfires and many children carry little bows and arrows.



You can incorporate **social action** themes into your Lag BaOmer celebration in the following ways:

Donate Your Hair

In Israel, the first haircut of 3-year-old children (*upsherin*) is celebrated on Lag BaOmer. With this in mind, you may wish to encourage friends and family to make a donation – or make one yourself – to [Locks of Love](#), a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in North America who suffer from long-term medical hair loss resulting from any diagnosis, such as cancer or alopecia. Locks of Love uses donated hair to create high quality hair prosthetics that help restore children's self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers.



Make Your Wedding a Hub of Social Justice



In Israel, many weddings traditionally take place on Lag BaOmer. If you are planning a wedding during this time, consider ways to incorporate social action themes into your celebration. Ask guests to make a charitable donation in your honor rather than presenting you and your soon-to-be spouse with tangible gifts or money, or donate your wedding dress to an organization that will give it to a low-income bride.

Speak Up for Marriage Equality

For many Jews, it is a hardship to not be able to celebrate weddings during the period of the Omer, which is a solemn time. In contrast, Lag BaOmer is a day of joyful release, when voices of brides and grooms burst forth across the Jewish world. Yet in many of the United States, gay and lesbian couples are unable to join in this joy. This is the time to advocate for Marriage Equality for everyone.



Source: [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#)



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Schedule of Services, Candle lightings, & Torah Portions

Candle Lighting Times are for Simi Valley Area

<u>Date</u>	<u>Candle lighting</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Torah Portion</u>
May 2/ 3 Iyar	7:22 PM	Family Service 7 PM	Emor—Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23
May 9/ 10 Iyar	7:28 PM	Fiesta Shabbat Service 8 PM Dinner at 6:30 PM	Bahar—Leviticus 25:1 -26:2
May 16/ 17 Iyar	7:33 PM	Shabbat Service 8 PM	Bechukotai—Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34
May 23/ 24 Iyar	7:38 PM	Shabbat Service 8 PM	Bamidbar—Numbers 1:1 - 4:20
May 30/ 2 Sivan	7:43 PM	Shabbat Service 8 PM	Nasso—Numbers 4:21 - 7:89
June 6/ 9 Sivan	7:47 PM	Family Service 7 PM	Beha'alotecha—Numbers 8:1 - 12:16
June 13/ 16 Sivan	7:50 PM	Shabbat Service 8 PM	Shelach Lecha—Numbers 13:1 - 15:41
		Confirmation Service	
June 20/ 23 Sivan	7:52 PM	Shabbat Under the Stars 8 PM Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 PM	Korach—Numbers 16:1 - 18:32
June 27/ 30 Sivan	7:53 PM	Shabbat Service 8 PM	Chukat—Numbers 19:1 - 22:1
June 28		Rebecca Zalmanowitz Bat Mitzvah 10 AM	

Check out our web site at <http://congregationbnaiemet.org>

Congregation B'nai Emet

P.O. Box 878
Simi Valley, CA 93062-0878

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