
Congregation B'nai Israel Newsletter

THE MISSION OF THE B'NAI ISRAEL, AS A GROWING NURTURING INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION,
IS TO SERVE THE SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL NEEDS OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

August, 2011



Av - Elul 5771

Reflections

By Rabbi David White

What Do Judaism and Baseball Have in Common?

In my effort to teach that Judaism is "a way through Life", more than a "religion" (the "way", "derech" includes religion), I am fond of suggesting that Judaism is my way of life and the Giants my religion.

Both will come together on Wednesday August 17, when we serve kosher hot dogs, peanuts and other American baseball food in welcoming KNBR radio host Marty Lurie for conversation engaging baseball and Judaism and shared traits and ways for appreciating and enjoying life.

Baseball is the closest thing America has to a unifying secular religion. Certainly following the Giants unlikely journey to becoming world champions, with a team of no names, something icons of the past could not achieve, bordered on the unbelievable.

Judaism and baseball are both products of time and are at their finest when evoking awareness of timing and history.

What are the odds that in 52 years of major league baseball in San Francisco, that the year the team finally wins it all is the same year that Marty Lurie joins the radio team covering the Giants in one of the most accessible timeslots for fans, before and after games, on weekends? What made Marty's arrival poignant is that he brings energy to baseball that is inherent in that sport, yet not elicited through other commentators, as he does it: he brings the sense of belonging to all his listeners, and he treats all of his callers with dignity, respect and appreciation for their part in reflecting on the game. He speaks with a smile in his voice, and at once you are part of his family, joining his community. I first heard it when one year he enriched my enjoyment of Cal basketball post game shows for all ten of us listening.

I am excited that Marty will join us in conversation because through his worldview you can see how baseball and Judaism function as "systems" that build community around the principle of sharing time while building memories.

To the degree that our country is "challenged" when it comes to providing community, baseball, especially as Marty brings it alive, addresses and fills that need, at least during the summer.

I feel kinship with him as each of us, in our own ways, wants people to feel connected through the values of our "programs".

As much time as people put into baseball, in following their teams from start to finish, with hopes that this will be the magical year, it feels even more engaging when someone welcomes you to participate beyond following the games and the statistics. Many listeners credit Marty with contributing to the growing fan base for the Giants above and beyond the team's success.

While Judaism is inherently a community based and generating system, that does not automatically come alive, as most of us know from our years in synagogues and Jewish settings. Yet, just as community has come alive with the Giants this past year, so it feels that way for many of us Jewishly at B'nai Israel: ritual and celebration has seemed extra special because of the growing sense of community.

I look forward to reflecting on how Judaism sheds light on what is special about life in its secular contexts, i.e. baseball, and how lessons associated with baseball bring to light what is special about our shared experiences in Jewish community, particularly through CBI.

What a wonderful way to orient us to the upcoming program year, even as we tune in to the Giants' continuing saga of a group of no names attempting to do what has not been done in many years, one team winning 2 consecutive championships. And, of course, Judaism has something to say about how much more one can achieve when egos and personalities are subsumed by complementary teamwork, a unique characteristic of this generation of Giants.

So, make your reservations and come on out to the "ballpark"...to CBI on Wednesday, August 17, for a very special "pre game-post-game" show with Marty Lurie as we enjoy "Talkin' Baseball and Judaism...in support of Community"



Congregation B'nai Israel Newsletter

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Congregation B'nai Israel

1256 Nebraska Street, Vallejo, CA 94590

Issue No. 08-11

Monthly Schedule of Services

Please be sure to attend – we're looking forward to seeing you there!

- Friday, Aug. 5.....Services at 8:00 pm
Led by Rabbi White
- Saturday, Aug. 6Services at 10:00 am
Led by Rabbi White
- Friday, Aug. 12Sha'BBQ at 6:45 pm
Services at 8:00 pm
Led by Congregants
- Friday, Aug. 19Services at 8:00 pm
Led by Congregants
- Friday, Aug. 26Services at 8:00 pm
Led by Rabbi White
- Saturday, Aug. 27Services at 10:00 am
Led by Rabbi White



Oneg & Kiddush Sponsors for August

- Friday, Aug. 5.....Oneg sponsored by attendees
- Saturday, Aug. 6Kiddush sponsored attendees
- Friday, Aug. 12Sha'BBQ sponsored by The
B'nai Israel Board of Directors;
dessert sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Aug. 19Oneg sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Aug. 26Oneg sponsored by attendees
- Saturday, Aug. 27Kiddush sponsored attendees



Write On For Israel

Explore Israel with a Camera! Produce a Documentary! Share Your Perspective!

Write On For Israel is looking for passionate and articulate high school sophomores and juniors. Explore the Israeli-Arab conflict and uncover the facts behind the myths. Develop critical thinking skills, build a journalistic portfolio, and become a well-informed opinion leader - before you go to college. The Write On fellowship includes fun weekend retreats and pre-trip workshops with 25 motivated teens like you, an all-expense included fact-finding journey to Israel in June 2012 and culminates in film festival of your Israel video. Applicants from all religious and social backgrounds—and political orientations – are encouraged to apply at www.bluestar.us.com by August 21, 2011 for an early action decision. The final deadline for all applicants is October 2, 2011. Program cost is \$995. Gift of Israel savings can be applied to the cost. Financial aid is available. Here is more about the program:

<http://www.bluestarpr.com/write-on-for-israel/san-francisco-2010.html>



Israeli Dance Class

TUESDAYS at 6:30 P.M.

We must have 10 people sign up in order to have classes. Please contact Fahni Pierce at (707) 552-0402.



President's Message

Let's talk about money.

The dues statements for the upcoming year were recently sent to all our members.

Observing the responses, I see three categories.

1. The dues are too high
2. The dues are just right
3. The dues are too low

In our Congregation we have members who cannot afford the dues and other members who can afford to pay higher dues.

To those of you who are in a situation where you cannot afford the dues, please contact me. We can adjust your dues on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. We can set up a monthly payment schedule. Some members volunteer services in lieu of payment. There is no reason to resign your membership if the dues are a hardship, we can work something out.

To those of you who can pay the dues, thank you, we need it.

To those of you who can afford more, I have a suggestion. Be an Angel and pay the dues of a member who cannot. As in any family, we help each other. Please contact me with an offer to pay the dues of a member who is in a difficult financial situation. This would be a blessing for all. A great Mitzvah for the donor, a big help to B'nai Israel and a reminder to the donee that the Jewish Community is a loving family that is there for each other. Also, the day may come when circumstances change and the donor cannot afford the dues and the donee can be the Angel.

The Board of Directors presented the annual budget at the recent Congregational meeting. This budget is as tight as can be. We operate mostly on the volunteer efforts of our members and keep our expenses to the minimum. Waste not, want not. Compared to synagogue dues elsewhere, our dues are low. A big reason for the low dues is that our building is paid for and we have no mortgage. Other shuls must include mortgage payments in the dues. Many thanks to the generation that came before us and gave us a paid-for building. What our dues pay for is to keep the lights on and the water running, heat in the winter and air in the summer. Most important, we are blessed to have a great Rabbi to be our spiritual leader.

When you look at the dues statement, remember, this is less than what we need to maintain and operate Congregation B'nai Israel. That is why we have fundraisers throughout the year to balance the budget. We must all do what we can to maintain our Jewish Community.

Thank you,
Fred Zola

fredzola@earthlink.net





August Birthdays



Lisa Hirsh.....	2
Evelyn Chudnofsky.....	4
Valerie Herman.....	4
Cheryl Gewing.....	8
Molly Leavitt.....	8
Paige Linville.....	8
Charlie Wiese.....	8
Janet Leventhal.....	9
Jonathon Levin.....	9
Elyssa Herman.....	10
Jessica Grist.....	11
Jacob Sousa.....	11
Lyn Toch.....	13
Allison Pierce.....	16
Abigail Herman.....	17
Matthew Susskind.....	19
Bob Bernstein.....	20
Juliana DiPasqua.....	24
Ivan Schuplinsky.....	25
Lee Hoppen.....	26
Yoram Rosenmann.....	26
Michael Chevien.....	28
Helene Falk.....	28
Jason Wiese.....	28
James Hirsh.....	29
Amanda Cort.....	30
Ramon Munoz.....	31

♥ August Anniversaries ♥

Shoshana & Jeff Nurik.....	5
Jim & Sue Heilborn.....	9
Debbie & Bill Williges.....	14
Les O'Connor & Lisa Rapaport-O'Connor.....	21
Alma & Irv Friedman.....	23



AUGUST DONATIONS & TRIBUTES

In Memory of Anne Ramos, sister of Ray Ramos
From Evelyn Chudnofsky

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
From Kathleen Conrey



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!!

Please be sure to greet our newest member of the
Congregation B'nai Israel family:

Nadya Schmeder

1901 York Street

Napa 94559

707-255-5830

Email: nadyanapa@att.net

Be sure to update your rosters!



Ways/Means Committee

Our Committee met this summer and did some incredible planning for the next fiscal year. Our budgeted goal for FY 11-12 is \$13,500. We reviewed what worked, what took too much work for too little profit and discussed new ideas. We finalized our calendar and have some wonderful events planned. As always, our small but mighty Committee remains committed to ensuring that we raise the funds necessary to meet our goal. Your support, attendance and donations are what will make the difference. Our first event for the year will be held on Wednesday, August 17 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at CBI. "Talkin' Baseball and Judaism: In Celebration of Community" will be the topic and Marty Lurie, KNBR Giant's Broadcaster, will be our guest speaker. We've just received confirmation that the Giants Community Foundation has approved our request for two Giant's tickets! We will then be offering the tickets as a prize for our Opportunity Drawing that evening. Baseball fare will be served at 7:00 pm and the presentation will begin at 7:30 pm. On Sunday, September 11, we will hold our 4th Annual TLC Concert. Doug Cort has again put together a spectacular array of musicians for an evening concert. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. This event is always fun and raises funds for a good cause.

Future events include a Hornblower cruise from Old Town Sacramento on Saturday, October 22, Film Festivals on November 6 and February 26, another Family Game Night on Saturday, January 21, a return of our successful International Night (but with the different theme, Around the USA) on Sunday, March 25 and a casino trip on Sunday, May 20. Specific details for each of these fundraisers will follow as the dates become closer. Please continue to support our efforts and know that when you do, you are helping keep CBI alive and well! The next meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be on Tuesday, August 23 at 5:00 at CBI.

Thank you – Shalom,

Gail Lamkins

glamkins@gmail.com



Remember a loved one with a donation "in honorarium" or "in memoriam" to the Congregation or Sisterhood. The minimum donation is \$5.00 and acknowledgments are sent to the recipient and the donor. Please call Helene Falk at 707-425-2211 for further details.



Cemetery Plots

The cost of a cemetery plot is \$2,500 for members and \$3,000 for non-members. Contact the Synagogue office at 707-642-6526 or Jan Leventhal at 747-1810 for more information.



Join in Tisha b'Av observance on Monday, August 8 at 7:30 pm

Plan on attending the start of Tisha b'Av, the day that commemorates almost everything bad that can and did happen to our people, as a wake-up call to what life can be like when society is at its cruelest.

Ironically, Tisha b'Av serves as the lowest point of the year, from which we gradually ascend over a 2 month period to arrive at the highest point of the year, the Days of Awe and the promise of a new and better beginning to a year.

Contrasted with the fast of Yom Kippur, one of hope and optimism, that we can and will change for the better, is the dark fast of Tisha b'Av, in lament of many destructive points in Jewish history, each of which could have spelled the end of our people, yet through which, we somehow survived and prevailed. The ninth of Av in 586 BCE is the day the First Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylonia. The ninth of Av in 70 CE is the day the Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. The ninth of Av in 1492 is the day that Spain exiled the Jews.

Paradoxically great nations that have attempted to destroy Israel and the Jewish people are gone, relegated to the history books, whereas, we, a tiny people in numbers, continue to persist in our conviction that people will change and societies will emerge that treat human beings with care and dignity.

Join in the ushering in of this sad holy day on Monday August 8 at 7:30 pm as we welcome our friends at CBS in Napa for a service and a reading/recitation of Jeremiah's Lamentation in his description of the Jerusalem of his day in ruins.

Through the sadness of history's darkest moments, we will emerge with renewed hope as we look forward to better days and doing our part to bring them to life.



DO YOU LIKE TO ONEG?

DO YOU LIKE TO KIDDUSH?

With about 95 member families and 52 weeks in a year, we should be able to have Oneg or Kiddush sponsors each week.

Please sign up for a special occasion or just 'cuz. Special occasions might be an anniversary, a birthday, a yahrzeit, or whatever you like.

Invite friends and family to services! Join your community and friends in breaking bread and drinking wine. Bread and wine are provided.

As the Oneg or Kiddush sponsor you just bring a few treats - such as cookies, coffee cake, vegetables, fruit, nuts, or whatever creative snacks you wish to share - set them up prior to services, and that's it.

After the wine and bread, everyone shares in your treat. Tea and coffee are provided.

Please contact Susan Cohen Grossman for your Oneg or Kiddush date now in the "new" year! Todah!

Susan 707 319-1053 susancg@pacbell.net



Jewish Genealogy Group

Are you curious about your heritage? Do you want to discover how your grandparents arrived in America or where and when they were married? If you are interested in creating your family tree, join our group. We give each other ideas and share resources to further our family search. We will meet the first Sunday of every month (check the calendar for the time) usually from 10:30 -12:30 in the CBI Library. The café at CBI is open during this time so get yourself a bagel with, or without all the trimmings (help support our Sunday School), and meet us in the library! Occasionally we will arrange "field trips" to the LDS center in Oakland or to the National Archives in San Bruno.

For more information contact:

Martin Gewing: martingew@hotmail.com

Phone: 925-786-8281

Roy Barush: roynsue@yahoo.com

Phone: 707-258-2277



TLC FUND

The TLC Fund is now accepting applications from CBI members. The TLC (or Tikkun Loving Care) Fund is a product of the proceeds from an annual concert held at CBI during late summer. It is for the use of members who need financial help in paying medical expenses. If you have medical expenses that are taxing your ability to pay, let us help. All you need to do is write a letter to Rabbi White explaining the costs and barriers to paying them and we will do the rest. This is just another way to let you know that our congregation cares about you, spiritually and physically.

An application for TLC funding should include:

1. Name
2. Need (e.g. medical co-payment for procedure or co-payment for medication)
3. Contact information: Just give it to the Rabbi or Fred Zola and TLC will take it from there.

L'Chaim,

Doug Cort



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

Hi all!

I want to thank everyone who brought items for the annual rummage sale. We ended up with plenty of stuff! I also want to thank everyone who helped and shopped! We had lots of congregants who don't have kids in the Religious School who helped with the sale. I really enjoyed spending time with each person there. Special thanks to the Barushs who came early to set up (6:30am!) and the Linvilles who worked in shifts and were there for set up, selling and clean up! Super special thanks to Steve who picked up items from people and was there for the entire sale and hauled off the remaining items! We made about \$511!

Please come to the Open House on August 21st from 10:00 am - noon. This is a time to mingle with prospective new members. Also, if you pay for Religious School on this date, you get a 5% discount.

I don't have next year's calendar finalized because I have to get approval at the Master Calendar meeting, also on August 21st. I will let you know though, that the first day of Sunday school will be September 11 and the first day of Hebrew school will be September 13.

I look forward to another exciting year of Jewish learning!

Melissa Edwards
Principal



UPCOMING HADASSAH HAPPENINGS

Machon (Jewish Education) on August 21. This event includes a viewing of Tovah Feldshuh's interpretation of Golda's Meir's role of a Prime Minister taking on the greatest crisis of her life. This documentary includes interviews with former Heads of State, Commanders in the field, the Ambassador to the U.S., interwoven with scenes from the hit play: THE JOURNEY TO GOLDA'S BALCONY. Contact Rachel Lessem or Rachel Zrihen for more information.

Programs: Contact Mary Schwartz with ideas for programming that you'd like this coming year.

Unity Day on September 18th. Hadassah will have a booth and is looking for a Klezmer band or Israeli dance troop to come and perform.

Next Board meeting on August 24. Contact Mary Schwartz for more information. All members are warmly welcomed at Board meetings.

Young Judaea News! Jessica Pechner, Hadassah member, is going on "Year Course" and will be in Israel for 9 months, leaving in September.



ADMINISTRATOR'S HOURS

My Summer office hours are as follows:

Tuesdays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sue Barush



AUGUST YARTZEITEN

August 1 - 15, 2011

1 Av.....	Gertrude Breakstone
1 Av	Mildred Steinberg
1 Av	Kate Keys
2 Av.....	Carol Naparstek-Ross
2 Av	Harry Dubnoff
2 Av	Doris Kaufman
4 Av	Morris Rosoff
4 Av.....	Beatrice Baumgarner
5 Av	Dorothy Finkelhor
5 Av	Sophie Bonderow
7 Av	Rachel Skootsky
8 Av	Rose Seegman
9 Av	Rosee Bonderow
10 Av	Isaac Elgrably
10 Av	Michael Arony
10 Av	Wesley Meyer
10 Av	Julius Kaplan
11 Av	Jennie Beeson
13 Av	Esther Samuels
13 Av	Sidney Drescher
13 Av.....	Rabbi Jacob Waldman
15 Av.....	Cecilia Carpadus Israel

August 16 - 31, 2011

16 Av	William Gluck
17 Av.....	Anna Rachel Kaganovich
17 Av	Marvin Bogner
19 Av	Dr. Edward Gordon
19 Av	Bella Schwartz
19 Av	Geraldine Garelick
19 Av	Abraham Gordon
20 Av	Abraham Simon
20 Av	Ella Corren
22 Av	Estelle Bogner
22 Av	Harry Dolgin
23 Av	Leonid Serebrianiuk
24 Av	Eva Rayblatt
24 Av	Esther Abouaf
24 Av	Marty Rothman
25 Av.....	Yevdokiya Mironenko-Surneva
25 Av	Robert Lamkins
26 Av	Samuel Edelman
27 Av	Celia Barskey
28 Av	Sylvia Weinberg
29 Av.....	Lt. Jerome Weinberg
29 Av	Hyman Zlot
1 Elul	Rachael Levy
1 Elul	Jacob Solomon



Jewish Community Relations Council East Bay Region - Summer 2011

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is the public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community. The organization was originally formed in the early 1940's out of concern for the safety and security of Jews residing in the Bay Area. Today, the work of the JCRC includes identifying key issues of importance to the Jewish community, trying to find consensus within the community and presenting educational programming on those issues. We form coalitions with people of other faiths, provide support for parents with Jewish children in public schools, advocate for Jewish social services and educate the community about Israel.

The East Bay region of the JCRC includes members who represent most of the area synagogues as well as the East Bay Jewish community at-large. The JCRC seeks to provide service to the Jewish community, build Jewish communal identity and engage the Jewish community in activism.

As we end the 2010-11 fiscal year, we are pleased to report many accomplishments as part of our new initiative with the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, which we call the *Partnership for Israel*. Under the leadership of our Chair, Lenny Kristal and in collaboration Israel Center Director, Riva Gambert we've held several programs to inform the community about Israel-related issues. Our webpage, *Israel Food For Thought*, which can be found on www.ifed.org, includes interesting articles, YouTube videos, book and Israeli movie reviews. A symposium in May, "Voices of Israel" had major keynote speakers, workshops and an entertaining Israeli musical concert.

We are also proud of the work we did in conjunction with Rabbi Dean Kertesz of Temple Beth Hillel in Richmond to help defeat an anti-Israel resolution. Our outreach to City Council members in Richmond proved particularly helpful in obtaining the needed votes for this defeat. Another political effort included an Israel Information Forum for staff of Alameda County elected officials. It was an important opportunity to educate these staff members about Israel history, current events and why Israel is important to the Jewish community. We are hoping to hold a similar forum for staff of Contra Costa elected officials in the next few months.

While we spent significant time on Israel issues, we continued our ongoing social action project at the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP) family shelter. East Bay JCRC members served several hot meals to residents of the shelter in coalition with the Islamic Center of Northern California and plan to continue this program in the new fiscal year. As members of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, we took a leadership role at the annual "Jewish Lobby Day", a mission to Sacramento where we meet with elected officials. This year, we spoke with state legislators about our deep concerns for budget cuts impacting our Jewish social service agencies.

If you want to learn more about the JCRC, feel free to contact me (*add your own name, contact information*). I am currently serving on the East Bay JCRC as our organization representative. You can also check out the JCRC on the web at www.jcrc.org or contact East Bay JCRC Director, Myrna David at

(510) 318-6417 or by email at myrna@ifed.org. The JCRC is here to serve and be a resource for you. Let us know your thoughts.



MIDRASHA IN BERKELEY

It's about this time every year that I start getting goose bumps thinking about the amazing classes our Midrasha teachers have created for the year to come. It seems that every year teachers get more and more innovative and they always seem to have their finger on the pulse of our teens.

Here are some highlights:

Anna Martin will take her expertise from a summer in Morocco as a Fulbright scholar to teach one class on Jews in the Arab world and another on "Not Just Bagel Eaters," Jews from non-Ashkenazi countries. Day Schildkret will take the popular T.V. show, Project Runway, and have his students create fashions inspired by the Bible and Jewish history. Students interested in yoga can either spend an hour with Lara Walket who will tie yoga poses into each week's Torah parsha or with Sacha Kopin who will use yoga to understand Jewish views about the body. Our new art teacher, Erica Fink, has three great courses planned. Noemi Hollander will look at Harry Potter and wizardry through Jewish eyes and in another class she will examine Jewish values in pop music. Sacha and Ilan Persing will look at various aspects of Israeli culture and history. Erica Crowell Altobelli offers a survey of various aspects of the Holocaust. Beth Midanik-Blum looks at relationships in one class and the American Jewish experience in another. Ilan Persing and Lara Walket are both teaching conversational Hebrew classes and Muni Schweig is teaching Talmud. Sacha Kopin has an 8th grade core class in Ethics and Noemi Hollander and Anna Martin teach the 9th grade core in Jewish identity. And as always, we will have our wonderful Abraham's Vision class which brings Jewish and Muslim students together to explore their own and each other's religion, history and culture. And don't forget our Monday afternoon Tanach study group with David Henkin where each year the class intensely follows a theme throughout various books in the Bible.

Day Schildkret is spearheading our partnership with Urban Adamah, the new Jewish farm in Berkeley. Students will study weekly classes about food justice and Biblical land use and then spend a couple Sunday afternoons at the Urban Adamah farm. Thanks to a Jewish federation Special Education Micro-Grant to Congregation Beth El, we will be offering She'arim: Gateway to Midrasha, a class for students to discuss the most important questions about the meaning of life from a Jewish perspective. Lara Walket will also be teaching a class on Havdalah, Shabbat and leadership skills, training students to work with our partner synagogues on presenting family havdalah celebrations.

Midrasha begins on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 am. Our midweek class with David Henkin begins the following day, Monday, September 12 at 4:15. There will be an orientation for new students and their parents on Tuesday, August 30 at 7:30 p.m. For any questions phone the Midrasha office at (510) 843-4667.

Members of the East Bay JCRC and East Bay Federation Israel Center (Partnership for Israel) would like to share two stories a month about positive developments from the state of Israel.

Go on an adventure at Israel's top 5 nature reserves

If you are a nature-lover, there is no limit to the sights and excursions you can enjoy when visiting the state of Israel. ISRAEL21c asked a scientist from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to choose the top 5 most interesting sights. It's not easy to identify only 5 of the nature reserves and national parks in a country with about 300 of them but these are the ones that were selected:

1. Masada – An ancient fortress built by King Herod atop a plateau overlooking the Dead Sea.
2. Mt. Carmel - Features a diverse forest and a variety of wildlife, along with wonderful panoramas.
3. Ein Gedi - Oasis located west of the Dead Sea. Features 2 year round streams.
4. Makhtesh Ramon Crater - A geological feature of Israel's Negev desert.
5. Coral Beach – Located on the Red Sea south of Eilat. One of the most 'densely populated' coral reef in the world.

For more information, see www.parks.org.il or for general information about travel to Israel, see www.goisrael.com.

Source: Israel 21C

Let peace begin with water

In the 1990s, a young Israeli lawyer concluded that the environment should be used as a tool for peace. Today, the organization he co-directs with a Palestinian and Jordanian director, Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), is working on improving the environment and peace prospects in the Middle East. The man is Gidon Bromberg, and his colleagues have recently been named a TIME magazine Hero of the Environment 2011. In the village of Auja, the inhabitants - relied on the Auja Spring a couple miles away. The spring has since dried up, making it impossible for villagers to bank on agriculture for making a living. FoEME opened Auja EcoCenter in fall 2010 in order to play a central role in alleviating the impact of water scarcity and environmental degradation on Palestinian communities through education about environmental and water realities and widespread dissemination of conservation measures. The local villagers are learning how to make the most out of a tight water situation. Recycled water from the EcoCenter runs into a series of open tanks where it is naturally treated and used for irrigation purposes. The effects of the project are expected to spread throughout the West Bank as other homes and villages replicate its low-tech water reclamation system.

Source: Israel 21C

If you are interested in learning more about the East Bay JCRC, please contact Myrna David, JCRC Regional Director at myrna@jfed.org.

To: Rabbi David White – Congregation B'nai Israel
From: Thomas Halloran - Sinai Memorial Chapel
Re: Sunrise Cemetery restoration project

Thank you Rabbi for choosing to acknowledge our cemetery staff in the project accomplished on June 8th at Sunrise Cemetery in Vallejo. As you requested; here are the highlights and the accomplishments of the days work.

The B'nai Israel / Beth Shalom restoration project at Sunrise Cemetery in Vallejo was a complete success. The volunteer group consisting of the grounds-keeping staff from Eternal Home Cemetery and myself arriving on that Wednesday morning at the cemetery and completed the work in an estimated 6 hours; at the conclusion, the section which serves the Vallejo and Napa Congregation's looked beautiful.

I was aware that the lack of funds at the cemetery prevented them from addressing the many needs that each week presents. Our task was to address the long standing lack of maintenance issues that had created a neglected and unsightly appearance. We also addressed the monument issues where many had sank into the earth, become uneven and now were a potential danger to any visitors in this section of the cemetery.

The Eternal Home Cemetery staff consisting of Arturo Barajas, David Cambra, Fred Harris and Ringo Huerta, collectively removed the overgrown vegetation surrounding the Cypress trees and the section monument; trimmed away the weeds that encroached upon the memorial markers which then exposed the extent of the second phase of our project. The entire section was then mowed, including the undeveloped area adjacent to the section; then a more time consuming trimming of each marker allowing for proper framing and display of each memorial marker. The second phase of the project proved to be the most difficult. Fred, Arturo, Ringo and David systematically lifted when possible, removed when needed and leveled 24 sunken markers to their original positions which required the bringing in of approximately 12 wheelbarrows of earth. Each of the restored markers were cleaned prior to the final mowing of the section, followed by the removal of any evidence that we were there which left the section the most beautiful area at Sunrise Cemetery.

As I had stated; as a courtesy to both B'nai Israel and to Beth Shalom, Sinai Memorial Chapel would provide the American Flag for each of the 21 military veteran markers and would place them upon each grave prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day followed by the removal of them the following weekend. Being a Vallejo resident, I will personally oversee this honor each year.

Thomas Halloran
Sinai Memorial Chapel / Eternal Home Cemetery

*Join Us Friday Evening
August 12th, 2011 at 6:45 PM
For a Sha'BBQ*

*Grilled Vegetarian
Burgers With all
The Fixings*

*Sponsored By
Congregation B'nai Israel's
Board of Directors*

What Do I bring you ask?

***Please Bring a
Dessert to Share***

FOR RESERVATIONS

*Please RSVP to Sue at
the Shul Office 642-6526*

or

***Wendy at schuplinsky@comcast.net
or phone at 707-745-3404***

Annual CBI Open House

Sunday, August 21st

10am-noon

Come for bagels, coffee and to chat with board members and other congregants!

Sign up for Religious School and receive a 5% discount for early registration!

Tours of the building and grounds available for new and prospective members!

Congregation B'nai Israel

1256 Nebraska St.

Vallejo, CA

Rabbi David White



Dr. Dennis Meade
1440 Military West, Suite 102
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-2121

To advertise in this spot
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Sue Barush @
707-642-6526

Gerri N. Kahn
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* If you had difficulties receiving your
bulletin, please contact the Mailing staff

Next Due Date for Bulletin Articles/Items:

Monday, August 22, 2011

***Don't forget to get your (typed) items in!!
This includes flyers – please forward to the editor!***

Congregation B'nai Israel
1256 Nebraska Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-642-6526
www.bnaisrael.com
cbioffice1@yahoo.com

בני ישראל

AUGUST 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4 Finance Committee 7:00 pm	5 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	6 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White Josh Kornbluth Show 8:00 pm
7	8 Board Meeting 6:00 pm Erev Tisha b'Av Services 7:30 pm	9 Tisha b'Av	10	11	12 Sha'BBQ 6:45 pm Services 8:00 pm	13
14 Birthday Party for Amari Watson 3:00 pm	15	16	17 Marty Lurie "Baseball, Judaism and Building Community" 7:00 - 9:00 pm	18	19 Services 8:00 pm	20
21 Master Calendar Meeting 9:30 am Religious School Open House & Registration 10:00 - 12:00 Hadassah Machon	22	23	24 Hadassah Board Meeting 7:00 pm	25	26 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	27 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White
28	29	30	31			

DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Finance Committee 7:00 pm	2 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	3 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White
4 Jewish Genealogy Group 11:00 am to 12:30 pm	5	6	7	8	9 Shabbat Seder 7:00 pm	10
11 1st Day of Sunday School 10:00 -12:00 TLC Concert 6:00 pm	12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm	13 1st Day of Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	14	15	16 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	17 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White Cruise Fundraiser
18 Sunday School 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Unity Day	19	20 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	21	22	23 Services 8:00 pm	24
25 Sunday School 10:00 -12:00 Dr. Michael Harris 11:00 am	26	27 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	28 Erev Rosh Hashanah	29 Rosh Hashanah 1st Day	30 Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Services 8:00 pm	

Friends,

Don't miss this terrific event! Nosh at the "Grand Nosh." This is a way to financially support the Jewish community and also see Josh Kornbluth do his clever piece on Andy Warhol. Bring your kids, your friends and even their kids!

We will build a strong Jewish community, one person at a time.



"Stuffed like a knish with Jewish Humor"

"Part sermon, part art lecture and part Borscht Belt standup routine"

Josh Kornbluth's "Andy Warhol: Good for the Jews?"

"A funny, thought-provoking journey" - SF Chronicle
from the writer, director and star of "Haiku Tunnel"

In partnership and support of the Jewish Communities of Napa, Sonoma and Vallejo

Saturday, August 6, 8 pm

- **Show only - \$25 / \$30**
- **Grand Nosh Package*** - (6:30pm - 7:30pm) Pre-show "Grand Nosh" in the Cafe Theatre + Show Ticket: \$100/person (limited to 100 people)
- **All-Access Package*** - Pre-show "Grand Nosh" in the Cafe Theatre + Show Ticket + Post-show reception with Josh Kornbluth: \$136/person (limited to 36 people)

*To purchase online, choose ticket TYPE after selecting seats. Names of Grand Nosh and Post-Show Reception guests will be held at the door the evening of the event. Please call the box office at 707.226.7372 with any questions.

A brilliant, disarming and hilarious monologist, Josh is like an irreverent cross between Spalding Gray, Woody Allen and Eric Bogosian. The show springs from a trip to the Warhol exhibit at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in SF. "In a way," a NY Times article suggests "the comic routine is an allegory for a museumgoer's struggle to find meaning."

> [Josh Kornbluth Website](#)

> [New York Times Review](#)

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He has broadcast over 2,000 pre- and post- game shows and has conducted over 5,000 interviews featuring baseball personalities. He knows virtually everything and everyone in baseball. So, come... join us... meet and talk ball with an expert.

And... the CBI connection? Two of his children celebrated their B'nai Mitzvahs at Congregation B'nai Israel.

Donation: \$24

(Willie Mays - a baseball legend - wore #24)

Proceeds benefit Congregation B'nai Israel

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FOURTH ANNUAL TLC CONCERT

Featuring: Doug Cort, Saul Kaye,
Steve Siacotos, and Dan Zemelman



THE GUYS ARE BACK!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011
Congregation B'nai Israel
1256 Nebraska St., Vallejo

- *Saul Kaye is an international touring artist, whose acoustic guitar and delta-style vocals have delighted world-wide audiences.
- *Doug Cort is a local favorite known for the emotional warmth of his vocal interpretations and story-telling.
- *Dan Zemelman is a jazz pianist who has traveled the world as a Kennedy Center Jazz Ambassador, headlined at Yoshi's Jazz Club in San Francisco, and played as a studio musician for John Lee Hooker, Jr.
- *Steve Siacotos is a seasoned bluesman, who has shared the stage with performers Keb Mo, Clarence Carter and Joe Louis Walker.

Saul, Steve, Dan, and Doug have played their marvelous blend of music at our past concerts, to rave reviews!

Hors d'oeuvres + served at 5 p.m. Great Music starts at 6 p.m.

Admission: \$25.00

Your tax-deductible donation will benefit Congregation B'nai Israel's TLC (Tikkun Loving Care) Fund. This Fund helps folks with their medical bills.
(Tax ID# 94-2719010)

Please make checks out to "Congregation B'nai Israel" and mail to
P.O.Box 3066, Vallejo, CA 94590. For reservations: Tel. 707 642-6526
email: cbioffice1@yahoo.com

Book of Remembrance

Once again we are printing the Book of Remembrance for the High Holy Days. If you wish to remember family members and friends please let us know by completing the information below so we may include them in the book. Also, please help us by adding, deleting, or correcting the spelling of names from last year's book. Thank you.

Send information and checks to:

John Campbell
135 Brandon Place
Benicia, CA 94510

YOUR NAME: _____

Suggested donation is \$18.00.

DONATION AMOUNT: \$

Names and money must be in by September 30, 2011 for the printer's deadline.

_____ My check, payable to Congregation B'nai Israel, in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.

_____ Bill me after the High Holy Days. (I understand that full payment is due upon receipt of the first bill.)

Please indicate below those you wish to be remembered:

IN MEMORY OF: (or same as last year) _____

REMEMBERED BY: _____

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