



Message from Rabbi Mitch Levine



The spike in antisemitic incidents over the last several years may seem like a scary new normal, but, appallingly, it might actual reflect an old normal. The Story of Esther, written well over 2000 years ago, may represent our earliest attempt to wrap our minds around “the world’s oldest hatred.”

Haman said to King Achashverosh, “There is a nation scattered and separated amongst the people throughout the provinces of your realm, and their laws differ from that of any other nation, and the laws of the king they do not do, and it is not worth it to tolerate them.” (Esther 3:8) With these words, Haman gives the first antisemitic speech in history deriding Jewish particularism. Haman judges us for living according to our own distinct laws and customs, and his verdict is genocide. But why does Haman introduce his argument by emphasizing that we are a people “scattered and separated?”

Perhaps Haman is counseling the king that the Jews are not only different, they are also vulnerable. Being scattered and separated, it would be implausible for us to organize an effective defense if attacked. If so, Haman exposed a profound weakness. Distinct laws cannot alone guarantee solidarity and mutual defense.

When we fulfill a commandment we typically say a blessing. The 20th century European rabbi, Yechiel Weinberg, pointed out that for a few mitzvot, such as honoring one’s parents and giving charity, there is no blessing to recite. Mishaloach Manot (sending gifts of food on Purim) is in the latter category. Rabbi Weinberg explains that the language of a blessing, “Blessed art thou, Lord our God, who has commanded us to ...” would be inappropriate in any instance where the act should be inspired more by feeling than by commandment. If you honor your parent merely because Jewish Law says you must, you really don’t understand what it means to have a parent. If you give charity simply because it is a commandment, you are not giving it because you are generous and care for those in need.

Likewise, it is important to give Purim gifts; not because our laws say to do so, but out of a deeply felt need to build Jewish connection and community. Our laws may keep us distinct, but by themselves they cannot keep us unified. Purim teaches us that a love for one another must undergird those laws.

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Shabbat Kiddush Breakfast & Study with Rabbi Mitch

Saturday March 5, 9:30am

Come for a catered breakfast and learning with Rabbi Mitch at 9:30am, followed by abbreviated Shabbat morning services from 10:30am—noon.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Mitch Thursday March 17, 12-1pm

For insightful discussion and learning with each other and Rabbi Mitch, join us to continue the topic of “The Invention of Judaism”.

A Message From CBI President Ellen Sanders



I saw a groundhog the other day. Did it see its shadow, and does that mean that spring is on its way? I'm going to choose to believe that! We've had a little more snow than usual this winter, and I'm ready for a change. In fact, after almost three years of forced "hibernation", we're ALL ready for a change, aren't we? It's been a period of Zoom services, cancelled Kiddush lunches, and lots of virtual events.

Happily, many things *have* kept going because of technology: Jay Jacoby's Friday study group, Alan Silverman's Torah on Tap, Torah study with Justin, our Chanukah celebrations, and much more. We've also been able to have many things happen outdoors in decent weather. We now have the bridge group using our social hall three times a week. Hebrew lessons with Josefa continue along smoothly. YEP has a new coordinator, and our children have regular lessons and activities. We have Rabbi Mitch, who has instituted regular Lunch & Learn sessions, and Kiddush for Breakfast learning sessions once a month. An adult B'nei Mitzvah class just started up and we are working on our Hebrew and Torah trope (thank you, Caren Kessler and Frank Goldsmith!). And happily, we've been able to have in-person Shabbat services for a while now, with a Zoom option for those that can't join in person. Lots of things are going on, despite the obstacles! We are lucky to have such a creative Executive Director, too, who is always thinking of new ways we can engage. Be sure and join in for the upcoming Purim festivities the evening of March 16, by the way! Should be lots of fun.

I think most of us are cautiously optimistic that perhaps Covid has become more manageable, and that we can begin to do more as a community. While those of us on the board and on committees, and the rabbi, Rochelle, and Lee, continue to work on getting us re-connected, I encourage everyone to contribute to this worthy cause. Have an idea for a class or workshop? Let us know - we would love to see the Adult Education program get going again. How about a fun activity? Let's make it happen. Finally, it goes without saying that we need YOU - on a committee, on the board. What's the expression? — Many hands make light work. Remember, we want CBI to be a *community* effort!

Shabbat HaMalkah with Josefa Briant

Friday March 4, 6:00pm on Zoom



Join Josefa and a featured guest on the first Friday of each month as we create an intimate space at home to welcome Shabbat with psalms and prayers. The Zoom link is on the home page of the CBI website.

Awakening the Heart with Rick Chess

Saturday, March 26, 9:30am



Join Rick Chess for a contemplative Shabbat practice with meditation and chanting on the last Saturday of each month in the CBI social hall.

Get to Know the Board: Karin Fraade

Hello!

I first visited CBI while traveling through Asheville in 2016. My partner and I were thinking of moving here, and one of our priorities was finding a Jewish community that I could be a part of.

My Jewish background is being raised in a Reform Congregation in New Jersey, raising my children in a Conservative Congregation in Connecticut, becoming an adult Bat Mitzvah, and being a board member for many years in various roles. I had a place.

We moved here in 2017, and I very happily joined CBI. It's been an interesting ride.

Since I joined, there has been a renovation that included relocating our Shabbat and holiday services, then back again after the reno was so beautifully completed. We hired an Executive Director, the very talented, organized and thoroughly delightful Rochelle Reich. One Rabbi left the Bimah, and another joined our CBI family. There was Covid and learning how to navigate Zoom. Throughout all of this the CBI family remained just that, a family.

It is so clear to me that the strength of CBI lies in its membership. We thrive because we all contribute. There are so many ways to connect, to learn, to be part of our community. And every member can have a voice. Partly because of our size, we depend on each other to make CBI work. I feel that it is both my responsibility and my joy to participate in that process.



Last Chance to Order Hamantaschen!

**Deadline for orders:
Thursday, March 3 at noon**

CBI's caterer, Adrienne Press, will be making hamantaschen for sale (by pre-order only) in the following flavors: raspberry, apricot, chocolate, and prune. Hamantaschen are \$1/each and payment must be made by the deadline on Thursday, March 3. Contact the CBI office to place your order - you can pay online, by check or cash.

Our Madrichim Help You Create Personal and Meaningful Programs at CBI

At its core, the CBI Madrichim initiative is designed to engage **each and every member** on a personal level; **empower each of us** to create the Jewish experiences that are meaningful for us; and, in doing so, **enhance our potential** for authentic Jewish expression. Success is when we realize that we benefit as much by supporting another's personal journey as we do from the program itself. What is your passion or interest: a class, a club, a social action program, a fundraiser, a *tikkun olam* project, a social event? Think about it. Then contact one of the folks below and let us help you make it happen!

CBI Madrichim:

Caren Kessler Mike Weizman
Alan Silverman Robert Marcus
Sally Gooze



<https://www.facebook.com/>

love, peace, & hamantaschen

A Purim Cookie Exchange
Wednesday March 16th

Bring 2 dozen,
leave with 2 dozen different ones!
6:30, before
the show!



register at
club.havurah@gmail.com

PURIM

Wedn. March 16

*The Schpiel at
7:30*

*Megillah to
Follow*



**DONATIONS &
COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED**

Greeters Wanted!

Our congregation is in need of volunteer greeters to welcome visitors to our warm and friendly Shul. We could use your help to greet people at the door and say a few welcoming words as they arrive for Shabbat or holiday services. We will even provide some training! If you are willing to help out, please contact Rochelle Reich at 828-252-8660 or director@bethisraelinc.org.



Interested in First Night Seder? Friday, April 15th

Pesach is now just a flip of the calendar page away, and we're gauging interest for a First Night Community Seder on Friday night, April 15th.

We're looking to know how many people would be interested in attending a community Seder at CBI on the 15th.

This event would be limited to a maximum of 30 people, and masking would be required for everyone (when not actively eating or drinking). We would plan to set up the room to allow for as much distancing as will be needed.

Tickets will be \$36 per person. Please express your interest in attending to director@bethisraelinc.org by **March 15th** so that we can make a determination as to whether or not there's enough interest to hold the event.



CBI's HaShofar Needs You!

Our beloved Jimi Moore, former editor of HaShofar, and her husband have moved out of the area and will be joining a new Jewish community and lending their talents and energy there. We are now looking for a newsletter editor to start immediately. Who is looking to contribute time from home? We could even teach you some new skills... Contact Lee or Rochelle if you are interested.



Editor's Note

Deadline: 15 March for the April issue
15 April for the May issue

For questions or submissions contact the editor at hashofar@bethisraelinc.org

Volunteer at the 2022 CBI Golf Classic Friday, June 3 at Springdale Golf Course

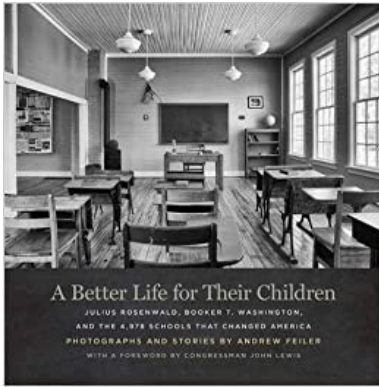


Save the Date! CBI's Golf Classic will be held on Friday, June 3rd at Springdale Golf Course. Please mark your calendars now and plan for a fun day together, outside on the green! We are actively looking for volunteers to help make this fundraiser successful. Please contact Rochelle if you are interested in helping (you need know NOTHING about golf to be an excellent volunteer).



Volunteer Needs at the *Shul*

We are currently seeking folks interested in reimagining several of our *shul's* committees. Don't let the word "committee" scare you; we need your energy and enthusiasm! All committees welcome new members, but specifically we are looking for new folks to join the Fund Development, Adult Ed, Security and newly-forming CBI Club *Havurah* social committee. Contact Rochelle to discuss your interests.



CBI Social Action Committee Collaborates with Others in the Asheville Community to Explore a Remarkable Alliance

While our Social Action Committee continues to engage our congregation in *Tikkun Olam* through such activities as helping to clothe, shelter, and feed those in need, we are also part of a regional effort to raise community awareness of racial justice issues and alliances between African-Americans and Jews.

CBI congregants have joined with other Jewish and non-Jewish institutions to explore an extraordinary relationship between Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist who for many years served as CEO of Sears, Roebuck, and Booker T. Washington, educator, author, and dominant leader in the African American community at the turn of the twentieth century. Working closely together, Washington and Rosenwald helped to establish a network of nearly 5,000 schools intended to serve African-American children in the South.

Under the thoughtful leadership of CBI congregant Sally Gooze, the Rosenwald Collaborative has been working for months to plan programs that will familiarize the Asheville Community with Rosenwald's philanthropy, the pioneering Black-Jewish alliance formed between Rosenwald and Washington, and the Rosenwald Schools and their legacy. These programs, planned to start this Spring, will include:

Multiple **screenings of Aviva Kempner's documentary film, *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*** (dates and venues to be announced).

A scholar-in-residence weekend featuring author/photographer Andrew Feiler, whose book, *A Better Life for Their Children* documents his visits to 105 schools, his interviews with dozens of former students, teachers, preservationists, and community leaders, and an introduction by the late former congressman John Lewis who attended a Rosenwald school in Alabama. A presentation at CBI is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2022.

A chartered bus visit to the Charlotte Museum of History for those interested in viewing Feiler's photography exhibit, *A Better Life for Our Children*.

Tours and programs at the beautifully restored Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A booth at the May 1 Hard Lox festival to inform the community about Julius Rosenwald and the Anderson School's renovation.

A variety of interviews and speakers that will include local Rosenwald School Alumnae and possibly a descendent of Booker T. Washington and Frederick Douglass.

More details will follow on all these programs. We hope CBI members will attend many of these events.

CBI's Friday Noon Study Group is exploring

בְּרֵאשִׁית

The Book of GENESIS

The first of the five books of Moses, Genesis ("Origins") is viewed in Judeo-Christian traditions as an account of the creation of the world, the early history of humanity, Israel's ancestors, and the origins of the Jewish people. Its Hebrew name is the same as its first word, *Bereshit* ("In the beginning"). Genesis is filled with wonderful—and problematic—stories: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Great Flood, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, and Joseph and his brothers.

At CBI, and in synagogues around the world, Jews, whom a rabbi once called participants in the oldest book club in the world, once again began their annual *Torah* cycle with the reading of the first chapters of Genesis on October 2. Our weekly discussion group began examining these opening chapters on October 8. It has been several years since our Friday Noon Study Group has read Genesis together and we look forward to the insights and questions all the chapters of the Book of Genesis will bring forward.

Our group meets via Zoom every Friday from 12-1. Check the CBI web page for a link. All are welcome to join us, regardless of their level of expertise. Please bring whatever copy of the Bible you might have (the more different translations the livelier the discussion). If you have questions, please contact Jay Jacoby at jjacoby@uncc.edu.

Our Gift Shop



Regular Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 12 to 3

-- Outside of these regular hours, Rochelle and Lee may be available to assist you to make purchases from the shop. Alternatively, please don't hesitate to call Carol Samsky at (828) 676-0765 to arrange a convenient time to open the shop or request a special order.

[When was the last time you purchased a new tallit?](#) Are you still wearing the one you got at your B. Mitzvah? Treat yourself to one of the beautiful Israeli-made creations that are in the shop. The colors are dazzling and the prices are so reasonable. We also carry matching or separate tallit bags.

[April is coming up soon and that means Pesach!](#) We have everything to complete your Seder and delight the children at your table. If you have a special request, be sure to come in early so that we can get it to you before the holiday.

And don't forget that our Gift Shop is [a wonderful place to shop for gifts](#) -- for hosts, for Mother's Day, for B. Mitzvahs, for birthdays. The Judaica made by Guild artists, as well as our own members, is what makes our shop extraordinary. Your purchase takes on special significance when you know that you are supporting local artists, and most importantly, CBI.

Ongoing CBI Events

Parsha discussion with Justin—March 12, 1:00pm

Once a month following services and lunch, join your CBI family and Justin Goldstein in a deep dive into the week's *parsha*. Come for lunch and stay for the discussion, or spend the day celebrating Shabbat with services, lunch and discussion. Check the weekly eblast bulletin for the next discussion date.

Torah on Tap at the CBI Firepit A Lively Group Discussion—March 27, 4:00pm

Torah on Tap meets on the last Sunday of the month from 4- 5:30 pm. Torah on Tap, a lively group discussion is meeting at the CBI firepit. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet inside. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair, snack or meal, and a beverage of your choice.

Social Action Volunteer Opportunities

Help serving dinner at the Western Carolina Rescue Mission on the third Tuesday of the month from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The Rescue Mission is located at 225 Patton Avenue, Asheville. Contact Alan Escovitz at aescovitz@charter.net for details.

Help with our involvement with Room In the Inn. Contact Jan Zollars at warreallysucks@yahoo.com.

All COVID-19 precautions are observed in these activities.

Upcoming Security Trainings

The **Secure Community Network***, in cooperation with the **WNC Jewish Security Task Force**, is pleased to announce a series of security and safety training program modules scheduled twice a month during **January – May 2022** from **7:00-8:30pm**. The online Zoom training sessions are being offered to our WNC Jewish communities at no cost with advance registration required. (Please ignore the 6:00pm Central Time reference at the course sign-up website). The series is being funded with a grant from the **Jewish Federation of WNC**.

The training modules below have accompanying links for registration and will provide you with a Zoom viewing link via email upon receipt of your registration. The Secure Community Network will also provide participants a downloadable certificate with the course name and the SCN logo affixed.



Registration should be done by each individual in the household to enable everyone to receive a certificate of completion, even if you will be viewing on the same computer

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues., Mar. 15 | Safety and Security Team, Part 1 (Repeated May 17th)
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuilhqz8rGdzh0noBKFD4tVhXE1swXrdJ |
| Wed., Mar. 23 | Safety and Security Team, Part 2 (Repeated May 25th)
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtceuqqD4oHNa0JEah1bCBdt0AGmBuqkl |
| Tues., Apr. 19 | Situational Awareness (repeated from January 18th)
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltdurTkve9HtANFYskyOEUMtxP_2fZKF |
| Wed., Apr. 27 | Countering Active Threat Training (repeated from January 26th)
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vdO-urD0tG9GGqbVNIotbcyn4_MnkbJk |
| Tues., May 17 | Safety and Security Team, Part 1
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwode6upj4tGtP554-yJR7jxssUpXZZ3WGH |
| Wed., May 25 | Safety and Security Team, Part 2
https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocuitpjosHddEUNYlwdqlhngUoNCXnS8B |

*The Secure Community Network (SCN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community in North America. It was founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America. SCN provides timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners, serves as the community's formal liaison with federal law enforcement, and coordinates closely with state and local law enforcement partners. SCN works with communities and partners across North America to develop and implement strategic frameworks that enhance safety and security of the Jewish people, developing best practice policies and procedures, undertaking threat and vulnerability assessments, coordinating training and education, offering consultation on safety and security matters and providing crisis management support during critical incidents..

Understanding Hate and Extremism — April 5, 2022, 7:00pm on Zoom

Presented by the ADL in conjunction with the Asheville Jewish Community as part of their Signature Synagogue's program, you are invited to a Zoom presentation.

Attendees must register in advance for this meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAKde2opjwoHNZ9ok6-kpgdgF-Yo1fCdMOI>

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ



Since it's prohibited to possess chametz on Passover, and chametz left undisposed of must be sold to a non-Jew, all such chametz, including any chametz utensils that were not thoroughly cleaned, must be stored away. The storage area should be locked or taped shut for the duration of the holiday. Rabbi Levine will be acting as an agent both to sell the chametz to a non-Jew on the morning before Passover, and also to buy it back the evening after Passover ends. Below is the necessary form to authorize Rabbi to sell your chametz.

***The office must receive this form by Wednesday, April 13.**

Appointment of Agent for the Sale of Chametz Passover 2022/5782*

I, _____, do hereby authorize Congregation Beth Israel's Rabbi Mitch Levine to sell any chametz that may be in my possession wherever it may be; at my home, place of business, car, vacation home or elsewhere, in accordance with Jewish law.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____



*Save
the date*

FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2022

**SPRINGDALE GOLF CLUB
CANTON, NC
SHOTGUN START AT 9:30AM**

BECOME A SPONSOR OR REGISTER

828-252-8660

director@bethisraelinc.org

www.bethisraelinc.org



We're looking for volunteers to help with and promote this fun golf fundraiser.

Have questions? Please contact Paul at Paul.Deletetsky@gmail.com

CBI's Virtual Office

If you would like to pay your dues or make a donation, you can do it quickly and securely online through CBI's Virtual Office on the CBI website. You can use ACH, your credit card or debit card, and save yourself a stamp or a trip to CBI. Don't forget to fill out the memo line!



Just go to CBI's home page at <https://www.bethisraelinc.org/> and click on CBI Virtual Office in the top bar <https://www.bethisraelinc.org/cbi-virtual-office/>

If you are making a donation or ticket payment, please fill in the memo line so that we can allocate it correctly. Thank you for supporting CBI!

Click on the donate button at the left to pay your dues, make a contribution, pay your Annual Appeal Pledge or pay for your Ingles

cards. This simple Web Check system is a direct debit to your checking account and allows you to send a message to the CBI office along with your payment. No need to write checks or make special trips to the office.

Support Your Shul and Its Congregants!



Purchase Ingles Gift Cards

Ingles cards are a no-cost fundraiser for Beth Israel. Each month CBI members and friends buy \$5,000 worth of Ingles gift cards to help raise \$250 for Beth Israel – over \$3,000 annually. Ingles gift cards can be used at any Ingles or Sav-Mor stores for groceries, pharmacy items and gasoline. Sign up now to receive your Ingles cards automatically each month. The office also keeps an inventory of Ingles cards on hand for immediate purchase. Contact the CBI office to get more information and/or to participate at 828-252-8660 or at admin@bethisraelinc.org.



Your Amazon Purchases Can Help Support Beth Israel

Your Amazon purchases can help support Beth Israel. Amazon Smile donates 1% of your purchases to CBI at no cost to you. Just visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Congregation Beth Israel, then shop as you regularly would. If you are a regular Amazon shopper, you can bookmark this website so as to find it easily every time you shop.



For Information about Burial Plots at Lou Pollock Memorial Park

Please call Josh Tager if you need any further information:
jostager@gmail.com or 828 285-9995

Current Rates: \$1500 for members of Congregation Beth Israel
\$2000 for non-members

Support Your Shul and Its Congregants!

Active Donor Directed Funds

For those members of CBI who would like to direct their financial support toward a specific area within CBI, these are the active donor directed funds. You are encouraged to support the **General Fund** with your donations, allowing the Board of Directors the discretion to direct this support toward areas of the most need.

**** These funds are very active and in the most need of regular contributions.**

♥** **Spiritual Life Fund** – Support of spiritual life programs and needs

♥** **Social Action Fund** – Funds CBI's social action projects

♥** **Chesed/Tzedakah Fund** – Supports the Bereavement Committee and other Chesed related activities

♥** **Ted Liebowitz Children's Fund** – Provides scholarships for Bet Sefer students and supports Bet Sefer expenses

♥** **Toby Cohen Minyan Katan and Junior Congregation Fund**

♥** **Family Education Fund** – Supports family education programming

♥ **Shorashim Teen Program Fund** – Supports CBI teen programs

♥ ****Bernard Coleman Adult Ed Fund**

♥ **Website/Computer/Tech Fund**

♥ **Cemetery Committee Fund** – Supports maintenance of CBI's Lou Pollock Cemetery

♥ **Chevra Kadisha Fund** – Supports efforts toward preparing the body of the departed for Jewish burial.

♥** **Rabbi Discretionary Fund** – Supports needs or causes the Rabbi chooses to support

♥** **Executive Director's Discretionary Fund** – Supports needs of the shul/ community that were not budgeted for

לדור ודור

January-February Donations

General Fund

Jerry & Thelma Uhler: in honor of Lucy Uhler's birthday
Steve & Carolyn Kayne: in honor of Rabbi Mitch's birthday
Jerry & Thelma Uhler: in honor of Jasper Smith's birthday
Bruce Brown & Brian Stone: in honor of Samantha Brown becoming Bat Mitzvah
Steve & Carolyn Kayne: in honor of Carol Samsky's birthday
Marta & Jimmy Metscher: in memory of Esther & Burnerd Horwitz
Lee Avishai: in honor of Carol Samsky's birthday
Jerry & Thelma Uhler: in honor of Kevin & Viktoriia Uhler's anniversary
Lee Avishai: in honor of Bruce's granddaughter Samantha Brown becoming Bat Mitzvah

Yahrzeit Fund

Bob & Eileen Elkin: in memory of Eileen's grandmother, Bessie Greenspoon
Gerard & Thelma Uhler: in memory of Gerry's sister, Cornelia Uhler
Robert & Kathie Kline: in memory of Robert's father, Morris Kline
Norm Winkelman: in memory of his brother, Milton Winkelman
Hal & Mary Lewis: in memory of Mary's brother, George Lazansky
Irvin & Vivien Saron: in memory of Irvin's father, Benjamin Saron
Mark & Marilyn Silberstein: in memory of Mark's father, Aharon Eliezer Silberstein
Rick & Ellen Sanders: in memory of Rick's mother, Ann Sanders
Brad & Shelley Fisher: in memory of Brad's father, Irving Fisher

David & Sharon Boas: in memory of Sharon's mother, Fannie Ehrlich
Arnold Wengrow and Reberta Wengrow Karesh: in memory of their father, Sam Wengrow
Elyse Meltz: in memory of her father, Hyman Meltz
Louis & Hanina Ruttenberg: in memory of their daughter, Naomi Gerlitz
William & Barbara Lewin: in memory of William's father, George Lewin

Hevra Kaddisha Fund

Leonard Koenick: in memory of his father, Harry Koenick

Chesed Fund

Karin Fraade: in honor of Caren Kessler

Mazel Tov!

To Marc Rudow & Deborah Miles on their son Caleb Rudow being appointed to replace Susan Fisher as the 114th District's representative to the NC State House.

Refuah Shleimah

To Patti Haskell, Jerry Uhler, Thelma Uhler, Julie Sherman, Devorah Reed

Today!

To Robert Feistein for hosting Whatcha Planting?, an online meeting of CBI's Garden Forum.

To CBI's wonderful hike leaders, Eva & Beth Israel Blinder.



יזכור

Yahrzeits

May their memories be for a blessing

Announced during services on:

February 25 & 26

- 02 (29 Adar) Rick Chess for his grandmother, Jean Chess
- 02 (29 Adar) Shirley Sandler for her mother, Monica Benjamin
- 04 (01 Adar II) Rochelle Reich for her cousin, Dee Dee Segel
- 04 (01 Adar II) Alan & Richard Laibson for their father, Irving Laibson

March 5

- 07 (04 Adar II) Marilyn Silberstein for her mother, Sara Apelbaum
- 07 (04 Adar II) Sheila Naiman for her mother, Beatrice Rosnel

March 12

- 17 (14 Adar II) Sharon Boas for her father, Jerome Ehrlich

March 19

- 20 (17 Adar II) Judy Baumgarten for her father, Louis Hoffman
- 25 (22 Adar II) Vivien Saron for her mother, Estelle Lew

March 25 & 26

- 26 (23 Adar II) Eileen Elkin for her friend, Cecelia Greenstein
- 27 (24 Adar II) Sheila Naiman for her father, Walter Rosnel
- 28 (25 Adar II) Gerard Uhler for his father, Morris Uhler
- 29 (26 Adar II) Barbara Miller for her grandfather, Samuel Slosman

Judaism Without God? How Does That Work?

Thursday, March 3 at 7pm Alumni Hall in the Highsmith Student Union on UNCA campus

Only 26% of American Jews believe in "the God of the Bible" according to a 2020 Pew survey. Where do Jewish values and identity come from, for Jews who do not believe in a God that commands them? Join us for an open and non-judgmental conversation about diversity of beliefs among American Jews today, and how those who don't hold a traditional understanding of God – or don't believe at all – may still derive meaning from Jewish identity, community, rituals, and holidays and lifecycle celebrations. We'll also consider how the Jewish experience might relate to secular people from other faith backgrounds, as a growing number of Americans move away from organized religion. Presented by **Paul Golin**, Executive Director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ.org) which was founded in 1969. Humanistic Judaism combines a humanistic philosophy of life with the celebration of Judaism as the cultural and historic experience of the Jewish people.

A Thank You Message from the Marcus Family

Thank you so much for the generous support you have given us during my surgical recovery. The delicious prepared food and fresh produce you provided have been a life saver for post-surgery meal times. The time and effort you have all put into this endeavor is much appreciated, and we are overwhelmed by your kindness. I am not one to ask for help, but my husband said, "Ask!" So we requested a few meals; instead we received a banquet. We are forever grateful.

Karen & Robert Marcus

Community News

In the interest of civil dialogue and inclusivity, this information is provided as a service to the CBI community.

The views of these organizations may or may not reflect the views of CBI or its members.

Happenings in the Asheville Jewish Community – www.jcwnc.org is your gateway into all the amazing and wonderful organizations and activities that you can explore.

The Asheville Jewish Community Center strengthens Jewish identity, celebrates Jewish culture, and builds inclusive community through a wide variety of social, educational, cultural, and wellness programs for people from all backgrounds at every stage of life. For more information www.jcc-asheville.org.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) provides unique and integrated services that will engage you in identifying your needs, strengths and goals. We offer support for our aging community members through our unique Elder Club Group Respite Program; sliding-scale mental health services through Healing Solutions counseling; case management; crisis services and spiritual care and healing services. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, too! Reach out to Cindy@jfswn.org to learn more!

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Asheville Area – Our Mission – The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), in keeping with the traditional Jewish mandates to pursue justice and to repair the world, builds bridges of understanding and communication within our Jewish community and beyond to the general community. We work within the Jewish and broader communities in the greater Asheville area to enhance cooperation with other religious, racial, ethnic and civic groups and to foster a just, democratic and pluralistic society. Whether advocating for students, teachers and staff with local schools and universities, meeting with government officials, collaborating in interfaith initiatives, responding to issues of anti-Semitism, or combatting all forms of racial and ethnic hatred and prejudice, the JCRC assists our community in this pursuit for justice.

Carolina Jews for Justice (CJJ) is a statewide organization devoted to pursuing social justice from a Jewish perspective in the areas of racial equity, fighting poverty, opposing anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred (including anti-Muslim and anti-LGBTQ discrimination), working on a non-partisan basis for increased voter engagement and fair redistricting, and advocating for sensible and humane immigration policies, among others. Please visit its website at <https://www.carolinajewsforjustice.org> to learn more. We are committed to being a dependable source of support, education, advocacy, and action. We have a WNC chapter, [CJJ/West](#), and a CJJ/West [Facebook page](#), and we would welcome your involvement.

Antisemitism Listening Project: Over the past few years, CJJ has hosted several retreats and workshops about the relationship between antisemitism, racism and white nationalism. To expand on this work, we have begun a statewide listening tour focused on developing a better understanding of how we as Jews have experienced antisemitism. For more information and to stay informed about the project, including when circles are taking place, contact Lisa Forehand at Lisa@carolinajewsforjustice.org.

Don't Kvetch, Organize! CJJ is sponsoring online training through [JOIN for Justice](#), the Jewish organizing institute. Participants will learn skills for social justice and community organizing and how they relate to Jewish traditions and values. The course is from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. CJJ is subsidizing the cost of the program (and will pay the entire cost for those who cannot afford even the reduced CJJ rate). Here's a [link](#) to the CJJ sign-up page.

The Government Accountability Project. To effectively encourage local government toward racial justice, advocacy groups and the public need timely information on policy decisions that are in the works in both the city and county governments. We're excited to announce a new initiative that the Racial Justice Coalition, of which CJJ/West is a founding member, is launching with community allies: the Government Accountability Project (GAP). Key findings on the most urgent matters making their way through the political process will be shared once a week (or more) on the [GAP website](#), with ways to take action and advocate for racial justice. You can sign up now to be a "committee watcher" at [this link](#). To stay up to date visit the website and/or [subscribe](#) to receive weekly updates. For more information about Carolina Jews for Justice and the CJJ/West chapter, contact Frank Goldsmith at goldsmith.cf@gmail.com or Judy Leavitt at judleavitt76@gmail.com.

Community News Continued

Dayenu, A Jewish Call to Climate Action—A movement to confront the climate crisis, rooted in Jewish values, experience, and spirit. dayenu.org

Jewish Conservative Coalition-Lamed 18 – JCCL was formed to bring together like-minded individuals who support and defend the Jewish people and our Constitutional values. Lamed is the Hebrew letter that teaches us to learn from everything in life. Eighteen (18) in *Gematria* means good things to come. For additional organization, member and upcoming events information contact: JCCLevents@charter.net

Conference of Jewish Affairs – We believe that America is a unique civilization worth preserving, and that liberty is the core engine behind America’s success. As Jews and as admirers of the Bible, we believe in free markets and capitalism; judging people as individuals as opposed to indistinguishable members of groups; personal self-defense; reverence for the Constitution; property rights, national sovereignty and patriotism; a strong and capable military; and opportunity for all to succeed. We have a deep pride in Israel and her extraordinary achievements, and advocate for a secure and strong Israel. Please visit the [website](http://www.conferenceofjewishaffairs.org/): (www.conferenceofjewishaffairs.org/)

Jewish Representation in the General Assembly!

Frank Goldsmith interviews Caleb Rudow



Caleb Rudow, newly appointed member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, took his oath of office on Tuesday, February 1, on the floor of the People’s House in Raleigh. He stood proudly beside his parents, Deborah Miles and Marc Rudow, whom he credits with his maternal and paternal grandparents, with instilling the importance of a good education and honoring the concept of Tikkun Olam. Deborah and Marc are members of Congregation Beth Israel in Asheville and are well known to the WNC Jewish community (Deborah founded the Center for Diversity Education at UNC-A). Caleb may be the only Jewish person currently serving in the NC House of Representa-

tives. He was appointed to fill the seat of retiring former Representative Susan Fisher and will be running for a full term in November to represent District 114.

According to Caleb, “My family knew that education was not only the gateway to greater opportunity but something that no one can take away from you. And as teachers they also instilled in me the importance of supporting education and those that prepare and mentor the next generation.” His family taught him to fight for his beliefs – “from my Rudow grandparents who took me to animal rights protests as a child and from my Miles grandparents who told me stories about their struggles for women’s rights and civil rights.”

His family also taught him that, “as Jews, we know what it’s like to be discriminated against and we have a duty to fight to ensure that everyone has the ability to live up to their potential. My parents and grandparents, among them Holocaust survivors, also taught me that the descendants of those who enslaved other people have a particular duty to fight for justice for all.” He commented that, like many white southerners, he is the descendant not only of honor but also dishonor, a descendant not only of the persecuted but also the persecutors. Some of his ancestors were descendants of those fleeing persecution who sought a better life for themselves, but made that life off the sweat, blood, and labor of enslaved peoples. They did not always do justice and love kindness.

Caleb became an organizer, recognizing that true leadership can effect change in bringing people together for a purpose. He went into the Peace Corps because he believed the world is a richer place when we learn from and work with people who are different from us. From there he earned a masters in global policy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. He decided to study policy because he believes that creating smarter, more effective policy is the best way to improve people’s lives. According to Caleb, he feels that to solve a problem you first need to understand it. He also credits his family with teaching him that through all the tough times, laughter can be both

Continued on Page 17

balm and an inspiration – not only helping build trust between people but also serving as a coping tool in hard times.

When asked why he decided to run for public office at his age, he commented, “There is so much good that can be done by a legislator. And I’m fired up to push forward legislation to address climate change, work for affordable housing, expand access to broadband, and to create a more equitable and just place for all people in District 114.”

Appropriately, his swearing-in ceremony closely followed Tu Bishvat, a time to protect our environment – not only our trees, but the world we live in.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Leslie Goldstein
- 02 Goldie Weizman
- Paul Kirschenfeld
- 04 Janet Brown
- 05 Walter Ziffer
- 07 Ron Neimkin
- Jo Golson
- Josh Horowitz
- 09 Robert Marcus
- 11 Caren Zivony
- 13 Cindy Garroway
- Shoshana Mackay
- 14 Doug Miller
- Beth Kulick
- 15 Shelley Fisher
- 16 Janice Brock

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Louis & Hanina Ruttenberg
- 07 Frank & Alison Gilreath
- 09 Robert & Karen Marcus
- 17 Marc Penansky & Judy Gross
- 18 Della Simon & Michael Weizman
- 20 Jeffrey & Carolyn Goldstein
- 22 Alan & Suzanne Escovitz
- 26 Sheldon & Janet Harnash

“Hate Ends Now” Exhibit at North Pack Square Park

Friday, March 11- Tuesday, March 15

Asheville JCC’s Lily and Harry Lerner Holocaust Education Program is honored to present “Hate Ends Now,” a powerful Holocaust education exhibit that will be touring the Southeast. This interactive, immersive and multimedia experience is set inside an exact replica of a World War II cattle car that was used to transport Jews and other targeted groups to concentration and extermination camps. This exhibit is geared for teens and adults. More information can be found here: <https://www.myshadowlight.org/>.

The cattle car will be parked in North Pack Square Park Friday March 11-Sunday March 13, with public and pre-registered tours running Friday and Sunday. It will then be moved to the Asheville JCC for tours Monday March 14-Tuesday March 15, allowing our Jewish community the option to participate in a less public venue, honoring the obvious emotional vulnerability of Jewish participation in the exhibit.

Virtual Brunch b’Yachad

Join us for a joint JCC/CBI program *Brunch B’yachad* Virtual. Fridays at 10:30 am. The format for the hour will be some facilitated socializing followed by a discussion through the Jewish lens of a relevant topic or current event. Past topics have included optimism in the face of adversity, civil discourse, Jewish identity and anti-Semitism. Join through the CBI website or click [here](#).





March 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3 <i>Deadline to order Hamen-taschen</i>	4 <i>12noon (Zoom) Noon Study Group 6:00pm Shabbat HaMalkah with Josefa</i>	5 <i>9:30am Shabbat Learning & Breakfast with Rabbi Mitch 10:30am Shabbat Service</i>
6 <i>2:30pm Online Jewish Meditation & Chant Circle</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>6:30pm Zoom Board Meeting</i>	11 <i>12noon (Zoom) Noon Study Group</i>	12 <i>9:30am Shabbat Services & Kid-dush 1:00pm Learning with Justin</i>
13	14	15 <i>7pm (Zoom) Safety & Security Training (part 1)</i>	16 <i>6:30pm Hamen-taschen Swap 7:30pm CBI Purim Schpiel & program</i>	17 <i>12noon Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Mitch</i>	18 <i>12noon (Zoom) Noon Study Group</i>	19 <i>9:30am Shabbat Services & Kid-dush</i>
20 <i>2:30pm Online Jewish Meditation & Chant Circle</i>	21	22	23 <i>7pm (Zoom) Safety & Security Training (part 2)</i>	24	25 <i>12noon (Zoom) Noon Study Group 6pm Online Family Shabbat</i>	26 <i>9:30am Awaken-ing the Heart 9:30am Shabbat Services & Kid-dush</i>
27 <i>4:00pm Torah on Tap</i>	28					



Congregation Beth Israel

229 Murdock Avenue

Asheville, NC 28804

Office Phone (828) 252-8660

email: admin@bethisraelnc.org

Synagogue Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday

9:15 am to 3:45 pm

For updated information

visit our website at

www.bethisraelnc.org

March

Candle-lighting & Havdalah

Friday	03/04/22	6:10 pm
Saturday	03/05/22	6:59 pm
Friday	03/11/22	6:16 pm
Saturday	03/12/22	7:05 pm
Friday	03/18/22	7:22 pm
Saturday	03/19/22	8:11 pm
Friday	03/25/22	7:28 pm
Saturday	03/26/22	8:17 pm

Administration

Rabbi Mitch Levine, rabbi@bethisraelnc.org

Rochelle Reich, Executive Director director@bethisraelnc.org

Lee Avishai, Administrator admin@bethisraelnc.org

Adrienne Press, Kitchen kitchen@bethisraelnc.org

Executive Committee

Ellen Sanders, President president@bethisraelnc.org

Danielle Tocaben, Vice Pres. vicepresident@bethisraelnc.org

Julie Sherman, Secretary boardsecretary@bethisraelnc.org

Bruce Brown, Treasurer cbitreasurer@bethisraelnc.org

Mike Weizman, Past President msweizman@gmail.com

Committee Chairs/Members

Gail Gordon, Membership chokma@outlook.com

Meta Berkowitz, Membership metabetamax@gmail.com

Chesed: CBI's Support Network

Chesed is a caring team of CBI members who are here to help out their CBI community during both challenging as well as joyous times. This committee has assisted individuals and families in a variety of ways. Sometimes it's as simple as making a call or writing a card. Sometimes it's preparing a meal, making a visit or providing a ride. Sometimes it's helping with a life cycle event: a *bat* or *bar mitzvah*, the birth of a baby, the loss of a loved one. But we need your help to continue our work effectively.

We can't offer to do anything unless we know who needs and wants some support. If we can help you with something or if you are aware of someone who needs assistance, please tell Lee, who will pass along that information to the **Chesed** committee. Or you can send an email request to chesed@bethisraelnc.org. Many people at CBI are waiting to help out. At this point, over 70 people have put their names on one or more lists to provide support for their CBI family.

We also need your help responding to the requests. If you want to be involved, please tell Lee, who will pass along your interest to the committee. You can also contact the **Chesed** committee directly at chesed@bethisraelnc.org. We'll get in touch with you to see what you are interested in doing. We're grateful to have you volunteer to do one or all of the following (it's really up to you):

- Visit those who are sick
- Make calls
- Be part of a *shiva minyan*
- Prepare meals
- Provide transportation
- Run errands
- Assist with set up for a *bar/bat mitzvah* party
- Host someone for a holiday meal

Jewish communities have a rich history of taking care of each other. The Babylonian Talmud teaches us that *All Jews are responsible one for another (Shevuot 39a)*.

The **Chesed** Committee invites you to be a part of that meaningful tradition.

Eva Blinder, Spiritual/Ritual ejb5711@gmail.com

Marlene Jacoby, Social Action marlenejacoby@gmail.com

Jay Jacoby, Social Action bjacoby@uncc.edu

Caren Kessler, Chesed chesed@bethisraelnc.org

HaShofar Editor, HaShofar hashofar@bethisraelnc.org

Steve Kayne, House 1houseforu@gmail.com

Board Members-at-Large

Beth Blinder bci92411@nc.rr.com

Bob Goldstein goldst9@gmail.com

Alan Baumgarten abaumgarten4@gmail.com

Karen Fraade kfraade@gmail.com

Alan Escovitz aescovitz@charter.net

For everything else, contact admin@bethisraelnc.org