



# TIKVA TIMES\*

MARCH 2023 | ADAR 5783

\*MAY CONTAIN JOKES AND SILLINESS

## WHO ARE OUR NEW CELEBRITY MEMBERS??



## RABBI KALEV SAYS TO TREAT THEM "NORMALLY"??



### RABBI KALEV: NEW BODYGUARD?



### CATERED CELEB LUNCH APRIL 1ST!



### THE REAL REASON TAMAH IS LEAVING US!



# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

## PURIM EDITION



### RABBI JOSHUA KALEV

Senior Rabbi

Instagram: @rabbikalev

Facebook: fb.me/jkalev

I rarely use my newsletter articles to ask for your help, but I need to ask a huge favor of all of us as we approach the very busy springtime here at CTJ. We have been blessed this year with over 40 new member families. It is a joy to watch new congregants make connections, bring their love of Judaism to our community, and to see our synagogue family grow so tremendously.

One of the joys of being in Manhattan Beach is that you never know who you will meet. I remember our family's first year trick-or-treating locally and having Kerri Walsh Jennings (of volleyball fame) answer the door and give my kids candy. While I am not usually "star struck" it was hard to keep a straight face.

I bring this up because recently, one of our new CTJ families is of great fame. It is truly an honor to have them in our community. In speaking with them (and they are okay with me sharing this), their one request was for their experience in their new synagogue home is to be as "normal" as possible. I think the Jewish value of "anonymity – almoniyut" is of the utmost importance and I want to try and honor their request as much as possible.

So, if you come to services and see this beautiful family, do what you can to act as you normally would. And, as difficult as it might be, please try and make them feel the warmth of our community and welcome them with open arms. Also, if you see paparazzi across the street taking photos, PLEASE just ignore them. It is a crazy world we live in where celebrities cannot just live their lives without planning ahead when they want to leave the house, but in reality,

it takes a lot of work. Even when this family wants to come to services, it takes a few days of planning ahead and making sure they can enter our building in a discreet manner.

What I love about having this family as a part of our synagogue is that besides their deep love of Judaism and community, their connections will benefit us greatly. They have already committed to bringing some of their castmates to various events (yes, they are a famous actor) and we are already planning a night where members of our CTJ community can be live, on set, to watch the filming of their next project – once the details are worked out, please RSVP quickly as the event is only open to the first fifty people.

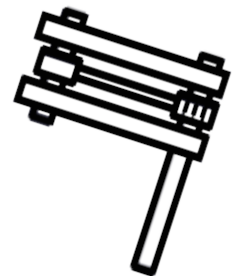
It is said that when Rabbi Akiva would enter the study hall everyone would rise out of respect. He was so embarrassed by the process that he asked for it to be abolished. He was known to be a Rabbi of the people – one who wanted to "blend" into the community and lead quietly instead of being a boisterous presence. It is a great model for how we too can welcome this family into our midst.

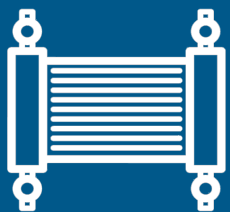
Believe it or not, but members of the family can read Torah, can lead various parts of the service, and has even signed up to give a D'var Torah (a Torah talk) on Shabbat HaGadol in memory of their father, the Shabbat before Passover (Saturday, April 1st). I am so excited and hope you will join us – a special catered luncheon will follow services.

Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and help in building a warm, welcoming community for every CTJer. Wishing you joyous and fun filled Purim.

Rabbi Kalev

[ctjmb.org/celebs](http://ctjmb.org/celebs)





# B'NAI MITZVAH STUDENTS

JANUARY - APRIL 2023



**Sidney Weinbaum**

January 21st, 2023



**Devin Manasse**

February 4th, 2023



**Ashton Wolfson**

February 11th, 2023



**Morgan Garfield**

February 25th, 2023



**Aaron Bain**

March 4th, 2023



**Dahlia Bain**

March 4th, 2023



**Kylie Jaboury**

March 25th, 2023



**Molly Schwartz**

April 15th, 2023



**Xander Bendell**

April 22nd, 2023



**Samuel Carmi**

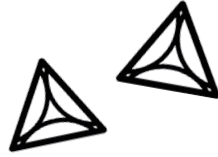
April 29th, 2023



**TODD LEVIN**  
CTJ President

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THIS PURIM, CONSIDER A DIFFERENT SORT OF BRAVERY



It's that time of year again! Purim is upon us, which means the time has come for singing, dancing, feasting, and donning elaborate costumes. Purim, of course, translates literally to "lots," so I'm sure many of us are looking forward to several days of excess, celebration, and meaningful time spent with loved ones. As we celebrate, it's important to remember the history behind the holiday, as well.

Esther, an orphan from the Persian Empire, was married off to the king due to her extraordinary beauty. She and her beloved cousin Mordecai were observant Jews, though they had to hide their heritage due to widespread persecution and anti-Semitism. Haman, the king's evil viceroy, commanded Mordecai to bow before him, but Mordecai refused. Outraged, Haman ordered all Jews in the kingdom to be annihilated. Queen Esther knew she must intervene, particularly after her cousin suggested she had been made queen precisely to advocate for the oppressed Jewish people. Though she and all others were forbidden to approach the king, she mustered up the courage to invite him to a banquet, where she confessed her Jewish heritage and publicly accused Haman of trying to kill her people. The king was incensed, and he ordered Haman to be executed instead. Thanks to Esther and Mordecai, the Jews were safe.

There are many lessons to be learned from this extraordinary tale, but perhaps the most salient theme is bravery—specifically, the bravery to be true to your community, to the truth, and, of course, to yourself. We often wear masks on this joyous holiday to honor the courage it took for Esther to drop the proverbial mask and proudly proclaim her Jewishness to the world. But there is another lesson about bravery to be found in this story, one that often goes undiscussed but is no less significant: the bravery to be understanding in the face of disagreement.

Mordecai refused to bow for one simple reason: he was a Jew. He bowed only before G-d, because no man deserved the reverence that G-d does. He meant no personal disrespect to Haman; he was simply acting on his own dearly held principles. But Haman, wrathful and bigoted as he was, chose to interpret Mordecai's actions as a personal attack. He didn't even consider the possibility that, as sincere as he was in his conviction that men should bow before him, Mordecai might've been just as sincere in his own convictions. And Haman certainly didn't consider the possibility that—as time would eventually prove—perhaps his opponent's perspective was correct.

There's lots of difference in the world, some of it more visible than others. Differences of ethnic origin or other immutable characteristics

are the focus of much discussion these days. But a more subtle form of difference—difference in opinions, ideas, and values—can create just as much division if we allow it to. This is because, sometimes, other people's disagreement with our most dearly held beliefs can feel like an attack on us. It's easy to assume that, whenever someone challenges us, they're acting in bad faith. It's much more difficult to see the good in others and give them the benefit of the doubt when we disagree with them.

Imagine, for example, a man cuts you off in traffic. Incensed, you immediately begin pounding on the steering wheel or yelling at him out the window. Psychologists believe anger is a secondary emotion, meaning it is fueled by another feeling. Perhaps in this case, those primary emotions are fear for your own safety, resentment at having been disrespected by a stranger, or embarrassment at being rendered powerless. These feelings are often instinctive—and they're understandable, given the circumstances. You feel validated in cursing out the other driver, because he wronged you.

But now imagine that man had a very good reason to cut you off: perhaps he's rushing his wife to the hospital as she's in labor, or perhaps he's just been made aware that his children are in trouble and he's rushing home to protect them. How would your reaction change in light of this new information? Most probably, your anger would disappear immediately. And what's more, you'd probably get out of his way entirely, as you'd sympathize with him and his family, and you'd want him to ensure his loved ones are safe.

In such an extreme hypothetical, it's easy to extend grace to a man who is clearly trying his best to do the right thing. But it's not as easy to do when, for example, the conflict in question pertains to our most deeply held beliefs. If someone says something that grates with your core values, for example, it can be quite challenging to see the good in them. It can feel as though they're not just wrong factually—they're wrong morally, and that is a transgression that's much harder to forgive.

But that's all the more reason to put yourself in the other person's shoes and try to see things from their perspective. Just as you feel that they've violated some moral code of yours, perhaps they feel that way about you, too. None of us has the monopoly on morality or justice. We are all guided by our own moral compass, and we all have a unique perspective on any given issue. Instead of seeing disagreement as an attack, try to see it as an opportunity to see the issue from another person's point of view.

Instead of becoming outraged by their disagreement, try asking them why they feel the way they do. Assume they want the same things for the world that you want: kindness, tolerance, peace. Perhaps they just have some different ideas about how to achieve them.

Doing what's right is not always easy, and doing what's easy is not always right. Being quick to anger, as Haman was, might feel satisfying in the short term—but if the great Queen Esther and her honorable cousin taught us anything, it's that patience and truth will triumph over fury.

Chag Purim sameach!

# SOCIAL ACTION AT CTJ

SHOW SOME LOVE TO YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THESE EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE CTJ SPHERE!

- **Tuesday, March 14, 2:30pm**  
**Help with prep at the CTJ-hosted Project Needs Meal** in North Redondo scheduled on March 14th! CTJ's meal preparation at Project Needs are planned monthly every third Tuesday starting at 2:30 pm. Consider having your group or club "Adopt a Tuesday." Contact [stacy.young@ctjmb.org](mailto:stacy.young@ctjmb.org).
- **Sunday, March 19**  
**Michael Mitzvah Day** with Temple Menorah is March 19. Lots of opportunities to help our neighbors.
- **Begins in April**  
**Habitat for Humanity** South Bay Jewish Community build is in April. For info on volunteering with Re-Store: Contact Tricia Stoddard: [trickyjo@gmail.com](mailto:trickyjo@gmail.com).
- **Sunday, April 30**  
Save the date to join Team CTJ for the Jewish World Watch **Walk to End Genocide** April 30 in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles. And there are many Tikkun Olam opportunities with JWW for all ages activism through a Jewish lens.
- **Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, August 20, 8-2pm**  
CTJ donates! The next Cedars Sinai **Bloodmobile** dates are Sunday, May 7 & August 20 from 8- 2pm at CTJ.
- We have had some great experiences **supporting our foster families** - Second Nurture needs you!  
Contact Melissa Stein: [melissabethstein@hotmail.com](mailto:melissabethstein@hotmail.com).
- Support Chemocessories by **donating jewelry, scarves, funds** and helping out with their mission to get beautiful sets to chemo patients!  
Contact Iris Knell: [chemocessories@gmail.com](mailto:chemocessories@gmail.com)
- Where there's a need, there's a knitter! **Delivering warm caps to Vets** in for the Holidays and more.  
Contact Laura Pinsky: [laurap4rbiz@verizon.net](mailto:laurap4rbiz@verizon.net).
- For information on **involvement opportunities** with Jewish Federation/Ezra Network, SafeParkingLA, Family Promise, 1736 Family Crisis Center, South Bay Faith Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Downtown Midnight Mission and more -  
Contact Stacy.Young@ctjmb.org.

# THE CTJ SISTERHOOD



LOTS OF FUN IS IN STORE WITH OUR UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS!

- **Sunday, March 12**  
**Prepare for Passover** with cooking demos (and tastings, of course) and kosher wine pairings. Kibbitz, sip some wine, and get ideas for some new recipes you may want to serve to put a new spin on your seder.  
**Tickets:** [tinyurl.com/ctjpassoverwine2023](https://tinyurl.com/ctjpassoverwine2023)
  - **Sunday, March 26**  
Bring your creativity and wear your grubby clothes to create a gorgeous one-of-a-kind **marbleized silk scarf**. You won't want to miss this one!  
**Tickets:** [tinyurl.com/ctjmarbleizing2023](https://tinyurl.com/ctjmarbleizing2023)
- Mark your calendars for some more upcoming events:**
- **April 23:** Museum of Tolerance Tour (West LA)
  - **May:** Tea at Chado in Torrance
  - **June:** Year-end party with belly dancing class and henna
- Sisterhood welcomes everyone to join, CTJ member or not. \$36/year for CTJ members and \$54/year for non-CTJ members. We hold events approximately once a month.
- If you're not yet a Sisterhood member, but would like to join, please email [sisterhood@ctjmb.org](mailto:sisterhood@ctjmb.org).
- We can't wait to see you!

**GALA CELEBRATION OF  
TAMAH & CANTOR BETH**

Saturday, March 18, 6:00pm

Tell them you love them in an ad for  
the Gala slideshow and ad journal

[ctjmb.org/gala](https://ctjmb.org/gala)

# OHREN EDUCATION CENTER (OEC) AT CTJ



## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: STELLA AUGUST

**W**e have had some exciting times at the OEC this year so far!

We discovered the concept of Beit K'neset, which means "house of gathering" in Hebrew, and learned how a synagogue is a place for community, for learning, and for praying all at the same time. The students worked together using recycled cardboard boxes to build their own synagogues! During Tu B'Shvat, the "Birthday of the Trees," we heard the story of Honi and the Carob tree, reminding us to plant trees for the generations to come.

Every Sunday, our K-3rd grade students continue to explore Hebrew Through Movement by making Hebrew letters with their bodies and putting labels with Hebrew words on objects around CTJ! Our 4-7th grade students are enjoying their new chugim (electives). We introduced some new ones this semester - "Dungeons & Dreidels" and "Foods Around the World" - as well as brought back our classics like "Art" and "Legos."

Back in December, we had a dynamic live-action role-playing Hanukkah experience! In the morning, the students were greeted by the evil King Antiochus who declared it illegal to be Jewish at CTJ! The children spent the rest of the day strategically battling his evil army using foam swords and "magic spells," solving puzzles, making latkes, and earning gold by playing dreidel. With the hopes of collecting all eight candle pieces to unlock the secret gate that hides the King's only weakness - water balloons! We had a wonderful day of stickers, strategy, and suspense... that culminated in a thoroughly irritated evil King!

Our upcoming Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 5th should not be missed! I am looking forward to a great rest of the school year with your children!

Stella August

OEC Director





## OEC IMPORTANT DATES - 2023

**MARCH 5** Purim Carnival & Costume Contest - during Religious School

**MARCH 31 - APRIL 2** OEC Retreat Grades 3-12  
(No regular Religious School for 3-7)

**APRIL 5 - APRIL 9** Spring Break - no class

**APRIL 15 POSTPONED** Family Shabbat and Maccabiah

**APRIL 16** School is back on! (no longer canceled)

**MAY 28** Memorial Day - no class

**JUNE 4 NEW DATE** Maccabiah and end-of-year picnic

## WEEKLY OEC SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY** Grades K-7 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY HEBREW** Grades 3-6

### ONLINE SHIFTS

3:30 - 5:10 or 4:10 - 5:50 pm  
(includes small group Hebrew)

### IN-PERSON SHIFTS

3:30 - 5:30 or 4:15 - 6:15 pm  
(includes small group Hebrew)

**WEDNESDAY PRAYER CLASS** 7th grade 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
for prayer class (B'nai Mitzvah prep) with Cantor

**WEDNESDAY NOAR** Grades 8-12 7:00 - 8:00 pm

# CTJ-ERS IN ACTION!



HANUKKAH CELEBRATION, DEC FUN IN CHUGIM AND MUSIC,  
VOLUNTEERING WITH PROJECT NEEDS, AND LIVING IT UP IN ISRAEL!







YOU'RE INVITED  
TO AN EXCTING WEEKEND INCLUDING

# GALA 2023

HONORING TAMAH AND CANTOR BETH

and Performances from Comedians

**Joel Chasnoff** and **Benji Lovitt**

Ticket Link at [ctjmb.org/gala](https://ctjmb.org/gala)

Weekend Info at [ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt](https://ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 - SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

GALA



CHASNOFF/LOVITT EVENTS



# calendar MARCH - APRIL 2023



## ONGOING EVENTS



### Jewish News

Every Tuesday morning at 9 am

Zoom

Every week Rabbi Kalev hosts a short session with news of the Jews - movies, events, Israel - Rabbi Kalev covers it all. Grab your morning coffee and we promise these 15 minutes will be well spent!

### Tot Shabbat

First Friday of every month at 5:30 pm

CTJ

Shabbat celebration with Cantor Beth and Rabbi Kalev. This musical start to Shabbat is for our youngest CTJ-ers and the grownups who love them. Lots of music, an exciting story, and tons of silliness make for a very fun beginning to the day of rest.

### Virtual Friday Night Service

Some Fridays at 6:30 pm

Zoom

A fun, community-based, fast-paced zoom service.

### In-Person Friday Night Services

Some Fridays at 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

See weekly email or website calendar for schedule.

### Family Shabbat

First Friday of each month, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Ring in Shabbat with an exciting Shabbat raffle and a fun in-person family service!

### Shabbat Morning Services

With B'nai Mitzvah 9:30 am

With No B'nai Mitzvah 9:30 or 10 am

CTJ and/or Zoom

Check website calendar or weekly email for in-person/Zoom schedule.

### Havdalah

Saturdays, time dependent on season, check weekly email

Zoom

As Shabbat ends and darkness falls we gather together on Zoom to mark time with a very short 10 minute gathering. Celebrate a new week with your CTJ friends.

### Project Needs

Third Tuesday of every month, 2:30 pm

Project Needs

We continue to prepare hot meals "to go" at Project Needs in Redondo Beach.

Please contact Stacy.Young@ctjmb.org.

### Poker Nights

Every Monday 7 pm

CTJ or Zoom

A social game of small-stakes poker. All are welcome. No experience is necessary, we will help you learn the games.

Email paulmsachs@gmail.com for more information.

### Thursday Discussion Class with Rabbi Kalev

Every Thursday, 7 pm

Zoom

We are currently reading sections of the Jewish Family Ethics Textbook. See weekly email for reading selection.

### RomCom Club

One Sunday a month, 7-8 pm

Zoom

CTJ loves RomComs! Watch the movie beforehand and then hop on zoom to discuss! See movie and date in weekly email.

## MARCH

### Friday Night Service with Grades, K, 1, 2

Friday, March 3, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Our CTJ K, 1st and 2nd graders will participate in the service! Watch your kids shine! Meet the other families in your child's class. Celebrate Shabbat with the cutest Jews around.

### Purim Carnival and Costume Contest

Sunday, March 5

During Religious School, *students only*

Students are encouraged to come in costume! There will be a costume contest, games, and prizes!

### Erev Purim Celebration

Monday, March 6, Pasta dinner 5:15 pm, Megillah reading 6 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Light dinner, costume parade, jello shots, and the whole megillah. (Did we say jello shots? Yes we did!!) Hamantaschen baking contest (see below!)

Raffle prizes if you come in costume!

Grand prizes:

- \$150 for Top Golf
- 2 season passes for Knotts Berry Farm

RSVPs helpful but not required:

[tinyurl.com/erevpurim](https://tinyurl.com/erevpurim)

### 2nd Annual Hamantaschen Baking Contest

Monday, March 6th (during Erev Purim Celebration)

CTJ

Bring at least 3 of each home-made hamantaschen you would like judged. Enter as many categories as you like.

Categories are: Kosher, Gluten free, Chocolate, Savory, Dual Flavor, and Most Unexpected.

All ages and baking levels are welcome.

### Israel on the Inside with Assaf Boker

Sunday, March 12, 10-11 am

Zoom

Assaf Boker is back with another session of Israel on the Inside! Jump right in and learn all about Israel's current politics.

### **The Braid Private Performance #2**

**Sunday, March 12, 1-2:15 pm**

*CTJ*

Experience a private performance of the original show *Out Loud* by The Braid, a non-profit that gives voice to Jewish stories. In this salon style show, experience queer stories through a Jewish lens.

More information and to purchase tickets:

[ctjmb.org/thebraid](http://ctjmb.org/thebraid)

### **Sisterhood Passover Cooking**

**Sunday, March 12, 3 pm**

*Offsite*

Prepare for Passover with cooking demos (and tastings, of course) and kosher wine pairings. Kibbitz, sip some wine, and get ideas for some new recipes you may want to serve to put a new spin on your seder.

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/ctjpassoverwine2023](http://tinyurl.com/ctjpassoverwine2023)

### **Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt Weekend of Events**

**Friday, March 17 - Sunday, March 19**

*CTJ*

Want to laugh, learn, and connect with Israel? Come on out to Israel 75 Live – a weekend of comedy and conversation about Israeli history, life, and culture, in honor of the country's historic 75th birthday! With special guests, comedians and authors Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt!

Weekend schedule of events and more info at

[ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt](http://ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt)

### **Friday Night: If You Will It, Then What?**

**Friday, March 17, 6:30 pm**

*CTJ*

After a brief Friday night service CTJ will participate in a game-based conversation with our guest authors, Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt, about what happens when Jews get a country of their own, and what a Jewish state should and shouldn't look like.

### **Purity of Arms and Shabbat Lunch**

**Saturday, March 18, 12 pm after services**

*CTJ*

An honest conversation with Benji Lovitt and Joel Chasnoff about the dilemmas that Israeli soldiers face in battle, and how Israel's code of military ethics, Tohar Haneshek (Purity of Arms) is unlike those of any other country in the world.

RSVP for lunch: [tinyurl.com/shabbatlunch23](http://tinyurl.com/shabbatlunch23)

### **Gala Celebration of T and Cantor Beth**

**Saturday, March 18, 6 pm**

*CTJ*

Members: Get your tickets to CTJ's Gala Celebration on the evening of Saturday, March 18, honoring our amazing, departing Executive Director Tamah Kushner and our wonderful Cantor Beth Garden for her 13 years at CTJ! Dress code is casual.

Purchase tickets or an ad for the Gala Ad Journal at: [ctjmb.org/gala](http://ctjmb.org/gala)

### **Ways to Make Your Seder Fun with Rabbi Kalev**

**Sunday, March 26, 9:30-10:30 am**

*Offsite at private home*

Spice up your seder with fun ideas, great activities and meaningful learning moments.

RSVP at [tinyurl.com/sederfun](http://tinyurl.com/sederfun) to receive the address!

### **Marbelizing Art Sisterhood Event**

**Sunday, March 26, 4-5 pm**

*CTJ*

Bring your creativity and wear your grubby clothes to create a gorgeous one-of-a-kind marbelized silk scarf. You won't want to miss this one!

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/ctjmarbelizing2023](http://tinyurl.com/ctjmarbelizing2023)

### **OEC Retreat grades 3-12**

**Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2**

*Meet at CTJ at 3:30 pm*

CTJ includes the annual weekend retreat in its yearly curriculum to enhance the special relationships the children build week to week in religious school and create memories to last a lifetime.

### **Refuat HaNefesh - Renewal of Spirit Friday Night**

**Friday, March 31, 6:30 pm**

*CTJ and Zoom*

Refresh, renew, rejoice. Experience Shabbat in a whole new way.

# APRIL

### **OEC Spring Break**

**Wednesday, April 5 - Sunday, April 16**

### **Passover Begins**

**Wednesday, April 5, evening**

### **Office Closed for Passover**

**Thursday, April 6 - Friday, April 7**

**Wednesday, April 12 - Thursday, April 13**

### **Yom Hashoah**

**Tuesday, April 18**

### **Shabbat Zimra**

**Friday, April 21, 6:30 pm**

*CTJ and Zoom*

With pre-service "happy hour" and awesome music! Get that "Shabbat feeling" at Shabbat Zimra (singing Shabbat). Grab a glass of wine and some snacks, and sing along with your Shabbat favorites as we celebrate!

### **OEC Parent Meet & Greet**

**Sunday, April 23, 9:15-10:15 am**

*Manhattan Beach Bread & Bagel*

After drop off, join other OEC Parents outside between the bank and MB Bread & Bagel.

### **Israel on the Inside with Assaf Boker**

**Sunday, April 23, 10-11 am**

*Zoom*

Assaf Boker is back with another session of Israel on the Inside! Jump right in and learn all about Israel's current politics.

### **Yom HaZikaron**

**Tuesday, April 25**

### **Yom HaAtzmaut**

**Wednesday, April 26**

### **Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide**

**Sunday, April 30, 9 am - 12 pm**

*Television City in Los Angeles' Fairfax District*

The JWW Walk to End Genocide is a powerful and meaningful way to take a stand to help end the devastating cycle of violence and persecution faced by so many communities around the globe.

To join our walking team or make a donation, please visit our team page:

[tinyurl.com/walktoendgenocide23](http://tinyurl.com/walktoendgenocide23)

More information: Gwen van Leeuwen at [gwenwexler@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenwexler@hotmail.com)



Send in your Kvells for next issue!

**Ed Wolfman** celebrated his 70th birthday on January 26, having beaten the odds of two cancer diagnoses (and two transplants)! Mazel tov!

**Joseph Eskenazi** was honored on his 105th birthday as the oldest living Pearl Harbor survivor! "It feels great," Joseph told reporters at a ceremony with six other World War II veterans, all in their 90s. "Wow, we really do have famous CTJers!"

Assemblymember Muratsuchi and Rabbi Gila Katz invite you to honor **Julian Katz z'l**, CTJ member and dedicated cyclist, in a casual pace bike ride along the Strand from Torrance to Manhattan Beach on May 7th, from 9:30am-12:00pm, beginning at Miramar Park – 201 Paseo De La Playa Redondo Beach, CA 90277. Julian advocated for safer streets for bicyclists in the South Bay. He was the founding member of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition and was instrumental in developing the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan.

**CTJ Volunteers** - Thank you for the lovely handmade hats for the Veterans at the VA. The special gifts were perfect to brighten the days of our Veterans.  
-Kim Hempleman, Veterans Affairs

**Morgan Garfield** was chosen to represent Israel on the Israeli National Softball team for 13U this summer in Italy. Go team Israel with one of our own!

Our amazing Executive Committee member, **Lisa Weinbaum**, has given so many hours to Baby2Baby (in addition to all the time she spends at CTJ) that the amazing organization named a Volunteer Award after her - The Lisa Award! As Baby2Baby wrote, "She has single handedly collected sponsorships for hundreds of children for our adopt-a-family."

JOIN CAMP RAMAH  
AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR



JOURNEY YOUR WAY – RUN • WALK • BIKE • SWIM – MAY 7, 2023

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY  
TO HAVE SOME FUN OUTDOORS  
AND SUPPORT OUR PARTNER CAMP RAMAH

[RAMAH.ORG/5K](http://RAMAH.ORG/5K)



**MORI BIENER**

Broker Associate, GRI, CRS, CalBRE# 01322320



d. 310.418.9188

Mori.Biener@VistaSIR.com

SouthBayHomeBroker.com

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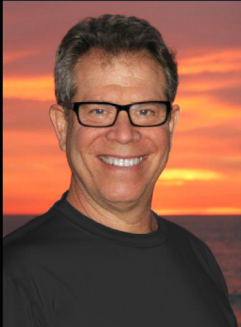


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# dedications

NOVEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

## ABRAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*for CTJ*

Giving Tuesday from **Tamah Kushner**

*in loving memory of*

Stan Abrams from **Anne Steirman**

My brother Alan Rosenberg on his yahrtzeit from **Carol Rosenberg**

Edward Everin Pinsky from **Douglas & Madeline Walker**

Stan Abrams from **Gene & Mickey Abrams**

Pearl Davis from **Ileene Morris**

*in memory of*

Paul Schulman from **Barry & Rebecca Schulman**

Stan Abrams from **Leon Gold**

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

*in loving memory of*

Edward Irving Garry from **Diann Gross**

Michael Stroud from **Jeff Graham & Ruth Stroud**

*in memory of*

John Weiner - we'll miss him! from **Judy Kerner & Frank Belz**

## ALAN REINSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

*in loving memory of*

Harry Vineberg from **Barbara Millman**

*in memory of*

Caren Sheckter's Father, Sey, from **Melissa Stein**

## BUILDING FUND

*in honor of*

Todd Levin's fabulous woodworking skills! from **Melissa Stein**

*in loving memory of*

Charles Roy from **Robin Roy**

Mary Axler from **Robin Roy**

Albert Lee from **Vincent & Sondra Lee**

*in thanks for*

Todd Levin's hard work on the amud! from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

## CANTOR BETH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*in honor of*

Cantor Beth and with healing thoughts for Monica Steiner from **Jerry & Cynthia Cohen**

## EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

*in loving memory of*

Hyman Lessman from **Elaine Lessman**

Pearl Davis from **Fred & Gail Szkolnik**

Allan Peita from **The Steins**

*in memory of*

Judy Waterstone and sending love to the McGregor family. from **Debbie and Les Granow**

Vafa Kalani from **Melissa Stein**

*on the occasion of*

The birth of grandstudent Greta Doris Weiner, future CTJ-OEC First Grader! :) from **Morah Debbie**

## FORMANN SIROTA MUSIC FUND

*in loving memory of*

Beth Amy Blackman from **Ellen Blackman**

Pearl Davis - she lit up our lives! from **Judy Kerner & Frank Belz**

Irving Walles from **Merri & Gary Walles**

*on the occasion of*

Lilian's USA Citizenship!! from **Melissa Stein**

## GENERAL FUND

*for CTJ*

For CTJ from **Lois Slafer**

For CTJ from **Paul Skolnick**

For CTJ from **Stuart Paul & Fran Chodosh**

*in honor of*

Tamah Kushner from **Beth-jana Dahl**

William Hutter, his parents and his grandfather from **Diane Levitt**

Tamah Kushner's upcoming retirement and her years of incomparable service to our CTJ community. from **Helena and Charlie Rosenberg**

Freddi's inspirational High Holy Day speech from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

Rachel Glaser-Weiner's engagement! from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

The opening of the studio (mdr) in MB from **Melissa Stein**

Wendy Magid's good health & her AMAZING mom Shannon! from **Melissa Stein**

Sidney Weinbaum's Bat Mitzvah from **Michael & Ann Pomerantz**

Grant Sorgen on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

Lisa Weinbaum's dedication to Baby2Baby and the Lisa Award! from **Renee and Leigh Sorgen**

Cantor Beth with thanks for beautiful holiday services from **Vivian Kalev**

Tamah Kushner with thanks for all her hard work during the Holidays from **Vivian Kalev**

*in loving memory of*

Sylvia Shallon from **Anonymous**

My wonderful dad & Papa - Selig Friedberg from **Beth-jana Dahl & family**

Stephen Strocker from **Carly Epstein**

Adina Silo from **Gwen & Jason van Leeuwen**

Beatrice Jacobson from **Harvey & Angela Jacobson**

Cynthia Rayvis Godofsky from **Irvin Godofsky**

Joseph & Irene Herzberg from **Lawrence & Amy Teitelbaum**

Leslie's dear father Milton Joseph Waxman from **Leslie Waxman**

Allan Roberts from **Lois Weiss Rawitt**

Dorothy Weinhart from **Marc & Shannon Magid**

Mark Johnson from **Susan Oudiz Johnson**

Victor Algaze from **Nelson & Susan Algaze**

Nancy Bernhard from **Ron & Linda Maroko**

Sarah's mother, Sonja Echt from **Sarah Echt & Brad Eastman**

Christine B. Singer from **The Levin Family**

Bubba Nita Shuster from **Todd, Beth, Jacob & Parker Levin**

Beloved Aunt Pearl from **Niece Jill Shari**

*in memory of*

Sheila Kopito from **Andy Kopito**

Anna Oster from **Arthur Oster**

Sam Platus from **David Platus**

Martin and Leah Godofsky from **Irvin Godofsky**

Allan Peita, Michele Jordan's dad from **Judy Kerner & Frank Belz**

Allan Bear Peita, Henoch ben Schlamar v'Dobra z"l, from **Mark & Amy Howorth**

Pearl Davis from **Mark & Amy Howorth**

Alyce Weinger from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

Auntie Moon - Maila Klein's sister from **Melissa Stein**

Myrne LaPensee from **Melissa Stein**

Bernard Kushner from **Tamah Kushner**

Karen Green, greatly missed from **Tamah Kushner & Greg Davidson**

Pearl Davis from **The Steins**

*in thanks for*

Putting up Frank and Judy's Sukkah to Mickey Seigel, Warren Scheinin, Doug Walker, and Jeff Schwartzman from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

Taking down Frank and Judy's Sukkah to Mickey Seigel, Doug Walker, Warren Scheinin from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

A most wonderful Bat Mitzvah ceremony for Kasey. Rabbi Kalev and Cantor Beth, it was so beautiful, warm and fun, all wrapped into one. from **Rich and Taulene Kagan**

Cantor Beth from **Sorgen Family**

Rabbi Kalev from **Sorgen Family**

The love and incredible support from the CTJ clergy and staff, and in loving memory of Judy Waterstone. from **Tim and Debi McGregor**

*on the occasion of*

The marriage of David Weinberg and Sheri Lubow from **Jonathan Resin**

The birth of Greta Doris Weiner from **Kubo Kirschenbaum Family**

Arthur Cohen selling his company!! from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

Golda's Bat Mitzvah from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

Grant Sorgen's Bar Mitzvah from **The Levin Family**

Georgia winning the National Championship! from **The Weinbaum family**

*with thoughts of*

Good health for Jill Hoffman! from **Melissa Stein**

## **MICHAEL ROTSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*in loving memory of*

Edward Everin Pinsky from **Douglas & Madeline Walker**

## **MITZVAH CIRCLE**

*in loving memory of*

Roberta Stock from **Richard Stock**

## **ONEG SHABBAT FUND**

*in honor of*

Rabbi Mark's new gig! from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

*in memory of*

Betty Schlachet Legow from **Melissa Stein**

## **RABBI HYMAN DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*in honor of*

Rabbi Mark from **Joan Jenkins**

*in loving memory of*

Pearl "Pearly" Davis from **Debbie & Les Granow**

Sylvia May from **Dennis & Etta May**

Edward Everin Pinsky from **Douglas & Madeline Walker**

David Gomberg and Leonard H. Lieberman from **Dr. Jerome & Marlene Lipin**

Tillie M. Lipin from **Dr. Jerome & Marlene Lipin**

Geraldine Alyce May Sorin from **Fred & Gail, Wendy Steinberg, Neil Goldman**

Elliot Muhlsten from **George Muhlsten & Nola Geffner-Muhlsten**

Lucille Weinstock Berger from **James Weinstock**

Mary Pieper, my mother from **Lori Meepos**

Paul Sharples from **Madeline Sharples**

Robert Sharples and Isadore Tasky from **Madeline Sharples**

Mary and Joseph Sheres from **Sidney & Celeste Sheres**

Helen Simons Sage and Irene Levitt Morse from **Stephen & Beverly Morse**

Leon Pincus from **Terry Pincus**

*in memory of*

John Weiner from **Steven & Frances Schiff**

Hyman Karish from **Terry Pincus**

## RABBI KALEV DISCRETIONARY FUND

*for CTJ*

Cheers to a happy and healthy 2023!  
Love, **Jess, Greg & Stella Linderman**

*in honor of*

Rabbi Kalev and with healing thoughts for  
Monica Steiner from **Jerry & Cynthia Cohen**

Rabbi Kalev from **Joan Jenkins**

William Kushner's 90th Birthday from **The Kubo Kirschenbaum Family**

*in loving memory of*

Lionel Gross beloved Husband, Father, and  
Grandfather from **Diann Gross**

Edward Everin Pinsky from **Douglas & Madeline Walker**

Irving Szkolnik from **Fred & Gail Szkolnik**

Flora Stroud from **Jeff Graham & Ruth Stroud**

Grandpa Sam Goldstein from **Joseph & Nancy Mandelbaum**

Sarah Ada Kirschenbaum from **Kubo Kirschenbaum Family**

Minnie Weiss from **Lois Weiss Rawitt**

Jay Meepos from **Lori Meepos**

Mervyn Cooper from **Natalie Cooper**

Mary and Joseph Sheres from **Sidney & Celeste Sheres**

Helen Simons Sage and Irene Levitt Morse from **Stephen & Beverly Morse**

*in memory of*

Judy Watersone, mother of Debi McGregor from **Fred & Gail Szkolnik**

Allan Pieta, father of Michele Jordan from **Fred & Gail Szkolnik**

Caryn Dates from **Steven & Frances Schiff**

Daniela Rubinstein from **The Granow Gang**

Allan Bear Peita from **The Kubo Kirschenbaum Family**

Pearl Davis from **The Kubo Kirschenbaum Family**

*in thanks for*

The beautiful unveiling ceremony for Manny from **Karen Hirsch**

Creating a powerful family moment and a beautiful Bar-Mitzvah memory from **McGregor & Waterstone Families**

## RITUAL/PRAYER BOOK FUND

*in loving memory of*

Sam Altchuler from **Joy Kravetz**

Tamra Ruth Ishaiek from **Loren & Alexis Slafer**

Celia Katz and book plate for Julian Katz z'l from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

Claire Rosenheimer from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

Joan Kris and Jerry Israel Ryzek from **Vivian Kalev**

*in loving memory of*

Judy Waterstone from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

## THE BORNSTEIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*in loving memory of*

Dr. Clarence William Horowitz from **Rosalie Horowitz**

Sol Greenwald from **Zygmund & Rochelle Salomon**

*in memory of*

Sam Platus from **Daniel & Judith Platus**

Dr. Clarence William Horowitz from **Melvin Horowitz**

## SEVENTH GRADE GIVING

*in honor of*

Alexis Silver's Bat Mitzvah and the 2022-23 B'nai class from **Barry & Kristin Silver**

## YAHARZEIT FUND

*in loving memory of*

Minnie Weiss and Ann Rawitt from **Andrea Rawitt**

Monroe Haas, Ruth Miller, Rachel Dolowitz from **Elaine Haas**

Grandparents Harry & Anna Soule, Abraham and Dora Turetsky and parents Sydney and Rita Soule from **Elyse Veda Gura**

Elke Mandelbaum from **Henry Mandelbaum**

Pearl Davis from **Lori Meepos**

Sidney Rosen from **Mark & Elissa Teitelman**

Meri Teitelman from **Mark & Elissa Teitelman**

Sanford Rockman Goodman from **Melissa Stein**

Betty Schlachet Legow from **Melissa Stein**



Tamra Ruth Ishaeik from **Ray Ishaeik**

Maurice Oudiz from **Ronald J Oudiz**

Rosa Schuelein from **Steve Schuelein**

Paul Isakowitz from **Steve & Monica Isakowitz and Family**

Sheldon Fertig from **Steven & Fran-Ellen Goore**

Dr. Joseph Goodis from **Mitzi Goodis**

Ben Sulpor from **Barry & Serene Sulpor**

*in memory of*

Geta Alexandrovich from **Irina Dean**

Frank Glaser, Michelle Glaser-Weiner's dad from **Judy Kerner & Frank Belz**

Brian Jacobson from **Michael & Catherine Rader**

Joseph Weinberg from **Roberta Smith**



**Thank you for your support!**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HIRE?

## MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING!

### HERE IS A PROGRESS UPDATE FROM OUR HARD-WORKING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SEARCH COMMITTEE:

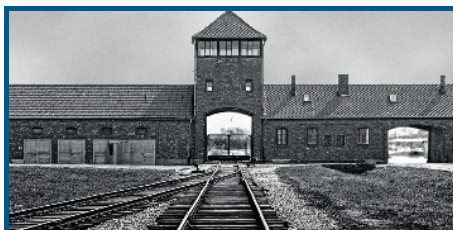
**W**e have posted online on jewishjobs.com and danslist.com as well as other places since December in addition to searches on linkedin.com to uncover highly qualified leads. We have also put feelers out in the community through our amazing members who have contacts in the Jewish world. The job description calls for a high level of professionalism and experience, however we're also striving to find that person who will bring their sense of positivity and passion to the role as we know how important that is to our community.

The search is proceeding well. Our search committee is comprised of members who have previously been on a search committee, parents, and members in the education field. To date, we've received 12 resumes, and have conducted 5 zoom interviews and 2 in-person interviews.

We are continuing to interview and narrow down our choices in the next month or so, and we will keep everyone posted! Thank you for your trust and support in finding this important leader for our CTJ community.

THANK YOU TO OUR  
**MITZVAH CIRCLE**  
MEMBERS!

Jonathan Bain & Sara Boscoe  
Stephen & Evelyn Block  
Todd & Terry Gilman  
Harvey & Angela Jacobson  
Vivian Kaley  
Larry & Lisa Kohorn  
Michael & Catherine Rader  
Linda Simon  
Jonathan & Melissa Stein  
Richard Weiner & Judith Forman



## AUSCHWITZ EXHIBIT AT THE REAGAN MUSEUM

With Manhattan Beach Community Church  
Sunday, May 7, 11am

"Auschwitz: Not long ago. Not far away."  
We look forward to attending this important exhibit with MBCC. Tickets are \$33.

More about this exhibit at [tinyurl.com/reaganmuseum](http://tinyurl.com/reaganmuseum)



## EREV PURIM

Monday, March 6  
5:15pm dinner, 6pm Megillah reading  
Light dinner, costume parade, jello shots,  
Hamantaschen baking contest,  
Raffle prizes if you come in costume!  
RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/erevpurim](http://tinyurl.com/erevpurim)



# GOODBYE TAMAH, HELLO RUTH

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

Our synagogue has been so blessed to have our beloved Tamah Kushner as our Executive Director “steering the ship” forward as we conquered a building construction project, a pandemic, and so much more. Our success and strength today is due to her devotion and love of CTJ. Replacing her is an impossible feat as she transitions to her exciting next chapter.

However, no task is ever too great for the volunteers of CTJ. Led by Renee Sorgen and Jennifer Gale, the Executive Director Search Committee waded through resumes, short initial interviews and many, many conversations in the hopes of finding the perfect candidate for our community. In the end, we found a candidate who stood out as exceptional and exactly what we were hoping for as we started this process.

I am so proud to welcome our next Executive Director, Ruth Irving, to our CTJ family. Ruth has served as the Executive Director of Temple Beth Shalom in Orange County for the past six years leading the community through an endowment campaign, capital improvement projects and of course, the pandemic. She has previous experiences working at Beth Chayim Chadashim, Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, and Temple Isaiah all leading to an incredible knowledge of synagogue life.

I think what really stood out for all of us who served on the Committee besides Ruth’s knowledge of the role, was Ruth’s desire to create meaningful relationships within our CTJ community. Ruth wants to be an integral part of all that we do and she believes her success (and the community’s success) is based on the connections that are created through all that takes place at CTJ.

The staff and Committee members truly feel like we have won the lottery in finding Ruth and we can’t wait for you to get a chance to meet her. Ruth will begin in an official capacity on April 10th. In the meantime, she is excited to be moving her family back to the Los Angeles area where her extended family resides.

A huge thank you to the incredible Committee who gave so much of their time and energy to this process: Renee Sorgen, Jennifer Gale, Taulene Kagan, Dave Liebman, Kevin Mendelson, Linda Simon, Carla Hoffman, Melissa Stein, and Susan Goldman.

This is truly a Shecheyanu moment - we are so grateful to have reached this exciting moment as a community in strength.

Shalom,

Rabbi Kalev



Monday, March 6th  
during Erev Purim Celebration

### HAMANTASCHEN BAKING CONTEST

Bring at least 3 of each home-made hamantaschen you would like judged. Enter as many categories as you like.  
Categories: Kosher, Gluten free, Chocolate, Savory, Dual Flavor, & Most Unexpected.  
All ages and baking levels are welcome.

**JOEL CHASNOFF AND BENJI LOVITT  
WEEKEND OF EVENTS**

Friday, March 17 - Sunday, March 19  
**Israel 75 Live**  
With special guests, Authors and Comedians  
Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt!  
Weekend schedule of events and more info at  
[ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt](http://ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt)

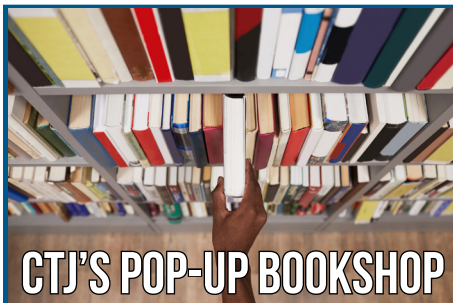


## BIKE RIDE IN MEMORY OF JULIAN KATZ

South Bay Bicycle Coalition  
May 7th, 9:30am - 12pm

Beginning at Miramar Park  
201 Paseo De La Playa Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Casual-paced ride for all ages



## CTJ'S POP-UP BOOKSHOP

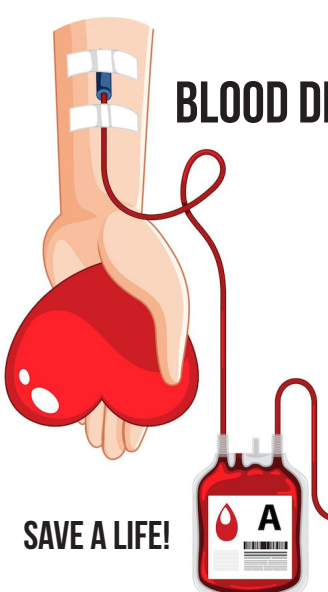
Email [office@ctjmb.org](mailto:office@ctjmb.org)  
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## TOT SHABBAT!

First Friday of every month  
5:30pm at CTJ



## BLOOD DRIVE

**SAVE A LIFE!**

Sunday, May 7, 8am-2pm  
at CTJ

Sign up: [tinyurl.com/blooddrivemay](https://tinyurl.com/blooddrivemay)

## PURIM CARNIVAL AND COSTUME CONTEST




**PURIM CARNIVAL**

Sunday, March 5, 2023

During Religious School, students only

Parent volunteers needed!  
[tinyurl.com/purimcarnival23](https://tinyurl.com/purimcarnival23)



## HAVDALAH

Every Saturday Night  
10 minute service on Zoom  
Time dependent on season



## REFUAT HANEFESH: RENEWAL OF SPIRIT FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday, March 31, 6:30pm at CTJ  
Refresh, renew, rejoice.  
Experience Shabbat in a whole new way.



## FAMILY SHABBAT FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

First Friday of every month  
6:30pm at CTJ



## The Braid

INSPIRING JEWISH STORIES



## PRIVATE PERFORMANCE

Sunday, March 12, 1pm - 2:15pm

### Out Loud

Experience a private performance of the original show *Out Loud* by The Braid, a non-profit that gives voice to Jewish stories. In this salon style show, experience queer stories through a Jewish lens.

## SUPPORTING FOSTER FAMILIES



## Second Nuture

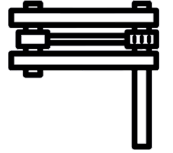
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help@ctjmb.org



**JOEL CHASNOFF AND BENJI LOVITT  
WEEKEND OF EVENTS**



Friday, March 17 - Sunday, March 19

**Israel 75 Live**

With special guests, authors and comedians  
Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt!

Weekend schedule of events and more info at  
[ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt](http://ctjmb.org/chasnofflovitt)



**EREV PURIM**

Monday, March 6

5:15pm dinner, 6pm Megillah reading

Light dinner, costume parade, jello shots,  
Hamantaschen baking contest,  
raffle prizes if you come in costume!

RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/erevpurim](http://tinyurl.com/erevpurim)

**DISCLAIMER:**

**PURIM**



**ISSUE**

**THIS ISSUE MAY CONTAIN  
JOKES AND SILLINESS**

**GALA CELEBRATION OF  
TAMAH & CANTOR BETH**

Saturday, March 18, 6:00pm

Tell them you love them in an ad for  
the Gala slideshow and ad journal

[ctjmb.org/gala](http://ctjmb.org/gala)