



DECEMBER 2023 | KISLEV/TEVET 5784

TIKVA TIMES

Happy Hanukkah

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING HANUKKAH EVENTS

★ RABBI KALEV ON MODERN-DAY MACCABEES



RABBI'S REFLECTIONS



RABBI JOSHUA KALEV

Senior Rabbi
Instagram: @rabbikalev
Facebook: fb.me/jkalev



As we get ready to light the menorah and celebrate with our family and friends, there is no question that the holiday's commandment of *publicizing the miracle* will be a difficult one for Jews around the world. The teaching is that we should display our menorahs in the window for all to see. I never thought that in my lifetime I would have to weigh the decision of displaying a menorah in our living room window versus the safety of my family. Luckily, we don't live in Europe, but nonetheless, I know many of you are kept up at night with all that is going on in Israel and the rising antisemitism we see daily.

On the other hand, if ever there was a time to stand strong, this might be it. I love the story of the Maccabees (even though they were crazy zealots) who stood strong in the face of an enemy who wanted to wipe them out. Unfortunately, for the Jewish people, this story seems to never end.

Today, we have our own Maccabees. The families of the four students who were attacked at MBMS are truly our modern-day Maccabees. Even with the overwhelming nature of being part of a national story, they continue to stand strong and fight for recognition by the school district of what really took place. Furthermore, so many in the community won't stop voicing their upset until they see a new approach to dealing with antisemitism and hate in our schools. I imagine that just like for the Maccabees, this isn't just a fight for justice in our day and age but for future generations as well. A huge thank you to one of the families for their beautiful note to the community on page 18 of our *TikvaTimes*.

I must also give another "Maccabee Award" to our friends at Manhattan Beach Community Church. Their constant outpouring of support whenever there is a flare up of

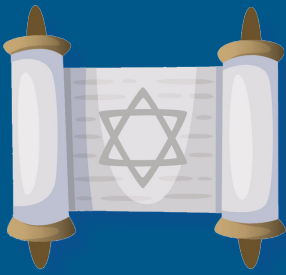
antisemitism is the perfect antidote to the targeted hate our Jewish community is feeling and experiencing. They welcome us at our High Holy Days services, they put together an incredible night for the women of our community, and they are constantly reaching out to me to see what they can do to stand together with us and make sure we know we are not alone. It is a friendship that is truly priceless.

Finally, I must say that if ever there was an entire synagogue full of Maccabees, it would have to be CTJ. Whenever duty calls, you are there as keyboard warriors, extra loud voices, and caring hearts to propel whatever need our community is experiencing. It has been an overwhelming season for me as a rabbi, probably the most demanding of my twenty-one years in the profession, but amidst the difficulty, there have been so many moments of pride because of your support.

So, as I light my menorah this Hanukkah, the lights will be dimmer because of the heaviness in my heart. However, as I reflect on our amazing community, I know the lights will shine brighter each night of the holiday because of what surrounds me each and every day. Thank you for being my light. I wish you a joyous season filled with love, happiness, and peace – and, I can't wait to see you at our Hanukkah Extravaganza at The Point on Sunday, December 10th for one of my favorite days on the calendar.

Rabbi Kalev





B'NAI MITZVAH STUDENTS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



Natalie Roisman

November 4th, 2023



Ben Weiner

November 11th, 2023



Max Weiner

November 11th, 2023



Jonah Manson

November 18th, 2023



Tanner Brown

December 2nd, 2023



Asher Greenspon

December 9th, 2023



JEREMY STERN

CTJ President

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CELEBRATING OUR JUDAISM TOGETHER MAKES CTJ STRONGER



To our wonderful CTJ Community, Chag Hanukkah Sameach!

I hope you are excited about celebrating the glow of the Hanukkah candles with your family and friends each night of the Festival of Lights for 5784. Growing up as a little boy in the suburbs of Detroit, I knew that Hanukkah was about celebrating the brave Maccabees' victory over Antiochus and the miracle of light lasting eight days, and of course, the presents were great too.

Festival of Light - The Meaning of Hanukkah

Over the years, the holiday has come to mean much more to me. Lighting the candles with Hildy and our four sons as they were growing up in Manhattan Beach deepened my spiritual connection to the holiday. And celebrating Hanukkah with our CTJ community brought me closer to you all, exponentially expanding the feelings of connection and joy around this holiday. Our celebration last year, Hanukkah 5783, was especially meaningful and became a powerful beacon brightening the path of connection for all subsequent Hanukkah celebrations.

For those of you who could not make it, last year, CTJ invited authors Paul Small and Josh Freeman to come speak to the community about their beautiful and inspiring book: *Festival of Light - The Meaning of Hanukkah*. They shared with us their beautiful family tradition of lighting the candles and discussing the meaning of one of eight values that each night's candle would represent: faith, freedom, charity, love, courage, integrity, knowledge, and peace.

This beautiful CTJ event was profoundly impactful, not just for me but for everyone in the standing room only CTJ sanctuary that night in December 2022. We learned about how to deepen our connection with and understanding of Hanukkah, and at the same time we also strengthened our connections to each other. The discussions we shared together of what these eight

values meant to us individually reinforced our bonds. I know I found the evening to be so inspiring and hopeful and it filled me with such happiness. The smiles of so many of you that night made me feel at home.

Get Involved - Help Make CTJ Stronger

And that brings me to my point for this President's Message. Arie Hasit, a journalist and blogger in Israel wrote that: "Judaism reminds us that we need to create community in times of happiness as much as in times of sadness." With the memories of the tragedy of Simchat Torah 5784 still so fresh, let's celebrate as a community the miracle of the Festival of Lights, the triumph of Maccabees and of light over darkness.

There is no better way to strengthen this magnificent Jewish community called Congregation Tikvat Jacob Beth Torah than celebrating the holidays together, coming together for special events, and participating together as volunteers to make all the CTJ magic happen. As the Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has written, "the Jewish community could not exist without volunteers."

So I urge you all to get involved at CTJ. There is a place for everyone, together. No need to wait until 2024 to make changes as part of your "New Year's" resolutions, and certainly don't wait until 5785. It's 5784 already. We Jews have a jump on new year, so let's get going now:

- **Help out at CTJ Events:** Volunteer to make the dreams of our many celebrations a reality, like next year's Gala on March 23, 2024, or the Purim Palooza on March 24, 2023. There are so many opportunities to step up to build our CTJ community, to make it even more vibrant and strong. I know that you'll find that helping to make a CTJ event is just as much fun as attending one.
- **Join a CTJ Committee:** Help support CTJ families in need through acts of loving kindness by joining the Chesed Committee, or join our Centennial planning committee whose work is just getting underway. You can even volunteer to join a CTJ Board Committee and you don't need to be a board member, whether it's the Finance Committee, the Education Committee, the Membership Committee, or the Security Committee, to name just a few.

I know there is so much untapped talent in our community. Get involved and let's keep CTJ Strong, together.

Jeremy H. Stern

Board President

THE CTJ SISTERHOOD

WONDERFUL WINTER EVENTS

Dear Sisterhood members,

We had a truly spectacular end of summer. Sisterhood members created donation sets for Chemocessories; led two challah bakes; walked on The Strand; participated in a very popular pilates class at The Studio (MDR), thanks to our member Lisa Solomon; and started off fall with a delicious Sukkah dinner and Board Installation.

This fall and winter, Israel is never far from our hearts, but we hope our events help you feel supported by our beautiful Jewish community.

- **Sisterhood Hanukkah Party** on *Thursday, December 7 at 6pm, Private home*: Our world famous Hanukkah party and white elephant gift exchange. Includes salads, entree, dessert, & wine/ beverages. \$25 for Sisterhood members, \$36 for non-members. Pay at the door by Venmo, check, or cash. **Bring**: A wrapped white elephant gift, new or like new, value around \$30; New toiletries and personal items to donate to Project Needs; Jewelry and scarves to donate to Chemocessories!
Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhanukkah2023
- **Torah Fund Shabbat** on *Friday, January 12*: Come celebrate Shabbat and honor our Torah Fund contributors. Tickets required for a delicious Israeli pre-service dinner; service is free to all to attend. Get tickets here: tinyurl.com/ctjtorahfund2024
- **Wine and Art Event** on *Thursday, February 8*: Join with your sisters to create a gorgeous piece of handmade art. Location, event cost, and other details coming soon.
- **Strand Walk** on *Friday, February 16 at 9am*: Meet at the Manhattan Beach Pier to walk and chat with your fellow Sisterhood members. Open to all CTJ members. Bring strollers, dogs, and friends! Sign up coming soon.
- **Mah Jongg lessons and groups** in *March 2024*: Looking for a good mah jongg game? Want to learn how to play? We've got you! Details coming soon.

CTJ Sisterhood brings together women of all ages to join in social, educational, spiritual, and social action events throughout the year. Our goal is to provide our members with connection to other women and to the CTJ community at large, while also enriching the synagogue and the local Jewish community. While we are affiliated with Women's League and CTJ, other interested women (as well as people of other genders) are welcome to join.

For more information about Sisterhood, contact Hilary Grayver, CTJ Sisterhood president, at sisterhood@ctjmb.org. We can't wait to see you soon!

SOCIAL ACTION EVENTS

GET INVOLVED DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- **Help for the Holidays!** Participate in The Jewish Federation's opportunities at **Toy & Book Drive** (jewishla.org), and join us *December 19* at **Project Needs** as CTJ hosts a holiday meal. Donations of gifts of new toys, toiletries, clothing, non-perishable food etc. are welcomed. Volunteer opportunities from 2-7pm. Contact Stacy.Weitsman@cshs.org.
- **Blood Drives continue - CTJ donates!** The next quarterly Cedars Sinai Bloodmobile dates are *January 21, 8am - 2pm* and *April 14, 8am - 2pm* both at CTJ. Sign up links coming soon in weekly email.
- **Project Needs** continues with monthly hot meal preparation on the *3rd Tuesday of every month*. Contact Stacy.Weitsman@cshs.org for involvement opportunities.
- **CTJ Knitzvot** - Where there's a need, there's a knitter! Hand-crafting with love - from blankets for foster youth to hats for veterans. Mentors available! Contact [Laura Pinsky laurap4rbiz@verizon.net](mailto:Laura.Pinsky@verizon.net).
- **Second Nurture** needs you! We have had some great experiences supporting local foster families. Contact [Melissa Stein melissabethstein@hotmail.com](mailto:Melissa.Stein@hotmail.com).
- **Chemocessories** need your donations of jewelry, scarves, funds and volunteer time to help out with their mission to get beautiful sets to chemo patients! Contact [Iris Knell chemocessories@gmail.com](mailto:Iris.Knell@chemocessories@gmail.com).
- We walked with Team CTJ for the Jewish World Watch - Walk to End Genocide, and there are many more **Tikkun Olam opportunities with JWW** for all ages activism through a Jewish lens.
- **Help find some new projects with our past community partners**, such as 1736 family Crisis Centers, Habitat for Humanity, Jewish World Watch, Jewish Federation Ezra Network, Faith Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Veterans Administration, Blankets of Love, & more.
- **Or help us form some new collaborations!** We have been invited to participate with Safe Parking LA and with Family Promise. We have congregants active in the many other worthy organizations such as the Volunteer Center and Mazon, as well as Youth projects underway spearheaded by our Mitzvah students. Let's explore ways to bring these many Tikkun Olam involvement opportunities front and center in our spiritual life in action and spend some time praying with our feet!



RACHEL HERSHMAN

Director of Education

OHREN EDUCATION CENTER (OEC)

LOOKING AHEAD TO ALL THINGS HANUKKAH!



This Hanukkah season at CTJ's OEC, we've got a lineup that's sure to light up a menorah or two:

- **7th Grade Toy Drive:** From mid-November to mid-December, our 7th graders are organizing a toy drive for kids in foster care. Check our weekly email for more information.
- **3rd & 4th Grade Shabbat:** On December 8th, our 3rd and 4th graders will be celebrating Hanukkah and Shabbat together in spirit with food, music, crafts & fun!
- **Hanukkah at the Point:** Mark your calendars for December 10th from 1pm-3pm! Join us at The Point for our annual celebration featuring a magic show with Doc Magic, balloon animals, raffle, latkes, sufganiyot and more!
- **The OEC Shuk:** Our OEC have been collecting their Jeckles & the first time to spend that leftover gelt is drawing near... with our OEC Shuk Sale on December 17th—it's the perfect place to find a belated holiday gift or two.
- **Winter Break:** As we wrap up the first 15 weeks of the school year, we'll be on break starting December 18th until January 5th, so we can all recharge for another semester or community and learning.

So come along, join the fun, and help us bring the light to Manhattan Beach!

Rachel Hershman

A Look Back at the JCA Retreat

There's something magical about gathering in the great outdoors, and our recent JCA retreat with the OEC was nothing short of enchanting. From the laughter during our song sessions to the friendly rivalry of our impromptu sports games, and the inspiration behind our communal art mural, we've created memories that will last a lifetime. It's clear that our children left feeling more connected to our CTJ community, and honestly, so did I. If you know a child who was among the attendees, just ask them about their weekend. You'll be greeted with smiles and stories that'll brighten your day. And don't forget, we're already buzzing with excitement about planning our retreat for next year! We'd love for even more of our children to join in the fun, so make sure to cast your vote via the JotForm in our OEC weekly email and stay tuned for the date selection—the success of events like this one depend on your participation & support

A Look Ahead to Hanukkah in the OEC

As Hanukkah nears, we're inspired by an ancient tale of perseverance: It's told that in the Maccabees' era, under Greek oppression, Jewish children cleverly disguised their study of Judaism with the spin of a dreidel. When danger loomed, books were swapped for tops, turning a moment of fear into a game of chance. The dreidel is a symbol of our unyielding commitment to Jewish life and learning throughout even the most challenging times.

In our current times, the shadows of antisemitism can feel scary and overwhelming. However, now more than ever we need each other. We need our community. We need to spend time with our friends, play, and eat good food - so come play some dreidel, eat some latkes and sufganiyot, and be embraced by the warmth of each other's presence. CTJ is our sanctuary where we can celebrate our heritage and the richness of Jewish culture together with joy!

OEC HANUKKAH EVENTS

First Weeks of December 7th grade toy drive for kids in foster care

Dec 8 3rd & 4th grade Hanukkah Shabbat

Dec 10 Hanukkah Party during Religious School

Dec 10 Hanukkah Celebration at The Point with Doc Magic!

Dec 17 The Shuk Sale at Religious School

Dec 18 - Jan 5 OEC Winter Break



23-24 OEC CALENDAR

AUGUST

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

AUG. 27 - CTJ OPEN HOUSE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SEPT. 10 - 1ST DAY OF OEC
 SEPT. 16 - OEC ROSH HASHANA PROGRAM
 SEPT. 25 - OEC YOM KIPPUR PROGRAM

OCTOBER

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

OCT. 1 - OEC CLASSES & SUKKOT
 OCT. 8 - OEC SIMCHAT TORAH & KEDOOM
 OCT. 27-29 - OEC K-7TH GR RETREAT
 OCT. 29 - K-2ND ONLY @ CTJ

NOVEMBER

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

NOV. 5 - 6TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING
 NOV. 17 - 7TH GRADE SHABBAT
 NOV. 22-26 - NO OEC - THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

DEC. 8 - 3RD & 4TH GRADE SHABBAT
 DEC. 20-JAN. 5 - NO OEC - WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

JAN. 14 - MLK DAY OF SERVICE @ CTJ
 JAN. 28 - K-2ND FAMILY LEARNING

FEBRUARY

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

FEB. 2 - 5TH GRADE SHABBAT
 FEB. 18-21 - NO OEC - SKI WEEK

MARCH

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

MAR. 1 - K-2ND GRADE SHABBAT
 MAR. 24 - PURIM CARNIVAL & MEGILLAH

APRIL

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

MAR. 31 - APR. 7 - NO OEC - SPRING BREAK
 APR. 12 - 6TH GRADE SHABBAT
 APR. 21 - 3RD & 4TH FAMILY LEARNING

MAY

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

MAY 5 - 5TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING
 MAY 19 - 7TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING
 MAY 29 - LAST WEDNESDAY OF OEC

JUNE

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

JUN. 2 - MACCABIAH & PICNIC

KEY

=SPECIAL PROGRAM

=NO OEC CLASSES

BLUE TEXT =REGULAR OEC SCHEDULE

A Look Back On...

THE YEAR SO FAR AT OEC



3RD-7TH GRADE RETREAT WITH CAMP JCA!



CTJ Calendar

DEC - FEB 2023



ONGOING EVENTS



Jewish News

Every Tuesday morning, 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! See weekly email for specific dates.

Thursday Discussion Class with Rabbi Kalev

Every Thursday, 7 pm

Zoom

Keep an eye on our weekly emails for when we will begin our next book and session of classes!

Tot Shabbat

First Friday of every month, 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 grown-ups who love them. Lots of music, an exciting story, and tons of silliness make for a very fun beginning to the day of rest.

Friday Night Services

Fridays, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

See weekly email or website calendar for schedule and special themes.

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturdays, 9:30 am

CTJ and Zoom

With or without a B'nai Mitzvah, Shabbat mornings are a wonderful time to celebrate together.

Project Needs

Third Tuesday of every month, 2:30 pm

pm

Project Needs

We continue to prepare hot meals to-go at Project Needs in Redondo Beach. Please contact Stacy.Weitsman@cshs.org.

Poker Nights

Every other 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.

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.

DECEMBER

Israel on the Inside with Assaf Boker

Sunday, December 3, 10 am

Zoom

With so much going on in Israel, come hear Assaf's updates and great takes and learn about the current events from a source on the ground.

Sisterhood Hanukkah Party

Thursday, December 7, 6 pm

Private Home

Our world famous Hanukkah party and white elephant gift exchange. Includes salads, entree, dessert, & wine/beverages. \$25 for Sisterhood members; \$36 for non-members. Pay at the door by Venmo, check, or cash.

What to bring:

- A wrapped white elephant gift, new or like new, valued around \$30
- New toiletries and personal items to donate to Project Needs
- Jewelry and scarves to donate to Chemocessories

Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhanukkah2023

3rd & 4th Grade Shabbat with Dinner

Friday, December 8

Dinner 5:30 pm (3rd & 4th grade families only)

Menorah lighting 6:15 pm (open to all)

Service 6:30 pm (open to all)

CTJ and Zoom

Gather up your families and we will all hear our 3rd and 4th graders sing some of our favorite Hanukkah & Shabbat melodies! It's a perfect opportunity to connect with our CTJ OEC community, share in the joy of Shabbat, and embrace the festive spirit of Hanukkah. Stay with us till the end of the evening and indulge in a delightful treat of sufganiyot (donuts) during the oneg!

OEC Program - Hanukkah Celebration for K-2

Sunday, December 10, 9 am - during Religious School

CTJ

Our K-2nd grade students will have the chance to get their sillies out with The Amazing Dave as part of our Hanukkah celebration! Dave's engaging presence promises an unforgettable and entertaining experience for our young ones this Hanukkah!

Hanukkah Family Celebration at The Point

Sunday, December 10, 1 pm

The Point, El Segundo

Come for latkes and sufganiyot, stay for Hanukkah silliness with Doc Magic and more special guests - Magic, Juggling, and Balloons! OH MY!

No OEC - Winter Break

Wednesday, December 20 - Wednesday, January 3

Light Up Shabbat

Friday, December 22, 6:30 pm

CTJ

We are bringing back our popular Light Up Shabbat Service led by Mike Sirota & Rabbi Mark! Light up your spirit and uplift your soul as everyone sings our familiar prayer melodies and participates in meaningful, contemporary responsive readings. Perfect for the whole family. In person only.

Office closed for Christmas and New Years

Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1

JANUARY

OEC resumes

Sunday, January 7, 9 am

Sisterhood Torah Fund Shabbat Service with Special Guest

Friday, January 12, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Come for a kosher Israeli dinner featuring falafel, shawarma, and other delights. Stay for our Shabbat evening service led by

Rabbi Kalev, Myles Cohen, and our Torah Fund donors. This event will also feature Rabbi Deborah Prinz, speaking about her book, *On the Chocolate Trail*, and delicious pareve chocolate desserts made by our Imahot, Vivian Kalev and Susan Lewis. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/ctjtorahfund2024

OEC Program - MLK Day of Service Sunday, January 14, 9 am - during Religious School

CTJ

The OEC Martin Luther King Day of Service will be a "day on" instead of a "day off." Participate in meal prep for our local soup kitchen, support other nonprofit organizations in our community, and come learn together. Open to all ages, it's a perfect morning for the whole family to make a difference in the community while learning about social justice and unity. Be on the lookout for more information and registration!

Office closed - MLK Day Monday, January 15

Neon Havdalah

Saturday, January 20, 5:30 pm

CTJ

A special night of Neon to begin the new week, followed by dessert and schmoozing.

Service will be in person with Shalem Preschool!

RSVP: tinyurl.com/neonhavdalah

Blood Drive

Sunday, January 21, 8 am - 2 pm

CTJ

Save a life! Donate blood at CTJ! Sign up link coming soon.

The Braid Private Performance #1 - I Loved Jew, I Loved Jew Not

Monday, January 22, 7 pm

CTJ

The Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theatre) at CTJ is moving to Monday nights this year with private shows at CTJ! Experience the salon-style performances of Jewish stories. In *I Loved Jew, I Loved Jew Not*, hear personal stories of antisemitism as well as uplifting tales of allies of the Jewish people. Experience this powerful transformation from hate to love.

Get tickets here: tinyurl.com/thebraid2024

FEBRUARY

5th Grade Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, February 2

Dinner 5:30 pm (5th grade families only)

Service 6:30 pm (open to all)

CTJ and Zoom

Stay tuned for info on our upcoming 5th grade-led Shabbat service with dinner for the 5th grade families!

Virtual Live Tour of Auschwitz

Sunday, February 4, 10 am

Zoom

Experience a powerful live tour through Auschwitz just for CTJ, led virtually by a tour guide. Stay tuned for sign up link.

Walk on the Strand with the Sisterhood

Friday, February 16, 8:45 am

The Strand, Manhattan Beach

Meet at the Manhattan Beach Pier to walk and chat with your fellow Sisterhood members. Open to all CTJ members. Bring strollers, dogs, and friends! Look out for a sign up link soon.

Light Up Shabbat

Friday, February 16, 6:30 pm

CTJ

We are back again with our popular Light Up Shabbat Service led by Mike Sirota! Light up your spirit and uplift your soul as everyone sings our familiar prayer melodies and participates in meaningful, contemporary responsive readings. Perfect for the whole family. In person only.

No OEC - Ski Week

Sunday, February 18 - Wednesday, February 21





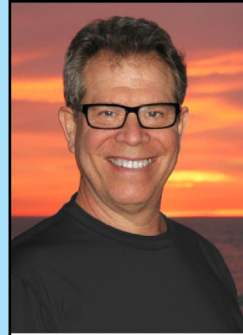
Send in your Kvels for next issue!

My daughter **Andrea Rawitt** was named the Preferred Vendor for Jewish LA Special Needs Trust & Services, and joined the CTJ Board of Directors!

- Lois Rawitt

Our daughter, **Ariana**, made us into grandparents. The baby is now 5 weeks old and gorgeous. She is named Eleanor, in honor of Madeline's mom, Elizabeth. Got to go a couple times to San Diego to hold the little one. Bubby Madeline and Zayde Doug are very happy.

- The Walkers



Your Real Estate Maven:

Mike Dunitz, CM
(Certified Mensch)

"Putting clients first since 5741"

310-600-5410

Palm Realty Boutique
www.beach-broker.com

"Lox and fixers wanted"



PALM REALTY
BOUTIQUE

DRE# 00771510



MORI BIENER

Broker Associate, GRI, CRS, CalBRE# 01322320

Vista | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

d. 310.418.9188

Mori.Biener@VistaSIR.com

SouthBayHomeBroker.com

PAST 10 YEAR BOARD MEMBER

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER.



REALTORS® DRE: #0079211 #01775652

SERENE & BARRY SULPOR
"THE MATCHMAKERS"

Matching CTJ homeowners & buyers for over 25 years

310.991.2994

sb.beachhomes@gmail.com

www.sulporhomes.com





SOUTH BAY REAL ESTATE SERVICES



Rachel Ezra

Real Estate Broker

DRE #01396863

 **310.400.0297**

 www.RachelEzra.com

 @TheRachelEzra

 916 Manhattan Ave,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



Vista

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Each office is Independently Owned and Operated

THINKING OF MAKING A MOVE? CALL US TODAY!

owned & operated by Saul and Laura Rae Fineman



kibbitz STUDIOS



Jewish and Yiddishkeit Gifts
Shirts, Hats, Mugs, Home Goods & more

To see all of our goods, visit us at:

kibbitzstudios.etsy.com

FREE SHIPPING!



Dedications AUG - OCT 2023

ABRAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in loving memory of

Meta Katz from **Gail Neiman**

Tim Harris from **Lani Harris**

in memory of

Stan Abrams from **Leon Gold**

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

in memory of

Vera Stepanek - Jana's mother from
Melissa & Jon Stein

on the occasion of

Robert Gilbreth's Bet Din from
Melissa Stein

ALAN REINSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

in loving memory of

Annette Schlocker from **Ellis Levin & Carole Schlocker**

Tim Harris from **Lani Harris**

ANNA SHURE FUND

in memory of

Jane Oudiz from **Susan Oudiz Johnson**

BUILDING FUND

in memory of

Murray Weingarten from **Vincent & Sondra Lee**

BORNSTEIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in loving memory of

Joseph Slafer from **Alexis Slafer**

Ethel Finmark Platus from **Daniel & Judith Platus**

in memory of

Dr. Hermon Schlossberg from **Melvin & Rosalie Horowitz**

CANTOR BETH DISCRETIONARY FUND

in loving memory of

Sam Altchuler from **Joy Kravetz**

in thanks for

The baby naming of שיר פגנה from
Jake, Roxy and Wren Friedman

Everything you did to make Marissa's Bat Mitzvah so special. from **Judith Garber**

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

in honor of

Barbara Mitnick from **Jason & Lisset Durand**

Rachel Hershman's AMAZING first day of Sunday School from **Melissa Stein**

in memory of

Steve Schuelein from **Debbie & Les Granow**

Barbara Mitnick from **Joshua, Lisa, and Larry Kohorn**

Barbara Mitnick from **Karin Miller**

Barbara Mitnick from **Melissa Stein**

Barbara from **Rachel Liger**

FORMANN SIROTA MUSIC FUND

in loving memory of

Clara Kronenberg from **Diann Gross**

Joseph J. Seigel from **Rachelle M. Schwartzman**

GENERAL FUND

for CTJ

To CTJ from **Erica Cohen**

In honor of CTJ from **Melvin Horowitz**

In honor of CTJ from **Rosalie Horowitz**

in loving memory of

Arthur Schwartz from **Barbara Schwartz**

Yossi Shachnovitz from **Greg Davidson & Tamah Kushner**

Bernard Kushner from **Greg Davidson & Tamah Kushner**

Genevieve Glick from **Joanne Glick**

Joseph Herzberg from **Lawrence & Amy Teitelbaum**

John Weiner on the 1st anniversary of his passing, and Anny Bondy, grandmother of Michelle Glaser-Weiner from **Michelle Glaser-Weiner**

Herbert Ashley Bernhard from **Ron & Linda Maroko**

Mauricio Tarnapolsky & Haia Zina Tarnapolsky from **Sioma Tarnapolsky**

Brad Schaibly from **Todd & Lisbeth Levin**

Howard Paul from **Stuart Paul**

in memory of

Harold Shelby from **Andy & Rabbi Arinna Shelby**

Michael Bunim, Ruth Shen, Joseph Rasch, and Joseph Schild from **Irwin & Naomi Friedman**

Steve Schuelein from **Joan Grossman**

Cynthia Rayvis Godofsky from **John and Rose Osten**

Steve Schuelein from **Melissa & Jon Stein**

MICHAEL ROTSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in loving memory of

George Friedman from **Alex & Tobi Weil**

Dr. Winston Ho, a compassionate healer and dedicated father. from **Claire Ho, Oren, Noa and Deena Benami**

Elsa Gottesman Neiman from **Gail Neiman**

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

in loving memory of

Vera Stepanek from **Michael & Jana Wiener**

in memory of

Clara and Alan Kurchin from **Tricia Stoddard and Bruce Friedman**

RABBI HYMAN DISCRETIONARY FUND

in loving memory of

Loren Slafer from **Alexis Slafer**

Sylvia May from **Dennis & Etta May**

Esther Gromberg from **Jerome & Marlene Lipin**

Bernard Neiman from **Gail Neiman**

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

Martin Berger, stepfather of James Weinstock from **James Weinstock**

RABBI KALEV DISCRETIONARY FUND

for CTJ

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

in appreciation of

Officiating the wedding of our dreams. We are so grateful to have had you under the chuppah with us on our big day!!! from **Joshua & Kathryn Sherman**

in honor of

The New Year from **Maddy Silverman**

In honor of opening the Ark on Rosh Hashanah. from **Mark and Elissa Teitelman**

Rabbi Kalev - stay in great health! from **Salles-Spar Family**

in loving memory of

Loren Slafer from **Alexis Slafer**

Bernard Yarchover from **Douglas & Jennifer Claman**

Alexander Elisha Gold, Estelle Gold, and Faige Gold, Dad, Mom, and Bubba from **Joseph & Nancy Mandelbaum**

Barbara Weisenberg, beloved wife, mom, and grandma from **Judd & Susan Gilefsky**

Abe Weinberg from **Laurie Rice**

Shirley Weinhart from **Marc & Shannon Magid**

Walter Grover from **Ronald & Valerie Grover**

Vera Isakowitz from **Steve & Monica Isakowitz**

Judith Miller and Henry Poltorak of blessed memory from **The Poltoraks**

Stella Samples from **Ty Samples**

in memory of

Samuel Harris from **Barry & Sandy Warner**

in thanks for

Performing the funeral for Joseph Eskenazi, beloved father of Belinda Mastrangelo from **Belinda Mastrangelo**

Your warm welcome when we attended Shemini Atzereth services, October 7th. from **Anonymous**

RITUAL/PRAYER BOOK FUND

in loving memory of

Loren Slafer and in Honor of Cantor Beth Garden for her participation in the Shiva Minions from **Alexis Slafer**

Peary Benn Berger from **Alexis Slafer**

Yahrzeit Fund

in honor of

Claire Ho and Lisa Kohorn for their participation leading the Shiva Minions from **Alexis Slafer**

in loving memory of

Gertrude Sulpor from **Barry & Serene Sulpor**

Esther Kaplan from **Carol Rosen**

Charles Kravetz from **Joy Kravetz**

Jill Adair Brant-Ostrove from **Kim Brant-Lucich**

My Husband, Stanley Gelfand from **Marcia Gelfand**

In loving memory of Myron Pollak from **Martin & Susanne Shallon**

Irving "Sonny" Lichter from **Mike Heath**

Maurice Isaac Oudiz from **Ron Oudiz**

Judy Waterstone from **Tim and Debi McGregor**

George Lubow from **Zvia Hempling**

in memory of

Walter Takeuchi from **Lisa, Larry and Josh Kohorn**

Minnie Weiss from **Lois Rawitt**

Roslyn Gubner from **Traci Wesley, Jay Wesley, Kristina Wesley, Matthew Wesley**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THANK YOU TO OUR
MITZVAH CIRCLE
MEMBERS!

Jonathan Bain & Sarah Boscoe
Douglas & Jennifer Claman
Todd & Terry Gilman
Harvey & Angela Jacobson
Vivian Kalev
Larry & Lisa Kohorn
David & Elizabeth Liebman
James & Donne Segil
Linda Simon
Melissa & Jonathan Stein
Richard Stock
Leslie Waxman
Richard Weiner & Judith Forman

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

As we prepare to welcome 2024, please consider CTJ for your end-of-year giving and support our amazing community. It's not too late to make a **tax-deductible** contribution! Your support keeps CTJ a beacon of light in the Jewish community.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- **IRA Distribution.** If you have an IRA, you can make gifts directly from your IRA without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. This option provides tax savings to donors even if you do not itemize deductions.
- **Stock or Mutual Funds.** Please notify CTJ of any pending transfer.
- **Monthly Recurring Pledge**
- **One-Time End-of-the-Year Donation**
- **Employer matching gift opportunities**

Scan below or visit
ctjmb.org/pledge



CTJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Jeremy Stern | Financial Secretary | Sandy Seigel |
| Executive Vice President | Todd Levin | Parliamentarian | Larry Kohorn |
| Vice President, Finance | Stuart Paul | Sisterhood Chair | Jill Baker |
| Vice President, Administration | Kevin Mendelson | Education Committee | Ellen Poltorak |
| Vice President, Ritual | Claire Ho | Finance Committee | Susi Silverman |
| Vice President, Education | Lisa Weinbaum | At Large | Andrea Rawitt |
| Executive Committee | Melissa Stein | At Large | Dave Liebman |
| Executive Committee | Randy Roisman | At Large | Ileene Morris |
| Membership Chair | Jennifer Gale | At Large | Jessica Waldman |
| Security/Development | Renee Sorgen | At Large | Richard Weiner |
| Facilities Chair | Vera Abrams | At Large | Natalie Zelta |
| Recording Secretary | Laura Pinsky | | |



Olive Tree
Senior Advisors
Geriatric Care Management

Providing Life Solutions for Seniors
Assisting families navigate care for older adults



Nadine Roisman
MHA, NHA, RCFE, CDP, CMC

Aging Life Care Professional
& Geriatric Care Manager

🌐 www.olivetreesa.com

☎ (310) 824-3294

✉ info@olivetreesa.com



WANT TO SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH?

Are you celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Remembering a loved one? Sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush in honor of, in memory of, or in appreciation of a person or milestone!

Contact Ruth Irving ruth@ctjmb.org or office@ctjmb.org to assist you with sponsorship opportunities.

ISRAEL ON THE INSIDE WITH ASSAF BOKER

On certain Sundays
at 10am on Zoom

**DECEMBER 3,
MORE DATES COMING!**

Stay up to date on all
the current happenings in
Israel with Assaf!



THANK YOU TO OUR CTJ COMMUNITY

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND FOR COMING TOGETHER AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

As the horrors in Israel continue to unfold, I personally have been strengthened by our people's resolve. Even in the darkness, we have still experienced many wonderful Jewish celebrations together in the past few months, I officiated at a beautiful wedding, and our amazing CTJ students have been hard at work raising money and writing letters for Israel.

A big yasher koach to Charlie, Ethan, Gabe, Jordan, Harper, Beckett, Rose, Mila, Noa, Ava, Hannah, and so many others who helped raise hundreds of dollars for Israel through their own initiative and dedication!

Every Israeli I speak with continues to tell me how much our love and support means to them... and they can feel it.

Thank you to our students and community for giving us all hope during a time when we feel so helpless... you guys are our light!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Joshua Kalev




RABBI MARK LEADS SHABBAT SERICES
 on these dates:
December 22nd & 23rd
December 29th & 30th
January 5th & 6th



TOT SHABBAT!
 First Friday of every month
 5:30pm at CTJ



BLOOD DRIVE
 SAVE A LIFE!
 Sunday, January 21,
 8am-2pm at CTJ
 Sign up link coming soon



HANUKKAH BEGINS
 Thursday, December 7
 Last night on Thursday,
 December 14th



SUPPORTING FOSTER FAMILIES



Second Nurture
 Babysitting, organizing clothing,
 and mentoring opportunities!
 More info: lizglozman@gmail.com



A LETTER FROM A CTJ PARENT

ON THE OCTOBER ATTACK ON JEWISH STUDENTS AT MANHATTAN BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

On October 7th, I like so many in our community sat in frozen horror as the news unfolded of the Hamas' massacre - killing 1400 Israelis and taking 240 hostages. Evil is the only word that came to mind. Young lives ripped away, families torn apart, unimaginable atrocities, horrifying and heartbreaking. I was simply sickened and outraged.

As a Jewish family, and part of the CTJ community, we were grateful for support, spiritual guidance, and resources enabling us to do something to help those suffering and fighting for the people of Israel.

On October 16th, my daughter, who attends MBMS, was approached by another female student whom she never met, asking if she was pro-Israel. My daughter identified herself as Jewish and said yes she supported the people in Israel. From there it escalated into a hostile attack against her, her Rabbi, the people of Israel and Jews. Words of hate and antisemitism were spoken and she immediately reported the incident to her teacher. Sadly this was the second incident reported against the same girl, involving another Jewish student the week prior.

I share this because what happened to my daughter and the other Jewish students has been misrepresented, most recently in the Daily Breeze/Beach Reporter. This was not an isolated incident where a group of girls mutually engaged in a political conversation, "simply trying to make sense of the complex, nuanced situation occurring in the Middle East." These "verbal exchanges" were instigated without provocation against various Jewish students, one wearing a t-shirt that identified her as being Jewish, on separate occasions on campus by one student, who is an American Arab.

Since then, I have been on a journey for justice. Standing up for my daughter and the other Jewish students and parents, fighting for the truth and change in our schools. Forcing the District and school leadership to acknowledge that antisemitism exists, it is hate, it is taught, it is not bullying, and it is unacceptable. Re-education towards tolerance is needed for faculty and students at all grade levels. I'm happy to say that some progress is being made, including a new MBMS Equity, Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusion committee and the Anti Defamation League's involvement with learnings and upcoming workshops. But more needs to be done and our collective fight is ongoing.

During these past weeks the support has been tremendous. So many parents from all faiths reached out asking if my daughter was okay, did we need anything, and were just horrified that this happened. The students at MBMS arranged a day to show solidarity towards Israel and against antisemitism, wearing blue and white at school. I ask Superintendent Dr. Bowes and the MBUSD School Board to represent the same strength and action against hate and antisemitism.

I cannot thank Rabbi Kalev enough. He immediately stood with us and rallied your voices so the School Board and leadership would finally hear the truth of what our students went through. He has been our advocate, our voice and our public seeker for justice allowing for our anonymity. I personally feel incredibly grateful for his guidance not only as our Rabbi, but as a fellow parent and member of our community.

Thank you for standing up, as my daughter did. Hate has no place in our home and I expect the same in our schools. As she said, "I will learn to forgive but I will never forget."

We are #CTJStrong.

-- CTJ Parent

An advertisement for an Auschwitz Live Virtual Tour. The background is a photograph of the Auschwitz concentration camp, showing the iconic gate with the sign 'Arbeit Macht Frei' and the surrounding barbed wire. The text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow. The main title is 'AUSCHWITZ LIVE VIRTUAL TOUR'. Below it, a paragraph describes the experience: 'Experience a powerful live tour through Auschwitz just for CTJ, led virtually by a tour guide.' The date and time are listed as 'Sunday, February 4, 10am-12pm'. At the bottom, it says 'Sign up coming soon'.



CONGREGATION TIKVAT JACOB BETH TORAH

1829 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
(310) 546-3667
ctjmb.org
office@ctjmb.org
help@ctjmb.org



Neon Havdalah

Saturday, January 20, 5:30 pm

A special night of Neon to begin the new week,
followed by dessert and schmoozing.

Service will be in person with Shalem Preschool!

RSVP: tinyurl.com/neonhavdalah



THE BRAID

UPCOMING SEASON - PRIVATE SHOWS AT CTJ

Mondays, Jan 22, March 18, and June 3 at 7pm

Show #1:

I Loved Jew, I Loved Jew Not

The Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theatre) at CTJ is moving to Monday nights this year!

Experience the salon-style private performances of Jewish stories.

Get tickets for 1, 2, or all 3 of the

performances here: tinyurl.com/thebraid2024



**HANUKKAH CELEBRATION!
AT THE POINT**

Sunday, December 10, 1 pm
after Religious School

RSVP: tinyurl.com/hanukkahpoint



OFFICE CLOSED

For Christmas and New Years

Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1

To get in contact: email ruth@ctjmb.org
or accounting@ctjmb.org