

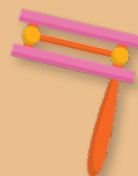
TIKVA TIMES*

*MAY CONTAIN PRANKS AND SILLINESS

MARCH 2024 | ADAR 5784

It's Purim Time Again!

KOSHER CANNABIS AT THE CTJ GIFT SHOP!



RABBIS AGREE: "ELEVATE YOUR CHAI AND GET CHAI!"

RABBI KALEV:

"Now we can all enjoy next month's Passover seder a little more!"



THE SCOOP ON MISHLOACH MANOT

CTJ PURIM SHPIEL TO FEATURE IDINA MENZEL AS QUEEN ESTHER!





Rabbi's Reflections



DISCLAIMER*

RABBI JOSHUA KALEV

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



As a kid, one of the first songs I learned at camp was "David Melech Yisrael." Of course, the hand motions were the best part. Recently, I came across a quote by Maimonides, who lived over eight hundred years ago, in relation to my favorite camp song. He teaches the following, "It is important to sing *David Melech Yisrael*, but we should emphasize the words *chai, chai v'kayam* much stronger." He goes on to teach that the word *chai* means not only life but a state of being that is "elevated," similar to the feeling "after an encounter with *kaneh bosem* – an aromatic cane..." or as we know it, cannabis. I was shocked that Maimonides knew about the effects of cannabis so many years ago!

I also love the connection between the word *chai* and high... it is as if the English language used the term from Hebrew. I don't think my encounter with this ancient teaching was mere coincidence, since I recently learned that the Conservative Movement of Judaism last month ruled that using cannabis in moderation was permissible and encouraged. As we know, cannabis has incredible medicinal properties and can truly elevate an experience.

After much thought and consideration, I recently brought forward to our leadership the idea of turning our small CTJ gift shop (the windowed cabinets on the left side of the lobby) into a kosher cannabis shop. Kosher

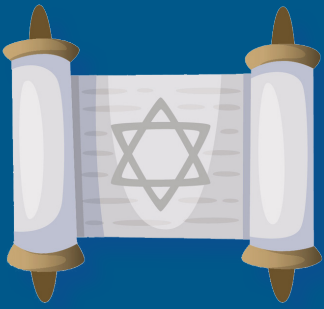
cannabis is a bit harder to find but given that the Jewish community is now encouraged to try it, we thought how wonderful it would be if we could use it at kiddushes, holidays, and other special occasions. I can't help but think of how much fun a long, drawn-out Passover seder could be with a little THC, and how much more comfortable it will be to sit for five hours during Rosh Hashanah services with some CBD helping relieve those back pains.

So far, two of the leading kosher cannabis companies – Mazel Tov Farms and Cali Kosher, both California growers, have signed on to partner with us. We are currently in talks with Chai Teens – carefully crafted cannabis products for teenagers to help make post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah learning and other youth Jewish celebrations wildly joyous. Mr. Myles can't wait to lead our first Happy Shabbat with our youth as they jump from the bimah in a "chai" state of mind.

There are some hurdles we will have to overcome to receive certification as a distributor – Rabbi Kalev must take a test on the Talmudic pages dealing with *ghat* – a psychedelic leaf that many Yemenite Jews would chew while they studied Torah. Cantor Beth needs to make sure she can continue to carry the Torah in her high-soled shoes while under the effects of some of the products. We also need Jules to work with Imahot (our baking group) to find great cannabis desserts that can be served safely at our Onegs.

We have the opportunity to be the second synagogue in the country to offer kosher cannabis (Beit Tsedudlt in Berkeley was the first) – it is an exciting moment for CTJ as we inch closer to our centennial celebration. I look forward to sharing a gummy or brownie with you in the near future. What a blessing it is for your leadership to always try and elevate your Jewish experience here at CTJ.

Rabbi Kalev



B'NAI MITZVAH STUDENTS

MARCH - APRIL 2024



Eli Rayman
March 2nd, 2024



Gabriella Simon
March 9th, 2024



Lulu Ozmun
March 16th, 2024



Vivian Ostrick
April 13th, 2024



JEREMY STERN

CTJ President

President's Letter



CENTENNIAL NOW!

DISCLAIMER*



Mystery solved! I quickly shared this with the CTJ Centennial Steering Committee at our meeting last week and they all *promptly resigned*. Not to worry, we'll still have a Centennial Celebration, just as grand, but just a wee bit accelerated.

Centennial Celebration To Do List:

- Figure out the Centennial Gala, solved - we have The Casino Night Gala coming up on April 20th. Close enough. Hijack this one.
- Gala Grand Prize to be a Centennial Membership at the 1924 member rate.
- Rabbi Kalev to cancel his trip up to San Francisco for the Giants Opening Day game. Promise to take him to a Dodgers game.
- Get Rabbi Mark to plan a tour of Judaism in Los Angeles.
- Note to self, cancel that 100 day "Centennial Extension" that I granted for Cantor Beth's sabbatical. It's all hands on deck now.
- Rachel to draft up a CTJ History curriculum and exam for each Religious School grade.
- Leanna to fire up the membership with an awesome marketing campaign.

I know how excited many of you are about our Centennial Celebration. Now, it's just around the corner. Take a look at all we have planned for our rapidly approaching Centennial Celebration!

ctjmb.org/CentennialNow

Jeremy H. Stern

CTJ'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS ACTUALLY NEXT MONTH, NOT NEXT YEAR!

To our wonderful CTJ Community, Chag Purim Sameach!

Oy vey! What a mistake. When I delivered my High Holy Days speech to you, I told you how excited I was that our magnificent CTJ's Centennial Celebration would land on October 17, 2025. I'm even more excited now, so much so that I am having difficulty catching my breath. Our Centennial Celebration is not October 2025, IT'S THIS MONTH – March 31, 2024.

"What a meshugenah," you're probably thinking. How did this happen? Honest mistake, really. I was digging through dusty records in CTJ's basement looking for more history on our fabulous shul, and I found our original charter from the State of California with a nice letter from the Secretary of State wishing us all the best. The attached charter was dated March 31, 1924. I thought, *hmm, what a mystery!* So I dug a little deeper and found another letter from the same Secretary of State dated October 17, 1925 which said, "It's been a year and half since I last wrote to you, how are things? I heard you misplaced your original charter so here's a replacement."

THE CTJ SISTERHOOD

Dear Sisterhood members,

Welcome to all our new members! So far in 2024, we've celebrated and learned about chocolate at our Torah Fund Shabbat in January, and created beautiful art with our sisters from MBCC in February. But if you didn't make it to those events, never fear, there's more to come!

- **March is Mah Jongg Month** at CTJ Sisterhood! We are offering 6 hours of Mah Jongg lessons, taught by Karin Miller! The Sunday afternoon class is still available: two 3-hour sessions, *March 24 and 31, 1:30 - 4:30 pm*. The cost is \$65 for 6 hours of lessons, with snacks included. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/mahjonggsisterhood
- **Sisterhood Hike & Geocaching in Palos Verdes** on Sunday, April 7 from 2 - 3:30 pm, *Hiking Trail TBD*: Join us for some fresh air and beautiful views of the ocean. Hilary Grayver will lead an introduction to geocaching for those who are interested! Bring the family! Wear sturdy shoes and a sun hat, and bring water and trail mix. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhoodpvhike2024
- **Sisterhood Women's Healing Service** on Sunday, April 14 at 5 pm, *CTJ*: What is a healing service? It is made up of songs, prayers, poems, readings, time for reflective meditation, and sharing among members of the CTJ community and friends from outside CTJ. Although its themes are Jewish, the service is designed to be accessible by anyone who could benefit from an hour of time set aside from our hectic lives to focus on healing, positivity, and creating a space for women to support each other in their spiritual growth.
This year, our service is taking place shortly before the festival of Passover, so we will include practices that help us prepare for this celebration of freedom. Cantor Beth and the lay leaders who assist her will facilitate a meaningful, restorative and community-strengthening program. Feel free to invite friends from your various circles.
- **Strand Walk** on Friday, April 19 at 9 am: Meet at the Manhattan Beach Pier to walk and chat with your fellow Sisterhood members on the Strand! Open to all CTJ members. Bring strollers, dogs, and friends! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhoodstrandapr2024
- **Chado Pre-Mother's Day Tea** on Friday, May 10, time TBD: Back by popular demand, come celebrate with all your favorite women at Chado. Dine on sumptuous finger sandwiches, scones, and cookies, sip several gourmet varieties of tea, and enjoy live music by our own Bruce Friedman. Pricing and details to come.

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

SOCIAL ACTION EVENTS

These are probably the first thoughts that come to mind when you think of Purim: mishloach manot, fun costumes, jello shots, delicious hamantaschen, Haman (boo!), Esther and Mordecai, another tale of Jewish persecution and redemption... But we cannot forget that another crucial component of the celebration is to remember the less fortunate. There are so many opportunities to do so coming right up!

- **THE TAXMAN IS OUT FOR BLOOD!** Be preemptive and give yours away first! The next **Cedars Sinai Bloodmobile** date is on *Sunday, April 14, 8 am - 2 pm* at CTJ. Save a life and donate blood!
Sign up here: tinyurl.com/blooddrive414
- **Monthly hot meal preparation at Project Needs** continues on the *3rd Tuesday of every month*, with the next dates being *March 19 and April 16*. And if you'd like to clear your cabinets of *chametz*, bring your bread and make some PBJs! If you'd like to arrange another day that week, contact Stacy.Young@ctjmb.org.
- **CTJ Knitzvot** - Where there's a need, there's a knitter! Hand crafting with love blankets for foster youth to hats for veterans. Mentors available! Contact Laura Pinsky laurap4rbiz@verizon.net.
- We have had some great experiences **supporting local foster families - Second Nurture** needs you! Contact Melissa Stein melissabethstein@hotmail.com.
- **Chemecessories** 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 chemecessories@gmail.com.
- We walked with Team CTJ for the **Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide**, and there are many 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 (jewishla.org) and 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

OUR MAGICAL PURIM SHPIEL IN THE CASTLE WILL FEATURE...
CTJ'S OWN RACHEL HERSHMAN IN THE ENSEMBLE!



Just Can't Wait to be Queen

Vashti's departure sets the stage for Esther's unexpected rise to queenhood, a transition marked by a mix of trepidation and awe. She's excited, but at the same time, she never did get a chance to tell the king that she's Jewish...

The Ohren Education Center (OEC) Presents: A Magical Purim Shpiel in the Castle!

Our cast welcomes you to our Purim Shpiel on Sunday, March 24th at 9 am for an unforgettable performance and lots of catchy tunes, all packed into a concise 18 minute performance. Here is what awaits:

Welcome to our Disney Purim Shpiel

Dressed as a trio of fairies and armed with sharp wit, our young fourth-grade narrators will introduce you to the land of ancient Persia, the city of Shushan, and King Achashverosh's kingdom. Yet, a word of caution as this shpiel continues: We don't talk about Haman... (BOO!) We warned you!

Let Her Go

The king has thrown one of his lavish parties again, lasting half a year. Everything is going swell until Queen Vashti defies her husband's summons, and it all spirals into chaos. After a king-sized tantrum and some more humor from the palace guards, Bigthan and Teresh (those guards should've been comedians), the king decides to "Let Her Go." However, you'll be pleasantly surprised by Queen Vashti's moment of rebellion when she tears off her crown & celebrates her newfound freedom.

We Don't Talk About Haman

The shpiel takes a turn as Mordechaya (Esther's cousin) refuses to bow down to that guy we don't talk about... Haman (BOO!). As a result, Haman's (BOO!) shadow looms large over Shushan, and he plans to get rid of all the Jews. Esther decides she must reveal her Jewish identity to the king and try to save her people. At a dinner party of her own design, Esther bravely confronts the king, leading to a series of revelations and a turning point in the story.

We are Jews

The narrative ends with a powerful embrace of our true identities and the triumph of good over evil. King Achashverosh's realization and Haman's ultimate defeat are then celebrated for many, many, many years to come. It's 2024, and we're still celebrating!

So, grab your grogger, wear a costume, and get ready to experience this magical Purim in the castle together!

Rachel Hershman

P.S. The Shpiel will be followed by a costume contest & the Purim Carnival!

P.P.S. If you are a kindergartener or younger, make sure to check out the "Mini Royals Zone" at Shalem's entrance!

JANUARY

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JAN. 10- NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 JAN. 14 - MLK DAY OF SERVICE @ CTJ
 JAN. 28 - K-2ND FAMILY LEARNING

FEBRUARY

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FEB. 2 - 5TH GRADE SHABBAT
 FEB. 7 - NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 FEB. 18-21 - NO OEC - SKI WEEK
 FEB. 25 - TEEN BRUNCH & MADRICHIM MEET

MARCH

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MAR. 1 - K-2ND GRADE SHABBAT
 MAR. 6 - NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 MAR. 10 - KNOTTSBERRY FARM TEEN TRIP DAY
 MAR. 17 - 5TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING
 MAR. 24 - PURIM CARNIVAL & MEGILLAH

APRIL

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MAR. 31 - APR. 7 - NO OEC - SPRING BREAK
 APR. 3 - NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 APR. 14 - 6TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING
 APR. 21 - 3RD & 4TH FAMILY LEARNING

MAY

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MAY 1 - NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 MAY 19 - SHUK & YOM HA'ATZMAUT
 MAY 29 - LAST WEDNESDAY OF OEC

JUNE

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JUN. 2 - MACCABIAH & PICNIC
 JUN 5 - NOAR // CTJ TEENS
 JUN 7 - 7TH & 12TH GRADE GRAD & PARTY
 JUN 10 - LAST MON TUTORING

KEY



=SPECIAL PROGRAM



=NO OEC CLASSES

BLUE
TEXT

=REGULAR OEC SCHEDULE

SEND A PURIM BASKET TO YOUR CTJ FRIENDS!

ORDER YOUR
Mishloach Manot
 TODAY!

ORDER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 17

All info is here: ctjmb.org/mishloachmanot



A Look Back On.. HANUKKAH AT THE POINT



FUN AT THE OEC!



RABBI KALEV'S BIRTHDAY



SISTERHOOD ART PROJECTS



Purim in the Castle

PURIM SHPIEL, COSTUME CONTEST, & CARNIVAL!

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

SHPIEL 9:00 AM | CARNIVAL 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Heroes! Foes! Disney Songs! Hamantaschen! Games! Prize Booth!
Big Slide! Inflatable Soccer! Face Painting! Cotton Candy!

DON'T MISS ONE OF THE BEST SUNDAY MORNINGS OF THE YEAR!

Open to all kids including OEC students, Shalem Preschool,
and any non-enrolled CTJ kids!



CTJ Calendar

MARCH - APRIL 2024



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

Class is currently ongoing. 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. RSVP here if you can: tinyurl.com/ctjtotshabbat

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

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.

Tech Help

Most Sundays, 12:15 - 12:45 pm

CTJ Lobby

Having issues with your phone, computer, or other devices that you just can't figure out? One of CTJ's own madrichim, Dylan Rizika, is offering tech help on most Sundays in the CTJ lobby! See weekly emails for exact Sunday dates. Walk-ins are welcome, but please RSVP here if you can: tinyurl.com/techhelpdylan

MARCH

OEC 6th-12th Grade Trip to Knott's Berry Farm

Sunday, March 10, 10:30 am - 9:30 pm

Knott's Berry Farm, meet/pickup at CTJ

Back by popular demand, we are thrilled to invite your 6th-12th graders to join us for a day of adventure and fun at Knott's Berry Farm. This trip will be fun for all - whether your teen is a thrill-seeker who loves roller coasters, a foodie, or simply someone who enjoys spending a day full of fun with friends. If you signed up, see you Sunday!

Shabbat Zimra

Friday, March 15, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Get that "Shabbat feeling" at Shabbat Zimra (Singing Shabbat)! Sing along with your Shabbat favorites as we celebrate!

Israel on the Inside with Assaf Boker

Sunday, March 17, 10 am

Zoom

With everything going on in Israel, Assaf is our amazing primary resource for current events. Come hear his takes in our ongoing sessions of Israel on the Inside. Sessions are usually one Sunday a month; see upcoming weekly emails for exact dates.

The Braid Private Performance #2 - Yearning to Breathe Free

Monday, March 18, 7 pm

CTJ

Experience the salon-style private performances of Jewish stories at CTJ with The Braid! In the amusing and profound contemporary stories of the 2nd performance, *Yearning to Breathe Free*, see America through fresh eyes. Experience the drama of leaving one's country and finding home in a new one.

Get tickets for this show or both of the two shows left this season: tinyurl.com/thebraid2024

Erev Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading

Saturday, March 23, 6:30 - 9 pm

Megillah Reading at 7 pm

CTJ

We can't wait to see you at our Erev Purim celebration! We will be holding Havdalah, then have dessert, parade our amazing costumes for the costume contest, and then perform the Megillah reading. Featuring our specialty Purim drink! If you can, please bring a dessert to share! We will also have an ice cream bar!

RSVP here: tinyurl.com/ctjerevpurim

OEC Purim Shpiel & Costume Contest - Purim in the Castle!

Sunday, March 24, 9 am

CTJ

Purim in the Castle: A Magical Adventure with Heroes & Foes (Be on Your Toes!) is the theme of CTJ's Purim Shpiel 2024!

The OEC students have been working on an educational parody shpiel featuring all your favorite Purim characters: King Ahashverosh, Esther, Vashti, Haman, Mordechai, & more. We can't wait to see their performance on Purim morning at CTJ! Following the performance, we will be holding a costume contest for the students and teachers!

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 24, 10 am - 12 pm

CTJ Parking Lot

Sit on Queen Esther's royal throne, bake your own hamantaschen, make a Purim mask, eat cotton candy, take fun photo booth pictures, play inflatable soccer, get your hair braided, bounce down the big slide, play games, win prizes! The Purim Carnival is open to all kids this year - including OEC students, Shalem Preschool, and any non-enrolled CTJ kids! Don't miss one of the best Sunday mornings of the year!

OEC Spring Break - No Classes

Sunday, March 31 - Sunday, April 7

Classes resume on Wednesday, 4/10 for 3rd-7th grades and Sunday, 4/14 for Kindergarten and above.

APRIL

Shabbat Zimra

Friday, April 5, 6:30 pm

CTJ and Zoom

Get that "Shabbat feeling" at Shabbat Zimra (Singing Shabbat)! We invite the OEC to join us for this family-friendly Shabbat. There will be raffles!

Wine & Cheese Young Adult Event

Friday, April 5, 7 pm

Private Home

For our Young Adult Program kick-off event we will be having a Wine & Cheese get-together for CTJ members aged 21-49! \$10 per person which will go towards future Young Adult programming. Sign up link coming soon.

Sisterhood Hike & Geocaching in Palos Verdes

Sunday, April 7, 2 - 3:30 pm

Hiking Trail TBD

Join us for some fresh air and beautiful views of the ocean. Hilary Grayver will lead an introduction to geocaching for those who are interested! Bring the family! Wear sturdy shoes and a sun hat, and bring water and trail mix. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhoodpvhike2024

Blood Drive

Sunday, April 14, 8 am - 2 pm

CTJ

Save a life! Donate blood at CTJ! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/blooddrive414

Talk with Dr. Matthew Levitt - "The War Hamas Always Wanted"

Sunday, April 14, 9:30 am

Zoom

Dr. Levitt has written extensively on terrorism, countering violent extremism, illicit finance and sanctions, the Middle East, and Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. He will share some thoughts with us about the current situation. Sign up link to come. Read a bio on Dr. Levitt here: tinyurl.com/mlevitt.

Sisterhood Women's Healing Service

Sunday, April 14, 5 pm

CTJ

A healing service is made up of songs, prayers, poems, readings, time for reflective meditation, and sharing among members of the CTJ community and friends from outside CTJ. Cantor Beth and the lay leaders will facilitate a meaningful, restorative and community-strengthening program.

Walk on the Strand with the Sisterhood

Friday, April 19, 9 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! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjsisterhoodstrandapr2024

Light Up Shabbat

Friday, April 19, 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.

CTJ Casino Night Gala 2024!

Saturday, April 20, 7 pm

CTJ

Don't miss this year's Casino Night Gala on the evening of April 20th! Come for blackjack, poker, and craps; stay for our priceless Silent Auction items, great food, and a night of dressing up with your CTJ friends! For tickets and all other info: ctjmb.org/gala-2024

Service of the First Born

Monday, April 22, 7 am

CTJ

Being a firstborn in Egypt for both the Jews and the Egyptians was precarious. Today, we pray together and enjoy breakfast with the final chametz before Pesach. First borns and not first borns welcome, as well as members and non-members! We must have a minyan by April 17! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/ctjfirstborn

Passover begins

Monday, April 22, sundown

Passover Services

CTJ

Tuesday, April 23, 9:30 am

Wednesday, April 24, 9:30 am

Monday, April 29, 9:30 am

Tuesday, April 30, 9:30 am (includes Yizkor service)

OEC Passover Break - No Classes

Wednesday, April 24 - Wednesday, May 1

Classes resume on Sunday, May 5.



Send in your Kvels for next issue!

My wife, **Vanessa Poster**, has had her poem "Stages of Grief" published in an anthology called "I Tried Not to Write," which celebrates eight years since the publishing of *Snapdragon: A Journal of Art & Healing*.

– John Rubiner

Our daughter **Jennifer Schaffer** married **Eric Feinberg** on February 4th in Washington, DC with Rabbi Michael Beals officiating.

– Natalie & Tony Schaffer

A HUGE **thank you to everyone who purchased pies** over the holidays from CTJ 8th grade student **Kasey Kagan** during her Pies for Peace campaign.

Over 4 days, Kasey with the help of several volunteers baked 80 pies! The response and support has been tremendous, raising over \$4000 total! Through CTJ members and family/friends, \$1580 was raised for Hadassah to help their efforts with medical and emergency supplies in Israel. Kasey extended fundraising efforts to include World Central Kitchen, raising over \$2500 to feed innocent children and families suffering in Israel and Gaza.

Thank you to Kasey and all the volunteers, including CTJ member **Alexis Slafer** who baked with Kasey all 4 days!

– Taulene Kagan



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Mike Dunitz, CM
(Certified Mensch)

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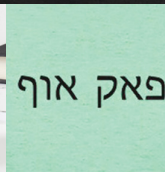


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Dedications NOV 2023 - JAN 2024

ABRAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in loving memory of

Paul Schulman from **Barry & Rebecca Schulman**

Alfred Rosenberg yahrzeit from **Carol Rosenberg**

Sam Romer from **Madeline Flanagan**

Daniel van Leeuwen from **Reb Jason & Gwen van Leeuwen**

Leon Pincus from **Terry Pincus**

Karl Karish, brother of Terry Pincus from **Vera Abrams**

in memory of

Stan Abrams from **Gene & Mickey Abrams**

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

in loving memory of

Lionel Gross from **Diann Gross**

ANNA SHURE FUND

in loving memory of

Michael Dolowitz from **Elaine Haas**

Eve Grover from **Ron Grover**

BUILDING FUND

in memory of

Bruce Bronstein from **Andy Bronstein & Dawn Belabin-Bronstein**

Albert Lee from **Vincent & Sondra Lee**

BORNSTEIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in loving memory of

Sam Platus from **Daniel & Judith Platus**

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

CANTOR BETH DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation of

Cantor Beth performing the wedding of my daughter from **Albert Horowitz**

Cantor Beth from **Steven Schrier & Linda Chow**

in honor of

Claire Ho from **Mark & Michele Oplatka**

Alicia Cohen's wedding from **Melissa & Jonathan Stein**

in loving memory of

Martin Kline, Dolores Kline, Elyse Salinger Kline, Peter Andrew Rosenbaum, and Valerie Rosenbaum from **Anita & Michael Kline**

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

in loving memory of

Anne Rawitt from **Andrea Rawitt**

Lillian Fogel from **Dr. Elaine Fogel Schneider**

Monroe Haas from **Elaine Haas**

Hyman Lessman from **Elaine Lessman**

Max Marion from **Kathie Nyenhuis**

FORMANN SIROTA MUSIC FUND

in loving memory of

Ethel Seigel from **Barbara Stone**

Beth Amy Blackman from **Ellen Blackman**

GENERAL FUND

for CTJ

General Fund from **Barbara Schwartz**

In honor of CTJ from **Barbara Wolff**

On behalf of Susan Goldstein's yoga class from **Glenn & Susan Goldstein**

in appreciation of

CTJ from **Barbara Wolff**

Tamah Kushner - It is great to have you back - we missed you! from **The Kalev Family**

Stuart Paul for your expertise and advice from **Renee & Leigh Sorgen**

Kasey Kagan and her amazing pies! from **The Sorgen Family**

in honor of

Lulu and Hans Ruschke's naming ceremonies from **Lisa Weinbaum**

Kasey Kagan and her amazing pie baking for Israel from **Nyle and Daveda Shapiro**

in loving memory of

Sheila Kopito from **Andrew Kopito**

Samuel Wagner and Harry Kline from **Anita & Michael Kline**

Edward E. Pinsky from **Douglas & Madeline Walker**

Beatrice Jacobson from **Harvey & Angela Jacobson**

Cynthia Rayvis Godofsky from **Irvin Godofsky**

Leah Godofsky from **Irvin Godofsky**

Roslyn Cohen from **Jerry & Cynthia Cohen**

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

Phillip Heller from **Kathie Nyenhuis**

Jay Meepos from **Lori Meepos**

Jo Kahn from **Marc & Shannon Magid**

Margarita Azicri Brill from **Natalie R. Brill**

Joey Choudhury from **Robin Roy**

Sarah's mother, Sonja Echt from **Sarah Echt**

Emily Marshall Owens from **Todd Levin**

Sherrie Robinson from **Todd Levin**

Sharon Belva from **Todd Levin**

in memory of

Mel Oster from **Arthur Oster**

Anna Oster from **Arthur Oster**

Harriette Kohorn from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

Loren Slafer from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

Colin Wolson from **Melissa Stein**

Nancy Bee from **Mike & Pam Sirota**

Karen Green from **Tamah Kushner & Greg Davidson**

Richard Joseph Thiem from **Todd Levin**

Solomon David from **Vivian Kalev**

Sol Greenwald from **Zygmund & Rochelle Salomon**

in thanks for

Jeff Schwartzman, Mickey & Sandy Seigel, & Doug Walker for putting up the Belz/Kerner Succah from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

Mickey & Sandy Seigel and Doug & Madeline Walker for taking down the Belz/Kerner Succah from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

on the occasion of

Natalie Roisman's Bat Mitzvah from **Lisa Weinbaum**

with thoughts of

Refuah Shlemah to Jeff Schwartzman from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

Refuah Shlemah to Warren Scheinin from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON DONATION

on the occasion of

Celebrating the anniversary of Claire Ho's Bat Mitzvah from **Frank Belz & Judy Kerner**

MICHAEL ROTSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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RABBI HYMAN DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Helen Windsor from **Larry Windsor**

Mary Pieper from **Lori Meepos**

Philip Ziman, Bertha Ziman Tankel, David Tasky, Paul Sharples, Miriam Ziman, Robert Sharples, and Isadore Tasky from **Madeline Sharples**

Hyman Karish from **Terry Pincus**

in memory of

Leonard H. Lieberman from **Dr. Jerome & Marlene Lipin**

RABBI KALEV DISCRETIONARY FUND

for CTJ

Rabbi Kalev, Cantor Beth and the entire CTJ staff. Thank you from **Avigal and Michael Horrow**

in honor of

Your 50th birthday from **Jennifer, Michael, Emma and Ashley Gale**

in loving memory of

Irving Szkolnik from **Fred & Gail Szkolnik**

Grandpa Sam from **Joseph & Nancy Mandelbaum**

Leatrice Young from **Lori Meepos**

The Yahrzeit memorial for my Mother, Helen Tauber, is on 10 Kislev 5753, corresponding this year to Thursday, November 23, 2023. from **Michael Tauber**

Victor Algaze from **Nelson & Susan Algaze**

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

Galina Gershengoren from **Valerie Grover**

in memory of

Lisa Rosenbaum's father from **Mark & Michele Oplatka**

in thanks for

All that you do for CTJ and community from **Steven Schrier & Linda Chow**

on the occasion of

Rabbi Kalev's 50th birthday - happy birthday! from **The Sorgen Family**

RITUAL/PRAYER BOOK FUND

in honor of

The 40th anniversary of Claire Ho's Bat Mitzvah from **Jennifer, Michael, Emma and Ashley Gale**

Claire Ho's Bat Mitzvah anniversary from **Melissa Stein**

in loving memory of

Tamra Ruthy Ishaek from **Alexis Slafer**

Claire Rosenheimer from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

in memory of

Howard Shapiro from **Rabbi Gila Katz**

YAHARZEIT FUND

in loving memory of

Harriet Eisenstein from **Ellyn Meikle**

Etka Mandelbaum from **Henry Mandelbaum**

Etka Mandelbaum from **Joseph & Nancy Mandelbaum**

Ruth Romer from **Madeline Flanagan**

My mother, Fay Druckman from **Marcia Gelfand**

Sidney Gelfand from **Marcia Gelfand**

Sanford Goodman from **Melissa Stein**

Lori Ferency from **Michael & Catherine Rader**

Beatrice Rader from **Michael & Catherine Rader**

Dr. Joseph Goodis from **Mitzi Goodis**

Ruth Ishaek from **Ray Ishaek**

Joseph Weinberg from **Roberta Smith**

Charles Roy and Mary Axler from **Robin Roy**

Mindy Peppas and Julius Gubner from **Traci Wesley**

in memory of

IMO Ben W. Sulpor from **Barry & Serene Sulpor**

In memory of Meri Teitelman from **Mark and Elissa Teitelman**

Betty Schlachet Legow from **Melissa Stein**

Brian Jacobson from **Michael & Catherine Rader**


THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THANK YOU TO OUR
MITZVAH CIRCLE
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Douglas & Jennifer Claman
Todd & Terry Gilman
Harvey & Angela Jacobson
Vivian Kalev
Larry & Lisa Kohorn
David & Elizabeth Liebman
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Happy Purim!
PURIM IS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

TOT SHABBAT!



FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
5:30pm at CTJ
RSVP here if you can:
tinyurl.com/ctjtotsabbat

BLOOD DRIVE
SAVE A LIFE!



Sunday, April 14,
8am-2pm at CTJ
Sign up here:
tinyurl.com/blooddrive414

**ISRAEL ON THE INSIDE
WITH ASSAF BOKER**



On certain Sundays
at 10am on Zoom
**MARCH 17, MAY 19,
MORE DATES COMING!**
Stay up to date on all
the current happenings in
Israel with Assaf!

**SHABBAT ZIMRA
(SINGING SHABBAT)**



CERTAIN FRIDAYS,
6:30 PM AT CTJ
Upcoming dates:
March 15
April 5

Why Do We Pull Pranks on Purim?

WONDERING WHAT'S UP WITH THE Purim ISSUE?

The holiday of Purim is known for the Hebrew expression "nahafochu" meaning "to be turned on its head."

AS DESCRIBED IN THE MEGILLAH:



"...[T]he Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned (*nahafokh*) for them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning to holiday: that they should make the days of feasting and joy, and of sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor." (Esther 9:21-23)

AS DESCRIBED BY RABBI KALEV:

The days surrounding Purim are known as *yamei mishteh v'simcha* - the days of revelry and merrymaking. Most likely, because drinking on Purim is considered a "mitzvah" so that you don't know the difference between the characters of the story, it probably then led to jokes, pranks, etc. There are quite a few conversations in the code of Jewish law as to what is appropriate and what is not... can you dress like the opposite sex, can you steal something, etc. Even in the times of the Talmud (500) they were telling Purim stories that were so crazy people knew they couldn't be true. So, I think it is all part of the "fun" of the holidays - when so often we are told we have to behave a certain way, etc... this is just the opposite.



OEC RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BREAKS

Spring Break
Sunday, March 31 -
Sunday, April 7



Passover Break
Wednesday, April 24 -
Wednesday, May 1

WANT TO SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH?

Sponsor our post-service sweets in honor of, in memory of, or in appreciation of a person or milestone!

Contact Ruth Irving ruth@ctjmb.org or office@ctjmb.org.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS SURVEY



Calling all CTJers ages 21-49!

Let us know what events you'd like to do with our Young Adult Program!
Take the survey here: tinyurl.com/ctjYAsurvey

EREV PURIM CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 23, 6:30pm

Havdalah, Megillah Reading, Costume Contest, and Ice Cream!

Bring a dessert to share if you can!

RSVP here: tinyurl.com/erevpurim

Enrichment Scholarships

For Jewish summer camps, trips to Israel, and other Jewish education programs!



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE MAY 1

CTJ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Apply here: tinyurl.com/enrichmentscholarships

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE CTJ GALA 2024!

CASINO NIGHT



AN EVENING OF GAMES, PRIZES,
AUCTIONS, AND THE CTJ COMMUNITY!

FOR TICKETS AND ALL OTHER INFO:
[CTJMB.ORG/GALA-2024](https://ctjmb.org/gala-2024)

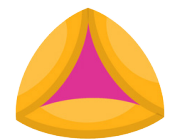
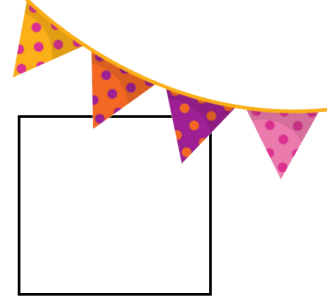


SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
7:00 PM



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Purim
Issue

***DISCLAIMER:**
THIS ISSUE MAY CONTAIN
JOKES, PRANKS, AND
SILLINESS

Please take it with a grain of salt!

Purim in the Castle
PURIM SHPIEL, COSTUME CONTEST, & CARNIVAL!
SUNDAY, MARCH 24

SHPIEL 9:00 AM | CARNIVAL 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Heroes! Foes! Disney Songs! Hamantaschen! Games! Prize Booth!
Big Slide! Inflatable Soccer! Face Painting! Cotton Candy!

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Open to all kids including OEC students, Shalem Preschool,
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TWO PRIVATE SHOWS AT CTJ LEFT IN 2024

Mondays, March 18 and June 3 at 7pm

Show #2:
Yearning to Breathe Free

In these amusing and profound contemporary stories, see America through fresh eyes.

Experience the salon-style private performances of Jewish stories.

Get tickets for Show #2 or both of the remaining performances here: tinyurl.com/thebraid2024



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CTJ GALA 2024!

CASINO NIGHT




AN EVENING OF GAMES, PRIZES, AUCTIONS, AND THE CTJ COMMUNITY!

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

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