



5786 PROGRAM GUIDE

**CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
OF ST. PETERSBURG**

Program Guide

Welcome Message	3
Minyanim and Holidays	4
Shabbat	5
Guess Who's Coming To Shabbas	6
Biographies	7
Adult Studies Led by Rabbi	8
Adult Education	9
Adult Education	10
Fun with CBI	11
Israel A-Team	12
Youth Groups	13
Youth & Family	14
Mitzvah Corp / Special Events	15
Get Social	16
Office Information	17
Mitzvah Men's Club	18
CBI Sisterhood	19
Scholar in Residence	20



The more years we are blessed with, the more we see patterns in our past, the faster the years come and go. One of the greatest blessings of Jewish tradition is the requirement to be aware of our moments, to mark passages of time with celebrations and opportunities for connection.

In a time of challenge, we need joy more than ever, AND we need to remember who we truly are. We are a people that have overcome every obstacle. We are not only survivors, but thrivers. The resources of our sacred traditions offer us solace, hope and new possibilities no matter what happens in the world. They demand that we think not only of ourselves, but of our community and the world beyond it. When it feels like community cannot be found outside these walls, our tradition reminds us that our holy community never leaves us. We are here together, b'yachad.

One of the sacred missions of being a Jew is living a life of prayer. But what does prayer mean? Why do we care? Why do we yearn for connection to something greater than ourselves? How does prayer inspire us to action? What does spirituality mean to us? How the routines and history of Jewish tefillot (prayers) lift us to new heights? This year I will be exploring those questions through study and action. Join me throughout the year in the sections you have the most questions about or the pieces where you are looking for inspiration.

In these pages, I pray you will find numerous and meaningful ways to gather as Jews. We will learn, pray, dance, sing, celebrate and grow. We will grow our spirits, our souls, our minds, and our hearts. We will come together for worship at home and away—perhaps you will even join us in Jerusalem! We pray there is something for everyone here. We strive to meet you where you are and inspire a life committed to God, Torah and Israel.

I am so excited for 5786. I cannot believe how quickly time has gone by. We have celebrated, welcomed so many new faces to our community, prayed, danced and studied together. B'yachad (together) we have done so many mitzvot, supported so many in their times of need, and renewed our spiritual home.

Every year I think we have planned the best year ever for CBI, and every year we find new and amazing ways of coming together as a community.

May the blessings of the Holy One inspire you,

Rabbi Philip Weintraub

Welcome



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Minyan & Holidays

Twice Daily Minyan

Congregation B'nai Israel prides itself on being the only egalitarian twice-daily minyan on the West Coast of Florida featuring:

- **Morning Minyan:** In-Person and Online at **8:00 a.m.**(see calendar)
- **Evening Minyan:** Online at **6:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday and Federal Holiday Morning Minyanim** at **9:00 a.m.**

Minyanaires

Minyanaires are honored during our annual Minyanaires Dinner. Awards are given throughout the year including pins, books, and a special Minyanaires kippah.

To become a Minyanaire: Attend 36 non-Shabbat/Holiday minyanim over the course of the year, and you will be recognized as a Minyanaire.



Holiday minyanim

Simchat Torah:

- October 15, 2025

Hanukkah:

- December 14 - 22, 2025

Purim:

- March 2 - 3, 2026

Passover:

- April 1 - 9, 2026

Shavuot:

- May 21 - 23, 2026



New Member Shabbat	10/10/2025
Shabbat on the Road	10/17/2025
Veteran's Shabbat	11/8/2025
Sisterhood Shabbat	1/17/2026
Law Shabbat	2/14/2026
Volunteer Shabbat	2/28/2026
Men's Club Shabbat	3/14/2026
Shabbat on the Road	5/1/2026
Educator's Shabbat	5/2/2026
Mental Health Professionals Shabbat	5/9/2026
Graduation Shabbat	5/23/2026
Simcha Shabbats	First Saturday, monthly

Shabbat



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO SHABBAS?

Members of our congregation are encouraged to invite friends and family to Shabbat and holiday dinners, but to also include someone who has never been to their home for these occasions. The program has two goals, to strengthen the synagogue community and to help families create meaningful memories for themselves and others.

To get involved contact

Lauren Salit at lsalit73@gmail.com.





Rabbi Philip Weintraub

Rabbi Weintraub brings a very diverse skill set to our kehillah. He is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Brandeis University with a Bachelor's Degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. He received his rabbinic ordination and Masters degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in 2011 with a concentration in pastoral care. He also serves as a Jewish Chaplain every Thursday for the VA.



Cantor Jonathan Schultz

Cantor Schultz came to CBI in October 2011. He grew up in Bethesda, Maryland and attended the University of Rochester, where he earned a degree in physics with a minor in music. Prior to entering the Cantorate, he worked as an engineer, served several High Holy Day pulpits, and trained for a career in opera. He has sung with several opera and operetta companies in the Washington, DC area, including lead roles in H.M.S. Pinafore and Eugene Onegin.



Maureen Sechan, DLL

Maureen Sechan came to CBI in 2016 to fulfill her passion for lifelong Jewish learning. She received her Jewish education at Gratz College and Spertus Institute. While serving Jewish communities in Philadelphia, Chicago and its suburbs she had the pleasure of teaching all ages, preschoolers to adults. She loves pursuing the never-ending task of engaging Jewish curiosity through questions and connections and hopes you enjoy the program guide that you're holding right now. See you soon: there's so much to learn!

Biographies



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Adult Studies Led By Rabbi

Rashi with Rabbi

Join Rabbi Weintraub on select Saturday following mincha in the Chapel to study Rashi's commentary on the Torah. Rashi, Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac (Shlomo Yitzhaki), is one of the most influential Jewish commentators in all of our history. We will study Torah commentary (no experience necessary), gaining insights into our Torah and our own lives.

Dates: 12/6, 1/31, 2/7, 3/7, and 4/18 at approximately 12:30pm (following Shabbat Kiddush Lunch & Mincha).



Young Professionals

Join Rabbi Weintraub across Pinellas County in our homes. Together we will schmooze, study Torah and ponder the meaning of life. Looking at the foundational texts of our faith, we will see how Judaism leads us on a sacred journey in 5786 and beyond! **Classes will generally meet monthly on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. Gatherings include: 9/16, 10/21, 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/2.**

Introduction to Judaism/Conversion Class

Are you starting your Jewish journey? Is your spouse or significant other? Join Rabbi Weintraub to study Jewish history, culture and practice. We use the curriculum from the Conservative Movement to welcome individuals into Jewish life. This class is primarily for those looking to convert AND their Jewish partners (if applicable). Classes will meet most Wednesday nights starting on October 22.

B-Mitzvah Parents Class

Join Rabbi Weintraub monthly to prepare for the B-Mitzvah journey. Working with Moving Traditions materials, we will share inspiring stories and lift each other up on our Jewish parenting journeys. We will learn together (and have a nosh!). **First Sunday of each month, during PRTT.**



Jewish Thought at Jo-El's

Join Rabbi Weintraub monthly (or whenever you like for a delicious lunch at Jo-El's. Together we will learn about the Jewish past, present and future through our sacred texts. We are making our way through the 50 sections of Talmud every Jewish person should know. We study in English and connect the past with the present, considering how these texts influence our lives to this day. **As a reminder, while we meet at noon, you may want to call your lunch in early!**



Adult Studies Led By Rabbi (Continued)

Yearning in 5786: How Prayer and Spirituality Connect Us to God, Torah, Israel, One Another and Ourselves

Join Rabbi Weintraub and our Siddur Lev Shalem for a musical journey through our souls, history, and liturgy. Each class will have a daytime (in-person) and evening option (in-person or Zoom). Each class can be attended individually, but those who participate in 80% of classes will get a certificate of completion on Shavuot, May 23, 2026.

Note: While the texts will be the same morning and evening, you are welcome to come to both, as every one of you changes the dynamic and content of the class.

For dates and class topics, visit our website and the CBI calendar.



Adult Education

Hebrew Reading and Trope Study - Beginning in October

are you interested in learning Hebrew, improving your reading skills, learning to chant Torah, Haftarah or Megillot? Minimum enrollment required, so grab a friend and choose your path:

- Beginning Hebrew: Learn the letters & vowels and begin to make sense of the Hebrew language
- Continuing Hebrew: Put your skills to use studying Friday night Shabbat morning tefillot
- Hebrew Text Study: Focusing on Hebrew root identification and introductory biblical grammar

Project Zug: Bringing the Beit Midrash to CBI!

Project Zug offers a unique and valuable addition to learning programs in Jewish communities and organizations around the world. Participants can take an in person course offered at CBI or choose an online course according to their interest either with a partner in our community or meet someone new who shares their interest.

We have a wonderful opportunity to use Project Zug's content to teach classes, launch weekly Beit Midrash programs, facilitate independent learning, introduce havruta learning to Hebrew school teens, and more.

Contact Maureen or Rabbi for more information.



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Adult Education (Continued)

Fridays: Torah at 10 - 10:00am on Zoom

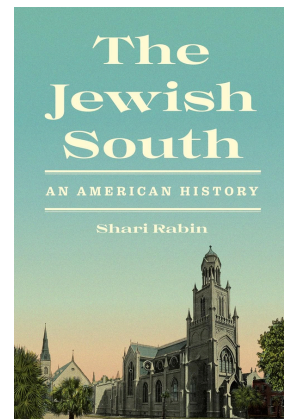
Join us for a lively discussion of Torah and see why the Torah is a never ending, always surprising source of inspiration. We are currently discussing the Books of Samuel which focuses on the beginnings of the monarchy of the kingdoms of Israel and Judea. All are welcome!

What is Spiritual Direction and Why Would I Want to Do It?

Spiritual Direction can be a valuable tool to help us navigate our path. Join Kate Shulamit Fagan (ordained Rabbinic Chaplain and Spiritual Director) for a chance to look inside yourself, find meaning in your life and your connection to God. **November 13 at 6:45pm.**

November is Jewish Book Month and Israeli History Month

November One CBI, One Book feature: *The Jewish South: An American History*, by Shari Rabin. In 1669, the Carolina colony issued the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, which offered freedom of worship to “Jews, heathens, and other dissenters,” ushering in an era that would see Jews settle in cities and towns throughout what would become the Confederate States. The Jewish South tells their stories, and those of their descendants and coreligionists who followed, providing the first narrative history of southern Jews. **See calendar for more details.**



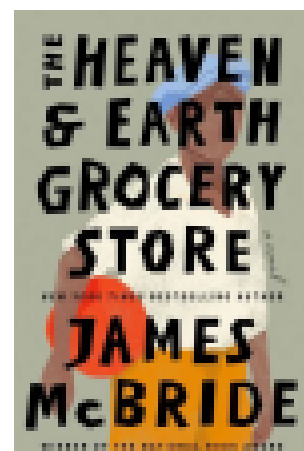
Sunday November 10, 1:30: Ingathering of the Exiles: Ethiopian Experience.

Watch the movie, Exodus 91: The Untold Story of Operation Exodus, learn about the unique Ethiopian holiday of Sigd, celebrated this year on Shabbat, Friday November 29 to November 30, and sample traditional holiday food.

February One Book, One CBI Book feature: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride.

In his National Book Award winning novel, McBride tells the story the Pottstown PA neighborhood of Chicken Hill, “where immigrant Jews and African Americans live side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows.” Discussions will be conducted through the Shabbat Kiddush discussions.

See calendar for more details.



Sunday in February, downtown St. Pete walking tour with Monica Kile

Sunday in February, downtown St. Pete walking tour with Monica Kile a local historian. Hear about the Intersection of the Jewish and African American communities in St. Petersburg, date and time TBD. There is a fee for the tour.

Fun with CBI



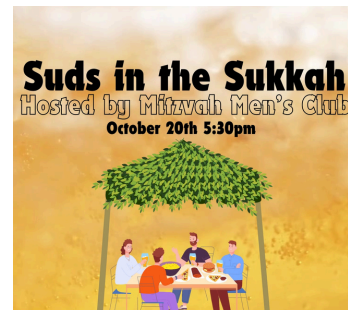
Havdalah in the City

Enjoy the city lights while you listen to your Havdalah service in the heart of St. Pete on **January 17, 2026**.

Make sure to check the calendar to find out the beach and location

Suds in the Sukkah

Come celebrate in the Sukkah with Mitzvah Men's Club **October 20th at 5:30pm!** Men's Club will be grilling up hot dogs & veggies with Gluten Free/Vegan options available upon request. \$10 for adults & \$5 for children under 13.



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Israel A - Team



The A-Team has funds to subsidize youth trips to Israel and bring in speakers who inform the Congregation about Israeli-related topics.

Israeli Innovations: Lunch and Learn

Join us for the next installment of an informative and entertaining look at the ways Israel is repairing the world through environmental, technological and medical innovations. **Starts Thursday 10/30, 12:00** at CBI. Future dates: **Thursday, 1/29 and Wednesday, 4/22, Yom Ha'Atzma'ut**
For more information, check out our A-Team page on the CBI website and the CBI calendar.

If you would like to get involved with the A-Team, please contact Eric Pastman (eric_pastman@yahoo.com). We are always looking for people who want to share our love of Israel.



Check out CBI's Family of Youth Groups, where there is something for everyone!

Be on the lookout for joint programming with other Tampa Bay Area youth groups.

Youth Groups:

Shalom Club :
Grades 1-5

Gesher:
Grades 6-8

United Synagogue
Youth Grade 9-12



Upcoming events (subject to change):

8/24: CBI Youth Group Get Together Pool Party and Planning, **4:00-6:00pm**

9/5: USY Board Installation and Shabbat Dinner, **6:00pm**

9/14: CBI Youth Group Get Together and Reverse Tashlich, **1:00pm**

10/11: Youth Group Sukkah Get Together: Dinner and Sukkah Escape Room

10/14: Youth Group Simchat Torah: Torah Scavenger Hunt and Ice Cream Sundaes, **7:00pm**

11/15: Havdalah and Youth Group Event, **5:00-9:30pm**

12/6: Havdalah and all Youth Group Hanukkah Pajama Party Undernighter, **5:00-9:30pm**

1/18: Gesher and USY: Youth Group Event or Yom Disney, **TBD**

1/24: Havdalah in the City, Hyppo: Pops and Ice Cream

2/1: Gesher and USY Mitzvah Lounge Night: Dinner and Chili Making for Fundraiser

2/16: Presidents Weekend, Youth Group Yom Disney, Grades 6-12, **TBD**

2/28: Gesher/USY Purim Carnival Set Up

3/1: Purim Carnival, **12:00pm**

3/29: All Youth Group Chocolate Seder, **12:00-2:00pm**

4/19: Youth Group Lounge Night: Israeli Dinner

5/3: Gesher and USY Pizza Lounge Night and Israeli Dancing at Menorah Life, **6:00-8:00pm**

5/17: Gesher and USY Trip and 5th Grade Initiation, **TBD**

Youth Groups



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Youth & Family

Hebrew High: Jewish History Unpacked

Learn Jewish history through videos, discussion and activities this year with other teens in 9th-12th grades.

Select Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15pm beginning on October 22 on Zoom.



Gan Yom Rishon (GYR) Sunday morning preschool

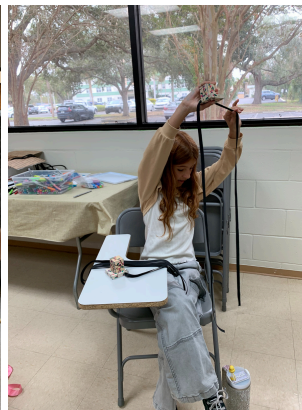
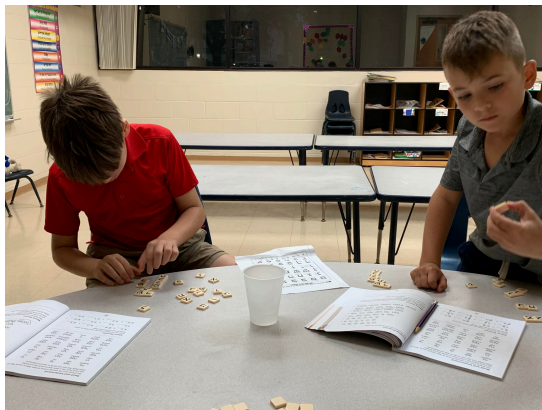
Sunday morning preschool program for preschoolers ages 2-4, 9:30AM- 12PM.

Please see calendar.



Pauline Rivkind Talmud Torah Religious School (PRTT)

Sunday sessions for grades Kindergarten through 7 will meet in person from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



Hebrew classes for grades 3 to 7 will have a choice of Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30PM.



Prom Night Peril

The Class of 5876 is cordially invited to CBI's Prom Night on **Sunday, November 16 at 5:30 pm.** Come celebrate your upcoming graduation with a night of fun - and murder!

Visit the CBI website to purchase your prom tickets now.

PROM NIGHT PERIL:
A MURDER MYSTERY FUNDRAISER

For Adults Only
Sunday, November 16, 2025
5:30 - 9:00 PM
in the Benjamin Social Hall

Dear all "CBI High Students",

Congratulations, Seniors! In honor of your upcoming graduation, we invite you to celebrate an evening of dinner, dancing, awards, and the crowning of our "Prom King and Queen." But, beware...there will be a killer among the student body, and it will be up to YOU to uncover the truth before the night is over!

Reserve your spot at this perilous party...and with a bit of luck, you might just survive to see Graduation Day!

11th annual

Cong. B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg brings you

CHASE THE DREIDEL 5K

CHIP-TIMED * T-SHIRT * SWAG BAG
MEDAL * AWARDS * LATKE PARTY
FUN RUN FOR KIDS!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 AT 4PM
300 58TH STREET NORTH IN ST. PETERSBURG

Register now for early bird rates!

Want to be a sponsor? Text Valerie at (727) 324-8022

Chase the Dreidel

Oy vey!

How fast can a dreidel run?
Come find out on **Sunday, December 7 at 4 pm** as our life-sized dreidel spins down the streets of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas Trail on a flat, chip-timed course. Chase the Dreidel is pure fun – everyone is welcome!

Reverse Tashlich

During Tashlich on Rosh HaShanah, we symbolically cast our "sins" into water. In Reverse Tashlich, we turn that ritual into action—removing human "sin" from the water by cleaning up our local waterways and beginning the year with purpose and care. Join CBI on **Sunday, September 14 at 1 pm** to participate in this mitzvah. Visit the CBI website for registration information.

REVERSE TASHLICH

Date: September 14th
Time: 1:00 PM

Mitzvah Corp / Special Events



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Get Social

Happy Half Hour

Once a month, start your Shabbat a little early! Join us 30 minutes before Friday night services for sips, snacks, and schmoozing with friends. We'll have light bites, and for those of legal drinking age, a selection of alcoholic beverages.

Mark your calendar for: **October 24, November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 17, and May 22 at 6:00 PM.**



Biking with Rabbi

Discuss the weekly parsha on two or three wheels. You must bring your own bike. We will ride the Pinellas Trail when the weather cooperates! Select Fridays at 2PM December-April.

Coffee Talk with Rabbi

Coffee Talk on the road in St. Petersburg! Join Rabbi Weintraub for refreshing conversation with the issues of the day framed in a Jewish lens.

On select Wednesdays at 9:30 am, twice monthly.



Israel through TV and film:

Join us to watch modern and classic Israeli TV and films. We will have discussions of Israel past and present following our cinematic journeys.
Time TBD.

Havdalah Jam Session

Join us on November 15 and January 10 for Havdalah in the courtyard (weather permitting), followed by a jam session around our fire pit. Bring your guitar, portable instruments, and your singing voice. We will sing some Jewish music, have s'mores, snacks, and more!

Israeli Dancing

Join us for Israeli Folk Dancing with Dr. David LeVine. Get a great physical workout! Meet lots of new friends! Connect with your heritage! All ages and levels are welcome!





Synagogue Administrator

Maci Morse

Phone:

727.381.4900 ext. 1002

Email:

cbiadmin@cbistpete.org



Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Sheppard

Phone:

727.381.4900 ext. 1001

Email:

assistant@cbistpete.org



Bookkeeper

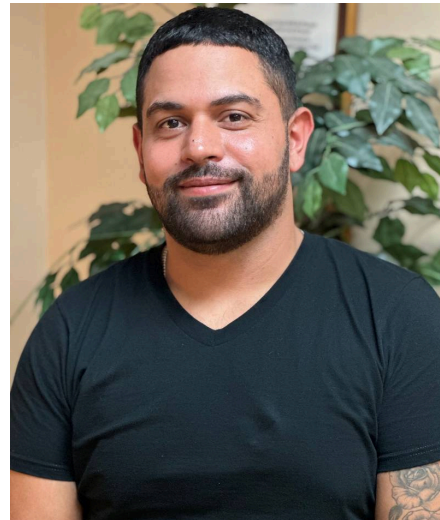
Susannah Lawson

Phone:

727.381.4900 ext. 1004

Email:

accounting@cbistpete.org



Maintenance Director

Jeremi Velez

Main:

727.381.4900 ext. 1009

Email:

maintenance@cbistpete.org

Office Info



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar

Mitzvah Men's Club

The Mitzvah Men's Club is affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and is active in all parts of synagogue life, providing a social, spiritual and educational outlet for all.

Whether you're looking to lend a hand, share a laugh, or grow in your Jewish journey, there's something for everyone all year long. Come join us for a wide variety of fun and inspiring events, including: Building and taking down the Sukkah, Reverse Tashlich, Serving latkes at Hanukkah, Brisket and Bourbon, Men's Club Shabbat, The Annual Passover BBQ, The World Wide Wrap—our signature event that brings the community together in prayer and connection

...

And various social gatherings to build camaraderie and discuss things important to men.

No matter your background or level of involvement, you're always welcome here. Come be a part of the camaraderie, tradition, and spirit that make the Mitzvah Men's Club something truly special!

For more information, contact the Mitzvah Men's Club President Cary Reich at carysreich@gmail.com or by phone at (727) 224-1791.



Welcome to a new and exciting year of CBI Sisterhood! We need your talent, friendship and support, so please join us.

Contact Co-Presidents Bonnie Halprin at bphme17@gmail.com or
Rebecca Weintraub at rebeccailitweintraub@gmail.com

Sisterhood Events:

Wednesday, September 17 | 5:30pm

Paid Up Member Dinner
"Aloha O'hana"

Friday & Saturday,

January 16 & 17

Sisterhood Shabbat Weekend

Monday, November 24

Third Annual Cookie Spectacular

Wednesday, February 4 | 6:30pm

"A Night of Mah Jong and More"

Wednesday, December 3 | 6:30pm

"A Night of Sound and Healing"

Sunday, April 26 | 12pm

Torah Fund Program

Sunday, May 3 | 9:00am - 3:00pm

Sisterhood's Splashy Summer Sale

Sisterhood Catering:

Celebrating a simcha? Sisterhood can provide a lovely Kiddush luncheon or Oneg Shabbat. Contact Eileen Richman at speechgoddess@gmail.com, Jackie Wertel at jackie.wertel@gmail.com, or Billie Bornstein at billiesu@aol.com.

Sisterhood



As we prepare to welcome Rosh Hashanah, we pause to reflect on the year that has passed and think about the year that has yet to begin. While the past year has been quite challenging (think hurricane and flood), 5785 has emerged as a year marked by the dedication, resilience, collective efforts, and generosity of you, our congregants.

As we enter the renewed spaces of our physical building, we are reminded that our synagogue is more than just a structure; it is our spiritual home. It is a place where prayers, learning, and community come together.

The High Holidays call us to examine ourselves and embrace the possibility of renewal, much like the revitalized synagogue.

We look ahead at 5786 with optimism that our shul -- both the building and the holy community -- will continue to be a source of strength, connection, and spirituality for all who enter.

I'd like to extend heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones for a year of health, peace, and blessing. *L'shana Tovah tikateinvu v'teichateimu*. May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good and sweet New Year.

Eileen K Richman, CBI President

Join Rabbi Weintraub and CBI as we partner with JNFUSA for a Spring trip to Israel **March 16-23, 2026**.
Registration information coming soon!

