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# Beit Simchat Torah CONGREGATION

קהלה קדושה בית שמחת תורה



## CBST & the Multifaith Chapel at the Javits Center Emergency Response Military Hospital

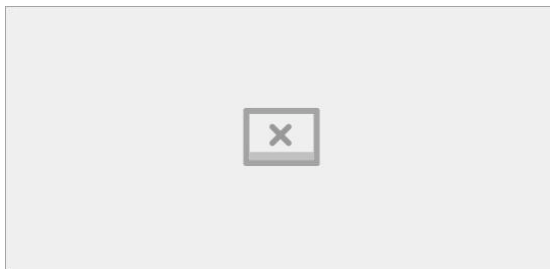
We are so proud that CBST was able to fulfill an urgent request from Peter Gudaitis, Executive Director of New York Disaster Interfaith Services, and Rabbi Joseph Potasnik from the New York Board of Rabbis to provide Jewish prayerbooks, *chumashim* (Bibles), *tallitot* (prayer shawls), and other Jewish objects to the Military Facility 2,500-bed hospital at Jacob Javits Center to serve military personnel, first responders, and healthcare workers. A multi-faith chapel was created and we are grateful to Yolanda Potasinski (pictured), Hanna Gafni (pictured), Barbara Dolgin, and Ellen Wertheim, who leaped into action and brought the Jewish materials from CBST to Javits.



## Haggadah Adventures

CBST's Aggadah Actors released newly-created [daily video clips](#) for children with activities & challenges designed for children and their grownups. Though we couldn't gather in person, we brought this interactive theater experience to your home! Check out [Down The Nile: A Passover Aggadah Adventure](#), our musical retelling of the Passover story.

## In Case You Missed It



- [CBST's 1st Night Seder](#)  
(on the left)
- [Recording of yesterday's Congregational Town Hall](#)
- [RSK's drash from April 10](#)

## A Little Music to Lift Your Spirits

### [CBST Chorus performing "Somewhere" in the 2016 Shirah concert](#)

"Somewhere" from *West Side Story* (1957) written by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, arranged by Robert Edgerton ; performed by the CBST Community Chorus, Joyce Rosenzweig, conductor, at CBST's Shabbat Shirah Concert in 2016, "There's No Place Like Home."

This gorgeous song is considered to be one of the most beloved LGBTQ anthems, as it expresses profound longing and hope for a freer, more tolerant world, a world where all types of love will be celebrated. Today, these words resonate given the challenging time we are all experiencing and give us hope: "There's a place for us, somewhere a place for us. Peace and quiet and open air wait for us somewhere."

## CBST in the News

Rabbi Kleinbaum was interviewed on [CBS News](#) by Tanya Rivero about how Passover celebrations look different this year.

Rabbi Kleinbaum published an outstanding op-ed in *Common Dreams* on freeing detained immigrants this Passover: ["This Passover, Let's Free Them All."](#)

The Associated Press and *NBC News* ran an excellent article on Rabbi Kleinbaum:

["LGBT Rabbi Who Confronted AIDS Crisis Now Faces COVID-19."](#)

CBST was mentioned in the *Gay City News* and AMNY's ["LGBTQ Community Goes Virtual to Celebrate Passover."](#)



**Thursday, Apr. 16 / 22 Nisan**  
**Pesach Yom Tov Shacharit with Yizkor,**  
**10 am**

*Ba'alei Tefillah:* Cantorial Intern David Fair, Rabbi Marisa James  
*Yizkor & D'var Torah:* Rabbi Yael Rapport  
[RSVP here](#) to be sent the Zoom link

**Friday, Apr. 17 / 24 Nisan**  
**Connecting in Community, 3 pm**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/256347787>  
Meeting ID: 256 347 787; by phone: +1 646 876 9923

Led by Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Deborah Megdal

**Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 pm**

*Ba'alat Tefillah:* Judy Ribnick  
*Piano:* Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig  
*Service Leader & Drashah:*

**Saturday, Apr. 18 / 24 Nisan**  
**Shabbat Morning, 10 am**  
**Bar Mitzvah of Kabir Cohen**

*Ba'alei Tefillah :* Rabbi Marisa James, Cantorial Intern David Fair  
*Service Leaders :* Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum and Rabbi Yael Rapport  
*D'var Torah :* Kabir Cohen  
[RSVP here](#) to be sent the Zoom link

**Havdalah, 8:30 pm**

*Service Leader:* Cooperberg-Rittmaster  
Rabbinical Intern Deborah Megdal  
**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/654880356>  
Meeting ID: 654 880 356; phone: +1 646 876 9923 (New York)

Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum

Visit [CBST's main Facebook page](#) --you will find the livestream of the Shabbat service at/near the top of the page.

### Meeting for CBST Frontline Healthcare Professionals

Sunday, April 19, 6-7 pm, via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/568226295>

Meeting ID: 568 226 295; phone: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

***This meeting is reserved for CBST healthcare professionals who are currently working in the COVID-19 universe. Sorry, but this is not for those whose practices are not directly serving those affected by COVID-19.***

At a time when NYC is sheltering in place, our doctors, nurses, therapists, and other healthcare workers are wrestling with COVID-19 and what it means to provide care in this new age. A meeting to share experiences and discuss how we can support one another. CRR I Deborah Megdal will lead the meeting.

**Sutton Place Synagogue Egalitarian Morning & Afternoon Minyans**: [Email Harold](#) for the password.

### Spiritual Guidance

- [A healing prayer from Joyce & David Fair](#)
- [Rabbi Kleinbaum's thoughts on "Spiritual Lessons for Today's Plague"](#)
- [A Prayer for Healthcare Workers](#)



*Note that, in observance of Passover, there will be **no classes on April 15 and 16**, and the CBST virtual office will be closed. **Please "arrive" 10 minutes early** for any Zoom call so that we can start on time. Thanks so much!*

## Open to all

### Mimouna Conversation

Thursday, April 16, 6 pm

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/668106581>

Meeting ID: 668 106 581; by phone: +1 646 876 9923

Mimouna is a traditional North African celebratory dinner that takes place the day after Passover. Join CBST members Yvonne Gore, Shep Wahnon, and Avi Ofrane, who grew up observing Mimouna, for a conversation about the meaning and joys of this holiday. Brought to you by Aleinu, open to all.

### Connecting in Community with CRR I Deborah Megdal

Fridays, April 17, April 24, May 1, 3-4 pm, Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/256347787>

Meeting ID: 256 347 787; by phone: +1 646 876 9923

In this stressful time, we need to love, support, and listen to one another with an open heart. All are invited to a short text study & support session. No registration required.

### Mimouna with the 14th St Y and Downtown Jewish Life

Sunday, April 19, 5 pm, [Facebook livestream](#)

A Mimouna-inspired music performance and a panel on the interfaith nature of the holiday with CBST member Shep Wahnon and musician Jawad Bouhssina.

### Yom Hashoah Commemoration

**Monday, April 20, 7 pm, [Facebook livestream](#)**

A gathering in remembrance of the many lives lost in the Holocaust cosponsored by CBST. Through song, stories, and prayer, community leaders will make a space to ensure that future generations never forget the past while building a future of unity and hope.

**Psalms Study with Rabbi Kleinbaum**

**RESUMES NEXT WEEK: Monday-Thursday, April 20-23, 10-10:45 am**

**ZOOM INFORMATION: <https://zoom.us/j/513468144>**

Meeting ID: 513 468 144; Dial by phone: +1 646 876 9923; *Recordings available [HERE](#)*

Join in study of the Book of Psalms with Rabbi Kleinbaum. No experience necessary! Every morning Monday-Thursday 10:00 am to 10:45 am.

**Pirkei Avot Study with Rabbi Moskowitz**

**Begins Tuesday, April 21; subsequently runs Monday through Thursday until Shavuot, 4-4:30 pm**

**ZOOM INFORMATION: <https://zoom.us/j/92665533458>**

Meeting ID: 926 6553 3458; Call-in: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 US

This tractate of mishnayot focuses on the ethical teachings of the Rabbis and is customarily studied between Passover and Shavuot to better prepare to accept the Torah. The class will start at the beginning and learn one mishnah a class, in order.

**Graceful Masculinity Class with Rabbi Moskowitz**

**Begins Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm; Thursdays at 7:30 pm**

**ZOOM INFORMATION: <https://zoom.us/j/97040465369>**

Meeting ID: 970 4046 5369; Call-in: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Masculinity, as an attribute, can be healthy or destructive. Toxic masculinity—misplaced anger, aggression, manipulation, violence, emotional sterility, and more—is a spiritual health crisis. This class will explore how G-d & Jewish tradition give language to masculinity in positive, healthy, & graceful ways, framed around the weekly Torah portion.

**Art For All: Part 1**

**Sunday, April 26, 2 pm**

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/785968418>

Meeting ID: 785 968 418; by phone: +1 646 876 9923

This is the first in our series of beginners' art classes led by various artists in our community. No experience or special supplies needed. Bring what you have (paper and a pen or pencil), learn a new skill, and get in touch with your creative side!

**Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony, hosted by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle - Families Forum**

**Monday, April 27, 1:30 pm, virtual**

For the past fifteen years, thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have stood together on Yom HaZikaron/Israeli Memorial Day to acknowledge the pain of those living on the "other side" and to envision a better future together. Rabbi Kleinbaum and Rabbi Ayelet Cohen encourage you to [sign up here to join!](#)

**Cool things happening online in the community**

- [Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center free online classes](#)
- [National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene free broadcasts](#)
- [Nightly Metropolitan Opera livestreams](#)
- [300,000+ books available to download from the New York Public Library](#)

## Resources in Times of COVID-19

**[CBST COVID-19 Resources list Google doc](#)**

New York State COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline: **1-844-863-9314**

New York State COVID-19 Hotline: **1-888-364-3065**

**RUACH: Emotional and Spiritual Support: Do you need someone to talk to?** We are Jewish emotional and spiritual care providers looking to help you during these challenging times. If you are in need of free support, please [fill out this form](#) and you will be matched with a caregiver for a 30-minute call. Your caregiver will reach out to you within 48 hours [Monday-Friday]. Questions? [Contact us](#) .

#### **Unemployment Insurance Questions**

CBST member Hugh Baran has offered to talk with our members who have questions or are seeking help with unemployment insurance. [Contact him here](#) .

[Zoom Instructions - click this link!](#)



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