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Beit Simchat Torah CONGREGATION

קהלה קדושה בית שמחת תורה



A Message from Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig

CBST's 25th Annual Benefit Concert: נשיר למרות הכל "And Yet, We Sing!" is on **Sunday, June 7, at 4:00 pm**. Watch the video above to hear from Joyce about what musical delights we have in store for you, and [sponsor or donate here](#) !

May 15: Rabbi Kleinbaum's Drashah

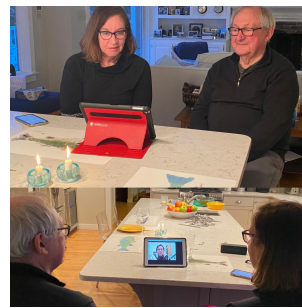
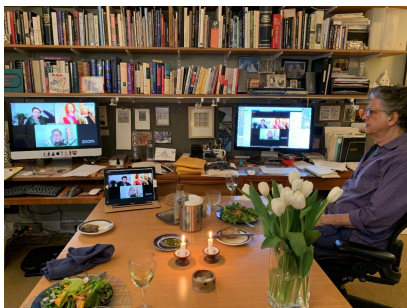
Watch [Rabbi Kleinbaum's drashah from this past Shabbat](#) . Click [here](#) to view all her drashot from the past few months.

May 16: CRRRI Deborah Megdal's D'var Torah

[This d'var Torah](#) is about Parashat Behar-Bechukotai and is from this past weekend's Shabbat Morning Traditional Egalitarian Minyan.

May 18: CBST's 6th Members Only Town Hall: Updates on How CBST is Doing During the Pandemic

Listen to the recording [here](#)



The CBST Community Attends Friday Night Services From Home!

Above, we have Ira Rosenblum and Kenneth Karpel (*left*), Risa Tanania's Shabbat evening set-up, complete with delicious pasta (*center*), and Rabbi Kim Geringer and Colin Dunn (*right*). [Email us a photo of yourself online](#) for us to share in a future e-newsletter.

If you need assistance to access CBST services or programs online, please contact us at techsupport@cbst.org . Need help ASAP? Text **646-450-3556**.

Ramadan Greetings From CBST

For 162 consecutive Fridays, from January 20, 2017 to March 6, 2020, members of House of Peace, our Jewish-Muslim outreach initiative, greeted our Muslim friends at the Islamic Center at New York University as they gathered for Friday Jummah prayers. For the past three years, we also volunteered to prepare and serve iftar meals as they broke their Ramadan fast. Given the need for social distancing, they've temporarily suspended their communal Jummah prayers and observed Ramadan at a distance this year.

We miss seeing our Muslim friends in person and made [this video message](#) for them as they enter the last ten days of Ramadan. Many, many thanks to **Harold Levine** for creating this video, and thanks to **Kristen Plylar-Moore** , the composer of the music.

Music to Soothe the Soul

- *I've Got the Sun in the Morning and the Moon at Night*
- *Always*
- *Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep*

Sally Wilfert, John Riddle (singers), Joyce Rosenzweig (pianist)

From our 2017 Shirah concert, "...Beside the Golden Door"

This week, we share with you [three beloved songs](#) by the great Jewish songwriter **Irving Berlin** (1888-1989). Born Israel Baline in Russia, he and his family moved to NYC via Ellis Island in 1893 to escape the pogroms. Berlin wrote more than 900 songs (including "God Bless America" and "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor"), nineteen musicals, and the scores for eighteen movies. **Sally Wilfert** will be one of our featured singers at our June 7th concert, "And Yet, We Sing!"



NYC Primary Elections

Make your voice heard! The NYC primary elections are coming up on June 23! To help prevent the community spread of COVID-19, all registered, eligible voters may apply to vote by absentee ballot for the June 23 elections. For more info and to apply for an absentee ballot, click [here](#) .

CBST in the News

Kvelling! Check out [this video](#) from an Israeli channel about CBST Board member **Jayson Littman** and Hebro, a social startup for gay Jews living in NYC producing nightlife parties, cultural events, and destination trips.

CBST member **Ruth Gursky** was interviewed on "Gotta Run With Will," a podcast with Will Sanchez, about her activism for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Watch [here](#) !

Upcoming Events

Ruth Messinger & Brad Lander on COVID-19 and Educational Inequity

Thursday, May 21, 2-3 pm; [register in advance](#) and program link & password will be emailed to you 30 minutes before the session begins.

CBST is proud to co-sponsor this JCC program. A virtual conversation on the impact of COVID-19 on educational inequity in the NYC area; featuring the JCC's Social Justice Activist-in-Residence Ruth Messinger and NYC City Council Member **Brad Lander**.

Supporting our Immigrant Friends in the time of COVID-19: A People of Faith Forum with New Sanctuary Coalition

Thursday, May 21, 7:15 pm; [Register in advance for this webinar](#)

CBST is proud to co-sponsor this program. Our immigrant friends face unprecedented challenges. At the same time, in this moment of COVID-19, most of us have to change the way we engage in direct action and advocacy in order to comply with social distancing and support communal safety. As people of faith committed to prophets' vision of justice, what can we do to respond in this moment, and what can we do to plan for the future when we can be together again? Join interfaith leaders and New Sanctuary Coalition Executive Director Ravi Ragbir and Multi-Faith Coordinator Micah Bucey to learn and to engage in collective action.

Roadmap to LGBTQ Rights in the US & Israel: A Wider Bridge Panel Discussion

Tuesday, May 26, 12:30 pm; RSVP: awiderbridge.org/roadmap

A panel discussion featuring prominent American and Israeli LGBTQ activists, hosted by CBST board member Lee Goldberg. This talk will focus on the histories and struggles of the LGBTQ communities of the United States and Israel, looking at both our shared struggles and our unique differences.

Cooperberg Rittmaster Educational and Pastoral Intern (CREPI) Atara Cohen's Semikha Ceremony

Tuesday, June 9, 4 pm; Livestream: www.yeshivatmaharat.org/semikha

Rabbi Atara Cohen is having her *semikha*! Maharat will celebrate its graduates, women's leadership, and Torah through a virtual *semikha* ceremony.



Friday, May 22 / 29 Iyyar

Connecting in Community, 3 pm

Led by Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Deborah Megdal

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/256347787>

Mtg ID: 256347787; tel: +1 646 876 9923

Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 pm

Ba'al Tefillah: Cantorial Intern David Fair

Service Leader & Drashah:

Rabbi Yael Rapport

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

Through a gift from a generous donor, CBST is offering [purchase of the CBST Friday Night Prayerbook at reduced price](#) .

Saturday, May 22 / 29 Iyyar

Shabbat Morn.--Liberal Minyan, 10 am

Ba'al Tefillah: Cantorial Intern David Fair

Service Leader: Rabbi Yael Rapport

D'var Torah : Rabbi Marisa James

[RSVP here](#) to be sent the Zoom link

Havdalah: program begins at 9 pm, service to begin immediately thereafter

Service Leader: Atara Cohen

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/654880356>

Meeting ID: 654 880 356; phone: +1 646 876 9923 (New York)

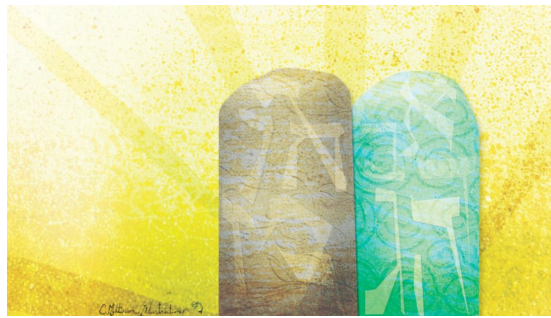


Photo credit: From Christina Mattison Ebert's *D'rash Designs* series.

Thursday-Saturday, May 28-30: Plagues, Pandemics, and Shavuot!

CBST will celebrate a ZOOM revelation in the midst of the pandemic and plague.
Registration coming soon!

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- **Ma'ariv Service, 8:00 pm:** Led by Rabbi Marisa James and CRRRI Deborah Megdal.
- **Tikkun Leil Shavuot – Study: 9:00 pm–12 midnight: Study Sessions:** Learn with teachers Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Rabbi Yael Rapport, Rabbi Marisa James, Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig, CRRRI Deborah Megdal, CRRRI Ben Dyme, Cantorial Intern David Fair, Rabbi Reuven Greenvald, and bring your own cheesecake!

FRIDAY, MAY 29

- *Please note that Connecting in Community with CRRRI Deborah Megdal (ordinarily Fridays, 3-4 pm) is **CANCELLED ON MAY 29** because of Yom Tov.*
- **Shabbat Yom Tov Shavuot Service, 6:30 pm:** Led by Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Joyce Rosenzweig, and Sam Rosen. Livestreamed on our Facebook page.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

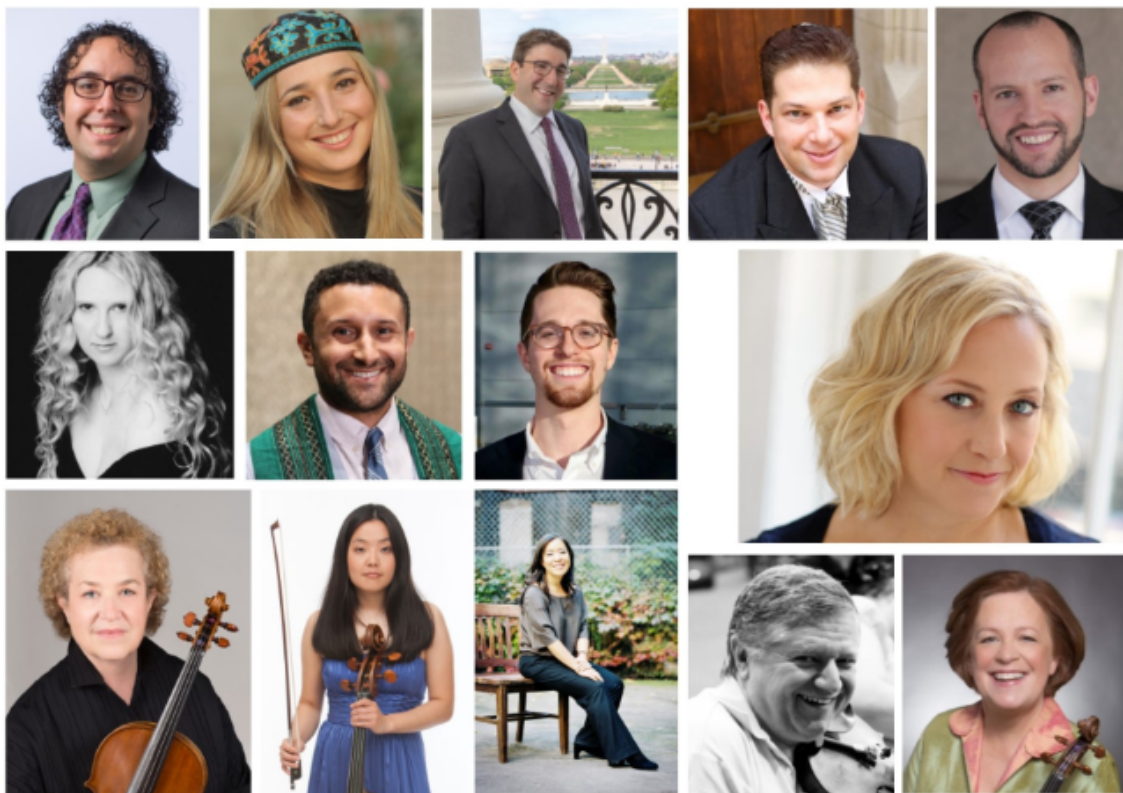
- **Shabbat Shavuot Yom Tov Morning Services with Megillat Ruth and Yizkor, 9:30 am:** Led by Rabbi Yael Rapport, Rabbi Marisa James, Cantorial Intern David Fair, and teaching by Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Deborah Megdal.
- **Havdalah, 9:30 pm:** Led by Cantorial Intern David Fair.

25th Annual Benefit Concert: "And Yet, We Sing!"

Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 4:00 pm

נשיר למרות הכל

Throughout the ages, music has provided comfort and hope in the most challenging of times. Music fortifies us personally and unites us as a community. On **Sunday, June 7th**, CBST will present a special concert celebrating 25 years of gorgeous, groundbreaking Shirah concerts. Since 1995, our concerts have featured Yiddish, Sephardic, Israeli, operatic, chamber music, Broadway, liturgical music from every genre, and so much more, performed by the CBST Chorus, our Cantors, Music Director, and guest artists. You're invited to be reunited in song, for despite everything, we sing!!



- Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig • Cantor David Berger • Cantor Magda Fishman • Cantor Jason Kaufman •
- Cantor Dan Singer • Cantor Steve Zeidenberg • Cantorial Soloist Re'ut Ben-Ze'ev • Cantorial Intern David Fair •
- Cantorial Intern Sam Rosen • The CBST Community Chorus • Adria Benjamin, violist • Tomoko Fujita, cellist •
- Adrienne Kim, pianist • Sebu Sirinian, violinist • Lisa Tipton, violinist • and Sally Wilfert, Soloist

Letting Us Know About Illness: If you or a CBST member you know is ill & would like support, [please contact us](#). We're here for you!

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



Please note that the CBST Office **will be closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day and Friday, May 29 in observance of Shavuot. There will be no classes or programming on Monday, May 25.**

All class recordings are now available [here](#) .

Open to All

Psalm Study with Rabbi Kleinbaum

Mondays through Thursdays, 10-10:45 am; ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/513468144>

Meeting ID: 513 468 144; Dial by phone: +1 646 876 9923

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

Monday through Thursday until May 28, 4-4:30 pm; ZOOM: zoom.us/j/92665533458

Meeting ID: 926 6553 3458; Dial by phone: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Pirkei Avot, a classic of Jewish ethics, is customarily studied between Passover and Shavuot to prepare us to accept the Torah. Our class will start at the beginning and learn one mishnah a class, in order. *No experience necessary; no Hebrew necessary; no registration required. All are welcome!*

RESISTANCE: Calls & Cards meets Democracy Action Team!

Thursdays from 12:30-1:15 pm, via Zoom (RSVP [here](#) for the link)

We'll help you make your voice heard by contacting elected officials and key figures in city, state, and federal government through texting, emailing, calling, and sending letters and postcards. Some areas we work on: voting access (protection, registration, turnout), immigration, refugee protection, environmental protection, common sense gun laws, ending mass incarceration, education reform, healthcare, & the fight against rising antisemitism, racism, and bigotry in all forms.

Connecting in Community with CRRRI Deborah Megdal

Fridays, 3-4 pm, ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/256347787>

Meeting ID: 256 347 787; Dial 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.

Mindful Yoga via Zoom

Sundays, 9:00-10:15 am; ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85168776767>

Meeting ID: 851 6877 6767; Call-in: +1 646 876 9923 (New York)

Let's come back to our body and senses! Join us for a moderate to gentle yoga practice that reminds us to be fully present. All levels welcome, and modifications will be offered for

whomever shows up. Hilary Nudell, the instructor, has been teaching courses in Yoga, Stress Management and Meditation at Fashion Institute of Technology for over 25 years.

Please "arrive" 10 minutes early for any Zoom call so we can start on time. Thanks!

Hosted by Aleinu, Open to All

Aleinu Emotional and Spiritual Health Workshop

Sunday, May 24, 2 pm

Join Ramiz Rafailov, Chief Clinical Consultant to the *RUACH: Emotional and Spiritual Support* project, to explore our experiences related to the pandemic and learn tools for improving our mental and spiritual health. [RSVP here](#). *Hosted by Aleinu, open to all.*

"Moving Toward Mt. Sinai" with Aleinu

Saturday, May 30, 8 pm

What does it mean to be witness to revelation at Mt. Sinai? How does that moment reverberate in these times? What are the revelations we experience in our own lives? Choreographer Sasha Soreff will guide us in exploring the theme of revelation through movement and story sharing . No movement experience is necessary, nor is movement obligatory – though it tends to reveal cool and interesting things. Afterward, we'll migrate over to CBST's weekly Havdalah service. [RSVP here](#) . *Hosted by Aleinu, open to all.*

A Practice In Seeking Peace with Aleinu

Sunday, May 31, 10 am

During times of uncertainty and unease, it's natural to feel fearful, restless, and unsettled. Ancient practices for mind and body can help you ground your Self, especially when times are tough. Join Aleinu member and registered Yoga instructor, Corey Dane, for an all-levels guided practice, including mantra, light asana (postures), pranayama (breath work), and meditation, and learn to connect more deeply with the world around you and the worth within you. [RSVP here](#). *Hosted by Aleinu, open to all.*

Notes: Bring a yoga mat or plan to practice on some comfy carpet. While not necessary, props like pillows, bolsters, and blankets can assist with support, balance, and relaxation. Wear comfortable clothing to allow for ease of movement.

Resources in Times of COVID-19

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

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

NEW: Tech Support at CBST! Need help accessing an online service or program? Email techsupport@cbst.org . Need help ASAP? Text **646-450-3556**.



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