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# Beit Simchat Torah CONGREGATION

קהלה קדושה בית שמחת תורה



## Stav Shaffir

In honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut, former Member of Knesset **Stav Shaffir** will be our guest speaker this Shabbat. She served in the Knesset since 2012, starting in the Labor Party and continuing through various shifts in Israel's left parties over the last 8 years. She was a co-leader of Israel's 2011 massive social justice protests, when half a million Israelis took to the streets to protest on poverty and housing issues and the ongoing erosion of

demographic systems. The youngest woman ever elected to the Knesset, Shaffir worked on the Finance Committee to bring transparency to Israel's murky budget. She delivered [a famous anti-corruption speech](#) in 2015, and joined protests calling for the budget to address the needs of low-income Israelis and those living in the periphery. Before entering politics, Shaffir studied music and worked as a journalist.

Shaffir is an outspoken advocate for religious freedom, supporting the Women of the Wall and opposing segregated public services. She has consistently supported the LGBTQ community, proposing legislation to legalize civil unions and LGBTQ adoption and surrogacy. Her meeting with CBST's November 2018 Israel Trip was one of the highlights of the trip. She is now working outside the Knesset to build Israel's Green Party.

## Recording of 15th Annual Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Service

Yesterday, we joined friends from around the world to co-sponsor the 15th Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Service. Click [here](#) to hear a recording of this poignant service. We're so moved by our Israeli & Palestinian colleagues from Combatants for Peace, Parents Circle Families Forum, the New Israel Fund, and others committed to mourning and dreaming together.

## Congregational Town Hall: Social Justice Resources & Recording

We held our third Congregational Town Hall on "Social Justice in Times of Covid-19" yesterday. The Town Hall highlighted four of CBST's Social Justice teams (Sanctuary and Immigration Clinic, Democracy in Action, House of Peace, and Ending Mass Incarceration) and the important work they continue to do during this time.

The events, volunteer opportunities, and social justice resources that were shared can be found [here](#) . If you missed the Town Hall, you can listen to the recording [here](#).

## Music to Soothe the Soul

*In commemoration of Yom Hazikaron :* **Shir Hama'alot (Song of Ascents)**

[This painful and hauntingly beautiful song](#) is the final movement of a cantata by the great Israeli composer, **Marc Lavry** (1903-1967) entitled "Aleï D'vai" or "Leaves of Woe." The text is written by the Israeli poet **Reuven Grossman** (Avinoam) (1905-1974), whose beloved son was killed fighting in Israel's War of Independence in 1948. In this poem, the bereaved father invokes Psalm 121, as he says, "I lift my eyes to the clouds. God, please allow me to reach up to the abode of the stars. Please, place before me a ladder..." He prays to grant him the wisdom to understand the noble and gentle spirit of his son, for his heart cannot comprehend the wonder of this young man's greatness.

*Recorded on June 2, 2019 at CBST's 24th Annual Benefit Concert, "Psalm Enchanted Evening." Performed by Cantor David Berger; Dror Baitel, piano; the CBST Community Chorus; Joyce Rosenzweig, conductor.*

## CBST in the News

CBST member **Marjorie Ingall** published a [beautiful piece in Tablet Magazine](#) on having COVID-19.



**Friday, May 1 / 8 Iyyar**

**Connecting in Community, 3 pm**

Led by Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern Deborah Megdal

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

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

**Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 pm**

**Yom HaAtzmaut Shabbat**

*Ba'alei Tefillah:* Cantorial Intern

David Fair, Sam Rosen

*Piano:* Music Director Joyce Rosenzweig

*Service Leader:* Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum

*Guest Speaker :* Stav Shaffir

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

**Saturday, May 2 / 8 Iyyar**

**Shabbat Morning – Yoga/Meditation**

**Minyan, 10 am**

Led by Rabbi Yael Rapport

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

**Havdalah, 9 pm (please note the changed time!)**

*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)

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

### 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](#)



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

## Open to all

### **Taking the Violent White Supremacist Movement to Court**

**Today (Tuesday, April 28), 6:30-8 pm, virtual; [register for login info](#)**

CBST is co-sponsoring this event with Integrity First for America.

### **Immigration Clinic Volunteer Training (for Beginning Volunteers)**

**Wednesday, April 29, 6 pm; Zoom (link provided [upon RSVP](#) )**

CBST's weekly Pro Se Immigration Legal Clinic continues to support our immigrant friends online, and new volunteers are welcome! If you have never volunteered in clinic, or you completed a training more than 4 months ago, join us for this 1.5-hour training. We will focus on our clinic philosophy and values, explain our online clinic procedures, and give an introduction to the I-589 Application for Asylum.

### **Immigration Clinic Volunteer Training (for Advanced Volunteers)**

**Thursday, April 30, 6 pm; Zoom (link provided [upon RSVP](#) )**

For current volunteers who have already taken the basic training. This training will focus on best practices for preparing friends' affidavits. We recommend that all returning clinic volunteers attend this training.

### **Connecting in Community with CRR I Deborah Megdal**

**Fridays, May 1, May 8, May 15, 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.

### **Psalms Study with Rabbi Kleinbaum**

**Mondays through Thursdays, 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**

**Monday through Thursday until Shavuot (May 28), 4-4:30 pm**

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

Meeting ID: 926 6553 3458; Call-in: +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!*

### **Revamped RESISTANCE: Calls & Cards meets Democracy Action Team!**

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

We're resuming our weekly advocacy sessions. Welcoming stalwarts as well as newcomers, we will provide information and support to anyone interested in participating

in vital political and social justice work around the key issues we face as Americans and as progressive Jews. 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.

### **Graceful Masculinity Class with Rabbi Moskowitz**

**Thursdays at 7:30 pm; Zoom: <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.

## Resources in Times of COVID-19

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

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



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