

B'nai Butte Buzz

East River Valley Jewish Community
December, Shevat 5778



Photo: CBMR



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Upcoming Events:

January 25

**Tea with Rabbi Robbi at
the T-Bar**

January 26

**Coffee with Rabbi Robbi
at Coffee Lab**

January 26

**Tu Bishvat Seder and
Pot Luck Dinner**

January 27

**Coffee with Rabbi Robbi
at Coffee Lab**

March 8-11

**Rabbi Robbi Visit for
Purim**

Tu Bishvat Weekend With Rabbi Robbi

Thursday, January 25

9:00AM - 12:00 PM Hang out in downtown Crested Butte and join Rabbi Robbi for some tea and great conversation at the T-Bar on Elk Avenue.

Friday, January 26

9:00AM - 12:00 PM Take a break from skiing and riding and grab a hot drink with Rabbi Robbi at the Coffee Lab in Mountaineer Square on the mountain.

Friday, January 26

6:00PM Come celebrate Tu Bishvat with our traditional Tu Bishvat Seder at the home of Monica and Nathan Bilow at 1018 Brush Creek Road. Pot Luck dinner will follow, so please bring a generous dish to share and/or beverage to share. Call 970-349-0703 with questions. Directions - Take Highway 135 to the Skyland/Country Club. Pass entrance to Skyland and the Club. Green roof on the right.

Saturday, January 27

9:00AM - 12:00 PM Take a break from skiing and riding and grab a hot drink with Rabbi Robbi at the Coffee Lab in Mountaineer Square on the mountain.

A Few Words From Rabbi-Cantor Robbi

2018 – Bring it on! Be a sparkler!

Deplaning on Dec. 30 from our GUC-DFW flight, Jim Hogue suggested that I do a bit of writing. I had shared a story from my “Torah and Java” experience the night before at our last Shabbat celebration of 2017 at Jim and Ynette’s welcoming home, and that conversation inspired me to be thinking about the year to come, 2018 - or what I am now calling “2018.” (Or 20Chai). I call these coffee sits “Torah and Java” because “Torah” is not just the study of the Five Books of Moses, but a willing participation in human connections. Torah is a breathing, mindful way of living. Torah is talking, listening and appreciating others. Jim thought I should write about some of my experiences at the coffee table.

In 10 years of my “coffee sits,” at Camp 4, Rumors, First Ascent and the T-Bar, I have certainly seen and heard a lot. On Fridays, up at Coffee-Shop-formerly known-as-Camp 4/BWC Mountaineer Square, and now Coffee Lab, I almost always run into Mark Reaman, the Editor of the Crested Butte News enjoying the hot brew with friends. I thanked him last week for printing my “Jewish Holidays 101” series over the last few years and he said to me, with a twinkle in his eyes: “Shorter, please.” Shortening thousands of years of Jewish history and holidays? I promised him I would try. I have met some incredible people, heard dozens of stories- both joyful and sad, shared political views (and NOT shared political views!), comforted, supported, laughed and cried with people who have come to our holy mountain seeking thrills, peace, connection and a damn good cup of Joe. Jewish folks who have no idea that B’nai Butte exists are always surprised to hear about us and laugh at my “Advice 5 cents (the Rabbi is IN) sign (a la Lucy Van Pelt from Peanuts). They come between runs and they sit and talk – and many have joined us at B’nai Butte. I met Dave Wilcove up at Camp 4, when he saw the sign 10 years ago, did a double take: “Whoa- is that Hamentaschen!?” Dave excitedly said. (Thanks, Debbie Alpern for baking it!) We know that Dave has been a part of our family since that time, and he is not the only one who came to us from that coffee table.

Many gentiles have joined me at the coffee table, too, and I have debunked myths (“Why do Jews...?” And: “Why DON’T Jews...?”), and I have talked about every possible subject with people from all faiths, races and creeds and countries. It is one of my favorite things to do on my visits to CB, which is why I spend approximately 6-7 hours a weekend doing community outreach in this way for B’nai Butte. (I usually have to switch to decaf.)

On my visit in December, a beautiful young woman named Caroline joined me at the table, plunked down a \$1 bill and said: “I have a lot of questions.”

“I can answer them or give you change,” I joked.

She launched right in: “2017 has been a terrible year,” she intoned. “What advice can you give me to go into 2018 with a more positive outlook?”

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Right then and there, she inspired me to think more about the world in the year to come. “Chai” or “life” equals the number 18 in Hebrew. “L’chayim!” The Jewish salutation, means “to life!” 2018 is an incredible opportunity for us to bring more “life” into everything we do – to be the spark for good in the world with more compassion, energy and love than we have ever had. Everyone in the world has a spark of the Divine in them – from the most heinous person to the most saintly one. Our job is to become “sparklers” to help light the light and set the tone for everyone to find and use their Divine spark to help heal this fractured world. I have started the hashtag #2018 in the hopes that we will all work together to bring more positivity, and I invite you, “Sparklers” of B’nai Butte, to tip your server more, to share more good news, to give more to those in need and work to open up the light every worthy soul in 2018. May all see the spark of the Divine in each person we encounter, and may our work towards the light bring more hope, healing and faith in humanity into the days of 2018.

And Caroline’s dollar? “Give it to the barrister... uh, barista,” I said. (There is no such thing as too much coffee!)

Rabbi Cantor Robbi
Dec. 30, 2017

B’nai Butte Announcements

- We are in search of a home to host Purim/Shabbat Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, March 9. Please contact Ofra at 970-349- 5211.
- Anybody with kids ages up to 8 who is interested in getting free Jewish bedtime stories and music, sponsored by PJ Library please contact Monica at 970-349-0703.
- Congratulations to Alexandra Leigh Brannian and Miles Meredith Burton on their marriage in November. Debbie and Larry Brannian are thrilled to welcome their son-in-law to the family.
- Shahna Lax, who does Judaica arts and has a shop on Etsy called [Moresca](#), is offering to donate 13% from sales made by member of B'nai Butte or anybody who wants to donate to B'nai Butte. In addition to the current listings, anyone interested can click on the orange "**Request Custom Order**" on the entry page and customize or create anything according to their needs and desires. In all events, every piece is handcrafted per order. Her studio is not that far from Crested Butte. If anyone from our community would actually like to come to Crestone to pick up their purchase instead of having it shipped, use **coupon code PICKUP**, that will **eliminate shipping charges**. **To earmark the 13% donation**, the buyer simply indicates at checkout in the box that says "**Add a note to Moresca**" the name of B’nai Butte.

No Community Passover Seder This Year

We will not be having a community Passover seder this year. If you are interested in joining a family for the seder please contact Ofra at 970-349-5211 and we will try to accommodate you.

Hosts Needed!

We need volunteers to host our shabbat dinners and host Rabbi-Cantor Robbi for her visits. Please help us! We are dependent upon the generosity of our community to provide locations in order to continue to have Rabbi-Cantor Robbi make visits to Crested Butte. Please call Ofra at 970-349-5211 or email bnaibutte@gmail.com to volunteer or further information. Thank-you

BBYO

BBYO is working on invigorating the newly starting Crested Butte Chapter. If you know anyone interested please contact Rena Elfenbein at Elfenrena123@yahoo.com or Ben Wright at Benjamin.wright@western.edu.

Thank-you

Thank-you to **The Bilows** for hosting our Tu'Beshvat seder and pot luck dinner.

To keep up to date check out our website at www.bnaibutte.org or like us on Facebook.

Contributions

Bnai Butte greatly acknowledges the following generous contributions. Won't you please join them? Remember you can donate on our website now as well as send contributions.

Barbara Glazer Rosenblatt and Randall Lee Rosenblatt Family Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation

Carol and Johnathan Gormin in honor of Rabbi Robbi

Davis Cohen

Debbie and Bruce Alpern

Diane Sue Markowitz Reaman for the Torah fund

Joel Benisch

Judy and Stephen Schwartz

Margot Levy

Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation on behalf of Gail Richards for the Torah fund

Michael Baim

Michael Krutek

Miriam Fields

Mt. Crested Butte Performing Arts Center donates funds on behalf of Marla and Ken Drucker

Monica and Nathan Bilow

Naomi and David Goodell

The Weisman Family Foundation from Ward and Loree Wseiman on behalf of Rabbi Robbi