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JUDY DWORIN PERFORMANCE PROJECT

MEDITATIONS FROM A GARDEN SEAT

Sunday, January 20, 3:00 PM

www.cbsrz.org
Thank you to the following donors as of 10/16/12—12/14/12:

Music & More
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David Zeleznik & Maxine Klein

Tzedakah Collective
Norman Shulkin: in honor of the engagement of Matt Delebanity to Jennifer Lewis

Social Action Fund
Debra Landrey: for the SSKP matching funds collection
Meg Magida: in honor of Norman Shulkin, father of the bride
Stephen & Barbara Mason: in memory of Lee Diamond
Stephen & Barbara Mason: in memory of Norma Glassman
Michael & Susan Peck: for the SSKP matching funds collection

Chesed
Meg Magida: in memory of Silvia White

Joseph & Lillian Friend Fund
Sheila Byrne: in memory of Rachel Friend

Prayer Book Fund
Howard & Betty Katz: in honor of Marilyn White-Gottfried & Neil Gottfried for their loving care of Silvia & Meyer White
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Samuels Scholarship Fund
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Elliott & Nancy Schwam: in memory of Silvia White

Religious School Fund
Rita Fink: in honor of Belinda Brennan
Rita Fink: in memory of Hy Fink

Art Gallery Fund
Ladies of Rosh Chodesh, Group 3, Temple Sinai, Newington, CT: in appreciation of the Szalit-Marcus lithographs & “View of Haifa” mural

Meditation Garden
Bernard Slater: in memory of Norma Glassman

Cemetery Fund
Bernard & Lillian Levine: in memory of the Levine Family

General Fund
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Rebecca Blake: in memory of Rosella Berkson
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in honor of Gene Kalit’s 85th
Estelle Breslow: in memory of Bella Breslow
Estelle Breslow: in memory of Joseph Mager
Jeff & Beth Brewer: in memory of Sarah Zombeck
Lewis & Beatrice Case: in memory of Norma Glassman
Lewis & Beatrice Case: in memory of Silvia White
James & Hyla Cohen: in memory of Sidney LeWitt
Rochelle Dauenheimer: in memory of Larry Adler
Nancy Fischbach & Martin Wolman: in memory of Jerome Fischbach
Harvey & Myra Fishman: in memory of Norma Glassman
Aaron & Betty Gilman Family Foundation
Aaron & Betty Gilman Family Foundation: in memory of Norma Glassman
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Lois & Natalie Glazer: in memory of Edward Glazer
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Neil Gottfried & Marilyn White-Gottfried: in memory of Esther Schaffer
Robert & Marilyn Harris: in memory of Norma Glassman
John & Jackie Hastings: in memory of Mary Goldstein
Laura Hesslein: in memory of Milton B. Hesslein
Harvey Hoberman: in memory of Max Hoberman
Sidney & Adrienne Hopfer: in memory of Norma Glassman
Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven: in appreciation of Sandy Seidman
Jon & Doreen Joslow: in memory Alvin Bielot, Judy Joslow & David Joslow
Gene & Marilyn Kalat: in memory of Norma Glassman
Gene & Marilyn Kalat: in memory of Regina Kest & Bernard Kalat
David Klar: in memory of Miriam Klar
Iris Klar: in memory of Miriam Klar
Maxine Leichtman: in memory of Norma Glassman
Natalie Leventhal: in memory of Norma Glassman
Juan Carlos Lopez: in loving memory of Maria Lopez
Bernard & Rose Madnick: in memory of Norma Glassman
Meg Magida: in honor of Nancy Fischbach & Martin Wolman & their incredible year

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On December 13th, I celebrated the sixth night of Chanukah with President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House, among a couple hundred other national Jewish leaders. I was honored to be invited in my role as co-chair of Rabbis for Human Rights–North America, along with our executive director and my long-time friend Rabbi Jill Jacobs.

That week, the Torah portion just happened to be Parashat Miketz, an installment in the Joseph story, in which Joseph, a minority Hebrew man, imprisoned in the land of Egypt, found his way to the heart of power in the Egyptian political system.

I woke up the morning of December 13th, got dressed in fancy holiday wear, flew to Washington, got a manicure (which only happens about once every 3 years for me), and showed up at the White House. There we were, a couple hundred Jews, many wearing yarmulkes, some wearing black fedoras, all eating Glatt Kosher food. The West Point Jewish chorus sang Chanukah songs, and another military academy orchestra played Chanukah and other Jewish music. We were surrounded by Christmas trees—gorgeous Christmas trees and greenery and wreaths and lights all over the White House.

We gathered to light the menorah with the President and Michelle. A Jewish chaplain, who celebrated Chanukah last year in Afghanistan, had the honor of lighting the menorah, a menorah rescued from a severely damaged Long Island synagogue after Hurricane Sandy. And our voices filled the East Wing with the Hebrew blessings.

What does it mean to be an American Jew? What does it mean to be invited by a Christian President to celebrate Chanukah in a White House adorned for Christmas? What does it mean to have power and influence in this country celebrated and validated, and to have my religious culture celebrated in the President's house?

I left with my heart bursting. I am so proud. I am so, so grateful to be an American Jew. And I left very aware that we have a heavy responsibility. Our influence is louder and more powerful than our numbers. We are no longer “court Jews” who have to make nice, or who, like Joseph, have to assimilate and take on a non-Jewish identity in order to gain entrance to the seat of power.

I asked the President to not only stand strong with and for Israel, but to also stand strong for peace. I told him, in my less than 1 minute, when he was holding my hand and looking me in the eye, that thousands of American rabbis want peace. I hope he got the message. And I hope I fulfilled my responsibility.

Dave Ripin, who served for three years as chairperson of CBSRZ’s Education Committee, will be honored at the Second Saturday Shabbat Service on January 12 at 10:30 AM. He says his interest in serving on the Education Committee came from his own two daughters, Adina, 15 and Tillie, 11. “Because I had kids, I wanted to be involved,” he says.

Dave salutes the work of religious school principal Belinda Brennan, whom he describes as doing a wonderful job creating a comfortable atmosphere and “packing in as much learning as possible.” He is enthusiastic about students’ reactions to religious education at CBSRZ. “Kids love being here. It’s not a feeling that they have to be here,” he says.

In this area, with its relatively small Jewish population, Dave notes that raising a Jewish family presents different challenges than the area in which he grew up and he commends the synagogue for the work it does in building bonds between children from different towns. “Our synagogue really tries to address that issue. Often a child will be the only Jewish kid in the class at school and it is great to have the sense of community that CBSRZ sets up for the kids,” he says.

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### WORSHIP SERVICES

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 2</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 3</td>
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<td>Friday, January 4</td>
<td>6:15 PM</td>
<td>Dairy Potluck Dinner</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 5</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>First Friday Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 7</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>Minyan</td>
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<td>Friday, January 8</td>
<td>5:45 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service Followed by Home Shabbat Dinners</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 9</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning and Kiddush Luncheon with Honoring Dave Ripin</td>
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<td>Sunday, January 10</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>Minyan</td>
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<td>Monday, January 11</td>
<td>5:45 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 14</td>
<td>5:45 PM</td>
<td>Dairy Potluck Dinner</td>
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<td>Friday, January 15</td>
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<td>Erev Shabbat Service with Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 17</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Purim Carnival</td>
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### JANUARY EVENTS

- **Tuesday, January 1** — New Year’s Day (office closed)
  - 8:45 AM: Religious Affairs
- **Wednesday, January 2**
  - 5:45 PM: Tot Shabbat
- **Thursday, January 10**
  - 6:00 PM: Board of Directors
- **Friday, January 11**
  - 5:45 PM: Erev Shabbat Service Followed by Home Shabbat Dinners
- **Sunday, January 13**
  - 10:00 AM—11:30 PM: Fashioning and Affirming Jewish Identity for Ourselves and Our Children with Rabbi Hesch Sommer (Location: Guest House Retreat Center)
- **Monday, January 21** — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (office closed)
- **Sunday, January 27**
  - 10:00 AM: Women’s Club
  - 12:00 PM: Tu B’Shevat Seder
- **Tuesday, January 29**
  - 6:30 PM: Social Action Committee
- **Thursday, January 31**
  - 7:00 PM: Executive Committee

### Stock Transfer Donations

We are now able to accept stock transfers for your dues payments and for other donations. Please contact Kevin Fox for more information: 860-404-2771.

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**Thank You continued from page 2**

**General Fund**

- Lynne Nathan: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Joseph Pear: in memory of Joseph Katz
- Linda Polomski: in honor of the birth of 1st grandchild, Emma Leonard
- Linda Polomski: in memory of Adeline Barbara Goodman & Elieh Goodman
- Irving Reiner: in memory of Elinor Reiner
- Myrna & Michael Retsky: in appreciation of Evelyn Foster
- Carol & David Robbins: in honor of Jerry & Marlene Scharr’s 55th anniversary
- Samuel & Naomi Rogers: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Samuel & Naomi Rogers: in memory of Regina Kest
- Samuel & Naomi Rogers: in memory of Rita Rogers
- Saul & Hila Rosen: in memory of Marcia Beth Cohen
- Larry & Mary Savoie: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Jerome & Marlene Scharr: in honor of the engagement of Paul Peck to Barbara Boeckeler
- Jerome & Marlene Scharr: in memory of Norma Glassman
- John Schwolsky & Elizabeth Storch: in memory of Irving Schwolsky
- Peter Schwolsky: in memory of Irving Schwolsky
- Julius & Edith Shapiro: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Nancy Siegal: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Herb & Marcia Slotnick: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Erica Udoff: in memory of Victor Udoff
- Corinne Weber: in memory of Victor Gottfried
- Meyer & Silvia White: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Daniel & Lynda Wilkes: in memory of Dorian Wilkes
- Myrna & Michael Retsky: in memory of Ruth Sue Rubin
- David Zeleznik & Maxine Klein: in memory of Leonard Klein

**Year-End Appeal**

- Jeffrey & Karen Burzin
- Harvey & Nancy Goldstein
- Ethan Goller & Rona Malakoff
- Kane-Barrengos Foundation
- Bernard & Rose Madnick
- Arthur & Marcia Meyers
- Norman Needelman
- Harvey & Justine Redak
- Linda Polomski: Followed by Home Shabbat Dinners

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- Rita Fink: in memory of Hy Fink
- Richard & Debra Glassman: in memory of Norma & George Glassman
- Ron & Kim Glassman: in memory of Norma & George Glassman
- Norman Hanenbaum: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Eric & Barbara Infeld: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Eric & Barbara Infeld: in honor of Gene Kaled’s 85th birthday
- Gerald & Mary Kelly: in honor of his first trip to Israel
- Meg Magida
- Arthur & Marcia Meyers: in memory of Regina Kest
- Doris Nussbaum: in honor of Jerry & Marlene Scharr’s 55th anniversary
- Anthony & Linda Rigono: in memory of Norma Glassman
- Richard & Mary Schneller: in memory of Norma Glassman
- David Shilling & Trina Shipuleski
- Martin Smith & Holly Starkman Smith: in memory of Esther Moffsenson Smith
- Solomon Tilles

**USCRIPT EVENTS**

- **Friday, February 1**
  - 7:00 PM: First Friday Erev Shabbat Service led by Grades 4 & 5
- **Saturday, February 2**
  - 5:00 PM: Movie & Munchies, *The Lemon Tree* followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Goldenberg
- **Monday, February 4**
  - 7:00–8:30 PM: Bereavement Series with Rabbi Hesch Sommer
- **Friday, February 8**
  - 5:45 PM: New Art Exhibit Opening
- **Sunday, February 10**
  - 10:00 AM–11:30 PM: Fashioning and Affirming Jewish Identity for Ourselves and Our Children with Rabbi Hesch Sommer (Location: Guest House Retreat Center)
- **Monday, February 11**
  - 7:00–8:30 PM: Bereavement Series with Rabbi Hesch Sommer

**For more information:** [www.cbsrz.org](http://www.cbsrz.org)
From our President

Shelter From the Storm

By Lary Bloom

I have a little list. Well, not so little. It has the names of many households of our congregation on it. Perhaps your family is named, but even if it isn’t, you may be gratified by the fact that such a list even exists.

I should back up a bit, and tell you how this roster of honor and generosity came to be. You’ll remember, of course, “Frankenstorm” Sandy. In the run-up to it, there was talk everywhere of impending doom, as computer models showed a peril of unprecedented force and size taking aim at the Northeast, and the term “perfect storm” threw many into fits of high anxiety.

In usual times, when I am not president of the synagogue’s board, I am able to confine my own anxiety to thoughts of the old oak trees that point toward the house, or the onerous prospect of hauling water, as we rely on a well that is useless when the power is out. But of course this time I was also thinking of the safety of our congregants.

As the storm approached the shoreline, one member called the office and said she was advised by local authorities to evacuate—that water levels could easily rise to living-room level. In the next hour, we learned of others on the shoreline who were told the same thing.

What could we do for them? Our synagogue was not built as a shelter—it lacks proper facilities for that, including a generator. So we couldn’t advise gathering there. What I decided to do was the natural thing—what I and many others have done over decades as a member of CBSRZ. I asked fellow congregants for help.

I wrote an email that with Wendy Bayor’s assistance we sent to every household in our community. I mentioned that several of our congregants were in jeopardy, and if there were CBSRZ members out there who could take them in to please contact me.

I don’t recall what I expected. Perhaps that two or three people would respond. Perhaps that everyone else was justifiably occupied by their own anxieties.

But it was eight minutes after the email went out that the phone rang. It was Stephen Rozenberg calling from California, where he and his wife Michele Kleiman and their children were vacationing. They offered their house in Chester to anyone who needed it. Their neighbors’ homes were dark but their house had a full service generator.

Within the next two hours, I had similar offers of accommodations from many, including Susan and Robert Schuster, Barbara Beckerman, David Hays and Nancy Varga, Martin and Lois Nadel, Evelyn Foster, Stuart Baker and Mar-C Peraza-Baker, Eric and Barbara Infeld, Linda Sherman, Sue Savitt, Gene and Marilyn Kalet, Trina Shipulesski and David Shiling, Laura and David Roman, Nancy and Elliot Schwam, Lynne Stiles and Henry Krempel, Adele Saykin, Marlene and Jerry Scharr, Carol LeWitt and Bruce Josephy, and even a former congregant, Laurie Bauchman, who offered to stock her kitchen with kosher groceries. Some of these people had no electricity but still welcomed the even less fortunate to join them.

As the day progressed, I passed along these names to those who’d asked for help. Some of those in jeopardy decided to stay in their houses, others moved. But all were grateful for the offers of rescue.

I should have expected, of course, what would happen. I remember so many times in the 25 years of my affiliation when generosity and caring—hallmarks of CBSRZ—have been so evident. But the response this time nevertheless surprised me.

The episode was more than a show of togetherness and caring. It demonstrated the sense of true sanctuary that we have striven for—the idea that our congregation is not only a place to pray and learn and celebrate and to heal, but also a lifeline. A place that transcends physical boundaries, and that opens its arms and hearts to all who need it.

Thank you—those of you who volunteered your homes. And thank you to all who, in the future, will use this example as inspiration for acts of generosity and selflessness.

---

Annual CBSRZ Congregational Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 7:30 PM

All members invited to discuss the following:

- Religious School Plans
- New Initiatives in Caring for Seniors
- Finances
- Programs
- Social Action
- Rabbi’s Report
- Religious Affairs
- Other matters of significance to our members.

Dessert is served!

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR NEWS

The Whole Megillah would love to print any news you would like to share. Send your email to: newsletter@cbsrz.org (include your phone number).

Photos are always welcome.
Editor's Note: This column was adapted from an article by Cindy Mindell, which originally appeared in the Connecticut Jewish Ledger on October 23, 2012.

Longtime CBSRZ member, Marlene Scharr, was thrust headlong into the world of developmental disabilities when her daughter, Elizabeth, was born with Down syndrome. In those days, the only two residential options for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities was either an institution or at home with families who had few options for communal support.

In June 1979, a group of parents, brought together by Marlene, began a conversation to discuss options for their children. What began as a small group discussion, became The Jewish Association for Community Living, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary of assisting people with developmental disabilities to participate in community life through personal empowerment, community engagement and family relationships. Marlene says: “At the time, when someone had a child with a disability, especially Down syndrome or ‘retardation,’ there wasn’t a place for them and oftentimes the child would stay at home. There were even elderly parents who moved into the Hebrew Home for the Elderly [in West Hartford], and had to take their adult children with them. It didn’t make sense at all. But some parents didn’t know how to give their children independence.”

Marlene served on the board of Greater Hartford Association of Retarded Citizens (now HARC), and was a member of the organization’s first committee for residential homes, which sought government funding to set up group homes throughout the state. “I didn’t want to get involved with the government and felt more comfortable with the Jewish community because I know how we take care of our people,” she says. Long active in the local Jewish community, Marlene served on the board of Greater Hartford of Retarded Citizens (now HARC), and was a member of the organization’s first committee for residential homes, which sought government funding to set up group homes throughout the state. “I didn’t want to get involved with the government and felt more comfortable with the Jewish community because I know how we take care of our people,” she says. Long active in the local Jewish community, Marlene and her group, then called, “the Committee for the Developmentally Disabled,” brought their concept to the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Thereafter, the effort became a communal one. The JCC of Greater Hartford (now the Mandell JCC) opened its doors to JCL members; Beth El Temple in West Hartford hosted a Sunday school program. An auxiliary was launched for fund-raising and public relations activities. Three years later, in 1982, the organization was incorporated as the Jewish Association for Communal Living.

Hartford, JCL purchased a property on Arapaho Road in West Hartford and opened its first kosher group home in 1983. Six men and women moved into the six-bedroom facility.

Says Marlene: “The Jewish community was fantastic; they really supported the whole idea in a very caring and accepting way. It was a whole new concept, and Hartford was one of the first and few Jewish communities to have this kind of home where residents could have their own lives. I give a lot of credit to the families who entrusted their children to us.”

The organization now supports fifteen group-home residents and twenty men and women living in their own apartments or condos. “We are the only Jewish-oriented non-profit organization created solely to serve adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, year-round and residential, for their entire lives,” says JCL Executive Director, Denis Geary.

Thirty years after she inspired her mother to help transform the local idea of community, Elizabeth Scharr, now 46, is living in JCL’s first group home and working at a local law firm, the personification of what the organization’s founders envisioned for their children. “We’ve moved from being custodial caregivers to really helping the men and women we support live full, meaningful lives,” Geary says. “The idea is that people with disabilities can have independent lives, and rather than over-protecting them or expecting them to be someone they can’t be, we meet them where they are and let them live their lives.”

For more information, contact Marlene at: jmsriverview@comcast.net visit www.jcl-ct.org or call JCL at (860) 522-5225.
A Letter from Birmingham—
A Garden Behind Bars in Niantic

CBSRZ Commemorates Dr. King’s Legacy with a Guest Speaker and a Dance Program

By Rick Hornung

“Let us consider a more concrete example of just and unjust laws. An unjust law is a code that a numerical or power majority group compels a minority group to obey but does not make binding on itself. This is difference made legal. By the same token, a just law is a code that a majority compels a minority to follow and that it is willing to follow itself. This is sameness made legal.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. From a Birmingham Jail

Fifty years ago, as he led the climactic stage of a campaign for equality through the city of Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., coupled the prophetic writings of Amos and Daniel with the theology of Martin Buber to support his moral argument for an end to legalized segregation in schools and polling places.

With the support of millions of Americans who marched, debated, read articles, watched television, wrote checks, signed petitions and voted in local, state and federal elections, the United States undertook a dramatic effort to right many of the wrongs that date to the creation of slavery as what historian Kenneth Stamp called “a peculiar institution.”

As these efforts continue from one generation to another, from one political era to another, we take the time to set aside a day to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy of identifying and correcting inequality as part of a moral and theological imperative. In his landmark essay, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” published in 1963, Dr. King openly and explicitly cited the Jewish prophetic and theological traditions as part of the foundation for Americans to stand for a country of equal opportunity as guaranteed by right and law.

This year, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s essay in a special Shabbat service scheduled for Friday evening, January 18th. We will begin with a community dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner at 5:45 PM and will continue with services at 6:30 PM. In addition to our choir singing special selections from the civil rights movement, we will feature a presentation by Linda Ross Meyer, author of The Justice of Mercy. A professor at Quinnipiac School of Law, Ms. Meyer specializes in research on recidivism and juvenile sentencing.

In his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Dr. King calls upon the Jewish tradition of individuals and groups who overcame incarceration, slavery and confinement to ghettos in the pursuit of freedom. From Joseph in Pharaoh’s jail to Daniel in the Nebuchadrezzar’s Lion’s Den, from the Moses’ call to pursue justice to Isaiah’s admonitions against following unjust laws, Dr. King cites the Jewish biblical writings that command us to think of whom we punish, how we punish and why we punish by placing people in prison.

Professor Meyer’s talk, “The Need for a Second Look: Lengthy Prison Sentences Imposed on Children,” will offer us a chance to examine our treatment of children who break the law.

In addition to the Friday evening service, the CBSRZ Social Action Committee will host a special performance and discussion with The Judy Dworin Performance Project on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 20th at 3:00 p.m. Dancers with The Judy Dworin Performance Project will perform excerpts from Meditations from a Garden Seat, a piece based on writings and songs composed by women incarcerated at the York Correctional Institute in Niantic. This blend of movement, text, images and spoken word offers audiences a bridge to an often overlooked population.

The performance will be followed by a discussion with artistic director, Judy Dworin, about how this piece came to be and about the issues of human rights that it addresses. The Social Action Committee brings this performance to our community as part of its focus on the issue of prison reform and against the backdrop of the current prison art exhibit in our Main Street Gallery.

Throughout his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and throughout his public life, Dr. King urged Americans to see our freedom in terms of listening to the voices of those who are often cast out and excluded. Similarly, Meditations from a Garden Seat urges the citizens of Connecticut to see and listen to those who seek regeneration and healing despite their status as prisoners.

Conceived by Judy Dworin and the Performance Project’s Associate Artistic Director Kathy Bortneck Gersten, this powerful piece challenges our notions of freedom and justice.

Tickets for the performance are $10 for members, $12 for non-members. If you plan to attend, please contact Wendy in the office, 860-526-8920. Admission is free for teens age 17 and under.

Meditations from a Garden Seat contains graphic descriptions of abuse and violence that may not be appropriate for children under 13.

Days of Awe Survey

Thank you to all of the people who took the time to respond to our Days of Awe Survey. We received a lot of very positive comments and some constructive criticism. If you would like to discuss particulars with a member of RAC or directly with Rabbi Goldenberg, please feel free to do so. It is easier to address comments when it is a two-sided conversation and we are all willing to do so. Please be assured that your comments have been heard and will be taken into consideration when we begin our planning for next year’s services.

Thank you. Religious Affairs Committee
I first met Sandra Kensler several years ago when my husband and I thought we’d be attending the annual Guilford Arts and Crafts Fair. In walking from our car to the fairgrounds we were sidetracked by a large crowd that had gathered on the Guilford Green just outside the actual fair tents. Curiosity got the better of us, and we wandered over to find Sandy and her paintings at the heart of the assemblage. Even then the artist’s engaging smile, her enthusiasm and love of her work was quickly apparent. “The world excites me, and I want to express how I feel about it. So, I paint it.” is Sandy’s “raison d’etre.”

In 1990 Sandra moved to Madison, CT, and exchanged her teaching career in music for painting. She initially studied with Terry Oakes-Bourret and then at the Lyme Art Academy. She has exhibited at the New Haven Paint and Clay where her work is in the permanent collection, and she holds artist memberships in the Guilford Art League and the Madison and Clinton Art Societies. Her work has appeared at the Salmugundi Club in New York, and she is a founder and board member of CLOUT Cares, a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping widows of AIDS victims in Kenya where she spends much time painting and working.

Sandra is an enthusiast of the process of “painting flat,” using blocks of vivid colors in well-defined shapes to capture the moment and express her vision. This technique serves her well in depicting shapes of light and shadow as reflected in the buildings of her cityscapes as well as in her paintings of animals and people of Kenya. “I paint people going about their daily routines. I exaggerate color and simplify shapes and shadows. When I am painting in the countryside, I may exaggerate long roads, afternoon and morning shadows or an interesting group of trees. I try to make my paintings ... more contemporary and more abstract by paring down design (and using) tight cropping, unusual angles, flattened forms, highlighted color and sharp-edged contour line.”

Kensler’s unique style, her use of color, her perspective and the wide variety of subjects she chooses to paint all contribute to the excitement of her art. Sandra’s work will be exhibited in the Main Street Gallery from Friday, February 8 through April. CBSRZ congregants and guests can meet the artist at our February 8, Erev Shabbat service that begins with a crackers and cheese oneg at 5:45 PM, with the service following at 6:00 PM. A generous percentage of the proceeds from all paintings sold will be donated to the synagogue. The exhibit is open to the community and the general public, Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at no charge.
A Wandering Jew

By Berel Josephy

On the Road With CBSRZ

Save the date, Sunday March 3rd, for a free event at the Yale University Art Gallery co-sponsored by CBSRZ and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

At 1:00 PM, Jock Reynolds, the Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Yale University Art Gallery will give a talk on the wall drawings of Sol LeWitt. Then attendees will tour the YUAG, recently re-opened after a 14-year, $135 million renovation and expansion. Further details in next month’s Megillah.

The Art of Philip and Linda Scheffler

Paintings of Philip Scheffler and Linda Scheffler were recently exhibited in a group show at the National Academy in New York.

The Schefflers have been studying for many years with the noted artist David Dewey both at the National Academy and in Maine. The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme currently has an exhibition of Dewey’s paintings which runs through February 2, 2013.

CBSRZ Gallery Curator Linda Pinn has scheduled a show of Phil and Linda’s work for the Spring of 2014.

Land of Canine

The LeWitt pack has been wandering around the Lower East Side, Boro Park, and Crown Heights. Little Yiddle, Shlomo, and Gertl have picked up some Hebrew along the way, and have mastered saying Bark’chu.

Winter Shabbat Schedule Change

Just as our ancestors adjusted their daily lives to the seasons and the setting of the sun, so will CBSRZ adjust our Friday Shabbat services for the winter months. For the months of January and February, Friday night Shabbat services will be moved to an earlier time. This change in timing is a result of the feedback we received from the Shabbat Forums held last year. It was repeatedly mentioned that it is difficult to leave your warm home on a cold winter night. Our hope is that this will make it easier.

The new typical Shabbat time frame will be as follows:

5:45 PM—light munchies for those hungry stomachs
6:00 PM—services followed by an appetizer oneg.

Because there are always exceptions to the rule, we will clearly post the start times for Shabbat services in the weekly e-mails and on the doors leading into the temple. Following is a list of the Friday Shabbat happenings for the months of January and February:

January 4—First Friday No Change In Timing!
5:45 PM—Tot Shabbat
6:15 PM—Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 PM—Services, followed by Oneg

January 11—Home Shabbat Dinners
5:45 PM—Light snacks
6:00 PM—Services followed by dinners in congregants’ homes.

January 18—Martin Luther King Shabbat
5:45 PM—Pot Luck Dinner
6:30 PM—Services, followed by Oneg

January 25—Regular Friday Night
5:45 PM—Light snacks
6:00 PM—Services, followed by appetizer oneg.

February 1—First Friday—No Change In Timing!
5:45 PM—Tot Shabbat
6:15 PM—Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 PM—Services, followed by Oneg

February 8—Regular Friday Night
5:45 PM—Light snacks
6:00 PM—Services accompanied by Choir, followed by appetizer oneg.

February 15—Regular Friday Night
5:45 PM—Light snacks
6:00 PM—Services, followed by appetizer oneg.

February 22—Regular Friday Night
5:45 PM—Light snacks
6:00 PM—Services, followed by appetizer oneg.

What’s news with you?

DEADLINES

For the next issues of “The Whole Megillah”

February Issue ........................................January 12, 2013
March/April Issue ..................................February 10, 2013
May/June Issue .........................................April 10, 2013
Editors’ note: At the suggestion and urging of Arthur Meyers, Ethan Goller was kind enough to share his experiences serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) with the congregation. Due to the length of his article, we have decided to break it into three parts. It will be continued in the February and March/April issues of The Whole Megillah.

An IDF Memoir
A Soldier’s Story | Part 1

By Ethan Goller

When Arthur Meyers asked me to share my experience having served as a soldier in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) “in 300 words or so,” for The Whole Megillah, my first reaction was “sure.” But upon reflection, I realized that 300 words wouldn’t allow me to tell that story in a way that would have meaning for me. And because this is an opportunity for me to pen to paper that account, albeit an abridged version (while I still have the memory for it), for my son Mack and for posterity in general, Arthur was good enough to publish it in installments. Thanks Art!

Perhaps the best place to start is by giving some context for what led to my decision at age 17 to make Aliyah (to immigrate) to Israel, with the primary motivator being the mandatory three year selective service that would soon follow.

I was born in Kansas City in 1956, and grew up in a Conservative Jewish home. We belonged to, ironically, Congregation Beth Shalom. My parents were actively involved in our synagogue. My dad sat on the board for many years and served as president. My mom was active in the sisterhood and was always among the first to volunteer whenever anything had to be done. But they were equally, if not even more involved in the Kansas City Jewish community in general. Dad was very active in Jewish Federation, having served several terms as president, and Mom was very involved with and also served as president of the National Counsel for Jewish Women. They were generous contributors of both their time and their money. And so, over the years we sponsored and befriended many Israeli colonels who came to Leavenworth for a year, many of whom were war heroes, either in the War of Independence in 1948 and/or the Sinai war in 1956 and/or the Six Day War in 1967 and/or the Yom Kippur War in 1973. And during those impressionable years of my youth, they would tell me their stories of battle, courage, honor and heroism. Men like Yonah Efrat, Natke Nir, Yankela Stern, and Avigdor Kahalany. Combine those with the stories my father, whom I idolized, would tell me of his military career as a cryptographer and radio operator in the U.S. Army Air Corps, having served in Southeast Asia in WWII, and you’ve set the stage for a very “romantic” picture of adventure and purpose.

As for my own participation, interest or commitment to my Jewish identity and community, my experience was like most middle class suburban Jewish kids: Sunday school and Hebrew School was mandatory through Bar Mitzvah. Then one had to make a choice to continue Jewish education, which included Hebrew School (two weekdays after school and Sunday plus Saturday services), transitioning to Hebrew High School (two nights each week) culminating in Confirmation. The “carrot” to an often grudgingly made commitment, was the promise of an eight-week “Kansas City Jewish Pilgrimage” to Israel the summer between my Junior and Senior years of high school (1974). It was to be a relatively unsupervised trip. We had only two chaperones for 69 kids for eight weeks away from our parents with many of my closest friends. I stuck with it, and the summer of ’74 was a life-transforming experience for me. The only way I can describe the impact of touring Israel that summer was that of being thunderstruck with an emotional connection to my Jewish identity. I felt, now I know that Israel is where I belong, and upon returning to Kansas City, I met with my high school counselor and arranged to graduate high school a semester early. By January 1975, I had moved to Israel.

I enrolled in a six-month work/study program hosted by Kibbutz Ein Harod Ihud, situated in the Jezreel Valley near Mount Gilboa in northern Israel. The first half of each day was spent in study, primarily language (Hebrew), and in exchange for our room and board, we were required to work four or more hours in the afternoon. But our group unanimously abandoned the study program, which was not affiliated with the Kibbutz itself, within a few weeks, and the Kibbutz gladly accepted us into their community as full-time volunteers. Our rationale was “if we worked full-time in an environment that spoke predominantly if not exclusively Hebrew, we would learn the language more efficiently through immersion than study.” In my case, that was mostly true. I worked in the Kibbutz garage as welder from 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and almost no English was spoken among those I worked with.

continued on page 11
An IDF Memoir continued from page 10

I made the decision to make Aliyah that summer, and I returned to my home in Kansas City to let my parents know. Despite only two years having passed since the Yom Kippur war, and the constant “state of war” that existed there, my parents were very supportive. But a friend of mine, my best friend Howard, had pledged a fraternity (TKE) at the University of Kansas, and he talked me into “giving school a try,” and so I did for a semester. And while I cherish to this day the many friendships I made that semester, my heart was still in Israel, and so in January 1976, I made Aliyah, and within six weeks, had my notice to report to the IDF induction center (lishkat hagiyus). It’s a three phase process: The first and second rounds were both physical and psychological tests, and if everything checked out, you reported for duty the day of your draft to the Bakum (the absorption base) located in Tel Hashomer. There you got more shots, more physicals, your gear, a haircut, the list is endless, but mainly, for a guy like me with no pre-determined corps or direction, you got your “job”. It was a lot like you might envision a job or college fair, where you go from table to table, and a recruiter on the other side tells you how great it is to work for them. I tried out for Paratroopers (Hativat HaTzanhanim), and I passed the physical trials “ok” (certainly now-here near the top), but I wasn’t accepted because I lacked sufficient Hebrew language skills. Then I was speaking to someone who was a recruiter for the Corp of Combat Engineers (HaHandasa HaKravit), who accompanied me to their recruitment tent. It didn’t take long for them to convince me how exciting it was to blow stuff up, and I was in.

The Goller family today, Rona Malakoff, Mack Goller, & Ethan Goller.

Tu B’Shevat—It’s a Birthday Party for Trees!

In Israel, Tu B’Shevat, the Birthday for Trees, is celebrated at the time of year when, drawn from the roots by the warmth of the sun, sap starts running up the trees, just under the bark, carrying nutrients to the branches. In appreciation of the gifts given us by trees, we hold a seder during which we celebrate this return of life, the promise of a fruitful year. It is a treat to the senses. We celebrate with typical Israeli fruits and nuts, juices and wines which are exquisite and varied in color, taste, aroma and texture. The fruits have strong skins we must peel or break, stones we do not swallow, and there are those that we can eat in their entirety. The tastes, the blessings, the narratives, the songs, the company we share at this seder table bring us joy in themselves as well as in anticipation of the coming spring.

Sometimes this coincides with the time that maple sap begins its first run in Connecticut sugar maples, but most years, Connecticut lags behind. Nonetheless, we can appreciate and enjoy Tu B’Shevat as we reflect on the bounty trees provide us, both here and in Israel. Soon, we here in Connecticut will see sugar maples hung with buckets collecting sap to be boiled down into syrup, the year’s first gift of nourishment from the trees. And we are reminded that we’ve made it through one more winter.

The Tu B’Shevat seder program will begin at noon on Sunday, January 27. We will have salad and pizza for lunch, with the seder immediately following. Please call Wendy at the synagogue office or add your name to the sign up sheet on the Main Street front table to let us know you plan to join the celebration. Suggested donation is $5 at the door.

Second Saturday continued from page 3

Dave and his wife Trudy have been members of the synagogue for nine years. The family originally came to this area for Dave, who has a doctorate in chemistry, to work at Pfizer in Groton. He is still involved in the pharmaceutical business, but in a different way. He now works for the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHIA), a group that grew from the Clinton Foundation, the organization former President Bill Clinton established after he left office. CHIA works to provide sustainable access to needed pharmaceutical products and diagnostic medical tools in areas lacking both.

Dave says that during his time at Pfizer, he became increasingly interested in the problem of access to effective medical treatment in areas that have lacked such resources and was drawn to CHAI as a result.

At the Second Saturday service on January 12, Rick Hornung, Peg Palmer and Rabbi Goldenberg will chant from Parshat Vayera. A potluck Kiddush luncheon will immediately follow services. CBSRZ will provide bagels, cream cheese, lox, whitefish and herring. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dairy or parve dish or dessert to share.

Suggested donation is $5 at the door.
Chanukah is Over
But the December Dilemma Goes On!

How should we handle holidays at this time of year? What about the traditions of our childhood, our partners, our friends? Is there a right way to celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Winter Solstice, whatever else might be happening this month?

To talk about these questions and many more, Rabbi Goldenberg convened a panel of parents and grandparents, each with different backgrounds and perspectives on the ways in which they approach the holiday season. It was an accepting and affirming opportunity for panel participants and audience members alike to share their experiences and approaches.

One set of parents was an interfaith couple, who maintain their individual traditions in their home. Their experience has largely been of acceptance and accommodation of each other’s practices into a unified celebration for their children. The other set of parents has an interfaith background, but celebrates Chanukah exclusively in their home, participating in Christmas celebrations in the home of other family members. The set of grandparents was a Jewish couple, who offer an opportunity for their grandchildren to learn about their Jewish traditions.

The conversation was warm and accepting, with many different perspectives and solutions shared. Some are challenged by the pressures put on their families by Christmas celebrations, others have found ways to incorporate their traditions into those held by others. There are many ways to answer the questions faced at this time of year, and the “right” answers are those that are right for you!

—Erica Gelven

The December Dilemma—
A Jewish Grandparent’s Role

Whether in December or any other month, I believe a grandparent’s role is to be loving and supportive of their children and grandchildren and lead by example. Advice should be offered tactfully and infrequently.

Having said this let me say how Jewish grandparents may be helpful in dealing with the “December dilemma.” Let’s assume your children have made decisions about how they want to pursue their Judaism and provide a Jewish education for their children. Your grandparental role is to support them in any way you can and, if possible, participate in their holiday celebrations.

If the other set of grandparents are of a different religion or have different religious customs, these should be treated with respect. Should an invitation be extended to share Christmas, it can be a pleasant experience as long as the interreligious couple make it clear to the hosts to what extent the Jewish grandparents feel comfortable participating. (Limitations may include exchanging of gifts or singing of Christmas carols.) Jewish grandparents of interreligious couples have told me that they were uncomfortable about sharing Christmas. It would be wise for the Jewish grandparents to learn as much as possible about the religious customs of their “machatanim” in advance. They, in turn, may invite the non-Jewish grandparents to share Chanukah or other Jewish holidays.

If your grandchildren are young and their parents have not yet made a decision about their religious upbringing, the grandparental role is quite different. The Jewish grandparents should try as much as possible to include the grandchildren in their celebration of Chanukah—making it as joyous and appealing as possible. (This applies to other holidays and Shabbat as well.) Tell stories that illustrate the historical and religious meaning of the holiday. Fill your home with the delights of the occasion—latkes, candle lighting, music, playing dreidel games, making Chanukah cookies and other creative holiday experiences. Be sure to inform your child and his/her spouse about theChanukah celebration you plan to make for the children and keep it within their comfort level. Bear in mind that December can be a very stressful month and, whatever you do, make your celebration free of pressure and full of pleasure.

As grandparents, we must understand that there are many different approaches to the “December dilemma.” Our role is to appreciate our children’s needs and support them in their choices.

—Phyllis Ross
Already Time to Start Planning for Summer Camp!

On February 3, at 11:30 AM we will be fortunate to have as a presenter, a representative from Camp Eisner and Crane Lake. The camps are located in Great Barrington and West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Earlier this year, the Megillah featured several stories about students who have had this camp experience and came back reporting that everything they were told to expect, was true. Living Jewishly, 24/7 was fun, exciting, and beautiful. For more information about the camps visit: http://eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org/resourcweb

All parents in grades k-5 are invited to join their children in the Sanctuary to hear this presentation. For those who would benefit from financial support for this venture, we are very fortunate to have a Camp Scholarship Fund. Applications are available through Wendy in our office.

Congregants, Eric and Barbara Infeld, share an experience they had last summer at a Camp Eisner Open House:

Why choose a Jewish camp for your child? This is a very good question. This summer our son, Alexander (age 10) will be attending Camp Eisner for the first time.

We have a connection with Camp Eisner, our older son, Daniel, worked as a counselor at Eisner for four summers while he was in college and enjoyed the experience. He says he learned as much from the campers as they learned from him.

Daniel still has many friends connected with Camp Eisner and when he forwarded an email he received regarding a new camper weekend in October, we jumped at the opportunity to send Alex, little did we know that when we picked him up on Sunday he would beg us to go Camp Eisner this summer.

Alex experienced many new things during this weekend. He says that some of his favorite memories were being with other Jewish children, going on a hike to Lookout Point, Jewish song sessions, attending religious services and birkat hamazon after meals.

He is looking forward to the outdoor activities during summer such as hiking, swimming, gaga ball, as well as the outdoor daily services and music.

At first we were somewhat concerned about sending Alex to camp for 4 weeks, but he has assured us that this is what he wants to do and that he was comfortable at Eisner with the other kids and the counselors. We are looking forward to the many stories of Eisner that we are sure Alex will share with us.

To Change or Not to Change … That is the Question

Of late, families of the CBSRZ Religious School have been gathering together to share perspectives regarding changing family needs, expectations, lower affiliation rates resulting in reduced enrollment in the younger grades, and in general, “modern society.” In a world where information pushes us towards faster and faster in neatly packaged “bytes,” families manage high-octane calendars and carpools from a variety of geographical locations (often travelling up to 45 minutes each way), pressure mounts to “make it all happen.”

continued on next page 14
We have responded to these ongoing shifts by doing something very Jewish. We are asking questions. We are asking questions such as “is there a better way, a more value added way, for families to access and engage in Jewish education”? Can we create a deeper, more soulful experience if we think outside of the box of traditional classroom learning? Does the current schedule of Sundays and Wednesday Hebrew School still work? Can we make better use of technology and technology’s social networking systems? How do we utilize technology without sacrificing our connection to community? What are the components of the highly valued “Jewish camp experience” that contribute to creating strong Jewish identity?

We are not alone in asking these questions. After speaking with Education Chairs at other Synagogues, and listening to Joan Carr, Education Specialist from the Union of Reform Judaism, it is validating to discover that we are not unique. Congregations all over the country are witnessing similar shifts in how families wish to engage with their Jewish heritage and are experimenting with a variety of new responses that alter what we think of as the traditional “twice a week Complementary Hebrew School” approach.

At CBSRZ, we too have wrestled with potential answers to these questions. Some feel that all needs and goals can be realized within our current structure. Others feel that innovation is important to consider both for the needs of our current families and for others out there who we have not yet reached.

In the months ahead, our Education Committee will flush out options that it feels hold the most potential towards creating value added experiences to the information and technology driven lives of today’s families. This is a journey that is both exciting and a bit anxiety producing at the same time. The possibility of change can be unsettling. I stay grounded by remembering that “adaptation” is one of Judaism’s greatest strengths. I remain energized by remembering one of my favorite translations of God’s name, the name God instructed Moses to use when explaining to Pharaoh who sent him—the name of Yud-Hey-Vav-Hhey (which we pronounce as Adonai) can be translated to “I was, I am, and I will be.” We are always evolving, and with conscious intent, with “kavannah,” there is always the potential to evolve to something even better.

—Morah Belinda
Music & More

Returning for Fifth Exciting Season

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek is delighted to present Music & More 2013, our fifth year of bringing a diverse series of concerts to the Connecticut river valley. All performances are held at the synagogue at 5:00 PM, with a reception following to meet performers and enjoy refreshments. At each concert we distribute a program brochure featuring local businesses. For ticket reservations and purchase, and/or to participate in our program brochure, please call 860-526-8920 or visit www.cbsrz.org.

Loli Marquez-Sterling, Cabaret Sunday, March 24, 2013
Loli and her group will bring its Latin sound to musical storytelling about growing up Cuban. “Loli’s music comes from within, strong and hot as café Cuban,” wrote Cabaret Scenes. “Her Latin influenced music, her exuberance and the patter about her life reveals a knockout singer with her own sound who is charismatic and playful.” She is the winner of the NYC Outstanding Bistro Act of 2010 and a two time MAC nominee. (www.lolocanta.com)

Ed Reed, Jazz Sunday, April 28, 2013
A winner of many awards (DownBeat Annual Critics Poll: Rising Star in Male Vocalist category 2011, 2009, 2008; DownBeat Editors Pick, July 2011 for “Born to Be Blue” CD; Jazz Hero award from Jazz Journalists Association 2011), Ed Reed did not make his recording debut until just before his 78th birthday in 2007 with the widely acclaimed “Ed Reed Sings Love Stories.” He followed that with “The Song” in June 2011. In the words of one reviewer, “his third album possesses all the distilled emotion and narrative coherence of a jazz masterpiece.” (www.edreedsings.com)

Dalia Lazar, Classical Piano Sunday, May 19, 2013
Born in Croatia, Dalia Lazar began studying piano at an early age. As a finalist in the New York Concert Artist Guild Competition, Ms Lazar made her New York debut at Rubenstein Hall, followed by her Carnegie Recital Hall debut later that year. Since then she has performed a broad repertoire as a soloist in concerts and recitals worldwide. Her chamber music repertoire includes works for violin and piano which she performed extensively with her late husband, violinist Lucian Lazar. Her recent CD includes works by Schumann and Chopin. Dalia Lazar has been a hit with critics, who have characterized her performance as “such noble playing,” and “that rare combination of charisma, personality and terrific pianistic facility.” (www.dalialazar.com)

A Klez Act, Klezmer Sunday, June 23, 2013
CBSRZ’s outstanding home-grown klezmer band. Come sing a Yiddish version of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” while enjoying grilled fare. The concert is free; proceeds from the sale of food and beverages support local charities.

New Member—Charles Savitt

By Rita Christopher

When Charles Savitt, who recently joined CBSRZ, heard people at the synagogue talking about the Main Street Art Gallery, at first he assumed they meant a gallery in one of the local towns. He did not realize that people were referring to the gallery at the synagogue itself.

Charles’ initial confusion led to a plan to assist other new members of the synagogue: a column in The Whole Megillah, Things You May Not Know, to which both new members and long-time congregants can send questions about things they would like to learn about the synagogue.

In the September/October issue of The Whole Megillah, Charles answered questions, (among them one about Main Street Gallery) on subjects from what is Tashlich to Who Are the Holy Scrollers. Questions can be sent to Charles, who has joined the Membership Services Committee, at savittc@aol.com or to Suzanne Levine, chair of Membership Services, at susahtfd@yahoo.com.

The column has provided Charles, who has been a member of CBSRZ for less than a year, with more than just answers. “It has helped me to meet people in the congregation. It was a way to jump in,” he says.

Another way to jump in has been the community garden plots at the edge of the synagogue property. Charles describes himself as an enthusiastic gardener. “It’s a calming influence to watch a garden grow,” he says. The activity also proved another way to meet people, among them Sandy and Andrea Seidman and Rita Fink, who also have garden plots.

A Connecticut native, Charles grew up in West Hartford. He graduated from Clark University in Worcester, MA, got a master’s degree from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate from Arizona State University in the field of instructional technology.

He is currently a consultant working with school systems, businesses and individuals on using computers and various technologies to maximum advantage. He often assists educators in transitioning a traditional course into one that is offered online. “There are new skills to be learned when teaching classes online. You need to learn a new kind of pedagogy, it’s very different from face-to-face learning,” he says.

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Latke University, CBSRZ Kitchen

Frying lots of latkes, l to r: Joel Pear, Nancy Schwam, & Charles Savitt.

John Hausman mixing sweet potato latkes.

A latke toast, l to r: Susan Peck, Linda Rigono.

Beth Brewer, frymaster, extraordinaire!

Joel Pear, latke perfection!

Candlelighting

I to r: Miriam Swidler in the warmth of the Chanukah lights.

I to r: Brian Jubelirer, Brad Jubelirer, Johanna Schaefer, Sue Savitt in foreground.

Now that's what you call a Chanukah challah!

Chanukah light for all ages.

Chanukah Celebration, December 14, 2012 | Photos by Deborah Rutty
Wise Men of Chelm, December 16, 2012

Menorahs all aglow.

I to r: Nikki Roman, Danni Roman, Mack Golfer, Sarah Burzin perform a skit for the congregation.

Prison Art Exhibit Opening, November 16, 2012 | Photos by Deborah Rutty

Linda Rigono and Jeffrey Greene, Prison Arts Program Manager.

Linda Sherman enjoying the show.

Jeffrey Greene hanging exhibit.

Marilyn Kalet studying one of the interesting pieces in the exhibit.
A) Financials: Seidman and Fox both reported that the financial position of the Congregation is ok. Income (mostly dues) are on track with previous years. Expenses are matching anticipated budget line items. Fox reported that there are about 30 families that have not filled out their membership paperwork. Fox reported that the investment portfolio, which is administered by the New Haven Foundation, is earning about 3.5% year to date. Fox reported that CBSRZ now has a mechanism for Congregants to donate stocks for dues or donations. It has already been used twice and a third gift is anticipated. For details contact Kevin Fox.

B) President’s Report:
Three new families (welcome back to the Siegels and the Fellows) were unanimously voted in as members.

- Bob Siegel and Carolina Marquez-Sterling
- Harriet and Ray Fellows
- Jeffrey and Emily Merriam (Hadlyme) with two children who are now in the religious school

The President reported that the Redak family is willing to donate a one acre cemetery plot in the Hartford area. He is going to get details and report back to the Board for direction. George Amarant reported that CBSRZ is adding 200 grave sites to the Deep River cemetery.

C) Religious Affairs: Belinda Brennan reported that there will be an “experiment” changing the start of Friday night Erev Shabbat services for January and February in order to make it easier for congregants to attend. Please check the website and TheWhole Megillah for new schedule.

D) Music and More: Miriam Gardner-Frum reported that the ad teams are out soliciting ads for the program book and thanked Rita Fink for stepping in as coordinator.

E) Youth Committee: Tracy Kleinberg reported that the Youth Committee will meet on January 6, and that there have been a number of successful activities. The Chair, Marjorie Lander, and the Youth Group Advisor, Marc Fink, are seeking additional ideas and people to help with this group. She stated that the teenagers are quite eager to be part of the CBSRZ community and are seeking ideas for fund raising and participation in the congregational life.

F) General Meeting: The Board set January 10, 2013, 7:30 PM, for the general meeting of the congregation. Committees will supply written reports and the focus will be on the Board Centerpieces (Education, Chesed, Social Action) and the status of their endeavors.

G) Centerpiece: Chesed with a focus on seniors:

- a. Stephen Davis reviewed his “white paper” on Chesed and its focus on the need for senior services. This paper was the result of the Board centerpiece discussion in October. Davis thanked all those who gave input citing the need for a collaborative effort. He further pointed out that this paper represents the kernel of meeting one of the goals of the Strategic Plan which is to address the needs of the aging population of CBSRZ.

Based upon the conversation at the Board and URJ sources, ten key ideas have been identified as follows:

- create position for one part-time senior coordinator
- mount new effort to add members to Chesed
- pool resources with other nearby shuls
- build on a roster of volunteers to “share the care” across the geographic footprint
- hold regular events at shul and learning luncheons
- have a JFS on wheels; have something at CBSRZ
- create a resource guide: lots of secular and religious social agencies.
- volunteer training for elderly care visits
- conduct periodic Shabbat services devoted to healing
- adopt a senior plan to monitor especially those most at risk

The Board voted to direct the personnel committee to create a scope of work for a part-time senior coordinator. Seidman stated that the Finance Committee would find a mechanism to fund the position for this year and add it to the budget for next year estimated in the $7,000 to $15,000 a year range of salary.

H) Legacy program: Fox reported on a meeting that Martin Wolman and he had to discuss the Legacy Program. The Board voted to allow CBSRZ to join the program which entails getting material, support and training to establish a legacy program. If successful, it will result in a donation from a private individual (non-congregant) who supports synagogue legacy programs in Connecticut. The goal is to roll out this program in the spring.
His Name Is Jude

Jude has been homeless for many years. He stayed all last winter at the Warming Center in Middletown. He voluntarily went to a treatment program in the spring and was then transferred to a recovery house program.

But last month, Jude was all smiles—big smiles—when he moved into an apartment in Middletown furnished by CBSRZ and United Church of Chester. Dozens of congregants donated furniture and other items—everything from traditional items on our list to kindnesses not contemplated, like a knitted scarf. Thanks to all who donated!

On December 8—Human Rights Shabbat—everything was moved to the apartment, up three flights of stairs (with a lot of help from younger men from the church). Linda Rigono, who supervised the project for CBSRZ, and her brother, Lynn Mallis, got materials and hung curtains as a final touch.

Linda and Kathy Peters, the minister from U.C.C., were there a few days later when Jude moved in. Jude’s case worker said she had never seen him smile so much, but Jude simply said “I would smile bigger if I could.” He looks forward to having his three children visit him.

The program is sponsored by An End in Ten, whose goal is to end homelessness in Middlesex County in ten years.

The Social Action Committee considered the possibility of furnishing an apartment without a partner, as some congregations undoubtedly do. We concluded that we all benefit from cooperation among congregations, among faiths. Friendship. Understanding. Shared goals and accomplishments.

Homelessness is one of the priorities set by your Social Action Committee. Probably few of us know people who are homeless. We see statistics. We see articles. Jude is no longer a statistic, or even just a name, but a personal story. We hope he will come to CBSRZ to share his story and thoughts with us later this year.

You may remember when Richard came to a CBSRZ Sabbath service last August and thanked us all personally for moving him out of homelessness. He spoke briefly and deeply about his blessings—that he had not only been given shelter, but a restored faith. Perhaps even more poignant was the comment he made about moving in last January—that he hoped it would be raining on that day because it would be comforting to see rain from inside.

We anticipate furnishing at least one apartment a year. We now have storage capability, so we can accept an item of furniture any time during the year. To recycle your furniture and furnishings and help address homelessness, please contact Linda Rigono at lrigono@sbcglobal.net.

And if you would like to discuss how else we might address homelessness or hunger, two of our priority areas, please come to the Committee meeting on January 29. Please contact andy@andrewschatz.com.

Together we can make a difference.
Norman Hanenbaum Inducted Into Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

On November 28, 2012, at a ceremony held at the State Capitol, Norman Hanenbaum was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Norman is the past commander of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Post 51 and present commander of the Department of Connecticut JWV. At CBSRZ, we know him best as the Director of A Klez Act. Norman spent most of his life as a special education teacher and, in 1968, was one of fifteen founders of the Special Olympics of Connecticut.

As an outgrowth of his musical talent and his dedication to people with special needs, Norman created and remains the musical director of the Alleluia Players, a remarkable traveling musical troupe. Norman served in the United States Marine Corps as a Corporal and is a member of Silver City Detachment, Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League.

tribute To The Four Chaplains

A special tribute will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, 2:00 PM, at the Elks Lodge #771, 44 Maynard Street, Middletown, to mark the 70th Anniversary of the heroic action of the Four Chaplains.

A convoy of three ships and three Coast Guard cutters passed through “torpedo alley” off Greenland at about 1:00 AM on February 3, 1943. The submarine U-223 fired three torpedoes, one of which hit the midsection of the Dorchester, a U.S. Army troopship with more than 900 men on board. Ammonia and oil were everywhere in the fast-sinking vessel and upon the freezing sea.

The Four Chaplains on board, two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a rabbi, were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out of life jackets, the chaplains took off their own, and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race.

Quickly, the ship went down. The chaplains were last seen, standing arm-in-arm on the hull of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700 died, making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the United States during World War II.

By their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith, the Four Chaplains demonstrated in their last moments true interfaith relationships with the men and with each other.

A donation of $5.00 is requested, with all funds given to the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. All expenses for the event will be assumed by the Department of Connecticut, JWV.

For more information, contact UACT at 860-595-2284 or email uact4change@gmail.com.

Building a Movement— Creating Justice in Healthcare and Immigration

Join United Action Connecticut (UACT), and people from many faith traditions to make connections, form work groups and organize. A meeting will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown, on January 26, 2013, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Organizers are helping immigrant families realize their dreams and are working to create a just system of insurance coverage and superior care for all people in Connecticut.

For more information, contact UACT at 860-595-2284 or email uact4change@gmail.com.

CBSRZ Women’s Seder Sunday, March 10, 4:00 PM

The CBSRZ Women’s Club invites women of all ages, experience and faith traditions to a very special Women’s Seder led by Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg and Cantorial Soloist Belinda Brennan. Be sure to save the date!

continued on page 21
Mazel Tov

To new grandmother, Linda Polomski, on the birth of her first granddaughter, Emma Roselle Leonard, on November 23, 2012. Proud parents are Amy and Douglas Leonard.

To Nancy Varga and David Hays on the birth of Nancy’s new granddaughter Lillian Marie Stamm, born on Thanksgiving Day. Proud parents are Amber and William Stamm.

To Bob Siegel and Carolina Marquez-Sterling on the birth of their new granddaughter, Julia Phyllis Siegel, born on December 4, 2012. Proud parents are Sandra and Jeffrey Siegel.

Additions/Corrections

—The cover photo for the November/December issue of The Whole Megillah was by Deborah Rutty, with the assistance of Wendy Bayor. It occasioned a milestone event for Wendy who had never before lit Chanukah candles.

—In the Editor’s Column, Erica Udoff’s last name was spelled incorrectly.

Thank you

Bob Zemmel & Linda Guica of Alforno TRATTORIA with Brick Oven Pizza

for their continued donations of lasagnas and delicious pastas for our First Friday potluck dinners.

Alforno Ristorante and Brick Oven Pizzeria
1654 Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT (860) 399-4166

Charles Savitt continued from page 15

“You don’t see what is going on at the other end of the line.”

Charles has taught at Virginia Commonwealth University and Chicago State University. Before moving to the shoreline, he lived in Chicago but was not a member of a congregation. “I kind of synagogue hopped,” he says. “On the high holy days I would buy a ticket.” But returning to Connecticut, he felt the need to make a commitment to a place of worship. “There is a sense of community at the synagogue,” he says. Susan Savitt, his sister, was already a member of the congregation.

Charles enjoys being closer to family but, after years in Chicago, he admits he is still adjusting to small town life. Nonetheless, he is delighted by the changing of the seasons. “I like four seasons,” he says. “In Chicago, there are only two: cold and not cold.”

Tallitot

Thank you to Sofia LeWitt for her recent donation of nine new Tallitot.

Back by Popular Demand!

Meal, Movies & Munchies

Sunday, February 3
at 3:00 PM

“The Lemon Tree”

This renowned film from Israel is the story of a widow who tends the family lemon grove along the Green Line dividing Palestine from the West Bank. When the Israeli defense minister and his wife, Mira, move in next door, his security detail advises him to destroy the grove since terrorists could use the trees for cover. The battle of the trees is a microcosm for the Palestinian-Israel conflict. Rabbi Goldenberg will lead a discussion after the film.

Refreshments will be served.
Memorial Plaques

Tevet 19 – Shevat 20, 5773

Sara Leah Abramowitch
Sarah Baum
Benjamin Beizer
Jacob Benson
Martha Bernstein
Meyer Bernstein
Dorothy Bockstein
Harry Breitman
Pauline Breslow
Abraham Buchzeiger
David Cirulnik
Carl Davis
Daniel Steven Davis
Davida Schatz Edelson
Dora Feingold
Charlotte Fine
Eva Fisher
William Freed
Wilhelm Furst
Sarah Glazer
Bertha Harris
George Horowitz
Irving Isaacson
Herbert Kabatnick
Isidore Klar
Saul Klar
Rose Klubes
Pearl Levine
William Levine
Victor Marko
Yetta Michael
Charles H. Myers
Rebecca Needelman
Meyer Needleman
Jack Peck
Abraham Peckeroff
William Price
Eva Rebecca Proctor
Jacob Rabinowitz
Max Rogow
Joseph Samuels
Sadie Samuels
Esther Sandberg
Julius Schneller
Rayann Seidman
Ann Siege

Yahrzeits

Tevet 19 – Shevat 20, 5773

Norman Bass—father of Susan Fine
Howard Beckerman—brother of Barbara Beckerman
Isadore Case—brother of Lewis Case
Max Case—father of Lewis Case
David Cirulnik—grandfather of Ellen Friedman
Leo Denette—father of Kay Chiat
Sophie Drobiarz—mother of Martin Drobiarz
Gene Freeman—father of Andy Freeman
Irving S. Frum—father of Miriam Gardner-Frum
David Gilman—father-in-law of Betty Gilman
Herb Golden—uncle of Leslie Krumbolz
Lani Hajogos—niece of Hyman Fink
Alanna Hirschmann—friend of Marilyn & Gene Kalet
George Horowitz—uncle of Sheila Byrne
Anna Kandell—mother of Marilyn Kalet
Kurt Kaufmann—father of Janie Pittendreigh
Hedwig Rook Kelly—mother of Jerry Kelly
Edna Kleiman—wife of Howard Kleiman; mother of Michele Kleiman
Bertha Lewis—aunt of Philip Hutt

Refuah Shlemah

The following people are in our prayers and our thoughts:
Arthur Sherman
Linda Thal
Marilyn Buel
Jo Watanabe—Friend of Carol LeWitt & Bruce Josephby
Donna Miller
Louise Ross
Peggy Tunick

A big thank you to all of our CBSRZ family for sharing your kindness towards us during our time of sorrow.

Condolences

David Hays on the loss of his brother, Richard Hays, age 85, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Martin Smith & Holly Starkman-Smith and family on the loss of Martin’s mother, Esther Moffsenson Smith

George Amarant on the loss of his sister-in-law, Eileen Moran.

Susan & Phil Fine on the loss of Susan’s mother, Pearl Bass

Juan Carlos Lopez on the loss of his wife, Maria.

Gene & Marilyn Kalet on the loss of Gene’s sister, Regina Kest.

Marilynn White-Gottfried on the loss of her mother-in-law, Silvia White.

Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik on the loss of Maxine’s stepmother, Florence Klein

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<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>7:45 AM—Morning Minyan</td>
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<td>4:15 pm, Tot Shabbat</td>
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<td>(office closed)</td>
<td>8:45 AM—Religious Affairs</td>
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<td>4:15 PM—Religious School</td>
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<td>3:00 PM—Shoreline Soup Kitchen Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:45 AM—Morning Minyan</td>
<td>6:00 PM—Board of Directors</td>
<td>4:22 pm—Light Candles</td>
<td>9:00 AM—Holy Scrollers</td>
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<td>4:15 PM—Religious School</td>
<td>7:30 PM—Congregational Meeting</td>
<td>5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service Followed by Home Shabbat Dinners</td>
<td>10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon Honoring David Ripin</td>
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<td>4:54 PM—Light Snacks</td>
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<td>12:00 PM—Tu B'Shevat Seder</td>
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*23 January Tevet 19 – Shevat 20, 5773*
PURIM CARNIVAL & SPIEL
Saturday, February 23, 2013
Carnival starts at 4:00 PM followed by the Spiel at 5:30 PM
Look for more details in the February issue of The Whole Megillah!

MOVIE & MUNCHIES
Sunday, February 3, 3:00 PM
“The Lemon Tree”
Following the movie, there will be a discussion led by Rabbi Goldenberg