

The Whole Megillah

January & February 2014

Tevet 29 - Adar 28, 5774



Deb Ruffy

The B'not Mitzvah Class will be called to the Torah on January 11.

Inside this issue

Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 8

The Rabbi Talks
about Silence.....3

Meet the
Madrachim.....12

Jesus for Jews.....6

Second Saturday Honoree,
Peg Palmer.....22

Introducing Stephen Davis, New
Vice-President.....7

Tu B'Shevat Celebration.....23



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IN THIS ISSUE



From Our Rabbi

3

Worship Services and Jan./Feb. Events

4

From Our President

5

Editor's Column: Jesus for Jews

6

Introducing Stephen Davis

7

Adult B'not Mitzvah

8-11

Whole Mishpacha

12-16

Photo Gallery

17-19

Purim Recipe

19

Social Action

20-21

2nd Saturday Honoree

22

Tu B'Shevat and Board Highlights

23

CBSRZ News

24

Condolences, Mi Sheberach, Remembrances

25

Calendars

26-27

Mama Loshen, Oneg Sponsors

28

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Published bi-monthly by
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From our Rabbi



By Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg

I write this column having just returned from spending four days in silence at a retreat with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS). About thirty of us, rabbis, cantors, and laypeople, spent the last four days of Chanukah at the Garrison

Institute in Upstate New York, sitting, walking, eating (and sleeping!) in silence. Silent meditation and silent retreats have become the foundation for my own personal Jewish spiritual practice and growth these past three or so years. And this spring, I will be taking my professional growth in this area to a new level as I begin a Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training course.

You might be wondering what this is all about. Why silence? Why retreat? Isn't a leader—a rabbi—supposed to be actively engaged with words and with the world? What is she retreating from?

For those of us who engage in this spiritual practice, the practice of not speaking doesn't actually mean that it is quiet at all. In fact, when we stop speaking, we quickly start to notice how noisy our minds are with thoughts, how noisy our bodies are with sensations, how very noisy our insides are with feelings.

And then, after many hours of sitting and walking meditation, in which we are instructed to focus on one thing—our breath—the mind begins to settle. The thoughts and sensations never stop coming, but there is enough space around each thought and sensation to actually notice each one. Simply allowing the mind to settle, and the nervous system to slow down is a good enough reason to practice silence and meditation—the sense of wellbeing is hard to describe in words.

But there is more to it than enjoying peace and wellbeing for myself. As I slow down, I feel my heart opening to each moment as it happens. I find equanimity and peace, and I don't react as quickly, as rashly, as harshly

to whatever might be arising in the moment—whether pleasant or unpleasant. The practice leads to cultivation of what our tradition calls, “middot,” or divine qualities embodied by humans, of gratitude, equanimity, compassion, and justice.

As a leader, a rabbi, a mother, a friend, this is a powerful thing. I have found that when I am engaged in ongoing mindfulness practice, whether on an intensive retreat or in small moments of meditation in my daily life, I am transformed in how I engage with others and with the world. When my mind is clear and settled, I see more choices in how I can respond to difficult situations or people. This practice helps me to be more aware and more skillful in my work and in my life.

Retreating into silence is not an escape from the world or from people. In fact, these retreats give me the resilience to better approach others, to face challenges, to take on issues of justice and human rights, and, I pray, to lead this community.

One of the qualities that mindfulness practice and silence helps to cultivate is gratitude. I am deeply grateful that the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) exists—this wonderful group of rabbis who have been looking at Jewish tradition and texts through the lens of mindfulness and the practices that lead to mindfulness. You may remember Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, who was with us as our scholar in residence a few years ago. She and her colleagues at IJS are transforming Jewish life and Jewish leaders through their groundbreaking work. (To learn more about IJS, its vision, purpose, and what it has to offer all of us, ask me about it, or go to www.jewishspirituality.org) Because of my involvement with Jewish mindfulness practice, I feel as though I now have a new set of eyes with which to understand and teach Torah, a new set of approaches to experiencing and leading prayer, and new ways to continually renew myself and find vision and resilience as a leader and a rabbi.

JANUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY EVENTS

January Worship Services

Wednesday, January 1, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday January 3, 5:45 PM, Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Erev Shabbat Service
 Wednesday, January 8, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday, January 10, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
 Saturday, January 11, 10:30 AM, Second Saturday Shabbat Service and Adult B'not Mitzvah with Kiddush Lunch
 Sunday, January 12, 11:00, Tu B'Shevat Seder and Dairy Lunch
 Wednesday, January 15, Erev Tu B'Shevat; 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Thursday, January 16, Tu B'Shevat
 Friday, January 17, 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Wednesday, January 22, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan;
 Friday, January 24, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
 Wednesday, January 29, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan;
 Friday, January 31, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service



February Worship Services

Wednesday, February 5, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday, February 7, 5:45 PM, Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Shabbat Service
 Saturday, February 8, Second Saturday Shabbat Service
 Wednesday, February 12, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday, February 14, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
 Wednesday February 19, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday, February 21, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
 Wednesday February 26, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan
 Friday, February 28, 5:45 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day (*Office closed*)
 Thursday, January 2, 7:00-8:30 PM, Adult Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal
 Sunday, January 5, 8:30 -9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 1:30-3:30 PM, Adult Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal
 Wednesday, January 8, 8:45 AM, Religious Affairs
 Thursday, January 9, 12:00-1:30 PM, Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Ethical Questions; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors Meeting
 Sunday, January 12, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew;
 Tuesday, January 14, 3:00 PM, Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Board Meeting
 Sunday, January 19, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 4:00 PM, Beat the Winter Blues Film Club
 Thursday, January 23, 4:00-6:00 PM Social Action - Deep River Soup Kitchen
 Sunday, January 26, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Congregational Meeting; 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM, Sunday Torah Study; 2:00 PM, Peter Walker's Photography: Walk and Talk
 Thursday, January 30, 5:30 PM, Social Action Committee; 7:00 PM, Executive Committee

Saturday, February 1, JOSTY Regional Shul-In (Brookline)
 Sunday, February 2, JOSTY Regional Shul-In (Brookline); 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew
 Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 PM, Education Committee
 Sunday, February 9, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 10:45 AM-12:00 PM Sunday Torah Study
 Tuesday, February 11, 3:00 PM, Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Board Meeting
 Wednesday, February 12, 7:00-8:30 PM, Jewish Pathways Class at Clinton Library
 Thursday, February 13, 12:00 -1:30 PM, Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Ethical Questions; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors Meeting
 Sunday, February 16, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew
 Monday, February 17, Presidents' Day (*Office closed*)
 Wednesday, February 19, 7:00-8:30 PM, Jewish Pathways Class at Clinton Library
 Sunday, February 23, 8:30-9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30-10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 4:00 PM, Beat the Winter Blues Film Club
 Wednesday, February 26, 7:00-8:30 PM, Jewish Pathways Class at Clinton Library
 Thursday, February 27, 7:00 PM, Executive Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

Sunday, March 9, 5:00 PM, Music & More with Howard Fishman
 Saturday, March 15, Erev Purim; 7:00 PM, Adult Purim Spiel
 Sunday, March 16, Purim; 9:30 AM, Children's Purim Spiel and Carnival
 Saturday March 22, Workshop on Nonviolence with CT Center for Nonviolence

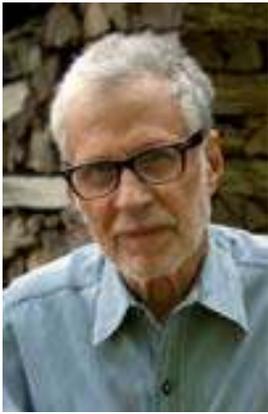
**Holy Scrollers
 Torah Study**
 every Shabbat
 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Don't Be Afraid of CBSRZ's Social Media: Facebook, Blogs, and Twitter

Just the words alone can cause tremors for some but, like it or not, they are here to stay. CBSRZ is using one or more of these sites and invites members to come along, it's really not hard, and explore the joys of cyberspace.

Begin by clicking on www.cbsrz.org to bring up the Synagogue's site and then click away at any of the colorful sites that you want to access. Click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the page and you will be directed to the CBSRZ Facebook page and a treasure trove of information beginning with Ellen Nodelman's blog about what it is like to be an adult B'nai Mitzvah. Click on the Like icon so you can be counted as a Friend of CBSRZ and thus receive postings as quickly as they are sent.

Charles Savitt has launched a Twitter site. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @CBSRZ. Follow Rabbi Goldenberg on Twitter @rabbirg.



From our President

"Boarding" School

By Lary Bloom

Over most of the last twenty years, I knew where I'd be on the second Thursday night of every month: in a seat at our CBSRZ board table. This will change in July, when my present term expires. Idle Thursday nights will seem odd to me, I know, and yet there is no doubt that younger leadership must emerge and develop, and I'm gratified that's happening.

In the meantime, I thought I'd offer younger leaders the benefit, if that's what it is, of what I have learned at the table of decision over these decades.

The Vision Thing. My first president was Harriet Fellows. She had an uncommon way of communicating. She got right to the point, and with authority. One night in 1994, she invited all board members to her house instead of our humble little shul in Deep River. We sat in her living room as she showed us her own drawing of "a barn"—a new home for our congregation. "We're going to build it," she said. I remember gasping. Where are we going to get the money? How will we do this? It's only us, after all. Little us, with about 50 families.

The Caring Quotient. Early board meetings provided lessons for would-be leaders. As chair of the Program Committee back then, I asked board approval for our first Books & Bagels program. Afterwards, the more seasoned member, Reuven Clein, advised that I didn't need board approval for that kind of thing, and that issues that rose to board level tended to be ones that required solving by group effort. Among the members of the group who put a great deal of effort into solving problems in those days: Peggy Tunick, Si Taubman, Jon Joslow

and many others. The Peggy Tunick rule, however, was we had to be finished by 10 p.m., so we could all watch "E.R."

Donna's Triumph.

Maybe the most difficult tenure of all in the presidency was that of Donna Moran, because it came at decision-making points

about a new building and how to raise funds for it. She nevertheless carried it off with thoughtfulness, patience, and a willingness to do what all congregational presidents must do: listen to dozens of opinions.

Persistence and Homework.

In 1997, the board hired an architect who had a lot of experience designing synagogues to work on plans for a new CBSRZ home. But his design seemed uninspired, ordinary—and the board dismissed him. I received a note a couple of weeks later from Sol LeWitt, who said that he had a model of what our new place could look like, and did I want to come over and take a look? Of course I wanted to. The model was like nothing I had seen before: a synagogue as a work of art. He explained that it was inspired by eastern European wooden synagogues. It was stunning, but I knew that those of us who liked Sol's idea had a chore in front of us. Sol was, of course, an internationally admired artist, not an architect. The board would need convincing. The night of the board meeting, I stood in front of the mirror in the men's room at the newspaper office, and I practiced the speech I would deliver that night. "This is an uncommon opportunity," I would say, etc. As it turned out, I needn't have worried. There was an instant embrace of the idea, and an experienced architect, Stephen Lloyd, was hired to help turn Sol's beautiful plan into reality.

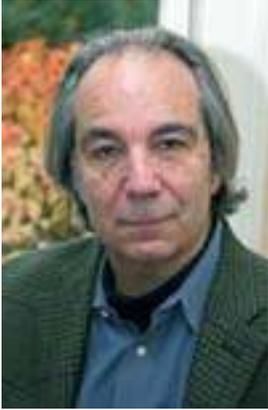
On the Other Hand. As I learned from Reuven, getting board approval for speakers was not necessary. However, a few years ago, one plan for a speaking engagement rose to board level—I knew I needed buy-in. That's because you can't go around inviting

former U.S. presidents without board support. The president I had in mind was Jimmy Carter, who had just written a controversial book on Israelis and Palestinians in which he accused Israel of a form of apartheid. That night at the meeting, I explained my idea, and then, after a heated discussion, the board gave the plan overwhelming approval: by a vote of 9-8. However, Jimmy Carter declined my invitation.

A Tragic Board Night. It had been an "ordinary" board meeting in our new shul. We all went home thinking we had done our best. The next morning, though, at 6 a.m., my phone rang. Jackie Michael was at the other end of the line. "Donna. Our Donna was killed last night." In the next few seconds, details emerged. Donna Moran, our literally groundbreaking former president, had forgotten her laptop at the meeting and went back to get it. As she drove, and as her husband George Amarant waited for her at home, her car was hit head-on by a truck driven by a man who was inebriated.

A Presidential View. At the time of Donna's death, I was in awe of all she had done for us and as time has passed, my regard for her accomplishments has only expanded. I'd like to pay tribute to all of my predecessors: the people who carried the weight of this position, including Bob Woolf, Susan Peck, Jon Samburg, Sandy Seidman, Louise Ross, Jo-Ann Price, Debbie Mueller, Bruce Josephy, Martin Nadel, Harvey Redak, and ... of course, Donna Moran.

And So... I look around the table on Thursday nights and know that I am in the company of the strongest board of directors I've ever seen at CBSRZ. These members present innovative ideas, ask probing questions, take very seriously their fiduciary responsibilities on behalf of the congregation, and sometimes even pretend that the idea I have put forward is a good one. This board has produced reports and recommendations for senior and community care, for the future of our school, and other vital matters. With the tireless and wise help of the Nominating and Governance Committee, it has prepared for the future. So, as I head toward my Thursday Night Retirement date, I am satisfied that we'll all be in great hands.



From our
Editor

**JESUS
FOR JEWS**
By Sean Konecky

I am convinced that historical exigencies have deprived the Jewish people of one of its greatest prophets: Jesus of Nazareth. Christian anti-Judaism is deeply rooted. As Rosemary Ruether, a provocative Catholic theologian, makes the case in her book *Faith and Fratricide*, it arose out of what the early Christians perceived as an existential threat and became one of the principal elements upon which the new religion was founded.

From its beginnings Christianity attacked Judaism. This is apparent in the later Gospels, especially in John. John's gospel, the last to be written, provides an extended Christological argument rather than an account of Jesus' life and teachings as is found in the synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke). The strongest case against the Jews is made by Paul, whose Pharaic background made him thoroughly conversant with the terms of Jewish devotion. In chapter nine of Romans, he makes what became for Christianity a formative distinction between carnal and spiritual Israel, denuding Judaism of any value of its own and setting the stage for the typological interpretation of Hebrew scripture that sees them as primarily an allegorical prefiguring Christ.

But Jesus is not Paul. Though I do not believe that the accuracy of the Gospel account of Jesus' life can ever be determined, even those who want nothing to do with Jesus have to

acknowledge the extraordinary nature of the Gospels as literary works. Written at a time when only the deeds of rulers were considered to be worth memorializing, they provide an account of the life and acts of a Jewish peasant in unprecedented detail. That is not say that they are biographical in any modern sense. All of the Gospels are didactic and concern themselves with Jesus' teachings, healings, miracles, and standing as the messiah.

The Jesus of the synoptic gospels is, however, first of all a Jew. He is deeply familiar with the Tanakh: he is addressed as Rabbi by his followers and the crowds that flock to him; he recites the shema; disputes fine points of the law; and the trajectory of his life story leads him to the temple and Jerusalem where one of his last free acts is to celebrate Passover. More than this his teaching is explicitly directed to the Jews. Mark 7:24-29 recounts a gentile woman's request that Jesus exorcise a demon possessing her daughter:

He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Matthew elaborates on this episode adding his initial response to her (15:24):

But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

I don't see the need to go into details of his teaching here. But to my way of thinking his criticisms of contemporary practices and rigid doctrine deserve a prominent place in our prophetic tradition. And his invitation to those marginalized by society—tax collectors, bar owners,

women—sets a powerful example for modern progressive Jews to follow. Still what are we as Jews to make of Jesus' own messianic claims? The question is not an easy one. Even leaving aside John, the Gospels are unambiguous: Jesus is the Messiah. It is true that in the Gospel of Mark he refuses to publicly accept this title, preferring to speak of himself as the 'Son of man' (an appellation from Daniel). Nonetheless he does acknowledge it during his interrogation by the Sanhedrin. And in his transfiguration, Mark reports God's voice saying, "This is my son." In Matthew's and Luke's accounts Jesus is more forthcoming about his role. However, an early Judeo-Christian group, the Ebionite sect, about whom most of what is known comes from Church Fathers, who condemned it as heretical, denied Jesus' divinity. According to Wikipedia they are "described as emphasizing the oneness of God and the humanity of Jesus as the biological son of both Mary and Joseph, who by virtue of his righteousness, was chosen by God to be the messianic 'prophet like Moses.'" That such alternate interpretations of Jesus' life and mission by his contemporaries would have clearly run afoul with the proselytizers of early Christianity, is understandable. In fact, the history of the early Church dogma is to a large extent a process of calibrating the exact nature of Jesus and the ruthless excision of different, "heretical" versions.

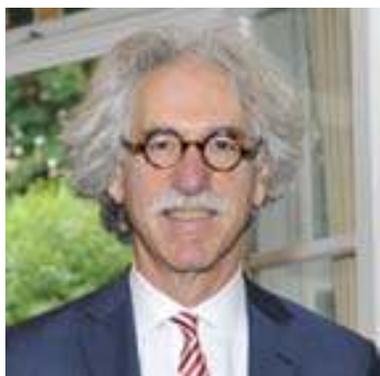
On the other hand the Gospel account may accurately reflect Jesus' self-appraisal: he may have thought that he was the Messiah. Even so what he may have meant by this is by no means certain. And from the portrait that the synoptic Gospels provide, it is extremely difficult to credit that he saw himself as "Christ, the Son of God made man...the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one" (from the Catechism

of the Catholic Church). Perhaps as Jews we can look upon him as a man, imperfect and mistaken, but also as a powerful voice that insists upon being heard.

It was the task of Paul, the early Christian Fathers and generations of Christian thinkers and dogmatists to aryanize Jesus. I know a non-Jew who expressed shock and disbelief when I informed her that Jesus was Jewish. But does this mean that we as critically minded modern Jews need to be complicit in their act of appropriation?

I look forward to receiving your comments, criticisms, and suggestions on my editorials or on any of the article in The Whole Megillah. Please email them to sean.konecky@gmail.com.

Stephen Davis, our New VP



Stephen Davis

Beginning in January, Stephen Davis, an internationally recognized corporate governance expert, becomes the new CBSRZ board vice president.

Put forward by our Nominating and Governance Committee and approved by the board at the November meeting, Stephen fills out the final six months of the term of Miriam Gardner-Frum, who has decided to devote her efforts to

producing Music & More, our biggest fundraising and cultural initiative.

Of this change, Board President Lary Bloom says, “I’m grateful to both Miriam, who has solved so many congregational problems over many years, and to Stephen, who in short order has helped establish procedures based on best practices culled from his experience and then adapted them to the congregation.”

In the last year or so, as a board member, he has produced highly regarded reports on community care for our most vulnerable congregants, and on how we have followed through on our long-term strategic plan. Stephen and his wife Clo, our Program chair, have been great supporters of many CBSRZ initiatives. Their son Gabriel became a bar mitzvah here and remains active in youth activities. Clo’s mother Miriam is a CBSRZ member. And Stephen’s parents, Jack and Helen, are longtime leaders in the shoreline Jewish community.

“CBSRZ’s caring community, welcoming culture and spiritual curiosity are unique strengths which drew me in from the start. I am honored to take up responsibilities under Lary’s leadership and look forward to ideas and feedback from congregants. Jewish institutions are, I believe, at a tipping point, requiring us again — as we’ve done for 5,000 years — to adapt in order to thrive. You only have to sit in our inspiring sanctuary to know that we have everything we need to secure our spiritual and financial future.”

Stephen is a Madison native. Some highlights from his official CV:

Stephen Davis, Ph.D. is associate director of the Harvard Law School Programs on Corporate Governance and Institutional Investors, and a senior fellow at the Program on Corporate Governance. He is also a nonresident senior fellow in governance at the Brookings Institution. From 2007–2012 he was executive director of the Yale School of Management’s Millstein Center for Corporate

Governance and Performance and Lecturer on the SOM faculty.

Davis served on the SEC’s Investor Advisory Committee, where Chair Mary Schapiro appointed him chair of the Investor as Owner Subcommittee. He is a board member and former chair of Hermes EOS, the shareowner engagement arm of Hermes Pensions Management, the UK’s largest retirement fund; trustee of ShareAction, the London-based advocate for responsible investment; co-organizer of Brookings’ World Forum on Governance in Prague; Member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on the Future of Long Term Investing; Member of the advisory board of Cartica Capital; Member of the Private Sector Advisory Group of the Global Corporate Governance Forum; and member of the advisory boards of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa at Stellenbosch University and the Center for Corporate Governance at Handelshochschule Leipzig. Davis is also a senior advisor at Teneo, president of consultant Davis Global Advisors, and founder-editor of the *Global Proxy Watch* newsletter.

Winner of the 2011 ICGN Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance, Davis co-authored *The New Capitalists: How Citizen Investors are Reshaping the Corporate Agenda* (Harvard Business School Press, 2006), which was named by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and *Australian Financial Review* as one of the best business books of 2006. The book has been translated into Japanese, Portuguese, Complex Chinese and Korean. A sequel published by Yale Press is due in 2014. He is also the author of “Mobilizing Ownership: An Agenda for Corporate Renewal,” published by Brookings in May 2012. Davis contributed to *Corporate Governance in the Wake of the Financial Crisis* (UNCTAD, 2011) and *The Origins of Shareholder Advocacy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). He received his doctorate at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Introducing the Adult Bat Mitzvah Class of 5774

By Ellen Nodelman

“Whatever made you decide to become bat mitzvah?” That’s the question we’ve all been asked (with the unspoken addition: *at your age?*). And a very good question too. We all have different answers, and some of us are still searching for the final, and most satisfying, answer...which probably won’t come until Shabbat Morning, January 11, 2014, when each of us will be called to the Torah, the pinnacle, although not the conclusion, of that special day.

Some of us can trace it back to beginning Hebrew class with Evelyn Foster in the fall of 2012. We sat in the conference room, a few absolute beginners, a few continuing from the year (or years) before, a few, like me, hoping to renew fast fading familiarity with Hebrew. Rabbi Rachel was there to greet us as we started our study and then, quite casually, mentioned that she would be holding two series of mini-courses later in the year, one on the prayer book, one on Torah, aimed at connecting us with ‘The Jew you’d like to be’, an intriguing title. And...oh, yes...she was hoping to put together a group of people who were interested in adult bar or bat mitzvahs.

For the moment we focused on acquainting (or re-acquainting) ourselves with the Hebrew alphabet and working our way through elementary Hebrew phrases, all with Evelyn’s intrepid guidance—now there’s a woman who doesn’t get discouraged. When the rabbi started her first mini-course, a number of us were in attendance and followed up on the second. That was the moment when some of us really began to think about becoming bat mitzvah—a tangible step towards becoming the Jew we each wanted to be.

Each one of us made the final decision at different times and for different rea-



Paula Reisky

B’not Mitzvah candidates at the Save the Train benefit concert with Anne Wernau of Safe Futures

sons, but by midwinter eight of us, all women, had committed ourselves to the process, not without some trepidation. I remember the phone call I received from the rabbi on the eve not just of Shabbat but of the huge winter storm that paralyzed so much of the shoreline. I was in New York, preparing for the storm there, in a tiny cottage near the small independent school where I am the part-time college counselor. I told the rabbi that I was interested in being part of this programme but was unsure of my qualifications for doing so. Was my Hebrew up to the task? Would I be in Connecticut enough to be able to participate meaningfully? Would I have the time to prepare? As she did with the others, the rabbi both encouraged and reassured me, letting me know that she would be assessing everyone’s Hebrew and helping us decide what we could and could not do.

So we found ourselves, that first Bat Mitzvah—or as we later learned to call it B’Not Mitzvah—class in April, meeting with each other and the rabbi and explaining who we were and why we were there.

It was apparent immediately that different as we all were, we all shared something very important in common: the desire to advance our Jewish learning and become truly contributing members of our particular Jewish community, CBSRZ. But each of us had come to that

shared desire in a very particular way. So here is a short glimpse of each of us, introducing ourselves:

Sandee G: The decision to participate in the Adult B’not Mitzvah class symbolizes to me a homecoming, a return to a spiritual home that I feel I have been journeying towards my whole life. In 1954 my parents married, my mother, a Jewish woman, marrying a non-Jew. My very conservative grandparents could not accept the marriage. It was not until 1960 that my mother reconciled with her parents. Sadly my mother was not welcomed back to her religion. Growing up I was fortunate to be very connected to my grandmother. She was my window into what I thought as a child was a mystical world. I learned about my family, Russian Jews. My grandmother came to America in 1916 with one of her brothers at 16 years old. My great grandmother was a midwife. I grew up with a mother who by her example believed in service to others; she lived Tikkun Olam, beginning with her family. My mother was a nurse, and her dedication to her profession and to those she cared for touched many lives over the years. I too acknowledge and strive to live a life that values the importance of service to others.

I am honored to have this opportunity to read from the Torah. When I do it will be for my mother, grandmother, and all the females that came before me.



Mentors for the B'not Mitzvah class: Belinda Brennan, Evelyn Foster, and Rabbi Goldenberg

Pamela: After being drawn to Judaism for over twenty-five years, I finally completed my formal conversion in April, 2012. During these past few years, I attempted several times to learn to read the Hebrew Alphabet in Evelyn's Hebrew class. While in the midst of this process yet once again, the opportunity arose to take this final step of becoming an Adult Bat Mitzvah. When Rabbi Goldenberg asked me if I was interested, I thought, "Why not?" At the same time, as a new Jew, I felt a great responsibility to carry on our traditions further by learning to lead a service and chant from the Torah. The experience ended up deepening my connection to Judaism in a way I never could have imagined!

Linda: My twin brother Lynn and I went to religious school and Hebrew school in Brooklyn. After three years he became bar mitzvah. I didn't, and I didn't think much about it. We joined this synagogue when my son Aaron started religious school, and David Hayes was in his class. It was the first time I realized that an adult could become a bar or bat mitzvah. About a year ago I started taking Hebrew classes with Evelyn Foster. Soon after that Rabbi Rachel announced that she would be starting an adult b'nai mitzvah class. I thought it was time to take advantage of this opportunity and chal-

lenge. So far it has been very rewarding, especially with all the help from Rabbi Rachel and Belinda. I am very glad to have my seven classmates travelling this path with me.

Sandy H: I began my Bat Mitzvah journey by studying beginning Hebrew with Evelyn Foster, a master teacher and extraordinary human being. I had always been interested in languages. I attended Workman's Circle school as a child where I learned to read and write Yiddish. I remember the wonderful smell of the text when I first received it. I loved Latin and Spanish when I was in high school. Later, I studied Russian at Brown University's night school. So, learning Hebrew was another challenge. But this challenge of learning languages turned into something else in my life. When asked if I would be interesting in obtaining my Bat Mitzvah, I hesitated but then decided it was something I would be interested in pursuing.

I think my decision again had roots in my childhood. I remember and can picture my mother lighting the candles every Friday night and her pious murmurings of the prayers. I always felt she was in a different place and in a different time. There was a simplicity in those moments which I feel I now would like to capture and make my own.

The experience of working with seven lovely women has been a very rich experience, full of compassion and encouragement of each other. Rabbi Goldenberg provided unprecedented spiritual guidance in her gentle, nurturing manner, encouraging each of us to discover our inner strengths. I thank her profusely for her guidance. My journey along this road helped me make that connection to my parents and their parents and to those other ancestors from the past. I know that my parents, especially would 'kvell' in my achievement and I dedicate this moment to them.

Polly: My husband, two children and I became members of CBSRZ in the mid 1990's. We were looking to join a synagogue and felt at home at CBSRZ the moment we walked into the old shul. And I've felt at home ever since. In the early days, I was involved in a number of things: the kids' school, the Finance

committee and the choir. Through those experiences, and a long-standing connection to Judaism, I decided to convert. And in 1998, I became a Jew. Even then, I hoped that I would someday be able to become a daughter of the commandments, knowing that I would find it rewarding and important. What I didn't know then is just how rewarding it would be. Going through this process with seven remarkable women has deepened this experience for me. I'm nervous about January 11th, but really can't wait.

Deb: For me, my adult Bat Mitzvah is a logical and emotional completion of a circle. I grew up in Bridgeport in the 50s and 60s, attending an Orthodox shul where the atmosphere was very somber, women and men sat separately, and the services were all in Hebrew. I had little understanding of the depth and beauty of the prayers. By the time I went to college at age 17, I had disassociated myself from Jewishness, although I never abandoned my internal identity of being a Jew. I stayed away for forty-five years..... until three years ago when I decided to become a member of CBSRZ after attending all of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. I was emotionally overwhelmed by their beauty, meaningfulness and humanity. The beauty of the synagogue and the music moved me, and I felt the communal energy.

By becoming a Bat Mitzvah, I am filling a void in my life. I am embracing my identity in a new and meaningful way which also honors my parents and their predecessors. I stand each time the Kaddish is read to make up for the years that I didn't. And I am adopting the name of my great-grandmother, "Chayah Sarah," as my Hebrew name.

"We are shaped by those who came before us. As an acorn is formed by the tree that preceded it, yet gives rise to a tree uniquely its own, so we are formed by our ancestors, yet give rise to a Judaism uniquely ours." Rami Shapiro**, *Mishkan T'filah*, p. 245

Johanna: I recently felt the need to reconnect with Judaism and a Jewish community. I found myself attending services at CBSRZ. It only took one service to be totally convinced that this

Adult Bat Mitzvah Class *(Continued from page 9)*

is where I needed to be. As I listened to Rabbi Goldenberg and Cantor Belinda Brennan lead the service, I was personally touched by the words, prayers, and singing. I felt an instant connection. The warmth and welcome that I felt was and still is so comforting. I joined the congregation as a member a little over a year ago and find myself totally submersed in the synagogue's activities. I have also joined some of the com-

mittees and love being involved and feeling connected. All the people in this community are wonderful. I think I have found a second family. But I also felt a longing to continue my Jewish studies, so I embarked on a learning track for me. I started and I am still going the Adult Hebrew class led by the wonderful Evelyn Foster. I was in the mini-Torah class led by Rabbi Goldenberg where I decided to pursue my Bat

Mitzvah. Rabbi Goldenberg formed the Adult B'not Mitzvah study group. I am a very proud member of this great group of women as we continue on our study that will lead us to this joyous day.

Ellen: I spent my first ten years in New York City, in a family that was not simply secular but quite anti-religious. Then at ten I found myself in India and in a missionary boarding school, where I was confronted with fiercely held, born-again religious beliefs and informed by my missionary children classmates that I was a heathen. Coming into contact with Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist traditions during my vacations in Delhi tempered that influence and sent me on a search for something I could believe in. I turned to Judaism first in high school and then in college, attracted by its ethical framework, its emphasis on questioning and searching rather than passively accepting doctrine, and, especially after my childhood exposure to missionary ardor, its welcome rejection of exclusivist claims to The Right and Only Way. I made it official, becoming a Jew in my early 20's. I attended Hebrew and adult education classes in my temple in Nyack, NY while my children were in religious school but never had the opportunity to deepen my study as I would have liked to. So when, 'semi-retired' in Connecticut I became part of CBSRZ, I found the lure of finally deepening my Jewish experience impossible to resist. CBSRZ's services, Evelyn's Hebrew classes, the Rabbi's classes, Holy Scrollers, plus the welcome feeling of truly belonging to a remarkable community—for perhaps the first time in my entire life—all these made me decide that it was time for me to step up and become an active participant in my own Jewish life. Being called to the Torah will be the beginning of a whole new stage of my Jewish journey—and a very exciting one.

*Please celebrate
with our
Adult Bat Mitzvah Class*

<i>Pamela Crair</i>	רחל אלישבע בת אברהם ושרה
<i>Sandy Herzog</i>	שיינדעל בת מאיר ודבורה
<i>Sandee Gelven</i>	שרה לאה בת אסתר
<i>Polly Kipp</i>	חווה בת אברהם ושרה
<i>Ellen Nodelman</i>	אסתר בינה בת אברהם ושרה
<i>Linda Rigono</i>	לאה בת יצחק
<i>Deborah Ruttly</i>	חיה שרה בת לויס ורות
<i>Johanna Schaefer</i>	שושנה בת דוד ואסתר

*as they lead our Second Saturday service
and are called to the Torah*

*January 11, 2014 / 10 Sh'vat 5774
10:30am
Parashat B'shalach*

*Kiddush luncheon to follow—please bring a
dairy/veggie dish or dessert to share. Bagels,
lox and spreads are provided.*

What has the process been like? Challenging for sure. We've had to muster whatever Hebrew skills we have to the point that we could finesse the prayers, handle our portions, and feel confident in doing so—maybe....

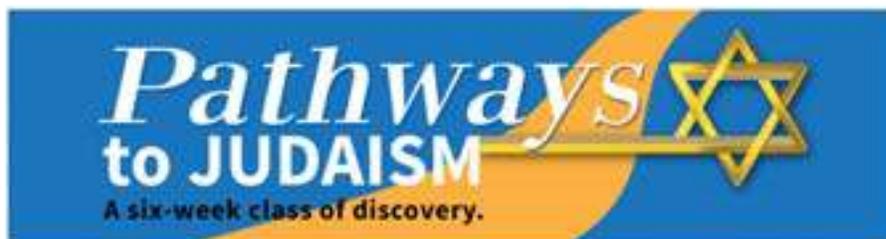
We've had the support of some phenomenal people here at CBSRZ: Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg who has been our mentor, supporter, cheerleader and, when necessary, tough love dispenser, who organized the b'not mitzvah process and introduced us to it, kept us on schedule and de-mystified everything for us, making us believe that we could REALLY DO THIS; Belinda Brennan who took us through a crash course on trope, gave us recordings of the prayers and met with us to go over both prayers and torah portion until she was satisfied that we had them under control; Evelyn Foster, our incredible Hebrew teacher who started most of us off and who is seeing us through to the end; and then, of course, each other—a group of relative strangers in the beginning who have gathered strength from each other as we have gotten increasingly closer to each other and to our common goal.

We began our preparations in the spring. Our summer break gave us a chance to catch up on whatever we needed to do before starting in earnest this fall, after the holidays. And in the fall, we started with a vengeance. We were divided into two groups, Green and Purple, and assigned certain prayers for each group to lead on The Big Day. We got serious about our Mitzvah Project, support for Safe Futures, the shelter in New London that not only works with battered women (and their children) but works against domestic violence through educational programmes in the schools. And we attended regular services and bat mitzvah services, studied our Hebrew, chanted our portions, practiced our prayers, ordered our tallot, all in preparation for the Big Day: January 11, Shabbat Shira, or the Sabbath of Songs.

Our portion includes the song of triumph sung, first sung by Moses, then taken up by Miriam who drew the other women into the musical rejoicing, after crossing the sea and escaping Pharaoh's armies. The Haftorah also features a song, the song of Deborah after the defeat, and

slaying by Jael, of Sisera, Israel's enemy. It also features the usual grumbling of the Israelites, the requisite addressing of those issues by G_d via Moses (making brackish water sweet, providing quail and manna to eat) and the (temporary) defeat of Amalek, Israel's untiring nemesis, just as Sisera was dealt with in a more definitive way. We liked the musical emphasis, the song that drew together a community, the role of strong women and the way in which food, that necessity for life, was provided to all fairly, equitably, without favoritism.

We will be addressing some of the issues raised in our portion, and perhaps squeamishly avoiding some of the more problematic, warlike and gory, aspects, in our divrei torah. We will also be reading or chanting Torah, leading prayers and celebrating together, just as the women led by Miriam celebrated after escaping from Egypt. We all feel very fortunate to have this wonderful opportunity to do so. Please join us on January 11, Shabbat Shira.



For Jews and non-Jews seeking to deepen their understanding of Judaism or are curious to know more about Judaism.



Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg

Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg of Congregation Beth Shalom (Chester) and **Rabbi Stacy Offner** of Temple Beth Tikvah (Madison) explore the basic beliefs, practices and language of the Jewish religion and culture.

Learn about Jewish holidays and life cycle rituals, engage in study of inspiring Jewish texts and teachings, get a taste of the Hebrew language, and tackle big questions like "Who is a Jew?"



Rabbi Stacy Offner

February 12, 19 & 26
March 5, 12 & 19 | 7-8:30pm

The Henry Carter Hull Library
10 Killingworth Turnpike, Clinton, CT

To register, send your check for the \$50 book and materials fee to either:

CBSRZ
55 E. Kings Highway, P.O. Box 438, Chester, CT 06412

or **Temple Beth Tikvah**
196 Durham Rd., Madison, CT 06443

For questions, please call or email:
Rabbi Goldenberg at 860-526-8920, rabbirg@snet.net
or Rabbi Stacy Offner at 203-245-7028, skoffner@gmail.com

Sponsored by:



The Whole

Religious School & Family Activities

Religious School and Family Calendar

January 2014

1st	No School: Holiday Break
5th	Sunday Session Breakfast with the Rabbi (Grade 5) Confirmation
8th	Wednesday Session
12th	Sunday Session Tu B'Shevat Seder (11:00 am)
15th	Wednesday Session
19th	No School: MLK
22nd	Wednesday Session
26th	Sunday Session Gesher & Confirmation Sunday Torah Study (10:45 am)
29th	Wednesday Session

February 2014

2nd	Sunday Session (Jr Youth Shul-in weekend) Community Gathering (led by Grade 5) Confirmation
5th	Wednesday Session
9th	Sunday Session Gesher & Confirmation Sunday Torah Study (10:45 am)
12th	Wednesday Session
16th	No School: Winter Break
19th	No School: Winter Break
23rd	No School: Winter Break
26th	Wednesday Session

Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!

January

Moreh Stu Baker	January 2
Rabbi Goldenberg	January 9
Amina Goldenberg	January 12
Morah Lynn Coville	January 15
Gloria Conley	January 23

February

Jack Conley	February 7
Ziv Goldenberg	February 8
Max Gill	February 9
Joe Mercier	February 13
Madricha Dana Foley	February 14
Kaitlyn Burzin	February 22

Meet the CBSRZ Adults who teach the CBSRZ Kids

Editor's Note: There are many adults in our congregation who spend time with our kids, as teachers and advisors. This issue is mostly devoted to these very special individuals in our congregation.

CBSRZ Religious School Teachers:



Name: Lynn Coville
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: This is my first year!
Present grade: Latkes/Aleph combined class (K-1)

I have been teaching young children for many years. I taught Jewish Montessori at Garinim at BEKI in New Haven and received my Montessori credentials in 2010. I lived in New Haven for over 30 years and moved to Westbrook last October, a week before Hurricane Sandy. I am thrilled to be living in this area. I have been inspired by the warmth of the CBSRZ community and am amazed at how quickly I have come to feel at home. I look forward to deepening my relationships within the community and bringing my genuine love of learning and children.



Name: Debbie Guss
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: 10 years
Present grade: Latkes/Aleph combined class (K-1)

Why I spend my Sunday mornings teaching at CBSRZ? I enjoy the camaraderie of the teaching staff, the positive energy of the school and the extra time with my teenage daughters, who continue to come with me each Sunday.

My favorite part of the day (or year): I love working on arts and crafts projects with the little ones and to see their creative take on the various lessons.

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: I want my students to love coming to Religious School and to be in a teaching environment that is open and allows them to creatively express themselves.



Name: Marjorie Lander
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: A long time, happily, I would say forever?
Present grade: Kitah Bet and Gimel (2-3)

Why I spend my Sunday mornings teaching at CBSRZ: My Judaism has given me comfort in times of need, provided a lot of joy and wonderful memories in my life. I was unable to have children to pass on our traditions and beliefs so I pass on these traditions and beliefs to other people's children. I, like most people in America, have a very stressful job, Religious school is my therapy and the only time of the week that my work stress goes far away. I do not consider it work to be with the wonderful children of CBSRZ!!! I just hope that they glean as much from me, as I do from them.

My favorite part of the day: My favorite part of the day? Truthfully all of it, but I do get a great deal of satisfaction, when I see the children realize that they do know how to read Hebrew. I continually get to learn new things about Judaism with our stu-

Mishpacha

Compiled by Leslie Krumholz

dents from our Rabbi, the Israeli emissaries, my fellow teachers, and Morah Belinda.

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: To embrace our values and traditions, take them with you out in the world, be kind and be proud of who you are. Know that you are part of a community that will be there for you in times of joy and sorrow.



Name: Eric Infeld
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: 10 years
Present grade: Kitah Dalet (4th)

Why I spend my Sunday mornings and Wed afternoons teaching at CBSRZ: I look forward to coming to CBSRZ on both Sunday mornings, and on Wednesday afternoons. I find that working with our children is one of the high points of my week. They give so much to me with their enthusiasm, joy, questioning, and love. They make me think, cause me to reflect, and have initiated new study to answer their questions. Their wanting to be here makes me want to be here, and this is one of the ways I feel a part of our community. It is a way that I am able to give back. It opens space in my heart and soul allowing me to have the potential to receive back from them, and the community.

My favorite part of the day (or year): Whether Hebrew, prayer, holidays, Tanakh, or life cycle, I enjoy integrating all of the things we learn together. Our lives are woven together like a tapestry, each thread on its own is important. Weaving them together into a whole creates our tapestry, our Jewish life.

My most important goal I have set for my students this school year: For each student as an individual, and the class as a whole, to identify as a member of a Jewish community, and understand

that with the identification comes responsibilities, through mitzvot, to that community, and the community back to them.



Name: Jim Talbott
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: This is my 4th year.
Present grade: Kitah Hey (5th), Sunday mornings

Why I spend my Sunday mornings teaching at CBSRZ: I'm not planning on having any more of my own children, so this is a way I can contribute to the continuity of the Jewish people and avoid night wakings, changing diapers, etc.

My favorite part of the day: I like reading primary Jewish texts with my students. Over the course of the year, they read Torah, NaKh (prophets and writings), Mishnah, Rashi, and midrashim (usually from the Bialik/Ravnitsky collection).

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: My primary goal is fostering attachment to Judaism. The way I'm personally best able to foster that attachment is by sharing my love of Jewish study and Jewish text. The class may seem cerebral, but underneath the intellectualism is love.



Name: Evelyn Foster
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: I've lost track of how many years I've been teaching at our Religious School. I know I

began a few years before 2001. We were still in the annex. I'd guess maybe sixteen years.

Present grade: Kitah Hey (5th), Wednesday Afternoons and on Sundays as He-

brew Specialist, I work with small groups and individuals from various classes on Hebrew. I work with various classes on assorted art projects as they arise.

Why I spend my Sunday mornings and Wed afternoons teaching at CBSRZ: Two of my favorite aspects of Religious School: watching friendships grow among the kids and seeing kids mature through their b'nai mitzvah process.

My favorite part of the day (or year): It's been more than a year now that Adult Hebrew has been added to Sunday mornings. There is an Advanced Adult Hebrew class that meets at 8:30 and a Beginning Adult Hebrew that meets at 9:30. One project in particular has become a tradition for at least ten years. Each year, the B'nai Mitzvah class creates a painting that represents what's been important to them as a class during their years of Religious School.

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: I'm always looking for better ways to engage the kids in whatever we're learning. Different approaches work for different individuals and groups. I'm partial to teaching or reinforcing through hands with art and drama.



Name: Debby Trautmann
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: 19 years
Present grade: Kitah Vav (6th)

Why I spend my Sunday mornings and Wed afternoons teaching at CBSRZ: Although I hate getting up in the morning, I do it to be with the kids, to share my love for Judaism, and hope that they too will feel a connection and love for this special community and religion.

My favorite part of the day (or year): When we visit the various houses of worship.

The Whole Mishpacha (Continued from page 13)

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: I want the students to see and understand that although there are many differences between us, we all share a common tenet, to respect one another as we would like to be respected and be treated.



Name: Tracy Kleinberg
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: 3 years (I used to teach some of the Wednesday curriculum but now I am teaching

Sundays where we are learning about the Holocaust)

Present grade: Olim (7th-Sundays)

Why I spend my Sunday mornings teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: I enjoy teaching because I like being around the kids and teaching keeps me more connected and engaged with the synagogue, since I have to be there at least once a week.

My favorite part of the day (or year): It's hard for me to say what my favorite thing to teach is for two reasons: 1. This is the first time I have taught the Holocaust, and 2. It's the Holocaust, not the easiest or most fun conversation to have on a Sunday morning.

The most important goal I have set for my students this school year: I just hope the kids get some of their questions answered about the Holocaust. It's confusing to understand how something like this could have happened, especially confusing for a child or teen. I hope they learn more about the dangers of stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and scapegoating. Ultimately, I hope that by studying the Holocaust they will be able to define their own role as responsible citizens of the world.



Name: Karen Evans
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: This is my first year!
Present grade: Olim (7th -Wednesdays)

I will be teaching Olim half of the Wednesdays only. This is my first year teaching at the temple (though I am a 4th grade teacher full time). I decided to take the position be-

cause I wanted a new challenge, and wanted to become more involved in the religious education at the temple. I am looking forward to working with a new age group and delving into content that I hope to make interesting and relevant to 7th graders.



Name: Sandy Herzog
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: Just began in November.
Present grade: K'neidlach – Birth through Four

Why I spend my Sunday mornings teaching at CBSRZ: I am a former primary grade teacher, having taught in Union City, New Jersey, Portland, Oregon, Honolulu, Hawaii and Hartford, Connecticut (for 12 years). I spend my Sunday mornings (once a month) teaching at CBSRZ because I truly enjoy working with "little people"! The K'neidlach group has that innocence that toddlers bring to the world. Everything is new and exciting. It will be fun seeing them grow as they acquire a 'flavor' of Judaism.

My favorite part of the day: When I see the children engaged in the various activities; sometimes working along with their parents.

The most important goal I have set for the program this school year: To have the children develop a favorable association with CBSRZ and become familiar with Jewish traditions and history. I hope that they will have such a good time that they will want attend class every month.

Extracurricular Advisor/Mentors:



Name: Marc Fink
Position: Youth Group Advisor
Email: marckdf@aol.com

Why did you want to be the Youth Group Leader for CBSRZ? I enjoy

helping teens explore their connections to Judaism and the Jewish Community.

What is the best part of this position? Working with our teens!

If there is one thing you hope kids in the Youth Group take away from this year,

what would it be? To see how much fun and exciting being part of youth group is.



Name: Belinda Brennan
Position: Religious School Director/Cantorial Soloist and facilitator of Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing.
Email: edcant@

cbsrz.org

Why did you want to be the Religious School Director?

I think of myself as part of the "bridge generation". I come from family who survived the Holocaust, and was raised in an environment that folks sometimes call "conservadox". As an adult, I am in a position to have experienced the "old world" traditions, and in this role, now have an opportunity to creatively help others blend the best of the "old ways" with contemporary "new ways" to explore, practice, and experience Judaism and all of the riches it has to offer.

My favorite part of the day (or year):

My favorite part of the year is the Confirmation Service. It is where you see the fruits of what has happened in the lives of students up to that point, and all of the possibilities yet to come.

I also really treasure working directly with our 8th/9th Grade Geshar girls, as facilitator of Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing. In this program, through a Jewish lens, we explore issues around relationships, self-esteem, courage, caring for ourselves, and so much more. Utilizing discussion, visual arts, music, and social bonding, we apply Jewish teachings directly to the issues most important to our young teens today.

The best part of being the Religious School Director:

Is being a part of the lives of our children and our families from the time they come to us perhaps as little Latkes all the way through to their Confirmation ceremonies. Every single student has been a joy to know, with each and every one growing into an amazing young adult. I love to talk with them, and I love to work with them in our classrooms.

The most important goal I have set for the program this school year: Each year, I hope that the kids take away a feeling of pride about their Jewish identity, an understanding that they are a continuing

part of the stories in Torah, and to respect themselves and others.



Name:
Stuart Baker
Position: Shevet Achim facilitator
Email: smbaker1152@gmail.com

Why I lead the Shevet Achim (the Brother-

hood of Young Men):

This is an interesting question. Belinda Brennan approached me about leading this group of young men. She and I had been speaking about the groups I lead with men in my work as a counselor; and she thought I'd be a natural for the job. It helped that I already knew one the guys and felt like I might have an ally. I went to the training and found that I really related to the material and enjoyed being with the other trainers from around the country.

The best part of this position is: Watching these young men mature. They have great senses of humor and genuinely care for and respect one another. I enjoy their company.

The most important goal I have set for the program this school year: I have two hopes. My hopes are that they come to an understanding of what it means to be a good man and how that relates to an understanding of Jewish values – and that they have formed strong bonds of friendship with one another.



Name: Rabbi G.
Length of time teaching at CBSRZ Religious School: 6 1/2 years!
Present grade: Olim (7th grade), Confirmation (10th grade), Family education/

Breakfast with the Rabbi, Parent education, and Prayer for all grades

I love teaching all ages, but especially adolescents. On Wednesday afternoons, I work with the Olim class mostly on their Tzedakah in Action project in which they become the Board of a Foundation and give grants to worthy organizations. They put the money they would otherwise be using to buy each other Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts into a class fund, they choose a justice

issue they care about, and they reach out to organizations, inviting them to apply for grants. It is such a fulfilling project, and I love facilitating the group process. I also love getting to know each Olim class so well as the students are growing into Jewish adulthood.

Every other Sunday afternoon I teach our Confirmation class. By the time our teens reach 10th grade, we can engage on a high intellectual level as well as a deep spiritual level as we explore ideas about and experiences of God. It is always stimulating and meaningful to hear their insights and questions. We really share special time together—holy time—as we discuss personal questions of faith and meaning.

I also spend a lot of time teaching parents and parents and their children together on Sunday mornings. Through Breakfast with the Rabbi, I get to learn with each grade and their parents over the course of the year. And this year I have added some parent education classes on the mornings of school holiday programs. More than twenty parents have been coming to study texts with me about the High Holy Days and Chanukah, and we'll have another class about Passover. Ultimately, our educational programs need to be engaging whole families in learning and deepening understanding about Judaism and what it can mean for us. I love being a part of that journey of a family towards finding greater connection and meaning.

Lastly, a large part of my teaching is leading the prayer experiences on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoon for all of our grades. I hope that we give our students a strong foundation, not only in being familiar with our prayers and how to say them in Hebrew and English, but in knowing that prayer is there for them as a way to connect to something beyond themselves throughout their lives.

YOUTH NEWS

-Marc Fink, Youth Advisor

On Sunday, November 10th, Rachel Angle and I joined JTConnect (Jewish Teen Learning Connection) on their day in New York City. Highlights of the day included a visit to the Eldridge Street Synagogue, a walking tour of the Lower East Side, Kosher Lunch and Dinner; a visit to the 9/11 Memorial, and shopping in Times Square. It was a great day!

In December, our youth group enjoyed an afternoon of bowling fun in Old Saybrook and on January 12th

we will be having a magical afternoon event including a magician and a potion-making contest!

The first weekend in February, our 7th and 8th graders will be participating in the annual JOSTY Shul-In held each year in Brookline, MA! The theme for the Shul-In is "What About God". Ask any of our youth who have attended in the past and they will tell you about the fantastic time they had!

Attention 11th–12th graders: Thinking about an experience of a lifetime? March of the Living, a two-week experiential journey for high school students from April 24–May 8, 2014 is a great program to look into! Join teens from around the world for an extraordinary educational trip to Poland and Israel that honors and celebrates our Jewish past, present and future. For more information, check out www.motl.org.

Another experience of a lifetime is spending the summer in Israel on a NFTY program! It is never too early to start thinking about a NFTY experience to Israel! NFTY offers many great summer experiences including NFTY Adventure, four weeks in Israel, NFTY L'Dor V'Dor, one week in Prague, Warsaw & Krakow, four weeks in Israel and EIE Summer Semester, six weeks in Israel for high school credit. Teens must be at least 15 years old in 2014 to participate in one of the NFTY Israel programs. There is an Early Bird Discount if you register by January 1, 2014—you will receive a \$400 discount off any NFTY Israel program. For more detailed information about NFTY Israel programs, check out www.nftyisrael.org. Scholarships are available for both NFTY Israel and March of the Living.

If you have any questions about any of the programs mentioned above or Youth Group in general, please contact me at marckdf@aol.com.



Rachel Angle (first from left) with teens from JTConnect at the 9/11 Memorial in NYC.

Marc Fink

BOOKS & BAGELS COMES TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ON FEB 9TH

Exciting history is being made on February 9, when the Religious School hosts its first Books & Bagels, where our children in grades three and below will hear author Josh Chalmers read from his book *Change the World before Bedtime*, written with Mark Kimball Moulton and Karen Good.

The book is an award-winning tale, written in rhyme, of how the little things in life like a smile, a kind word, a simple deed can help change the world in a big

way. After the book is read, there will be an activity that will help listeners think about what they can do to change the world, and then, just like our adult B&B, there will be a chance to meet Josh and purchase a signed copy of the book. Twenty percent of all proceeds are donated to the synagogue.

The themes presented in *Change the World before Bedtime* mesh perfectly with this year's religious school curriculum. Throughout the year, students will be working on repairing themselves and the world through Tikkun Olam. Under the guidance of our Madrichim (Teaching Assistants) they will be choosing "mitzvot" (good deeds) and "middot" (character traits/values) from their Super Hero

Bulletin Board to work on, in and out of the classroom, reporting back on their journeys to the Madrichim. They can also expect to be inspired by a very special Super Hero, the Super Tzaddik, who will be making unannounced appearances at school, dressed in his signature blue costume and adorned by a cape with the flag of Israel. One never knows when a "sighting" will occur.

With this event we begin to introduce programs that have been available for our adults, such as Books & Bagels and Movies & Munchies, to our youngest members and their families. If you are interested in being part of this initiative or have suggestions, please contact karen burzin at karenburz@comcast.net.

Kneidlach Program

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

DECEMBER 15 • JANUARY 26 • FEBRUARY 9 • MARCH 16 • APRIL 27 • MAY 18

Join our "little dumplings" for a preschool playgroup. Led by our wonderful educator, Sandy Herzog. This program is geared towards children from birth through 4 years old, along with their parents. This free monthly program takes place at CBSRZ's religious school on Sunday mornings from 10am to 10:45am.

There will be a variety of activities including songs, crafts, stories and a snack. The program will introduce children to Jewish values and holidays in a fun and educational setting.

Don't Miss the upcoming Family Holiday Celebrations!

**Tu B'Shevat "Birthday for Trees" Seder
Sunday, January 12 at 11:00 am**

**Save the Date: Annual Purim Spiel and Carnival
Sunday, March 16 at 9:30 am**

Look for more info in the next issue of the Whole Megillah

PICTURE GALLERY



Paula Reitsky

Gathering of Jewish war veterans for Veterans' Day and commemoration of Kristallnacht. From left to right: Bernie Slater, Norman Hanenbaum, Larry Herrman, Harvey Redak, Roger Rubinow (Post Commander), Kevin B. Fox, Stonton Lipson, Michael Needle, Morty Pear.



Paula Reitsky

Youth group attendees at the Children's Chanukah celebration



Paula Reitsky

Young artisans concentrating during Children's Chanukah celebration.



Blessing of the Animals hosted once again by Joel and Marcy Saltzman with Rabbi Goldenberg presiding.



Deb Ruffy

Save the Train. Left to right: Dave Tiezzi, Norm Ruffy, Roger Goodnow, Ted Phillips. In the background, Jo Nazro, on sound.



Deb Rutty

Suzanne Levine hosts a meeting of the Mavens, formerly known as the Women of CBSRZ



Wally Lamb signing *We Are Water* for Lisa Connelley



Deb Rutty

Wally Lamb attracts a record crowd to Books & Bagels

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES—DEMYSTIFYING LEGISLATIVE ACTION

In response to the significant interest of the CBSRZ community on mental health issues—as evidenced by the turnout and sharing at events the past few months—the Social Action Committee and the Connecticut chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-CT) will hold legislative training for CBSRZ members on January 30 at 4:00 PM at CBSRZ to learn about the process of legislative action with a focus on mental health issues. We may also hold a “lobby day” at which many CBSRZ members can meet with our elected leaders in Hartford to urge legislative and administrative action. Details will be forthcoming in CBSRZ weekly emails.

Several events focused on mental health have already taken place. The first, a “Books and Bagels” presenting a personal journey through mental illness and mental health, led to a sharing of personal stories and a recognition that these issues affect many of our families. Lynne Zimmerman, a psychologist and member of CBSRZ’s Chesed Committee, organized a well-attended follow-up for congregants with interest and expertise in mental health issues. Discussion focused on the ways to increase CBSRZ’s educational and supportive programming for individuals and families touched by mental illness, addiction, and other chronic diseases. Janet Brownstein, a CBSRZ member who works closely with NAMI-CT, then set up a conference on December 22 to introduce NAMI-CT to CBSRZ.

NAMI-CT is gearing up for the 2014 Legislative session. With the final report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission due soon, there is a sense that diverse legislative and administrative action might be possible. Among other initiatives, NAMI-CT is seeking to strengthen and expand

school-based mental health services, expand mental health services and access to medications for young adults, and establish initiatives to promote wellness, self-determination and self-sufficiency, while fighting discrimination and proposals that would restrict civil rights (which was a problem with many of the “mental health” proposals that emerged in the immediate aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy). For more information about NAMI-CT, please go to www.namict.org.

This may be a real opportunity to effect meaningful change. Stay tuned!

CBSRZ Members Take Action to Highlight Wendy’s Restaurants’ Refusal to Join Acclaimed Social Responsibility Program

On Sunday, November 10, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ) members and their children took action at Wendy’s, located in Guilford, to call on the restaurant chain to support human rights in its tomato supply chain by joining the internationally-recognized Fair Food Program (FFP). The FFP is a groundbreaking social responsibility program that ensures a humane workplace and increased pay for over 30,000 Florida farmworkers and has won the praise of human rights observers from the White House to the United Nations. Coinciding with Wendy’s Founder’s Week—a week-long celebration of Wendy’s Founder Dave Thomas’s core values—the action was part of a series of protests in dozens of cities nationwide that week.

On Saturday, November 9, CBSRZ Religious School parents and their children learned about the problem of abuse

and even modern-day slavery conditions in the tomato industry. Then, on Sunday afternoon, eighteen CBSRZ members delivered dozens of letters to the manager of the Wendy’s in Guilford, urging Wendy’s to sign on to the Fair Food Program.

Of the five largest fast food corporations in the country—McDonald’s, Subway, Burger King, Taco Bell (Yum! Brands) and Wendy’s—Wendy’s is the only one not participating in the Fair Food Program. Wendy’s CEO, Emil Brolick, was the President of Taco Bell in 2005 when that chain became the first to sign a Fair Food Agreement. He announced that agreement by stating, “We are willing to play a leadership role within our industry to be part of the solution,” and added, “We hope others in the restaurant industry and supermarket retail trade will follow our leadership.” Eight years later, despite those words, and now with eleven corporations and 90% of the Florida tomato industry on board, Wendy’s, now under Brolick’s leadership, refuses to participate in the Program.

“As Wendy’s celebrates Founder’s Week and champions such values as ‘Treat People with Respect,’ ‘Give Something Back,’ and ‘Do The Right Thing,’” stated Gerardo Reyes of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, “we are calling on Wendy’s to use this week as an opportunity to turn the values it claims to support into a reality by ensuring that as farmworkers our basic human rights and dignity are respected.”

Guilford resident Holly Starkman, a participant in Sunday’s action, explained her participation saying, “I am united with my fellow congregants today to support human rights for farmworkers who are not currently receiving fair treatment. The Fair Food Program enforces fair treatment through adequate wages and working—it’s the right thing to do.”

Rabbi Goldenberg commented on Wendy’s recent response to consumer demands that the company join the Fair Food Program saying, “Claiming your company is already working to respect farmworkers’ rights, while refusing to commit to the only proven, verifiable, and transparent solution, the Fair Food Program, misleads your



November 10 demonstration at Wendy’s in Guilford.

customers and tarnishes Wendy's brand. As twenty-first-century consumers, we want to know the story behind our food, and this means we expect and demand that the farmworkers who pick your tomatoes be treated with dignity and respect."

Explaining the participation of a synagogue in this action, Rabbi Goldenberg continued, "As Jews we learn from our sacred teachings that all human beings are created in the Divine image and must be treated with dignity—from the citizen, to the immigrant, to the destitute laborer. This is a moral issue, and we must not be silent."

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program is an historic partnership among farmworkers, Florida tomato growers, and eleven leading food corporations. By committing to the FFP, participating corporations demand more humane labor standards from their Florida tomato suppliers and purchase exclusively from those who meet those higher standards, which include requiring time clocks, health and safety protections, and a zero tolerance policy for slavery and sexual assault. Participating corporations also pay a "penny-per-pound" premium which is passed down through the company's supply chain and paid out to workers by their employers. The FFP was heralded in the Washington Post as "one of the great human rights success stories of our day" and in a White House report concerning global efforts to combat human trafficking as "one of the most successful and innovative programs" to that end. Since 2011, buyers have paid over \$11 million through the Fair Food Program.

CBSRZ Helps Build a House

On November 16, CBSRZ helped to build a house in Middletown under the supervision of Habitat for Humanity. Debby Trautmann, Ann Louise Rosensohn, Sergey Kleiman, and Stephen Rozenberg painted, cleaned, cut wood, and installed insulation. Although there is still much work for Habitat to finish the house, the CBSRZ team advanced the project, as many groups had done in the months before.

We plan to help build another Habitat house in the spring. By that time, this house will be home to a family. How satisfying is that?

We hope to recruit a larger crew of volunteers next time around. Experience is desirable but unnecessary; people with experience in electrical work, plumbing, and all areas of building are needed, but

anyone willing to give a helping hand in any way is also much appreciated. For information about Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of Connecticut, see <http://www.habitatmiddlesex.org>.

"This was a great feeling of accomplishment, a satisfying and fun mitzvah to fulfill," said Debby Trautmann, a member of the Social Action Committee who supervised the CBSRZ participation. Please watch for next Habitat volunteer opportunity to be announced – or contact debbytrautmann@comcast.net.

A FOCUS ON NONVIOLENCE – January 19 and March 22

The Social Action Committee will focus on nonviolence in two events planned to celebrate the life and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Please join us Friday evening, January 17, for a special addition to the Shabbat service (which will start that evening at 7:30). In honor of the memory of Martin Luther King Jr., the Social Action Committee has invited Victoria Christgau, Executive Director of the CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN), to collaborate with our choir, led by Meg Gister, and lead the congregation in freedom songs (particularly appropriate as we are in the midst of our annual exploration of the Exodus and the Ten Commandments). Christgau will also speak about Dr. King and the international movement on nonviolence.



Victoria Christgau

CTCN, founded by Christgau in 2007, stems from the work of Bernard Lafayette Jr., who participated with Dr. King in non-violent civil disobedience in the 1960s and worked closely with the Student

Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At the urging of Dr. King (in a last conversation with Lafayette the day before Dr. King was assassinated), Lafayette, long based in Rhode Island and now in Georgia, has sought to internationalize the movement for nonviolence, which he has pursued with work in Africa, South America, and the Middle East. The CT Center for Nonviolence, based at the University of Connecticut School of

Social Work, provides knowledge of—and training in—Kingian nonviolence and seeks to spread Peace through Education and the Arts. For more information about CTCN, please see <http://www.ctnonviolence.org/about>.

On March 22, at CBSRZ, CTCN (and Christgau) will also conduct a more extensive conference and training on Kingian nonviolence. Details about this event will be in the March Whole Megillah and the weekly emails, but it is expected to last from 11am to 4pm; please hold that date.

Listening Campaign Progressing

"Enlightening," "inspiring," and "unfinished" were just a few of the words used to describe the experience of a group of volunteers who reported in November and December on their experience interviewing congregants this fall. This "Listening Campaign" was conducted by twenty congregants under the direction of Claudia Epright of United Action of Connecticut ("UACT"), a group of faith-based organizations of which CBSRZ is a member.

Although the individual responses by congregant interviewees are kept confidential, summaries of interviews are being evaluated at this time by Epright, the CBSRZ Board of Directors, and Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee, which originally proposed, and was asked to coordinate, the Listening Campaign. A full report will be completed and shared with the congregation over the next few months. Follow-up, including addressing areas for which improvements were suggested, is expected to take place throughout the rest of 2014. More detailed information should be available in the March issue of The Whole Megillah.

The interviews were able to garner a wide variety of perspectives from congregants, but we were not able to reach all congregants in this round of interviews. Under guidelines set by UACT, and generally used in these types of studies, each interviewer was asked to interview only five congregants (each from different families), so only about half of all CBSRZ families were interviewed. Although the plan calls for other families—and any remaining individuals—to be interviewed at a later date, anyone who would like to be interviewed at this time should contact andy@andrewschatz.com.

Second Saturday Honoree: Peg Palmer

By Rita Christopher

Just don't call her Margaret—it's not her name. It's Peggy, often a nickname for Margaret, but not for Peg Palmer, who will be honored at CBSRZ's Second Saturday Service on February 8 at 10:30. When she was a child, teachers regularly assumed Peg's given name was Margaret and sometimes listed her that way.

And there was often another assumption as she grew up with the name Peggy Palmer: that she wasn't Jewish. "I always found that insulting," Peg says. "I always made it clear that I was Jewish. I've always felt a deep connection to Judaism."

She was not, however, always a synagogue member. She and her husband Rick Hornung came to CBSRZ when their son Gabriel was interested in religious school to become a Bar Mitzvah. At the beginning, Peg thought after her son's ceremony, she and Rick would likely drift away from the synagogue.

That's not what happened. Friday night services and Saturday morning Torah Study had become not simply a part of their schedule, but a part of their spiritual identity. "After we started going on Friday night and Saturday morning, we never looked back," Peg recalls.

At CBSRZ, Peg has served as chairperson of the Religious Affairs Committee (RAC) and also accompanies Belinda Brennan, as well as other soloists, on guitar at various services, among them the family-oriented First Friday services. In addition she plays for the religious school. "I was never a kid who dreamed of soloing in front of crowds," she says. "To be able to accompany Belinda has been a dream come true for me. Sometimes listening to her sing, I have to pinch myself at my good fortune."

Peg says that working with Rabbi Goldenberg made her time as chair of RAC a particularly rewarding experience. "I was able to gain a deeper

understanding of our religious traditions—from the Shabbat practices to our holiest days," she notes. "Being able to see how the rabbi approaches these traditions, understands them, and shapes them, has been amazing for me."

After trying piano and clarinet, Peg persuaded her parents to buy her a guitar when she was ten years old. She took a few months of lessons but taught herself many of the rudiments of playing. In fact, after graduating from Trinity College in Hartford, where she met Rick, Peg supported herself by a combination of playing in a band and waitressing. "My poor father. I think he probably thought to himself, 'For this she went to college,'" she says.

As the band began to disintegrate, Peg got a job at a school for the blind in Hartford. She had already considered teaching as a career, and ultimately she returned to school at Columbia University for a program to become a teacher for the blind and visually impaired. Today Peg works for the State of Connecticut's Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind as a pre-school teacher and consultant.

As a youngster, Peg had a Bat Mitzvah, but her Conservative synagogue in Wethersfield did not let women regu-



Peg Palmer and her son Gabe

larly chant Torah. She has chanted Torah at CBSRZ, the first time just after a snowstorm. Nervous about chanting, she was pleased the weather had lowered attendance at the service. But among those who did come were her brother, a surprise to Peg. And she had a question for him about the time-honored Bar Mitzvah gift. "I asked if he had brought a fountain pen," Peg says.

The Second Saturday service will be followed by a dairy potluck lunch. The synagogue provides lox, bagels and cream cheese, but worshippers are encouraged to bring salads, side dishes and deserts to share with other congregants.

Second Saturday honoring Peg Palmer, February 8 at 10:30

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.

The Tu B'Shevat seder program will begin at 11:00 on Sunday, January 12 and last approximately one hour. The Religious School will be participating and supplying many of the delicious fruits and nuts. All congregants are welcome and encouraged to participate. Just so we have enough food and drink for all, if you plan to attend and are not part of the Religious School, please call Wendy at the synagogue office or add your name to the sign up sheet on the Main Street front table.

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

November 14, 2013

Board of Directors Highlights

Seidman moved and Fox seconded October minutes approved unanimously

Seidman: 25 families not renewed as of this date. Kevin Fox and the membership committee are contacting each family. Otherwise in good shape, pressure comes in March or April.

Fox: Presented the Legacy Program again reminding the Board if we get ten pledges we get \$7,500 and up to \$11,000 to the general fund from a private donor outside of CBSRZ. This potential donation is also available next year if we sign up ten new pledges in 2014. As of this meeting five pledges are in hand. Minimum pledge \$10,000 typically payable at death.

Rabbi's Report: The Rabbi thanked Laura Roman and Ali Rosenblum for focusing on the Friday night and other events greeter program.

The United Action facilitator will report to the Board in December on the outcome of the listening campaign.

The Rabbi asked that congregants "like" CBSRZ on Facebook stating that CBSRZ is getting a lot of positive likes and feedback from that social media page.

The New Haven Federation is co-sponsoring a course "Introduction to Judaism" at the Clinton library starting in February which the Rabbi will be co-teaching with Rabbi Stacy Offner of Temple Beth Tikvah. This is the first time the Federation produced a flier and is providing PR for such a course involving CBSRZ and the shoreline community.

President's Report: Report from Italy –

Bloom thanked the board members who have helped research, write and refine the extraordinary reports delivered over the last few months. The result of all this work is that it makes it possible for the Board to make decisions based on strong input from the Congregation and consider a wide range of options. This is a template for going forward.

Center piece: Started strategic planning process November 14 2010.

Stephen Davis reported on the plan:

When the plan was put together as well as the 2013 update no specific dates were set to achieve specific goals.

Rather the Board is charged with the responsibility of the implementing the general guidelines of the Strategic Plan.

The committee composed of Evelyn Foster, Rabbi, Sandy Seidman, Stephen Davis and Miriam Gardner-Frum reviewed the 2010 plan and assessed what has changed in three years.

The strategic plan report is based on the theme "Inside/Out." 'Inside' refers to the task of tapping resources and assets that lie within our community; 'Outside' refers to the challenge of taking advantage of resources external to CBSRZ, such as URJ, Federation etc. And "Inside-Out" suggests the need to think afresh about current practices.

Recommendations: recruiting leaders and volunteers. Board needs to name one person to create a plan to recruit volunteers.

Development: create development committee that is active

Outreach: continue the success of the community outreach and increase the diversity of our congregants and community

Innovations in education: good start, creativity is front and center

Getting to know one another: more social events; strengthening Chesed.

Process: A final presentation of the strategic plan should be made at the Congregational meeting in January that will integrate the results of the listening campaign that are to be presented at the December Board meeting.

Nominating and Governance Committee Report: nominated Stephen Davis for Vice President as 1/1/14 to replace Miriam Gardner-Frum on a motion Seidman seconded by Fox and passed unanimously.

Facilities Report:

Windows: the facilities committee has authority to expend an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for window replacement. This program will replace at least 21 windows and renovate 10 windows. Three bids were obtained for the window materials and three labor prices.

Keys: New master keys and new key cylinders will be installed. New entry codes will issued on an "as needed" basis.

Roofing consultant: the facilities committee was authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to engage a third party professional to do a systematic study of the roof, structure, and siding, such funding to come from the Capital Fund.

The Board went into executive session to discuss the draft report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Secular Staffing, which, after discussion, was passed.

David Hays Elected to Theater Hall of Fame



David Hays holding a 1963 photograph. David at the far left stands next to (from left to right) the conductor Robert Irving, Mr. Balanchine, and the great costume designer, Karinska.

On January 27, our own David Hays will be among eight theatrical legends inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

The ceremony will be held at the Gershwin Theatre on Broadway and, aside from David, will honor producer Cameron Mackintosh, actors Ellen Burstyn and Cherry Jones, playwright Lorraine Hansberry, and directors Jerry Zaks, George C. Wolfe, and Lynne Meadow.

David, among his many other triumphs, was the designer of more than 50 Broadway plays, including the revival of the work of Eugene O'Neill. He was also set designer for George Balanchine at the New York City Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera. For more than 30 years, he was head of the company he founded, the National Theatre of the Deaf. (To be sure, he was also on the design committee when we built our new synagogue.)

We'd all like to go of course to the ceremony—but we can't. Tickets are by invitation. But we'll be there in spirit, to offer a congregational Bravo, David!

SAVE THE TRAIN BENEFIT CONCERT

On Sunday December 1, Save the Train entertained an audience of one hundred plus at a Benefit Concert for Safe Futures. Organized by the awesome eight Adult B'not Mitzvot group, ticket sales generated over \$1800, which will



Paula Reisky

Anne Wernau, Supervisor of Violence is Preventable Programs at Safe Futures, at Save the Train Benefit Concert

be donated to Safe Futures' "Violence is Preventable" Education Programs.

Great music, worthy cause, happy audience!

Many thanks to Save the Train who donated their time and music (Norm Ruty, Dave Tiezzi, Roger Goodnow, and Ted Phillips).

Bereavement Support Groups

Every first and third Monday
5:00 to 6:30 pm
Conference Room A or B
Middlesex Hospital

Every second and fourth Thursday
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Shoreline Medical Center
260 Westbrook Road, Essex

Every second and fourth Wednesday
10:00 to 11:30 am
One MacDonough Place
Please sign in at front desk and receive directions for the meeting area.

Every first and third Tuesday
2:00 to 3:00 pm
Essex Library
33 West Avenue, Essex

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES FILM CLUB CONTINUES

After screening two Israeli films, our winter series moves to stories of life in Jewish America with two classics.

January 19, 2014 at 4pm:
A Stranger Among Us (Sidney Lumet, 1992)
The story revolves around the shocking murder of a young chasid who works in New York's Diamond District and the investigator who infiltrates the Rebbe's community in order to discover the truth.

February 23, 2014 at 4pm:
Gentlemen's Agreement (Elia Kazan, 1947)
A drama with Gregory Peck as a journalist who goes undercover as a Jew to conduct research for an exposé on anti-semitism in New York City and the affluent community of Darien, Connecticut.

For further information or to suggest movies, please contact Gay Clarkson at gaywil2@aol.com or Clo Davis at clo.davis@gmail.com. The films are free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

"WALK AND TALK"

Through the lens of his camera, actor, singer, lyricist, Peter Walker takes us through seven decades of his amazing career. Enjoy the more than fifty photographs that make up the CBSRZ exhibit, which is open to the shoreline community Monday through Friday,

during office hours, at no charge. The show will remain up through January. Of special interest will be a Sunday, January 26, "Walk and Talk" during which Walker will regale congregants and their guests with the personal stories behind these thought-provoking photos. Meet in the Main Street Gallery at 2:00PM and enjoy a glass of wine, etc., as you join Walker on this photo tour.

DEMOCRACY IN THE MAKING: THE OPEN FORUM MOVEMENT COURAGEOUS RABBIS, CIVIL DISPUTE

Book Talk presented by Arthur Meyers Sunday, January 12, 10:00 AM at the Nestor Center, 16 Broad Street, New London (next to Adath Israel).

Brunch will follow. Please join us for an informative and enjoyable morning.

Wally Lamb and the Perfect Math



Deb Ruty

Wally Lamb with Program Committee Chair, Clo Davis, Lary Bloom, and Rabbi Goldenberg.

When the Program Committee booked novelist Wally Lamb for our Books & Bagels series, there was no practical method of anticipating crowd size or the number of copies of his new book, *We Are Water*, that would be sold.

Clo Davis, the head of the committee, worked with R.J. Julia Booksellers in Madison, our usual partner, to provide the copies. The bookstore thought 50 would be enough, but Clo argued that many more likely would be needed, and in the end the bookstore packed up 74.

Meanwhile, Wendy Baylor, who had taken many phone calls from Wally fans about the December 8 event, arranged with our maintenance crew to set up 240 chairs in the social hall.

So, guess how many people came, and how many copies of *We Are Water* were sold? Right. Attendance: 240. Books sold: 74. The congregation's cut of the profits came to nearly \$500.

The perfect math helped make a perfect cultural experience for all—including several prospective new members of CBSRZ.

REMEMBRANCE

Memorial Plaques

Tevet 29 - Shevat 30, 5774

Sara Leah Abramowitch
Albert Alcosser
Jacob Benson
Meyer Bernstein
Abraham Birnbaum
Dorothy Bockstein
Scheindel Breitman
Charles Breslow
Pauline Breslow
Carl Davis
Fannie Etta Eisenstein
Charlotte Fine
William Freed
Wilhelm Furst
Sarah Glazer
Bertha Harris
Isidore Klar
Saul Klar
Rose Klubes
Pearl Levine

William Levine
Bella LeWitt
Boruch LeWitt
Rose Mackover
Louis Mager
Meyer Mazer
Charles H. Myers
Rebecca Needelman
Meyer Needleman
Bertha Pear
Searah Pear
Jack Peck
Katherine Peckeroff
Betty Plotnick
William Price
Eva Rebecca Proctor
Max Rogow
Joseph Samuels
Sayre Samuels
Esther Sandberg
Helen Schneller Klein
Julius Schneller
Richard Schneller

Ann Siege
Esther Simson
Harry Sockut
Louis Sockut
Yale Sockut
Nathan Stein
Sarah Stein
Raymond Truska
Harry Weinstein

Memorial Plaques

Adar 1, 5774 - Adar 28, 5774

Rosa Amarant
Luba Appell
Anna Axelrod
Helen Baron
Hyman Baron
Ann Beizer
Oscar Benson
Clara Breslow
Morris Breslow
Lawrence Chaplick

Irving Davis
Evelyn Diamond
Sylvia Diamond
Celia Elson
Louis Feingold
Mollie Frankel
Lillian Friend
Wiliam Ginburg
Mitzi Goldstein
Rose Goldstein
Benjamin Greenwald
Israel Hanenbaum
Frieda Jaffee
Anna Katz
Samuel Kleinberg
Sheldon Kutnick
Shirley Lander
Morris Levine
Sarah Levine
Dorothy Luchnick
Max Mager
Irving Mallis
Celia Milavsky

Ursula Schurman Miller
Isaac Oppenheimer
Samuel Palmer
Esther Peckeroff
Isidore Peckeroff
Leah Price
Samuel Resnek
Miriam Rosenberg
Louis Sacks
Yetta Schreiber
Evelyn Schwolsky
Paul Simon
Syd Slater
Helen Sockut
Annette M. Sollins
Henry Sprecher
Jack Trepel
William Weiner
Esther Wilkes
Ira Wolmer
Stephen (Seth) Wright
Rose Zavadnick

Yahrzeits

Tevet 29 - Shevat 30, 5774

Albert Alcosser – father of Melinda Alcosser
Charles Breslow – husband of Estelle Breslow
Isadore Case – brother of Lewis Case
Marguerite Conley – mother of Kevin Conley
Leo Denette – father of Kay Chiat
Sophie Drobiarz – mother of Martin Drobiarz
Herman Elkin – father of Steven Elkin
Gene Freeman – father of Andy Freeman
David Gilman – father-in-law of Betty Gilman
Arthur Gottlieb – father of Robert Gottlieb
Lani Hajogos – niece of Hyman Fink
George Horowitz – uncle of Sheila Byrne
Morris Indianer – father of Marcia Meyers
Hedwig Rook Kelly – Mother of Jerry Kelly
Joseph Levy – father of Ruth Levy
Louis Mager – husband of Rita Mager; brother of Estelle Breslow
Martin Malakoff – father of Rona Malakoff
Ruth Meschman – grandmother of Rachel Goldenberg
Meyer Needleman – father of Norman Needleman
Bertha Pear – mother of Marty Pear; loved one of Mickey Pear
Sarah Pear – mother of Joseph Pear
Lee Radom – mother of Debra Landrey
Marvin Ruzansky – husband of Rita Ruzansky; father of Susan Bush
Philip Scharr – father of Jerry Scharr
Helen Schneller Klein – mother of Dick Schneller
Julius Schneller – father of Dick Schneller
Richard Schneller – husband of Mary Schneller
Nat Scholer – father of Peggy Tunick
Edith Schwartz – mother-in-law of Irving Shiffman
Judith Shapiro – aunt of Debra Trautmann
Ruben Shiling – father of David Shiling
Anna Slater – mother of Bernie Slater
Florence Subit – mother of Sydney Slater
James Talbott – grandfather of Jim Talbott
Rose Ziff – mother of Barbara Edelson
Nathan Zomback – father of Beth Brewer

Yahrzeits

Adar 1, 5774 - Adar 28, 5774

Rosa Amarant – mother of George Amarant
Irwin Braverman – father of Barbara Infeld
Morris Breslow – father of Charles Breslow
Mania Chiat - mother of Maia Chiat
Renee Davidson – mother of Shari Foley
Irving Davis – husband of Eva Davis
Evelyn Diamond – mother of Barbara Mason
Sylvia Diamond – aunt of Ellen Friedman
Helen Feldbauer – grandmother of Jim Talbott
Lillian Friend – mother of Shelia Byrne
Benjamin Greenwald – dear friend of Maxine Leichtman
Pasquita Guttman – mother of Evelyn Foster
Israel Hanenbaum – father of Norman Hanenbaum
Raymond Hickey – former husband of Revalyn Klein Hickey
Anna Katz – mother of Leah Pear
Sheldon Kutnick – son of Ann Kutnick
Shirley Lander – mother of Marjorie Lander
Dorothy Luchnick – mother of Lois Glazer
Max Mager – brother of Estelle Breslow
Irving Mallis – father of Linda Rigono
Clara Confino Michael – aunt of Evelyn Foster
Ursula Schurman Miller – step-mother of Sue Levine
Ruth Mitnick – wife of Howard Mitnick
Bernard Nirenstein – father of Nancy Schwarz
Jean Pardo – grandmother of Dan Pardo
Deborah Mellion Prastien – sister of Barry Ilberman
William Mitchell Roberts – brother of Justine Redak
Helen Frances Rosenkrantz – sister of Revalyn Klein Hickey
Evelyn Schwolsky – mother of John Schwolsky;
mother of Peter Schwolsky
Brenda Udoff – mother of Erica Udoff
Fred Wackenhut – father of Lynda Wilkes
William Weiner – father of Eva Davis
Esther Wilkes – mother of Dan Wilkes

Mi SheBeirach List

Linda Thal
Marilyn Buel
Jo Watanabe
Louise Ross
Jill Nadler
Noah Lourie-Mosher
Regan Konecky
Sol Tilles
Marc Gilden
Peg Palmer
Peggy Tunick

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to:

Rabbi Goldenberg and Family on the recent loss of her cousin, Stephen Schindler and also the recent loss of her great aunt, Anny Lester.

The Sherman family on the recent loss of Erwin Kahn, uncle of Linda and brother-in-law to Art.

Barry Ilberman on the recent loss of his beloved wife, Eileen Ilberman, and also for the recent loss of his uncle, Mel Ilberman.

Charles Savitt on the recent loss of his friend, Jatin Desai.

Terry and Howard Baran on the recent loss of Terry's brother, Robert Russ Pelletier.

JANUARY 2014

**29 Tevet-
30 Shevat,
5774**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 29 TEVET NEW YEAR'S DAY <i>No Religious School Office Closed 7:45 am Morning Minyan</i>	2 1 SHEVAT 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Adult Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal	3 2 SHEVAT 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Dairy Potluck Dinner 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service	4 3 SHEVAT 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
5 4 SHEVAT 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:15 am - 10:30 am Breakfast with Rabbi (Grade 5) 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirmation 1:30-3:30 pm Adult Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal	6 5 SHEVAT	7 6 SHEVAT	8 7 SHEVAT 7:45 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Religious Affairs 4:15 pm Religious School	9 8 SHEVAT 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Big Ethical Questions 7:00 pm Board of Directors	10 9 SHEVAT 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	11 10 SHEVAT 9:00 am Holy Scrollers 10:30 am 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service and Adult B'not Mitzvah with Kiddush Luncheon
12 11 SHEVAT 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew 9:30 am Religious School 11:00 am Tu B'Shevat Seder and Dairy Lunch 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm Youth Group program	13 12 SHEVAT	14 13 SHEVAT 3:00 pm SSKP Board Meeting	15 14 SHEVAT 7:45 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm Religious School	16 15 SHEVAT TU BISHVAT	17 16 SHEVAT 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	18 17 SHEVAT 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
19 18 SHEVAT <i>No Religious School</i> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew 4:00 pm - Beat the Winter Blues Film Club	20 19 SHEVAT Martin Luther King Day	21 20 SHEVAT	22 21 SHEVAT 7:45 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm Religious School	23 22 SHEVAT 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm SAC - Deep River Soup Kitchen	24 23 SHEVAT 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	25 24 SHEVAT 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
26 25 SHEVAT 8:30 - 9:30 am Ad. Hebrew 9:30 10:30 am Begin Hebrew 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Congregational Meeting 10:00 - 10:45 am K'neidlach 10:45 - 12:00 pm Torah Study 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirm 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Geshet 2:00 pm Peter Walker's Photography (Walk and Talk)	27 26 SHEVAT	28 27 SHEVAT	29 28 SHEVAT 7:45 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm Religious School	30 29 SHEVAT 5:30 pm Social Action 4:00 pm Legislative Training Focusing on Mental Illness 7:00 pm Executive Committee	31 30 SHEVAT 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	

FEBRUARY 2014

**1 Adar-
28 Adar,
5774**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 1 ADAR JOSTY Regional Shul-In (Brookline) 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
2 2 ADAR JOSTY Regional Shul-In (Brookline) 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew 9:30 am Religious School 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirmation	3 3 ADAR	4 4 ADAR 7:00 pm Education Committee	5 5 ADAR Megillah Deadline (Mar/Apr) 7:45 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Religious Affairs 4:15 pm Religious School	6 6 ADAR	7 7 ADAR 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Dairy Potluck Dinner 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service	8 8 ADAR 9:00 am Holy Scrollers 10:30 am 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service Honoring Peg Palmer Followed by Kiddush Luncheon
9 9 ADAR Books & Bagels - time TBD 8:30 - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 - 10:30 am Begin Hebrew 9:30 am Religious School 10:00 - 10:45 am K'neidlach Program 10:45 am - 12:00 pm Sun Morning Torah Study 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirmation 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Gesher	10 10 ADAR	11 11 ADAR 3:00 pm SSKP Board Meeting	12 12 ADAR 7:45 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Jewish Path- ways Class at Clinton Library	13 13 ADAR 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Big Ethical Questions 7:00 pm Board of Directors	14 14 ADAR 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	15 15 ADAR 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
16 16 ADAR <i>No Religious School</i> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew	17 17 ADAR <i>Office closed</i>	18 18 ADAR	19 19 ADAR <i>No Religious School</i> 7:45 am Morning Minyan 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Jewish Path- ways Class at Clinton Library	20 20 ADAR	21 21 ADAR 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	22 22 ADAR 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
23 23 ADAR <i>No Religious School</i> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew 4:00 pm - Beat the Winter Blues Film Club	24 24 ADAR	25 25 ADAR	26 26 ADAR 7:45 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm Religious School 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Jewish Pathways Class at Clinton Library	27 27 ADAR 7:00 pm Executive Committee	28 28 ADAR Olim Class Trip 5:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service	



Beth Shalom
Rodfe Zedek

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Michele Kleiman and Stephen Rozenberg
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Membership Committee
Shelley Sprague & Steven Barasz
Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik
Johanna Schaefer
Clo & Stephen Davis
Holy Scrollers

Mama Loshen *by Marilyn Kalet*

Tsatskeleh der mamehs!

Mother's favorite; Mother's pet

A sac tsu reden, vainik tsu herren

A lot to tell, little to hear

A shandeh un a charpeh

A shame and a disgrace

Er kert iber di vel!

*A person who does everything wrong or
in reverse*

Azoy zugstu?

Is that so?