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Mason-Hamlin Piano 100th Birthday Fundraiser and Party, Aug. 4

Dan Pardo in front of the Mason-Hamlin Piano 100th Birthday Fundraiser and Party, Aug. 4

For details, see page 5-6
These are the opening verses of the first Haftarah of Consolation. The prophet Isaiah speaks to our people who are exiled in Babylon. They have witnessed the destruction of the Temple, God’s home among them on earth, and their city, Jerusalem. They sit by the waters of Babylon and weep, and Isaiah comes to comfort them with his poetry and prophecy of hope.

Every year, the spiritual journey towards and through the High Holy Days traces the spiral path of our people’s historical experience. The journey begins with the three weeks leading up to the 9th of Av, when we commemorate the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. During those weeks we read the Haftarot of Admonition, in which the prophet Isaiah warns the people that they will soon be punished for straying from God. The 9th of Av itself is a day of mourning, and then for the seven weeks until Rosh Hashanah, we read these comforting Haftarot of Consolation.

On Rosh Hashanah we begin to turn back to God and to each other, forgiving and receiving forgiveness as the New Year begins. And finally, on Yom Kippur, we experience the fullness of God’s forgiveness. Granted another year of life, we move forward with our burdens a little lighter, ready to stick with our intentions for a good year.

As we begin this journey again this year, I and the Religious Affairs Committee want to bring Isaiah’s message of God’s consolation to us all, in our day. As we face the High Holy project of repentance and forgiveness—as we face our own harsh judgment of ourselves and of our world—Isaiah assures us that no matter how far we stray, we will always be welcomed back home, and that God is with us.

This year, our Religious Affairs committee has set aside the four Friday nights before Rosh Hashanah, during the Hebrew month of Elul, to draw on the comforting message of Isaiah, as we make our way towards the New Year. The month of Elul is traditionally a time of reflection and preparation for the High Holy Days, and this year we will prepare by contemplating the brokenness in our world and in ourselves and finding hope that repair and healing is possible.

I leave you with a message from Isaiah for all of those who might despair, that there can be faith in a future of peace and at-homeness:

Unhappy, storm-tossed one, uncomforted!
I will lay carbuncles as your building stones
And make your foundations of sapphires.

And all your children shall be disciples of the Lord
And great shall be the peace of your children.
You shall be established through righteousness.
You shall be safe from oppression,
And shall have no fear.

(Isaiah 54:11–14)

By Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg

PRE-HIGH HOLY DAY SERIES:
Messages of Comfort and Healing

Friday night Shabbat services in Elul will begin at 7:30pm and will include reflections by the Rabbi and three congregants on the theme of comfort and healing.

Friday August 9th, Rabbi Goldenberg opens the theme with general reflections on how our annual Jewish spiritual journey follows the footsteps of Jewish history and tradition.

Friday August 16th, Rick Hornung brings us a personal message of restoration from the Haftarah of consolation that week from the prophet Isaiah.

Friday August 23rd, Jeannette Ickovics speaks to health and healing in our communities as she shares from her professional experience as a professor of Public Health and Psychology.

Friday August 30th, Stu Baker speaks to the spiritual path of addiction recovery.
(This service includes the changing of the Torah mantles from blue to our new white High Holy Day mantles.)
Don’t Be Afraid of CBSRZ’s Social Media: Facebook, Websites, Blogs, Tumblr, Twitter

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 asks members to come along—it’s 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 on 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 EllenNodelman’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 is launching a Tumblr/Twitter site for us; it will probably be up by the time you have this.
M y mother was born in 1913, and so was my piano. Helen Bloom is, as we say, of blessed memory. The Mason & Hamlin baby grand remains a tool of blessed memory—allowing me and others to play the songs that my mother loved: Hoagy Carmichael’s “Stardust,” the Puccini aria “Un Bel Di” or any of the standards of the ‘30s and ‘40s.

Now that the Mason & Hamlin is about to turn a century old you are invited to something unusual—a birthday party for a piano that will honor not only the endurance of an instrument but our synagogue community as well, because all the proceeds go to CBSRZ.

In keeping with the spirit of the event, I thought that I would reveal here the conversation I had recently with my old pal. After all, there is a rule in journalism—never let a piano pass the 100-year mark without an interview. And so:

LB: How do you feel at nearly a century old?

M&H: So how should I feel? My middle C is giving me fits, and my hammers have a touch of, what do you call it?—the jimjam jeeters.

LB: Oh you’re a comedian, too?

M&H: I learned from the best—Borscht Belt, you know. I was played on in the Catskills once. You been to the Catskills.

(Continued on page 6)
(Interview with a Piano Continued from page 5)

**LB:** This is not about me.

**M&H:** What? You play me all these years and now it's not about you?

**LB:** Are you trying to be my mother? Stop with the guilt already.

**M&H:** It's just that I'm being a little nostalgic.

**LB:** Yes, tell me about it. What was it like back in 1913?

**M&H:** An interesting time for music. Not like now. People actually played melodies in those days. Beautiful melodies. Kids. Every kid played, in the parlor.

**LB:** So, you were a big deal back then?

**M&H:** Soccer wasn't invented yet. I mean, it was, but nobody ever heard of it in this country. So every kid played piano. And adults. After dinner, families gathered around the old Mason & Hamlin (oh, there were Steinways, too, but that's my overrated competitor, and I don't want to talk about them.)

**LB:** And now?

**M&H:** Sometimes days, or weeks, go by and you don't play me. What are you doing, writing books or something?

**LB:** I'm sorry. I'm trying to make a living.

**M&H:** You wrote the words to the musical while playing me. Didn't A Woman of a Certain Age make you a fortune?

**LB:** It cost me a fortune. But let's get back to the point. The party. We'll have birthday cake and bubbly, and we'll toast you.

**M&H:** Yes, and I'll finally have someone who isn't an amateur play me.

**LB:** I'm excited about Dan Pardo. Did you hear him play for us last High Holy Days at CBSRZ?

**M&H:** How would I go to Yom Kippur services? I'm happy here in my little corner of the world. And besides, I have nothing to a-tune for? Get it? A-tune?

**LB:** Well, anyway, Dan has put together a great program—music written during your lifetime, from pieces by Scott Joplin to George Gershwin to Samuel Barber to Dave Brubeck.

**M&H:** And you. Don't forget something by you. Anyway, I'm excited. Actually, I know about him. He's the most talented guy ever born in Reading, Pennsylvania. And he's been on the Goodspeed Opera House staff for three years.

**LB:** How do you know all this?

**M&H:** I read the papers. Well, anyway he recently music-directed and wrote vocal arrangements for The Fabulous Lipotones, music-directed and accompanied Come From Away. Did you see City of Angels and Show Boat (oh, do I miss Jerome Kern)—he worked on them, too. And others. What a guy.

**LB:** Wow, you're more than a bunch of 88 keys, mahogany and strings. You actually have a brain.

**M&H:** So back to the birthday party. When, where, why, how?

**LB:** Ah, you went to journalism school too? Anyway, there are two levels of tickets for the event on Sunday, August 4, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. As this is your 100th birthday, wouldn't it make sense to ask for a minimum donation to CBSRZ of $100 per person?

**M&H:** That's a lot of money. I remember when a concert cost five bucks, and a coffee a nickel, and a two cents plain cost only...

**LB:** Let me guess. Two cents.

**M&H:** Aren't you brilliant. Well, you really need $100 a ticket?

**LB:** It will support all of the great things we do at the shul. You should see the oil bill. And we haven't had a fundraiser for a long time.

**M&H:** That's not my fault. You should have solar. And what if somebody can't pay a $100?

**LB:** Well, there's a second level of tickets. $50.

**M&H:** What's the difference?

**LB:** Well, the house is a house, not a concert hall. Some of the seats will have obstructed views. That is, everyone will see you. But not everyone will have a clear view of Dan. People in those seats will pay a reduced rate.

**M&H:** What do they need to pay not to see you? A thousand? Oh, just a little joke there.

**LB:** Yes. Very little. But to the point. Whether people buy $100 tickets or $50 tickets or want to sponsor the event they'll have a great time, and get their cake, too.

**M&H:** And how do they sign up to honor me?

**LB:** Call Wendy, at the office: 860.526.8920. And you look through the closet to see if you have something in ebony and ivory to wear.

**M&H:** I'm so flattered.

**LB:** Don't be. When I was a kid, I had a player piano. It never made me work so hard. I could just turn it on and it would play, "Yes, We Have No Bananas.”

**M&H:** Are you trying to pull my strings?

(For more information, call Wendy or me, 860.526.9401. For the entire transcript of the interview with the Mason & Hamlin, you should live so long.)
How interesting. I woke up with three notes running through my head: the theme from this movie that I hadn’t seen or even thought of in fifty years. And they brought me right back to it. Woody Strode in gladiatorial combat with net and his exotic trident; Peter Ustinov, epitome of blubbering sycophant; John Dahl’s wooden performance that I took such pleasure in debunking—it bolstered my credentials in my mother’s eyes, assuring her of my keen discernment; and of course Charles Laughton, the Southern senator from Advise and Consent, draped in a toga. The famous chorus of “No, I am Spartacus,” is less vivid in my memory than the Kirk Douglas sword thrust into Tony Curtis. “I loved you like a father, Spartacus,” his portrayal of Antoninus betraying his Brooklyn heritage. And a beautiful blue-eyed child atop a tangled heap of corpses in the aftermath of the final battle. The movie’s ringing message of the struggle against oppression may have been lost on me, but not the delicious frustration of trying to make out Jean Simmons’s breasts in a lake’s rippling waters.

How curious the vagaries of memory. Of my Bar Mitzvah all I remember is the Rabbi’s hands squeezing my head as he uttered a benediction and the first line of the sermon I delivered; of my wedding only a bit more. But this movie seen once long ago so vividly recalled.

My wife and I have invited my father to move in with us. After living in New York for only 95 years, he has decided on a change. He is unsteady on his legs, though not in his thinking, and negotiating the ripped up pavements and cell-phone obsessed hordes on the streets of Manhattan is becoming ever more difficult for him. He remarked to me some time ago: “Sean, I am not immune to the ravages of time.” A finely turned phrase. Nor are any of us.

And last week, as I bent down to help him tie his shoe, another memory struck me: his doing the same for me over 60 years ago.

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TISHA B’AV

Study the Book of Lamentations with Rabbi Goldenberg for Tisha B’Av (9th of Av)

Monday July 15th, 7:00 PM

“Alas, how solitary does the city sit that was so full of people... Bitterly does she weep at night, and her tears are on her cheeks...” (Lamentations 1:1–2)

According to Jewish tradition, the 9th of the Hebrew month of Av marks the date when our Holy Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, first by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E., and then by the Romans in the year 70 of our era. We have also layered other historical tragedies onto this date, including the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

The spirit of the day is one of mourning, and the book that captures that spirit is the Book of Lamentations, from our Hebrew Bible. However, it is not all sadness and desolation. This text does offer faith in the miracle of hope. As we start our journey towards the High Holy Days, Lamentations can give us strength and hope that no matter how broken we may feel, the New Year is coming, and with it, the hope for new beginnings.

Please join Rabbi Goldenberg as we explore the poetry and themes of this holy book.
“In 1992, when I turned fifty, I made the first of five trips to Israel. The sole purpose of these trips was to create a series of paintings that depict the land and the people of Israel. This was the result of a promise I made to myself when I was thirty...to add to my oeuvre paintings that express my Jewish identity. At that time I did not feel mature enough, knowledgeable enough or competent technically enough. When I turned fifty I felt I had achieved the strengths needed in all three areas...At first I wanted to observe the land and architecture. Next I would focus on the people...After five years I shifted my focus to American Jewish life.”

CBSRZ will be the beneficiary of this promise when the work of upstate New York artist, Brian Shapiro, is exhibited in our Temple early August through late October.

Shapiro grew up attending the shul his grandparents helped found and over the years has attended services in a variety of locations that have given him “...a broad overview of the Jewish experience and enabled [him] to emotionally connect with Jews of every denomination.” Out of this connection came a series of more than 100 paintings many of which will grace the wall of our Main Street Gallery during the High Holy Days. Waiting For The Tenth Man (80” x 120”), the central piece in our show, recently elicited the following remarks by an interested viewer.

“I was fascinated by your Tenth Man painting...and knew immediately the significance of the rabbi waiting at the door, mostly because this happened in my neighborhood a number of years ago, but there were other things...that drew my attention: the numbering of the seats...is not in order...the cat in the center of the painting...the synagogue door opens out...the tefillin [is] wrapped on the right and left arms of the men.”

These observations demonstrate Shapiro’s attention to detail. In addition, his color palate and strong brush-strokes invoke the spirituality of synagogue life.

I first met Brian a little more than a year ago when he visited CBRZ and several shoreline art venues to get a feel for the area’s involvement in and appreciation of art. We spent the better part of the day visiting the Lyme Art Academy and discussing his lengthy and successful career. I quickly discovered that Shapiro’s easy smile belied the seriousness of his work. Much of his art reflects a deep thoughtfulness and a philosophical approach toward his subjects.

“...empathy is central to Jewish consciousness. As a community, what happens to each and every one of us ultimately affects us all. We are a living people with an acute memory enforced by the commandments to remember,” says Shapiro.

In his artist’s statement he goes on to say: “As I have now entered my 70th
Brian Shapiro was born in 1942 in Rochester, New York. He is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and the Art Institute of Chicago. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States, at the United States Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia and the National Gallery of Art in Athens, Greece.

The exhibit will run from August through late October and is open to the shoreline community Monday through Friday, 10 AM–3:00 PM, at no charge. A generous percentage of all work sold will benefit CBSRZ.

year, 60 years of continuous art production, I am a little looser in paint handling. I’ve done it a long time.”

In the painting Generations, Shapiro makes an “...ambitious attempt at placing his personal contemporary life within this vast canvas of memory. This painting chronologically “begins” with the Binding of Isaac and ends with the artist today, all in one 44” x 58” canvas. This kind of pictorial program spanning 3800 years in one visual field is unheard of in Western Art.

“His long career includes countless oil paintings of Hudson River landscapes, New York cityscapes as well as many commissioned single and group portraits. Additionally he has an unprecedented series of paintings depicting behind the scenes movie making in Hollywood that earned him exhibitions in the Smithsonian Institution in Los Angeles and a first ever show at the Motion Picture Academy.” (Richard McBee, Jewish Press Magazine, Aug. 20, 2010)

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The exhibit will run from August through late October and is open to the shoreline community Monday through Friday, 10 AM–3:00 PM, at no charge. A generous percentage of all work sold will benefit CBSRZ.
Most of us over the age of twenty-five have experienced that moment when we realized that our favorite sweatshirt, t-shirt or jeans was no longer able to be worn out in public. Maybe the stains were too obvious or the rips were too big; whatever the reason, it was time for that clothing item to be retired. This is usually a sad day, but quickly brightened by the prospect of getting something new.

So it is for our white High Holiday Torah covers. The Religious Affairs Committee came to the tough decision that our Torah covers, though much beloved, were too stained and discolored to be worn out in public. This project began about a year ago, spearheaded by Barbara Infeld, Carol LeWitt, and Bruce Josephy. Tracy Kleinberg undertook the task of plowing through hundreds of images of Torah covers in order to find the perfect ones to adorn our High Holiday ark. After much discussion and debate, as well as input from various groups within CBSRZ, RAC voted on our favorite five and will be purchasing them from Tiferes Stam Judaica and Judaica Embroidery. Four of the new mantles are shown below.

The new Torah covers will be debuted on August 30, 2013 during the Friday night service of Elul when we change the covers from blue to white. We hope you come to see them!

Any financial contributions to cover the cost of these Torah covers would be greatly appreciated. What a terrific way to celebrate a mitzvah or to honor a person! The covers will not have personal dedications as we believe that they are owned by everyone in CBSRZ; however, we will be printing the names of donors and their dedications in The Whole Megillah. As of the writing of this article we have received contributions from a variety of sources, including contributions honoring Bruce Josephy’s presidency, weddings of congregants and their children, from the Wednesday morning Minyanaires, from the Confirmation class, and from a family honoring the several high school seniors graduating this year. No amount is too small, and every gift is appreciated. Please send your contribution to Wendy in the office with a note indicating Torah Fund.
**Finding Comfort and Support: A Jewish Bereavement Group**

Coping with the loss of a loved one has no set timeframe. There are moments when we are managing as best we can in the new normalcy of life and then, there are moments when we continue to struggle. Holidays, life-cycle events, and familiar locales may return us to memories that fill us with joy and are bittersweet as well. A bereavement group offers an opportunity to reflect with others who can understand our struggle as they also deal with their own loss.

Like a way station on a long journey, a time-bound bereavement group of three sessions, provides some time to reflect, offers the comfort with fellow travelers and gives us a chance to renew our inner strength as we travel on.

If a bereavement support group might be of help to you, please know that you are welcome to join us at the synagogue Mondays, August 12, 19 and 26 (7:00–8:30 PM). The groups will be facilitated by Rabbi Hesch Sommer, D.Min., Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Pastoral Counseling and Community Outreach Service for Jewish Family Service of New Haven under the auspices of The Jewish Wellness and Healing Center in partnership with Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. These groups are supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and its Shoreline affiliate.

For more information and to register for these sessions at no charge, please contact either Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg (860-526-8920) or Rabbi Hesch Sommer (203-389-5599 ext.117).

**The Jewish Wellness and Healing Center (JWHC)**

*A Center Without Walls in Partnership with Community Synagogues and Jewish Community Agencies addressing issues of emotional and spiritual well being*

Judaism’s positive outlook on life, affirmed through traditional Jewish resources and combined with psychological insights, serves as a foundation for practices of wellness and healing. In individual and communal times of crisis and in the daily challenges of living meaningful and spiritually fulfilling lives, Judaism offers support which can elevate our humanity and offer new paths of connection to that which is greater than our individual selves.

Through study, spiritual reflection and psychological support, the Jewish Wellness and Healing Center can serve as an important networking tool to work in partnership with synagogues and Jewish communal agencies. Jewish wellness and healing speaks to the need to address concerns of mind, body and soul. It is a holistic approach to Jewish life and living which approaches need where it is identified.

A Jewish Wellness and Healing Center is not locked into a physical place. Rather, in networking with the leadership of synagogues and Jewish agencies, a Jewish Wellness and Healing Center takes programs and support groups into the community, meeting the needs of individuals in places which are most accessible to them.

Some of the programs and support groups presently run by the JWHC respond to the needs of unemployed and under-employed individuals; people who have lost a loved one; teenagers coping with a chronically ill parent; individuals who are serving as caregivers for loved ones; Jewish ethics for teens; finding the restorative power of Psalms for daily living and utilizing the ethical adages of Pirke Avot to reflect on how we live our lives. For more information, please contact Rabbi Hesch Sommer (203-389-5599 ext.117; hsommer@jfsnh.org)

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Rabbi Hesch Sommer, D. Min., is the Director of the Jewish Wellness and Healing Center and the Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Pastoral Care and Community Outreach Services for Jewish Family Service of New Haven. In that capacity, he works with congregations and social service agencies to provide support groups, educational programs and spiritual awareness opportunities for individuals in the Greater New Haven area.

Rabbi Sommer holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling. He has a private psychotherapy practice in Guilford where he brings his training and skills in pastoral counseling to address the needs and concerns of individual adults and couples during life’s uncertainties and challenges. As the Vice-President of the Interfaith Counseling Service of Eastern Connecticut he works with other pastoral counselors through a partnership with various Houses of Worship to provide psychotherapy services with a sensitivity to the spiritual issues in the counseling environment.

He is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Tikvah in Madison, Connecticut, having served the Beth Tikvah congregation for 26 years prior to becoming emeritus.
Editor’s Note: On Tuesday evening, May 14, CBSRZ congregation members Lucy Smith and Danni Roman celebrated their confirmation. As has become a Whole Megillah tradition, the confirmands’ sermons are printed here to share with the entire congregation. Mazel Tov to Lucy and Danni for a job well done.

Lucy Smith:
Today I am confirming that I am Jewish. Judaism by definition of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is, “A religion developed among the ancient Hebrews and characterized by belief in one transcendent God who has revealed himself to Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew prophets and by a religious life in accordance with Scriptures and rabbinic traditions.” However, for me, this definition doesn’t resonate. It doesn’t describe what being Jewish truly means to me.

Throughout all my years here at this congregation, while I have been taught about the beliefs of those who are Jewish, never was I taught what I had to believe as a Jew. I think this is because being Jewish means so many different things to different people. We as Jews also do not have one set belief system.

Yes, we are monotheistic, and yes, we read the Torah and we celebrate Passover and Chanukah. While these are all true and very important parts of being Jewish, the stories behind these things are left open to interpretation. We don’t have clear guidelines as to what we believe. Stories from the Torah leave us to question and think about what we believe as Jews.

In confirmation class we did a lot questioning of these stories and ideas. We thought about God and about what we thought God might actually be or if God is something that actually is. I often wondered whether or not God is real because some things that we read were so unfathomable that I wondered how they could be possible for some God to do. And honestly I still have not come to a conclusion as to whether or not I believe in God. But, that is Judaism.

On this confirmation day I am confirming that I will continue to question. I will keep studying the texts in the Torah, and I will keep wondering about their meanings. I will continue to debate theories about God and other figures and ideas presented to me. I am confirming that I will not simply accept religion as it is presented to me. I will ponder its meanings and ideas. This I believe is what makes you a true Jew. Therefore, today I am confirming my place as a Jew in the Jewish community.

Thank you to Rabbi G. for answering my questions about Judaism and allowing me to express my opinions on it. Thank you to all of my teachers in CBSRZ who have helped me reach to this point in my Jewish life. Thank you to Danni for being my very good friend and for doing confirmation with me. And finally, thank you to my family and friends for supporting me through this journey.

Danni Roman:
During my years here at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, I have grown and developed as a friend, a student, a Jew, and most importantly, an independent thinker. Throughout this process, my views on God changed as well.

I remember sitting in Kitah Bet being so set in my religious views. I thought that I knew what God was. He was an
old man, the grandfather of all people, sitting atop a fluffy cloud. He was simple, with a red and blue striped rope and a staff like Moses. But he was very wise. I could see knowledge pouring from his eyes, and I knew he was there to teach me and guide me.

But this simple view of God gave way to something much more powerful the following year. Now, God was an eagle in my mind, with long, strong wings. He was quick and fierce and was surrounded by heavenly rays of light. He was a symbol of prestige and power. I believed that he was there to protect me.

By the time I was ten I no longer had an image of God in my head at all. I understood that God wasn't something that could be seen, only something that could be felt. But I really wasn't sure how to feel God. So I just made it up and hoped it was right. I decided that God would be my best friend. I talked to him every day, thanked him for always being there for me, and asked him for help when I needed it. We did everything best friends would do. I shared my secrets with him and I trusted him more than anyone else. I knew that he would be there with me every step of the way.

Later, when I was twelve, I came up with yet another theory. God must be our conscience. If we are all the children of God, then surely he must be in us all. He is the devil and the angel sitting on our shoulders. He tests us to make the right choices and to be in his image. He is our instincts, our values, and our morals. He can make us feel guilt for doing something wrong and happiness for doing something right. From this point forward, I tried to make choices based on what was just and kind.

By age fourteen my views became more abstract. I thought that God was more of an energy. God could be experienced in moments, like a sunrise. God could be seen in acts of kindness or charity. God was felt in the love that you have for your family and friends. God was witnessed in the little miracles of everyday life.

Now, at age 16, I have spent many hours in Confirmation discussing God, a topic that I really enjoy thinking about. What I have realized is that God might be a combination of all those things. He can be a teacher, a protector, and a friend. He can be inside me while surrounding me. But the most important thing I realized is that God can be whatever I want him to be. I control my beliefs and I am sure that my views will change as time goes on. But that is the most beautiful part of Judaism. We are raised to question and interpret things for ourselves. We are raised to wrestle with God.
PHOTO GALLERY

Carolina Marquez-Sterling standing in front of an array of her work at the opening of her exhibition

Ed Reed and Music&More Sponsors David Zeleznik and Maxine Klein

Jazz Vocalist Ed Reed and Bassist Ugonna Okagwo
4th Tee: Barry Ilberman, Joel Saltzman, Chris Soloperto

Marcy Saltzman, Belinda Brennan, Wendy Bayor
The Social Action Committee announced last fall that our focus for this year would include hunger, homelessness, health, children’s rights, prison reform, and tolerance. We are pleased that we were able to act upon these issues and more.

Hunger
Soup Kitchens
We not only continued our quarterly Thursday soup kitchen in Deep River but added a new quarterly effort for CBSRZ on Sundays in Chester. Our goal is to work with the religious school and youth groups to enable them to play a larger role in the Sunday soup kitchen starting in the fall.

Food Pantries
Although not as well known, the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP) provides pantries as well, where families in need can get healthy foods. With the economic downturn and slow recovery still affecting so many families in this area, we have added to the many individuals and organizations providing food throughout the year. In addition to our successful annual High Holiday Food Drive, boxes for food to deliver to SSKP are ever-present at CBSRZ. In addition, we sponsored a collection of funds by CBSRZ for contribution to SSKP which received a matching grant from a business donor.

Root Causes of Hunger
SAC discussed and recognized that responding to the critical shortage of food is important but not sufficient for any lasting solution. Beginning this winter, SSKP started a task force, of which SAC members are a part, with monthly meetings, to address root causes of hunger throughout the area and beyond. This process will be slow, but we hope it will result in some systemic changes to the economics and politics of hunger.

Homelessness
Apartments for the Homeless
SAC continued our commitment to End in Ten, a project to end homelessness in Middlesex County, working with a Catholic charity in Middletown to help furnish apartments in Middletown for those who have been homeless. We again combined forces with the United Church of Chester to provide furnishings for an apartment for Jude, a Middletown man. At a Shabbat service last August, Richard, for whom we had provided furnishings the year before, gave a brief but poignant talk about what the grant of independence meant to him.

Root Causes of Homelessness
As with hunger, SAC discussed some of the underlying causes for homelessness. The task force we are participating in with SSKP is also looking at this issue.

Furnishings for Those in Need
SAC realized that the system that we had set up to obtain used furniture from congregants and others need not be limited to once-a-year furnishing of an apartment, so we have tried to inform CBSRZ congregants to contact us before disposing of any furniture or other furnishings in good condition. Not only could these be used for the efforts in Middletown, but we have spoken with the Chesed committee about working jointly to ensure that any families within our congregation who need furniture are assisted with this program.

Health Care
Blood Drives
SAC continues to sponsor two Red-Cross blood drives at CBSRZ each year, in December and June, staffed in part by CBSRZ volunteers, which have been successful in raising both blood and awareness of this critical need throughout our area.

Information and Legislation
Through United Action of Connecticut (UACT), described in detail below, CBSRZ has been pushing for universal healthcare. Following the adoption of the federal Affordable Care Act, most of the efforts this year have been on providing education about the health exchanges, which are to be available to everyone who needs coverage or better coverage in 2014. SAC continues to distribute important information about these developments.

Children’s Rights
Providing Essentials
In addition to recognizing the importance to children of work to alleviate hunger, SAC has continued its role in collecting and providing essentials such as clothing, toys and books directly to kids and various schools.

Information and Legislation
SAC sponsored two speaker programs this year to foster discussion of major issues facing children and their families in Connecticut as well as throughout the country. In January, Linda Meyer, a law professor at Quinnipiac University, spoke at a Shabbat service about laws that provide overly harsh sentences for crimes committed by minors. In March, we heard from Tammy Snead, Director of Girls Services at Connecticut’s Department of Children and Families, about the serious problem of juvenile sex trafficking, mostly involving young girls who are enslaved by men and
forced to engage in prostitution with many examples right here in Connecticut. In the spring, we assisted in contacting legislators to urge the passage of a state law mandating fairer sentencing for minors.

Prison Reform

Prison Art and Artists

We saw a continuing theme of art and prisons, starting with the prison art exhibit shown for several months at CBSRZ and followed by a performance for Martin Luther King’s Birthday holiday weekend by the Hartford-based Judy Dworin dance troupe derived from their artistic work with women at York Correctional Institution, the women’s prison located in Niantic. We also continued to enable congregants to provide books to the women for the prison library and used by many prison book clubs.

Information and Legislation

As discussed above, we held discussions and were involved in legislative efforts relating to imprisonment of minors. We also discussed other prison issues, including solitary confinement and overcrowding, issues which are also a focus of efforts of other advocacy groups, including Jewish organizations.

Tolerance

Interfaith Activities

The SAC decided one way we could approach tolerance and have a direct impact is to engage in social action activities with groups from other religions. This included our soup kitchen efforts, which take place at churches and among largely non-Jewish beneficiaries, working with a church congregation to furnish the apartment through End-in-Ten, an organization sponsored by a church in Middletown, and our work with United Action of Connecticut (UACT), a group of about fifteen faith-based organizations throughout central Connecticut (we are the only synagogue) that work jointly on social action issues of common interest. Work on the healthcare issue was our major involvement with UACT in past years, and we brought UACT into action about gun control this year.

The Listening Campaign

Through UACT, we have undertaken to do a listening campaign (scheduled for October-November) which is designed to identify issues of interest and concern to congregants of CBSRZ. Although tolerance will not likely be a subject of the interviews, nor will social action be a dominant focus, the Listening Campaign will provide us with an interfaith experience, and we will be working with the AME-Zion Church in Middletown in planning the campaign and analyzing results.

Disaster Relief

No matter what you plan, you are often tested by what you can’t. As part of our response to Superstorm Sandy and, more recently, the Oklahoma tornados, SAC has sought to channel donations from congregants through CBSRZ, with a focused effort for relief. In response to the Newtown tragedy, we not only provided an outlet for such donations but took quick steps to engage the congregation in a discussion about possible legislative responses, which led to active support of gun control legislation.

Legislative Efforts

As discussed above, SAC has been involved in spurring CBSRZ members to action on several legislative initiatives over the past year. Most prominent was the gun control legislation, for which not only did we have CBSRZ members involved, but we were successful in getting UACT to support the efforts, which brought the efforts of many faith-based congregations in central Connecticut. In addition, we worked to help pass legislation supporting fairer sentencing of minors and efforts sponsored by UACT supporting civil rights and liberties of immigrants in our communities.

Ongoing Activities

In addition to the social action activities described above, the Social Action Committee has continued to undertake various activities related to traditional events at CBSRZ, such as assembling and distributing Purim boxes. We are currently working to coordinate activities with other committees within CBSRZ to ensure continued support for these and other activities which have been sponsored by CBSRZ for many years.

Special Thanks

Special thanks are due to those who went beyond their role on the Social Action Committee to make these programs a success: Linda Rigono’s boundless energy and commitment in supervising many projects and helping with others; Kate Cotton’s skill, organization and ability to include those within the congregation and without; the skill and tireless efforts of Beth Gottlieb and Johanna Schaefer to inform the entire CBSRZ community of these efforts.

What will next year bring?

We hope to continue all these efforts and more. We hope the Listening Campaign will help identify social actions congregants think are important. We are working with other committees to maximize joint efforts and results. Mostly, it depends on you. Social Action efforts this year involved a very small portion of our congregation. If you are one of those who answered our High Holiday call and donated three hours this year, thank you. If you are not, just think what we could accomplish if everyone participated.
From the editor: To ensure that The Whole Megillah goes out on time we have had to move up our deadlines for submission of material. Because of this some notices may not have been received in time to make this issue. We will include them in our September-October issue. Because the high holidays fall so early this year we’ve asked for all news items for that issue by July 15.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013

On June 12 Marilyn and Gene Kalet celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. To quote Marilyn: “Every milestone is a blast.”

Seth and Jessica Davis, son and daughter-in-law of our new members Arnie and Barbara Davis, gave birth to a baby boy on May 28 named Cole Irving Davis. Cole’s Hebrew name is Calev Yitzchak.

Keira Ann Seidman was born on May 7, 2013. 7 pounds 9 ounces and 22.5 inches long to Lon Seidman and Melissa Ozols.

Nathan Hausman has graduated from Old Saybrook High. He has been accepted at the US Air Force Academy. School begins at the end of June with eight weeks of boot camp. During that time cadets forgo the use of cell phones, email and other electronic means of communication, so letters in plain white envelopes would be greatly appreciated.

Ben Abramowitz, son of Meg Magida, has just received a Masters of Education in Education Policy and Management from Harvard University.

Anna Loiterstein, daughter of Polly Kipp and David Loiterstein, graduated from Carnegie Mellon with a BS in Psychology, and she’ll be going to graduate school at Yeshiva in the fall studying for a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

Nikki Roman, daughter of Dave and Laura Roman, has graduated from Haddam-Killingworth High School and will be starting at Northeastern University in Boston, in the School of Engineering in the fall.

Derek Arbige, son of Stephanie and Dennis Arbige, will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, where he will be studying mathematics. Derek is a National Merit Finalist and was named as the CASCIAC Scholar Athlete of the Year. Derek has been a madrich since his Bar Mitzvah. He is the son of Stephanie and Dennis Arbige, and the brother of Spencer.

Mack Goller, son of Rona Malakoff and Ethan Goller graduated from The Williams School in New London on June 5th. He will be taking a gap year before starting Wheaton College in the fall of 2014. Mack will spend the 2013–14 school year in Costa Rica and Israel.
Come to the Party of the Century

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR PIANO

Celebrating the 100th Year of Our Mason & Hamlin Grand

Featuring the keyboard artistry of

DAN PARDO

And songs written between 1913 and 2013

At the home of
Suzanne Levine & Lary Bloom
23 Bates Road, Chester

Sunday, August 4th
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Bubbly & Birthday Cake
Ebony and Ivory Dress (Optional)

• $100 minimum per person donation to CBSRZ

• $50 per person donation for partial view seating

Benefiting Music Programs of Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

Call Wendy, 860.526.8920 or email bethshalom@snet.net for tickets.
**CBSRZ Minutes of**
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
**Highlights**
*May 9, 2013*

President proposed as new members:
Matthew and Misty Scoggins of Ivoryton

President announced that six children have taken advantage of the new camp scholarship from the Nevis Fund with $500 to $1,500 awards to URJ camps such as Eisner and Crane and that Harvey Payton has agreed to chair the facilities committee. Hearty thanks to George Amarant for all of his hard work was noted.

Rabbi Goldenberg described a renewed initiative with the United Church of Chester hoping to put together an interfaith trip to Israel in November 2014. It will be an adult trip to include older teenagers and focus on typical tourist highlights and religious site. Doreen Joslow is organizing.

Financial: Sandy Seidman reported that the budget should be met this year, but that it is very tight. Urged fund raising for next year.

Kevin Fox reported on building fund pledges of $175,000 that have not been paid. He thinks about half might be collectible. He reported that the Jewish Community Foundation invested funds of $735,000 did very well for the quarter ending March 31 funds up 4%.

Nomination and Governance: On a motion by Stehpen Davis, seconded by Sandy Seidman the following slate of at large directors, constituting the class of 2013 was proposed by the Nominating and Governance Committee and passed unanimously: George Amarant, Karen Burzin, Stephen Davis, Lenny Goldberg, Brad Jubelirer, Linda Rigono, and Maxine Klein.

Stephen Davis announced that Miriam Gardner-Frum will stay on as vice-president to year’s end at December 31, 2013 or until the Nominating and Governance Committee presents a new candidate for vice-president.

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel issues. It returned to an ordinary session following that discussion.

The Board endorsed the 2013–2014 Budget and Dues (published separately), modifying the budget presented in April by removing the proposed $25,000 allocation for a senior coordinator and or executive director. This Budget will be brought to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 20 at 7:00 PM.

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**Chesed Corner**

Welcome to Chesed Corner, where we hope you’ll come to relax, sit a spell, and share acts of kindness with each other.

It was a cold and dreary Saturday, and I was too sick to go anywhere, not even to CBSRZ for Holy Scrollers. My family was out of town, and there was no food in the house, either for me or for my two dogs. All of a sudden the phone rings, and it’s Marilyn and Meg from Scrollers, saying, “We heard you were sick, how can we help, can we bring you some food?” An hour later they were on my doorstep in New London with wonderful food for me, dog food, and some much needed TP. Another Scroller dropped off two-years worth of New Yorker magazines, because she knew I didn’t have a TV.

The food and other items were truly wonderful, but what was even better was knowing that I wasn’t alone, and there was help when I needed it, even before I had to ask. That, I believe, is one of the special strengths that makes CBSRZ unique, and it is the essence of Chesed: members reaching out to other members in times of need and offering a helping hand, a hug, a card, a meal, a ride, whatever is needed.

There is NECHAMA—comfort and bereavement when a member of community suffers a loss. There is BIKKUR CHOLIM—visiting the sick at home or in a hospital, taking food or supplies when necessary. There is HINEINI CORP (Here I Am)—matching individual volunteers with congregants who have special needs like a ride to services, etc. And finally, there is COMMUNITY OUTREACH—coordinating resources from the greater Shoreline and Jewish communities that may be of use to our members.

Please consider volunteering, it’s a wonderful mitzvah, or alternatively let us know if there is something you need or you know of someone else who could use a hand. Email Linda Sherman at lcsherman@gmail.com and help us keep our corner of the world a special place to be.
Memorial Plaques
Tammuz 25 5773 - Av 24 5773
Brenda Tuman – mother of Belinda Brennan
Florence Storch – mother of Liz Schwolsky
Frank Slater – father of Bernie Slater
Mabel Naomi Scharr – mother of Jerry Scharr
Joseph Savitt – father of Susan Savitt; father of Charles Savitt
Leon Saltzman – father of Joel Saltzman
Hyman Salowitz – uncle of James Cohen
Isidor Rubin – father of Matthew Rubin
Anita Redak – mother of Harvey Redak; mother of Danny Redak
Morris Palmer – father of George Palmer; grandfather of Peg Palmer
Ann Needleman – mother of Norman Needleman
Adam Nodelman – son of Leonard and Ellen Nodelman
Morris Morris – father of George Palmer; grandfather of Peg Palmer
Anita Redak – mother of Harvey Redak; mother of Danny Redak
Isidor Rubin – father of Matthew Rubin
Hyma Salowitz – uncle of James Cohen
Leon Saltzmann – father of Joel Saltzmann
Joseph Savitt – father of Susan Savitt; father of Charles Savitt
Samuel Friedland – father of David Friedland
Elsie Klar – mother of Elsie Klar
Freda “Fritzie” Kaplan – mother of Howard Kaplan
Zohava Caspi Levy – mother of Madas Rubin
Nellie LeWitt – cousin of Solomon LeWitt
Murray Miller – father of Ellen Friedman
Ann Needleman – mother of Norman Needleman
Adam Nodelman – son of Leonard and Ellen Nodelman
Morris Morris – father of George Palmer; grandfather of Peg Palmer
Anita Redak – mother of Harvey Redak; mother of Danny Redak
Isidor Rubin – father of Matthew Rubin
Hyma Salowitz – uncle of James Cohen
Leon Saltzmann – father of Joel Saltzmann
Joseph Savitt – father of Susan Savitt; father of Charles Savitt
Samuel Schaffer – father of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Mabel Naomi Scharf – mother of Jerry Scharf
Frank Slater – father of Bernie Slater
Florence Storch – mother of Liz Schwerzoff
Sara Swing – aunt of Marilyn Kalet
Lillian Tuch – mother of Dorothy Palmer; grandmother of Peg Palmer
Brenda Tuman – mother of Belinda Brennan
Ann Needleman – mother of Norman Needleman
Rose Pufoff – mother of Norman Needleman
Anita Redak – mother of Harvey Redak; mother of Danny Redak
Isidor Rubin – father of Matthew Rubin
Hyma Salowitz – uncle of James Cohen
Leon Saltzmann – father of Joel Saltzmann
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Lillian Tuch – mother of Dorothy Palmer; grandmother of Peg Palmer
Brenda Tuman – mother of Belinda Brennan

Refuah Shlemah
Linda Thal
Peggy Tunick
Reavalyn Klein
Hickey
Jo Watnabe
Beth Gottlieb
Mark Norman
Donna Miller
Howard Kaplan
Ralph Friedman
Louise Ross
Sol Meller
Florence Mackey

Please remember to inform Linda Sherman, chair of the Chesed Committee, if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help, or has experienced a death in the family. Our Chesed Committee is here to help.

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|        |        |         | 7:45 am Morning Minyan
         |        |         | 9:45 am Religious Affairs | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat
         |        |         | Office Closed | 6:15 pm Dairy Potluck Dinner
         |        |         | 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service | 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service |
| 7      | 29 TAMMUZ | 8      | 9       | 10      | 11    | 12    |
|        |        | 1 AV   | 2 AV    | 3 AV    | 4 AV  | 5 AV  |
|        |        |         | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 7:45 am Morning Minyan
         |        |         | 7:00 pm SSKP Board Meeting | 7:00 pm Study the Book of Lamentations with Rabbi Goldenberg |
| 14     | 7 AV   | 15     | 16      | 17      | 18    | 19    |
|        | 14 AV  | 8 AV   | Tisha B'Av | 9 AV    | 10 AV | 11 AV |
|        |        |        | TISHA B'AV | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 6:00 pm Brown Bag Picnic at Cedar Lake
         |        |        | 7:00 pm Study the Book of Lamentations with Rabbi Goldenberg | 7:00 pm Study the Book of Lamentations with Rabbi Goldenberg
<pre><code>     |        |        |         | 9:30 am Holy Scrollers |
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|        | 21 AV  | 15 AV  | 16 AV   | 17 AV   | 18 AV | 19 AV |
|        |        |        | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 7:45 am Morning Minyan |
| 28     | 21 AV  | 29     | 30      | 31      | 27    | 28    |
|        | 22 AV  | 22 AV  | 23 AV   | 24 AV   | 20 AV |
|        |        |        | 7:45 am Morning Minyan | 9:30 am Holy Scrollers |</p>
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High Holidays are early this year!

Erev Rosh Hashanah, September 4
Rosh Hashanah, September 5-6
Kol Nidre, September 13
Yom Kippur, September 14

Mark your calendar

The Whole Megillah may be viewed in color on the web at www.cbsrz.org

Mama Loshen

Tsedrait
Nutty, crazy, screwy
Mach nit koin tsimmes fun dam
Don’t make a big deal out of it
Leben ahtf dein kop lit.
A long life upon your head
Well done, well said

Kuk im on
Look at him!

Haimish ponem
Friendly face, familiar face (a face from home)

FROM THE BIG LITTLE BOOK OF JEWISH WISDOM

“Ask your child what he wants for dinner... only if he is buying.”

Oneg Thanks

Bob & Sharon Goldberg
Linda Pinn
The Gister/Gold Family
The Barrengos/Knopp Family
Phyllis & Herb Ross
Barbara Beckerman & Evelyn Foster
Marilyn & Gene Kalet
Trina Shipuleski & David Shiling
Sue & Tom Baehr