Party in the “Hood.” Come, eat, play, and zumba, zumba, zumba when the congregation gathers for a block party.......9

Eva Virsik, classical pianist at Music & More.....................10

Music & More with Save the Train, congregation picnic, and raffle for standby home generator..........................10

Meet the Confirmands........11

Honoring Rick Hornung........18

“I’d build a big tall house with rooms by the dozen right in the middle of the town, a fine tin roof with a real standby generator below (that I won in the CBSRZ raffle).” —Morbre, Un Violin sur le Toit
THANK YOU

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In This Issue

From Our Rabbi

3

Worship Services and May/June Events

4

From Our President

5–6

From the Editor

7–8

The Listening Campaign

9

Eva Virsik

10

Congratulations Confirmands

11

Whole Mishpacha

12–13

Picture Gallery

14–15

Social Action

16–17

Honoring Rick Hornung

18

Benefit Fashion Show

19

CBSRZ News

20

Condolences, Mi Sheberach, Remembrances

21

Calendars

22–23
I am standing at my desk as I write this column. If you have peeked into my office lately, you may have noticed that my computer monitor, keyboard and mousepad now sit on piles of books. (It helps that my rabbinc library has many sets of large, fat volumes that I can use for this purpose.) I find that especially when I’m feeling stuck or am looking for a new idea or a new approach, or when I’m feeling sluggish, standing up helps. My husband sits on a huge exercise ball at his desk—to keep his body moving throughout the day.

We are not alone in enjoying the benefits of moving and switching position throughout the day from standing to sitting to walking. You may have heard of this new trend of standing desks, treadmill desks, and even treadmill conference rooms. Studies show that moving our bodies, or changing position from seated to standing throughout the day leads to more productivity, more creativity, and better health. Treadmill meetings are shorter, more focused and more energetic. Even in our sedentary Western culture, people are rediscovering the connection that has always been there between body and mind. Of course, we need scientific studies to convince ourselves of this truth, but at least this truth is resurfacing, slowly but surely.

Jewish tradition has a strong understanding of the connection between physical, mental and spiritual. In the beit midrash (study hall) of a yeshiva, students will sit across long tables with study partners as they read out loud and gesture animatedly. But you’ll also see shtenders – lecterns – where students stand up to study, rocking back and forth on their feet, often gesticulating wildly with their arms as they immerse themselves in Talmudic debates. Our People understand that physical movement in study brings ancient texts to life, keeps students focused, and feeds energy and passion.

When we pray, we bow, and some “shuckle” and “daven,” which means to sway and rock. There are some places in the liturgy where it is customary to bow as a sign of humility in the presence of God, and many Jews will sway and rock throughout the service. When we move our bodies, we involve our whole selves in prayer. We can feel our souls being moved and lifted when we physically feel the rhythms and hear the melodies of instrumental music, singing, clapping, and stomping, and when we keep the beat as we tap our prayer books. As Psalm 150 concludes, “kol haneshama t’hallel Yah,” “Let my whole being praise God.”

The prayers themselves constantly refer to our bodies. We begin our morning prayers with one that thanks God for keeping all of the openings and channels in our bodies working correctly. And we continue by praising God for “opening the eyes of the blind,” “lifting up the bent-over,” “removing sleep from the eyes, slumber from the eyelids,” and “making our steps firm.” The Torah and subsequent sacred texts deal with the connection between the state of our bodies and our relationship with God, whether it is dealing with skin diseases, pregnancy, or our obligations to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Here at CBSRZ, we are working to integrate mind and body through various spiritual practices. Our weekly Meditation sessions – 7pm on Thursday evenings – settle the mind and open the heart. Ava Tyler’s yoga classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9am align heart, mind and body. Regular Shabbat worship on Friday nights and Saturday mornings involves the whole body as we sing, sway, bow, clap, chant, and feel the rhythms and melodies of piano, voice and sometimes drum.

Kol Ha-neshama t’hallel Yah – Halleluyah! Let our whole being – mind, body and spirit; breath, hands and heart – praise God – Halleluyah!
### May Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 2, 5:45 PM</td>
<td>Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 3, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 5, 5:45, Erev Shabbat Service Followed by Dinners in Congregants’ Homes</td>
<td>Saturday, May 6, 10:30 AM, Second Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 14, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 21, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 23, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 28, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 30, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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### June Events

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<td>Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shavuot Service with Confirmation</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 4, 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Shavuot Morning Service with Yizkor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 6, 5:45 PM</td>
<td>Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 11, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 13, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 14, 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Second Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Lunch Honoring Rick Hornung</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 18, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 20, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service Honorizing Lary Bloom and Departing Board Members; New Board Member Installation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 21, 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Applegate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 25, 7:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 27, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 28, 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Rhiya Sinnappen</td>
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### 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 Bat 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.
Meet the author of the acclaimed book on the legendary musical, and then see the Goodspeed revival (at a big discount)

We all have a unique opportunity—thanks to Clo Davis and her program committee, to author Alisa Solomon, and to Goodspeed’s (and CBSRZ’s) Michael Price—to get an inside view of the most widely staged musical in the world. Details in a moment. But first a story of particular significance to Jews about “Fiddler on the Roof.”

In the old days—including 1964 when “Fiddler” had its debut—all musicals were tried out on the road before coming to Broadway, with the last stop (usually) the Schubert Theater in New Haven. There, final adjustments were made, and songs added or subtracted.

But there was one other big reason for such tryouts. Broadway ticket brokers came to see these shows before they hit Broadway. They had to decide how many tickets to buy in advance so that they could meet the demand. They had a lot at stake—too many tickets and they were stuck with a flop and a large debt. Too few and they couldn’t satisfy regular customers. So they had to decide at tryout time whether they thought the show would attract audiences.

One of those ticket brokers was Sylvia Cooper, whom I got to know well, and who told me this story about “Fiddler.” Sylvia and her husband Lou owned Show Bus Tours, toting hundreds of Connecticut theatergoers to Broadway every week on Peter Pan buses, and providing, usually, the best seats in the house.

When she and Lou went to New Haven to see Zero Mostel and the rest of the cast in the new musical, they relied as always on Lou’s judgment. He was a quiet man but he knew his stuff. And he loved the script, based on the Teyva stories of the Yiddish writer Sholem-Aleichem, the music and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock, and star Zero Mostel. Sylvia always deferred to Lou’s view, but in this case agreed with him.

She was also a very clever businesswoman. She was able to learn about her competitors by developing relationships with them. After the performance at the Shubert, she went to one of them and asked him, “Well, what did you think? Will it be a smash hit or a flop?”

He waved his hands at her, and said, “It’s going nowhere.”

She said, “Why do you think not?”

He replied, “My son—who goes to Yale—says it’s too Jewish.”

Sylvia said, “Hmmm. I see what you mean.” And thought, “Oh, my, I’m going to buy as many tickets as I possibly can.” And, in the years afterwards, Show Bus Tours had the corner on the ticket market of a “too Jewish” and always sold-out musical.

Well, it just so happens that this too Jewish musical is being revived in its 50th anniversary year at the Goodspeed Opera House this summer, beginning in late June. And so Clo organized an ambitious tie-in effort.

First, she invited the author of a new and highly acclaimed book, Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof, to a Books & Bagels program around that time, and then bought a block of seats for an evening performance soon thereafter (Wednesday, July 2) so that CBSRZ congregants could go to the show with each other at a greatly reduced price and enjoy a private reception at Goodspeed as well.

As to Wonder of Wonders, The New York Times calls Alisa Solomon’s

(Continued on page 6)
account “as rich and as dense as a chocolate babka – so crammed with tasty layers that you have to pace yourself.”

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ms. Solomon for this column (all celebrities take calls from Whole Megillah writers). I was curious about how she became interested in researching and writing the book. She told me, “I’m trained as a theater scholar—so was looking for a big project (many years ago). I had started to learn Yiddish, and after some time was able to read Yiddish literature in the original language, and I found in Sholem-Aleichem’s work elements way beyond folksy literature.

“In 2004 there was a Broadway revival of Fiddler, but I wasn’t excited about it. It seemed to be an unnecessary gesture (after 40 years) to bring it back.” By 2004 the time had long passed, Alisa thought, since the American public was unaware of shtetl life. But, working at the Village Voice, she volunteered to write about it and then bought an original cast CD. “When I put on, I started to cry. That was the clue that cynicism wasn’t the best approach to writing about the revival. And I became fascinated by the huge impact the show had in 1964.” And then around the world, especially in parts of Europe, such as Poland, where young people became very curious about the country’s lost Jewish culture.

So don’t miss this unique CBSRZ opportunity. Together, we’ll hear the author read from one of the New York Times’s Notable Books of 2013, to hear Tevye the dairyman in his struggles in the town of Anatevka and to raise a glass afterwards and shout, “L’Chaim.”

OUR FIDDLING SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 29, 11 a.m. Alisa Solomon, author of Wonder of Wonders: The story of the making of Fiddler on the Roof, reads from her work and answers questions at Books & Bagels, a free program.

Wednesday, July 2, 7:30 p.m. See a performance with other CBSRZ members of Fiddler on the Roof, at Goodspeed, with a special reception afterwards. Tickets are heavily discounted at $44 each. But are limited in number, so call Wendy soon.
I don't come from a religious background. As far as I know there are no rabbis perched in the branches of my family tree. My mother's father made a ton of money as a bootlegger and when prohibition ended went legit as a purveyor of scotch whiskey. The business brought the family to England and continental Europe where my mother was educated in a French convent school.

As a child the heaven I envisioned was populated by British aristocrats, not pious Jews.

There was more than a whiff of anti-Semitism in my immediate family. We did not deny our Jewishness but had no wish to associate ourselves with religious Jews with their sideburns and wigs and ostentatiously plain garb. My father, forced to go to Hebrew school as a child, utterly rejected religion, and my mother claimed she derived her sense of spirituality from Baudelaire, Rimbaud and Verlaine. My parents would make a half-hearted effort to fast on Yom Kippur—usually abandoned at breakfast—and we would celebrate Passover. Seder was led by my aunt's husband, a funny guy who knew Hebrew. His father had been a cantor. The readings sped from one cup of wine to the next, not Concord or Manischewitz, perish the thought, but a nice 1955 Gevrey-Chambertain, cheap at the time at $45.00 a case.

Many years later I was dating a lovely English woman named Sarah Copperstone. I had a dream that we were making love on the Seder table with the whole family in attendance. (I leave the interpretation of this to others.)

Yet like some sort of genetic sport, I seem to possess a longing for a spiritual connection. Even before my extensive adventures with psychotropic drugs, I was looking for some kind of transcendence. Drugs, LSD in particular, provided some valuable lessons. The apparent solidity of the world around us masks a constant play of energy: everything is always in motion; there is a swing of things. And conventional aspirations such as the attainment of wealth, status and physical beauty are entirely irrelevant in the midst of the experience of what is actually happening in this very moment. There were, however, other less salutary effects. Drugs such as these instilled in me the notion that one could get to paradise with little or no effort: they trivialized spiritual experience. Also these relatively benign potions led to other nastier, coarsening drugs, the heedless squandering of vital energy, and psychic disturbances long after I stopped using them.

In November of 1969 I hit a bottom. I took a couple of acid trips that cleansed me out top to bottom and started meditating and studying the works of P.D. Ouspensky, a disciple of the extremely hard-to-pin-down spiritual teacher, G.I. Gurdjieff. Gurdjieff taught that humans in their natural state are asleep. They need to cultivate a continual self-awareness, in effect to give birth to their own consciousness. The catch was this requires maturity, discipline and the strength to confront inner obstacles. All virtues that reckless drug taking does not encourage.

I looked in many different directions. I was drawn to a picture of Sri Ramana Maharshi, in which he seems to burn with a spiritual flame. His practice was to continually ask yourself “Who Am I?” until the Vedantic realization that all is one emerges. I read The Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramahansa Yogananda, whose picture, by contrast, conveyed gentleness and whose account of his education abounded in the miraculous happenings. A good friend introduced me to Satya Sai Baba, who materialized ashes (called vibhuti) and other small tokens that he would give to his followers. I read D.T. Suzuki on Zen and Mahayana Buddhism. Zen was too austere, but the Compassion of the Bodhisattva made me wish to be a better person. I spent two weeks in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the ashram of Meier Baba; this was before Myrtle Beach became a Mecca for spring breakers. There were no hotels; pine forest reached right onto a pristine beach. Baba, as his followers called him, had taken a vow of silence in 1930s and never spoke thereafter. After his death his disciples were expecting the word that he would utter that would usher in a new age.

Finally my spiritual peregrinations led me to a remarkable Sufi teacher, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan. I really cannot do justice to this wonderful man. In my first encounter with him, in a summer camp he led in the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona near a town appropriately named Paradise, I felt that I was being transported to ancient times. He would lead group meditations in which he would take us into realms of light and beauty; archetypal images were shown to be more real than the limited ideas we had of ourselves. He taught that our purpose was to assist in the transformation of earth and before birth every soul appears before God and answers, I will, that is I will be Your knight and engage in this Holy crusade. Pir Vilayat had been an air force pilot in World War II. His sister was in the French resistance and was caught and killed by the Nazis. I later would follow him to France where he gave summer camps in the Alps outside of Chamonix and would conduct meditations in English, French and German. I still remember his conducting a chorus of rain-soaked, bedraggled hippies in the Lamentations of Jeremiah by the great polyphonic composer de Victoria, his whole being radiant with joy.

(Continued on page 8)
The problem was that I lacked the foundation to integrate these exalted teachings. My encounters with him only confirmed intense feelings of guilt and unworthiness. Spiritual practices aimed at shattering a false sense of self exacerbated my already precarious psychological state. I discovered that alcohol was an excellent way to bridge the distance between what I felt I should be and who I knew I was. Earlier on I had looked down on drinking as a bourgeois panacea, beneath notice of the pioneers of higher consciousness, that is of drug-addled hippies, such as myself. Now I embraced it as a most effective way of lowering one’s standards. Then I added a disastrous love affair and ended up with a complete psychic meltdown. This period of my life is still painful to recall. I was, however, blessed in finding a wonderful analyst with whose help I was able to engage in the slow painful work of reconstructing myself. I took my last drink in 1987.

Rabbi Weiss was a wonderful teacher, warm, humorous and extremely knowledgeable. I immediately felt welcomed by a remarkable and voluble group of fellow students. The running joke was to see how long our discussions could last before we actually started in on that week’s portion. I came to the group with a graduate degree in medieval literature, with a good knowledge of the growth of the papacy, some facility in Latin, and firsthand familiarity with oriental religion. About Rashi and Nachmanides I hadn’t a clue. It would be some time before I stopped mixing up midrash and Mishnah.

It began to dawn on me that my attitude to Judaism was an introjection of the surrounding, dominant Christian culture. Christianity had set the terms of my understanding of Judaism. In the process I had distanced myself from an incredibly rich tradition that was my own. This morning I recited the shema and the thirteen benedictions. It wasn’t a mystical experience, but it’s the best I can do for now.

(From the Editor Continued from page 7)

The perspicacious and long-suffering reader will by this time have noted the absence of Jewish names in my catalog of spiritual teachers. It was as if I was willing to attempt any spiritual path as long as it didn’t involve philately, a black hat and funny-looking sideburns. If I could have cracked the Mayan code I’m sure I would have made a pilgrimage to Chichen Itza. My reintroduction to Judaism came courtesy of my oldest friend, Michael. Michael and I were in the fourth grade together. We took our first LSD trip together and later stopped drinking at the same time. Brought up as an atheist, nurtured on the milk of objectivism (his mother Joan was an important figure in the Libertarian movement), he underwent a religious conversion at the age of thirty and joined the Catholic church. One Christmas Michael gave me a book, The Way into the Torah, by Norman Cohen. And that led me to the old synagogue in Deep River on a Saturday morning for Torah study led by Corey Weiss.

Rabbi Weiss was a wonderful teacher, warm, humorous and extremely knowledgeable. I immediately felt welcomed by a remarkable and voluble group of fellow students. The running joke was to see how long our discussions could last before we actually started in on that week’s portion. I came to the group with a graduate degree in medieval literature, with a good knowledge of the growth of the papacy, some facility in Latin, and firsthand familiarity with oriental religion. About Rashi and Nachmanides I hadn’t a clue. It would be some time before I stopped mixing up midrash and Mishnah.

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A PARTY IN THE ’HOOD

… Get out your dancing shoes, baritones and most decadent cookie recipes.

On June 22, 2014 we will celebrate our diverse geography with a multi-generational BLOCK PARTY, giving you the opportunity to meet your synagogue neighbors. Come present your family’s best karaoke tune, dance with some of our favorite shul fitness gurus, take a selfie with your favorite synagogue buddy and essen, essen, essen from recipes new and old. Let your children know that a bouncy house is rumored to appear and that we are seeking judges for our cookie competition.

Live and silent auction items will also be available so if you have been thinking about a gymnastics birthday party for your family and friends or hankering for journey via the National Geographical Society’s coffee table book Around The World in 125 Years (cash value, $500, opening bid, $50), come do some shopping and support our shul in the process. Any contribution of auction items will be most appreciated and are tax-deductible.

Admission will be free for children under 13 and $18/person with a family maximum of $54. Watch the weekly mailing for unfolding details. For more information, to donate an auction item or to be part of planning this wonderful community event, please contact co-chairs Clo Davis at clo.davis@gmail.com or Ali Rosenblum at arosey3@aol.com.

Following the PARTY IN THE ’HOOD will be the final Music&More concert of the year, starting at 5pm and featuring SAVE THE TRAIN, a local band with our own Norm Rutty on guitar.
In its meetings in January and March, following reports stemming from the interviews conducted late last year, the CBSRZ Board of Directors has considered the results of the Listening Campaign and continued discussions of next steps to inform the Congregation of results and possible actions.

In January, the CBSRZ Board heard from Claudia Epright, who was engaged by United Action of Connecticut to conduct the Listening Campaign, and Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee who coordinated the Campaign, about the process and results thus far. Epright reported that the interviewers as a group had concluded that the congregation was overall very positive about CBSRZ and arrived at the following as potential areas of concern and possible action:

1. Keeping all demographics of the congregation engaged: geographic, generational, socio-economic, school, household composition
2. Diverse ritual and spiritual offerings
3. Organizing, utilizing and supporting volunteers.

The Board was also given dozens of comments from individual Listeners about different topics raised in the discussions which supported these overall summaries by the Listeners (being careful to maintain confidentiality of the identity of individual responses). Schatz added that although the areas of agreed focus were so broad that they suggested little specific action, his brief review of some individual interview reports suggested more comments in some specific areas, including the distance some members have to travel and outreach and inclusion.

At the request of the Board and various committee chairs, following the January meeting Schatz reviewed the individual interview reports more closely and systematically and presented a more complete summary of responses to the Board at its meeting in March.

Schatz cautioned that the Campaign was not—and was not intended to be—a scientific process or a statistically significant result. Not only did the interviews cover less than half of the congregation (the rest may be interviewed at some point), but, more importantly, they were designed to be conversational rather than focused on precise responses to identical questions. Schatz presented a spreadsheet showing categories of responses and individual comments/suggestions (maintaining confidentiality of identities).

Schatz reported that the interviews expressed a great level of support for all aspects of life at CBSRZ but that there were some areas of repeated suggestions of potential improvements. These included (i) issues caused by the large geographic area from which we draw members and the difficulty that poses for participation in some activities (particularly for the large contingent along the shoreline, especially seniors and families with small children); (ii) the desire for more/better programs for kids/teens generally and (iii) the desire to have more programs which engage the greater community outside CBSRZ—both Jewish and non-Jewish. Specific proposals addressing these concerns might include (i) holding more events for members and potential members along the shoreline, (ii) holding more casual events at CBSRZ open to the general public, such as yoga, Ma Jong, book clubs and teen events and (iii) making more use of the public press to highlight the activities both at and away from CBSRZ.

The Board decided to review the results and discussion more fully and in light of the thoughts which emerged from the strategic planning process and propose further action. Stay tuned!
Eva Virsik piano recital

On Sunday May 18 CBSRZ is delighted to present Eva Virsik in a piano recital at the synagogue. Ms. Virsik has appeared internationally as an orchestra soloist and recitalist throughout Europe and the United States, highlighted by her Carnegie Hall recital and her performances with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Nationale de Lille and the Slovak Philharmonic. She has been heard at festivals and on radio and television networks in Europe and US including Boston’s WGBH, Connecticut Public Radio, and the PBS television network.

Her recent and current engagements include Slovak Sinfonietta Zilina, Yale Symphony Orchestra, recitals in Washington, D.C., the Mozarthaus Vienna, the Mirbach Palace in Bratislava, La Grua Art Center, and performances as a featured artist at the Robert Schumann Festival in Elmira, NY, among many others. Ms. Virsik has given recitals at universities in Berlin, Frankfurt, Mainz, Hamburg, Yale University, Bowdoin College, Bates College, the Portland Conservatory, as well as the Leopold Mozart Conservatory in Augsburg, Germany, Conservatory in Archangel, Russia, and Academy of Music in Prague. She has served on the faculty at Universities of Music in Bratislava, Freiburg, Frankfurt, in the US at Bowdoin College, Portland Conservatory and the University of New Haven. She has given numerous master classes.

Ms. Virsik was born in Bratislava, where she debuted on Slovak Television at age four and presented her own recital at age eight. At eleven she became a student of the Conservatory in Bratislava. She continued her studies at the Moscow State Conservatory in Russia with Stanislav Neuhaus and Jakov Zak. She completed postgraduate studies there, earning a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

By the age of sixteen Ms. Virsik was first prize winner of six competitions, among them, the International Smetana competition (bringing its trophy, Piano Petrof, for the first time to Slovakia), the International Virtuosi per Musica di Pianoforte competition, the competition of Slovak Conservatories and the Youth Competition of Czechoslovakia. She became laureate of the Maria Callas International Piano competition in Athens and winner of the Performing Artists contest of Slovakia. She has also received a special Prize of Czech Music Critics and performed in the Smetana House in Prague.

Win a House Generator in Our Raffle

Hurricanes and winter storms have left many of us carrying our own water, trying to cook without a stove, charging cell phones in our cars, and, on cold nights, huddled around a fireplace. But that won’t happen to you anymore, if you win the big prize in our CBSRZ raffle.

Yes, when it storms and the lights go out in the neighborhood, your house will be unaffected, because your 20K Generac standby generator will kick in automatically without you having to do a thing.

We’ll draw the winning ticket during the final Music & More concert, our annual picnic, on June 22 at 5 p.m., featuring music by Save the Train. The winning ticket includes delivery, transfer switch, and electrical hookup. (The winner will need only to provide propane connection.)

Tickets are $100 each, and are limited in number (250 max). To buy one or two or eight (and support CBSRZ’s many programs) please call Wendy at the office, 860.526.8920.

The raffle is organized by our Development Committee chair Kevin Fox, who is also available to answer any questions. You can reach him at (860) 597-6302.
No doubt, this year’s Confirmation class will knock our spiritual socks off. On the upcoming Festival of Shavuot, we celebrate the relationship that our people sealed with God at Mount Sinai, with the giving of the Ten Commandments. We will gather on Tuesday evening June 3rd at 7:00pm, for our Erev Shavuot Festival service, led by our Confirmation (10th grade) class.

Rachel Angle, Amy Burzin, Sophie Gold and Adina Ripin have each been a part of our CBSRZ community since they were youngsters. With awe and joy we have watched them grow over the years. The Confirmation service is a highlight of the year for our whole congregation. Those of us who attend are moved and inspired when our Confirmation students speak about their ideas about God and what it means to them to be Jewish. Watching these young adults lead services and hearing them chant the Ten Commandments renews our sense of hope in the future of the Jewish People.

Now is our opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to them and their continued Jewish growth by joining them in prayer and song and by opening our ears and hearts to their spiritual message for us.

We continue our observance of Shavuot on Wednesday morning June 4th at 8:00 am, with Festival morning and Yizkor memorial services.
Religious School and Family Calendar

May 2014

4th
Sunday Session
Mitzvah Project Presentations
Confirmation

7th
Wednesday Session

9th
2nd Saturday Shabbat Service
Religious School 9:30 am

10th

14th
Wednesday Session

18th
Last Day of Religious School
Gesher & Confirmation
Maccabiah Games

Happy Birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!

May/June

May 4
Bella Fishman

May 16
Rebecca Rosenblum-Jones

May 18
Teacher Appreciation potluck Kiddush Luncheon

May 23
Kyra Brennan

May 27
Ethan Corpuel

June 2
Nathalie Morra

June 5
Sophie Gold

June 8
Nina Fishman

June 14
Jake Linder

June 16
Ben Mercuri

June 20
Morah Belinda

June 21
Morah Tracy

June 24
Bryan Schuster

Some Important Religious School Events:

Sunday School on Saturday Swap:
Reminder that we will not be having classes on Sunday, May 11. Instead all classes will be coming on Saturday, May 10 at 9:30 for a whole-school program, followed by participation in our Second Saturday Service, ending with a pot-luck Kiddush Luncheon.

All Parents and Congregants are invited to the Religious School End of Year Activities:

Sunday, May 4th - Mitzvah Project Presentations - Each class will present a summary of the Mitzvah project(s) the group has worked on together throughout the year

Sunday, May 18 - Teacher Appreciation and Maccabiah Games - On this last day of school, our school gathers together to share goodbyes and honor its Teachers with thank-you’s. This will be followed by a breakfast pot-luck, and the competing student teams of Yarok (green), Tzahov (yellow), Adam (Red), and Kachol (Blue) as they face off against one another in the grand Hebrew Prayer Race, Alphabet Race, and Obstacle Course. Nothing of course can end, without the ultimate tug-a-war event to name the grand champion of 5774’s Maccabiah Games.

Mazel Tov to Rachel Angle, Amy Burzin, Sophie Gold and Adina Ripin on their upcoming Confirmation! Join them in prayer and song on Tuesday evening June 3rd at 7:00pm, for our Erev Shavuot Festival service, led by our Confirmation (10th grade) class.

A Message from the CBSRZ Education Chair, Karen Burzin
As a parent, I am always happy when I am able to count down to the final few Sundays of Religious School. In my house, as religious school winds down, it means other options are winding up: anticipation of summer vacation, my girls can once again participate in Saturday evening sleepovers without having to leave early to attend class on Sundays and—let’s not sugar coat anything—it also means that I am able to get a reprieve from driving the kids to and from the synagogue on early Sunday mornings and on hectic Wednesday afternoons! As education chair, I look forward to the end of closing weeks of religious school for less selfish reasons. I enjoy the end of the school year because I get a chance to listen. I will listen as the students from all grades will gather as a community and report on how they’ve altruistically improved the lives of others by donating tzedakah, volunteering their time and making a positive difference in our world. In the past, students have reported on the ways they’ve contributed to the local soup kitchen, helped to create a safe environment for stray dogs and feral cats and engaged with seniors at a local convalescent home by playing checkers, reading poems and other literature or just sitting next to a resident. Listening to these experiences and sharing in the excitement of the students’ voices is a very fulfilling moment.

On the final day of school, we host a Teacher Appreciation ceremony followed by our annual “Maccabiah Games” emulated in the spirit of Israel’s Maccabiah Sport’s Games. On this day, I will listen when as a family, our religious school students, teachers and madrichim gather in a circle and each person is offered the opportunity to say what was the most meaningful, fun or remarkable aspect of his/her year. As our religious school principal, Belinda Brennan thanks our dedicated school staff members who on a weekly basis teach our students guidance and energy about the key principles of Judaism. At this year’s ceremony, we’ll extend a thank you and best wishes to two madrichot, Samantha Angle and Dana Foley, as well as to one teacher, Morah Debbie Guss. These three women have graced our halls with their smiles, wisdom and dedication for over the past ten years. On behalf of the education committee, I’d like to extend to Samantha and Dana best wishes for a wonderful experience in college and to wish Morah Debbie peaceful and relaxing Sunday mornings. Thank you for your dedication to our school. You will truly be missed.

After this ceremony, the students are able to participate in color-coordinated teams to complete non-competitive challenges offered throughout the morning. I must admit, I think from a child’s perspective the pinnacle part of the morning is the tug of war or rope-pulling event. As an adult it is fun to watch the kids fall, flop, pull and struggle to maintain a secure footing as they strive to be stronger than their opposing teammates and win the challenge. Once again, I will listen to the amalgamated voices of kids and adults in sounds of laughter, words of encouragement and expressions of gratitude.

Editor’s note: The congregation wishes Mazel Tov to Sam Applegate and Rhya Sinappen on their upcoming B’nei Mitzvah on June 21 and June 28 respectively. Due to the Whole Megillah deadline, we will interview them in late May for the July/August issue, when they are more fully engaged in their preparations.

CBSRZ Youth News

What a busy month March was! We spent time getting everything organized and ready for the Purim Carnival which was a lot of fun and a great day! Members of youth group ran booths such as Knock Down Haman, Ring Toss, Bowling, Bean Bag Toss, Duck Pond. There was a moon bounce, cookie decorating, face painting and we can’t forget the awesome prizes, food and desserts! Everyone who came had a fantastic time!
From March 7–10, Danni Roman and I attended the L’Taken Jewish Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC. There were 33 congregations including us represented during the weekend from throughout the country. Every year, nearly 2,000 high school-aged students participate in the Religious Action Center’s L’Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. The program is designed to expose students to a variety of public policy issues, explore the Jewish values surrounding these issues and teach the skills of an effective advocate. After spending time reading memos and hearing about the many social justice topics, Danni decided that she was going to focus on Embryonic Stem Cell Research. She read the memos on the topic and wrote an amazing speech about it. She was prepared to lobby the staffers in Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy’s offices as well as Representative Joe Courtney’s office. Senator Murphy was in his office and gave us a tour, talked to us and took a picture. His staffer took time to listen to Danni talk about her topic, tell us where the Senator stands and took time to answer any questions about working and living in DC.

To learn more information about any of the exciting programs happening with CBSRZ Youth or about any regional NFTY events, please contact me at marckdf@aol.com.

**Danni Roman’s Testimony on Embryonic Stem Cell Research from the L’Taken Jewish Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC**

Embryonic stem cell research is an issue that not only affects me as a Jew, but also affects the well-being of the entirety of our nation and the rest of the world. Millions of people are affected either directly or indirectly by diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, diabetes, and cancer, to name a few. However, by conducting stem cell research, we could find treatments or cures for a plethora of different diseases and physical and neurological ailments. Stem cells have the potential to turn into any kind of cell, tissue, or organ in the body, thus being able to replace or fix damaged cells.

Currently, there are 25.8 million children and adults in the United States with diabetes. Furthermore, it is projected that in 2050, 106 million people worldwide will have Alzheimer’s disease. If scientists can continue to work on research using stem cells, then there may be treatment options and even cures for these people. However, there is large concern over the ethics of obtaining the stem cells from the embryos. Just to clarify, the Union for Reform Judaism, the representative body of reform Jews in America, believes that the embryos used in stem cell research must be donated from in vitro fertilization clinics because they were in excess of the need of the individuals seeking such treatment and were obtained with the consent of the individuals who created the embryo. We believe that this is an ethical way of obtaining the embryonic stem cells because the extra embryos would have been destroyed by the in vitro fertilization clinics anyway, but now they can be used to find cures and treatments for Americans with various diseases and ailments.

However, this research is not only necessary to save or better the lives of millions of Americans. It is also an important issue for people of the Jewish faith. My religion places a strong emphasis on health and helping others whose health may be failing. We have the ability to be God’s partners in healing and promoting health. In the Talmud, a collection of Jewish law and philosophy, it is written that “One who saves one life, it is accounted as if a world is saved.” Researching stem cells has the potential to save millions of lives, and therefore the potential to save millions of worlds. These worlds do not only belong to the afflicted people themselves, but the family and friends of people who are affected by diseases that can be cured through stem cells. Our religion calls for people to do acts of mitzvah, or good deeds, every day. One mitzvah is the practice of healing. Since individuals can be healed through the use of stem cells, it is considered a mitzvah to support embryonic stem cell research.

As a Jew, I agree with stem cell research for the same reasons my religion does. However, I also have a personal connection to this issue. On March 2, 2006, when I was 8 years old, my cousin Ryan died. He was only 19, a very close. He was one of my biggest role models in this region of the country, and we were very close. He was one of my biggest role models when I was young, and continues to be to this day. When Ryan was born, he had a number of defects. However, the biggest problem was that his esophagus did not reach all the way to his stomach. He was immediately taken into surgery. From the beginning of his short life to the end, he was in and out of numerous hospitals and facilities, being looked at by numerous doctors who did not know how to handle his unique condition. Throughout these processes, Ryan never complained or asked “Why me.” He always had a smile on his face and was quick to help others in their times of need. Disaster struck in 2006; Ryan was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and cancer in his esophagus. One of his lungs collapsed, and he died about a week later. If research on stem cells had been conducted and advancements made in this area, Ryan may have been able to get a new esophagus or new lungs, and his life could have been saved. Moses Maimonides, an early Jewish philosopher and doctor, said “God created food and water; we must use them in warding off illness and disease.” I believe that if we have the ability to save lives, then we should constantly be pursuing this goal. I do not want another family to have to go through what my family went through with Ryan if it can be avoided by using stem cells.

The possibilities for embryonic stem cells are seemingly endless. Currently, President Obama signed an executive order allowing for embryonic stem cell research. However, the benefits may never be reached if funding for stem cell research is thwarted by a President with different views. Therefore, I am here to promote the Stem Cell Research Advancement Act of 2013, H.R. 2433. This bill would allow the federal government to fund embryonic stem cell research as long as the research meets strict ethical requirements.

I urge Senator Blumenthal to introduce a companion bill to H.R. 2433
I urge Representatives Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy to cosponsor H.R. 2433.
Thank you very much for your time today.

**Seeking Madrichim Coordinator**

In our Madrichim Program next year, we will have 18 young teens who love to serve as Teaching Assistants in the classroom on Sunday mornings. We would like to expand the opportunities for teens to participate in Jewish life at CBSRZ through:

1. Additional training through workshops to further enhance their skills as Teaching Assistants.
2. Coordinating opportunities to participate in Tikun Olam activities such as cultivating the CBSRZ garden, cooking meals for Soup Kitchen, cooking meals for Chessed, visiting homebound congregants, creating a multimedia history of our congregation, and other activities developed in partnership with the Madrichim.
3. Expanding the horizons of Jewish life with College Hillel visits.

We are excited to be creating this new position and expanded programming.

If you are passionate about working with teens to deepen their connection to Jewish values and identity through the work of Tikun Olam, please contact Belinda Brennan at bzbcct@comcast.net or 860 – 526 – 8920.
Beth Gottlieb, Marilyn Kalet and Johanna Schaefer surveying a field of Purim boxes.

From the Kid’s Purim Spiel: Beauty pageant participants (Sarah, Rachel and Ben) and court advisors (Ethan, Max and Jeremy).

Purim participant whose disguise is so convincing that the editor can’t identify him.

Purim player from Adith Israel

Thespians John Hausmann, Evelyn Fester and Jim Talbot

Shelley Sprague and Pat Smith
Purim Box being delivered by Spaz and Oscar, who helped Social Action and Chesed Committee members, including Debby Trautmann, Kate Cotton, Marilyn Kalet, Beth Gottlieb, Johanna Schoefer and Linda Sherman, assemble and deliver Purim boxes to over 30 congregants and Jewish residents of five local assisted living centers and nursing homes.

There was a distinctly CBSRZ connection to the recent Praiano Writers conference in Italy. It is organized by Clo Davis, and two of the faculty members are Suzanne Levine and Lary Bloom. The headquarters for the event is Carol LeWitt’s ancestral villa and farm, Casa L Orto, where there are large wall drawings by her late husband, Sol. Stephen Davis helps plan the proceedings. And novelist Wally Lamb, the third faculty member, who had a reading at our place in December that drew 240 people, gave a seminar during the week that mentioned the work of Morley Safer, another of our congregants. So, apparently, the Amalfi Coast is the Italian campus of CBSRZ. The photo here shows us in the town of Amalfi, just up the winding road from Praiano.

Music & More performance of The Howard Fishman Quartet at the synagogue.

Paula Feder at her Books & Bagels reading.
CBSRZ UNITES FEDERATION FOR CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK SUPPORT MAY 4

All the congregations of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven will join together on May 4 to raise consciousness and funds to fight hunger in our region. We will combine a fundraising two-mile “walk” to support the Connecticut Food Bank with an opportunity to meet with the other congregations and hope to visit the old Jewish neighborhood of New Haven. To join the walk or donate online, please go to http://www.ctfoodbank.org/connecticut-food-bank-news-events/special-events/walk-against-hunger and join the CBSRZ Team or sponsor one of the teammates or contact Susan Furman at 224-558-4632 or susansfurman@gmail.com for details.

Rabbi Josh Ratner, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Haven, a Federation agency, sought to have all affiliated synagogues participate in a common “Mitzvah Day” with individual social action programs in their own communities. At the suggestion of the Social Action Committee of CBSRZ, we will instead have a unified program that will allow the congregations not only to work together to fight hunger but to meet and gain a greater understanding of the Jewish community in New Haven.

Following the walk there will be a brief event at which we will have the opportunity to socialize with members of neighboring Jewish congregations who are participating. More information on this to come.

The Connecticut Food Bank Walk, which supports Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries as well as most of the similar non-profits throughout Connecticut, holds four walks a year during which it raises most of the funds it needs to provide food to needy citizens during the year. Last year this walk raised enough money to provide $1.2 million wholesale value of food. A pledge of as little as $7.00 will provide meals for one week for one person. Please help by signing up as a team member and/or soliciting donations to support the efforts of the walkers on the CBSRZ team. You can join as a walker and/or donate to support the team through http://www.ctfoodbank.org/connecticut-food-bank-news-events/special-events/walk-against-hunger.

If you would like further information, please contact Susan Furman at 224-558-4632.

CBSRZ’s Walk with NAMI Continues Our Support for Mental Health and Rights for the People with Mental Illness in the State of Connecticut

Throughout this year, CBSRZ has delved deeply into the issue of mental illness and mental health, sharing personal stories, hearing from and discussing issues with professionals and advocating for Connecticut legislative reform and administrative changes. Now we can help the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Connecticut (NAMICT) by raising money and increasing awareness to try to ensure success.

NAMI’s mission is to improve the quality of life for all those affected by mental illness, by providing support, education and advocacy as part of the Keep the Promise (KTP) Coalition, a statewide mental health advocacy network. NAMI and KTP produce yearly legislative priorities, attend statewide and community meetings on adult and children’s mental health issues and participate in legislative work through meetings with legislators, advocacy trainings and public education and engagement. CBSRZ, through the Social Action Committee, participated in NAMI’s efforts in the Connecticut State Legislature through a Lobby Day, April 9, 2014.

NAMI member participation showed success in the 2013 legislative session in Hartford that included expansions of supportive housing through a Rental Assistance Program and a new Department of Housing to centralize coordination and leadership of state programs, funding for the creation of new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, which use a person-centered, recovery-based approach to provide not only mental health services but vocational, education and wellness training and peer support services. NAMI also secured the creation of a regional behavioral health consultation system for pediatricians and mental health training for teachers, and requirements that insurance plans provide better services for mental health issues.

As part of CBSRZ’s Lobby Day at the state Capitol in Hartford to address issues about mental health in coordination with National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI-CT) and the Keep the Promise Coalition, CBSRZ members Emily Merriam and Andy Schatz, along with Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, met with State Senator Arthur Linares.
Now NAMI is focused on 2014, not only to protect these improvements as the Sandy Hook tragedy becomes more distant but to overcome some of the problems created by post-Sandy Hook legislation, including reporting responsibilities that might cause families to avoid getting help for their kids in need. NAMI and the KTP Coalition are looking to expand further supportive initiatives in housing (as an alternative to institutionalization), to ensure enhanced services by the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, strengthen school-based mental health services, and to promote wellness and self-sufficiency by safeguarding civil rights.

Almost all of us are affected by mental illness. Let’s help NAMI help us all.

Join the May 17, 2014 NAMIWalk CBSRZ team by contacting Johanna Schafer harjs2002@aol.com or 860-608-3088.

Nonviolence Training at CBSRZ

On Saturday afternoon, March 22, as part of a CBSRZ celebration of a nationally organized Shabbat Against Gun Violence (which included a compelling sermon by Rabbi Goldenberg the previous evening), a group of ten met at Temple for nonviolence training sponsored by the CT Center for Nonviolence and the CBSRZ Social Action Committee. Of the ten, five were CBSRZ congregants. The trainers were Victoria Christgau, Founder/Executive Director of the CT Center for Nonviolence, Pastor James Lane, Co-Founder of Northend Church of Christ, and our own Melinda Alcosser.

In this four-hour overview, we were given a brief introduction to Kingian nonviolence training, which is not a sit-and-listen-up experience. As Pastor Lane pointed out, “you have to be able to wear someone else’s moccasins.” We had several opportunities to try that out. We learned much new to us about the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s but also how the lessons applied to those epic struggles of a nation could also be applied in—and to—the more common situations and squabbles we face every day.

Nonviolence and passive resistance come from divergent philosophies. In nonviolence, one’s preparation is inner-directed, and has to do with giving into love (Agape)—having the strength to love the one who is pummeling you even as he does so.

This is not passive! Passive resistance has more to do with protests, non-cooperation, and learning how to allow oneself to be carried or dragged without suffering injuries.

We examined conflict—three levels (normal, pervasive and overt) and four types (having to do with methods, goals, resources and values)—and proven ways to deal with each.

Nonviolence training is happening in some schools in Hartford and New Haven. One exciting outcome has been that high school students are attending town meetings and finding ways to participate.

Ironically, we also learned that some of what we thought spontaneous was well-planned and prepared—including Rosa Parks’ refusal to move to the back of the bus, the Children’s March and even/especially the songs – and much of what seemed well planned was really spontaneous—as Dr King noted in his book, PILGRIMAGE TO NONVIOLENCE: “When I went to Montgomery as a pastor, I had not the slightest idea that I would later become involved in a crisis in which nonviolent resistance would be applicable. I neither started the protest nor suggested it. I simply responded to the call of the people for a spokesman. Living through the actual experience of the protest, nonviolence became more than a method to which I gave intellectual assent, it became a commitment to a way of life. Many of the things that I had not cleared up intellectually concerning nonviolence were now solved in the sphere of practical action.”

As Dr. King observed: “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

Solitary Confinement and the Prison System

Herman Wallace has spent more than 40 years alone in a 6’ x 9’ cell.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 23, CBSRZ’s Social Action Committee hosted a showing of the full-length documentary, Herman’s House, and a discussion about our prison system and solitary confinement led by David McGuire, Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. Prison reform has been one of the Social Action Committee’s themes for the past two years, along with Hunger, Homelessness, Health—particularly mental health—Children’s Rights and Tolerance.

Prison reform has also been the focus of much national attention in the past few months. The high rate of incarceration in this country has separated the U.S. from the rest of the civilized world. The Obama Administration has sought to change this, but most of the increase in population has been in state prisons over which the Administration has no control. Since the passage of drug laws in the 1980s, the U.S. prison population has increased dramatically; nearly 1% of the U.S. population is in prison, six times the rates in Great Britain and other Western European countries or Australia—which was initially established by Great Britain as a penal colony! Over 3% of the U.S. population is within the criminal justice system (including probation and parole). Much of the increased incarceration for drug offenses has been aimed at African-Americans, as exhaustively researched and portrayed by Michelle Alexander in The New Jim Crow.

Solitary confinement is a point at which the prison system and mental illness intersect. It has often been noted that not only are many of the mentally ill imprisoned and put in solitary confinement, but solitary confinement is believed to exacerbate mental illness and possibly even cause it. Rabbis for Human Rights, North America, of which Rabbi Goldenberg was co-chair, has in recent years made reduction or elimination of solitary confinement one of its prime goals.

Indeed, solitary confinement may undermine theories of rehabilitation and hope itself. In our recent panel on the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, it was noted that in 30 years in prison at Robben Island and elsewhere in South Africa’s notorious prison system, Mandela was only kept in solitary confinement a total of one week, which his biographer has said may have enabled Mandela to keep the perspective toward his jailors that allowed forgiveness to trump hostility and violence.

Yet solitary confinement continues, including here in Connecticut. McGuire reported that Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, issued a report in March which concluded that solitary confinement often constitutes “torture” under international law and that New York’s use of solitary confinement violates the United States’ obligations under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and which called on the United States to fulfill its international legal obligations to investigate, terminate and remedy violations in New York and elsewhere. McGuire suggested as a first step that those interested should write to the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections in Connecticut urging that the state review the Mendez report carefully and follow its recommendations.

Let’s see what we can do!
Rick Hornung  Second Saturday Honoree in June  
Rita Christopher

When Rick Hornung looks back on his college years at Trinity in Hartford, he now sees something he would have done differently. “I talked too much,” he says. Life, has taught him how to listen. “I know I am getting older. I don’t know if I am getting wiser, but I am listening to people in different ways,” he adds.

Rick will have a chance to do some listening of a particularly personal kind as he is honored at the upcoming Second Saturday Shabbat on June 14. The service starts at 10:30.

Rick is a regular participant in Saturday morning’s Holy Scrollers and has himself led the group discussions on different occasions. He has an advantage when it comes to Torah study: at Trinity College he majored in religion, concentrating on the Hebrew Bible.

“Trinity had an unbelievable religion department,” he recalls. Among his teachers was Susannah Heschel, now a professor of Jewish studies at Dartmouth and the daughter of the noted rabbi, Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Holy Scrollers, Rick says, is a very special group. “It is far greater than the sum of its parts,” he notes. What contributes to the discussions is not simply the different views of CBSRZ members but also the voices of participants who are not Jewish but regularly attend. “It’s an ecumenical group; the best part is it reaches out to the community. It’s a way of saying you are welcome here,” he says.

Rick grew up in Chicago, the son of parents who immigrated to this country to escape the Holocaust. The family regularly spoke a variety of languages. “A sentence could start in English, morph into Polish or German, go to Yiddish and even end up with a bit of Biblical Hebrew,” Rick recalls. He thinks that learning Hebrew was less difficult for him because he already spoke so many other languages.

Rick and his wife Peg Palmer became involved with CBSRZ when their son Gabriel wanted a Bar Mitzvah. Gabriel has since majored in religion himself at Trinity and is now in a doctoral program at Harvard. Rick and Peg also have a daughter, Sarah. During her college years, Sarah spent time in Ukraine, where at Passover, she led local residents in Seders.

For the past 16 years, Rick has been a Student Development Specialist at Eastern Connecticut State University, working with a group of at-risk students both to prepare them for the college experience and mentor them through their years on study. He started out in a very different field, as a journalist at first with a local paper in the Catskills, and ultimately with the Village Voice. He is the author of two books, one on the gangster Al Capone, and one on a 1990 clash between two factions on the Mohawk Indian tribe over the introduction of casino gambling on the reservation.

Rick looks at himself as part of a bridge generation, someone familiar with the old Ashkenazic traditions who can hand them along to new generations of Jews. “I’m a conduit; I have that memory; you know, l’dor vador,” he says pointing to the well-known Hebrew phrase for passing on tradition.

Although as a devoted bicycle rider, Rick appreciates speed he says life has taught him another valuable lesson about swiftness. “I’ve become more patient, not less patient,” he says. “Remember the tortoise wins the race.”

The Second Saturday service is followed by a Kiddush lunch. CBSRZ will provide bagels, cream cheese, lox, whitefish and herring. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dairy or parve dish or dessert to share.
Yiddish Group Expansion

Our small Yiddish group, led by Sol Tilles, has been meeting one or two Sunday mornings a month at CBSRZ. We have been studying this beautiful language through its stories, poetry, songs and proverbial treasures, while learning of the personal experiences of those in our group who grew up in homes where the Jewish heritage was a Yiddish one.

We want to expand our group’s focus and share the joys of our rich Yiddish culture with other members of the CBSRZ family.

Our objective, therefore, is to renew interest in this cornerstone of our roots and traditions through exploration of the many facets of Yiddish including the language, literature, history, food, music, humor, theater and immigrant experience.

We are developing plans to engage speakers, moderate round table discussions, bring Yiddish food and music together (Kosher corned beef/pastrami and Klezmer band) here at the Synagogue. We would love to schedule trips to the Jewish Book Center in Amherst and to the Tenement Museum in New York City. We have been brainstorming over the past month and welcome input as our ideas evolve. Please contact Sandy Herzog (Sandherz2003@gmail.com) with any suggestions.

What a joy it would be to reacquaint our membership with the Yiddish influence in their lives—a bubbeh, zaida, mother, father—and other mishpocha bringing back days of Yiddish speaking or listening, stories about the “old country” and just generally reliving the past and introducing our younger members to their immigrant ancestors as real people.

Be on the lookout as our plan materializes. We invite you to experience our very own Yiddish renaissance.
J0-ANN PRICE TO BE HONORED
Jo-Ann Price will be honored for her support, and her family’s support, for the Jewish High School of Connecticut, on Sunday, May 18, in Wilton. The invitation reads, in part, “Jo-Ann Price embodies the Nevas Family commitment to the future of the Jewish people and to education, in particular; as critical to Jewish continuity.” The guest speaker for the event is Anita Diamant, author of The Red Tent. For more information please see www.jhsct.org.

Oscar Leo Zack-Weber was born on February 25 at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, to Ben Weber and Merrill Zack. Oscar is the grandson of Corinne and David Weber of East Lyme.

Tapping Maple Trees
Evelyn Foster writes:
I’ve done this with the kids for a number of years now and Eric Infeld has joined in the last few years. A New England Tu b’Shevat can make the first running sap real to kids. The experience of tapping the trees makes an experiential connection to what we’re celebrating about with what’s happening in Israel. Timing is often different, depending on the Hebrew calendar and the behavior of the seasons, but close enough for it to be meaningful. It allows the kids to experience, taste and cook sap.

Last year we had a special waffle snack on a Wednesday of Religious School, using our high (chai) grade maple syrup. One high-yield year we sold a pint at the auction for $60.

The first trees we tapped, years ago, were the sugar maples along our property on Saybrook Road. We’re now looking for more tappable sugar maples in our woods. When those trees have gone by, the stand of young sugar maples to the east of the synagogue should be mature enough for tapping. I love the idea of a New England Tu b’Schvat. I'm hoping it will be a long-term tradition.

Announcements
Congregational Meeting
Pizza! Beer! Ballots!
Bylaw Tinkering
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Thursday, June 12, 7:30 PM

Job Bank
The CBSRZ Job Bank is offering a short term support group for unemployed and underemployed members of our community. Rabbi Hesch Sommer of Jewish Family Services, New Haven, will facilitate.

The group will meet three Monday evenings in May, the 5th, 12th and 19th, from 7 to 8:30 pm.

To attend or for more information please contact John Hausman.
Phone: 970 404-2801/ email: cbsrz.jobbank@gmail.com

Misty and Matthew Scoggins are delighted to announce the arrival on April 15 of their beautiful daughter Ruth Elizabeth Scoggins.
Remembrance

Memorial Plaques
Iyar 1, 5774 - Sivan 2, 5774

Estelle Salowitz Alcon—mother of Hyla Rosen
Catherine Androcco—mother of Carol LeWitt
Helen Bloom—mother of Larry Bloom
Meyer Breslow—father of Abe Breslow
Lena Buchzheimer—sister of Estelle Breslow
Carlyn Censer—mother of Gay Clarkson
Irving Cohen—law of Max Tillis
Lois Eichengreen—mother of Max Eichengreen,
William Baer Friedman—husband of Ellen Friedman
Lillian Fuchman—mother-in-law of Maxine Leichtman
Sarah Hilda Glazer
Millie Goldfarb
Belle Greenberg
Philip Greenberg
Rose Greenberg
Sam Harris
Minnie Horowitz
Odetta Juberline
Gussie Kleinberg
Max Kurfurst
Mary Elgart Land
Shirley Leber
Sadie Leiman
Evelyn Levine
Alfred LeWitt
Sophie LeWitt
Henry Miller
Morris Navasky
Albert Pear
Howard Cutler Redak
Nathan Ritter
Esther Ronor
Rebecca Rosenberg
Marjorie Schneller Dewitz
Abraham Seidman
Philip Shafael
Louis Shensman
Nathan Simonson
Herman Sondak
Allan Storch
Louis Taubman
Si Taubman
Harvey Turlkel
Nathan Weiner
Samuel Wilkes
Edward Tuddin

Memorial Plaques
Sivan 3, 5774 - Tammuz 2, 5774

Esther Ronor
Rebecca Rosenberg
Marjorie Schneller Dewitz
Abraham Seidman
Philip Shafael
Louis Shensman
Nathan Simonson
Herman Sondak
Allan Storch
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Melvin Baron
Abe Bloom
Blanche Chaplick
Franz Chaplick
Sam Fast
Julia Frankel
Lena Frankel
Katie Furst
Harry Goldstein
Meyer Goldstein
Marion Gottfried
Rebecca Gottfried
Mildred Greenwald
Elizabeth Gwillim
Louis Charles Lerner
Libby Lieber
Abe Lissnick
Morris Mager
Jack Michael
Samuel Miller
Willa Jean Talbott—grandmother of Jim Talbott
Louis Taubman—father of Si Taubman
Si Taubman—husband of Sharon Taubman
Cindy Tilles—daughter of Solomon Tilles
Harvey Turlkel—father of Robin Freeman
Maxine Leichtman—brother of Eva Davis
Samuel Wilkes—father of Dan Wilkes

Yahrzeits
Iyar 1, 5774 - Sivan 2, 5774

Estelle Salowitz Alcon—mother of Hyla Rosen
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Yahrzeits
Sivan 3, 5774 - Tammuz 2, 5774

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Samuel Wilkes—father of Dan Wilkes

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>8:30-9:30 am Advanced Hebrew</td>
<td>7:00-8:30 pm CBSRZ Job Bank Support Group with Rabbi Hesch Sommer</td>
<td>6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting in Sandy Sedman's Office</td>
<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:45 am Religious Affairs</td>
<td>12:00-1:30 pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Jewish Responses to Big Ethical Questions</td>
<td>5:45 pm Abbreviated Erev Shabbat Service Followed by Dinner in Congregants' Homes</td>
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<td>No Religious School</td>
<td>7:00-8:30 pm CBSRZ Job Bank Support Group with Rabbi Hesch Sommer</td>
<td>3:00 pm SKP Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>4:15 pm Religious School</td>
<td>5:00 pm Social Action Meeting/ Potluck in Westbrook</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrullers</td>
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<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>4:15 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Tisch: Honoring Long-time Members</td>
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<td>7:00-8:30 pm CBSRZ Job Bank Support Group with Rabbi Hesch Sommer</td>
<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>6:00 pm Women's Club — Fashion Show</td>
<td>7:00-8:00 pm Meditation</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service with Choir</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrullers</td>
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<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:00 am Executive Committee</td>
<td>7:00-8:00 pm Meditation</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>3 5 SIVAN EREV SHAVUOT</td>
<td>4 6 SIVAN SHAVUOT</td>
<td>5 7 SIVAN Megillah Deadline</td>
<td>6 8 SIVAN 5:45 pm Sid Shabbat</td>
<td>7 9 SIVAN 9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew</td>
<td>9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew</td>
<td>7:00 pm Erev Shavuot Service with Confirmation</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>7:00-8:00 pm Meditation</td>
<td>5:15 pm Dairy Potluck Dinner</td>
<td>5:00 pm Havdalah for Chai Donors</td>
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<td>7:00-9:00 pm Meditation</td>
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<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>5:00 pm Music &amp; More Picnic with Save the Train</td>
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<td>10:30 am Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon Honoring Rick Hornung</td>
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<td>8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew</td>
<td>9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew</td>
<td>7:00-6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>7:45 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:00-8:00 pm Meditation</td>
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<td>11:00 am Books &amp; Bagels with Alisa Solomon</td>
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<td>10:30 am Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Rhya Sinnappen</td>
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Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Ali Rosenblum and Liz Jones
Debby Trautmann
Teri and David Fogel
Nancy and Elliot Schwam
Terry and Howard Baran
Ed and Linda Pinn
Emily and Jeff Merriam
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Susan and Charles Savitt
Lynne and Ric Zimmerman
Lynne Stiles and Henry Krempel

Mama Loshen
Vos iz ohfen kop, iz ahfen tsung!
What’s on his mind, is on his tongue!

Yenems
Someone else’s

Gib mir nit kain einoreh!
Don’t give me an evil eye!

Er zits oyf shpilkes
He’s restless (he sits on pins and needles)

A gezunt ohf dein kop!
Good health to you (good health on your head)

— MARYLIN KALET

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