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Thank You

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Over the years when I have had the pleasure of introducing my partner on the bimah, Belinda Brennan, at worship services, B’nei Mitzvah celebrations, funerals and other events, I have always stumbled. The title “Cantorial Soloist” is long, and most people have no idea what it means. I’ve also tried “Cantorial Soloist and Educator,” which more precisely describes what she does but is even longer. And then there is the title, “Cantor,” a title that I have wanted to use, because it truly describes the leadership role that Belinda plays in our community and the varied skills that she brings to us. I’m happy to share that our Board recently passed a resolution, clarifying that the title held by Belinda Brennan is “Cantor.”

This title, “Cantor,” has a long history for the Jewish people. It is the English rendering of the Hebrew, “chazzan,” and has long referred to the person in the synagogue who (1) leads worship; (2) serves as an authority on religious Jewish music; (3) teaches members of the community, especially b’nei mitzvah students; (4) officiates or co-officiates at life cycle events and offers pastoral support; and (5) assumes a leadership role in the congregation.

For a long time, in traditional circles, a “chazzan” did not necessarily have a credentialed professional degree. In fact, my own great-grandfather served as a chazzan on the Lower East Side in a Rumanian shul, but I’m certain that he didn’t have even a High School education, and he probably also held another job in addition to his cantorial duties. These days in America, clergy have become more professionalized, and the term “cantor” is usually reserved for those with a specific degree from a seminary. However, today, there are also cases in which congregations name someone as “Cantor” when that person possesses the skills to fit the responsibilities, even if that person is not ordained. In other words, in these cases, the individual holds the title of “Cantor” of such a congregation, even if his or her professional status is “Cantorial Soloist.” One example of this is Congregation Beth El in Sudbury MA, where Lorel Zar-Kessler has long held the title of Cantor without being ordained (http://www.bethelsudbury.org/who-we-are/our-cantor/)

While the professional qualification of “Cantorial Soloist” remains appropriate and accurate for Belinda in any biographies and job descriptions we have, using that term for her title has become increasingly confusing to members and outsiders, and increasingly out of step with her role in the congregation. Moreover, the title “Cantorial Soloist” projects a message that undervalues the quality of our clergy team.

The Board’s recent resolution provides a corrective, bringing Belinda’s title into line with current actual practice, with no budget impact. The real impact of this change is to afford Belinda the recognition she deserves for the range of skills and services she provides us. More importantly, the title highlights her leadership role in our congregation and the partnership that she and I share, on and off the bimah. The next time I introduce Belinda on our bimah, I am elated to call her, my partner, “Cantor Belinda Brennan.”

Cantor Belinda’s response:
When someone comes up to me after a Bar or Bat Mitzvah Service and offers complimentary words about the experience, my response is always “it is an honor and a joy to serve.” It is a feeling that dates back to my own Bat Mitzvah at the age of 12. I remember the butterflies flipping cartwheels in my tummy while waiting to greet family and friends on a hot Friday night in June at the Conservative shul in Brooklyn where I grew up. I also remember the distinct feeling of wanting to burst out and say “Come on in, I am so happy we are going to pray together!” The feelings of excitement and joy about worshipping with friends and family have never left.

(Continued on page 6)
At CBSRZ, I am incredibly fortunate to be a part of many circles of friends and family who love to lift their voices in prayer. Each week there are multiple opportunities to sing with our youth during their Services, with congregants on Shabbat, with families at simchas, with our dedicated Choir once a month, with Meg, our Choir Director and accompanist as she multitasks directing, playing, and singing, and with the beautiful voice of Rabbi Goldenberg. There is John DeNicola, whose voice, presence, and musical talent lifts us and carries us all to faraway places during High Holidays and other special holiday celebrations. Our prayers are elevated to the silky sounds of Peg Palmer on guitar, the feisty fingers and hands of Melinda Alcosser and Pat Smith on drums, and our newest addition to the group, the “no barred chord is too hard to handle” Joel Saltzman on guitar. I also can’t forget Norman Hanenbaum and the Klez Act who make our hearts and feet move to Jewish oldies, Yiddishkeit, and creators of delightful improv during Services when participating.

They say it takes a village to raise a child (which I believe to be true). I would like to add that it takes a community to “raise” a prayer. In Jewish halacha (law), you are required to have 10 people, a minyan, to pray. There is great wisdom in this structure. I have no doubt that our prayers are all heard when expressed individually. Yet there is an undeniable energy and power to prayer that is magnified tenfold when we merge our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls into one sound. After praying together as a community, we walk out as individuals once again, but possibly transformed. We leave with feelings that are different from those we started with, perhaps augmented with the sense that there is nothing we can’t accomplish, there is no obstacle too big to overcome, or gentle solace to help heal a hurt or loss.

I am greatly looking forward to continuing to partner with all who love to lift their voices and instruments in prayer. I hope together with Rabbi G., Meg, choir, instrumentalists and congregants to continue to evolve our venues of expression for the many musical, talented, and passionate voices of our community. It will always be an honor and a joy to serve. And now as Cantor, I can say out loud what I was too shy (and scared) to say as a 12 year old Bat Mitzvah, “Come on in, I am so happy we are going to pray together!”

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.
Back in February, during a merciful break between snowstorms, you'll recall that the congregation held a forum on our kosher policy. Many participated, and for a time the discussion revolved around ways to square the rules of kashrut with practices in our kitchen. But then Sean Konecky stood up in what may one day be considered a turning point in our history. He asked whether kosher doctrine alone could help resolve ethical concerns over treatment of animals. Even humane methods of killing animals, he said, still meant killing animals. Perhaps the best way for us to eat ethically would be to keep meals vegetarian.

Not everyone agreed; but Sean’s statement turned the discussion in a new direction. As comments mounted, it was clear that there was broad interest in ethical perspectives on our food. What about eating healthy? Tapping local farms? Ensuring that food is sourced with living wages for workers? How can we be sure that animals are in fact slaughtered in ways that are humane?

What I heard that morning brought me back 27 years to when, as a budding policy wonk in Washington, DC, I was trying to figure out how Judaism could best remain relevant to my life. I’d recently subscribed to *Tikkun* magazine, then a new outlet for ideas on faith renewal. Thumb-}

(Continued on page 6)
“Shield of Justice” hechsher, or seal of approval, that would complement the Orthodox Union’s kosher hechsher; it was meant to certify kosher food that also met standards of Jewish ethics and social values. The program hasn’t taken off, possibly because it was aimed at a small subset of a minority who already kept kosher.

But if Reform congregations had failed to pick up the ball, others had made great strides. I found that out first hand at Congregation Kehillath Israel in Brookline, which hosted the Boston Jewish Food Conference in March. I roamed booths and workshops focused on fusing Jewish values with food justice, health and sustainability. Robert Friedman, for instance, runs a kosher, pasture-raised, organically-fed chicken farm (Robariah Farms, http://robariah-farms.com) in South Deerfield, Massachusetts. Stacey and Craig Oshkello are building a Jewish farming community (Living Tree Alliance, www.livingtreealliance.com) in Richmond, Vermont. And the Moishe Kavod House in Boston has developed a “Community Food Ketubah” committing residents to ethical food principles.

Perhaps the most important ‘farm to shul’ resource profiled in Brookline was one in our nearby back yard: Hazon’s Isabella Freedman Center (http://hazon.org/isabella-freedman/), in Canaan, CT. A national innovator, the Center hosts retreats and farming programs while producing guides such as Food for Thought (http://hazon.org/jewish-food-movement/food-for-thought/). The Center’s location feels right; more Jews farmed in Connecticut than anywhere else. Our own heritage, with Rodfe Zedek founded by chicken and dairy farmers in 1915, is Exhibit A.

The committee is now working on an ethical kosher proposal for our congregation. If we adopt one, CBSRZ will become a groundbreaker in the Jewish world. The recommendation may include voluntary guidelines both for meals produced by the synagogue, and for members bringing in food for onegs, seders or special occasions such as b’nei mitzvot or weddings. Any new policy might also offer practical resources such as an online inventory of local farms, shops and recipes; coordination with our Farmland Committee on community gardens and composting; and ideas such as ethical kosher cooking classes.

The committee is mindful of practical concerns—for instance, no one should have to travel far or spend a premium to meet principles of an ethical kashrut. Indeed, as we are pioneering this journey, principles must be voluntary. We don’t know enough and haven’t had enough conversation for hard and fast rules. But the committee’s purpose is clear: to bring twenty-first century views about food health, justice and sustainability into ancient definitions of holiness when we sit down to eat.

Ethical kashrut principles would be a major step in their own right. But we might take a further measure, too, to push progress. Here is an idea, and I would welcome your reactions and feedback on it. CBSRZ could develop its own hechsher signifying a voluntary effort to meet our ethical kashrut principles. How might it work? Say a family is hosting a meal at the synagogue following a bat mitzvah. It could agree to include our hechsher symbol in, say, the printed brochure about the event, to inform congregants and guests that the family has tried to use healthy, ethically-sourced foods, according to our guidelines. Similarly, a member bringing a dish to an oneg could tape a card with our hechsher onto the plate. No one would police every dish or ingredient—adherence would be strictly voluntary and based on best efforts. But might a practice of using a seal help instill a culture of ethical kashrut in our community? Please let me know what you think: email me at stephen-davis110@gmail.com.

Whether or not we introduce a hechsher, the dialogue Sean kicked off in the February forum has set us on a path to renewing mindfulness about what we eat. For some, that may mean a rededication to traditional kashrut. For others, a practical and spiritual task lies ahead in setting a sacred table.
May 1–3, 2015
Schedule for the Weekend

Living a Soulful Life: Lessons from the Jewish tradition of Mussar
Alan Morinis, Sheldon Kutnick Scholar in Residence

According to Alan Morinis, Mussar is the Jewish spiritual path of “improving or remedying the traits of the soul, to bring the soul to wholeness and holiness.” It is a practice, rooted in Jewish texts and traditions, which guides us to investigate our daily, earthly lives, to discover our unique “soul” curriculum, and to work to bring aspects of our souls, called “middot,” into better balance. Alan Morinis, founder of the Mussar Institute, has brought Mussar from the confines of traditional Jewish circles out into the broader Jewish world through his books and teachings. Due to the generosity of the Kutnick family, who sponsor our Scholar in Residence program, and the support of Carol LeWitt, Bruce Josephy, and our Adult Education committee, we are blessed to be able to bring Alan Morinis to us the first weekend in May. A schedule of activities follows. Please join us for all or part of the weekend.

Friday evening, May 1
No Tot Shabbat
6:00 Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck
Main dish and salad provided by Bob Zemmel of Alforno — please bring a side dish to share
7:00 Erev Shabbat Service and Introduction to Mussar
Alan Morinis will speak on, “What is Mussar and Why Should I Care?”
Oneg Shabbat will follow services
Childcare will be available on Friday night during services.

Saturday, May 2
9:00 Holy Scrollers
led by a congregant
10:30 Shabbat Morning Service
Rabbi Goldenberg and Cantor Belinda lead services, with Torah reading.
Alan Morinis will speak on, “Torah Through a Mussar Lens,” focusing on the lessons in that week’s Torah portion that give us ideals and models for thought and behavior that have application in our own lives.
12:00 Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Kiddush Luncheon
The synagogue provides bagels, lox, and spreads- please bring a salad, side or dessert to share.
1:00 “Why You Are How You Are And What’s Your Potential? — a Jewish Perspective”
Alan will lead us in exploration of a text from the sixteenth-century Mussar book, Orobot Tzaddikim (in English translation) to gain insight into the substance of what Mussar is and what it offers us.

Sunday, May 3rd
9:30 Teen Mussar session
Alan will meet with our Madrichim who have already been exploring Mussar this year in Religious School
11:00 Experiential workshop for parents and other adults who want to join
A practical session focused on Mussar practice, its tradition and its methods. Here we encounter the effective mechanisms that bring about change and growth that the Mussar teachers developed over the centuries.

Childcare will be available on Friday night during services and Saturday from 10:00 to 2:30.
ARTIST: Photographer Peter Wnek

Peter Wnek, Buttermilk Falls

© 2012 WWW.PeterWnekPhoto.com
On a late June afternoon in 2013 while doing one of my favorite things, consuming a double dip ice cream cone and walking the Old Lyme DEP boardwalk, I quite literally bumped into Peter Wnek. Burdened with a myriad of photographic equipment, Peter was trying to capture the early summer scene before losing the light. Conversation ensued between photos, and I discovered that Wnek was an award-winning landscape photographer whose aesthetic pursuits follow those of the Hudson River painters of the 1800’s.

“I am inspired by the purity and innocence of the American landscape as portrayed by the nineteenth-century Hudson River painters. I strive for warm, glowing light with luminous or stormy skies to invoke a charm or a mood. Quiet, serene rivers often mingle with broken trees, cracked branches and other natural elements to invoke a spirit of bygone days, as well as the continuous cycle of regrowth.”

Determined to instill in his audience the beauty of nature, Wnek specializes in capturing the essence of a place through its natural and architectural landmarks. His ability to imbue local points of interest with powerful, majestic and soothing qualities has earned him a growing list of commissioned photographs some of which can be found in the UCONN Health Center, well known hotels, Connecticut banks and professional offices as well as in private collections.

A graduate of Rhode Island School of Photography, Wnek’s photographs have been exhibited across the Northeast. His work has been featured at CT Academy of Fine Arts (Mystic), Shoreline Alliance (Guilford), Kehler Liddell Gallery (New Haven) and Valley Photographic Center (Springfield, MA) to name just a few. He is a member of The American Society of Media Photographers, The New Haven Arts Council’s Photo Arts Collective and, since 2011, has served as a Portfolio Reviewer at Paier College of Art (Hamden).

Peter has enjoyed a long and successful career as a commercial photographer completing projects for Cabbage Patch Kids, Gerber Scientific, Hilton Suites, LEGO, Sheraton Four Points, Stop & Shop and Timex. In addition, he is an accomplished, professional lab technician highly skilled in adjusting color balance and tonal range. This gives his photos a unique post-production appearance resulting in his work looking more like paintings than photographs.

Above all, Wnek, a lifelong Connecticut resident now living in Meriden, “beckons the viewer to realize the ever powerful peace and beauty Mother Nature has to offer....My quest as an artist is to reveal the hidden emotions, the latent energy and thus the wonderful message the landscape is aching for all of us to discover. This exhibit will explore those voices of our landscape as the elements of water, atmosphere, trees and soil reveal the inner voice of the land.”

Peter Wnek will be exhibiting in the CBSRZ Main Street Gallery from May 8 through July 27. There will be an artist’s reception on Sunday, June 7 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM free and open to the public. Visitors are welcome to view his work from Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM and Sunday mornings when Sunday school is in session. The artist will make a generous donation for all work sold. Call 860-526 8920 for additional information.
It is only fitting that a book that has roots in Chester will be introduced at CBSRZ before readers in China, Israel, Great Britain, Germany and other countries see it. And so, on Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m., Itay Talgam, author of *The Ignorant Maestro: How Great Leaders Inspire Unpredictable Brilliance*, will come here from his home in Tel Aviv to launch an international tour in a free Books & Bagels program. But to back up a moment.

Itay Talgam is one of Israel’s leading orchestra conductors, having founded the Tel Aviv Symphony and led the Israel Philharmonic, as well as many orchestras in other countries. He was a protégé of the great Leonard Bernstein.

Two years ago, he had the idea of writing a book that explores the art of leadership from the podium. This sprung out of his very popular TED Talk on leadership (with more than five million views). His argument is that leaders in all fields can learn new insights about leadership not from music itself but from the people who make music.

It was more than two years ago that I first talked to him about the idea, and how to write a book that readers with little or no interest in classical music would find interesting and instructive. That’s when we embarked on a collaboration that eventually resulted in *The Ignorant Maestro*.

Its primary argument is that the best orchestra conductors are perfect models for enlightened leadership everywhere because they bring a precise measure of “ignorance” to the task. That is, they are not only open to learning something new, but must, in collaboration with the people they rely on, do so in order to complete any new task in the best possible manner.

Itay’s TED Talk, for example, shows Leonard Bernstein conducting only with his face — expressions, gestures, lifts of the eyebrow, closing of the eyes, etc. — leaving room for plenty of contribution and interpretation from his players.

The task of helping to write the book was a great pleasure for me, in part because of Itay’s wonderful sense of humor, which you will experience for yourself. His TED Talk is full of funny lines, which is one of the reasons it is so popular, and one of the reasons his speeches are in demand all over the world. He has consulted for the United Nations, the Israeli Defense Force, international banks, nonprofits, health care conglomerates, universities, and even spy networks.

The book’s publisher is Portfolio/Penguin, a subsidiary of Random House. From the dust jacket: “Choosing ignorance might seem a terrible quality to exhibit in your workplace — a sure path down the stairs and out the corporate door. But stick with me here and see how it leads you upward. You’ll understand why great leaders embrace ignorance and use it to elevate their people to new heights of achievement.”

As always with our Books & Bagels programs, produced by our Program Committee, there will be refreshments and a chance to meet the author.
The celebrated classical pianist Dalia Lazar returns to our sanctuary on May 31 at 5 p.m. for the third concert in our Music & More seventh season. She will play a variety of Beethoven's piano works, including the "Moonlight Sonata" and the "Pathétique."

The first time she played for us several years ago, the audience was wowed by her performance and her charm. We didn't expect to be able to lure her back so soon. But Miriam Gardner-Frum, producer of the series, revealed how this unexpected event came to be, and took form over the last few months.

"Dalia offered us a gift. She explained that she is starting an all-Beethoven program in Europe this fall and would love to perform it before a live audience at CBSRZ before going to Europe. She noted the beautiful space and acoustics in our building in which she would love to play. She offered to do this performance as benefit to CBSRZ."

Born in Croatia, Dalia began studying piano at an early age. Her first piano teacher recognized her uncommon talent and pianistic ability, and at the age of sixteen she was admitted to Moscow’s P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory. During her studies in Moscow, Ms. Lazar performed throughout Soviet Union. Immediately after her graduation at the Moscow Conservatory, Ms. Lazar decided to continue her career in New York and London where she studied with Karl Urlich Schnabel and Maria Curcio.

As a finalist in New York Concert Artist Guild Competition, Ms Lazar made her New York debut at Rubenstein Hall, followed by her Carnegie Recital Hall debut later that year. Since then she has performed a broad repertoire as a soloist in concerts and recitals worldwide, including the United States, Russia, Venezuela, Israel, Switzerland, Croatia, Mexico and Romania. Her chamber music repertoire includes the works for violin and piano duo and piano trio, which she performed extensively with her late husband, violinist Lucian Lazar. Her recent CD includes works by Schumann and Chopin.

Dalia’s playing has been well received by critics, who have characterized her performance as “such noble playing.” (Yediot Achronot, Tel Aviv), “un sentimento profundo” (Panorama, Venezuela), “that rare combination of charisma, personality and terrific pianistic facility” (pianist Tzimon Barto), and “...an inspiring display of musical excellence” (Daily Republic).

Tickets for CBSRZ members are only $20 and children under 16 are admitted without charge (this is a perfect time to introduce children to the work of a world-class musician.) Call the CBSRZ office to purchase tickets 860-526-8920 or buy them at the door.
Tell the congregation a little about yourself.

I’m in the seventh grade at Elizabeth Adams Middle School in Guilford, Connecticut. I enjoy hanging out with my friends, studying science, art and playing basketball on the town recreation team. I especially enjoy music and my favorite vocalist is Ariana Grande.

What excites you the most about your Bat Mitzvah?

I am excited about becoming a Jewish adult. I am looking forward to celebrating with my family and friends.

Have you thought at all about your Torah portion? Any thoughts on what you will be discussing?

My D’var Torah is about Korach’s rebellion. I will be discussing a little bit about why Korach spoke out and why God was so harsh about it. I believe that God shouldn’t have been so harsh with Korach as he should have the freedom to speak out, as we all should. Freedom of speech and to live life as we choose should be a given, although I know that is not true for many people who are subjected to unfair treatment and injustice.

Have you done a mitzvah project?

I’m thinking of doing something for a local animal shelter or for children in Haiti that receive services from a medical mission trip. I know a little bit about this as we have rescued animals, our cat Rangel and our dog, Rosie. Also, my friends and I recently made rainbow loom bracelets that were brought to Haiti for a medical mission trip. These are children that are very poor and receive dental care once a year from this group of dental healthcare providers. They sent photos of the kids (attached) and said that the bracelets helped some of the kids feel better after having teeth extracted and other dental work that they needed. I was glad to be of help to them in some small way to make them smile and know they have support from others.

In both circumstances, there are conditions that are imposed on others who may benefit from charity and goodwill to improve their circumstances and quality of life.

Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing?

Don’t let a long period of time go by when you haven’t gone over your prayers.

Confirmation

Friday night May 29 at 7:30pm we will celebrate a special Shabbat service, led by this year’s Confirmation class: Liam Ber, Avery Bikerman, Max Conley and Brian Jubelirer. Every year, our tenth graders study a special curriculum about God.
with Rabbi Goldenberg. They culminate their year by creating a service which they lead. They will chant the 10 Commandments from the Torah, symbolizing their taking on of the covenant in their lives and they will deliver sermonettes. As a community, we especially look forward to these sermonettes every year. Each of these young adults has his own voice, his own questions, his own thoughts about God, and his own take on what it is he is confirming as an adult in the Jewish community. Please join us for this very special Shabbat celebration!

Mishpacha

Religious School & Family Activities

May 2015

Sunday, May 3
9:30 Workshop with Alan Morinis with teens
11:00 Workshop with Alan Morinis with parents and any other interested adults
Gesher/Confirmation

Sunday, May 10
9:30 K’neidlach
10:30 Torah Study
11:30 Gesher and Confirmation

Sunday, May 17
Last Day of Religious School, Macabiah Games, Mitzvah Project Presentations/Teacher Appreciation

Happy Birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!

May

4th Bella Fishman
16th Rebecca Rosenblum-Jones
23rd Kyra Brennan
26th Rhya Sinnappen
27th Ethan Corpuel

June

2nd Nathalie Morra
8th Nina Fishman
14th Jake Linder
16th Ben Mercier
20th Morah Belinda
21st Morah Tracey

Liam Ber
Max Conley
Brian Jubelirer
Avery Bikerman
PICTURE GALLERY

Clo Davis welcomes all to Mavens’ (Women’s) Sephardic Seder

Traditional Sephardic Seder plate

Penny Robiner and Lori Jubelirer demonstrate Sephardic tradition celebrating and sharing the Seder plate
Pageantry from the Children’s Purim spiel

Co-exhibitors Alan Falk and Leah Caroline in conversation during Feb. 15 art reception. Leah’s indigo scrolls are in the background.
President Stephen Davis looks on as Jeff Brewer welcomes Susan Peck with a big hug during Shabbat Across America Kiddush.
Shavuot

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 Saturday evening May 23 at 7:30 pm, for our Erev Shavuot Festival service, Tikkun study and Yizkor memorial service. As we get closer to May, more information about Shavuot will be published in our weekly emails.

We Built This House

We Built This House, a film by Jon Joslow, tells the story of how CBSRZ synagogue came to be. It shows how a community translated an inspiring vision, first sketched out by Sol LeWitt on the back of an envelope, into a sacred space of wood and concrete on farmland near the banks of the Connecticut River. One of the most striking synagogues in the world, it fuses the mystery of geometric complexity with the architectural spirit of synagogues of Eastern Europe. It is also the only building Sol LeWitt ever designed. The film aims inward to enhance pride and knowledge among congregants, and outward to raise broader public awareness of this unique space. Join this fun, red-carpet world premiere followed by a reception.

Prayer and Dvar Torah Workshops

One of the beauties and strengths of this community is the number of laypeople who have the skills and interests to lead worship and teach Torah. In the coming Jewish year, the Religious Affairs committee has set aside a number of opportunities for lay leaders to share their words of Torah and prayer at Shabbat services. This also give our congregation fresh voices and perspectives throughout the year, which enriches us all spiritually and intellectually.

In May and June, Rabbi Goldenberg and Cantor Belinda will hold trainings for laypeople who would like to lead Erev Shabbat services and/or give Divrei Torah (sermons) or Personal Prayers at an Erev Shabbat service during the year. At those trainings, folks will be given materials and the opportunity to practice, and folks will have the chance to sign up to lead/preach for dates beginning after the High Holy Days.

In order to be a part of these trainings, interested folks will need to meet the following requirements and attend trainings on the dates listed.

Please RSVP to the office to sign up.

Contact Rabbi Goldenberg at rabbirg@snet.net or Cantor Belinda at bzbct@comcast.net with any questions.

Dvar Torah/Personal Prayer Training:
Wednesday May 6, 7pm

Requirements:
• Adult member of the congregation (age 13 and up—if you are a teen, you must have completed Bar/Bat Mitzvah)
• Comfort with writing, teaching, and public speaking
• Willingness to attend training
• Another training will be scheduled for after the High Holy Days

Service-Leadership Training course:
Wednesdays June 3, June 10, and June 17 at 7pm

Requirements:
• Jewish adult (age 13 and up — if you are a teen, you must have completed Bar/Bat Mitzvah)
• Comfort with leading Hebrew prayers
• Comfort leading others in song and chant (must be able to carry a tune!)
• Attend the training course
• Completion of Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a plus, but not necessary
BACKGROUND

“The centrality of Kasrut to Jewish religious life can hardly be overstated. Since Biblical times, the Jews have recognized a very real religious dimension to the preparation and consumption of food; the Jewish response to God’s call has always included a dietary regimen. Through the discipline of Kasrut, Jews have traditionally imposed sanctity upon the most elemental human necessity, transforming the physical act of eating into a symbolic sacrifice to God.”

—Rabbi Marc Washofsky

Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice

As a center of Jewish community life, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek is committed to the study and preservation of our tradition and heritage. As a Reform congregation, we recognize that within our pluralistic community there is a diversity of interpretations and observance of Kasrut. Even as we cherish this diversity, the Board of Directors and the Religious Affairs Committee felt the need to establish one set of Kasrut standards for our synagogue, for a number of reasons:

1. Kasrut links us to generations of Jews in ages past and in the future as well.

2. Kasrut, as with all mitzvot, provides a concrete way for us to make the ordinary moments of our lives holy.

3. Kasrut cultivates a sense of self-control and self-discipline that elevates our meals beyond the level of animal gratification.

4. Kasrut reminds us, each time we eat, of our commitment to Jewish values and deeds.

5. Kasrut is a response to our love of God.


The Religious Affairs Committee, after discussion with the Congregation and much study, thought, and debate, developed the following “kosher-style” policy regarding Kasrut at our synagogue. The policy was then brought to the Board of Directors for consideration and deliberation, and was approved.

“Kosher-style” refers to food that may not be kosher, but is a type of food that could be produced as kosher. When looking at a “kosher-style” meal, one cannot discern whether or not it is truly kosher.

This “kosher style” policy that is presented here is meant to respect the spirit of our ancient Kasrut laws. We hope that following this Kasrut code will enable us to connect to our traditions, permit all members of our synagogue to eat at our facility, and allow us to continue to function as an open and inclusive community.
POLICY

For any activity at the synagogue, or on the grounds of the synagogue, where food is included, such as b’nai mitzvah celebrations, weddings, community dinners, lunch & learn sessions, brown-bag meals and holiday celebrations, the following will be observed:

1. Biblically prohibited foods—Pork, pork products (such as lard) and shellfish—will not be served.

2. Meat (fleishig) and dairy products (milchig) will not be mixed. This means that milk and meat cannot be used in the same dish, nor can milk and meat dishes be served at the same meal. This will mean, if meat is served at a meal, that non-dairy (pareve) margarine and non-dairy creamer will need to be used in place of butter and milk or cream. Desserts will need to be prepared without the use of dairy products. Read labels carefully if you are unsure about a product.

   • An exception to this rule is a community Shabbat dinner at which meat is served, but which is held before services. We will be able to serve desserts containing dairy products at our Oneg Shabbat after services, because of the time span between the two events.

3. If meat is to be served, it may be non-kosher meat, but must be Biblically allowed (see #1). Please read labels carefully on prepared meats, such as hot dogs, to ensure that pork products are not used.

4. Non-kosher wine may be used.

5. Non-kosher caterers may be used. The caterer, however, must follow our Kasrut policy.

If you have any questions or concerns about how to follow this policy please call Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg at (860) 526-8920.

Glossary

Kosher:
Fit or proper to eat, according to the Biblical and Rabbinic dietary laws.

Fleishig:
A product deriving from meat.

Milchig:
A dairy-based food, including milk, butter, cream, ice cream, whey, yogurt.

Pareve:
Food that is neutral—neither fleishig nor milchig. All fish (with fins and scales), eggs, fruits, vegetables, and grains are pareve.

Kosher-style:
Food that is not kosher, but is a type of food that could be produced as kosher. Under the rules of kosher-style at CBSRZ, there is no mixing of meat and dairy and Biblically prohibited meats are not allowed.
The practice of ethical kashrut seeks to bring an awareness of Jewish values into our multifaceted relationship with food. The Rabbis consider that the laws of kashrut were designed to sacralize the fundamental activity of eating. The prophet Ezekiel even called the dinner table a mikdash m'at, or “miniature altar”, according to our former rabbi Doug Sagal. As members of a Reform congregation we choose whether or not we keep kosher. The synagogue has established guidelines for permissible and prohibited foods. But we believe that for us to observe the spirit if not the letter of dietary law, we need to return to core principles of Jewish teachings and apply them to our contemporary situation. In particular, we share in the ancient view that holiness (kedushah) comes from being spiritually mindful of, joyful about and thankful for what we eat.

Four principles lie at the core of CBSRZ’s approach to an ethical kosher framework. First, avoid causing suffering, (tsa’ar ba’alei hayim); second, respect for the land (shomeir adamah); third, pursuing social justice (rodfe zedek); and fourth, protecting the health of families, communities and ourselves (sh’mirat baguf).

CBSRZ Ethical Kashrut Principles

I. Tsa’ar ba’alei hayim/ Avoid causing suffering

The idea of minimizing suffering is presented in a number scriptural and rabbinic teachings. Though it is not said that animals are made in the image of God, they are nonetheless part of God’s creation. It follows from this that animals, the good work of God’s creation, ought not to be regarded as industrialized commodities. This does not mean that we need to be vegetarians; indeed, the Torah endorses eating meat, but this is seen as a concession to our corrupted nature. (We are first granted permission to eat meat after the flood, in the context of the covenant that God makes with man that God will not destroy the earth “for man’s heart is corrupted from his youth”).

So if we wish to eat meat, we need to be aware of an obvious truth that the industrialized production of food conspires to obscure: before we can eat animals, we have to kill them. Given this, it is ethically imperative that we observe the first principle: avoidance of ts’ar ba’alei hayim.

We agree with Peter Singer’s dictum:

“If a being suffers there can be no moral justification for refusing to take that suffering into consideration.” The Torah repeatedly makes us aware of this principle, instructing us to rest our animals on the Sabbath, refrain from yoking different species together, and allow working animals to graze. The traditional laws of kashrut stress slaughtering in a way that minimizes the animal’s suffering.

II. Shomeir adamah/ Respect for the land

The Torah is clear about human responsibility for the earth. According to the creation account God puts man in the garden to tend and protect it (l’avdah v l’sh’mona). Just as we are enjoined to provide rest for our livestock on Shabbat, so the land is to be given Sabbath rest once every seven years (the shmita year). The pressing need for environmental stewardship and a sustainable food system is a vital element of tikkun olam, or repairing the earth. We may apply the principle by, for instance, growing or purchasing organic products, patronizing local farms and farmers markets, or supporting organizations that advocate for sustainable food sources.

What follows is a near final draft of the proposal the committee meeting to discuss ethical kosher practices will make to the board. These proposals are not meant to replace the kosher policy that has been approved by the board but build upon it.
III. Rodfe zedek/ Pursuing justice

A central tenet of our faith is to seek to repair the world. And our two founding communities were named for pursuit of peace and justice. This obligation extends to food as it does other things. We cannot ignore the social costs of industrialized meat production and agriculture, for instance. Food justice may involve avoiding edibles produced through unfair labor practices, unsafe working conditions, and violations of human rights. There is no way to live in this connected world and entirely untangle ourselves from issues of global hunger. But we can take steps to promote social justice in fields and agricultural plants by selecting foods produced with fair practices, supporting organizations that encourage ethical trading, and aiding programs such as food banks or agencies such as Mazon.

IV. Sh’mirat haguf/Protecting our health

Tradition urges us to treat our bodies with care as we are created in the image of God. Maimonides put it this way: “We must strive to maintain a healthy body so that we can serve God.” Today, respect for our bodies involves recognizing that the food we eat nourishes and sustains our families and our communities, as well as ourselves, allowing us to thrive and to “choose life” as the teachings command. We may apply the principle by eating foods in healthful quantities that, where possible, are fresh, nutritious, and free of harmful ingredients.

Putting the Principles into Action

Most of the food consumed at the synagogue is brought here by congregants, whether by providing onegs or catering to special events. As a community of Jews we have to eat together. In a passage from Torah that most Jews can readily identify with immediately after the seventy elders are vouchsafed a vision of God they sit down to eat, right on the spot. So we don’t want to discourage communal dining in any way by imposing burdensome requirements on the kinds of foods that can be brought into the synagogue. Indeed, as the entire Jewish calendar of ritual is framed around the food cycle, we can designate Sukkoth, the harvest festival, a special annual focal point of ethical kashrut education and celebration. It is our hope that practices of ethical kashrut can spread from within the walls of the synagogue into congregants’ homes and lives.

We make the following recommendations designed to bring an ethical kashrut to life.

1. Where the synagogue itself is responsible for provision of a meal, all food and drink we purchase should meet high standards, within financial reason. Local sources are to be preferred. Meat and poultry should be purchased from enterprises that respect animal welfare; eggs should be produced by cage free chicken; dairy products should be certified organic; coffee and tea should be provided by certified fair trade suppliers.

2. Where congregants are responsible for an oneg or a meal, the Ethical Kosher Committee should create, maintain and make available a list of recommended sources for the purchase of food and drink destined for the synagogue that enable members to meet CBSRZ ethical kosher guidelines, at reasonable cost. This inventory should be an evolving resource on our website, with an invitation to congregants to add to or share comments on the sources.

3. The Ethical Kosher Committee can develop a CBSRZ ethical kosher hechsher (seal) that can be used by congregants who voluntarily apply our guidelines to food they provide in the synagogue. They could use the seal in printed materials or websites related to an event (e.g. b’nei mitzvah or wedding), or in a tag affixed to a dish brought to the building. Congregants would be encouraged, too, to label foods they bring so that there is greater transparency around sources, enabling congregants to make more informed decisions about what they eat.

4. The Farmland Committee is urged to develop composting on our site as part of a broader set of responsible recycling and waste disposal practices.

5. The Adult Education and Program Committees are urged to sponsor speakers and events to raise awareness and encourage discussion of ethical foods. It is our belief that the adoption of an ethical kashrut program can constitute a unique teaching opportunity. Experts may be brought in for a series of talks, and classes may be offered on, say, vegetarian cooking.

6. The Ethical Kosher Committee would encourage development of social events that promote awareness, skills and collective fun related to ethical kashrut. Such events could include a cooking club; a Shabbat dinner club going to area restaurants specializing in local, fresh food; or a farmers market/harvest day around Sukkoth.

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HEART HEALTH SEMINAR AND LUNCHEON

A Heart Health Seminar kicked off the monthly daytime programming series at CBSRZ on March 26, 2015. Dr. Irving Shiffman, Internal Medicine Specialist, educated us on the evolution of diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. The massive collection of data known as the Framingham Study in the 1950s and 1960s marked a major development in the understanding of factors that contribute to coronary and related conditions. After providing this medical background, Dr. Shiffman went on to explain risk factors within our control, primarily related to diet and exercise. The do’s and don’ts of heart healthy eating were clearly presented with the aid of a booklet provided to all attendees by Irv from the American College of Physicians Foundation. These tips included discussion of portion control, healthier food options, and sodium reduction. Suggestions for exercise were discussed, along with advice on medication management.

The presentation was highly interactive, as Dr. Shiffman welcomed the many questions from the interested group. One member questioned if there is a point in the aging process at which one can forego watching their diet, as conditions such as cholesterol plaques develop over several years. Dr. Shiffman showed respect for the decisions that each person makes but pointed out that how one’s body responds, for example, to a vascular incident (stroke) may be made much more difficult if healthier choices are not being made.

Many thanks to Dr. Shiffman for this informative and entertaining seminar.

If anyone would like a copy of the booklet that Dr. Shiffman provided, please contact Iris Freeman.

DAYTIME LUNCHEON PROGRAMMING CONTINUES ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Our next daytime luncheon and program will take place on Thursday, April 23.

We will celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, and what better way to bring a little of Israel here than to have a Falafel Factory. Come join us to make and/or eat a falafel lunch, complete with Israeli salad and the associated fixings!

Rabbi Goldenberg will then entertain us with a program on Israeli poetry. Watch your weekly email for the start time of our Falafel-making Factory. The eating portion will begin at 11:30.

If you need a ride, call Iris to arrange this for you. And if you know someone who you think might like to come, but would need a ride, call Iris!

Mark your calendars to save the date of May 28 for the following luncheon and program, when Paula Feder will be our featured speaker. Watch your weekly email for the specifics.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS, NEEDLECRAFTERS and WANNABES

Several of you have expressed an interest in a knitter’s group at CBSRZ, so we will have our first meeting on Tuesday afternoon, May 5, at 3:00 PM.

This is open to all ages, and instruction will be available. By selecting this time, we hope to accommodate school schedules for any students that are interested in learning to knit or crochet (V’Dor L’Dor). The time and frequency of future meetings can be decided by the group when we meet.

This can be an opportunity to participate in charity knitting, with contributions going to worthy groups like Threads of Love in New Haven, which focuses on prayer shawls and has distributed 365 shawls since...
Dr. Irv Shiffman talks about heart health. To his left is Barbara Edelson.

2009. It can also be a chance to bond with other congregants in a spirit of community, as we work on our own projects. If you are new to knitting, I can provide supplies to get you started. Also, we will have yarn available for charity knitting.

Contact Iris with any questions about the knitting group, or if you will need supplies. If you, or anyone you know, would like a ride, please contact Iris for help with this as well.
Can We Talk?  
Forum on BDS and American Jews

The Social Action Committee is holding yet another forum in connection with its theme to “Celebrate Diversity,” but this one promises to be more controversial than the earlier discussions of anti-Semitism (in December, with Gary Jones, now former Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League) and immigration (in March, with various undocumented immigrants). Our target date is May 30 or 31.

BDS (boycott, divestment, sanction) stirs up strong feelings. So strong that it’s difficult to get traditional Jewish organizations which oppose it to even discuss it with its supporters. Or even appear on the same stage. So strong that even trying to define what BDS is, and what it isn’t, is viewed with suspicion and met with argument.

But here goes. BDS is a movement urging (i) boycott of products of companies (Israeli or other) that profit from violation of Palestinian rights and Israeli athletic, cultural and academic institutions, (ii) divestment from investment in such corporations and (iii) sanctions against Israel in the international community for its policies with respect to the Palestinians and the territory which has been part of Israel since the 1967 war. Opponents claim that BDS seeks to delegitimize Israel. Proponents say it seeks to put pressure on Israel with respect to specific policies and positions but not to delegitimize Israel itself. Opponents claim that BDS is fundamentally anti-Semitic and that it subjects Israel to standards not applied to other countries. Proponents (including many Jews) say that neither they nor the movement is anti-Semitic but that opponents seek to ensure that Israel is held to the same standards with respect to human rights as other countries.

Hillel, the Jewish organization on college campuses, not only opposes BDS but refuses to allow any of its chapters on any campus to have any speakers who support BDS; this has led to the establishment of “Open Hillel” an organization which funds Jewish campus organizations which oppose BDS but support the open discussion and debate of the issue. We hope to have a vigorous discussion and debate.

Jewish Voice for Peace supports BDS. Almost the entire rest of organized Jewry opposes it. We plan to have both sides. We hope that they will come, so that we can discuss and debate.

Because celebrating diversity includes celebrating diversity of opinion, and celebrating the discussion and debate which have forever been a hallmark of Jewish life.

Art Supplies to York Women’s Prison

On a recent Friday, Andy Schatz and Linda Rigono visited the women’s prison in Niantic. We delivered art supplies—supplies that we had had the privilege and pleasure of purchasing with Social Action Money from last June’s outdoor picnic concert.

We weren’t free to decide what kinds of supplies to buy. We shopped with a list on which the most-wanted items were stamps and stamp pads. And, oh, what fun, funny, and beautiful stamps we found! We found stamp pads in every color of the rainbow, and even some with glitter. With the little money remaining, we bought some origami paper.

When we were loading our goods onto the large cart that Joe, the librarian, had wheeled out for us, he told us that they had arrived at a great time. The women get to make greeting cards once a month as a reward for going to classes all month. They were going to start making Mother’s Day cards that very afternoon, and they would be excited and happy to have so many colors to work with.

We also had bought books about origami and zentangle. And we delivered some donated paper, and a few boxes of books that Linda just happened to have in her car. Collecting and donating books to the prison has long been a favorite charity of Linda’s, and her enthusiasm has spilled over into our CBSRZ community. At least twice yearly, we deliver books donated by our members.

Joe, the librarian, is leaving May 1, and he says it may take six months or more to get a new librarian. So we’ll have plenty of time to gather books for our next delivery.

We All Came to America

He came to the United States from South America – like so many before and since – without appropriate documents but with hopes and dreams for a new start in a better place. Living and working “illegally” for years. His story was passed along to a crowd of over 40 at CBSRZ.

But he was not Hispanic but Jewish. He was CBSRZ congregant David Zeleznik’s father, Reivan. HHH And Reivan’s story, like those of other congregants, mirrored the stories told by so many recent immigrants from Central and South America; his story showed how clearly “our” story is so much like “theirs.”

On March 22, the Social Action Committee hosted “Coming to America” – part of our programs to “Celebrate Diversity” – to learn about immigration issues and immigration reform.

Four recent “undocumented” immigrants from Mexico and further south told their harrowing stories of coming to America. We heard of the harsh conditions of the trip, walking for days or weeks through dangerous country, surviving desert, crossing rivers, in the
“care” of “coyotes” paid dearly for “safe” passage that was anything but. And arriving in America was not the end of their fears but included harsh episodes with police, employers and others.

“Coming to America” has been done as a program in Connecticut before – often with the assistance of United Action of Connecticut, an organization of member congregations including CBSRZ (the only Jewish congregation). One segment included small breakout groups of participants working through a fictional story of a typical Central American immigrant family and their scary choices about trying to survive in a native country, ultimately deciding to leave for the U.S. and the tough choices once in this country. The program included a discussion of immigration reform led by a Mexican student activist trained by UACT, whose stay in the U.S. is now protected by federal regulations but whose continued stay is subject to the whims of the White House.

But what made our program different – and, according to the UACT officers who attended, a unique success – was the equal focus on stories of our ancestors. Most Jews came to the U.S. before immigration laws in the 1920s severely restricted the flow of even healthy immigrants. Yet even those stories bore remarkable similarity to those of recent immigrants. The harsh and seemingly unfair conditions which would prompt people to leave their homes, culture and language were the same. There was also unsafe, expensive and often abusive passage – albeit by ship captains rather than the “coyotes.” Both groups had struggles once arriving in the U.S. for housing and jobs.

Yet our ancestors had a respect not yet universally accorded the current “undocumented” immigrants. Our ancestors were part of an immigrant tradition which has long defined America – a tradition which continues with the current wave of immigrants. And if there is general acceptance that our historic pro-immigration policy has been critical for the growth, energy and success of the United States, perhaps that will soon translate into policy for those arriving now.

A tape of the program is accessible from the Social Action page on the CBSRZ website.

(Continued on page 26)
HOMELESS APARTMENT UPDATE

You may remember Richard. He came to speak with us over the high holidays in 2012, about nine months after we had moved him from the streets to his first apartment – ever. He stayed in that Middletown apartment for nearly three years, leaving in 2014 to move to Colorado.

Or Jude. The article in the January 2012 issue of Whole Megillah, a month after we moved him into his first apartment, reported that Jude's case worker said she had never seen him smile so much, but Jude simply said “I would smile bigger if I could.” We continued: “Probably few of us know people who are homeless. We see statistics. We see articles. Jude is no longer a statistic, or even just a name, but a personal story.” Jude’s story has not been without hitches; the legacy of homelessness and mental illness seldom is. But Jude has a job at Five Guys and is now in his third apartment – recently having made the decision to move slightly further away from downtown in Middletown to minimize the impact of his earlier life – and he is still using the furniture CBSRZ and UCC Chester provided for him!

This month, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek is again working together with the United Church of Chester to furnish another Middletown apartment for a homeless person. Each congregation is helping to furnish two rooms; CBSRZ will furnish the living room and the bedroom.

Through the congregation’s generosity, we have the furniture and fixings to set up the apartment. But we need volunteers to help move in and set up the furniture – probably the weekend of May 2-3 (check the weekly CBSRZ email for details). Joel Saltzman has offered his pick-up truck. He has already moved items that needed to be taken right away. We will probably also need a U-Haul van to move the bigger items.

We are also asking for donations of checks, or gift certificates to Walmart and Stop and Shop, to help supply incidental needs for the apartment.

Please contact debbytrautmann@comcast.net or 860-227-3212.

Religious School Class Serves Community

Kitah Vav helped at the Soup Kitchen in the United Church of Chester on December 21. First, we made corn chowder and home-made chocolate chip cookies during Religious School. We met at the Church that evening and made a salad out of the ingredients that we had brought. When we were done in the kitchen, we set the tables. We brought out the food and served the people what they wanted. After we ate dinner and cleared everyone’s plates, we served our desserts. The local bakery supplied bread and some of the delicious pastries that everyone enjoyed. We then gave the people leftovers, which were much appreciated. Finally, we cleaned up. We felt proud of ourselves because we did a heartwarming Mitzvah.

NAMI Walk 2015 Saturday May 16

The mission of the National Alliance on Mental Health Connecticut (NAMI) mission is to improve the quality of life for all those impacted by mental illness, by providing support groups, education and advocacy. NAMI is part of the Keep the Promise (KTP) coalition, a statewide mental health advocacy network. CBSRZ and United Action Connecticut have teamed up again this year to participate in the NAMI Walk 2015, Saturday, May 16th at Bushnell Park in Hartford to raise awareness and money. We will meet as a team at 9:30 a.m. and walk around Bushnell Park starting at 10 a.m.

We need your support by participating in the walk and raising money or just contributing any amount of money. Last year we raised $1,800.

Almost all of us are affected by mental illness. Let’s help NAMI help us. To sign up as a team Member and/or contribute money, please visit https://fundraise.namict.org/4the264change. If you have any Questions, please contact Johanna Schaefer at harjs2002@aol.com.

STUFF A TRUCK

Youth wanted. We need volunteers on Sunday April 26th to help fill a truck with donations for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. Join us for pizza at CBSRZ after Religious School (at noon) before we head to the Old Saybrook Stop & Shop. The students will ask shoppers to buy and donate from a list of most needed foods provided by the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. The students, supervised by adult volunteers, will take the food from the shoppers and load and sort the food in the truck. We'll be there from 1 pm to 4 pm. Come for any or all of the time. Not only will you have fun, you’ll be fulfilling the Mitzvah to feed the hungry. Please contact Debby Trautmann at (860) 434-3623 or debbytrautmann@comcast.net with any questions or to volunteer.
Summary of Board of Directors Minutes, March 12, 2015.

Attending a board meeting is a great way to get a first-hand, big-picture perspective of all that happens at CBSRZ. If you are a congregant, you have the right to join and speak. Please come! Meetings normally convene on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the synagogue, and they end by 9:00 pm. Check the calendar to confirm. We also promise tasty popcorn.

Leadership Reports:

a. President: We have a new Peace and Justice award and Sue Peck will be leading the selection group. Fund raising plan—we have a $30,000 board pledge to meet to address budget. Proposal by S. Davis to have a “Premiere” for the 1 hour documentary on the temple produced by Jon Joslow, tentatively set for June 14 at the Madison Art Cinema. We would sell producerships and sponsorships as the fundraising part. Perhaps, also, the Bill Farran prints and Sol LeWitt prints could be sold there. And there would be a modest charge for the tickets. M. Garner-Frum asked if there would be fundraising for the Year 100 project, and S. Seidman said yes, but that is for next year’s budget. Synagogue website: Dass Sinnapen has agreed to take charge of this. Bill Farran has agreed to do a woodcut of our Shul to make greeting cards for sale, etc. The Wednesday minyan group has agreed to pay for the rights to these woodcuts for us to use. Hopefully it will be ready for the minyan’s B’nai Mitzvah birthday service on April 18th. Jon Samburg raised an issue about using “Go Daddy” for the Temple. There was agreement to issue about using “Go Daddy” for the Temple. There was agreement to go for the Whole Megillah. This last Megillah postage has been $388, a new quote today at $88. So a savings of $4,000/yr for printing and mailing. Suggestion about querying the Congregation who would be interested to see it online or to pick it up at the Temple. Charles Savitt is moving to The Hospital for Special Care in New Britain tomorrow. Working on getting temporary part time help in the office. We ran out of oil but arranged a new contract at an economical price. Many thanks to Marilyn White-Gottfried and Johanna Schaefer for helping out in the office in Charles’ absence.

b. Rabbi: The Rabbi raised the issue that if you sign up to give the kiddush cup for a bar/bat mitzvah, you should also act as host and greeter. Brad suggested that a good practice is to contact the host family to offer help, and appear early to greet. Prayer Lab has been very exciting. Iris is regular making home visits, occasional hospital visits. She has already built networks, and is part of the caring team. Holy Rollers continues to be a challenge to get rides for people. Iris is planning daytime programming—for instance, the fourth Thursday will be a meal and a program. This month will be a lecture about heart health. There is now a funding request in the new budget for new senior programs. We are looking to expand Iris’ hours next year—another budget item. The Rabbi is going to the CCAR conference for the first time in years next week. Last stages of planning for the Scholar in Residence program is underway.

c. Temple Administrator: The new memorial board has been installed. The Joseph and Lillian Fund and Sheila Friend Byrne have donated the funds for this. The Hornung/Palmer family wanted to thank Doug and Mark for their help with the service and the shivah for Peg’s mother’s funeral. Discussion about printing and mailing for the Whole Megillah. This last Megillah postage has been $388, a new quote today at $88. So a savings of $4,000/yr for printing and mailing. Suggestion about querying the Congregation who would be interested to see it online or to pick it up at the Temple. Charles Savitt is moving to The Hospital for Special Care in New Britain tomorrow. Working on getting temporary part time help in the office. We ran out of oil but arranged a new contract at an economical price. Many thanks to Marilyn White-Gottfried and Johanna Schaefer for helping out in the office in Charles’ absence.

d. Treasurer: Receivables are $72,000. Investment returns have been very volatile.

e. Financial Vice President: Budget update: we need $160,000 for the rest of the year. We are going to have a shortfall of about $50-60,000, but we should make it by the end of the year due to anticipated revenues. URJ dues: They are assessing us more than what we have agreed to. S. Seidman spoke to the collection person at the URJ. He is going to call her tomorrow to negotiate an agreement. M. Gardner-Frum asked about consequences of resigning from the URJ. S. Seidman feels we should be a member. B. Jubelirer said there is value to being affiliated. The Rabbi added that a child from an unaffiliated congregation can’t go to URJ camps. Motion to accept the revised Kashrut policy, S. Seidman, 2nd by L. Roman. Discussion. H. Resnikoff, while absent, had asked the president in advance to be recorded in opposition. Members present unanimously voted yes. So moved.

Cantor Position Title

Stephen Davis reviewed the proposal to update Belinda Brennan’s title from cantorial soloist to cantor. Belinda left the room for this discussion and vote. Historically, her title was “Cantorial Soloist”, but her job is actually more aligned with being the “Cantor” of the Temple. If the motion is approved her professional status would remain as cantorial soloist, but the job she holds at CBSRZ would be Cantor. The Rabbi confirmed this. Motion to adopt the resolution by S. Seidman. Second by G. Amarant. Resolution: The Board hereby clarifies that the current job title held by Belinda Brennan is “Cantor.” Discussion. H. Resnikoff had asked the president in advance to be recorded in support of the resolution. Members present voted yes with 1 abstention and none against. So moved. The Rabbi, as a non-voting member of the Board wished it recorded that she approved this decision.

Budget 2015–2016

Preliminary line-by-line review of requests discussed by S. Seidman. Final review of the budget will be at next month’s Board meeting, which will be on April 2 rather than the usual second Thursday because of Passover. A final vote is expected at the May meeting.
It's been a busy time for Chesed in the past couple of months, but our volunteers have been wonderful and we've had some amazing help in the kitchen. As part of our “caring community”, Chesed delivers meals to folks who are recovering from major illnesses, recently home from the hospital, or home-bound for any number of reasons. Frequently Chesed members will cook or bake items, and then volunteers will deliver the items. Recently, we have been very fortunate to have two additional resources available.

**CHESED IS NOT JUST FOR GROWN-UPS**

In March, eleven of our Madrichem (post bar/bat mitzvah) spent a morning in the CBSRZ kitchen making tomato vegetable soup, brownies, mac and cheese, and lots of laughter. They filled our freezer and our hearts with over twenty meals ready to deliver whenever we need them. Thanks Jodi, Rachel, Casey, Brian, Tillie, Allie, Maddie, Amy, Adina, Lilli and Andi. You all ROCK!

PASSEOVER SEDER MEALS: Thanks to the Religious Affairs Committee and Bob and Linda Zimmel, Chesed received over a dozen Passover meals to deliver to folks who were unable to have their own seder this year. A sumptuous meal of brisket, chicken, roasted veggies, matzo ball soup, matzo, salad and Linda’s wonderful almond meringue cookies brightened quite a few of our members’ homes.

We would not be such a wonderful and supportive community, without all the generous time and energy of our congregants!

**CREATING A SAFETY NET**

One of the things that Chesed does, is maintain a confidential database called “Hineynu Tracker” that helps clergy and lay leaders coordinate with each other to ensure congregants receive the services they need in a timely manner. Recent events have made it clear that we don’t always have all the information we might need in order to be of assistance, especially when the congregants live alone and CBSRZ doesn’t have any information about friends of relatives who might need to be contacted. If this sounds like you, and you’d like to share that information with the rabbi or Chesed, please let us know and we will keep it on file for emergencies. Hopefully you won’t ever need the assistance, but if you do, we want to be able to be there for you!
**Memorial Plaques**

Iyar 12, 5775 – Sivan 13, 5775

Philip Greenberg
Belle Greenberg
Meyer Goldstein
Esther Divins
Blanche Chaplick
Lena Buchzeiger
Charles Bernstein
Jacob Blitt
Lena Buchzheimer
Blenche Chaplick
Esther Divins
Sidney Baron
Sam Baron
Melvin Baron
Iyar 12, 5775 – Sivan 13, 5775

**Memorial Plaques**

Iyar 14, 5775 – Tammuz 13, 5775

Gertude Adler
Lillian K. Ansell
Sol M. Ansell

Karen Joy Berford
Abbe W. Bloom
Franz Chaplick
Anna Debowsky
Fannie Diamond
Lena Dorenbaum
Nathan Elgart
Michael Einik
Julia Frankel
Lena Frankel
Kate Furst
Morris Goldberg
Harry Goldstein
Marion Gottfried
Rebecca Gottfried
Louis Charles Lerner
Abe Lisnick
Morris Mager
Abraham Michael
Clarice “Top” Miller
Ethel Baron Navasky
Isadore Needelman

**Yahrzeits**

**Iyar 12, 5775 – Sivan 13, 5775**

Catherine Andrico—mother of Carol LeWitt
Meyer Breslow—father of Abe Breslow
Lena Buchzheimer—sister of Estelle Breslow
Carlyn Cester—mother of Gay Clarkson
Lois Dietch—sister of Susan Peck
Morris Elkin—grandfather of Robin Freeman
Michaela Feld—mother of Gold Fuld
Mildred Friedman—grandmother of Ava Tyler
William Boer Friedman—husband of Ellen Friedman
George Goldenberg—grandfather of Rachel Goldenberg
Faye Goldenstein—mother of Heather Schwartz
Esther Gordon—mother of Elaine Gordon
Belle Greenberg—mother of Jacqueline Wolff
Philip Greenberg—father of Jacqueline Wolff
Mildred Greenwald—dear friend of Maxine Leichtman
Elizabeth Gwillim—wife of Lary Bloom
Minnie Horowitz—grandmother of Sheila Byrne
Sam Horowitz—grandfather of Sheila Byrne
Morton Ishman—father of Barry Ishman
Odette Ivel—mother of Brad Ivel
Mitzie Krasner—mother of Roni Bonni Weiner
Alfred LeWitt—observed by Carol LeWitt
Sophie LeWitt—mother-in-law of Carol LeWitt
Ellie Linden—daughter of Larry & Dana Linden
Edith Mack—sister of Beatrice Case
Jessica Cohen Meltzer—grandmother of Laura Roman
Selma Meyers—mother of Arthur Meyers
Jack Michael—husband of Jacqueline Michael
Samuel Michael—brother-in-law of Jacqueline Michael
Henry Miller—father of Sue Levine
Samuel Miller—father of Ellen Friedman
Jacobs Nodelman—father of Ava Tyler
Sarah Palmer—grandmother of Peg Palmer; mother of George Palmer
Albert Peer—brother of Joseph Peer
David Pink—father of Edward Pink
Howard Cutler Redak—brother of Danny Redak; brother of Harvey Redak
Miriam Rosenbaum—mother of Debra Traumann
Roger “Sonny” Rubinower—brother of Laura Rubinow
Fanny Safir—mother of Norma Glassman
Albert George Samburg—father of Jon Samburg
Dr. Harold Samuels—father of John Schwarz
Abraham Schenber—father of Sandy Schenber
Hennie Sherman—wife of Arthur Sherman; mother of Linda Sherman
Barney Smith—father of Susan Furman; father of Martin Smith
Mark Solomon—law-in-law of Harvey Haberman
Allen Storm—father of Elizabeth Storm
Willa Jean Talbott—grandmother of Jim Talbott
Louis Taubman—observed by Sharon Taubman
Elain Tilles—wife of Solomon Tilles
Harvey Turkel—father of Robin Freeman
Marilyn White—friend of Lynn Coville

**Yahrzeits**

Iyar 14, 5775 – Tammuz 13, 5775

Gertude Adler—mother of Jacqueline Michael
Florette Belport—mother of Barbara Davis
Rhoda Benedar—aunt of Lynn Coville
Karen Joy Berford—sister of Norman Needelman
Estelle Berman—sister of Joel Bernstein
Abbe W. Bloom—father of Lary Bloom
Frances Cohen—mother of Hila Rosen
Ruth Cohn—mother of Michael Cohn
Sam Davis—grandfather of Stephen Davis
Morris Dietch—father of Susan Peck
Gary Fox—brother of Kevin Fox
Richard Freedman—husband of Frances Freedman
Simonne Frum—mother of Miriam Gardner-Frum
Diane Gidro—mother of Phyllis Ross
Max Ginsberg—grandfather of Marlene Scharr
Anna Glassman—mother of Abe Glassman
Max Glassman—father of Abe Glassman
Howard Gold—father of Elizabeth Drobin
Harry Goldstein—father of Jackie Hastings
Louise Goodman—grandfather of Linda Polomski
Rebecca Gottfried—great-grandmother of Ellen Gottfried
Samuel Hutt—father of Philip Hutt
Esther Indianer—mother of Marcia Meyers
Vivian Kahn—aunt of Philip Hutt
Morris Mager—father of Estelle Breslow
Ida Mallis—aunt of Linda Rigano
Lee Marcus—father of Natalie Linstead
Nathan Meyers—father of Arthur Meyers
Abraham Michael—father-in-law of Jacqueline Michael
Clarice “Top” Miller—mother of Suzanne Levine
Emma Nadel—mother of Steve Nadler
William Payton—father of Harvey Payton
Morris Pear—father of Joseph Pearl
Saul Redak—father of Danny Pearl
David Pink—father of Harvey Redak
Frances Ulrich—mother of Nancy Schwam
Raymond Rickard—stepfather of Nancy Schwam
Harry Rosen—father of Saul Rosen
Alice Saltzman—mother of Joel Saltzman
Lillian Saykin—aunt of Adele Saykin
Reba Schwam—mother of Elliot Schwam
Louis Sherman—father of Linda Penn
Harry Sobol—father of Beatrice Case
Amy Sullivan—wife of Bruce Joseph
Elaine Turkel—mother of Robin Freeman
Lillian Wald—mother of Marc Wald
Adam Weissman—brother of Laura Roman
Ruth West—aunt of Lynn Coville
Meyer White—father-in-law of Marilyn White-Gottfried

Correction to yahrzeit listing in March/April edition:
Irving Davis—husband of Eva Davis; father of Arnie Davis

**Condolences are extended to**

Gene Kalet and family on the recent death of his nephew, Ira Kalet
Jonathan Ross-Wiley and Patricia Bollone on the recent death of his mother and her sister, Louise Ross
Stephen Davis and family on the recent death of his cousin, Aryeh Stein-Azen
Mar-C Peraza-Baker and family on the recent death of her father, Jose Peraza
Mar-C Peraza-Baker and family on the recent death of her sister, Susana Herty

Please remember to inform Linda Sherman, chair of the Chessed Committee, if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help, or has experienced a death in the family. Our Chessed Committee is here to help.
### May 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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**12 Iyyar - 13 Sivan, 5775**

**SUNDAY**
- Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: Alan Morinis

**MONDAY**
- Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: Alan Morinis

**TUESDAY**
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Hebrew
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Guesser and Confirmation

**WEDNESDAY**
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Hebrew
- 9:30 am K'neidlach Program
- 11:30 am Confirmation and Gesher

**THURSDAY**
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Hebrew
- 9:30 am Religious School
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Guesser and Confirmation

**FRIDAY**
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Hebrew
- 9:30 am Religious School
- 11:30 am Guesser and Confirmation

**SATURDAY**
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Hebrew
- 9:30 am Religious School
- 11:30 am Guesser and Confirmation

**Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: Alan Morinis**

(For schedule of events see page 7)

6:00 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner
7:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service on Mussar

**8:30 am**
- Adult Hebrew
- 9:30 am K'neidlach Program
- 11:30 am Confirmation and Guesser

**9:00 am**
- Yoga
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**9:30 am**
- Religious School
- Chair Yoga
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga

**10:00 am**
- Morning Minyan
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**10:30 am**
- Adult Hebrew
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**11:00 am**
- Confirmation and Guesser
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**12:00 pm**
- Dairy/Vegetarian Kiddush Luncheon

**1:00 pm**
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**2:00 pm**
- Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: Alan Morinis
(For schedule of events see page 7)

9:00 am Torah Study
10:30 am Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Thorpe

**3:00 pm**
- Knitting Workshop
- Music & More with Dahlia Lazar
- Erev Shabbat and Confirmation Service with Piano

**4:00 pm**
- Healing Service
- Confirmation Rehearsal
- Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Thorpe

**5:00 pm**
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**5:30 pm**
- Facilities
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga

**6:00 pm**
- Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner
- Erev Shabbat Service
- Conversation with Piano

**7:00 pm**
- Erev Shabbat Service
- Confirmation Rehearsal
- Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Thorpe

**8:00 pm**
- Erev Shabbat Service
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga

**9:00 pm**
- Music & More with Dahlia Lazar
- Confirmation Rehearsal
- Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Thorpe
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study

**10:00 pm**
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**11:00 pm**
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
- Chair Yoga
- Torah Study

**12:00 am**
- Board of Directors
- Conversion Class
- Torah Study
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<td>5:30 pm Facilities</td>
<td>9:00 am Chair Yoga</td>
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<td>10:30 am Prayer Lab</td>
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<td>3:00 pm SSKP Board</td>
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<td>9:00 am Yoga</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning M'nyan</td>
<td>10:30 am Jake Linder bar mitzvah</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service with Choir</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning M'nyan</td>
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Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Debby Trautmann
The Chessed Committee
Clo & Stephen Davis
Jackie Bowin
Lori & Brad Jubelirer
Marjorie Lander
The Gelven Family
The Rubinow/Gill Family
The Starkman/Smith Family

Jewish Wit
and Wisdom:
No matter what side of the argument you are on, you always find people on your side that you wish were on the other.

—Jascha Heifetz

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