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Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Chanukah 11

Chanukiah from synagogue in Zamosc, Poland.
Thanks to the following donors from 7/16/2013 to 10/1/2013

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From Our Rabbi
Worship Services and Nov./Dec. Events
From Our President
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November and December Calendars
By now, I imagine most of you have seen the blogs, the memes, the Facebook posts and the articles about this year’s once-in-a-lifetime confluence of Thanksgiving with the first day of Chanukah. Or, as some have been calling it, “Thanksgivukkah.”!

I’m not going to go into all of the mathematical calculations here (if you’re interested, look here: http://jewschool.com/2013/01/17/30051/thanksgivukkah-faq/)

Suffice it to say that it is very rare for the first day of Chanukah to overlap with Thanksgiving. The last time it happened was 1899, when Thanksgiving was celebrated on the fifth Thursday of November, which was the fourth day of Chanukah. This was before FDR officially proclaimed Thanksgiving for the fourth Thursday in November every year, to create a longer Christmas shopping season and to stimulate the economy. Though the first day of Chanukah won’t fall on Thanksgiving again in the near-to-medium future, the first night of Chanukah will again fall on Thanksgiving night in the years 2070 and 2165. After 2165, we’ll have to wait another 70,000 years or so.

What interests me more than the math is what this all means for us as American Jews. I think one of the reasons there’s so much excitement about this confluence this year is that a meld of Thanksgiving and Chanukah does not present us with conflicts of identity or religion as does the confluence of Chanukah with Christmas. As American Jews, we have positive associations with Thanksgiving: it is one of those holidays where we feel included in the national culture and celebration.

In fact, George Washington set a universalistic, inclusive tone in his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1795 when he announced:

I, George Washington, President of the United States, do recommend to all Religious Societies and Denominations, and to all Persons whomsoever with the United States, to observe a day of public thanksgiving and prayer...particularly for the possession of Constitutions of Government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order.

Washington was criticized for his message by some, including a Massachusetts clergyman named Ebenezer Bradford. In his Thanksgiving sermon, Rev. Bradford preached, "to leave Christ therefore out of the account in so important a matter as a National Thanksgiving must be an unpardonable neglect; for He is our creator, preserver, benefactor and redeemer, and therefore we are bound to do all in His name."

Others defended Washington. David Tappan, a Harvard divinity professor spoke on the same day, saying that the President aimed "to unite in one general thanksgiving all the inhabitants of our favored land, whether Christians, Jews, or Deists; that those who were joint partakers of the national prosperity might all conspire in celebrating its glorious author." (See http://tmt.urj.net/archives/2socialaction/112205.htm)

Over the centuries, Jews around the world have found ways to integrate aspects of the surrounding culture into Jewish religious culture. For instance, our braided Challah bread likely comes from the twisted white breads that were found through central Europe and the Slavic countries in which Ashkenazic Jews lived.

This year, as Chanukah and Thanksgiving overlap, we can dip our latkes in cranberry sauce and brine our turkeys in Manischevitz (see http://www.buzzfeed.com/christinebyrne/thanksgivukkah for more Thanksgivukkah recipes), all the while giving thanks for the lights of freedom and hope that this country has given our Jewish People.
### November Events

#### Worship Services
- **Friday, November 1, 5:45 PM**: Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM First Friday Erev Shabbat Service
- **Wednesday, November 6, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan
- **Friday, November 8, 7:30 PM**: Erev Shabbat Service
- **Saturday, November 9, 10:30 AM**: Second Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Lunch
- **Wednesday, November 13, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan
- **Friday, November 15, 7:30 PM**: Erev Shabbat Service
- **Wednesday, November 20, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan; Friday, November 22, 7:30 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
- **Sunday, November 24, 4:00 PM**: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the United Church of Chester.
- **Wednesday, November 27, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan; Friday, November 29, 7:30 PM, Chanukah Service and Celebration

#### Advanced Hebrew
- **Wednesday, November 6, 8:45 AM**: Religious Affairs; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg Lessons: 4:15 Religious School
- **Saturday, November 9, 9:30 AM**: Religious School (in lieu of Sunday November 10)
- **Sunday, November 10, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 5:00–9:00 PM, Jewish War Veterans Remembrance of Kristallnacht
- **Monday, November 11 (office closed for Veteran’s Day)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 3:00 PM**: Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Board Meeting; 7:00–8:30 PM, Adult Bat Mitzvah Workshop
- **Wednesday, November 13, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15 PM, Religious School
- **Thursday, November 14, 12:00–1:30 PM**: Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Ethical Questions; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors Meeting
- **Saturday, November 16, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM**: Habitat for Humanity House in Middleton
- **Sunday, November 17, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 2:00–4:00 PM, Listening Campaign Feedback; 4:30 PM, Beat the Winter Blues Film Club
- **Wednesday, November 20, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15, Religious School
- **Thursday, November 21, 5:30 PM**: Social Action
- **Sunday, November 24, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 9:30 AM, Parent Hanukkah Program; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Confirmation; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Gesher; 12:00 PM, Latke Making and Freezing
- **Tuesday, November 26, 7:00–8:30 PM**: Adult Bat Mitzvah Workshop
- **Wednesday, November 27, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; First Night of Chanukah (No Religious School)
- **Thursday, November 28, First Day of Chanukah—Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
- **Friday, November 29 (Office Closed)

#### December Events

#### Worship Services
- **Wednesday, December 4, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan; Friday, December 6, 5:45 PM, Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Shabbat Service
- **Wednesday, December 11, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan; Friday, December 13, 7:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service, Followed by Dinners in Congregants’ Homes
- **Saturday, December 14, Second Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Lunch
- **Wednesday December 18, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan; Friday, December 20, 5:45 PM, Erev Shabbat Service
- **Wednesday December 25, 7:45 AM**: Morning Minyan
- **Friday, December 27, 5:45 PM**: Erev Shabbat Service
- **Saturday December 28, 10:30 AM**: Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Casey Elkin

#### Advanced Hebrew
- **Sunday, December 3, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew: 9:15–10:30 AM, Breakfast with the Rabbi, Grade K/1; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 11:00 AM, Program on Ashkeleon Dig with Eliott Schwom; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM, Confirmation
- **Wednesday, December 6, 8:45 AM**: Religious Affairs; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg Lessons: 4:15 Religious School
- **Saturday, November 9, 9:30 AM**: Religious School (in lieu of Sunday November 10)
- **Sunday, November 10, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 5:00–9:00 PM, Jewish War Veterans Remembrance of Kristallnacht
- **Monday, November 11 (office closed for Veteran’s Day)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 3:00 PM**: Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Board Meeting; 7:00–8:30 PM, Adult Bat Mitzvah Workshop
- **Wednesday, November 13, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15 PM, Religious School
- **Thursday, November 14, 12:00–1:30 PM**: Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Ethical Questions; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors Meeting
- **Saturday, November 16, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM**: Habitat for Humanity House in Middleton
- **Sunday, November 17, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 2:00–4:00 PM, Listening Campaign Feedback; 4:30 PM, Beat the Winter Blues Film Club
- **Wednesday, November 20, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15, Religious School
- **Thursday, November 21, 5:30 PM**: Social Action
- **Sunday, November 24, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 9:30 AM, Parent Hanukkah Program; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Confirmation; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Gesher; 12:00 PM, Latke Making and Freezing
- **Tuesday, November 26, 7:00–8:30 PM**: Adult Bat Mitzvah Workshop
- **Wednesday, November 27, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; First Night of Chanukah (No Religious School)
- **Thursday, November 28, First Day of Chanukah—Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
- **Friday, November 29 (Office Closed)

#### Upcoming Events 2014

- **Sunday, December 1, (No Religious School) 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 12:00 PM, Latke Making and Freezing; 4:00 PM, B’nai Mitzvah Benefit Concert
- **Wednesday, December 4, 8:45 AM**: Religious Affairs; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15 PM, Religious School
- **Thursday, December 5, Last Day of Chanukah**: 7:00 PM, Executive Committee
- **Sunday, December 8, 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:15–10:30 AM, Breakfast with the Rabbi, Grade 2/3; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 11:00 AM, Books & Bagels: Wally Lamb, We Are Water; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM, Confirmation
- **Tuesday, December 10, 3:00 PM**: Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Board Meeting; 7:00–8:30 PM, Adult Bat Mitzvah Workshop
- **Wednesday, December 11, URJ Biennial San Diego**: 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15 PM, Religious School
- **Thursday, December 12, URJ Biennial San Diego**: 12:00 PM–1:30 PM Lunch & Learn: Jewish Responses to Ethical Questions
- **Friday, December 13, URJ Biennial San Diego
- **Saturday, December 14, URJ Biennial San Diego
- **Sunday, December 15, URJ Biennial San Diego**: 8:30–9:30 AM, Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 9:30 AM, Religious School; 9:30 AM – 11:00, ComCom in Library; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Confirmation; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Gesher
- **Monday, December 16, 12:30–6:00 PM**: Red Cross Blood Drive
- **Wednesday, December 18, 1:00 PM**: Mah Jongg Lessons; 4:15 PM, Religious School; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors Meeting
- **Thursday, December 19, 7:00–8:30 PM**: Adult Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal
- **Sunday, December 22, (No Religious School) 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew; 4:00 PM, Beat the Winter Blues Film Club; 4:00–6:00 PM, Chester Soup Kitchen
- **Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day (Office Closed)
- **Thursday, December 26, 7:00 PM**: Executive Committee
- **Sunday, December 29, (No Religious School) 8:30–9:30 AM**: Advanced Hebrew; 9:30–10:30 AM, Beginner Hebrew

### Holy Scrollers Torah Study

**every Shabbat**

9:00–10:30 AM

### Don’t Be Afraid Of CBSRZ’s Social Media: Facebook, Blogs, and Twitter

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

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

Charles Savitt has launched a Twitter site. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @CBSRZ
From our President

Why Wally Lamb is Coming to CBSRZ

By Lary Bloom

This year’s convention of publishers and agents featured a banner that stretched across the top of the Jacob Javits Center with the words “Wally Lamb” in huge letters. Wally’s publisher was certain his newest novel, We Are Water, would climb the best-seller list, just as others had. This would have seemed farfetched back in 1984. He was then a teacher of English at Norwich Free Academy with the dream of being a fiction writer. He summoned the courage to send off his first short story, “Keep in a Cool, Dry Place,” to Northeast, the Sunday magazine of the Hartford Courant.

I was the magazine’s editor at the time. I remember reading his piece with a sense of awe and delight even though it did not have a happy subject. It was written in the voice of a teenage girl who, among other impediments, had an unhealthy self-image. When I asked my associate editor to read it she came back into my office with a smile on her face, and said, “I like it but we shouldn’t publish it.”

“Why not?” I asked, surprised.

“Because it’s written in a female voice by a man. It’s not authentic. Men don’t understand how a woman thinks.”

She was a brilliant editor, and I wondered for a time if she was right. But in the end I had to tell her that my decision was to purchase the short story and run it as soon as possible.

In many of Wally’s recent speeches he refers to the phone call that I made to him in 1984, when I told him we were buying his story, as the best call he ever received even better than those many years later from Oprah Winfrey. (After two of his books were chosen for her TV show’s book club).

The “inauthentic” character that Wally wrote about in his first piece became Delores Price in She’s Come Undone, a character that has become one of the iconic figures in American literature.

And aside from his blockbuster novels, Wally has had a great impact on society in other ways.

For thirteen years he has taught writing at York Correction Facility in East Lyme, giving the female prisoners there not only useful instruction but an opportunity to tell their stories. He even convinced his publisher, HarperCollins, to publish a book of their memoirs titled, Couldn’t Keep it to Myself.

Of course, as we very well know, no good deed (even one by a literary angel) goes unpunished. After the news spread that each of the prisoners whose work appeared in the collection would receive a royalty of $6,000, the Department of Correction sent bills to them for their room and board over the years.

One of the inmates, having been imprisoned for 18 years, received a tab for nearly a million dollars. After a great public clamor, the DOC policy was dropped. And a second book of memoirs was published in the years afterward.

Of thirteen books Wally has written (including this latest one), the one that has a special place in my heart is his memoir, We Are Water, which features characters affected by the great flood in Norwich a half century ago.

Early reviews have been glowing, including this starred review from Library Journal that begins with a quote from the book: “We are fluid and flexible when we have to be. But strong and destructive, too. That’s evident in this emotionally involving new novel from the author of She’s Come Undone…Clear and sweetly flowing; highly recommended.”

With all of his success he has also written This Much I Know Is True, The Hour I First Believed and other books he remains humble and easy to talk with.

Sometimes, if not very often, nice guys finish first.
Good evening, Rabbi, Belinda, fellow congregants…

Thank you for asking me to speak tonight….

I’ll begin with a quote from Isaiah 62:4 from this week’s Haf Torah portion:

Nevermore shall you be called "Forsaken,"
Nor shall your land be called "Desolate."

Rejoicing and an expression of gratitude towards G-d for victory over our enemies as well as a recognition of the costs of trampling our foes characterize this week’s reading.

In biblical times, as in our own, enemies are very real. The thought that someone or something “out there” can seek our destruction can be frightening, even paralyzing. All one needs to do is read the headlines to see stories of tragedy from natural events, violence fueled by hatred, greed, or intolerance. In our everyday lives the enemy can be very private, secret, and lethal.

Let me tell you a story of one person’s struggle with his enemies.

David first came to us as a drunk doomed to failure. He had been through countless detoxification facilities and treatment programs. He would sober up briefly, for about two or three weeks, then relapse with crack cocaine and alcohol. He was on intimate terms with his drug dealers. Most likely he was one of their best and most reliable customers.

David’s fall from grace had been a journey.

I guess what drew my attention to him to me initially was that we shared a passion for photography. He had seen some of my photographs in my office, and we began to talk about them. He told me that at one point of his life, he had also worked in the human services field as a case manager. Here was a kindred spirit.

He was articulate and, when he was sober, a soft spoken, kind soul. His wife of more than two decades had stood by him through good times and bad. The good times had been great: years of sobriety, steady employment, happy memories with a woman he adored. But something was there always lurking in the background. There was this low level sadness in his life that would never go away.

David met with one of our best psychiatrists. He prescribed some medications, but to no avail. Our team decision was to work with him on engaging in 12-step programs and to continue working with groups, individual, and couples counseling. Meanwhile, David continued his pattern of brief sobriety, detoxification, and return to treatment. He found a very strong sponsor in AA, someone who had met him in our program and who had several years of sobriety under his belt. This is a person who works a very spiritual program and has a deep understanding of the struggle of getting sober.

Following his last relapse, after he threatened the woman he loved, his sponsor helped him one last detoxification and then enter a long-term treatment program through the Salvation Army.

David returned to us with six months of sobriety. He was ready now to begin doing battle with his demons. He got honest about his childhood. Prior to this he had never been willing to talk about his childhood. He shared with me the horror that had been his life when he was young. At age of five he had been taken away from his mother, abducted by his father. His witnessed his father come home drunk regularly and beat his stepmother. David was told how worthless he was, threatened and beaten. Then his father suddenly died, and David was faced with making his way in the world.

David’s enemies were inside of him. They were the echoes of his past haunting him. When he was on the verge of success—getting a new job, completing a treatment episode, finishing a training program—he relapsed: drank, smoked crack cocaine, and got arrested.

He was now attending 12-step meetings and his wife’s church. He agreed, reluctantly, to attend our Men’s Trauma and Recovery group. Meeting weekly with other men who had been through awful experiences, David began to speak about the unspeakable. He told his story to others in small pieces and received attention, compassion, and understanding from his brothers. At the same time in the rooms of Alcoholic’s Anonymous and in his church he began to develop relationships with people who genuinely cared for him. He grew to be good friends with his pastor and was being considered for a position as an elder in the church.

But the enemy never sleeps.

About 18 months ago, David began to experience excruciating gut pain. Multiple trips to the emergency department were futile. The pain was apparently
In the past David would have used this as an excuse. “See, my father was right, I am messed up!” He would be drunk and high on cocaine. This time was different. David chose to stand his ground and fight. He underwent chemotherapy, attended groups for support, and continued his close ties with his church.

He and I have had long conversations about staying focused on today…the slogan from AA about “one day at a time” took on a new and deeper meaning. Every day had become precious to David. Every moment with his wife a blessing.

In Isaiah, we are told that G-d makes a suggestion of the steps to this journey:

“The Lord has sworn by his right hand, by his mighty arm: Nevermore will I give your new grain To your enemies for food, Nor shall foreigners drink the new wine For which you have labored. But those who harvest it shall eat it And give praise to the Lord; And those who gather it shall drink it In my sacred courts. (Isaiah 62: 8–9)

David’s journey, our journey, is from feeling and believing that we are “hopeless”—that no matter what, nothing can help us triumph over our “enemies”—to feeling a sense of hope, a belief that somehow we can be victorious. We are not alone in the struggle.

But, how do we do this?

I only wish that I could flip a switch, get the Hope APP on my iPhone, push the right button or tab, and miracle of miracles, I have Hope!

But we know from our life experiences, this just is not the case. To move from anger, despair and hopelessness to serenity, gratitude, and hope requires us to travel through the process of acceptance and surrender.

The members of Alcoholics Anonymous make a suggestion of the steps to this journey:

“We admitted that we were powerless…and our lives had become unmanageable.” What are we powerless over? In a word…our enemies…whatever that may be… addiction, disease, natural disasters, the actions of others.

“We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.” Taking a leap of faith, that someone or something outside of me…something bigger, greater and grander than I can get rid of this mishugas in my life.

And, “We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of G-d, as we understood him.” Here’s the crunch. Its not enough to just believe. We have to trust that G-d will help, that we will be held, and cared for.

Father Joseph Martin ran a treatment center outside of Baltimore. As a young counselor I had the privilege of hearing him speak while I was in Richmond, Virginia. He described the first three steps of the Twelve Steps of AA this way:

Step One … “I can’t handle it.”
Step Two… “I believe someone or something can help.”
Step Three… “I’m going to let G-d help.”

So, how do I move from believing in G-d to letting G-d into my life?

David teaches me that this involves letting other people care about me. More importantly, I believe that they do care. I am not alone in the struggle. The other half is that I show that I care about others. They are not alone in their struggle. My hope for recovery comes from being with and comes through other people. Each day is precious. Each day holds promise, renewed.

I explain HOPE to clients as Having Opportunities Presented Everyday… Our days are a stream of choices and opportunities. Have I done the “right thing”? What is the right thing? What is the loving and caring thing to do or say? If I have genuinely turned my will and life over to the CARE of G-d – what does that look like? How do I let others in? How do I show care to others so they know that they are not alone?

My will is “I want what I want…and I want it NOW!” This includes all sorts of stuff… things like toys, money, who my relationships are with, how can I move forward in my career or my life. It’s all about me: Ego, satisfying myself, my wants and needs.

This is a daily struggle; so I make a conscious decision—a prayer—“G-d’s will not my will.” Then the events in my life will play out accordingly. I look around and remind myself of what I am grateful for: a loving wife, family, and friends, ample food and shelter. For David it is time with his wife and having loving friends. Each of us needs to find the answer: to take an inventory of our lives daily and express gratitude.

Let me quote Father Martin again: “We have to put feet on our prayers.” The act of turning our will and our life over to Care involves action, not just prayer. This is how we build Hope: by demonstrating care for ourselves, accepting and giving care to others.

Isaiah directs us:

“I will recount the kind acts of the Lord,
The praises of the Lord –
For all that the Lord has wrought for us,
The vast bounty to the House of Israel
That be bestowed upon them
According to His mercy and His great kindness.

If we do the work, then the promise is

Nevermore shall you be called “Forsaken,”
Nor shall your land be called “Desolate.”

Thank you.
The Photography of Peter Walker: Exhibition on Main Street

by Linda Pinn

“In the world of the visual arts, Peter Walker’s photographs celebrate perfection of image, balance, and form. His eye is flawless. In my long life of observing such things, with the exception of George Balanchine, I have known no other artist with his gift.” So writes David Hays in his appraisal of our next Main Street Gallery artist.

Peter comes across as a man larger than life. His smile is constant and fills his whole being with explosive delight. His sense of humor is clever, delightful, and often at his own expense; his laughter joyous and frequent; and his welcome warm and wholehearted.

Peter Walker is an actor, singer, lyricist, and photographer. He has played the stages of the world from Asia to Europe and in every major city in North America. While under contract to Warner Brothers, he worked for ten years in Hollywood doing film, theater, and TV (everything from “The Twilight Zone” to “Perry Mason” and “Colombo” to Alfred Hitchcock Presents”). Ironically, one of his best known roles was Madison Avenue’s Marlboro Man.” He worked for twenty-five years doing Broadway and Off Broadway plays and musicals, including two national tours, Hello Dolly and Into The Woods.

Peter enjoyed a forty year collaboration of writing musicals with fellow actor and composer, Max Showalter. Harrigan N’ Hart, for which Walker wrote the lyrics, opened Goodspeed at Chester’s Norma Terris Theater in East Haddam. In his last production in New York, Walker co-starred with the beloved Imogene Coca in My Old Friends for which he received a Drama Desk Nomination as Outstanding Actor in a Musical.

While visiting with Showalter in Chester, Peter was hiking with Showalter’s Boston Terrier, Bessie, when he stumbled upon a small house for sale on Old Depot Road. Responding to what he swears was a cry from the house, “If you don’t buy me you’ll be sorry as hell!” Walker purchased the home and moved in with his trusted friend and foxhole-buddy on the battlefields of life, Jess Maghan.

Still performing occasionally at the Goodspeed, Eugene O’Neil Theater Center, and Ivoryton Playhouse, Peter spends his time reconfiguring his sculptures (yes he does that too), traveling, and photographing exotic locales such as Nepal, India, the Republic of Georgia, Singapore and Africa. The Masai are so beautiful in their generosity of spirit, and their Serengeti has got to be the most incredible God-made place on the planet. The Tanzanians believe it is the original Garden of Eden...and they just may be right,” Walker reflects.

Walker lives his life with grace, zest and fervor,” writes Jess, a retired university professor. In the end he believes it all boils down to this: For every privilege there’s a responsibility...Never let education get in the way of learning...Avoid people who have lost their capacity for enthusiasm. That is quintessential Peter Walker, and how he continues to live his life to the fullest,” concludes Jess.

Peter Walker’s photography exhibit will be on view in the CBSRZ Main Street Gallery from mid-November, 2013 through January, 2014 and is open to the public Monday–Friday, 10AM–3PM (no charge). Although the photographs are not for sale, Peter says that he will consider requests.
Covering the Jewish People
One Keppie at a Time
By Bruce Josephy

As a new member of the Union for Reform Judaism Board, I had an idea: make the Sol LeWitt yarmulke the official yarmulke for the upcoming URJ Biennial, December 11–15, in San Diego.

The URJ Biennial is described as bringing together “5,000 Jewish lay leaders and professionals, youth, congregants, and clergy to learn, pray, share ideas, and make decisions about the future of Jewish life.”

What better target market for LeWitt yarmulke sales?

Carol LeWitt loved the idea, as did Michael Price, who has served on the URJ Board for a number of years and is chair of the URJ Development Committee.

The yarmulke will have special imprinting for the Biennial and will be offered to attendees for pre-order and onsite during the Biennial.

The LeWitt yarmulke has covered over 1,100 heads so far. And that’s just the beginning.

With 13 million Jews in the world, that leaves another 12,998,900 keppies for the LeWitt yarmulke still to cover. It’s a revenue stream for CBSRZ that could last another 5774 years.

Safe Futures Benefit Concert

This late afternoon concert features Save the Train, a well-known group who has entertained the Shoreline for over 40 years with their renditions of folk music, Irish tunes, and zany ballads. They clearly enjoy their music and you will too! The band features Norm Rutty (husband of Deb) on twelve-string guitar, penny whistle, and minstrel bones, Dave Tlezzi on bass, Roger Goodnow on guitar, banjo, and mandolin, and their newest member, Ted Phillips, on guitar, banjo, and mandolin. Their lively and energetic performances entertain adults and children alike.

This concert is sponsored by the eight CBSRZ women (Pamela Crair, Sandee Gelven, Sandy Herzog, Polly Kipp, Ellen Nodelman, Linda Rigono, Deborah Rutty, and Johanna Schaefer) who are preparing for their group B’not Mitzvot this coming January. As their Mitzvah Project, the proceeds from the concert will be donated to Safe Futures, a New London-based organization which is dedicated to helping women and families who are affected by domestic violence. Proceeds from the concert will benefit their Violence is Preventable Education Programs.

The benefit will be held at the synagogue on December 1. Tickets are $15.00, sold at the door; children ages 12 years old and younger are free of charge. Refreshments will be served. Call Wendy to reserve your advance tickets at 860-526-8920.
Remembering Howard Kaplan

Editor’s Note: Howard Kaplan, a member of our congregation since 1972, died on September 28. If you did not know him personally, you certainly know what his challah tastes like. He made it for us countless times. And he supported the congregation in many other ways. The founder of Howard’s Bread drew hundreds of mourners to his funeral service. What follows is the eulogy delivered by Lary Bloom.

Fifteen years ago, on a congregational trip to Israel, Howard Kaplan, Si Taubman, and I spent a lot of time together. There were nights when we were on our own for dinner. There, in the hot town of Jerusalem, the three amigos. This circumstance set up one of the most intense challenges in tourism history. Si, who considered any food that is green to be an alien substance, was on a perpetual hunt for cholent, the traditional meat preparation that cooks for about four months and tastes like it. Howard, on the other hand, believed that every day presents an opportunity for culinary adventure and discovery. It was my job to mediate the meal. As the three of us explored the streets of the old city looking for a place to eat that would accommodate both tastes I ran ahead to check menus in the windows. It was a fool’s errand of course. Howard tried his best to teach Si there is such a thing in this world as wonderful food, but, alas, these efforts met defeat.

Not so when Howard was entirely in charge. And he was in charge in the days he was host at his home to the Chester bocce club. We met every other Tuesday night, and Howard often prepared delicacies to go along with the main point of the night: the case of Heineken that we had to consume. In all the years we did this, one night stands out, a night that showed Howard’s generous heart.

It was in 1995, and Special Olympics World Games were being held in New Haven. Howard invited the bocce team of the island of Antigua to join our Tuesday night crowd. These young people were instantly huggable. They were so grateful to be there, and to meet real Americans, if Chesterites can be called real Americans, and to be a part of it. They were not great bocce players, and that was fortunate for Howard, who, even when he was playing special Olympic athletes who could hardly walk, wanted to win. He did win that night. But that night we all won.

Later that summer, the island of Antigua was devastated by a Hurricane. There was great property destruction and loss of life. Our new bocce friends survived it, but they needed help. Howard helped organize a fundraising effort that helped them recover. Perhaps then, in the greater scheme of worldly and theological things, his invitation for a game of bocce had been no accident.

It is likely no accident that Howard died at the very moment our Torah study group, the Holy Scrollers, was discussing the creation of the earth. One of the Torah commentaries in our book notes that God was happy with the results, even the idea of the inevitability of death. Knowing our days are numbered invests our deeds and choices with greater significance. Although the death of someone we love is searingly painful, we can recognize that a world in which people die and new souls are born offers the promise of renewal and improvement more than a world in which the original people live forever.

Even so, Howard left an admirable legacy. I say this not only as his friend but as a fellow member of his synagogue. What he gave to this place in time, effort, resources, and love will be hard to replicate. We gratefully accept and cherish what Howard Kaplan gave us: a lot more than bread alone, delicious though it was.
Some Spell it Chanukah, Some Spell it Hanukkah

Ten interesting facts about Chanukah that you may not have known:

1. Chanukah is not the right time to start a diet! In Israel, about 17.5 million oil donuts (sufganiyot) are eaten during this holiday!

2. People have spent a lot of time on the fact that Chanukah and Thanksgiving overlap this year. Just google it and see how many sites there are that deal with it. Amazing!

3. The word Chanukah means dedication. That’s what it takes to launch a war against a superpower. Remember, the Maccabees were just a small tribe of Yeshiva bochers.

4. Spinning the dreidel was originally done by students who were studying Torah. When the Greek soldiers would raid a home, the students would whip out the dreidel and start to play.

5. Each menorah burns through 44 candles in total over the 8 nights of Chanukah. That’s a lot of light!

6. The candles used for lighting the Chanukah candelabrum are supposed to burn for at least half an hour after the stars come out.

7. The principle event of the holiday, the battle between the Maccabees and the Greeks, is post-Biblical. The Chanukah story is not written about in the Torah. It happened hundreds of years after the Torah is believed to have been given to the Jewish people, on Mount Sinai.

8. It is a misnomer to call the nine-branched candelabrum used on Chanukah a menorah. The correct name is chanukiah. The menorah has only seven branches.

9. Chanukah begins four days before the new moon, which is the darkest night of the month of Kislev. The winter solstice, the longest and darkest day of the year, occurs in Kislev. Like the celebrations of many other faiths, the Jewish holiday of Chanukah brings light in the darkest time of the year.

10. Ingredients you can use to fill your sufganiyot, other than jelly: marshmallow crème, dulce de leche, chai sufganiyot with orange pumpkin buttercream, apple cider sufganiyot with salted caramel, PB&J, peaches and cream.

THE NOVEMBER DILEMMA…WHAT TO DO WITH THAT LEFT OVER PIE? Bring it to CBSRZ on Friday, 11/29, yes…the day after Thanksgiving…to celebrate Chanukah! Can you imagine…tables laden with cherry pie, pumpkin pie, apple pie, laktes, and sufganiyot (donuts or fried dough with sugar and honey). Thank goodness for stretch pants! Of course, we will have services first, so join us at 7:30 for Shabbat and Chanukah service as Rabbi Goldenberg, Belinda and Meg Gister on the piano lead us in the singing of our favorite traditional songs.

Don’t forget to bring your chanukiah (see #8 in Chanukah facts), your left over pie, freshly made laktes, or other desserts. CBSRZ will supply the apple sauce and sour cream. We will also make sufganiyot to be enjoyed by all!

Other Chanukah Happenings…..

• November 24th, 9:30 am. Rabbi will hold a program for parents entitled, “Inspiring Ways to Celebrate Chanukah”. The discussion will include the many ways to celebrate this holiday and the relevant values that can be incorporated into old and new family traditions.

• November 24th, 11:00 am – noon. Religious School celebration of Chanukah! Games, crafts, oily food!

• Latke University – This year’s course will include the art of making latkes ahead of time and freezing them. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our main chefs will not be available on Nov. 29th. But don’t fear; the latkes will still be made! Date and time to be announced in the weekly e-mails.

We hope that you and your family are able to join us as we celebrate Chanukah/Hanukah/Hanukkah at CBSRZ on Friday evening, November 29th. However you spell it!
programs were held during the holidays in lieu of certain religious school days. The following are two parents’ perspectives on this new experiment:

From Beth Mercier:
My family enjoyed the recent Sukkot and Simchat Torah religious school programs. The school year is back in swing and with September being so busy, the mid-week celebrations gave us a chance to enjoy the fun Jewish holidays. Our boys, Joe and Ben, attended the synagogue’s religious education program. Joe didn’t mind substituting the festivities for his regular 4th grade Wednesday class. I asked the boys to tell me their three most favorite things about Sukkot, and they said “the food, the food and the food!” They were all smiles: eating outside, proudly showing off their Sukkah decorations, and running around the playground with their friends. As for Simchat Torah, I asked the boys again, “what did you enjoy most?” “The food, the food and the food!” But the marching around with the flags and Torahs inside and outside the Temple and the Klezmer band weren’t

Observations on Recent Changes to Religious School Calendar

Editor’s Note: Last Spring the CBSRZ Education committee made some changes to the 2013-2014 School calendar, based on parent feedback, to allow more family participation. Family education

Chanukah at CBSRZ
Religious School: All are Welcome

On Sunday, November 24 the Religious School will hold its Chanukah Celebration. At 9:30, Rabbi G. will lead a program for Parents (open to all congregants) on the topic of “Inspiring Ways to Celebrate Chanukah.” Discussion will include the many ways to celebrate this holiday and the relevant values that can be incorporated into old and new family traditions.

Following the Program, at 11:00, all will gather together to enjoy latkes, bimeulos, Chanukah arts and crafts, and dreidl games until noon.

Family and Religious School Calendar

November

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunday Session Breakfast with the Rabbi (Grades K/1) Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wednesday Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2nd Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>No School: Classes come on the 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wednesday Session</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Sunday Session Community Gathering (led by Grades 2/3)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Wednesday Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sunday Session Parent Chanukah Program Gesher &amp; Confirmation</td>
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December

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No School: Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday Session</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Sunday Session Breakfast with the Rabbi (Grades 2-3) Confirmation</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Wednesday Session</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday Session Gesher &amp; Confirmation</td>
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<td>Wednesday Session</td>
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<td>No School: Holiday Break</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>No School: Holiday Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>No School: Holiday Break</td>
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Happy Birthday!
Yom huledet sameach!

November 2013

1st Alex Infeld
15th Sarah Conley
21st Morgan Corpuel
24th Erin Brennan

December 2013

7th Rachel Cohen
13th Jeremy Evans
14th Samuel Applegate
18th Annika Liss
19th Matthew Cohen
28th Casey Elkin

First day of Religious School
far behind. All in all, the holidays were a fun experience, and we have to say that CBSRZ has some terrific cooks!!!

**From Christine Dokko:**

As a family from Guilford, we were relieved to learn that there were no Wednesday religious school classes for our Kitah Dalet son Noah in the busy, busy month of September. Instead, twice-a-week students were asked to come to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services early in September, and Sukkot and Simchat Torah services later in the month. We attended all those services last year, when our kids only had Sunday classes, but this year, it would have been pretty hard to get to them on top of Wednesdays.

Sukkot was on a Friday night, and we were lucky to have David’s mother, Andrea Stein, with us. It was the usual scramble to leave the house with the kids, and by the time we arrived, the buffet was covered with dishes and the sukkah filled with revelers. (About the sukkah: it was amazing. Andrea took a picture for her synagogue.) Our Kitah Bet son, Evan eagerly led us into the sukkah to show us the gourd bird he made in religious school, while Noah ran off to the playground to join the other kids. At the service, the congregation welcomed a bima-ful of new members. Other than having to leave before eating Andrea’s lemon cake, it was a good night.

Simchat Torah, falling on a Wednesday night, was a little harder to get to, but also worth the trip. We sang and danced with the Torahs, inside and outside. We witnessed the consecration of the children new to the religious school. We carefully unrolled a Torah and encircled the congregation’s children. Kitah Hey read the beginning of Genesis. The kids followed Rabbi Goldenberg like a flock of ducklings as she led them on a quick trip around the Torah.

Today, we asked our kids what they thought of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Noah said he liked them because they were happy holidays. Evan said he liked the singing and being able to sit down during services. Even though September brought a lot of trips to temple (eleven, but who’s counting), the kids didn’t really complain, and when we got there, all of us felt glad that we made the effort. In a way, the intensity of the experience was a good jump start to the year. After a summer of being away, we got reacquainted with other members very quickly. And we felt at home at temple again.

Lives are busy. No one has time to do everything they want, not even children, maybe especially not children. We were glad to experience the holidays as a family at temple, and we think it was enriching to our children to see they were part of a larger community made up of all ages. Missing the Wednesday classes was a trade-off, but we’re thankful for it.

**Bat Mitzvah of Casey Elkin**

**Date:** Saturday, December 28

**Torah Portion:** Va-’era

**Please tell the congregation a little about yourself.**

I am in the 8th grade. I like to paint, dance (my favorite is modern and contemporary dance) and do gymnastics. I also like to play lacrosse. My favorite subjects are reading and writing, but I like science a lot and math (but it is pretty difficult). I am the last student in my Olim class to become a bat mitzvah. My 13th birthday is Dec 28!

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Dear Ms. Price,

I would like to thank you personally for my summer at Crane Lake. This summer at camp was truly a wonderful experience for me, both as a 14-year-old and as a Jew. At camp I had the chance to bond with my bunkmates and counselors, and make connections that will last a lifetime. Without the help of the congregation I would never have been able to have the summer of my life.

Many thanks,
Max

Dear Congregants of CBSRZ,

My name is Lili Kleinberg, and I attended Eisner Camp for the first time this summer. It was a truly unforgettable experience, and I believe I gained a lot from it. I had never gone to sleep-away camp before, and I was very nervous. What if I made no friends, what if I got lost, what if I didn’t like the food? There were so many things I was unsure about. I am pleased to say, however, that the minute I got there I received a warm welcome from the counselors, who did their best to make sure I felt at home. By the first day I knew that I wasn’t going to go through camp alone, I would have help with whatever I needed from counselors and returning campers alike.

I also think that being at camp helped me develop more of a Jewish identity, I learned new prayers and hymns, I took Kesher classes, I learned about Jewish values, and so much more. Now I know more about Israel, and the actual language of Hebrew, thanks to the variety of different Gesher courses. I will be able to bring this learning back to CBSRZ and share it with my peers.

Camp didn’t help only my Jewish identity but also my overall personality. Before camp I was shy, quiet, and dependent on others. I became so much more independent and learned to come out of my shell a little. I did my best to make friends, and I learned to advocate for myself. I am so grateful that Ms. Jo-Ann Price and the camp scholarship committee made it possible for me to have this life-changing experience! Many, many thanks!

Sincerely,
Lili Kleinberg
Dear Jo-Ann Price and Congregants of CBRZ,

Thank you so much for the scholarship to attend Crane Lake Camp! Camp was the best! I had a great time and I did lots of swimming in the lake and the pool. I got to jump off the “wibbit” a huge inflatable in the middle of the lake! I had the chance to sail and kayak and paddle board! I went zip lining and did the low ropes course where I learned to work as part of a team.

Playing with the animals was lots of fun. There were puppies and llamas! Once I even picked up a chicken! I volunteered at the NY state food bank for a day and got to see how they prepare and distribute food that has been donated. On trip day we went to Lake Compounce. It was super fun! I went on roller coasters that went upside down!

There was t’fillah every morning and Limud every day. And the last week of camp my Unit led the Shabbat services. I was in song group! I really liked being part of a Jewish experience! I learned some new Hebrew words, the bunk next to mine had a counselor from Israel, and one day we built the city of Jerusalem out of Legos!

The last week of camp there was Maccabia! It is color war. There were lots of contests between the two teams, and you get to have lots of fun in your Unit while doing it. The best part of camp was meeting new friends and doing things together with them. The counselors were awesome! I can’t wait to go back next year!

Sincerely,
Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones & Family

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group is off to a great start and we are looking forward to having another fantastic year.

Last month we kicked off the year with an afternoon at Flight, an indoor Trampoline Park in New Britain, with 13 teens. It was a fun afternoon as we jumped on over 50 connected trampolines, played trampoline dodge ball, jumped off of launching decks of different levels, and did tricks into the foam pit. It was definitely a fun and tiring day!

This year again, we have been invited by JTConnect (Jewish Teen Learning Connection) of West Hartford to participate in programs when we are able to. There is a trip to NYC being planned on Sunday, November 10. Highlights of the day will include: Eldridge Street Synagogue, walking tour of the Lower East Side, kosher lunch and dinner, 9/11 Memorial, and Times Square. Teens will travel to and from NYC by train. JTConnect will also be holding their second Annual Chanukah Party Bus Scavenger Hunt on Saturday night, December 14. Teens will be in teams and travel around West Hartford in style while learning about Chanukah through a specially designed scavenger hunt. We have also been invited to participate in the JT-Cares program, a monthly Social Action program. Specific details will be emailed out as they become available.

Calling 10th–12th Graders! Join hundreds of other Jewish teens from all over the country on Capitol Hill in March! The L’Taken Social Justice Seminar will take place March 7–10 in Washington, DC. In partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), teens will have the opportunity to engage in our political process as they share their views on social justice topics with decision makers on Capitol Hill. During the program we will visit the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Mall, Havdallah at the Jefferson Memorial and much more! Available spaces are limited!

Also for 10th–12th graders is March of the Living. Scholarships are available for both NFTY programs, check out www.nftyisrael.org. If you are not on our email list yet, please contact me.

Lastly, we are very excited about our New Youth Lounge! We are planning on launching our new space in December. At a recent youth group meeting, our teens came up with a wish list: couch(es), flat screen tv, gaming system, computer, carpet, mini fridge with lock. If you possibly have any of these items and would like to donate them to the Youth Lounge, please be in touch. Watch for pictures of our new space coming in a future Whole Megillah issue!

It is also never too late to get involved with Youth Group. If I haven’t met you yet, I hope you will give our Youth Group a try and hope to meet you soon. If you are not on our email list yet, and you are an 8th–12th grader or a parent of an 8th–12th grader, send me an email at marckdf@aol.com to be added to our list. If you have any questions about any of the programs mentioned above, please contact me.

Marc Fink, Youth Advisor
PICTURE GALLERY

Danny Kleiman and his sister Michele Kleiman at a party celebrating the exhibition of his paintings on Main Street.

Congregation members disembarking from the Chester ferry after Tashlich.

Our beautifully decorated Sukkah.
Carrying the torah scroll at Simchat Torah

Paula Retsky

Paula Retsky

Rabbi Goldenberg surrounded by young Torah scholars and the unfurled scroll during Simchat Torah.

Deborah Rutty

Dan Pardo, who delighted his audience at the celebration of Mason & Hamlin’s 100th birthday.

Paula Retsky

Paula Retsky

Hostess Suzanne Levine with Miriam Swidler and an elegant Stephen Davis at Mason & Hamlin’s 100th.

Paula Retsky

Shofar apprentice Sara Gelven
The Social Action Committee will continue themes we supported last year with our programming: hunger, homelessness, health, children’s rights, prison reform, and tolerance. Within these areas, there are new projects and programs about which we are very excited. We welcome — and need — support from the entire congregation to make these programs a success. Please contact andy@andrewschatz.com to volunteer for any projects, or if you have an idea for another project.

**Focus On Hunger**
This coming year, as in previous years, SAC will focus on addressing hunger within our community. Activities include the food drive donation and sponsoring soup kitchens in both Chester and Deep River for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries, the CBSRZ community garden, and raising money for MAZON. In addition, members of the SAC are working with SSKP and other community organizations on a new task force to address issues of hunger and self-sufficiency with research, publicity, and specific policy initiatives on the local and statewide levels. These community activities can help to alleviate this growing problem, which should not persist in this country, and certainly not in our region. Hunger was nearly eliminated in the United States in the late 1970s and should be again.

**Health Care**
We continue to sponsor two Red Cross blood drives at CBSRZ each year, staffed in part by CBSRZ volunteers. The first blood drive will be on December 16. This event raises blood for the blood bank and awareness of this critical need throughout our area.

SAC continues to distribute important information on the federal Affordable Healthcare Act and health exchanges. This year, we are looking at projects in two additional areas of health: mental health and the environment. Mental health programs, which have been severely underfunded, received renewed policy focus last year following the repeated gun violence throughout the country by persons with a history of mental illness. SAC team leaders plan to look at this issue from personal, community, and policy perspectives. Similarly, we are considering environmental action with a very local focus — including orchards and bird sanctuaries on CBSRZ property — and policy issues which are getting more attention in Connecticut and throughout the world, including food initiatives relating to genetically modified organisms. More to follow.

**Children’s Rights**
SAC continues its role in collecting and providing essentials such as clothing, toys, and books directly to children and various area schools. On the policy front, following proposals outlined by speakers SAC brought to CBSRZ last year, we have also been involved in urging legislation to change the sentencing guidelines for juvenile defenders, which did not pass in the last session of the legislature but can be accomplished this year.

**Prison Reform**
Following a year in which SAC presented several programs on prison reform issues, we will continue to work for policy changes in this area, including sentencing laws, issues in the women’s prison in Niantic, and the overuse of solitary confinement, which has been shown to create mental health issues within the prisons.

**Legislative Advocacy**
Although SAC continues to focus on many local individuals who need food, housing, and healthcare, and upon the organizations providing that assistance, we also continue to face many issues that can best be addressed through changes to laws and policies on a local, state, or national level. SAC was successful last year in addressing gun control issues and in encouraging action by other groups, including United Action of Connecticut, an organization of more than ten faith congregations (of which CBSRZ is the only Jewish community). As the broad geographic reach of the CBSRZ congregation permits a correspondingly broad impact in these areas, we will continue to seek to influence change where appropriate, and we hope to provide the opportunity and resources to allow many CBSRZ congregants to join in those efforts.

**Look for new SAC webpages on CBSRZ website**
New pages will contain the yearly calendar of activities along with brief descriptions of all initiatives. This will bring more detailed information to people who visit the website encouraging involvement and volunteerism. Please visit: http://www.cbsrz.org/index.php?page=social-action
Help Us Build A House on November 16

The Social Action Committee is recruiting ten to twelve congregants to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, November 16, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. We will be helping to build a house for a family in Middletown. Willing workers of all skill levels are needed. On-the-job training is available and, if you already have building skills, you might even be asked to lead a team.

Rabbi Goldenberg has given her approval for this Shabbat mitzvah.

Volunteers are asked to contact Wendy at the Temple or Debby Trautman, who is supervising this Social Action project, at debbytrautmann@comcast.net.

After purchasing property in November 2012 and removing a damaged structure, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is currently building its twelfth house in Middlesex County with a Habitat Partner Family. The three bedroom house is being constructed to full Energy Star standards and is designed to blend in with the existing homes on Liberty Street and the surrounding area.

The house will be fully accessible on the first floor with master bedroom, bath, laundry room, kitchen, and living area configured for easy access. The house design was developed with the assistance of Architecture for Humanity, a National non-profit agency committed to assisting agencies and organizations through the volunteer work of professional architects throughout the world.

As partners with Middlesex Habitat, the homeowners are participating in the construction of their home, completing at least 400 hours of “sweat equity” in construction and with other Habitat for Humanity activities. Construction, for which over 300 volunteers have helped, is expected to be completed in late fall.

Help us build it!

CBSRZ High Holiday Food Drive a Ton of Success

Once again, the CBSRZ High Holiday food drive was a resounding success, delivering 2,630 pounds of food to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries in Old Saybrook on September 16, the day following the Yom Kippur weekend. Jeannie Abrahamson of Old Saybrook, who volunteers at the SSKP food storage facility, said that the CBSRZ delivery each year is the largest she has seen, commenting that when the CBSRZ delivery arrived last year, her first day volunteering, she was concerned with the ability of the volunteers to handle all the bags and that no other delivery throughout the year came close to that size. Volunteers also noted that the variety of food from CBSRZ was greater than most donations, which would make recipients feel special.

Laura Dean-Frazier, manager of the food pantry for SSKP, noted that SSKP distributes 1,700 pounds of food per week, and the delivery helped restock the shelves of needed staples.

Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee at CBSRZ, who helped unload the truck, thanked all who had contributed to the food drive. Rona Malakoff supervised the food drive, and her son, Mack Goller, and several teenage friends helped load the truck at CBSRZ. Paula Feder, Beth Gottlieb, Johanna Schaefer, and Debby Trautman organized the distribution of bags and materials at CBSRZ. Lary Bloom made a special appeal for congregants to deliver food. And, most importantly, most of the congregation responded overwhelmingly, providing hundreds of bags of food.
Chesed Corner

by Linda Sherman

So often, we think of Chesed in terms of specific things that we do to help members of our congregation who are grieving or in the hospital. But it is also about the unique little things that we each do that can make a big difference in someone else's life. One of the most wonderful things about CBSRZ is how well we already do this, as Evelyn Foster beautifully describes below.

Asked to write about my experience of Chesed, I thought, sure, I'll just look at what I said three years ago in my Rosh ha Shana reflection. At that time I spoke of my recovery from the initial, too long misdiagnosis and consequent amputation of my right hand.

“No new thoughts?” the Universe seemed to ask me. “We can help you with that. We can give you something new to write about.” And so the Universe did.

Four days in the hospital with intravenous antibiotic and the infection was under control. But from the very moment it was known that I was headed to the hospital and frightened, the word spread. The outpouring of support, comfort, prayers, cards, and offers of help began and continued until well after I was home.

I’d driven myself to the hospital and fully intended to drive myself home after discharge. Not gonna happen.

Friends insisted on picking me up. We stopped to see their garden. We picked perfect pears from the tree and sun warmed pears, also perfect, from the ground. We hung out in the art studio, chatted, eventually drove to my house in tandem, where we hung out some more. The day’s main event was no longer the struggle for an appropriate discharge plan. Instead, it was a balmy late summer afternoon spent with friends.

The critical matter in the discharge plan was how to continue intravenous antibiotics. Medicare options were ten days in a nursing home for two doses a day or outpatient infusion center for one dose a day but 30% less effective. Medicare would not cover the cost of a nurse coming to the house at one third the cost of a nursing home.

On the spot, six friends volunteered to learn how to administer the antibiotic infusion, not something I could do with one hand.

I was able to be home with good company. I could enjoy deepening friendships while benefitting from the best available treatment. Many others said they too, would have been happy to join what someone called my SWAT team, so many, probably enough to have a different person for each of the remaining twenty infusions.

The generosity of time and meals, the inconvenience and trouble endured to enable me to be in my own house, the comfort, kindness, caring and support given freely, all gifts of healing for body and spirit.

Three years ago I said, “Never underestimate the value of Chesed and Bikoor Cholim.” It bears repeating. Never underestimate the value of Chesed and Bikoor Cholim. Whatever traditional or alternative, Eastern or Western medicine is able to do, Chesed and Bikoor Cholim will enhance. I thank you all for once again getting me through.

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
September 12, 2013

Board of Directors
Highlights

• Rabbi’s Report: preparation for the High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Working with Davis to create a workshop to discuss global issues like the Syrian situation. Passed first round of grant application with New Haven Federation for the funding of a senior coordinator.
• Financial: too early in season to report but dues are coming in on pace as last few years.
• Endowment is earning at an annualized rate of 4.1%
• The estate of Dick Schneller gave a $50,000 gift which has been put into the endowment.
• The Board approved funds for the President to attend the December Biennial URJ meeting.
• The LeWitt kippa is now the official kippa of URJ, 1,000 have been ordered for the December Biennial meeting. CBSRZ will get $18 per kippa sold for its general fund.
• New Members voted in: Susan and Robert Furman, Killingworth; Teresa and David Fogel, Old Saybrook; Shelley Sprague and Steven Barasz, Killingworth; Paula Retisky, Chester.
• Bloom piano fund raiser brought in about $5,000 of net proceeds for the operating fund.
• Three capital projects were approved with the funds coming from the Capital Fund: $5,000 for retrofitting windows in the School wing (this is a test as there are more windows to be replaced); $1,500 to place a permanent awning over the kitchen door; $3,500 to install an automatic assisted door opener to one set of the main entrance doors.
• Centerpiece discussion was presentation of a white paper on secular staffing at CBSRZ. After a lengthy discussion the President appointed an Ad Hoc committee to report back to the Board at the November 10th Board meeting with specific recommendations regarding secular staffing at CBSRZ.
• Music and More schedule was announced: March 9 Howard Fishman; April 20 Patricia Schuman & David Pittsinger; May 18 Eva Virsik; June 22 Picnic with A Klez Act.
It's a long drive, but Kevin Fox makes it regularly, commuting from his home in Farmington to CBSRZ in Chester. Kevin will be honored at the second Saturday Shabbat service at 10:30 on December 14, not for the mileage he puts on his car, but for his services to the synagogue.

Kevin is one of CBSRZ’s three gabbeis, whose duty it is to ensure the smooth running of services. That can mean anything from handing out prayer books to making sure that those congregants with honors get to the bima at the correct point in the service. (The other two gabbeis are Laura Roman and Henry Resnikoff.) Kevin volunteered for the job and is glad that he did. “I love it,” he says.

In addition, Kevin is CBSRZ’s treasurer, responsible with financial vice president Sandy Seidman, for the ongoing economic health of the synagogue. He is the synagogue’s representative to the Greater New Haven Jewish Foundation, with which CBSRZ invests its funds. According to Kevin, the synagogue’s investment committee decided to place its funds with the foundation some three or four years ago. “So far so good,” he says of the investment results.

For the last two years, Kevin has also been in charge of the CBSRZ golf tournament, played at Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam. “We’ve raised some money but not as much as we should have,” Kevin admits. This year, the tournament will be scheduled on a Sunday. “That’s so people can’t tell me they can’t take a day off from work,” Kevin explains.

Kevin recalls his Bar Mitzvah in the congregation he attended in his native Manchester, New Hampshire. After that he did not attend regularly. “I avoided it,” he says. But years later, Saturday morning Torah study at CBSRZ’s Holy Scrollers drew him back to synagogue. He describes what happened with attendance at Holy Scrollers as an epiphany.

Now he is a fixture at Torah study, a regular attendee who sits always in the same corner seat. He enjoys his role as a listener. “There are people who know so much more than I do,” he says. The area he feels informed and ready to speak on is his workaday world. “I know finance,” he says. Kevin is a financial advisor for Stifel Nicolaus in Avon.

Last year, Kevin chanted Torah for the first time at a CBSRZ Second Saturday Shabbat. He says it was a challenging experience but one that he enjoyed. “I wanted to do it, because I had never done it. It was a good thing, a terrific thing to do,” he recalls. It was so rewarding, in fact, that he will chant again at a Second Saturday service this year.

Kevin describes CBSRZ as a vibrant and encompassing synagogue but adds that its vibrancy depends on the participation of its congregation. “People have to come,” he says.

Those attending the second Saturday service to honor Kevin Fox on December 14 at 10:30 are encouraged to bring a dairy dish for the communal lunch that follows the service. The synagogue provides bagels and assorted toppings.
THE WOMEN OF CBSRZ
by Suzanne Levine

Twenty-four of us met in September to begin building a community of women who are psyched to foster sisterhood and build relationships through a deeper awareness of our spirituality. There are a myriad of opportunities: the Women’s Seder, honoring our all female B’Not Mitzvah class, exploring the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project, assisting the Chesed Committee, and the gift shop, for starters!

Not to worry, there will still be books to read, trips to take, cookbook planning with Lynne Stiles, more social activities and on and on, although, New Rules: know that when you pitch an idea, you basically own it. No more “drive-by” dropping off great ideas. If an idea is truly important to you, do the research; find out what’s involved and bring it up at the next meeting. Tapping into our existing wisdom by building relationships can only strengthen us.

Please, if you did not get a notice of our September meeting and want to be involved, let me know at susahtfd@yahoo.com.

Mason Nicholas Resnikoff, one month old.

Mason Nicholas Resnikoff was born on August 20. He is the grandson of Henry Resnikoff and Daphne Nielsen and the son of Jacob and Dana Resnikoff. Mazel tov!

The Social Action Committee is hoping to get ten to twelve congregants to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity on November 15th. We will be helping build a house in Middletown between the hours of 8:30-3:30. Volunteers are asked to contact Wendy at the Temple.

THE CBSRZ JOB BANK

job bank
noun
a data file or agency for matching persons seeking work with suitable job openings.

Do you need work, or do you need reliable employees? If so, become part of the CBSRZ job bank, which matches employers and qualified people in our congregation to fill key positions. The new head of our job bank is fellow congregant John Hausman. Write him at cbsrz.jobbank@gmail.com. All of the information submitted is treated as confidential.

Bea and Lew Case have recently moved to Massachusetts to be closer to their son Ed. They would love to stay in touch. Bea and Lew’s new address is Stone Institute, 277 Elliot St., Room 4, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464. Please contact Wendy at the CBSRZ office if you would like their phone numbers.

Women Torah scholars, (from left to right) Susan Peck, Suzanne Levine, Meg Magida, and Dana Dixon, pondering the text of Bereshit as the cycle of reading the Torah begins anew. Michael Greenaway and David Hays are in the background.
The Archaeology of Ashkelon
November 3rd, 11AM

Elliot Schwam will share his recent experiences as a team member with the Leon Levy Harvard Expedition in Ashkelon, Israel that has unearthed 3000 years of settlements in this ancient port city from the Canaanites to the Crusaders.

Meet our “New” CBSRZ Members at the next Shabbat Oneg and discover

which one is a portraitist? Is she the one with the camera?
Who is the sculptor? Does he have clay under his fingernails?
The dentist? Is he wearing a mask?
A financial planner? The one with the calculator?

Teresa and David Fogel from Old Saybrook
Susan and Robert Furman from Killingworth
Shelley Sprague and Steven Gay Barasz from Killingworth
Paula Retsky from Chester

And don’t forget our mantra for 5774, the Year of Engagement.

Engage, engage!

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES FILM CLUB

The film club’s inaugural offering, Fill the Void, will be screened at the synagogue on November 17 at 4:30 pm. Three other presentations will follow on Sunday afternoons through the winter months, when we will gather for movies, munchies, and schmoozing.

Fill the Void tells the story of eighteen-year-old Shira, who is the youngest daughter in an Orthodox Hassidic family. She is set to be married to a promising young man when her sister Esther dies in childbirth. The grief that follows overwhelms the family, postponing Shira’s match. When the girls’ mother finds out that Esther’s widower may leave the country with her only granddaughter to marry again, she proposes a match between Shira and her son-in-law. Shira will have to choose between her heart’s wish and her family duty.

The acclaimed film, directed by Rama Burshtein, herself an Israeli Orthodox Jew, won seven Israeli Academy Awards and a Best Actress award for newcomer Hadas Yaron (Shira) at the Venice Film Festival. The movie is in Hebrew with English subtitles.

The Other Son, to be shown on December 22 at 4:00 pm, explores cultural and religious biases through the story of two boys born in the same hospital, one Israeli, the other Palestinian. They’re evacuated during a missile attack, accidentally switched and raised by each other’s families for the next 18 years. The mistake is discovered when the Israeli boy registers for the army which requires DNA testing, revealing his Arabic roots. The families must then decide how to proceed and confront what makes a person who he is. The film is French with English subtitles.

The film club will also present selections on January 19th and February 23rd. For further information or to suggest movies, please contact Gay Clarkson at gaywil2@aol.com or Clo Davis at clo.davis@gmail.com.
We hope you enjoyed the bagels and lox platters at the Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast! Please come and visit us for more delicious food.
Memorial Plaques
Heshvan 28 – Kislev 27, 5774

Jack Banner
Bunie Baron
Esther Baron
Jack Baron
Sam Chiat
Harry Debowsky
Isadore Elson
Jerome Fischbach
Nathen Frankel
Helen Friedman
Rachel Friedman
Rachel Friend
Florence Gage
Harry Glazer
Paul Jaffe
Joseph Katz
Miriam Klar
Florence Klein
Leonard Klein
William Kothchen
Rosamond LeWitt
Joseph Mager
Gladys Oppenheimer
Hyman Peck
Philip Peckernoff
Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Sonia Schulman
Lillian Shaftel
Morris Sigel
Samuel L. Solomon
Lester Sondak
Abraham Sprecher
Benjamin Sprecher
Julius Sterne
Justine V. Tobias
Regina Waldinger
Dora Zelvin

Memorial Plaques
Kislev 28 – Tevet 28, 5774

Evan Fisher
Rose Frankel
Jack Freed
Mary Pinkus Goldstein
Sol Harris
Irving Isaacscon
Herbert Kabatznick
Edna Kleiman
Harold Leichtman
M.C. LeWitt
Jack Lifshitz
Victor Marko
Paula Mazzer
Yetta Michael
Max Peckeroff
Rita Rogers
Minnie Rogow
Jacob Ronor

Yahrzeits
Heshvan 28 – Kislev 27, 5774

William Beckerman – father of Barbara Beckerman
Jerome Boardman – son of Jennie Shapiro
Celia Braunstein – grandmother of Natalie Lindstrom
Barbara Bruno – sister of David Bruno
Frances Fine – mother of Philip Fine
Dora Fink – sister of Hyman Fink
Jerome Fischbach – father of Nancy Fischbach
Erwin Fischer – grandfather of Rachel Hornung
Helen Friedman – sister of Estelle Breslow
Rachel Friend – grandmother of Sheila Friend Byrne
Barry Gilman – cousin of Ellen Gottfried
Helen Gilman – aunt of Ellen Gottfried
Adaline Barbara Goodman – sister of Linda Polomski
Lawrence Gottfried – brother of Ellen Gottfried
Benjamin Greenberg – brother of Penny Robin
Richard Hays – brother of David Hays
Marcus Haberman – father of Horace Haberman
Benjamin Jackoway – father of Rita Fink
Bernard Kalat – brother of Gene Kalat
Joseph Katz – father of Leah Pear
Miriam Klar – wife of David Krar; mother of Iris Klar
Florence Klein – stepmother of Maxine Klein
Leonard Klein – father of Maxine Klein
Rosamond LeWitt – mother of James Cohen
Joseph Mager – brother of Estelle Breslow
Beverly Gilman McCaffrey – cousin of Ellen Gottfried
Eileen Moran – sister-in-law of George Amant
Sylvia Price – mother of Michael Price
Lubah Peck Ruben – beloved parent of Michael Peck
Dorothy Rubin – mother of Matthew Rubin
Rabbi Alexander Schindler – father of Ethel Goller
Lillian Shaftel – mother of Maxine Leichtman
Esther Smith – mother of Susan Furman
Sol Stolowy – grandfather of Ethan Goller
Justine V. Tobias – mother of Justine Redak
Silvia White – mother-in-law of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Jerry Wolfe – father of Lynne Triebel
Olive Wright – mother of Doris Helbling

Yahrzeits
Kislev 28 – Tevet 28, 5774

Eleanor Adler – mother of Jacqueline Michael
Lawrence Joel Adler – brother of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Samuel Adler – father of Jacqueline Michael
Sylvia Baker – mother of Stu Baker
Norman Bass – father of Susan Fine
Pearl Bass – mother of Susan Fine
Howard Beckerman – brother of Barbara Beckerman
Rosella Berkon – grandmother of rebbecca Blake
Alvin Bielot – father of Doreen Joslow
Gilda Biener – cousin of Eve Ber
Breindel Bloch – grandmother of Michael Craig
Bella Breslow – mother-in-law of Estelle Breslow
Max Case – father of Lewis Case
David Cirnuk – grandfather of Ellen Friedman
Leroy Averill Cohen – father of Hila Rosen
Gertrude Covielle – grandmother of Lynn Covielle
Hymon Farber – father of Beverly Glassman
Irving S. Frum – father of Miriam Gardner-Frum
Herb Golden – uncle of Leslie Krumholz
Arthur Goldstein – father of Harvey Goldstein
Mary Pinkus Goldstein – mother of Jackie Hastings
Ethel Goodman – mother of Linda Polomski
Victor Gottfried – father of Corinne Weber
Max Guttmann – father of Evelyn Foster
Victor Heller – father of Betty Gilman
Constance Heatlie – sister of Ellen Nodelman
Alanna Hitzschmann – friend of Marilyn and Gene Kalat
Hanna Issner – grandmother of Marlene Scharf; great-grandmother of Janet Scharr Goebg
Beth Kopiloff – mother of Marilyn Kalet
Karen Kaufmann – mother of Janie Pittendrig
Edna Kleiman – wife of Howard Kleiman; mother of Michele Kleiman
Howard Kurtzberg – mother of Howard Kurszberg
Harold Leichtman – father-in-law of Maxine Leichtman
Dolores Malakoff – mother of Rona Malakoff
Ann Marcus – mother of Natalie Lindstrom; grandmother of Lauren & Meg Gister
Yetta Michael – mother-in-law of Jacqueline Michael
Muriel Moran – mother of Donna Moran
Dr. Tage Nielsen – father of Daphne Nielsen
Laurette Pinn – mother of Ed Pinn
Israel Resnikoff – father of Henry Resnikoff
Rita Rogers – wife of Samuel Rogers
Esther Schaffer – mother of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Georganne Schrepeferman – mother of Lisanne Kaplan
Irving Schwenksky – father of John and Peter Schwenksky
Rayann Seidman – wife of Sandy Seidman
Marc Sherman – brother of Linda Pinn
Cynthia Sheffman – wife of Irving Shiffman
Frances Siegel – grandmother of James Cohen
Rose Stolowy – mother of Ethan Goller
Rev. Robert Trautmann – father of Bob Trautmann
Victor Udoff – father of Erica Udoff
Yvonne Young – friend of Bob & Debbi Trautmann
Gilbert Ziff – brother of Barbara Edelson

Mi SheBeirach List
Heshvan 28 – Kislev 27, 5774

Linda Thal
Marilyn Buel
Jo Watunabe
Louise Ross
Eileen Ilberman
Jill Nadler
Leonard Nodelman
Michelle Palmer
Noah Lourie-Mosher
Jeffrey Rosenberg
Michael Zemmel
Regan Konecky
Robb Prchal
Joyce Krempel
Jackie Michael
Joel Pear
Pat Smith
Gene Kalat

Conclusions
Our heartfelt condolences are extended to:

Tyler Thorpe, Jeannette Ickovics and Sam and Ethan Thorpe on the recent loss of Tyler’s father, Charles Thorpe.

Pauline and Xander Kaplan on the recent loss of Pauline’s husband and Xander’s father, Howard Kaplan.

Lisa, Sean, Bryce and Ella Connelly on the recent loss of Lisa’s grandfather, Herbert Small.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler – father of Bob Trautmann
Victor Udoff – father of Erica Udoff
Yvonne Young – friend of Bob & Debbi Trautmann
Gilbert Ziff – brother of Barbara Edelson

Please remember to inform Linda Sherman, chair of the Chesed Committee, if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help, or has experienced a death in the family. Our Chesed Committee is here to help.
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**SUNDAY**
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew
- 9:15 am - 10:30 am Breakfast with Rabbi (Grades K/1)
- 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew
- 11:00 am Archaeology of Ashkelon with Elliot Schwam
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirmation

**MONDAY**
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am Advanced Hebrew
- 9:30 am - 10:30 am Beginner Hebrew
- 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Jewish War Veterans - Remembering Kristallnacht

**TUESDAY**
- 7:45 am Morning Minyan
- 9:45 am Religious Affairs
- 1:00 pm Mah Jongg
- 4:15 pm Religious School

**WEDNESDAY**
- 7:45 am Morning Minyan
- 9:45 am Religious Affairs
- 1:00 pm Mah Jongg
- 4:15 pm Religious School

**THURSDAY**
- 7:45 am Morning Minyan
- 9:45 am Religious Affairs
- 1:00 pm Mah Jongg
- 4:15 pm Religious School

**FRIDAY**
- 7:30 pm Evn Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY**
- Religious School (in lieu of Nov 10th)
- 10:30 am 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon
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Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Suzanne Levine
Beth Gottlieb
Beth Brewer
Evelyn Foster
Marilyn Kalet
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Linda Sherman
Adele Saykin

and Howard Kaplan for providing the beautiful challah