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Maurycy Gottlieb, Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur. 1878, Tel Aviv Museum of Art
We would like to thank the following donors:

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- Steve & Jill Nadler: in honor of the birth of Keira Ann Seidman
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- Steve & Jill Nadler: in memory of Rita Sumner
- Norman Needleman: in memory of Ann Needleman
- George & Dorothy Palmer: in memory of Lillian Tuch
- George & Dorothy Palmer: in memory of Morris Palmer
- Joseph Pear: in memory of Morris Pear
- Linda Polomski: in honor of Mag Gister and the CBSRZ choir
- Linda Polomski: in memory of Louis Goodman
- Saul & Hila Rosen: in memory of Frances Cohen, Harry Rosen, and Mildred Rosen
- Matthew & Hadass Rubin: in memory of Zahava Caspi and Isidor Rubin
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- John Schwolsky & Elizabeth Storch: in memory of Florence Storch
- Sandy & Andrea Seidman
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**Year-End Appeal**
Estelle Breslow

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Ellen Friedman: in memory of Murray Miller

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund**
Lewis & Beatrice Case: in appreciation of all friends and family on their 71st anniversary
Philip & Susan Fine: in memory of Meyer White
Gerald & Mary Kelly

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This year the High Holy Days are so early that I’m trying to get some of my sermons written in July! I hope I’ll be prepared in time to make it to a family reunion (on my mother’s side) in the Berkshires over Labor Day. My extended family never used to need to create big events in order for us to see each other. There weren’t as many of us, and we lived closer together. When I was growing up, most of my Mom’s family was in New Jersey, and we were the far-flung relatives in Central Pennsylvania. But now we need an occasion.

I’m grateful for these gatherings. There is nothing like the energy produced by multiple generations of people who have all known each other since they were either born or married in to the clan. This year we’ll be sharing the joy of my cousins Gloria and Mike’s 50th wedding anniversary, and the excitement of my cousin Tovah’s pregnancy, as well as sharing the sorrow of the recent death of an Israeli cousin, Yoel, whom we all loved dearly. Stories will be told about the oldest generation, only one of whom, Tante Anny, is still alive, in her nineties.

Here at CBSRZ I have always loved the moments when congregants start flowing into our sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah. This too is a family reunion. The sanctuary fills with the warmth of long-time friendships and connections. New faces are welcomed with enthusiasm, and we get to connect with members’ young adult children whom we don’t often see. We’re together as a community in the same place at the same time, and the energy is palpable. Something transformational is about to occur as we gather to pray and sing and turn towards the New Year.

This year my goal, and the goal of our Board, is to bring the energy of those relationships to the next level. We do a wonderful job around here of filling seats for High Holy Days and classes and programs and concerts. We come together in solid numbers for Shabbat and holiday celebrations, and our school buzzes with joy and learning. But what gives all of this life and meaning is the web of relationships that we weave as we go.

In this New Year, I want to invite you to weave that web even tighter and even wider than it already is. The more we connect with each other, learn about each other, listen to each other, respond to each other, and reach beyond our walls, the richer and more vibrant our community will be.

This year our community is embarking on a campaign of relationship building. Formally, this is called a Listening Campaign. On October 20 between 20 and 40 CBSRZ members will be trained as “listeners.” Over the following month, these listeners will each meet one on one and in person with 5 other congregants and have a conversation based on some open-ended questions developed by our leadership. These questions will allow the pair, first, to get to know each other, and then, for the listener to hear about the congregant’s passions and concerns and how the congregation might harness or respond to those passions and concerns.

After the one-on-one conversations are complete, the listeners will report back to each other on November 17. Then a report will be made to our Board on the major themes the listeners have heard from our congregation. AME Zion Church in Middletown, an African-American church, will be participating in the trainings with us, which is a wonderful opportunity to make new connections beyond our synagogue. These trainings will be facilitated by United Action CT, an interfaith network of congregations that we belong to.

The purpose of this campaign is for the themes we hear to help shape the priorities of our congregation, internally, in terms of what our congregants want and need, and externally, in terms of what issues to address in the world through our social justice work. An equally important outcome is that, by the end of the process, we will have created at least 100 new connections in our community’s web of relationships. We will have identified how to engage more of our members in the sacred work of our congregation, and I hope we will have started a communal conversation that will be ongoing.

At the same time that this is going on, this whole year, I will be taking on my own listening campaign as your rabbi. I will be reaching out to long-time members, new members, active members, and folks we haven’t seen in a while, to renew our relationships with each other.

I see all of these conversations as extensions of our big family reunion on Rosh Hashanah. May we all be renewsed for a New Year of joy, of peace, and of connection to each other and to this community.

L’shanah Tovah!
**September Worship Services**

Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 PM, Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, September 5, 9:30 AM, Rosh Hashanah Morning Service; 2:00 PM, Rosh Hashanah Family Program; 3:00 PM, Rosh Hashanah Children’s Service with Apples & Honey

Friday, September 6, 9:30 AM, Rosh Hashanah Morning Service (Day 2); 7:30 PM, Shabbat Shuvah Service with Sermon by Rabbi Irwin Goldenberg

Sunday, September 8, 1:00 PM, Cemetery Service — Fountain Hill; 3:00 PM, Cemetery Service — Rodfe Zedek

Wednesday, September 11, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan

Friday, September 13, 7:30 PM, Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 14, 9:30 AM, Yom Kippur Morning Service; 12:30 PM, Yom Kippur Youth Program; 2:30 PM, Yom Kippur Children’s Service; 4:00 PM, Yom Kippur Afternoon Service with Yizkor and Neilah, Followed by Break the Fast

Wednesday, September 18, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan; 7:00 PM, Erev Sukkot Service

Thursday, September 19, Sukkot (office closed)

Friday, September 20, 6:15 PM, Hang in the Sukkot Potluck Dinner; 7:30 PM, Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service

Wednesday, September 25, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan; 5:30 PM, Potluck Dinner; 6:15 PM, Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service

Thursday, September 26, 8:00 AM, Simchat Torah Service with Yizkor

Friday, September 27, 7:30 PM, Erev Shabbat Service

**October Worship Services**

Wednesday, October 2, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan;

Friday, October 4, 5:45 PM, Tot Shabbat; 6:15 PM, Dairy Potluck Dinner; 7:00 PM, First Friday Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 5, 10:30 AM, Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Acadia Barrengos,

Wednesday, October 9, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan;

Friday, October 11, 7:30 PM, Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 12, (no second Saturday service)

Wednesday October 16, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan;

Friday, October 18, 7:30 PM, Erev Shabbat Service

Wednesday October 23, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan

Friday, October 25, 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday October 26, 10:30 AM, Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Maya Gold

Wednesday October 30, 7:45 AM, Morning Minyan

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**SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

**OCTOBER EVENTS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Holy Scrollers Torah Study**

**Don’t Be Afraid of CBSRZ’s Social Media: Facebook, Websites, Blogs, Tumblr, Twitter**

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

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

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

The Joslow Report: How Are We Doing?

By Lary Bloom

A few months ago, I called Jon Joslow and asked him to undertake a project on behalf of all of us at CBSRZ. I can’t recall exactly what I said during our conversation, but, allowing for liberties here and there, it might have been something like this:

“Jon, could you do the congregation a little favor? It would only require that you set aside everything else in your life for 30 days, have intense interviews with as many leaders of our community as possible, take copious notes, and provide a honed-down report to the board by the June board of directors meeting.”

Instead of responding, “Lary, with all due respect, you’re out of your mind,” Jon waited patiently for more information.

I told him there is much to be celebrated at CBSRZ. That in a time when other congregations have been hit hard — large drops in membership — ours has remained stable. In fact, this year we had the largest membership ever, 241 family units. But I wasn’t calling to ask him to arrange a party at which we could toot our horns. Because I know, and every board member knows, and nearly all of our members know, that there is much yet to do before we truly make our house, as we say on our welcome wall, a house for all.

I asked Jon, “Are we structured — office-wise, committee-wise and otherwise — to meet the challenges we face? We are too big to be small and for all members to feel intimate connections, and too small to have the staffing and range of volunteer efforts to ensure all critical matters are attended to in timely fashion. Are we doing everything we can to make our members feel part of our efforts and if not, why not? Does our spending reflect our values? How can we improve, and improve quickly?”

Jon had heard this sort of thing before. The reason I called him in the first place is because over his business career he has helped management of companies large and small to become more efficient and effective. Moreover, Jon has a personal stake in this: he is a lifelong member CBSRZ, having had his Bar Mitzvah at the old shul, having served in a variety of roles on the board, and having smiled broadly when the Joslow daughters, Judy and Becca, celebrated their respective B’not Mitzvah with us. His wife Doreen also has been a stalwart of the congregation for decades.

Jon was impressed that the board had built a foundation on which for him to work. In the last year, it had prepared detailed reports, white papers, on our synagogue’s emerging needs, such as care of our seniors, and how to ensure a healthy religious school in a time when demographics indicate real challenges ahead. I didn’t ask him to solve those problems; I was more interested in his assessment of our organizational structure and how it affects our leadership and congregants.

Jon said yes. He would do this. It would be a chance for him to dive back into a place that he loves and has done a great deal of work for in the past. And so he did 30 interviews in 30 days — with committee chairs, with past presidents, with members of our staff and our executive committee, and even with a few people who have drifted away from us in recent years.

He wanted, indeed, to talk to all 241 family units, but even Jon couldn’t pull that off in one month’s time.

His questions were open ended: What are we doing right? What are we doing wrong? Is there an elephant in the room? This would be part of a CBSRZ continuum, an epic effort on our part to connect much more deeply with congregants: a key goal of our “listening” campaign to begin in the fall.

As the month passed, Jon called to provide progress reports. He didn’t say, and I didn’t ask him, how people were responding to his questions. He was careful to preserve the anonymity of respondents. He simply gave updates on how the project was going. It was a lot of work and, no doubt, stress was involved. The saying goes, after all, “two Jews, three opinions.” In this case, if the math holds up, it’s thirty Jews, forty-five opinions.

At the June board meeting Jon patiently went through his findings. We had a large crowd that night. Word has spread about his report. Here are highlights:

Jon offers eleven recommendations, some of which are intertwined. He pointed out that we had done a great deal of work in 2010 to create a strategic plan, but that plan, as written, needs reexamination and updating according to the needs of today and the next few years. Moreover, the operating budget must be tied to priorities outlined in that plan, not merely adjusted slightly from year to year. There is not enough money to do everything we’d like to do, and have done in the past, so Jon urges using our resources for selected and highly strategic initiatives rather than spreading them thinly over many things.

He urges us, as a board, to finish the work we have begun to identify and meet the needs of seniors, and of our school. He reports that many of our hard-working volunteers feel burnout,
The big advantage of being editor is that I get to read everyone else’s articles before starting my own. This is particularly helpful when I don’t have anything that pressing to write. I am reminded of a creative writing class in high school. The teacher, with the ominous name of Professor Moriarity, singled out two students, myself and a guy named Tony Movshon. One day he took us aside and said to Tony: “You have a lot to say, but you don’t know how to say it. This is in contrast to Sean. He knows how to say it; he just has nothing to say.”

So I take as my point of departure the Rabbi’s column, Bruce Josephy’s description of his encounter with Chabad rabbis, and Trina Shipuleski’s moving account of the steps leading to her conversion. They all seem to reflect the importance of a sense of community.

I was speaking on the phone to my sister the other day. She lives in Seattle, which is too far away to suit my taste. She is a remarkable, independent woman: funny, wise, a devoted friend. She takes on a lot of other people’s burdens and keeps me at a distance when she’s feeling down. Not having heard from her in a while, I suspected that such was the case. She said to me: “I feel like the tallest tree on the tallest mountain, getting repeatedly struck by lightning.” In part by choice, in part by circumstance, and in part because those around her are not as caring of her as she is of them, she feels very alone.

So I am grateful to feel part of a community. Though I am not without contrarian impulses, I always felt at home as part of a large, raucous extended family. My formative years as a deranged member of the ’60s counterculture provided another sense of belonging. After three days at Woodstock I would close my eyes and see endless lines of hippies unscroll before my imagination.

And yet being part of a community is not an unalloyed delight. The web of personal relationships is sticky. Everyone has an agenda, and only a few are aware of what theirs are. Are my attempts to comfort others driven by concern for their welfare or a need to allay my own anxieties? Dispensing advice is a way of dispensing with the problem and the person who has it. Keats spoke of Shakespeare in terms of what he described as Negative Capability: “that is, when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason.” This is the best definition of the art of listening that I have come across.

For those of us whose grip on reality is somewhat tenuous, community is doubly welcome. The richness it provides as well as the obligations it enjoins keep us here. Rather late in the day I have come to realize that not everybody shares my thought processes. And that is an insight I could not have arrived out without engaging with all of you.

The Joslow Report: How Are We Doing? (Continued from page 5)

and there is a need for greater support of volunteers.

He says: “All of the work of our Rabbi, paid and unpaid staff, leadership and general membership should relate to supporting what we want as a congregation. There is a financial and a volunteer cost or expenditure of energy and effort to make CBSRZ a special place. We know it can be more special and more relevant to our lives and in the lives of our congregation.”

He points out the critical and imminent need for leadership succession, and for much greater engagement all around — being sure that every congregant feels a part of the family of CBSRZ and has access to the board and to our Rabbi. Though acknowledging there may be a need for organizational restructuring of our staff, he says that priorities must be articulated before that can be addressed.

For Jon’s complete report, please call or email me and I’ll send it to you. The board, by the way, also invites your responses as well, so please feel free to be in touch with me. My cell phone is 860.841.4812, and email larybloom@sbcglobal.net.

In terms of next steps, we have already reestablished the strategic plan committee, and Rabbi Goldenberg, at the July board meeting, presented a detailed plan for greater engagement with the congregation. More steps are being planned.

One step we must always take is thank people for their hard work. So thank you Jon Joslow for your thirty days in the desert, and for your eleven, if not commandments, sound suggestions.
Red, White and Jew
by Berel Josephy

I recently had lunch with my friend Lary Bloom. He mentioned that I haven’t been writing lately for the Megillah about my wandering around the Jewish world.

It’s been an active journey. Here’s a recent stop.

West Hartford, Connecticut – July 4, 2013

The USA is a great country. And a great country for Jews.

As cookouts (hopefully kosher) and fireworks were happening on Independence Day, I attended a conference for Chabad rabbis from New York and New England at the Chabad House of Greater Hartford. There were about 120 rabbis and a handful of lay leaders.

The color scheme throughout the rest of America that day may have been red, white, and blue, but in West Hartford it was all black and white.

I listened to the speakers and thought how lucky I was to be an American Jew. Lucky to have the freedom we have in America.

Our rabbi in New York, Yisrael Stone of Chabad of the Lower East Side, says that G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish People, not to this group of Jews or that group of Jews, but to the Jewish People.

We Jews are all in this together. But so often, the focus is on “differences” instead of commonalities. One of the things I’ve learned along the way is that various groups of Jews can learn with, and from, one another.

We have several educational forums at CBSRZ, such as Holy Scrollers every Saturday morning; Rabbi Goldenberg’s Lunch and Learn Series the second Thursday of each month (except this September); and single classes throughout the year, such as Rabbi Goldenberg’s recent one about Tisha b’Av. In addition to these learning opportunities, I’ve attended classes given by Rabbi Yossi Yaffe of Chabad of the Shoreline.

A goal I see for us today is to create more Jewish learning opportunities and to attract more people to the study of Torah. Some possible topics I’ve been thinking about are a course on Jewish medical ethics and a textual study of a topic in the Talmud. If you would like to join me to expand Jewish learning opportunities in the area or would like information as these classes develop, please email me at brjosephy@aol.com.

Be well.
In the month of Elul we open our hearts to reflection, repentance and renewal as we prepare for the days of awe. The four Friday evening services preceding the New Year will focus on themes of comfort and healing, with special presentations from Rabbi Goldenberg and three of our congregants. See page 4 for a full listing of speakers.

“If you have done your neighbor a little wrong, let it be in your eyes great; if you have done him much good, let it be in your eyes little; if he has done you a little good, let it be in your eyes great; if he has done you a great wrong, let it be in your eyes little.” Avot de Rabbi Nathan, ch. 41.

“And, the Lord said, ‘I pardon you as asked.’” Numbers 14:20.

“If a mortal man uses broken vessels, it is a disgrace, but with God it is otherwise, for all His servants are broken vessels, as it is said, ‘The Lord is nigh to the broken hearted, and the contrite in spirit He will save.’” Peskipta Kahana 158b, Psalms, 34:18

“A king had a son who had gone astray for a journey of 100 days; his friends said to him, ‘Return to your father.’ He said, ‘I cannot.’ Then, his father sent to say, ‘Return as far as you can and I will come to you the rest of the way.’ So God, says, ‘Return to me and I will return to you.’” Peskipta Rabbah, 184b

“Like palm trees, the righteous flourish; like cedars they grow.” Psalm 92:12

Changing Torah mantles from blue to white is a symbol of our desire to cleanse our lives and begin the New Year without blemish and full of compassion. “For the Torah teaches gentle manners,” Peskipta Rabbah 17b

Our Erev Rosh Hashanah service concludes with honey cake oneg, as Rabbi Goldenberg, Cantorial Soloists Belinda Brennan and John DeNicola, and choir director Meg Gister greet all and extend wishes for a happy, healthy 5774.

Mack Goller & Joey Gister join Harvey Redak as two generations blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We honor the tradition of Taschlich on the Chester ferry, casting out wrongdoing as we cast crumbs into the river.

During the Torah service and sermon on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings, students grades 4 through 7 will take a break from the sanctuary to join John DeNicola, Eric Infeld, and Marjorie Lander for an activity and discussion of High Holy Day themes.
Sunday, Sept 8th
1:00 pm Cemetery Service
Fountain Hill, Deep River
3:00 pm Cemetery Service
Rodfe Zedek, Moodus

Friday, Sept 13th
7:30 pm Kol Nidre

Saturday, Sept 14th
9:30 AM Yom Kippur Morning Service
12:30 PM Yom Kippur Youth outing,
(Details in The Whole Mishpacha)
2:30 pm Children’s Service
4:00 pm Afternoon Service with Yizkor, Followed by Break the Fast

Wednesday, Sept 18th
7:00 pm Erev Sukkot Service

Friday, Sept 20th
6:15 pm Hang in the Sukkah Potluck Dinner
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service with New Member Blessing

Saturday, Sept 21st
9:00 AM Scrollers in the Sukkah

Wednesday, Sept 25th
5:30 pm Potluck Dairy Dinner
6:15 pm Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service

Thursday, Sept 26th
8:00 am Simchat Torah Morning Service with Yizkor

“Sow to yourselves according to righteousness, reap according to mercy, break up the fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord,” Hosea 10:12.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Michael Roth will lead a discussion on the Akedah, the binding of Isaac.

On Yom Kippur afternoon before and after the 2:30 p.m. children’s service, the sanctuary will remain open for quiet individual meditation and prayer.

“Remember the former things of old...” Zachor, the Hebrew root of the word Yizkor, we are commanded to remember. “Declaring the end from the beginning” (Isaiah 46:9-10). As we look forward, we also look back, standing at the graves of those who are no longer with us.

“No righteous man dies out of this world before another like himself is created,” Babylonian Talmud, Yoma, 38b.

“In this month you shall renew your deeds. On this month, blow the shofar, that is, cleanse your deeds. God says, “If you cleanse your deeds, then I will be to you like the shofar. As the shofar draws air from the narrow end and emits it from the wide end, so I will turn for you the attribute of judgment into the attribute of mercy,” Leviticus Rabbah, Emor, 29, 6.

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SUKKOT

The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur. Sukkot is a seven-day festival so unreservedly joyful that it is commonly referred to in Jewish prayer and literature as the Season of our Rejoicing. It is during this holiday that we thank God for the harvest food and for God’s protection. It is a time to feast and welcome visitors. And we are supposed to do that in the Sukkah!

We have a small committee of volunteers who work very hard to erect the Sukkah and then decorate it with lights and plantings. Then the Religious School children add their beautiful artwork. If you would like to help in erecting the structure or the trimmings, please contact Wendy in the office.

We begin our Sukkot celebration on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 PM with an Erev Sukkot Service. Hopefully we will have a wonderfully cool fall evening!

Friday Night September 20 at 6:15 PM please come and spend the evening in our beautiful sukkah! It is the annual “Hang in the Sukkah” Potluck Dairy Dinner followed by Erev Shabbat Sukkot Services at 7:30 PM. Following our new tradition, we will bless our new congregants at this service. This is a rain or shine event. If the weather is not cooperating, we will eat inside.

On Saturday, September 21 at 9:30 AM Holy Scrollers will be held in the Sukkah.

Simchat Torah

Following Sukkot comes the dancing and festivities of Simchat Torah, Rejoicing with/of the Torah. On Wednesday, September 25, we celebrate the cycle of reading the Torah. Our celebration will begin at 5:45 PM with a Dairy potluck dinner, followed by Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service. Our Klez Act will join the celebration with music and dancing.

During Simchat Torah services, we will gather, take out the Torah scrolls, and dance around the synagogue as people dance and sing along. The dancing with the Torah is known in Hebrew as hakafot — which means to march around. There are seven hakafot, so as soon as the circle around the sanctuary is completed, the Torah is handed to another person to complete a circle, and the ritual begins anew.

Along with Simchat Torah, we will celebrate the consecration of new students in our religious school. This is a special way to commemorate the beginning of a child’s formal Jewish education at CBSRZ and affirms our commitment and dedication to educating our children in the Jewish tradition.

Following the consecration and the hakafot we will move to the social hall where we will unroll one of the Torah with the assistance of the congregation. The children will stand in the middle of the circle surrounded by the Torah. Our Kitah Hey class will be reading from Genesis during this festive service followed by music from the Klez Act.

On Thursday, September 26 at 8:00 AM there will be a Simchat Torah morning service with Yizkor.

Rosh Hashanah Afternoon, 2:00 PM

The high Holidays are a time of reflection and renewal. Join Karen Evans and her family as she shares their tradition of revisiting the year through journal writing and drawing. Children and adults of all ages will have the opportunity to create their own High Holiday journal entry in the hopes of continuing this tradition each year. Participants can bring their own journals if they want. Materials will be available for use.
Breaking the Fast
Lynne Stiles

For the past two years, I've coordinated the Break-the-Fast, CBSRZ’s bagel, lox, and potluck meal following afternoon Yom Kippur services. At first I wondered, can I do this? Can I be around food all day and still fast? Turns out that plating 15 lbs. of smoked fish, mounding bagels, and taking in the beautifully prepared potluck dishes put me in a somewhat contemplative mood. When the day was almost over, before the service came to a close and the crowd came through, I would walk down “Main Street” to see if everything was in place. The long tables overflowed with every kind of kugel, domes of tuna salad, chopped herring on lettuce leaves, hummus with black olives, brownies, and bundt cakes. I was reminded, again, how food connects us: to tradition, to each other, to the hearts and hands that prepare our food.

This year, the holidays come early, practically in summer, and cold food and vegetables come to mind. As described in the terrific book Encyclopedia of Jewish Food by Gil Marks, this Quajado or Sephardic Egg and Vegetable Casserole has less eggs than a frittata and more vegetables than a kugel. For a Break-the-Fast meal, it’s good served cold or at room temperature; it can be made a day ahead, put in the fridge, and cut into squares before serving.

Quajado
6 to 8 servings
¼ cup olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
6 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup crumbled feta or farmer cheese, or a combination of both cheeses
5 oz grated cheddar, Swiss or muenster cheese
¼ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley or dill
½ tsp ground nutmeg (optional)
About 1 tsp table salt or 2 tsp kosher salt
Ground black pepper to taste, or cayenne to taste
6 cups vegetables such as: chopped spinach; grated zucchini with excess moisture squeezed out; sliced and sautéed leeks; seeded, chopped and drained tomatoes

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil a 9-in square baking dish.
2. Heat oil over medium heat and sauté the onion (and leeks, if using) until soft.
3. In a large bowl, combine eggs, cheeses, parsley (or dill), nutmeg, salt & pepper. Mix well. Stir in the vegetables and onion.
4. Spoon mixture into baking dish. Bake until set in the center and golden brown, about 40 to 50 minutes. Can be served warm but is great cold or at room temperature. If desired, top each square with a dollop of yogurt and dill sprig.

Breaking News
Due to illness, the art exhibition of Brian Shapiro’s work originally scheduled has been cancelled. The paintings of Daniel Kleiman will take its place on Mainstreet

As a very young child Daniel Kleiman was diagnosed with autism at a time when the medical world had few meaningful programs to deal with this condition. He entered a group home at the age of twenty-one and was fortunate to begin working with an art therapist who helped him express himself through art forms. That expression led to an explosion of color and creativity that will adorn CBSRZ’s walls from mid-August through late October. Although Danny has never received formal art training, his imagination has lent mood and movement to his work so that his abstracts range from fireworks to feelings of quiet reflection.

Daniel, the son of Howard Kleiman and brother of Michele Kleiman Rozenberg (both CBSRZ members), resides in Long Island. Coincidentally our guest artist will celebrate his fiftieth birthday this September as we celebrate his imagination and gift that have enriched both his life and ours.
Special Rosh Hashanah Program for Families: A Rosh Hashanah Journal

Families are invited to join Karen Evans in a special program taking place on Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, September 5 at 2:00 PM. Families will take time to reflect on the year that has passed and write about their hopes for the future. Start a tradition called a Rosh Hashanah Journal Entry. Any age can join. Write and draw about your experiences throughout the year and for the future, as Karen guides families through the experience at the start of the program and then allows everyone to take time to write and reflect on their own. Reservations are not necessary, but families should bring their own journals, colored pencils, crayons, etc.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur student activity

In keeping with the intention to exchange some class time for more intensive, experiential learning outside of the classroom, there will be no Hebrew School on Wednesday, September 11. In lieu of this class time, students in grades 4–7 are asked to participate in a unique program, taking place during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services. The program will be led by John DeNicola, Marjorie Lander, and Eric Infeld. It will take place about the time of the Torah service. It will be an experiential program connecting the two holidays. Themes are being discussed now. The idea of “...on Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed...” will perhaps serve as a main theme. Students will be asked to reflect, discuss, and participate in an activity related to the theme chosen. If a family has other commitments for this special holiday, it is understood that a student may be absent. We hope many students will participate and find the program meaningful and relevant to their own participation in the Jewish holidays.

Yom Kippur Afternoon Youth Program led by Moreh Jim Talbott

After morning services on Yom Kippur, Moreh Jim will be taking eighth through twelfth graders on an outing for our teens. Weather permitting, they will walk to the ferry, take the ferry across the river, and walk up to Gillette Castle.

Once there, our teens will engage in a High Holy Day themed discussion in an informal setting. It should be an enjoyable afternoon outdoors. The group will return to CBSRZ in time for the 4 PM Afternoon service.

What to do:
-RSV to Marc at marckdf@aol.com to tell us if your teen(s) will be attending
- Please drop off/send $2 in to the CBSRZ office to cover the round trip ferry ride. Meet after Yom Kippur morning services (around 12:30 PM) at the

Religious School & Family Calendar

September 2013

Sun 8 Opening Day w/Tashlich
Parent High Holy Day Program

Wed 11 No School: classes come to Yom Kippur Youth Program during morning services

Sun 15 Sunday Session

Wed 18 No School: classes come on the 20th

Fri 20 Hang in the Sukkah Potluck Dinner (6:15 PM) and Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service (7:30 PM)

Sun 22 Sunday Session
Geshert Confirmation

Wed 25 No School: classes come to Potluck Dinner (5:30 PM) and Simchat Torah & Consecration Service (6:15 PM)

Sun 29 Sunday Session

October 2013

Wed 2 Wednesday Session

Sun 6 Sunday Session
Confirmation

Wed 9 Wednesday Session

Sun 13 Sunday Session: Breakfast with the Rabbi (Grades 6)

Wed 16 Wednesday Session

Sun 20 Sunday Session

Wed 23 Wednesday Session

Sun 27 Sunday Session
Community Gathering (led by Grades K/1)
Geshert Confirmation

Wed 30 Wednesday Session

Birthdays

September 2013

2nd: Tillie Ripin
8th: Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones
10th: Allie Champion
11th: David Crair
12th: Evan Stein
13th: Maya Gold
17th: Lilian Kleinberg
21st: Eliot Barrengos
22nd: Cole Merriam
27th: Moreh Jim Talbott

October 2013

1st: Jacob Schlessel
2nd: Phineas Scott
4th: Aria Sinnerman
6th: Acadia Barrengos
7th: Noah Stein
12th: Rianna Brenman
13th: Rachel Gelven
17th: Seraphin Merriam
27th: Samuel Thorpe
29th: Moreh Eric Infeld

Fall Holiday Calendar for Families

Rosh Hashanah Thursday, Sept 5
2:00 PM Rosh Hashanah Family Program
(for parents and kids - open to all)
3:00 PM Children’s Service and Apples and Honey

Yom Kippur Saturday, Sept 14
12:30 PM Yom Kippur Youth Program (grades 8 and up)
2:30 PM Children’s Service

Sukkot Friday, Sept 20
6:15 PM Hang in the Sukkah potluck dinner
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service

Simchat Torah Wed, Sept 25
5:30 PM Dairy potluck dinner
6:15 PM Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service
sofas in the Main Street area. In case of inclement weather, we will stay in the synagogue.

What to bring:
Those unable to fast for other reasons should bring a lunch and a bottle of water.
(Even if you are fasting, you may want to bring a snack and water just in case — we do not want anyone not feeling well!!) Bring a change of clothes and comfortable shoes to change before leaving, as we will be walking outside.

Lastly, we could use some adult chaperones! Please let Marc know if you are a parent who is able to come along.

Breaking Down the Walls:
A Welcome Message from Religious School Director, Belinda Brennan
This is not the first time I’ve sat down to write a Megillah article for the month of September, when it is only July. Yet it is the first time that I am looking at a Religious School calendar that will begin to break down the walls of the school’s classrooms. This comes in response to several “family meetings” held at the beginning of last year around the topic of how our community can continue to be responsive to the changing needs of families. Within these discussions we heard about the difficulties in managing increasingly hectic family schedules, a desire to shift out of some typical class time in exchange for deeper, “intensive” experiences which may also include cultural activities as well as mitzvah based projects, requests for additional knowledge around celebrating holidays, interest in exploring the ways that technology has impacted how students can learn Hebrew, and interest in exploring the idea of “project based learning” both school and at home.

Whew! These are all great ideas and understandably we can’t do everything at once. We are taking things one step at a time, and through further discussions, we chose some areas in which to begin.

In large part, our year is driven by the celebrations of holidays. Holidays are perfect opportunities to break out of the walls of the classroom, and into the synagogue community itself, to learn, celebrate, and connect to our heritage and people. For example, in September, we have canceled several Wednesday classes asking instead, that families come to the student/parent planned events at High Holidays, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. In November, in lieu of a Sunday session, we are asking that families come to the student/parent planned activities of the November Second Saturday Service. In addition to the Breakfast with the Rabbi and Chanukah programs we already do with parents, we have added additional parent programming to the calendar around High Holidays, Tu B’Shevat, and Passover.

Regarding Hebrew, I will be gathering a small, combined group of teachers and parents to pilot the new Hebrew on-line learning available through our publisher Diana Yacobi of the Sarah and David Hebrew curriculum that we currently utilize. We will compare this offering with other Hebrew programs such as the URJ Miktadem self-paced system, and Behrman House Hebrew on-line options as well. Regarding project-based-learning, there are many aspects of our current teaching methods that already incorporate this concept, and we will continue to see how it can be expanded.

I see a lot of exciting possibilities in store for us next year, and I am grateful to all of the voices within our school community who are helping to articulate and shape the way in which our families can learn, experience, and connect within Judaism and with each other. This is a work in progress as we begin this year to experiment in “manageable small bytes.” It is impossible to foresee every outcome, but I hope through ongoing dialogue with our communal voices that we will monitor what works and what perhaps does not and come out with a deepening sense of joy and commitment to Jewish learning and experience, in and beyond our classroom walls.

An expression of gratitude for twelve wonderful years.

Morah Ann Louise
In 2001 I was nervous and happy to accept the invitation to teach kindergarten, lovingly known as the Latkes class, at CBSRZ. We were fairly new members who had decided to raise our two sons, Zac and Trevor, to be Jewish (Sam is Jewish and I was raised Episcopalian), and I had so much to learn myself, that kindergarten seemed the perfect place to be!

Our experience in joining the congregation had been so warm and enthusiastic that I knew as a teacher I wanted to offer a similar experience to our youngest members, so that they too would feel as comfortable as I did.

Twelve years later, students from that very first class have become Bar and Bat Mitzvah, many stayed to be madrichim and are now moving on to life after high school as young Jewish adults. And other former Latkes continue to do meaningful and creative work every week with our wonderful teachers. It’s beautiful to see, and if you’re ever looking for inspiration, spend a Sunday morning in our religious school, and you’ll be sure to find it.

As I move on to a new chapter and you welcome in a new Latkes teacher, I want to say thank you with my whole heart for the opportunity to welcome twelve groups of kindergarteners into
our CBSRZ family. Thanks to all of our teachers, who truly do feel like family, to our rabbis and three outstanding principals from whom I learned and got so much support. A special thank you to Debbie Guss for everything you did to make blending our Latkes and Aleph classes work so beautifully.

Thanks to all of you parents who shared your young children with us every Sunday. And of course, warm thanks to all of you one-time Latkes who started every class sharing your news and singing “Good Morning Boker Tov” at circle time! I was constantly amazed by your wisdom and creativity, your open minds, and generous hearts. Your sweetness taught me a lot about spirituality. I can honestly say that I left school every single time with joy in my heart because of you, and for that I am ever grateful.

Shalom and love to you all,
Ann Louise Rosensohn

Bat Mitzvah of
Maya Gold
October 26, 2013
Torah Portion: Chaye Sarah

Please tell the congregation a little about yourself.
I am in 8th grade at John Winthrop Middle School in Deep River. I love to play soccer and do gymnastics. I am competing in gymnastics this year for the first time. I am part of the student leadership at John Winthrop. I have three sisters and I love to hang out with my friends.

What excites you the most about your bat mitzvah?
I am excited for the party because it is a chance to celebrate this accomplishment with all of my friends and family!

What does becoming a bat mitzvah mean to you?
Becoming a bat mitzvah means that I am a Jewish adult and I can participate fully in the activities and responsibilities of CBSRZ.

I realize it is only July, but have you thought at all about your Torah portion? If so, can you tell a little bit about what it means and your D’var Torah?
My Torah portion contains Sarah’s death, Abraham’s purchase of a burial place for her, and Isaac’s marriage to Rebecca. I haven’t begun to write my D’var Torah yet.

Have you done a mitzvah project? What is it?
I am still working on finalizing my mitzvah project, but I am hoping to do something both meaningful and rewarding.

Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing yet?
Work hard and keep practicing!

Mazel tov to Acadia Barrengos for becoming a Bat Mitzvah on October 5, 2013

Jewish Summer Camp 2013

Editor’s Note: This summer, 10 CBSRZ children are attending Jewish Summer camp: 5 are at Crane Lake and 5 at Camp Eisner. At the time of our deadline, they had all mostly just arrived at camp so asking them to send a note back to the congregation was not possible. However, one parent sent us the first weekly email from Crane Lake, which we thought was worth sharing (in abbreviated form) with the congregation so parents (and kids) can get a sense of what Jewish camp is like in case they are considering it for a fun summer next year!

Our session is off to a wonderful start! We were thrilled to spend Shabbat with our full community. Shabbat services and song session were filled with Ruach as our returning campers and staff showed the new members of our community Shabbat Crane Lake style. Last night Upper Bonim Girls inaugurated our new camping site called K’far Har, which means “Village on the Mountain”.

This coming week is going to be filled with excitement. Tomorrow we have sports tournaments beginning with our own soccer tournament at CLC. We will be sending out 7 teams to other camps in our area to play baseball, tennis, and basketball throughout the week. A full rehearsal schedule will begin for our camp play “West Side Story,” and we will continue to have bunks camp out at K’far Har. On Independence Day we will have a wonderful carnival with games, moon bounce, and a large inflatable slide.

In the meantime, there is lots of new content on our blog including our Opening Day video, Week 1 in review and a letter from an alum to our staff.

Thank you for sharing your children with us! We hope that you are having half as much fun at home as we are here!
PICNICKING!

Shabbat dinner at Cedar Lake: Misty and Matthew Scoggins and Lary Bloom shooting the breeze.

On trumpet Harvey Redak

Shabbat dinner at Cedar Lake: Noa and Tracy Kleinberg serving up salad.


Lori Jubelirer on bass

Beth Gottlieb and Linda Rigono helping out, as they always seem to do.

Foreground: Bernie Slater. At the grill: Norman Shulkin brandishing hot dog, center Harvey Payton, right Kevin Fox.

Shabbat dinner at Cedar Lake: Noa and Tracy Kleinberg serving up salad.

Brad Jubelirer
THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Angel Riders: l. to r. Brad Jubelirer, Eduardo Vigil, Martin Anderson, Harvey Payton, Dave Miner

Backup singer Luis Villebon admiring Loli Marquez-Sterling as she plays. In background, drummer Richie Gonzalez

Saucy Ed Pinn

The Minyanaires. Clockwise: Bernie Slater, Rabbi Goldenberg, Marlene Scharr, Henry Gottlieb, Susan Peck, Belinda Brennan, Morty Pear
The Annual Meeting

Kevin Fox welcomed everyone attending announcing: “This is not a coup. If you have not signed in you cannot speak and to please announce your name when before speaking.”

President Bloom called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

A thank you to Sue Levine for arranging the refreshments prior to the start of the meeting.

President Bloom said that we gather to talk about the state of the shul, elect a new class to the Board, and approve the budget. And according to tradition eat pizza and drink beer:

This night is to determine how we can be sure that we are meeting the needs of our congregation today and that twenty years from now we are still successful.

He officially announced that we have a quorum.

On a motion by Seidman and seconded by Fox the minutes of the June 14, 2012 Annual Meeting were approved with the correction that Lary Bloom and Nancy Schwam were in attendance.

Bloom reported his conversation with the president Alison Fine of the Tarrytown, New York shul, which was motivated by her article in the URJ magazine. She cited declining birth rates, reduction of affiliation, and competition from other shuls including Chabad. One of her missions was to reinvent her Board, which was composed of the people who had started the shul, and look forward to changes for the future.

Bloom stated that CBSRZ bucks national trends in that we are maintaining and growing. He cited the work of the Rabbi, the staff, the quest for social justice, our religious school principle Belinda Brennan, our teachers, and many others. He lauded the visionary work of our committees and volunteers.

“You know this from our classes, social action, programs, and religious instruction. You know it from Chessed and from art and from music programs. From our choir or life cycle events or Yizkor during the holidays. You see it in the faces of our youngsters; you see it in our innovations.

We have a lot of committees including a committee of committees (commcomm).

“CBSRZ feels the pressure of our times. Our annual budget is tough to meet. Our school faces reduction of enrollment; our seniors face isolation. This has led to centerpiece discussions for the Board: the education system and our seniors. What are the most innovative ways to invigorate programs and funding? How to engage those who have been active in the past? How to staff properly?”

He thanked Stephen Davis for his presentation on senior needs and Lynne Zimmerman on her presentation on the religious school. He further thanked Jon Joslow for his recent review of the administration and staffing needs.

President Bloom announced a theme for the coming year: it is no longer acceptable to point out a deficiency. You must also present a solution for that problem.

Rabbi Report:

The Rabbi stated: “As I stand here reflecting on the year past, I am looking forward to what is coming. Since the last Annual Meeting our home burned down, and I have so many to thank for your support in assisting us back into our rebuilt home.

“I want to acknowledge the fact there are a number of people in this shul who are suffering. And this is very present for me. I wish to send out an informal prayer to those here, home, or in hospital.”

She extended a Happy Birthday to Belinda Brennan.

“Lary and I read the same article by Alison Fine. The link can be found on the CBSRZ Facebook Page. Part of her message is that we need to consider moving from a hierarchy model to a network model of running the community. Solutions don’t come just down from President, Board and Rabbi, but that the leadership and staff is in continuous discussion with the community and listening, harvesting the wisdom of the entire community. Foundation is the web of relationship among all of us.

“This week’s D’Var: how beautiful are your tents… the prophet Balaam is moved to bless us though he has come to curse us, as he looks at the encampment in the desert. I see so much beauty and connection in the tent of CBSRZ. We have a treasure of skill in the leadership and staff. I hope we will listen and respond to the journey.

“Three specific areas that I would like to point out:

1. We have come through a year of rich learning, Hebrew classes. Two mini courses on the prayer book and on Torah study. Now eight women are preparing for an adult bat mitzvah and one conversion. When I look deeper; classes are examples of how the congregation is connected. Longtime members returning to learn. It helps us foster relationships formed among our congregants. And every week at Scrollers (30-40) people who come every week. A caring network that begins and moves beyond that. What a blessing.

2. A year of meaningful worship. Friday night service attendance is up! More music on Friday nights in addition to choir. Experiments in worship that have been successful: Tisch style is drawing more people (in the range of 60-100). Three rounds of Shabbat-based dinners. Twelve households hosted. See people of all ages experiencing joy together. Hoping you will take up invitation to host or attend.

3. The love and caring that is shared amongst us. I wish to thank Marilyn White-Gottfried, Sue Savitt, Beth Brewer, and the new chair of Chesed Linda Sherman.

Working on how to enlist more help and base it geographically. Chesed is not just a committee. Should be the driving force that is the center of the shul.

“Alison Fine points out that not everyone wants to be on a committee. Gatherings were tried a few years ago. Remember Shabbat forums which led to reform in services. Conversations lead to changes and innovations. Need to keep listening. We need to be listening the needs of the senior population, those who don’t drive at night; those who want to meet during the day to learn. More out there we don’t know yet. Rabbi Hesch Sommer will be doing a needs assessments in August with senior groups to see what is needed including pastoral or activities. Please come. Starting a listening campaign starting in October coordinating an effort to spark interest to have a team of congregants to have one-to-one conversations. Structured around open ended questions that we develop as CBSRZ. Also a goal of discovering what issues in the world and larger community are on people’s minds to lead to social action. Training with a church from Middletown.

“Hope that those interested will become listeners. Hours of training, meeting with congregations and then reporting back. If invited to meet, I hope you will take up the invitation.

“As we continue with meeting tonight, I hope you will be struck by what you see here. I hope you will weave your own thread into our web to help experience the joy and relationships in participating in this holy community.”

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
June 20, 2013

18
The New Haven Foundation is putting together a new grant program to be funded with $1,000,000 of unrestricted funds. Anyone can apply, matching grant program. Jo-Ann Price is on the grant committee. The Board is discussing making an application for a matching grant (this program is based as a matching grant) for various activities.

In response to a question from Jon Samburg, Kevin Fox stated that the golf tournament has made money two years in a row, but that there is a lack of congregational participation. Samburg then asked does that mean we should perhaps find a different fund raiser. He offered no alternative idea.

Phil Scheffler pointed out that CBSRZ still owns about 75 LeWitt prints which have a value of $2,500 each. Seidman stated these are not carried on the books of the shul as an asset.

David Zeleznik asked as to the state of the capital fund.

Seidman responded that the building is 11 years old but that there are no major problems we know about. The budget, he went on to say, assumes a dues increase of 2–3%. About 25% of our members are on variance. For those who are able if you can do a little bit more certainly appreciated. People really need the variance. He said he has never seen it this bad.

Education: Belinda Brennan asked that people please read the Karen Burzin report. Karen was absent as her daughter was graduating from high school this evening.

“We always have a good year. I get to work with this amazing group of teachers and families. Lots of brainstorming of how to do things better. We don’t do tests. We don’t have standards…one hard and fast measure of how we are doing returning 22 young 8–12 graders who want to be Madrachim. That is an amazing statistic. These young adults love it. They don’t sleep in; they show up! As of today we have 45 children in K–7.”

“Real issue is that of the 45 children, 32 are in 4–7. That means K–3 only 13 children. We have combined K–1 and 2–3.”

“We don’t have enough space and work for the teenagers. Great outcome but a problem our enrollment is decreasing.” Belinda passed out the new religious school brochure, reiterating for the health of our community going forward, hard to think about not having a school.

“We need a pipeline or in five to six years we will cycle through the children and be done. We are a great school.”

Nominating and Governance Committee: Martin Wolman reported that the N&G committee has nominated the class of 2013–2015 as directors at large:

George Amarant, director
Karen Burzin, director
Stephen Davis, director
Lenny Goldberg, director
Brad Jubelirer, director
Linda Rigono, director
Maxine Klein, director

On a motion by Sue Peck, second Kevin Fox the slate for 2013–2015 was passed unanimously.

Martin Wolman announced that Miriam Gardner-Frum will be stepping down as vice president by December 2013 and that the N&G committee is working on a replacement.

President Bloom welcomed Maxine to the Board and thanked her husband David Zeleznik and her for their great support of CBSRZ. He also thanked Lynne Zimmerman for her work on the Board and announced she would continue on as chair of the committee of committees.

President Bloom reminded everyone of the final program for Music and More: the Klez Act. He also asked people to support the August 4, 100th birthday party for his piano and the book reading by Wally Lamb in December.

He then opened the meeting to congregant questions.

Harvey Redak asked if the Board was considering the Cutler Family offer of an approximately one acre cemetery site in West Hartford. The Cutler Family Association (of which Harvey is a member) is seeking an entity to take over this cemetery. He asked that his question be noted for the record. President Bloom stated he would confer with Stu Baker and the Cemetery Committee. George Amarant commented for the Cemetery Committee that there are now an additional 200 plots in the Deep River CBSRZ cemetery.

Marcy Saltzman volunteered to host another blessing of the animals. The Rabbi stated she would confer with them to work out a date.

Without other business the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Henry B. Resnikoff
Secretary
My Journey to Judaism

Trina Shipuleski

I n 1998 I was in eighth grade in Catholic school and had a Jewish English teacher. I found her interesting in the sense that she was different from most of the people I knew. During that school year we learned about each Jewish holiday as it approached, and she even brought in apples and honey to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. At that point she had captured my interest in Judaism as a subject.

Years went by, my belief in God disappeared. I prayed to God as a child to help get me out of an abusive home. As an adult I realized that God did not come and help me when I needed him, so why should I believe in something that could not help an innocent child? That realization left me with an angry, sad void.

Then I met this man by accident in 2009 who also seemed a bit ‘different’ to me in the sense that he was different. Years went by, my belief in God disappeared. I prayed to God as a child to help get me out of an abusive home. As an adult I realized that God did not come and help me when I needed him, so why should I believe in something that could not help an innocent child? That realization left me with an angry, sad void.

Then I met this man by accident in 2009 who also seemed a bit ‘different’ to me in the sense that he was different. He was funny and sarcastic; two qualities I was instantly attracted to. Over time our relationship grew closer I realized he was also very smart, caring, and considerate. I trusted him the moment I met him, and trust in my life was something that did not exist. I remember asking him “How did you get to be so special?” He replied, “I am Jewish and from Baltimore; everyone I know is like me.” I found that to be almost true; I did meet the friends he grew up with and colleagues who were also Jewish, and I did get the sense of the “Jewish” humor and sarcasm. Still, for me he was unique.

In 2011 we moved in together into a cozy house in Canterbury, Connecticut with his best friend and his cat Yetti. I just could not get enough of them. We made a home and celebrated high holidays together. I learned Jewish recipes and cooked, and they cleaned up. They taught me about some Jewish traditions. They exposed me to Jewish deli, Jewish art, and klezmer music. We took trips together to New York City and went to the Jewish Museum together and saw plays like “Old Jews Telling Jokes.” They taught me the meaning of the word “hondle.” I received the best education on Jewish culture from these two guys, and I am very thankful for it. Living with them made me realize that I have a love not only for them, but for Judaism.

In April of 2012 I found out I was pregnant! It made me realize that I want to be part of this Jewish community. My son’s father and I visited CBSRZ after reading in the New York Times about “A Klez Act” performing there. Upon arriving there we were swiftly greeted by the Temple president Lary Bloom, who then showed us the temple and introduced us to Rabbi Goldenberg. That day made me feel so welcomed by so many who did not even know me that I knew that Judaism and this Temple is where I belong. Seeing the beautiful temple, hearing the wonderful music, seeing the caring community and women in leadership roles — I felt whole in the decision for our family to become members here and for me to start and complete the conversion process.

At first I thought my reason for converting was to escape the tainted feeling of Catholicism and to make my family complete and uniform, and raise my son Jewish (this is still a big reason why). But as I write this paper I am realizing that I feel a relationship with Judaism, I feel like the holidays are my holidays, I feel like the Jewish people are my people. This year long process of converting has also made me realize that life changes for many reasons; having Judaism in my life has helped start the healing process and fill that void. I can now say that I have a belief in God whoever he, she, or it may be.

Fashioning a Jewish Identity

Barbara Infeld

I was recently approached to write an article about the sessions held during the school year with Rabbi Hesch Sommer related to fashioning our Jewish identities. Originally I was unsure what I would write regarding these sessions, and the more I thought about it, the more questions I had.

Why had I decided to attend? Didn’t I already have what I felt was a strong Jewish identity, one that Eric and I were passing on to our sons? Didn’t we celebrate Shabbat at home and when traveling (if we remembered the battery operated Shabbat candles)? Didn’t we observe the holidays and try to instill a Jewish culture in our home for the boys?

Then it dawned on me, we live in a community with a handful of Jewish families and the opportunity to interact and spend time with other parents raising Jewish children in similar communities intrigued me. I wanted the chance to talk with parents who faced the same challenges with raising Jewish children.

We met on Sunday mornings during religious school at the Chester Guest House Retreat Center. Parents from both CBSRZ and Temple Beth Tikvah participated. The mix was often half and half from both synagogues. We had parents who were born Jewish, became Jews by choice, and those who maintained their religious identity from childhood. Rabbi Sommer would often begin the sessions with topics, however, as is often the case, we would digress from the original topic and wind our way around and back again, though always keeping in mind the reason for us being there.

The sessions and topics were as varied as the participants; however, I can say that it was helpful to be able to sit and talk openly with others in a non-judgmental forum about the trials and joys we have raising our children Jewish. We spent time discussing the challenges of explaining the High Holidays to school administrators and the need to not schedule tests, field trips, or similar events on these days. We also discussed the amount of homework some children are given, without regard to how difficult it would be to complete the assignments. We spent one session discussing the issues surrounding Chanukah and Christmas not only from the perspective of the Jewish parents, but also that of the non-Jewish parent concerned that family Christmas traditions may not be passed down to the next generation. Rabbi Sommer is open to suggestions of other topics of interest from the participants as well. Please consider attending either one or all of the sessions in the future.
Thanks to the Congregation

From Mount St. John School:
In the spring, our synagogue was host to a fundraiser, “Let’s Hear it for the Boys,” organized by the Middlesex Community Foundation and intended to support the work done by Mount St John school in Deep River. Recently, Lary Bloom received the following note of appreciation:

Dear Lary,

I am thrilled to let you know that your and members of CBSRZ’s incredible support helped our event net over $26,000 — a remarkable achievement in this transition year to the Community Foundation. From the proceeds $10,000 will establish a permanently endowed fund. The balance will be distributed this year to qualified organizations that help enhance the lives of boys and young men.

Thank you for your generous support.
Warm regards,
Gary Parrington (former director, Mount St. John’s)

From Peninnah Schram:
Dear Rachel,

What a joy it was to be with you and your congregants during this Shabbat and sharing stories, davening and eating together! ‘flew’ home on all the enthusiastic responses I experienced during this Shabbat!

Thank you and the committee people for this wonderful invitation to return — after 18 years — to share more stories with everyone in this now-merged and very beautiful synagogue. The sacred space of the sanctuary was so right for presenting the various story programs from the Sacred Stories for Shabbat, through my d’var of “Almonds and Salt”, the workshop on our names/pasuk and finding a special mitzva, followed by Elijah the Prophet folktales.

Thank you and everyone for all the follow-through and planning and considerate attention. I know the time and energy it takes to make it all happen! Thanks also to the donor family!

It was a pleasure to meet your family and I thank Amina and Zeve for their questions and along with the other children for the marvelous card they created for me! I love it!

I loved meeting Belinda again. Please send her my best regards! I loved meeting my “landzman” Henry Resnikoff and hearing his reflections on my father’s Kol Nidre, etc. I loved staying with Jo-Ann Price again and spending time with her. I enjoyed meeting so many others at one or more of the programs. I was impressed that the rain didn’t stop any (or not many) from coming Friday night. That was quite a day and night of drenching downpours.

Please give my regards to all the good people I met at CBSRZ.
With my best wishes and appreciation,
Peninnah

From the Women at York Correctional Institution:

Welcome to Emet Israel Resnikoff, son of Joshua and Christine Resnikoff, grandson of Henry Resnikoff and Daphne Nielsen, on his arrival into the world July 11. Mazel tov!

Adult Hebrew on Sunday Mornings with Evelyn Foster

Our Beginning and Advanced Adult Hebrew Classes will be resuming in the fall. New students are invited to join us!

Advanced Hebrew begins Sept 8 and will run every Sunday from 8:30–9:30 AM.

If you know the Hebrew alphabet and can decode, even if slowly, but would like to increase your reading fluency, learn vocabulary, verb declension and knowledge of Hebrew sentence structure for speaking and for reading comprehension, this class is for you.

Beginner Hebrew begins Sept 15 and will run every Sunday from 9:30–10:30 AM.

We will be working on Hebrew letter sounds, vocabulary and reading, particularly as related to reading and understanding of prayers.

Even with knowledge of just a few letters, there is vocabulary that you will be able to read, understand, and use in conversation. This will grow as we work our way through the alphabet.

For questions or more information, please call Evelyn Foster at 860 526 2620.
To sign up for either class, please contact Wendy in the office at 860-526-8920 or bethshalom@snets.net. The fee for the year to cover the cost of our teacher is $50 for members, $75 for non-members.
FOCUS ON HUNGER

This coming year, the Social Action Committee will continue to focus on addressing hunger within our community. The following activities highlight this concentrated effort to bring awareness of this issue. It is an opportunity for us as a congregation to help alleviate this growing problem which should not persist in this country — and certainly not in our region.

August 23, 2013 Shabbat Service Speaker

Jeanette Ickovics, professor of Public Health and Psychology at Yale University, will be sharing from her experience and her work specifically with the issue of obesity and poverty as well as discuss the evidence of “food deserts” in our urban communities.

Congregation “Hunger” Activities Calendar

September 4–14 Congregants will be asked to take bags on Rosh Hashanah, fill them with food to donate to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, and return the bags to CBSRZ on Kol Nidre

October 6: Crop Walk Old Saybrook — an opportunity to raise funds and awareness

October 6, December 22, April 20, 2014, and July 6, 2014 — Chester Soup Kitchen (4-6pm)

October 17, January 16, 2014, April 17, 2014, and July 17, 2014 — Deep River Soup Kitchen (4-6pm)

A New Local Task Force Addressing Hunger and Self Sufficiency

This past spring, Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries organized a task force to take action addressing causes of hunger. Efforts are underway to attack the problem through education, public awareness, legislation, and other means. Several members of the Social Action Committee are participating in the task force and will keep the CBSRZ community informed.

MAZON: A National Jewish Response to Hunger

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a national anti-hunger advocacy organization, works with partners in both the anti-hunger community and the Jewish social justice community to seek food justice. Its mission is to provide for people who are hungry while at the same time advocating for other ways to end hunger and its causes, and to educate and raise the consciousness of the Jewish community regarding its obligation to alleviate hunger and its causes. MAZON’s work is informed by its long-standing relationships with food banks, food pantries, and food policy organizations; the impact of its efforts is realized through its work with over 1,000 synagogue partners in the United States. For 28 years, MAZON has been the Jewish response to hunger, representing the Jewish perspective and the Jewish voice within the anti-hunger movement. Learn more about the problem and progress or donate at www.mazon.org or contribute through the Mazon envelopes at CBSRZ High Holiday services.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are, at their core, holy days of reflection and decision-making. Each year, we reflect on the year gone by and contemplate the year ahead. We also make choices about who we want to be, how we want to act, and what we might do to change our world for the better.

Most of us have the luxury of making our choices freely. But millions of Americans make impossibly difficult choices out of absolute necessity: who will eat today and who will not? Will I buy medicine or buy food? As a community we can take action.

Social Action Committee Announces Calendar 2013-14

The Social Action Committee has announced its tentative calendar for 2013-14. Each activity requires 5–10 volunteers to contribute 2–3 hours to help make the activity a success. Please sign up to volunteer 2–3 hours by contacting Linda Rigono at lrigono@sbcglobal.net or 860-345-3839, or Andy Schatz at andy@andrewschatz.com or 860-202-2690.

As discussed in an accompanying article, addressing hunger will continue to be a major focus. Other areas of focus will include housing, health, tolerance, and other issues, which will be included in programs in connection three Shabbats during the year — Human Rights Shabbat (December 14), Martin Luther King weekend (January 17), and a Pesach Social Action Shabbat (April 11). Jeanette Ickovics, Professor of Epidemiology and Psychology at Yale University, will share thoughts about community health, including hunger and obesity, at Shabbat services on August 23.

At the request of the Board of Directors, the Social Action Committee is coordinating the Listening Campaign that will be conducted during the period October 20–November 17. The goal of the campaign is to determine through interviews with most of the congregation the real goals of the congregation and the opportunities for achieving them.

The full social action schedule as currently planned for 2013–14 is as follows:

August 23: community health presentation by Professor Jeanette Ickovics

August 23–September 15: fill and bring in your Tzedakah boxes

September 4: Rosh Hashanah distribution of food-drive bags

September 14: Deliver food to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries
Every day, hungry people have to make impossible choices, often knowing that, no matter which option they choose, they will have to accept negative consequences.

*It shouldn’t be this way.*

MAZON is working to end hunger for Rhonda and the millions of Americans and Israelis who struggle with food insecurity.

**Please donate to MAZON today.**

©2012 MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger/Barbara Grover
CBSRZ Minutes of
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Highlights
June 13, 2013

Financial Report:
Seidman: Reported that this was the tightest year to making the budget in many years. We will either just break even or be a tad ahead. We have to utilize the endowment income to balance the budget. Noted that the lack of development/fund raising was the largest source of the deficit in the budget.
Fox: Stated that as of the Board meeting there are approximately $34,000 in receivables of which he estimates $20,000 is collectable. He stated this is a higher amount of receivables than in the last five years.
Investments: Fox stated that the funds invested in the endowment (both owned and for the benefit of the Congregation) continue to grow and are earning a higher rate of return than the S&P.

President Report:
President Bloom nominated two new members who were approved on a motion by Seidman seconded by Pinn:
Lynne Coviel from Westbrook
Andrew Corpeul and Christine Corpeul with children in Guilford (former TBT members)
He thanked everyone who worked on the scholar in residence program.
He cited the current URJ publication interview with Alison Fine who is president of a synagogue in Tarrytown, New York with many similar characteristics to CBSRZ. He spoke about having a long discussion with her about many subjects including non-affiliation, seniors, budget, and fund raising. He urged all Board members to read the article.
He announced that David Tilles will take over as librarian from Karen Cheney and offered hearty thanks for the many years of service Karen has given CBSRZ in the position of librarian. He announced Lon Seidman would chair the communications committee with a focus on expanding the social network and media to reach our Congregants and non-members.
Two new fund raisers were announced by President Bloom: on August 4 a 100th birthday party for his piano and at the end of November [new date December 8] the award winning author Wally Lamb will present his new book We Are Water. The latter event is being organized by Clo Davis.

Centerpiece:
Jon Joslow gave a report on his mission of the last 30 days to interview past presidents, the executive committee, the Rabbi, and others to help identify gaps in the administration of CBSRZ, volunteerism, staffing, the Board, the executive committee, and the Congregation.
(An FYI John has been a member of CBSRZ his entire life, has served in numerous capacities, and has a professional business of providing consulting on institutional organizational issues).
Here are the key questions he posed: How has the last year been? What do you anticipate for next year? Do you have enough volunteers for your specific responsibilities? Do you have sufficient resources? And finally “is there an elephant in the room that is not being discussed openly?”
He said that the one common theme out of all of the interviews is the passion that all of the respondents have for CBSRZ. While the passions may not be the same or the motivations the same he said that it is highly encouraging to find such common passion amongst a wide array of people.
He identified the following trends
a) Census: relatively flat last four years
b) School: census dropping over the last four years. School days dropping as well as the number of children due to when children enter the school system
c) Older congregation: define by age what do we need to satisfy the older population
d) Committees and what resources do they have and what is their involvement on the Board:
e) Suggested that there needs to be a job description of being a Board Member, a Committee Chair, and a committee member
f) Administrative side: the discussion is about functions. Administration is not clear regarding accountability and responsibilities. What is protocol for getting actions done?
Posed the question to the Board: if we were just getting ready to open a new shul how would we describe ourselves and what would our goals be?
Further stated that he recommended revisiting the Strategic Plan and going to a zero based budget system with a three-year life. And that programming should be based on those identified needs. He stated that we need to align our resources with our goals.
Following his presentation there ensued a lively discussion which included comments from congregants citing the need for day time programs for seniors, lunch and learn programs with the Rabbi, how to get more volunteers involved (instead of committees, use specific activities).
Stephen Davis and Miriam Gardner-Frum both stated that the Strategic Plan is in fact utilized; that there were two “white papers” presented during the course of the year addressing the needs of seniors and the religious school. That these white papers have led to the creation of ad hoc committees addressing each issue. In addition they cited that there is now a “committee of committees” headed by Lynne Zimmerman which gathers all of the heads of the various committees together to discuss their mutual and common needs and to create a report to the Board. They further noted that each committee has a liaison from the Board to assure communication between the committees and the Board.

In response to questions about the budgeting process from some of the congregants present as well as responding to Joslow’s comments, Seidman pointed out that about 65% of the budget is fixed and that to do zero-based budgeting for the remainder is not going to produce any significant results. He went on to say that the financial issues for CBSRZ arise from the need to increase membership, asking congregants to give more fair-share and to increase development giving.
Some suggestions to consider included requiring every member to volunteer a certain number of hours or at least on variance to provide some time in lieu of dues. President Bloom cited that the head of Social Action, Andy Schatz, had asked everyone to donate three hours a year at High Holidays last year with very little response. Other comments were about making CBSRZ more of a Jewish Community Center; that the building should be filled with activities for some group every day and that community outreach for interfait activities is important.
Other pointed out the success of the Shabbat Across America, the home based Shabbos Dinners, the Tisch dinners on Friday night in lieu of regular services and other on-going events to meet the needs of the various constituencies.
It was announced that Bruce Josephy, a past president, is now on the national URJ Board.
**Memorial Plaques**

Tishri 27 – Heshvan 27, 5774

- Daniel Alan Altman
- Leo Amarant
- Bella Astrove
- D. Solomon Banner
- Harry Baron
- Isaac Baron
- Isidore Baron
- Rose Baron
- Celia Barzilay
- Celia Benson
- Nathan Benson
- Victoria Bernstein
- Philip Berwick
- Abraham Blecher
- Abraham Breitman
- Aaron Diamond
- Nathan Elkin
- Samuel Fink
- Hyman Fink
- Max Frankel
- Bertram Friedman
- Arthur Frank
- Elizabeth Friedman
- Anna Geller
- Solomon Ginsberg
- Edward Glazer
- Charles Gottfried
- Louis Josefloff
- David Joslow
- Jacob Lake
- David Levine
- Ida Levinson
- Bernard LeWitt
- Bette LeWitt
- Nathan Luchnick
- Morris Mackover
- David Miller
- Emma Oppenheimer
- Sadie Palmer
- Michael Pear
- Irving Pivnick
- Isidore Roach
- Sara Schultman
- Lucille Schur
- Frances Seidman
- Louis Steinberg
- Irving Strom
- Leonore Palmer Tobis
- Matthew Wartel
- Sara Rotfuss Yassoff
- Harry Zack

**Memorial Plaques**

Eul 26, 5773 – Tishri 26, 5774

- Louis Alcon
- Kate Baron
- Denise Berwick
- Belle Bimbbaum
- Rodkin
- David Bockstein
- Herbert Breslow
- Sondra Burzin
- Theodora Chaimovitz
- Anna Cirulnick
- Milton Davis
- Phyllis G. Diamond
- Joseph Friedman
- Hindie Gall
- Sol Goldstein
- Mortimer Hays
- Anna Needle Josseloff
- Rose Kabatznick
- Sam Krupnikoff
- Benjamin Lake
- Rose Leiwant
- Ann Samuels Levine
- Sidney LeWitt
- Clara Mager
- Esther Miller
- Leah Katz Pear
- Ida Polstein
- Tillie Polstein
- Morris Rotfuss
- Ada Sager
- Max Schulman
- Adele Siker
- Morris Sprecher
- Sidney Swadosh
- Robert A. Tobis
- Marie Waldinger
- Melville S. Wein
- Pauline Weinstein
- Jennie Young
- Morris Zelvin

**Yahrzeits**

Tishri 27 – Heshvan 27, 5774

- Leo Amarant – father of George Amarant
- Abraham Bashkin – stepfather of Linda Finn
- Sylvia Beckerman – mother of Barbara Beckerman
- Marie Cassen – mother of Lois Nadel
- Etta Cohn – grandmother of Gail Feld
- Lee Diamond – father of Barbara Mason
- Annette Farber Rechtschafer – sister of Beverly Glassman
- Hymy Fink – husband of Rita Fin
- Nathan Fink – father of Hyman Fink
- Bertram Friedman – loved one of Dorothy Friedman
- George Glassman – father of Ron Glassman; father of Richelle Glassman
- Edward Glazer – husband of Lora Glazer; father of Natalie Glazer
- Albert Goller – father of Ethan Goller
- Charles Gottfried – loved one of Mae Wichman
- Nathan Gottlieb – father of Henry Gottlieb
- Jane White Gwillim – mother of Liz Gwillim
- Leonora Hays – wife of David Hays
- Milton Braun Hesslein – father of Laura Hesslein
- Rachel Ickovics – mother of Jeannette Ickovics
- David Joslow – father of Liz Archambault, father of Jon Joslow
- Patricia Konecky – mother of Sean Konecky
- Max Krasner – father of Roni Benson Weiner
- Lena Lake – mother of Dorothy Friedman
- Lloyd Levin – father of Stephanie Arbig
- Steve Levinson – brother-in-law of Nancy Fischbach
- Maria Lopez – wife of Juan Carlos Lopez
- Nathan Luchnick – father of Lois Glazer
- David Miller – grandfather of Ellen Friedman
- Rhoda Patkin – sister of Marlene Scharr
- Michael Pear – brother of Joseph Pear
- Libby Peck – mother of Michael Peck
- Paul Peck – father of Michael Peck
- Marvin Radom – father of Debra Landrey
- George Saffir – grandfather of Ron Glassman; grandfather of Richie Glassman
- Gertrude Case Sandler – sister of Lewis Case
- Martin Saykin – father of Sadle Saykin
- Harry Schwartz – father-in-law of Irving Shiffman
- Frances Seidman – mother of Sandy Seidman
- Sadie Case Sharp – sister of Lewis Case
- Nathan Sigal – father of Dorothy Palmer, grandfather of Peg Palmer
- Milton Weintraub – uncle of Marcy Saltzman
- Harry Zack – father of Sylvia Zack
- Sarah Zomback – mother of Beth Brewer

- Joseph Gottlieb – father of Corinne Weber
- Rose Heller – mother of Betty Gilman
- Benjamin Lake – father of Dorothy Friedman
- Carol Leibworth – mother of Alva Greenberg
- Doris Levin – mother of Stephanie Arbig
- Ann Samuels Levine – loved one of Steven Ross
- Nat Mason – father of Stephen Mason
- Esther Miller – grandmother of Ellen Friedman
- Libby Nevas – mother of Jo-Ann Price
- Rita Nirenstein – mother of Nancy Schwarz
- Leah Katz Pear – beloved wife of Joseph Pear
- Elinor Reiner – wife of Irving Reiner
- David Ross – father of Louise Ross
- Elizer Schindler – grandfather of Debra Traumann
- Kenneth Stein – father of David Stein
- Robert A. Tobis – father of Justine Redak
- Rose Weintraub – father of Marcy Saltzman
- Aaron Weissman – grandfather of Laura Roman
- Edith Weissman – grandmother of Laura Roman
- David Wexler – uncle of Susan Fine
- Bruce White – first husband of Marilyn White-Gottfried

**Condolesces**

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to:

- Adeline Koppelman Chorches
- Mother of Sam Chorches
- July 4, 2013

Dr. Sumner Gochberg
- Father of Rob Gochberg; grandfather of Katelin
- July 18, 2013

**Refuah Shlemah**

- Linda Thal
- Marilyn Buel
- Jo Watonabe
- Donna Miller
- Louise Ross
- Peggy Tunic
- Eileen Ilberman
- Beth Gottlieb
- Howard Kaplan
- Lorraine Klappholz
- Florence Mackey
- David Roberts
- Marilyn Lawson
- Linda Sherman
- Joel Nadler
- Rose Madnick
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High Holidays are early this year!

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

Mark your calendar

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

Mama Loshen by Marilyn Kalet

Ober yetzt?
So now?
Er redt in der velt arein!
He talks nonsense! (He talks into the world.)
Vos iz der tochtls?
What's the purpose? Where does it lead to?
Moisheh kapoyer
A person who does everything wrong or in reverse
K'velen
Glow with pride and happiness, beam; be delighted

“Who has much learning but no good deeds is like an unbridled horse, that throws off the rider as soon as he mounts.”
— Ethics of the Fathers

Oneg Thanks

Beth Brewer and Rita Fink
Harvey Payton
Charles & Sue Savitt
Rochelle Dauenheimer
Michael & Sandee Gelven
Don & Andrea Bartels
Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik
Johanna Schaefer