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Damascus Gate, Jerusalem, circa 1900
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I N  T H I S  I S S U E

From Our Rabbi/Elul Series

Worship Services and September/October Events

From Our President

From Our Editor

Live Streaming

Books and Bagels

Wooden Synagogues

High Holy Days Schedule

Selichot and Sukkot

Whole Mishpacha

Picture Gallery

AEC/Hebrew class

Social Action

CBSRZ News/Lary Fund/Marilyn/Inspirations

Condolences, Mi Sheberach, Remembrances

Calendars
As I write this column, Israel is calling up more reserves for the continued fighting in Gaza. I pray that by the time you all read this, the rockets and the violence will have ceased, and that there will be renewed hope for peace.

On a recent Friday night at Oneg Shabbat, I was sitting with a group of congregants talking about how we have been managing our own emotional responses to all of the chaos in Israel. One person shared that when the three Israeli teens had been kidnapped, she could not take her eyes off of her Facebook news feed and was checking it every break she had at work. It wasn’t until our healing and memorial service after the bodies had been discovered that she found she was able to stop obsessively following every development or reading every post. Hearing that a ritual actually helped someone with her confusion, despair and anxiety gave me a sense of encouragement and inspiration. Prayer and ritual do heal and anchor us, and they can transform our lives. Especially when we are confused, sad, worried or in mourning, it can be a wholesome thing to know that we have a specific time and place to acknowledge and hold those feelings and to know that when the ritual is over, we can let the feelings go.

For mourners in particular, Kaddish can be an anchor three times a day, once a day or once a week in the first year after a death, and then once a year on Yahrzeit (anniversary of the death) and at Yizkor (memorial) services on the festivals. Our tradition provides a time and a place to remember our loved one. Kaddish and Yizkor allow us to shed tears, to feel the support of community, to perhaps feel some catharsis, and maybe even to experience some lifting of the spirit afterwards. We also don’t have to feel guilty for not thinking of the person or for not deeply grieving all day or every day. Of course, grief is not limited to the moments when we say Kaddish, but prayer is an active way to acknowledge the feeling, and then to let it go at least for a time.

Next month, when we gather to observe Yom Kippur, many of us will make a special effort to attend Yizkor memorial services, to remember our loved ones who died in the past or more recently. In fact, we have several opportunities throughout the Jewish year to attend Yizkor—on Yom Kippur and on each of the festivals of Simchat Torah, Passover, and Shavuot. Because our attendance at festival morning Yizkor services has been very small for the past few years, the Religious Affairs Committee and I have some changes that we hope will allow more people to experience Yizkor. We will continue to hold Simchat Torah festival morning services with Yizkor, but for the seventh day of Passover and for Shavuot, we will include Yizkor in evening services either on that festival or on the Shabbat evening closest to the festival.

Our Yizkor and Kaddish prayers can be holy containers for the most precious memories and feelings that we have. I invite you to experience the power of these rituals this year.

Yizkor Memorial prayers will take place during the following worship services:
Yom Kippur Afternoon, Saturday October 4, 4:00 pm
Simchat Torah Morning, Thursday October 16, 8:00 am
Erev Shabbat services to conclude Pesach with Chametz Oneg, Friday April 10, 7:30 pm
Erev Shavuot services and late-night study, Saturday May 23, 7:00 pm

Israel is on our minds more than ever, given the renewed cycle of rocket fire from Gaza and Israel’s military response. It can be difficult at times like this to continue to feel a positive connection with this place that is so dear to us. And for many of us who have not yet spent time in Israel, it all may feel quite abstract and removed. In an effort to bring Israel closer to us, we will devote three Friday nights of the Hebrew month of Elul, to personal reflections from five congregants about their experiences in and their relationship with Israel. In this way, we will begin to prepare our hearts for the Days of Awe.

Friday 8/29 Ethan Goller will speak of his own experiences living in Israel. He will also share some words written by his son Mack, who spent several months last year living in Israel. Mack is away at college and cannot be with us in person.

Friday 9/12 Hadass Rubin, one of CBSRZ’s resident Israelis, will reflect on what Israel means to her.

Friday 9/19 Sarah Burzin and Amy Burzin, two sisters, have each spent time in Israel this past year and will each share the impact their experiences there had on them. Sarah, a college student, went on Birthright in the spring. And Amy went on NFTY in Israel this summer. We will also change the Torah mantles from blue to white at this service.

ELUL SERIES 2014: My Connection to Israel
SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, September 2, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava; 7:00–9:00 PM, Project 100
Wednesday, September 3, 8:45 AM, Religious Affairs; 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg; 7:00 PM, Program Committee
Thursday, September 4, 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, September 5, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Sunday, September 7, 7:00 PM, Memorial Concert in Memory of Marilyn Buel; 4:00 PM, Chester Soup Kitchen
Tuesday, September 9, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava; 3:00 PM, SSKP Board Meeting; 7:00 PM, Adult Education Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, September 11, 7:00 PM, Board of Directors; 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, September 12, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Sunday, September 14, 9:30 AM, Book and Bagels with Charles Barber; 4:00 PM, Interfaith Trip to Israel Gathering
Tuesday, September 16, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, September 17, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, September 18, 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, September 19, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Tuesday, September 20, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, September 21, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, September 22, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Friday, September 23, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Saturday, September 24, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Sunday, September 25, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Tuesday, September 26, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, September 27, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, September 28, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Friday, September 29, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Saturday, September 30, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Sunday, October 1, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Tuesday, October 2, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, October 3, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg; 7:00 PM Program Committee
Thursday, October 4, 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, October 5, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Saturday, October 6, 10:30 AM, Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Allie Champion
Wednesday, September 30, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg; 7:00 PM Program Committee
Thursday, October 6, 7:00 PM, Executive Committee; 7:00 PM Meditation
Tuesday, October 7, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, October 8, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg; 7:00 PM Program Committee
Thursday, October 9, Sukkah office closed; 7:00 PM, Board of Directors; 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Sunday, October 12, 11:00 AM, Education Committee
Tuesday, October 14, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava; 3:00 PM, SSKP Board Meeting; 7:00 PM, Adult Education Committee
Wednesday, October 15, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg; 7:00 PM Interfaith Israel Trip gathering at United Church of Chester
Thursday, October 16, Simchat Torah, office closed; 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, October 17, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Tuesday, October 21, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, October 22, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, October 23, 4:00–6:00 PM, Deep River Soup Kitchen; 7:00 PM, Executive Committee; 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation
Friday, October 24, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Sunday, October 26, 9:30–11:00 AM, B’Yachad: Council of Committees
Tuesday, October 28, 9:00–10:30 AM, Yoga with Ava
Wednesday, October 29, 9:00–10:30 AM, Chair Yoga with Ava; 1:00 PM, Mah Jongg
Thursday, October 30, 7:00–8:00 PM, Meditation

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 Bat Mitzvah. Click on the Like icon so you can be counted as a Friend of CBSRZ and thus receive postings as quickly as they are sent.

Charles Savitt has launched a Twitter site. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @CBSRZ. Follow Rabbi Goldenberg on Twitter @rabbirg.
Ancient and cool. That’s how one new Jewish student group describes itself. I like that. The formula neatly captures the fusion of a 3,000-year old legacy with innovation. Israel, as we watch the bloody Gaza conflict unfold, tells a tragic dimension of this story: a tech-smart “startup nation” is anchored to timeworn conflict. Our congregation must continue as a safe place to discuss this struggle as we support Israel and its people. But in this first letter as president I want to address our home front of CBSRZ. Let me start with the ancient.

Our heritage is packed with learning, law, ethics, music, dance and ritual, all in the cause of our people’s struggle for meaning and connection. But those 3,000 years also brimmed with heartache. In July, when our synagogue was vandalized, even though we had little evidence of a hate crime, we all felt the destruction chiming with historical memory of pogroms. The incident proved a test of our character: so many congregants rallied around, offered help, showed indignation and resolve.

As it happens, just two days before the vandals intruded, my wife Clo and I had time-traveled to another place and moment—1941—when hate on a vast scale had touched our family. Clo’s late father Jacques had escaped Paris just ahead of the Nazis and reached Toulouse, in Vichy France. But he had no valid citizenship documents—and was quickly picked up by the police and imprisoned in Recebedou, a detention camp just south of Toulouse. Every day his older sister Fira—now 96 and living in New York—would take a bus and walk through the snow to bring him food, while working feverishly to get him out. Eventually she bribed an official: their father, a skilled tailor, would make the Recebedou administrator a custom suit from fabric smuggled out of Paris. Jacques was released just days before convoys took Jews away from there. One French newspaper story displayed on the wall branded Recebedou the “antechamber of Auschwitz.” A floor-to-ceiling list showed the names of those deported. But six months later Jacques, his parents and two sisters sailed to America, with coveted visas, on the very last boat out of Marseille before the full Nazi takeover of France. They never lost hope or determination. But at the same time, countless miracles combined somehow for their survival.

Today, Recebedou is the tiny and little-known Musée de la Memoire, tucked among working class homes in the Toulouse suburb of Portet-sur-Garonne. With Jacques and Fira’s accounts in hand, we visited there—the last original barracks—on July 11, having arranged with Karina Hernandez, the Museum’s sole staffer, to meet us. It was eerie to see in the exhibit a small iron stove just like the one Jacques described as the only source of heat during that winter of 1941–42. A scale model showed the detention camp as it looked in the war, and bright fluorescents illuminated freshly painted walls and a polished wooden floor. In such orderliness it was difficult to conjure the fear of those days until we stepped outside to see the grim building from a distance. But Karina gave us another way to convey dread from imagination to the concrete present. She spoke of today’s rising tide of French nationalists targeting Jews and other immigrants; we all later saw televised evidence of this in the anti-Semitic riots in Paris. Karina wondered how long the Musée de la Memoire would remain.

For us at CBSRZ, preserving memory is a source of strength. We remember the Recebedous in our past. We will, in the coming year, recall the fortitude of those who, coming up on exactly one century ago, overcame challenges to found our predecessor shul Rodfe Zedek in Moodus. And we absorbed the recent lesson of the July vandalism by installing fresh security defenses. But we also understand, even as we celebrate the richness of the past and protect against its horrors, that we must remain in sync with the times. That way we enrich life today and tomorrow. Ancient and cool.

To me, that is a silent message of our transcendent sanctuary. You can see the golden letters of ancient words circling
S

ixteen or seventeen years ago my wife, Sibylle, and I had the good fortune to spend a few days in Belgium in the lovely city of Bruges. On the way there we stopped in Ghent to see Van Eyck’s Adoration of the Lamb, an artistic achievement that I feel has never been surpassed.

The old city of Bruges is found within the city walls. It is crisscrossed by canals leading some to call it the “Venice of the North.” The architecture is primarily of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, making one feel like that one has just stepped into a painting by Vermeer. But unlike some old European cities like Florence whose primary reason for existence seems to be catering to tourists, Bruges continues to carry on the consuming task of commerce, just as its burghers have done for the last number of centuries.

One evening we stopped for dinner at an old restaurant by the side of a canal. Wanting to immerse myself in the spirit of the place I ordered what was billed as the Belgian national dish, a sort of choucroute. Working my way through the mound of sauerkraut and meat I came across the facial bones of a small animal. I got up from the table and sat outside for a while on the curb feeling very sick indeed. That’s when I decided to become a vegetarian.

Stopping eating meat wasn’t that hard for me. I had been a vegetarian for a while when I was in my late teens, subsisting on grilled cheese and tomato sandwiches, French fries and chocolate milk shakes. But I had gradually returned to eating meat. I didn’t cook for myself and eating out is much easier if you can grab a bit or turkey sandwich. But I liked meat more for its flavor than out of a desire for a thick juicy steak. Returning to a vegetarian diet other considerations occurred to me. I realized that I had bought into the sleight of hand that distanced me from what I was actually engaged in. The neatly packaged servings of beef, not cow; pork not pig, veal not baby cow are as far removed from the messy business of animal slaughter as one can imagine. It has long been noted that as a hybrid language English incorporated class distinctions in its terminology for food. At the Norman conquest of England, French became the language of the ruling class, Old English that of its subjects. Thus while our words for animals have Germanic roots many of the name for food come from French. I had enjoyed eating meat as long as I remained alienated from what was going on. I realized that I had been eating animals, no matter how well-prepared and decided that I could only eat what I was in theory willing to kill.

Because of that I have no trouble with hunters. They know what they are doing. I have seen a cow slaughtered. It is a bloody business. But the vast majority of people are content to pretend otherwise, to look upon animals as a commodity rather than living sensible creatures. I don’t think one can any longer argue with Descartes that they are simply animate machines. The last one hundred years have seen that the case for humanity as the pinnacle of creation rests on shaky grounds.

When I was in grammar school I was taught that we were the tool-making animal. Not so, primates, elephants, crows all use tools. The architectural skill required for making a bird’s nest is way beyond my capacity. In retreat, the defenders of human superiority asserted that we are the only animals to use language. Roger Fouts’ work with Washoe and ASL flat out contradicts that.

Today I still eat fish. It makes living with my wife, an omnivore, easier and helps me nutritionally. (I’ve cut out shellfish, hedging my bets in case God actually cares about keeping kosher.) I feel less kinship to fish, although the idea of yanking a helpless creature out its natural element to drown in air, is hard to contemplate. I think one day soon I will have to go fishing to see if this is something I can in good conscience continue to do.

(From our Editor Continued from page 5)

the canopy. But the space, with its light and color and countless lines connecting above, seems to say: here as you search you may find something that will drive you through the roof.

And cool things are in store under our roof alongside the ancient. We are among the first synagogues in the region to undertake digital Jewish learning in our school. The Rabbi is inaugurating a “Prayer Lab” to experiment with ritual together with traditional practices. We will become the first congregation in Connecticut to install a Caring Coordinator to ensure that seniors and other in need have a helping hand and remain vital in our community. We are first in the region to live stream services—the opening step in creating an ambitious video arm of CBSRZ. We are building a first-class library of Jewish learning. And we have robust social action and adult education programs in the pipeline.

Please bring your passions and interests, and insights from your own past, into this tapestry. You’ll find a list of board members and committee chairs on our website. Contact them. Or reach out to me with your ideas and comments, at stephendavis110@gmail.com or 203 245 2288. It is, I believe, both by tapping our deep heritage and breaking boundaries to the new that we together build not only a house of worship, but a singular house of search.
GPS for CBSRZ
By Stephen Davis

Inside/Out isn’t the name of the latest fashion craze but, instead, the title of CBSRZ’s newly revised Strategic Plan covering 2014 to 2017. The board of directors adopted it in July following a yearlong development process. Why the title? Here’s how the report puts it: “CBSRZ’s future hinges on the themes of

- Inside: Mobilizing internal, home-grown assets that may be underutilized today;
- Out: Tapping resources external to our community but which are available to us; and
- Inside Out: Thinking afresh about practices and building on core values in order to address current challenges.”

The report updates a plan launched in 2010 by President Jo-Ann Price following a series of congregational feedback sessions. Since then, the board determined, much had changed. Pressure on school enrollment has become more acute, for instance, while the population of seniors has swelled. But last year’s Listening Campaign, which included interviews with dozens of member family members, found “a high level of pride and contentment among congregants in our rabbi and cantor; the spiritual attraction and uniqueness of our sanctuary; and programming.” The Strategic Plan envisages addressing the challenges while drawing on internal strengths.

What’s in store for CBSRZ as the plan rolls out? The first of three overarching goals is recruiting leaders and volunteers to fill gaps. This is already underway: in July new chairs took the helms of the Membership Committee (Ali Rosenblum), Program Committee (Tracy Kleinberg) and Communications & Information (Lynne Stiles). And Polly Kipp heads the new Adult Education Committee. Plus, a new video working group started with John Hausman leading. The plan calls for further action, too: including a volunteer coordinator.

Second, the plan seeks measures to strengthen long-term financial sustainability by increasing membership and expanding development. It calls for “nurturing an active and ambitious Development Committee,” including doing more to encourage a culture of giving, “filing for relevant charitable or public sector grants to fund specific goals”, and advancing the legacy donation drive. Treasurer and Development chair Kevin Fox has already brought in legacy commitments of $498,500 from generous congregants—including nearly the entire board.

Third, the Strategic Plan sets an objective of using information and financial resources from outside the congregation. To help meet this goal, the board has already named liaisons to the Union of Reform Judaism, the New Haven Federation and the New Haven Foundation.

Lots of other steps are part of Inside/Out. The Plan proposes innovating ritual to meet “the broad spectrum of preferences when it comes to religious expression.” The Rabbi will take this up in her forthcoming “Prayer Labs.” It recommends innovating in education to draw more students to the school; Principal Belinda Brennan and Education Committee chair Karen Burzin are spearheading adoption of digital learning this fall. And it suggests ways to enable further appreciation of our beloved building. One way forward is a video archive of interviews with those responsible for making the building happen.

You’ll also see more programming to build relationships among congregants and, especially, moves to strengthen Chesed. The new Caring Coordinator, to be hired in part thanks to a New Haven Federation grant to CBSRZ, will focus on precisely that.

As with a GPS, we don’t have to slavishly follow everything the report recommends. But Inside/Out points us in the directions we will need to go. Find the Strategic Plan on our website and feel free to send comments to the board.

Summary of Board of Directors Minutes, August 14 2014.

Leadership Reports:

a. President’s Report: Security in the wake of the vandalism incident to be addressed in this meeting, Jon Joslow is doing a pilot project involving video interviews of a small number of people who were involved with the building of the temple. This is a test to see if we want to do more. To mark the 100th anniversary of Rodfe Zedek year, Lary Bloom has scheduled a brainstorming session on Sept 2. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend the Wednesday morning Minyan.

b. Treasurer’s Report: For this past fiscal year, all funds up 10.4%, beating all benchmarks. The Legacy program year 2 to begin.

c. Vice President’s Report: Dashboard: RAC brought up Kashrut/Kosher policy again as a conclusion was not reached last year. S. Davis asked RAC to decide whether it wishes to resubmit a policy and, if so, to bring it to the board.

d. Principal/Cantor’s Report: Moving forward to shift school away from traditional models. Trying to use the umbrella of “Youth Development” in the Education program so as to encompass all aspects of Jewish life in the student’s education. Trying to develop new programs for the Madrachim besides being teaching assistants. H. Payton suggested that we publicize initiatives through ads in relevant publications to encourage new members.

e. Facilities Report:

- There was a small flood in Belinda’s office, with the cause traced to vandalism on the roof. Repairs for this will be covered by insurance. This is separate from roof status issues, which are still being investigated.

- Security system update: Continuing to work on installation of lights and security cameras after the vandalism event. We are still waiting for vendors to submit proposals before a contractor can be chosen. Lighting will be at cost from CT Lighting. There will be cameras including one high definition camera together with motion sensitive lighting.

c. Sculpture repair: The insurance company needs to develop an estimate on repair to the sculpture before proceeding.

d. High holiday security: There was a lengthy discussion about security at High Holidays. Board consensus: nonmembers must have tickets and board members will help screen; we will contract for an off-duty policeman at the entrance; we will contract a private security company to patrol the grounds during services; S. Davis will communicate with congregants in early September to seek their understanding and cooperation.

e. Facilities Policy: Drafted by H. Resnikoff. Document designed to contain everything congregants and committees need to know about using the facility. Executive Committee, RAC, and our insurance carrier all gave comments to the document. Motion: to adopt the Facilities Policy was made by S. Seidman, seconded by K. Fox, unanimously adopted.
The Antidepressant seduction

At Books & Bagels, the author of “Comfortably Numb: How Psychiatry Is Medicating a Nation” by Lary Bloom

Editor’s Note: Over the last year, CBSRZ has offered programs on mental health. We continue our exploration with a free event (with, of course, food) on Sunday, September 14, at 9:30 a.m.

In the early 1990s, Charles Barber went to a cocktail party at his parents’ house in Middletown. His mother and father both taught at Wesleyan, and the gathering included other well-educated people who expressed surprise and disapproval at what Charles did for a living.

As he recalls, “People knew I’d been to Ivy League schools – they were suspicious of the Ivy League – and wondered why I had become a case manager for mentally ill clients, including some homeless people. Their view was that many of the mentally ill were shiftless.”

Ten years later, Charles attended a second party at his parents’ house, and the judgment had changed dramatically. “Everybody at the party thought what I was doing was terrific. They thought they had an advanced understanding of mental illness.”

What had changed? For one thing, in 1997, drug companies began advertising their antidepressants – Prozac being the first—on television. For another, ideas about mental illness evolved – from deep, dark Freudian secrets to a biological explanation, including chemical imbalances. And so, many of the guests at the Middletown party had begun taking antidepressents themselves – part of a widespread society treated by doctors for everything from stress to the blues to the very real and difficult illness of clinical depression.

Now, about ten percent of Americans take drugs for depression, and the number keeps growing. It’s a number that Charles and others who have examined this topic consider too high. According to his book, many people relying on such drugs would be better off employing other ways – without the side effects – to reduce stress and deal with “the blues.”

Reviews of Charles’s book have been positive (see sidebar) but not without controversy. When the book was first published, Charles had to defend his position on scores of talk shows. Charles will talk about these matters and answers questions from the audience at his Books & Bagels appearance.

Critical Praise for “Comfortably Numb”

“Barber convincingly argues against the overprescription of psychiatric drugs in the United States and sums up the history of U.S. psychiatry from the asylum to the community to glitzy but still elementary neuro-science. A blockbuster essential for all libraries.”

—Library Journal (starred review)

“Barber articulately and persuasively counsels that it’s time to abandon the quick-fix, pop-a-pill approach.”

—Kirkus

The congregation’s focus on mental health has been organized by two committees: Program and Social Action. If you would like to be involved in helping to produce programs in the future, please write Tracy Kleinberg, program chair (tjkleinberg@gmail.com) or Andy Schatz, social action chair, at andy@andrewschatz.com.

“Barber marks out the inconvenient truths on our path to emotional climate change but also offers alternatives to readers who wish to avoid pharmageddon.”

—David Healy, author of Let Them Eat Prozac
The wooden synagogue was “an original genre” unique because, unlike all previous synagogues, it was not built in the architectural style of its region and era, but in a newly evolved and uniquely Jewish style, making it “a truly original folk expression, “whose originality did not lie alone in the exterior architecture, but equally in the beautiful and intricate wood carving of the interior.

Moreover, while in many parts of the world Jews were proscribed from entering the building trades and even from practicing the decorative arts of painting and woodcarving, the wooden synagogues were actually built by Jewish craftsmen. (“Abstraction and the Holocaust,” by Mark Godfrey, Yale University Press, 2007, p. 92

Bill Farran, our fall featured artist, claims that wooden synagogues of Eastern Europe have been “...the perfect storm...” of his life. In the paragraphs below, Mr. Farran describes how this came to be.

“My carpenter grandfather taught me to love wood and woodworking. Carving images in wood or linoleum is an activity that gives me joy and peace of mind. I have always been fascinated by rough wooden buildings like old barns and log cabins. History and geography have been long time interests throughout my college years and teaching careers. My grandmother, through her stories, gave me an interest in cultural Jewish history, and my wife, Elaine, started me down the never-ending path of Jewish genealogy. Art was always in the background waiting to come out, which it did once I retired.

On a trip to an outdoor wooden village in Ukraine I realized that my Eastern European grandparents’ world was one of buildings made of logs and unpaved roads. Downtown sections of towns and shtetls had some stone and brick buildings with paved streets, but most people lived in wooden log houses. In 2012, while surfing the web, I came upon a photo of the Gvozdetz wooden synagogue and decided to make a linocut Jewish New Year card. As one thing always leads to another, before I knew it I had done many wood cuts, spent untold hours researching and learning about Eastern European history, had several art shows and began to speak about lost treasures...wooden synagogues of Eastern Europe.” Closer to home, Sol LeWitt, whose wonderful artistic sensibility was largely responsible for the design of our synagogue, explicitly cited the wooden synagogues of Europe as his inspiration.

Bill Farran’s wood cuts will be exhibited in our Main Street Gallery through the High Holidays. The show is free and open to the public Mondays through Fridays, 10 AM–3 PM. Mr. Farran’s work is available for purchase upon request. The artist will donate part of the purchase price to CBSRZ.

Mr. Farran will join CBSRZ congregants on Yom Kippur to give a presentation of his research and conduct a short “walk and talk” through his exhibit of Eastern European synagogue woodcuts. This will occur at the conclusion of morning services, at about 1:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.
“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.” *Arot de Rabbi Nathan*, cb. 41.

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

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

“If you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute justice between a person and her neighbor; if you oppress not the stranger, the orphan and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land I gave to your ancestors for ever and ever.” *Jeremiah* 7:5-7

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

In the month of Elul we open our hearts to reflection, repentance and renewal as we prepare for the Days of Awe. On three Friday evening services preceding the New Year, (8/29, 9/12, and 9/19) congregants will share their reflections on their relationship with the land and the state of Israel. See page 3 for a full listing of speakers.

**Friday, September 19**
7:30 PM *We change the Torah mantles from blue to our white high holy day mantles.*

**Saturday, September 20**
7:00 PM *Joint Reform Selichot service at CBSRZ.*

**Wednesday, September 24**
7:30 PM *Erev Rosh Hashanah service.*

**Thursday, September 25**
9:30 AM *Rosh Hashanah morning service followed by Taschlich,*

2:00 PM *Rosh Hashanah family program, (see page 14 for details)*

3:00 PM *Rosh Hashanah children’s service and apples & Honey Oneg.*

**Friday, September 26**
9:30 AM *Rosh Hashanah service, second day.*

7:30 PM *Shabbat Shuvah service. Sermon by Sue Levine and Lary Bloom*

Childcare, for a fee, will be available on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for children who are potty trained. Children and teenagers are encouraged to be with their parents for the parts of the service that parents deem appropriate. For guidance on this and other questions, please refer to the High Holy Days Frequently Asked Questions sheet, which was recently mailed. This year, we are continuing with some special programs in our effort to make our High Holiday services more accessible and meaningful for families with children and for our teens.

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

“And I will cause the captivity of Judah and Israel to return, and will build them as at the first. And, I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against Me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned against me and whereby they have transgressed against Me. And this city, Jerusalem, shall be to me for a name of joy, for a praise and a glory.” *Jeremiah* 33:7 -9.

Behold it was God who declared, ‘is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? (Isaiah 58:7)” *Baba Batra* 10a.

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,” *Peskita Rabbah* 17b
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.

On the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, David Tilles will lead a discussion on the Akedah, the binding of Isaac.

Kol Nidre will resound in the deep notes of a bass, expertly played by Jim Guttman, brother of Evelyn Foster.

Yom Kippur afternoon services will feature Rachel Angle, Liam Ber, Madelyn Evans, Brian Jubelirer, Sam Thorpe and Amy Burzin reading the Holiness Code.

“Study is not the principal thing, but doing for we have been taught that deeds make atonement for a person and that repentance and good deeds are a shield against punishment,” *Numbers Rabbah* 14, 10.

Yom Kippur afternoon at 1:00 the artist Bill Farran will speak about his exhibit in our gallery of his depictions of Eastern European wooden synagogues.

“Study is not the principal thing, but doing for we have been taught that deeds make atonement for a person and that repentance and good deeds are a shield against punishment,” *Numbers Rabbah* 14, 10.

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“This year, David Hays will explain how Jonah found a home in that fish’s ab-dome-en.”

“‘For on this day shall atonement be made for you, to cleanse you from all your sins… and you shall be clean before the Lord,’ *Lev. 16:30.*

“On the Day of Atonement, Satan is powerless to oppose Israel’s plea for forgiveness. The letters Ha-Satan have the numerical value of 364, indicating that on 364 days of the year he has the power to oppose, but on the Day of Atonement he has not that power.” *Yoma*, 20a.

“Who shall sojourn in the Eternal’s house; who shall dwell on God’s holy mountain? He who walks upright and works righteousness. She who speaks truth in her heart.” *Psalms 15: 1-2*
The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kipur (10/09/14). 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 are grateful 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. The Religious School children contribute their beautiful art work. 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, October 8 at 7:00 P.M. with an Erev Sukkot Service. Hopefully we will have a wonderfully cool fall evening!

Friday night October 10 at 6:15 P.M. 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 P.M. 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, October 11 at 9:30 A.M., Holy Scrollers will be held in the Sukkah.

Following Sukkot comes the dancing and festivities of Simchat Torah, Rejoicing with/of the Torah. On Wednesday, October 15, we celebrate the cycle of reading the Torah. Our celebration will begin at 5:45 with a Dairy potluck dinner, followed by Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service.

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 bakafot—which means to march around. There are seven bakafot, 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 bakafot 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.

On Thursday, October 16 at 8:00 A.M. there will be a Simchat Torah morning service with Yizkor.
Live Streaming of Services at CBSRZ

After 10 months of planning, CBSRZ is ready to become the first synagogue in the region to live stream services, so that someone anywhere in the world will be able to watch our key rituals. What does this mean and why are we doing it? First, let’s answer the why. Congregants often can’t get to services, either due to illness, lack of transportation, or the fact that they’re traveling. With access to the internet, these folks can watch and listen to services, either live or at a later time at their convenience. Maybe even our kids no longer living at home can watch a service now and then! Live streaming will also enable family and friends living far away and unable to travel to join a bar or bat mitzvah, or a wedding, at least virtually.

So how do we do it? Our plan at the outset is to have a camera set on a tripod that will film the services in a way approved by the rabbi. The camera is intended to be unobtrusive and set at a wide shot with no one operating it during services. In other words, this is not intended to be a production...no zooming in or changing the direction of the camera. The camera is connected to a “box”, excuse the technical terms, that will be communicating with a slight delay to CBSRZ’s new YouTube channel (yes, we have our own channel on YouTube!). Folks at home will just need to click on a link on the CBSRZ website to access our channel, then sit back and watch (and pray, sing and chant along too). We will announce in the weekly email if services for that coming weekend will be streamed. Of course, we need volunteers to do this and that leads us to.....

How can you help? Our plan is to film as many Friday night and Saturday morning services as we can on a regular basis, but we need volunteer video directors to do that. We need a volunteer to arrive at CBSRZ about 20 minutes before services and follow the simple, step-by-step instructions to set up the system and turn on the camera. Then, following services, the camera needs to be turned off and the equipment returned to the closet. No prior technical experience is needed! Full training will be provided. Our goal is to have all of the kinks worked out in time to broadcast our Elul services and all of the High Holiday services. If you are able to help, please call John Hausman at 970-404-2801 or email him at namsuah1953@gmail.com. We would like to have a group of 12 volunteer video directors who can take turns doing this.

For each service that is being live streamed, we will have a sign posted in the lobby which will inform people of where they can sit if they don’t wish to be on camera. Obviously anyone coming up to the bema will be filmed.

Many thanks go out to Lon Seidman for getting us set up in this endeavor, to John Hausman and the founding working group members who have helped get us started, and to CBSRZ’s board, which has been supportive. Hopefully there are enough of us willing to keep this going!
Happy Birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!

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

October
1st: Jacob Schlessel
2nd: Phineas Scott
4th: Aria Sinnappen
7th: Noah Stein
13th: Rachel Gelven
17th: Seraphin Merriam
27th: Samuel Thorpe

Religious School and Family Calendar

September 2014
Sun 14 Opening Day, Gesher/Confirmation
Wed 17 Wednesday Session
Sun 21 Sunday Session with Tashlich Program for Parents and Students
Wed 24 No School – Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sun 28 Sunday Session

October 2014
Wed 1 Wednesday Session
Sun 5 Sunday Session w/Sukkah Decorating
Wed 8 No School: Erev Sukkot – All come instead on Friday, Oct. 10 for Sukkot Potluck (6:15) and Service (7:30)
Sun 12 Sunday Session
Wed 15 No Classes: Erev Simchat Torah – all come at 5:45 for Potluck and Simchat Torah/Consecration Service (6:30)
Sun 19 Sunday Session, Gesher & Confirmation
Wed 22 Wednesday Session
Sun 26 Sunday Session, Brkfst w/Rabbi (Grade 3), Confirmation Leslie Builon Program (Grades 4 – 7)

Fall Holiday Calendar for Families

Rosh Hashanah Thursday, Sept 25
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, Oct 4
2:30 pm Children’s Service

Sukkot Friday, Oct 10
6:15 pm Hang in the Sukkah potluck dinner
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Sukkah Service

Simchat Torah Wed, Oct 15
5:45 pm Dairy potluck dinner
6:30 pm Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service

The Merry Month Of May

On behalf of the education committee, I’d like to welcome all families, teachers and students back to another year of Hebrew School at CBSRZ! Our first day of school is Sunday September 14. I am sure everyone will have a wonderful year.

As education chair, I invite all parents and congregants to join us at our next committee meeting on Sunday October 12 at 11:00 at the shul. Please come and join the discussion of school related activities.

One of my least favorite responsibilities as Education Chairperson is discussing financial scholarships for tuition assistance. Through the generosity of families, we continue to be able to extend financial assistance to those in need of reduced tuition fees. Please email me by October 1 at Karenburz@comcast.net or call me at 860-767-3126 to have a confidential and informational discussion about financial scholarships. The education committee strongly agrees that no child will be excluded from our religious school due to financial hardships resulting in the inability to pay tuition.

Submitted by:
Karen Burzin, Education Chairperson

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur student activity

We will be running a special program for students in grades 4 – 7, led by John DeNicola, Marjorie Lander and Eric Infeld. Students will be asked to reflect, discuss, and participate in an activity related to a High Holiday theme. The timing of this program will be during the Torah Service.

Special Rosh Hashanah Program for Families: Story and Crafts

Families are invited to join Karen Evans in a special program taking
A Welcome Message from Religious School Director, Belinda Brennan

It has been a busy summer, with Opening Day now only 2 weeks away and lots of excitement about what this next year will bring. We will be continuing our quest to break down classroom walls with the understanding that being Jewish is something that happens 24/7, not just at CBSRZ on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons. We will also be creating more opportunities for our littlest ones as well as our Teens to connect to themselves and each other. With all of this in mind, we will be:

• Continuing with our “Swaps” which exchange class time with Holiday Celebrations, including Shabbat Services.

• Welcoming the integration of new curriculum and technology with a package called “Shalom-Learning” to be utilized with our 4th and 5th grade classes

• Creating additional programming for our Teens – more details will follow as the parts and pieces are slotted into place

• Adding an additional session to our K’neidach (birth – 4 yr.) Program

• Utilizing a Project Based Learning approach as we pool our resources to create a community-wide Tzedakah project.

As I recall writing at this time last year, it bears repeating that it is impossible to foresee every outcome, but we will continue to monitor what works and what perhaps does not, so that we can keep deepening our sense of joy and commitment to Jewish learning and experience, in and beyond our classroom walls.

Confirmation for CBSRZ 10th Graders

Confirmation year is spent with Rabbi G., thinking and discussing ideas at a higher level than at the younger grades. In particular, the discussion is about God with questions such as “Do you need to believe in God in order to foresee every outcome, but we will continue to monitor what works and what perhaps does not, so that we can keep deepening our sense of joy and commitment to Jewish learning and experience, in and beyond our classroom walls.

Confirmation for CBSRZ 10th Graders

Confirmation year is spent with Rabbi G., thinking and discussing ideas at a higher level than at the younger grades. In particular, the discussion is about God with questions such as “Do you need to believe in God in order to be a “good Jew”?, “If God is supposed to good, then why is there evil in the world?, “What does it mean to have a relationship with God, or to experience God”? These questions and more are examined from several points of view, culminating with a service at the end of the year that the students help create. It is impossible to experience this material without feeling a personal impact. Don’t forget to sign up for this twice a month program that is sure to challenge and deepen your perspectives on life.

Bat Mitzvah of Allie Champion

September 6, 2014

Torah Portion: Ki Tetze

Tell the congregation a little about yourself.

I go to John Winthrop Middle School and I’ll be going into the 8th grade. I like to sail at Pettipaug in Essex (I race 420’s on the team). I like to play tennis, soccer and basketball. I love to read long series (I don’t like books to end!) I am reading the Private Series by Kate Brian and I read Divergence and the Haddix Series. My favorite...
subjects are English and World Geography. I have a cat named Sapphire. I really like to help people. I volunteer at the Soup Kitchen and help out with CBSRZ Social Action Committee. I like to sing and decorate my own room. I love fashion and picking out clothes. I also played piano for 5 years.

**What excites you the most about your Bar Mitzvah?**
I’m excited about the party but really excited about having my friends and family together in one spot. I can wait to look around and see them all supporting me like they always do.

**What does becoming a Bar Mitzvah mean to you?**
When I walk into the Holy Scrollers every Saturday morning, I won’t be considered a child anymore. People will take my thoughts more seriously. I don’t think I will feel the same way after my Bat Mitzvah because I will have gained more responsibility and respect.

**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?**
I haven’t met with the Rabbi yet to talk about my portion.

**Have you done a mitzvah project? What is it?**
I am currently working on it. I have been collecting children’s books that I will be donating to a day camp. I am going to read the books to them and then they are supposed to pass the books on. I am promoting sharing.

**Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing?**
Work hard every day because at the end it will all pay off and you will feel very proud of what you have achieved.

**Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Sirot**
Sept 13, 2014
Torah Portion: KiTavo

**Tell the congregation a little about yourself.**
I am entering 8th grade at Frank Strong Middle School in Durham.

I like to read, listen to music and play video games. I would like to learn to play the bass guitar. I love all kinds of music (rock and roll, pop, jazz). My favorite subject is Science because I like hands on learning and doing projects. I also like English (I like reading but not writing as much).

**What excites you the most about your Bar Mitzvah?**
Seeing all my friends and family that I don’t get to see often and many who I haven’t seen in a long time. I am looking forward to everyone meeting each other and coming together and having a good time.

**What does becoming a Bat Mitzvah mean to you?**
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What does becoming a Bar Mitzvah mean to you?

It means a coming of age. It’s the first step towards life as an adult and being accepted into the Jewish community – I know so many people who have already had a Bar Mitzvah and now I am too!

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 portion is when Moses is telling the Israelites what to do and what not to do before going into Promised Land.

Have you done a mitzvah project? What is it?

I am volunteering at the library. Since I like to read and I used to volunteer at a day care with 4 year olds I thought I would combine the two. So now I volunteer at the library shelving books and helping during the children’s programs. We made ice cream and we got to eat it at the end. We also made terrariums and I collected all sort of materials like moss and sticks for the kids so they could do their projects.

Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing?

Prepare for the one of the hardest and yet one of the most fun times of your life – it’s a lot of work but it feels great. This is only go to happen once in your life – you have lots of time to do other things – so you really need to prepare and do your best.

Bat Mitzvah of Tillie Ripin

October 25, 2014
Torah Portion: Noah

Tell the congregation a little about yourself.

I’m entering the 8th grade at Old Saybrook Middle School. I play the flute in the school band and I also play guitar and sing a little bit. I like doing crafts. Spanish is favorite subject because I like learning another language.

What excites you the most about your bat mitzvah?

Obviously I am excited for party afterward and I am excited to be able to read out of the Torah for the first time.

What does becoming a bat mitzvah mean to you?

I am really excited to officially be a part of the Jewish community and to become a Jewish adult.

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?

I haven’t started working on my D’var Torah but my portion is when Noah is looking for land and he releases a raven and a dove and the dove comes back with an olive branch and Noah realizes there is land.

Have you done a mitzvah project? What is it?

I’m raising money for a music therapy program that is run by the Community Music School in Centerbrook. The money will go to a program they do for kids with autism and similar conditions. They teach them music as therapy. I am organizing a concert with my friends, other students and some teachers from the Music school that asks for a donation.

Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing?

It’s a lot of work. At first you might think you can’t do it but once you get started it’s a lot easier than you thought it would be.

Youth Group 2014-2015

Planning happening now! Contact Marc Fink if you have any ideas you’d like to contribute or would like to learn more! marckdf@aol.com

Bat Mitzvah of
Tillie Ripin

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It’s a lot of work. At first you might think you can’t do it but once you get started it’s a lot easier than you thought it would be.

Youth Group 2014-2015

Planning happening now! Contact Marc Fink if you have any ideas you’d like to contribute or would like to learn more! marckdf@aol.com
PICTURE GALLERY

Family of Rhya Sinnappen celebrating her Bat Mitzvah

Members of CBSRZ attend interfaith break the Ramadan fast event sponsored by the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut.

Past presidents Bruce Josephy, Lary Bloom and Sue Peck
Partying in the Hood

Enjoying the festivities

Save The Train
The Mavens convening at the home of Clo Davis

Matt, Misty and Ruth Elizabeth Scoggins at Cedar Lake.

Rhya Sinnappen on the day of her Bat Mitzvah
A new committee is at work. Building on the already remarkable strength and vitality of the CBSRZ community, the Adult Education Committee (AEC) was recently formed to help make CBSRZ a vibrant center of Jewish learning.

The committee’s mission is to foster adult learning about the Jewish experience, past and present, including: Israel, Jewish culture, history, religion and current issues important to the Jewish community. The first members of the committee are themselves veterans of the most recent Adult Education venture, the Bat Mitzvah 2014 women: committee chairperson Polly Kipp with members Linda Rigono, Sandra Herzog, Ellen Nodelman, Deb Rutty, Johanna Schaefer, Pamela Petersen-Craig, and Rabbi Goldenberg. These members have been joined by Bruce Josephy and Elliot Schwam.

The committee will gather, initiate and act as a clearinghouse for ideas and suggestions coming from members of the congregation, our standing committees, and our spiritual leaders. The AEC will be responsible for implementing agreed-upon projects and will partner with other committees to provide, publicize and support events and programs.

The AEC has drafted our first-years’ curriculum which includes offerings in the areas of language, current events, history, literature and the arts. Our first exciting news, detailed in the July/August 2014 issue of the Whole Megillah, is the Kutnick Scholar-in-Residence program at CBSRZ. As a scholar-in-residence, Alan Morinis will introduce us to Mussar, the Jewish path of spiritual and personal growth over the weekend of May 1 to 3, 2015.

The future success of the Adult Education Committee will depend on your participation: letting the AEC know about your learning interests, attending events and helping us implement and share information about them. If you have interest in a particular learning topic, please send your thoughts to Polly Kipp at polly.kipp@gmail.com. We also welcome congregants who would like to join the committee. If you are interested, please contact Polly.

Stay tuned to learn about programs and events in the Whole Megillah, the CBSRZ website (soon) and in weekly emails.

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### Hebrew With Evelyn

**This is NOT your father’s (mother’s, sister’s, brother’s or the-one-you-had-to-go-to’s) Hebrew Class.**

So...have you noticed a group of adults, sitting around a table or two in the social hall, clearly having a great and productive time, talking...or schmoozing...reading, laughing, noshing—who could they be?

Evelyn’s Groupies, of course. Or, more formally, members of Evelyn Foster’s Adult Hebrew Class. Evelyn’s classes are like none other. You talk a lot, you learn a lot, you enjoy a lot. She guides you gently through the mysteries of the Hebrew language; she takes you from wherever you are to begin with and encourages you as you go on to levels that you never believed you could master; she shows you the connections between the vocabulary you are mastering and the words you’ve been hearing for ages in services and never understood.

At the moment Evelyn has two adult classes going, one for beginners, one intermediate/advanced. Some of us double up and do both. No, we’re not gluttons for punishment. We just love being there and doing it all. We meet all year long, or almost. During religious school hours, we meet in the social hall Sunday mornings, the advanced group from 8:30 to 9:30, the beginning group from 9:30 to 10:30.

So...if you’re a Hebrew School Drop-Out, a Never-Spent-A-Moment-in-Hebrew-School neophyte, a shamed-face, rusty I’ve-Forgotten-Everything-I-Learned Hebrew aspirant (that was me!), give Evelyn’s Groupies a try. It’s a great way for Religious School parents to while away the time while the kids are with Belinda and all the morim (teachers). It’s a great way to spend a Sunday morning. It’s a great way to meet and make new friends. But be warned: you won’t only gain Hebrew knowledge—you’ll probably also gain a few pounds. But in such delicious company and in such a delicious way.

New Season Starts in September!!! Call the CBSRZ Office (860) 526-8920 to sign up and email Evelyn (evfoster1@mindspring.com) if you have questions. The fees are reasonable: $50 per annum for members, $75 for non-members. We’re hoping to see you there. We want every CBSRZ member to be able to take these classes. If you need financial assistance, please contact Rabbi Goldenberg directly.

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Ellen Nodelman
The Social Action Committee (SAC) has completed a busy year, focusing on the overall themes of hunger, homelessness, mental health, children’s rights, prison reform and tolerance. We are pleased that we were able to address these and other issues of interest to congregants while also developing stronger relationships with other non-profit organizations focused on these issues. And we look forward to even more work on these and other issues in the year ahead. Some highlights:

Our Approach Encompasses Service to People and Attention to Root Causes—Our actions in the area of hunger highlight our approach of addressing current individual and community needs while also keeping a focus on addressing root causes. Our quarterly soup kitchens in Deep River and Chester for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP) continued to provide and serve food for increasing numbers of families (hopefully a testament to the food and sense of community and not a harbinger of a worsening economy). We are told that our High Holiday food drive last September delivered the highest volume of food in a single shipment to SSKP (well in excess of a ton), and we continued to collect and deliver food throughout the year as well as in connection with the Save the Train picnic and concert on June 22; boxes are ever-present at CBSRZ. Equally important, our work on the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force (SBNTF) since its inception in Spring 2013 under the guidance of SSKP has borne important fruit; in addition to raising the consciousness of the community through a free showing of a full-length documentary about hunger at The Kate in February, the SBNTF has now been directly responsible for the implementation of new and improved school food programs in various area towns, proven programs that help all kids to engage and succeed. We will continue this dual focus with work on hunger (with SSKP and SBNTF), housing (with Habitat for Humanity and SBNTF) and prison reform (working within York Women’s prison in Niantic as well as with organizations advocating for prison reform).

Working With Other Committees at CBSRZ—Mental Health and Mental Illness—In addition to our semi-annual blood drives and our work with United Action of Connecticut (UACT) in pursuing various healthcare initiatives, SAC has focused this year along with other committees at CBSRZ, on issues of mental health and illness. In addition to coordinating with other programs at CBSRZ, we have worked closely with the Connecticut affiliate of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-CT) in holding a discussion session, participating in a fundraising walk, hosting a training on legislative advocacy and engaging in a Lobby Day at the State Capitol, in which congregants (and Rabbi Goldenberg) were able to meet and speak with their elected representatives about important issues related to mental health and mental illness. We hope to continue working with the entire CBSRZ congregation to push for meaningful change in Connecticut’s governmental approach to mental illness.

Work with Organizations Outside CBSRZ—This year witnessed the development of new relationships and the expansion of those we had begun last year. Our new relationship with NAMI-CT in the area of mental health and mental illness has allowed us to approach intensively an issue which impacts almost all of us personally. Our membership and collaboration with United Action of Connecticut (UACT), which we brought into the legislative fight against gun violence last year, grew with (i) the addition of a second member of SAC (Johanna Schaefer) to the UACT board (joining long-time member Linda Rigono), (ii) the participation of UACT in the NAMI activities at our urging and (iii) our participation in the Listening Campaign coordinated by UACT. Our work with the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force included not only the activities related to fighting hunger, discussed above, but discussion and action related to issues underlying the need for affordable housing (which complemented SAC members’ work helping Habitat for Humanity finish a house in Middletown and our work over the years with End in Ten to help homeless individuals). Finally, and certainly not least, we initiated a formal relationship with the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, working with the CRC and other congregations on social justice projects and discussions. We look forward to expanding these relationships in the coming year—and adding further work with social justice colleagues at faith organizations throughout central Connecticut.

Highlighting Discussion and Debate—SAC continues to sponsor programs to stimulate thought and discussion—and disagreement and debate—that relate directly to our focus issues and taking action to effect change in Connecticut. This year, we sponsored discussions on mental health and mental illness, Martin Luther King and the theory and practice of non-violence, and solitary confinement and prison reform. We anticipate continuing this work in 2014-15, including discussions of anti-Semitism, racial/religious intolerance, hate speech and free-speech (hopefully with the Anti-Defamation League of Connecticut and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut).

Our Plan for More Effective Legislative Advocacy—Our legislative advocacy efforts over the past two years, including issues on gun control and mental illness, have highlighted the unique position of CBSRZ as a congregation encompassing many legislative districts throughout the central part of Connecticut that often don’t get involved in legislative advocacy. As a result, we plan to engage in a systematic approach to leverage our many connections more effectively—to ensure that our elected officials understand the significance of and our deep concerns about these issues.

Interfaith Activities—The SAC continues to think that an important approach to tolerance and more meaningful impact is to engage in social action activities with groups from other faiths. This includes our soup...
kitchen efforts, which take place at churches and among largely non-Jewish beneficiaries and working with local churches and synagogues (and, hopefully, Mosques) on social justice activities and discussions, which we hope to expand next year.

Getting the Word Out—An important item for the coming year is to communicate our activities more effectively—inside and outside CBSRZ. We are in process of an extensive website page revision (http://www.cbsrz.org/index.php?page=social-action) and developing strategies and practices for letting the community beyond CBSRZ know of our activities.

What Social Action Grabs Your Attention? Our social action projects depend upon our congregants. Each of the areas discussed above could use more support. Are there any areas to which you would like to contribute time and energy? Social Action Committee involves a small number of our congregation—we wonder, and sometimes even dream of what your participation could help accomplish. Please contact andy@andrewschatz.com or 860-202-2690.

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High Holiday Child Care Helpers Needed

We are looking for 3 teenagers to help with child care during High Holiday Services. Our policy is to allow only one babysitting session per individual. Teenagers can earn community service hours for this work; there will not be any financial compensation. Please call the office (860-526-8920) if you are able to babysit for ONE of these services.

Rosh Hashanah, Thurs, 9/25, from 9:30 ‘till end of services (noon’ish)

Yom Kippur, Sat, 10/4, from 9:30 ‘till end of services (noon’ish)

Yom Kippur, Sat., 10/4, from 4:00 – 6:30.

Thank you,

Religious Affairs Committee
**CONGRATS!**

Norman Hannenbaum was among the few honored as a long time Special Olympics volunteer by the Special Olympics Massachusetts Committee during the Boston Red Sox game last Sunday afternoon. See the link for the official pictures of the complete festivities.

Congrats Normie! We are proud of you for everything you have done and still do.

http://specialolympicsma.smugmug.com/Events/Special-Olympics-at-the-Red

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**The Lary Fund**

Lary Bloom, our newest-minted “former” president, has long been a storyteller. As CBSRZ’s leader for the past two years he sought to embed our community’s story in its programs, budget and policies. To celebrate his achievement, a corps of congregants contributed at the end of his term in June to create the “Lary Bloom Arts & Culture Fund.” The Fund is capable of helping to support programming—lectures or music events, for example—in coming years. CBSRZ is already blessed with a handful of other financial resources; the Sheldon Kutnick Fund has helped pay for scholars in residence while the Jo-Ann Nevas Price Educational Fund has provided scholarships to help congregants enroll their children in URJ or similar summer camps or travel to Israel on a NFTY trip. Now, with big thanks to donors, and congratulations to our ex, welcome to “the Lary Fund.” Contributions are welcome. Please send to Wendy in the office and specify that they are for the Lary Fund.

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**Memorial Celebration of the Life of Marilyn Buel**

Congregants are invited to a memorial celebration of the life of Marilyn Buel, wife of our Holy Scroller, Dick Buel, and a beloved figure on the shoreline. The event will take place in the synagogue on Sunday, September 7 at 1:00 pm. It will feature music that Marilyn loved, played by pianist Mihae Lee and others. (Mihae has played in three Music & More concerts over the years.)

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**INSCRIPTIONS**

**By Lary Bloom**

Two former congregants, Bob Siegel and his wife Carolina Marquez-Sterling, have left Chester and moved to the wilds of upstate New York. But they want CBSRZ members to know they miss you all.

You may recall that Bob and Carolina helped us produce two spectacular concerts for Music & More. Carolina’s sister, Loli, performed Cuban music with a large band, and Loli’s husband, Metropolitan Opera baritone Dwayne Croft, sang arias by the Jewish composer, Giacomo Meyerbeer. Carolina had an art exhibit arranged by Linda Pinn during which she sold many of her “chickens.”

Before they left for the Cooperstown area, Carolina said that CBSRZ was a special inspiration to her even though she is Catholic. She used to come to our Shabbat and High Holiday services with Bob and she liked them so much that she decided to renew her faith and become more active in the church. Not exactly something that we strive for, but nice anyway, don’t you think?

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**Mazel tov!**

Mazel tov to Henry Gottlieb. The morning minyan on August 10 celebrated the sixty-seventh anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah. And a big thank you for all of the things you to help in the shul.

Eric and Barbara Infeld are pleased to announce the birth of their first grandchild. Asher Gavriel Infeld was born on June 26, 2014. He lives in Brooklyn with his parents Daniel and Rachel Infeld. Alex and Zachary are thrilled to be uncles.

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**Marilyn Buel**

Marilyn, a friend of many at CBSRZ and a benefactor of our congregation, was a longtime member of Temple Beth Tikvah. She was a cultural force in Connecticut, having been instrumental in producing Chestnut Hill Concerts and the International Festival of Arts and Ideas. Her courage during her devastating struggle with leukemia remains for all a model of conduct in dire circumstances.
**Memorial Plaques**

6 Elul 5774 - 6 Tishri 5775

Louis Alfon—father of Hyla Cohen

Joseph Bellow—father of Barbara Davis

Marcia Cohen—sister of Hilda Rosen

Irvin Davidson—father of Shari Foley

Henry Drobiarz—father of Martin Drobiarz

Esther Farber—mother of Beverly Glassman

Raymond O. Fielding—grandfather of Irving Friedman

Beatrice Fischbach—grandmother of Nancy Fischbach

Harry Fischbach—grandfather of Nancy Fischbach

Lola Fischer—grandmother of Rick Hornung

Abraham Gottfried—father of Ellen Gottfried

Ruth Gottlieb—mother of Robert Gottlieb

Jeanne Haberman—mother of Harvey Haberman

Ida Isaac Benjacob—aunt of Marlene Scharr

Rose Kalet—mother of Gene Kalet

Abraham Kandel—father of Marilyn Kalet

Irene Kemp—mother of Linda Rigano,

Lovell Klappholz—husband of Lorraine Klappholz

Pearl Klein—mother of Maxine Klein

Benjamin Lake—father of Dorothy Friedman

Caral Lebewirth—mother of Alva Greenberg

Doris Levin—mother of Stephanie Arbige

Albert Meschmar—grandfather of Rachel Goldenberg

Esther Miller—mother of Ellen Friedman

Leo Neva—father of Jo-Ann Neva Price

Rita Nirenstein—mother of Nancy Schwarz

Jack Pear—brother of Joseph Pear

Leah Katz Pear—beloved wife of Joseph Pear

Doris Reiner—sister of Marilyn Kalet

Mildred Ross—mother of Louise Ross

Sally Scharr—grandmother of Belinda Brennan

Saul Seligman—uncle of Peg Palmer

Fannie Sobol—mother of Bea Case

Irving Sobol—father of Susan Sobol-Jaynes,

Philip Sprague—brother of Shelley Sprague

Robert A. Tobis—father of Justine Redak

Felix Wald—beloved husband of Anne Kent-Wald; father of Marc Wald

Edith Weissman—grandmother of Laura Roman

Morris Wolf—father of Daniel

**Yahrzeits**

6 Elul 5774 - Tishri 5775

Louis Alfon—father of Hyla Cohen

Joseph Bellow—father of Barbara Davis

Marcia Cohen—sister of Hilda Rosen

Irvin Davidson—father of Shari Foley

Henry Drobiarz—father of Martin Drobiarz

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Edith Weissman—grandmother of Laura Roman

Morris Wolf—father of Daniel

**Concords**

Our sincere condolences are sent to the family of Louis Peck.

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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<td>9:00 am - 10:30 am Yoga</td>
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<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm Confirmation</td>
<td>10:30 am Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Allie Champion</td>
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**SEPTEMBER 2014**

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**OCTOBER 2014**

**7 TISHRI-7 HESHVAN, 5775**

- **5 TISHRI**
  - 9:30 am PJ Library - Sukkot program
  - 9:30 am Religious School

- **6 TISHRI**
  - 9:30 am Religious School

- **7 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am Morning Minyan
  - 9:00 am-10:00 am Chair Yoga
  - 1:00 pm Mah Jongg
  - 4:15 pm Religious School
  - 7:00 pm Program Committee

- **8 TISHRI**
  - 7:45 pm Executive Committee

- **9 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 7:30 pm Kol Nidre

- **10 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am Yoga with Ava
  - 6:15 pm Hang in the Sukkah Potluck dinner
  - 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service and New Member Blessing

- **11 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am Yoga with Ava
  - 6:00 pm Meditation

- **12 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am Yoga with Ava
  - 5:30 pm Facilities

- **13 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **14 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **15 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **16 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **17 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **18 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **19 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **20 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **21 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **22 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **23 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **24 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **25 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **26 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **27 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **28 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **29 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **30 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed

- **31 TISHRI**
  - 9:00 am-10:30 am Yoga
  - 3:00 pm SSJP Board
  - 7:00 pm Adult Ed
Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

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