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Lidia Kozenitzky, Kriat Yam Suf. (From http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Effib.)
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Not so long ago in a shtetl not so far away, there was an awakening. One morning in early March (late Adar I by their yiddeshe reckoning), the wise men and women of Chelmster descended on their village coffee shop, Shimon’s, for some bagels and shmear.

Now these were not just any village dwellers – they had a particular brand of wisdom that guided them always. Their foundational myth, or meise, as they would call it, told that a long time ago, two angels were winging over the town of Chester, Connecticut. One angel had a sack of wise souls, and the other had a sack of foolish souls. Usually, the intent of the angels was to allow some of each to tumble into the villages they were populating. But this time, the sack of foolish souls got caught on a branch of a tall tree at the corner of Kings Highway and Middlesex Turnpike, and all of those foolish souls tumbled down into Chester, creating the town to be renamed, as the shtetl of Chelmster.

So, the inhabitants of Chelmster were in Shimon’s on this day in the month of Adar I, noshing on their bagels, when they remembered that it was time to plan their Purim celebration.

“My friends,” said Shprintze to the wise Chelmsterites, “we have a problem!”

“What is it?” asked Yankel. “Did you butter your bagel on the wrong side again? You know that you should always shmear it so that when it falls, it lands butter-side down! Last time you buttered it on the wrong side, and it fell butter-side UP! Now, THAT was a problem!”

“No,” said Shprintze, “we have a Purim problem. You see, Purim is the only day the only fool in our shtetl has the most important job. Purim is about foolishness, and the only one who is foolish enough to pull it off is our village fool, Gimpel. But just this year, Gimpel came into some family money, and he got himself a condo in West Palm, Florida for the winter. He won’t be back until Pesach!”

“Oy,” chimed in Beryl, “the rest of us are far too wise to make Purim without Gimpel. What shall we ever do?”

The wise people of Chelmster ruminated on this problem for seven days and seven nights. When they finally emerged from their deliberations, they gathered again at Shimon’s for Slice of Pie Happy Hour, and Frume announced:

“We have decided that since the holiday of Yom KipPUR sounds a lot like PURim and is much more serious, that it is much more fitting for a wise town like ours to just celebrate it twice this year! This way we can do what we always do on Yom KippUR! We will start with a huge meal, and then we can all wear costumes and masks, make lots of noise, and then drink some wine and eat sweets!”

From then on, the shtetl of Chelmster celebrated Yom Kippur twice a year — once in the Fall, in the month of Tishrei and once in the Spring, in the month of Adar (and on leap years, the month of Adar II).

As the villagers left Shimon’s, they saw that for once, it wasn’t raining. So they opened their umbrellas, all of which had large holes in them.

** According to a Rabbinic tradition, when the Messiah comes, Yom Kippur, or in Biblical Hebrew, “Yom Ha-Kippurim,” will be transformed into “Yom K-Purim” which means “a day that is like Purim.”
Every four years since 1972 I have travelled to New Hampshire on the weekend before the presidential primary. On the very first occasion, I went to canvass door to door for McGovern—and got hooked on the whole, crazy circus of ‘race to the White House’ politics. In later years the quadrennial trip evolved into a kind of exotic political tourism. Sometimes as many as 150, from as far as London, have come to New Hampshire on the Saturday before the vote to follow Clo’s and my itinerary and then to gather for an open house dinner to share campaign war stories. We have encouraged people to bring children, see as many candidates of all parties as they can, join rallies, and get immersed in the theater of it all.

In 2000, our middle son Jacob found himself volunteering to help escort people onto John McCain’s ‘Straight Talk Express’ campaign bus—getting a big handshake from the Senator along with a hearty “You’re a great American” in return. Minutes later, though, he was waving Al Gore signs at a nearby rally. The experience can be a blast.

With all the hoopla that goes on, though, it is easy to forget that an election is about choosing our next leader and, in so doing, about debating and deciding what we want to be as a country. Of course, the way the US does this can be no one’s ideal of a rational, deliberative process. Iowa and New Hampshire have outsize influence in winnowing candidates, yet hardly represent the population. Still, America’s ‘president search’ makes me think about our own rabbi search and, for that matter, the challenge of how any group picks a leader. Is there any perfect way? In some, people with weapons decide who is in control. In other communities power flows through a family and its heirs. In some cases, those with the most money win. In the Roman Catholic Church a college of cardinals meets in secret and kindles white smoke through a Vatican chimney to signal when it has finished. Tibetan Buddhists find their next leaders by detecting the incarnation of an old soul in a young child. Through history humans have devised countless means to figure out who should head their packs.

How do we Jews choose our leaders? And what does the choosing tell us about who we are? In the Reform movement, congregations do the selection; no rabbi is parachuted into a community on the instruction of some higher command. The Central Conference of American Rabbis sets orderly guidelines and offers sound advice. In theory, we expect someone chosen through a democratic process. There are no primaries! But in practice, the task of hiring someone as spiritual leader requires enormous background work. Listening to members to find out what they want. Developing a comprehensive job description and compelling description of our community. Reviewing candidate applications, undertaking interviews, narrowing the pool to finalists, arranging and conducting visits by those on the short list and, finally, picking a final candidate, re-checking credentials, researching any background information available, and then offering the choice to the board and community for a vote. This must be done by a subset of the community. We have called it, of course, the Rabbi Search Committee.

At the end of the day, our way of finding a rabbi comes down to trust. Do we trust the democratically elected board to compose a smart search committee that looks more like CBSRZ than Iowa and New Hampshire look like America? Do we trust the search committee to do its job with thoroughness and integrity? If we do, then the democratic piece of the process, the congregational meeting, becomes both a learning exercise and a proud affirmation of unity. If by contrast congregants see the search committee as factionalized, rigged, unrepresentative or simply not up to the task, then the
congregational meeting can be truly destructive.

But I’ve learned through CBSRZ’s experience this year that the search process is also a powerful channel for defining ourselves. Let me give an example. When the committee began its work last July, members debated how we should address the fact that Rabbi Goldenberg had agreed to conduct interfaith weddings under certain conditions. This was a pretty touchy topic with rabbis, we thought. Should we only consider candidates who have crossed that line? Or should we play that feature down in our application and let candidates explain whatever stances they take? After all, there are lots of other factors to take into account. Would interfaith marriage be a litmus test for us?

My read in those early days was that the committee was reluctant to define acceptance of interfaith marriage as a must for our next rabbi. Indeed, it short-listed one candidate whose express policy was to preside only at weddings between one Jew and another. But when that candidate came for a visit, and joined the committee for a dinner interview, the discussion that ensued proved remarkable. Every search committee member around that table spoke as one in saying that Rabbi G’s move to embrace conditional interfaith marriage was now embedded in CBSRZ’s culture. It speaks, they said, to who we are today. Going back would not be an option. I felt that night that the committee had, perhaps to its own surprise, experienced a powerful awareness of just what our congregation is about. It wasn’t especially about interfaith, really, but about how we are ready to be bold, and driven to be embracing.

I don’t know if America’s president search will yield as many moments of insight on the nation’s future direction. The process may be just too fraught for that. But I do have confidence that CBSRZ’s civil and respectful rabbi search will make us stronger. Please join us when we do convene our congregational vote, and together let’s set our new course.

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Save The Date!

Welcoming Judy Diamondstein, new Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Friday March 11, 2016 at 7:30pm

Judy Diamondstein, the new Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation & JCC of Greater New Haven, will join us for Shabbat services on Friday March 11 at 7:30pm. We look forward to welcoming her, introducing her to our community, and hearing about her vision for the Jewish community of Greater New Haven.

Judy grew up in an active and dedicated Jewish family involved in the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation, synagogue life and other organizations in Cherry Hill, NJ. She began her early career in Jewish communal service in Marblehead, Mass., as the Children and Youth Director at the North Shore JCC before moving to Allentown, Pa. in 1992.

In Allentown, she was an active member of the Lehigh Valley Jewish community with professional positions including Lehigh University Hillel Society Director and Director of Camp, Membership and Program Services at the Jewish Community Center of Allentown.

Diamondstein served as the Federation’s Campaign Director from 1997–2000. She returned to the Federation in February 2005 as the Associate Development Director, assuming responsibility for Women’s Division, Maimonides Society, Super Sunday, Israel Emergency Campaign and the Easton Leadership Council. She was subsequently promoted to Director of Development and then Assistant Executive Director. She also helped plan and personally lead family missions with the Federation.

Diamondstein joined the Jewish Federation & JCC of Greater New Haven as CEO in January of 2016. She has two children, Noah, 22, and Molly, 20, with her husband, Marc.
Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

Congregational Passover Seder

2nd Night of Passover – Saturday, April 23, 2016 – 6:00 pm

CATERED BY OUR VERY OWN….BOB & LINDA ZEMMEL AND ALFORNO RESTAURANT

MENU

Hard Boiled Egg and Salt Water
Chicken soup with Linda’s Matzoh Balls
Gefilte Fish with Two Horseradishes: Hot and Homemade Hotter
  (mild also available)
Traditional Seder Plates

**Wine** BYOB
Ceremonial wine and juice will be provided. Please bring your own for dinner.

Braised Brisket Served With Its Pan Juices and Roasted Brussel Sprouts
Breast of Empire Chicken Stuffed with Wild Mushrooms
Fried Chicken Fingers a la Matzo Meal (FOR THE CHILDREN)
Roasted Seasonal Vegetables
Farfel Kugel
Arugula and Mesclun Salad with Roasted Beets
Grilled Asparagus and Grape Tomato Salad

Dessert
Linda’s Almond Macaroons
Assorted Coffees and Teas

Please join us as we come together to celebrate Passover – it’s always a delicious and spiritual experience. To add a personal touch to the celebration, we ask you to bring your family Seder plate (we’ll provide the ingredients). Rabbi Goldenberg will begin the service promptly at 6:00 pm.

Please send your reservation and payment to the synagogue office by Friday April 8th. (PO Box 438, Chester CT 06412). You may also call register online via the CBSRZ.org website, call (860-526-8920) or email (office@cbisz.org) your reservation with payment to follow. You must have a reservation in order to attend. If you wish to sit with another family, we suggest you arrive no later than 5:30 to get seats together.

Name(s) ___________________________ Phone Number ___________________________

Member Adults ______ x $36 = ________
Non-Member Adults _______ x $45 = ________

Member Kids (5 - 12) _____ x $10= ________
Non-Member Kids (5 - 12) ______ x $18 = ________

Member Kids (under 5) ______ free
Non-Member Kids (under 5) ______ free

We would like to donate $_________ towards the purchase of a meal for someone who cannot afford to come to our Seder.
PURIM IS COMING
March 23, 2016

Erev Purim - Wed, March 23, Purim Fun Continues…Rated PG…. so bring the whole family! Beginning at 6:00 pm, on Wednesday March 23, we will get together for silly scenes based on the Megillah, with food and music and audience participation! We will begin the evening with a pizza and salad party at 6 pm. Wine and beer is BYOB. We will supply non-alcoholic beverages. At around 6:30, we will settle in for our Adult Spiel, which will be rated PG, so children are welcome to attend. Last year’s Spiel was so much fun, we’re doing it again! Several groups of volunteers will present their wacky interpretations of a specific section of the Megillah. In addition to our actors, we will all be singing old Purim favorites with Meg Gister on the piano. Following the spiel, we can mingle over coffee and traditional hamantaschen and other desserts. For our bakers out there…please bring some desserts to share! Homemade are always better than store bought!

As we dig out the goggers, and the silly hats, make up some hamantaschen, and prepare to celebrate, it is also time to make up and deliver boxes to those in need of a little cheer and a friendly smile.

This year, CBSRZ is not selling the boxes like we’ve done in years past. We are giving them away for free to those in need. If you have someone in particular that you would like to give a box to, just let the office know, and we’ll put them on the list.

Chesed will donate the materials, and Kivvun students will decorate boxes and make masks. Volunteers are needed to:

- make hamantaschen and other edible goodies;
- help stuff the boxes;
- deliver the boxes to the community (a GREAT mitzvah for the entire family).

Contact Linda Sherman at LCSherman@gmail.com to volunteer or with any questions. Donations are not required but they are happily accepted.

Let’s Celebrate Eating Chametz Again!

Passover comes to a close on Friday, April 29. Join us for Shabbat Services, which will include Yizkor (Memorial) service, at 7:30 pm. We will then share a delicious oneg, full of cakes and cookies and other chametz, all of those yummy foods we didn’t eat for seven days! Our oneg will be pot luck. Knowing that many of us won’t bake cookies on the seventh day, we will purchase a tray from The Wheat Market. Feel free to bring other desserts (fruit, store-bought/bakery treats, etc).
Journey to Justice
by Lynn Coville

Journey to Justice tells the story of Howard Triest, a German Jew who fled Nazi Germany in 1939 at the age of 16 returning as an American soldier and then serving as an interpreter during the Nuremberg Trials. He came face to face with imprisoned Nazi leaders who were responsible for the death of six million Jews, including Howard’s parents. At Nuremberg, Howard felt transformed, from victim to victor, and was able to reclaim parts of his German identity.

The documentary also tells the story of how Margot (Coville), Howard’s younger sister, was rescued from a detention camp in southern France just before her parents’ deportation in August of 1942. Margot later helped save ten other children from the Nazis in her subsequent escape to Switzerland on her 14th birthday in 1943.

Journey to Justice was filmed in five countries and features extensive archival research and images including historic film and photographs shot by Howard himself. This film is a personal journey of the Triest family a family portrait set to film. It is an intimate story of loss of family and identity. The film recounts events through Howard’s own words as he revisits, at the age of 83, the sites of his experiences in Germany accompanied by his sons Brent and Glenn who are essential witnesses to Howard’s retelling. As the title and continual use of the words “retribution” and “redemption” suggest, this is a film about closure and connection. It is a film that exemplifies how telling our personal stories can provide closure from trauma and healing on a larger community level.

Please join us on Sunday April 3, 2016 at 4pm. Hosted by CBSRZ Program Committee and Lynn Coville, daughter of Margot (Triest) Coville. There will be a question and answer period with Lynn following the screening.

Yom HaShoah
Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 pm

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of Nisan. Shoah, which means catastrophe or utter destruction in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah. The Shoah also known as the Holocaust, from a Greek word meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

This year’s service, Wed., May 4 at 7:00, will be held at CBSRZ and we will be joined by our friends and neighbors from Temple Beth Tikvah. With the combined leadership and music of the two synagogues, it is guaranteed to be a beautiful and moving service.
Paul Winter, who has won seven Grammies, brings the environmental melodies of whales, birds, seals, wolves, elephants, and the earth’s melodic treasures to Music & More on Sunday, April 10, at 5 p.m. at the synagogue.

Winter has been inspiring audiences around the world since the early 1960s, giving musical voice to the critical issue of earth-care. So booking such a renowned musical talent is not easy, though for our series producer, David Zeleznik, it was the result of an enduring passion.

He says, “I first encountered the Paul Winter Consort as a college student at Northwestern University in the 1970’s. As a former student there himself, Paul’s jazz legacy was well known on campus. I was a budding acoustic string musician at the time and I was blown away by the amazing talents of the band and their ability to set a groove with no need for vocals.

“The virtuosity of the guitarist Ralph Towner especially caught my attention and the Consort’s ground-breaking album ‘Icarus,’ composed by Ralph Towner and produced by George Martin, was breathtaking. [It was taken to the moon by Apollo 15 astronauts.] Then it seemed that the band splintered, I followed Oregon for a year or two, I graduated and moved away from Chicago, and Paul Winter and company dropped off my radar. But only for a while…

“Fast forward four decades and word of mouth came to me that Paul Winter’s local performances were must-see, which is when I discovered that he was in fact a local Nutmegger whose base of operations was Litchfield County. As I learned about the far-reaching musical projects that Paul Winter had been engaged in, I found that he and his music were as vibrant as ever.

“In fact, I dare say in these ecologically challenged times, his work has fresh urgency and is even more relevant than before. After being entranced anew at one of his local shows, I and others on our committee started the discussions on how we could dovetail Paul Winter Consort into our eighth season of Music & More. The fit was obvious. We had a Spring slot on our calendar, and Paul Winter had recently completed work on his Flyways project which celebrates the great bird migration between Africa and Eurasia. That coupled with his Music for the Earth foundation and its mission of awakening a spirit of involvement in the preservation of wildlife and the Earth’s natural environments led us to engage the Paul Winter Consort to perform “In Celebration of the Earth.” The program will be an exciting musical connection to nature’s Spring awakening and Earth Day, which follows on April 22.”

As always, tickets for congregants are discounted. See our website, cbsrz.org, or call the office to reserve, 860.526.8920.
PICTURE GALLERY

Author Amy Bloom signs a copy of her new novel for Natalie Lindstrom.

Bloom x 2 at Books & Bagels. Author Amy Bloom and our Lary Bloom after her presentation on her new novel “Lucky Us”.

Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni of Caravan of Thieves

Rabbi Goldenberg and Linda Rigano and a corned beef on rye at Lunch & Learn.
Jackie and Lou McKown celebrate the bris of their son Trip with Rabbi Goldenberg. Maxine Leichtman, Linda Rigone, Iris Freeman and Jim Talbott hold the chuppah aloft.

Afro Semitic Experience played to a packed house at the first of the season’s Music & More Concerts. Co-founders Warren Boyd (left) on piano and David Chevan on upright bass.
Rabbi Goldenberg and Andy Schatz Address UACT Annual Meeting

Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg of CBSRZ led a group of speakers at the annual meeting of United Action Connecticut (UACT), calling on faith communities to embrace helping others. Noting that we are all created in the Divine image and “connected to one another, and, therefore, if one suffers, all suffer,” the rabbi discussed work in social justice and shared spiritual thoughts as well as some personal experiences on the ground.

Rabbi Goldenberg explained that Jewish tradition provides two paths toward social justice, both originating from btzelem Elohim (the name of God on the face of every human being). The spiritual path, based in chesed (divine quality of compassion), is organic and intuitive – we feel the suffering of others because we are connected. But, the rabbi explained, Judaism also encompasses the halakhic (the path of law), based in gevurah din (divine quality of judgment), which recognizes that we cannot rely upon the goodness of everyone’s heart but must have law to help lead to a just and compassionate community. Such laws have included Shabbat (which the rabbi called “the first labor law”) and duties to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and, perhaps most importantly, to love the stranger (mentioned 36 times in the Torah, more than any other value, and of particular interest to UACT, which has long focused on immigration issues).

Following the rabbi’s address, various activists discussed specific areas of social justice on which UACT proposes to work in 2016, including the immigration and health care issues that have been core UACT issues for years. Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee at CBSRZ, spoke about recent work by UACT and others in racial and criminal justice, including the recently enacted “Second Chance Society” legislation and upcoming legislative advocacy on bail reform, juvenile justice and the “ban the box” bill to ensure that job applicants are not prevented from applying for jobs based upon a prior conviction unrelated to job functions.

Goldenberg, Schatz and others also discussed the current efforts to sponsor refugees from the Syrian conflicts, particularly important to UACT, which has been a major factor in immigration issues in Connecticut for many years. UACT was instrumental in helping CBSRZ find undocumented immigrants for our “Coming to America” forum last year, at which our congregants shared their own families’ immigrant stories and realized how similar our ancestors’ experiences were to immigrants today.

Most of the forty attendees, including Linda Rigono, Paula Feder and Rita Fink, as well as Goldenberg and Schatz, then broke into smaller discussion groups to focus on action plans and any new areas of interest. The UACT annual meeting has provided the opportunity for the organization to discuss possible new initiatives, which has been the source of several CBSRZ-inspired commitments by UACT, including successful commitments on gun control and mental health reform. Discussion this time focused not only on some of the substantive areas, including refugee resettlement and mental health, but also on the power of active participation in demonstrations in Hartford and elsewhere.

As one of eleven (and the only Jewish) congregation members of UACT, CBSRZ has been able to leverage our commitment to social action. UACT’s members not only cover Middlesex County but extend from the Hartford area to Waterbury to the Norwich area, covering a huge section of the state and providing access to many communities – and legislators. Linda Rigono has been a member the UACT board of directors for many years.

The Right to Aid in Dying—Discussion on Sunday, March 13

On Sunday morning, March 13, from 9:30–12:00, the Social Action Committee will sponsor a forum to examine whether a person with a terminal and painful illness should be permitted to have assistance in dying by administration of lethal drugs. Legislation has been proposed in Connecticut and elsewhere, and seven states have already authorized similar measures.

The forum will cover religious and personal, as well as political, perspectives. Speakers will include Rabbi Goldenberg and Reverend Kathy Peters, recently retired senior pastor at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Chester. Information about the political issue will be provided to participants, and the audience will see a short documentary, The Last Campaign of Governor Booth Gardner, about
the attempt by a former governor suffering a terminal illness to change the law in the State of Washington.

But most importantly, assisted by facilitators trained by the Adult Education Committee, the audience will split into small groups to discuss the issues in a comfortable format. Most of us have experience with loved ones who have faced these painful challenges, and we will see if anything can or should be done.

This forum is part of an ongoing series of social action forums on embracing diversity of people, faiths and ideas and will be open to the public.

Volunteer Now to Help Resettle Three Refugee Families

“Now is the time to volunteer” said Izzi Greenberg, coordinator of CBSRZ’s efforts to help resettle refugee families. Greenberg reported that the group of area congregations and non-profits working together and with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) are close to actually bringing three families to Middletown. Some congregants have already offered their services, but more would be welcome.

Please sign up on the form available from the CBSRZ office or at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/108R-kmY967EIe4nG-dwilNNGVs536xjRSwzyWXt4jbq/edit?usp=sharing (this may be accessed electronically from the weekly email or the Social Action page on the CBSRZ website). Volunteers are needed not only for professional services but for everyday tasks such as watching children or providing transportation. No experience necessary!

Questions — please contact Izzi at izzi@middlesexchildren.org.

Nothing’s the Matter With Kids These Days— Campus Discord in Perspective

At Shabbat services on January 15, the start of the annual weekend events at CBSRZ honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Michael Roth, congregant and president of Wesleyan University, and Antonio Farias, Wesleyan’s Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, discussed the current year’s campus unrest and its part in the broader issues in society. At Wesleyan this fall, student leaders voted to cut funding to a campus newspaper after it published an Op-Ed criticizing the Black Lives Matters movement, but, as Roth and Farias explained, that event took place within a broader context of community development and learning — a great backdrop to our ongoing Social Action theme of “celebrating diversity.”

Farias commented that one of the key lessons is for students and administrators — and hopefully the public — to recognize that “we don’t all experience the world the same way.” Roth reported that at Wesleyan, like many universities today, significant financial aid capabilities have made the student population more diverse. 25% of the student body comes from poor backgrounds joining the many “rich” students who can afford the expensive tuition without financial aid; many who grew up in “gated communities” are sharing space for the first time with those who grew up in foster care. Both men suggested that universities have the dual responsibility of helping to create a “safe” space for growth and discussion while preparing students for the inequities — and sometimes harshness — of the world, all of which plays out in the discussions and actions on campus.

This new interaction necessarily leads to friction, which is magnified — internally and externally — in an era when everything is shared. As Farias noted, “the beauty and curse of this generation is they share language at the speed of light.” Micro-aggressions (little actions based on stereotyping) are a focus of discussion. And all of this has to be worked out while being exposed on the web. Perhaps not coincidentally, less publicity has attended Wesleyan’s hiring more diverse faculty and adding more inclusive courses over the past few years.

Roth also discussed the “affirmative action” that has led to some of the conflict. Noting that the Supreme Court has limited legally protected affirmative action to measures for the benefit of the university community as a whole, he commented that some of the students of color express the same concern — that the university’s focus, and the reason those students are there, is not because they are valued but for the benefit of the school. But, as Roth tries to make them understand, it results in those students being given “the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Perhaps most importantly, in addition to learning how to reconcile these conflicting messages and values, Wesleyan students have contributed greatly during and after their university years, and Roth expressed awe at what so many accomplish so quickly. Like our own kids, they may not listen, but somehow they hear.

Please Get to Know ALICE

We’d like you to meet ALICE. She’s new, but he’s been here forever.
Several years ago, the United Way launched a groundbreaking project to look carefully at those who were Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE). These are folks who are not under the official poverty line, but they have trouble making ends meet based upon analysis of actual survival costs in their area for housing, food and other categories. Any crisis could put that goal beyond reach. And although there have always been “working poor” in the U.S., the slower wage recovery following the recession of 2008 has created a crisis in many of our communities. As an example, although only about 5% of all Middlesex County households are below the poverty line (about $23,000 for a family of four), 25% are ALICE (about $63,000 for a family of four); and although only 5% of Westbrook’s households are below the poverty line, 34% are ALICE!

The full United Way report on ALICE and the report on ALICE in Connecticut (which includes breakdowns by county and town) may be found at unitedwayalice.org.

The Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, which CBSRZ helped the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries launch several years ago, will focus on ALICE in 2016. ALICE will “attend” the many events throughout our communities — represented by a cardboard cut-out of “ALICE” brought to meetings and activities. We hope to have ALICE to CBSRZ this spring.

So when you have the opportunity to meet ALICE anywhere in your community, please do. And check her out on Facebook at ALICE on the Shoreline. But, even more importantly, we can keep ALICE in our thoughts and actions. ALICE is part of our community — perhaps some of our neighbors and friends. (S)he is simply trying to make ends meet in difficult times that are, at least for now, a new normal. Perhaps as a compassionate neighbor or employer, we can help with childcare or transportation. And over time, perhaps we can figure out a way to ensure that those who work hard don’t have to struggle to make ends meet, so that Alice doesn’t live here anymore.

Stuffing Another Truck Against Hunger

On Sunday afternoon, April 10, please help as we once again fight hunger along the shoreline. Students from our religious school will participate in our annual “Stuff a Truck” campaign at Stop & Shop in Old Saybrook. Following Religious School classes and a pizza lunch, students will be taken to Old Saybrook to appeal to shoppers to buy and donate food to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, which will supply a list of most needed foods. This complements our successful High Holiday food drive each fall.

Adults Also Needed. We need help from 12 to 3 pm. Help us transport and supervise the students. Or just put it on your calendar to shop at Stop & Shop that afternoon and help us maximize our food drive. Not only will you be able to join in the community’s fun, but you’ll be fulfilling the Mitzvah to feed the hungry.

Please call Debby Trautmann, (860) 434-3623, with any questions or to volunteer.
Kitah Har students with Morah Debby Trautmann prepared food at school on February 7 and then served it at the Shoreline Soup Kitchen at the United Church of Chester that evening. (All photos by Liz Jones)

Page 14 Top: David, Bryce and Amina.

Page 14 Bottom: (left to right) Bryce Connelly, Eric Infeld, Zachary Infeld, Morah Debby and Lisa Connelly.

Top of this page: (left to right) Zachary, Morah Debby, Bryce, Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones, David, Amina, Jim Talbott and Ziv Goldenberg.

Bottom of this page: Amina Goldberg, Bryce and David Cair.
What happens after you die: a chance to ask Rabbi Goldenberg your questions

March 9, 2016
7-9 PM

Rituals from death to burial to shiva

Open to all; attendance at the February session is not required

Cohosted by
Caring Coordinator Iris Freeman
Chesed Chair Linda Sherman

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
News from the Transition Committee

The Transition Committee has undertaken the responsibility of preparing the congregation’s farewell to Rabbi Goldenberg and welcoming the new Rabbi, who is due to arrive at the beginning of July. Under the stewardship of Doreen Joslow the committee will draw up the talents of a number of volunteers including: Stephen Davis, Maxine Klein, Bob Zemmel, Erica Udoff, Steve Nadler, Linda Sherman, David Shiling, Susan Furman, Ellen Nodelman, Susan Peck, Revalyn Hickey, Lisa Connelly, Shelley Sprague, Linda Pinn, Rita Christopher, Liz Jones, Hila Rosen, Evelyn Foster and Brad Jubelirer. Our temple administrator, Wendy Bayor and Cantor Belinda will also be joining in the work of the committee.

The first step is to plan and execute goodbye in a thoughtful, meaningful way to our beloved Rabbi Goldenberg.

• Shabbat Across the Shoreline was held this year a week earlier than Shabbat Across America so we could enjoy the communal shabbat with Rabbi Goldenberg since she was going to be away on a retreat on the original date.

• The Rabbi will have hours set aside for congregants to stop in and have a personal goodbye.

• We’re looking at a Friday in May for a special Shabbat evening.

• On June 4, a Havdallah service is planned with a party to follow.

The committee is also planning a warm welcome for our newly chosen rabbi. This will include:

• Providing assistance in settling into the local area including tours of our large geographical spread along with practical matters of doctors, registrations, kosher grocers, etc.

• Moving day liaison.

• Providing opportunities for meeting with pre-school and early childhood groups, religious school parents, b’nai mitzvah families, chesed, homebound and general population. We are planning a number of “meet and greets” at various times and places during July.

August, September to allow the Rabbi’s family to meet congregants in small groups with the goal of having at least 50% of the congregation having had the opportunity to meet the new Rabbi prior to October High Holy Days.

• Installation event and party after High Holy Days.

This is both an exciting and stressful time for the congregation. Suggestions that might assist the committee in its work should be addressed to doreen@joslow.com.
On May 1, the Sunday before Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Program Committee will present, “Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust.” The lecture will be delivered by Gavriel Rosenfeld, professor of history and director of the undergraduate program in Judaic studies at Fairfield University. Rosenfeld’s area of specialization is the history and memory of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. He is the author of several books, including Hi Hitler! How the Nazi Past is Being Normalized in Contemporary Culture (Cambridge University Press, 2015), Building after Auschwitz: Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust (Yale University Press, 2011), The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism (Cambridge University Press, 2005), Munich and Memory: Architecture, Monuments and the Legacy of the Third Reich (University of California Press, 2000), and the co-edited work, Beyond Berlin: Twelve German Cities Confront the Nazi Past (Ann Arbor, 2008). Later this year, his edited volume of Jewish counterfactual histories will appear under the title What Ifs of Jewish History: From Abraham to Zionism, also with Cambridge University Press.

According to Rosenfeld, Jewish architecture does not exist in any stylistically recognizable sense. Historically, the divergent experiences of Jews living in the diaspora prevented the emergence of a unified “Jewish style” of building. Still, the buildings built by, and for, Jews over the centuries have exhibited Jewish traits in the myriad ways that they have reflected the historical forces that have shaped Jewish life, including the Holocaust. “Jews in all fields of creative endeavor have been shaped by the legacy of the Nazi genocide, although not in the same way and certainly not at the same time. While writers, poets, and painters, for example, began to wrestle with the Holocaust’s significance in the early years after 1945, architects by and large refrained from doing so until the 1980s,” Rosenfeld said. “Thereafter, the Holocaust’s legacy made itself felt in a variety of ways: in the deconstructivist movement, Holocaust museums, and even synagogue design. Overall, Jewish architects, like other creative figures, have struggled with the problem of how to represent the Holocaust in their work. The architectural responses to this aesthetic and ethical challenge have been diverse and they are notable for breaking new ground both in the history of Jewish architecture and western architecture more broadly,” he said.

“Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust” will begin at 9:30 am on Sunday May 1. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Bagels, baked goods and coffee will be served for your enjoyment.

Gavriel Rosenfeld
As the Community Caring Coordinator, I have been asked this question more than once. My answer is a resounding, “anyone, everyone.” Being part of a caring community has no age requirement. We may all be able to benefit at one time or another on the receiving end of some supportive services. And we can all participate on the giving end. Maybe today you help another; maybe tomorrow someone helps you. That’s what it means to be a member of a caring community.

Similarly, with regard to Daytime Programming, as many of you know, we have been gathering once a month for the past year to enjoy a homemade lunch and program. Usually this is held at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month, but check the weekly email and website calendar for the exact dates and topic.

For example, in January, members shared fascinating stories from the colorful neighborhoods of their youth, often with reference to their Jewish perspective. We paired this with a lunch of corned beef sandwiches, chopped liver and chopped herring. The month before, Charles Savitt provided a most informative powerpoint presentation on ways to protect yourself from computer fraud, information that was helpful to folks of all ages.

If a daytime program, activity, or outing is of interest to you, please join in. These are open to all! Is there a topic you would like to hear discussed? A speaker you can recommend? Would you like to present a program? I would love to hear from you!

Please call me or email me at irisafreeman@gmail.com.

Bereavement Support Group

We want to assess the desire and preferences for a professionally led support group at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek for individuals who have experienced a loss.

Whether you are grieving a loss in this past year, or many years ago, please think about whether you might benefit from some companionship and exploration on your journey of mourning. It can be a hopeful and healing opportunity to share your experience and hear about the experiences of others in our community who are also grieving, in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

We want to make this work for your schedule, and need to know what time of day would be most viable. If this is of interest, please contact me and rank your preference for early morning (8-9 am), midday (12-1 pm) or evening (7-8 pm) sessions. The group would probably meet for 4-6 sessions.

You can contact me at irisafreeman@gmail.com, through the CBSRZ website, or by phoning the office. I look forward to hearing from you.
Ken Simon comes back to CBSRZ for Another Farming Friday.

by Ellen Nodelman

plan to come to the shul for Shabbat Services, Friday, March 25, for the next instalment in our 100th anniversary celebration. It was in the fall of 1915 that a small group of Jewish farmers in Moodus bought a simple farmhouse, the first home for the newly founded Chevra Rodfe Zedek. At the beginning of our centennial celebration, Mary Donohue came to CBSRZ on a late summer Shabbat to share her enormous understanding of the history of Jewish farming in Connecticut. Later we were transported on a trip back in time to the world of those Jewish farmers in Lary Bloom’s and Shelley Sprague’s play at our Centennial Dinner. With our 100 Year Bus Tour we toured the places where our founders had lived and farmed, sometimes turning those farms into resorts, as well as the places where they had worshipped. And now we are going to be treated to a session with someone who not only grew up on a Moodus chicken farm and in the old Moodus shul but who has used his many talents to chronicle life as it was throughout Connecticut in an amazing series of documentaries. Ken Simon, of Simonpure Productions, is coming home to CBSRZ to share his memories and his work with us.

After growing up on his parents’ chicken farm in Moodus, Ken went on to Syracuse University where he graduated from the Newhouse School with a degree in Television/Radio/Film. His education did not go to waste. After founding what turned out to be one of the first alternative news-weeklies, The Syracuse New Times, and running it for eleven years, he worked as an editorial and publishing consultant for a number of corporations, then went on to create SimonPure Productions, producing, writing and directing numerous television programs, including documentaries, entertainment programs, and corporate video.

Among the documentaries he created was The Connecticut Experience series, in collaboration with Connecticut Public Television and Connecticut Humanities Council, a project recognized by the Federation of State Humanities Councils as the best state humanities project in the nation. Ken’s work has garnered him three Emmy awards, 18 Emmy nominations and the American Bar Association Silver Gavel for Legal Reporting.

At our East Haddam Historical Society stopover during the bus tour, Ken regaled us with his memorable and entertaining recollections of his life as a Moodus farm boy. Now even more of you will have the chance to hear, and see Ken Simon Live, directly after Shabbat Services on March 25 — an opportunity you will not want to miss.

FROM OUR LIBRARIAN

by David Tilles

Thank You
Thank you to the many, many members of our community who sent me cards and whose kindness has helped me cope with my son’s death. There have been moments when I wanted only to rock mindlessly in a corner with a dark hood over my heart, but the goodness of this community has always pulled me up, helped me put one foot in front of the other, and find laughter and thoughtfulness in the midst of grief.

Library
The library collection is organized but only partially catalogued. Next year’s project — or perhaps this summer — will be to catalog the whole collection.

Presently, there are two catalogs; the “PJ” collection and children’s fiction. These are online at the congregation’s website. The PJ books are meant as bed-time stories. They are short and extensively illustrated. Most aim at about a second-grade reading level, but they range from K-3. As the PJ collection grows every month, its catalog will be updated periodically. The fiction catalog includes an approximation of each book’s reading level and a short description or review.

The library has four locations; the main library room across from the sanctuary; the rabbi’s meeting room; the conference room; and the hallway of the school wing. In each location, the collection is organized topically. Each topic has a label on the shelf (e.g., Biography, or History of Jews in America). Except in the rabbi’s meeting room, each location has a sign-out box and a returns box. The books in the rabbi’s meeting room are not for circulation.

If you wish to take out a book, please place the sign-out card (if the book has one) in the sign-out box, or write your name, contact, and the author/title on a slip of paper and put it in the box.

Main Library
Fiction, Biography, Holidays, Haggadot, Prayer, Spirituality/Mysticism, Jewish Theology, Other Religions, Anti-Semitism, Jewish Customs and Sociology, Jewish Art and Entertainment, Israel, Yiddish and Hebrew, Travel Books, Cookbooks

Conference Room
Holocaust, Commentaries on Torah and Talmud, History of Jewish Philosophy, History of Jews In America, History of Jews Everywhere Else. The conference room also has the high holiday prayer books and the Etz Chaim chumashim, as well as numerous copies of the Fox, Plaut, and Hertz editions of the chumash.

Rabbi’s Meeting Room
In the rabbi’s meeting room are reference materials; single copies of numerous different translations of Torah, the Jewish Encyclopedia, the entire Talmud in translation (with an index and with annotations to Torah but without commentary), various multi-volume “classic” histories, and a collection of “life-cycle” books that Rabbi Goldenberg uses in personal counseling.

Children’s Library
Biography, Art, Chanukah (many books), Holidays (all other holidays — arranged from Rosh Hashanah through the year), Haggadot and Prayer Books, Shabbat, PJ Collection, Jewish History, Jewish Customs, Young Adult Fiction (approximately age ten and older), Juvenile Fiction (includes picture books)
**Condolences are extended to:**

George Palmer and Peg Palmer, on the loss of George’s nephew and Peg’s cousin, Mark Palmer.

To the family members of congregant, Dorothy Friedman.

To the many family members of congregant, Joseph Pear.

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...

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**Yahrzeits**

Adar 21, 5776 to Adar II, 5776

Rosa (Mimi) Amarant - mother of George Amarant

Frank Baker - father of Stuart Baker

Josiah Baker - uncle of Stuart Baker

Sara Bernstein - mother of Jeff Bernstein

Irwin Braverman - father of Barbara Infeld

Beatrice Case - wife of Lewis Case and mother to Edmund Case

Saul Davis - uncle of Stephen Davis

Irving Davis - husband of Eva Davis and father of Arnold Davis

Edward Freedman - husband of Anne Freedman

Joseph Friend - father of Sheila Byrne

Celina Gilman - mother-in-law of Betty Gilman

Aaron Gilman - husband of Betty Gilman

S. Leonard Ginsberg - father of Marlene Scharr

Ida Gottfried Ritter - great-uncle of Ellen Gottfried

William Herzog - husband of Sandra Herzog

Sheldon Kutchik - son of Ann Kutchik

Celeste Lewitt - cousin of Sol LeWitt

Max Mager - brother of Estelle Breslow

Ursula Schurman Miller - step-mother of Suzanne Levine

Helen Frances Rosenkrantz - sister of Revalyn Klein Hickey

Louise Ross - mother of Wiley, Jonathan and Sahar Ross

Howard Samuel Ruben - beloved parent to Michael Peck

Rita Samuels - mother of Palmer Morrel-Samuels

Syd Slater - wife of Bernard Slater

Jack Swidler - father of Clo Davis

Brenda Udoff - mother of Erica Udoff

Robert Wass - father of Kathy Binder

Morton Weiner - husband of Roni Berson Weiner

Barry White - friend of Revalyn Klein Hickey and David Hays and Nancy Varga

Doris Davidson Goldberg

Benjamin Goldstein

Anna Gottfried

Sussana Herty

Sidney Horton

Lili Ickovics

Gertrude Jackoway

David Kalet

Fred Lake

Sol LeWitt

Pessie Lifshitz

Anna Magruder

Franklin B. Mellion

Joan Morse

Joseph Noltowitz

Samuel Pear

Lillie Peck

Jose Peraza

Howard Peterson

Anna Povnick

Simon Pollstein

Yetta Rothenstein

David Timothy Samburg

Hermine Samburg

Minna Samuels

Marilyn Savitt

Morris Schulman

Arnold Schur

Henry Schwam

Vera Schwarz

Joyce Simon

Lupe Sobrino

Esther Sprague Sparks

Elizabeth Sprecher

Aryeh Stein-Azen

Mary Stein-Echter

Tillie Steinberg

Eric Stockton

William Stotts, Sr.

Flo Taubman

Bertha Torres

Benjamin Weber

Rose Weinstein

Daniel Wolff

Dora Zarchin

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Andy Werblow, on the loss of his mother Suzanne Werblow.

Holly Starkman Smith, on the loss of her husband, Marcus Starkman.

Jeff Burzin, on the loss of his sister, Carol Burzin.

Jeff Cohen, on the loss of his mother, Judy Cohen.

Rabbi Goldberg on the loss of her beloved teacher, Rabbi Eugene Borowitz.
## March 2016

**21 Adar I - 21 Adar II, 5776**

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**Easter Sunday**

9:30 am-10:15 am Hatchala (Birth-4yrs)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7)
10:00 am Purim Carnival and Spiel
12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program
7:00 pm Executive Committee
9:00 am Torah Study
10:30 am Prayer Lab with focus on Healing
12:00 pm Lunch and Learn
7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service
9:00 am Torah Study
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:45 am Religious Affairs 3:00 pm Beginner Hebrew 4:15 pm Kadima</td>
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The Whole Megillah
may be viewed
in color on the web at
www.cbsrz.org

Many thanks to these recent
Oneg sponsors

Eve & Doron Ber
David & Teri Fogel
Corinne Weber
Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik
Shelley Sprague & Stephen Barasz
Social Action Committee

Mama Loshen  By Marilyn Kalet

Oysgeputst
Dresses up (to the hilt)

Gedainks?
Remember?

Kain ain-einhoreh
Knock on wood. No evil eye

Katzisher kop ot katz in kop
Forgetful

Emmis, emmes,b’emmes
Really on the level (It’s the emmes)

Fun rochiles un soides,
antloif vi fun shaidim
From tale bearing and secrets run,
as from ghosts