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This beautiful chant, written by Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, is based on Psalm 90:12, which reads more literally, “teach us to count our days rightly, that we may obtain a wise heart.”

We are currently in the period of the Counting of the Omer, the 49 day period between Pesach and Shavuot. During this period we count each day, remembering each step of the journey through the wilderness from the split Sea of Reeds to the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai. It is a time of remembering, as well as anticipation and of uncertainty about the future.

As a community and a rabbi, we have been on an amazing journey together. For nine beautiful years there have been moments of crossing the sea — of liberation and celebration; and moments of standing at the mountain — of revelation and exaltation. We have wrestled — with the Divine and the human realms. And sometimes we’ve wandered in the desert, seeking direction. We’ve found comfort and healing together, and we’ve created and challenged and stretched and reached beyond where we even thought we could go as a community.

And now, we count the Omer. We count the days behind us, tucking our memories into our hearts to keep with us always. We number and treasure each precious day left together until the end of June. And we anticipate what the next steps will look like, as we part ways.

On my end, Jim, Amina, Ziv and I are preparing to move to Forest Hills, Queens, near my parents. We are looking forward to returning to New York metro area, where Jim and I both went to college, where I attended rabbinical school, and where we have family and dear friends. Professionally, I will be teaching part-time on the faculty of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. In addition, I am developing a vision to create a new, progressive, independent Jewish spiritual community in Western Queens (Long Island City/Astoria/Jackson Heights/Sunnyside.)

My vision is to build a community around lively, musical Shabbat services and a focus on Jewish mindfulness practice. I will continue to bring a progressive social justice message and to teach Torah. The goal is to engage the millennial generation, who are not being served and who are seeking Jewish community and meaningful spirituality. If you know of anyone who fits this bill and who is living in any of these neighborhoods, please send me their contact information. I am not yet equipped to reach out to everyone, but I’m compiling a contact list that I will use once I’m settled and ready to begin the next stage of my project.

And you, my beloved CBSRZ community, are preparing to welcome a wonderful new spiritual leader — Rabbi Marci Bellows and her husband Seth and their brand new baby boy, Spencer. What a blessing! I look forward to being in touch with Rabbi Bellows over these next weeks, to help her transition in any way that I can.

The anticipation and uncertainty of the Omer period is quite real in our community right now. In response, we are called upon to count — each and every day. One way to understand the counting is as a reminder that every day is a gift and that we shouldn’t miss the opportunity to express

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gratitude for all that we have shared. The counting also
guides us to fully experience the unique texture of each
day, even when there is sadness. As we count, we may
also grieve the loss of who we have been together, how
we have touched each other, what we have meant to each
other. Tears will come, and that is just part of the letting go.

Lastly, this counting reminds us that every day — every
moment — is utterly new. Here, we have the opportunity
to practice what is called in mindfulness circles, “Begin-
ner’s Mind.” Yes, you have had a rabbi before, and he or
she did Torah study “this way.” But soon you will be in a
new moment, with a new rabbi — and she will do Torah
study in a new way. You have had rabbis before — and
they led services “this way” or gave sermons “this way”, or
developed “these” kinds of programs. Soon you will have
a new rabbi who will have a new style, and a new message
and a new approach. She will have a new sound and a new
way of listening. Beginner’s mind is a mind that lets go of
the impulse to compare what is true right now to what was
or to how things used to be.

My prayer for this congregation, as you count your next
steps towards a new rabbi is that you will practice begin-
ing again — that you will cultivate curiosity about each
other and appreciation for the newness of each other.

“Teach us to treasure each day that we may open our hearts
to Your wisdom.”

Treasuring and fully experiencing each day — the loss and
the gratitude — can open up space within to embrace what
is coming next. Counting each day can open our hearts to
new wisdom, to new leadership, to new relationships.

May we all experience the blessings of making each day count.

CBSRZ members of all ages are invited to stop by for a
chat and some nosh with Rabbi Goldenberg so that she
can spend some informal time with congregants before she
leaves. (If you would like to make a private appointment,
feel free to call the CBSRZ office to set a time.)

Tea and Cookies with the Rabbi
Tuesday, May 3, 2–4pm
Wednesday, May 11, 2–4pm

Wine and Dessert with the Rabbi
Thursday, June 2, 7–9pm

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THE CBSRZ MEMORY BOOK IS COMING

Back in April, we asked you:

How do we send Rabbi Goldenberg off in style and make sure she never forgets us (just as we will never forget her…)?

We gave you our answer:
By sending her off with a CBSRZ Memory Book, of course.

And ever since then we have been putting together the memories we have of Rabbi G., the messages we want to send to
Rabbi G. and the pictures we have of Rabbi G. — and her family — to give her an indelible link with us that she can take with
her to New York and to her new rabbinical life there.

Our intrepid Megillah editor had already begun to collect some of these memories — to be found in this issue. We will
include those, of course, in the book, but we will be adding many more to them.

We are grateful to you who have already sent your photos and your recollections in to us or to the Megillah. And grate-
ful, as well, to those who have been so responsive to the form that we sent out to you asking for your memories. While
we are just about out of time, and going to press soon, we might be able to take your last minute recollections if you send
them to us NOW.

It will be a joy and a mitzvah for us to create something that will illustrate the impact that Rabbi G. has had on all of us and
to keep those memories we treasure fresh for her as well.
The cultural stereotype of a Jewish goodbye has a kind of epic reputation. You probably know that old saw: “Some leave but never say goodbye, while Jews say goodbye but never leave.” The Forward featured something of a debate a few years back. Is our purported reluctance to bid farewell rooted, as one commentator speculated, in “awkward small talk that lasts too long and then peters out”? Or is it something deeper? My vote is with how writer Elissa Strauss explained it: “When I am engaged in a proper two-way Jewish goodbye, there is no awkward small talk or vague vows to meet again, and it doesn’t end with the conversation fizzling out and us shuffling apart. Instead, we rush to learn just a little more from one another, to tell each other how lovely it was to see their face and how we really wish it could happen more often. The duration of the goodbye is directly connected to the feeling of genuine affection between the parties parting — the longer it lasts the more we are blissing out on the magic of human connection.”

We are as a community preparing to say goodbye to a rabbi, together with her family, who has been by our side for nine years. We are doing it the long, Jewish way — and for all the right reasons. It is a departure in love.

Clo and I joined CBSRZ at the start of Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg’s tenure and, indeed, became members largely because of it. We were entranced with her warmth and energy, her song and inspiration, her chemistry with Cantor Belinda. Our son Gabriel was drawn to Rabbi G too as he began his journey to bar mitzvah. Moreover, the welcoming qualities she reflected, we soon realized, were ones that Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek shared in its very DNA as a community. We were hooked from the start.

For the past two years I have worked with Rabbi G from another perspective: as congregation president. I count myself fortunate that four of my predecessors — Susan Peck, Jo-Ann Price, Bruce Josephy and Lary Bloom — partnered successfully with Rachel from the moment she and her family joined our community. Their comments in reflection follow as part of our ‘proper Jewish goodbye’. Here are mine.

I have had the privilege of meeting regularly with Rabbi G to sort out issues, set direction, dream big. As we know, over the course of her rabbinate Rachel set us on a path of landmark changes, including steps that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. She agreed to perform weddings for interfaith couples; supported live streaming; started prayer labs; helped inaugurate our Caring Coordinator program; led programs on human rights and justice; installed a dialogue format that enabled constructive conversations on tough issues; started our Adult Ed committee; facilitated penetrating Holy Scrollers sessions; and all of this while working with Belinda to shepherd our children to b’nai mitzvah, presiding over rituals, spreading an infectious joy, and holding the hands of those in need. My earlier rabbi

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(and Rachel’s mentor) Larry Kushner often declared, “If it ain’t broke, break it!” Rabbi G didn’t exactly do that, but she did cheerfully break ground and kept us innovative and vibrant.

During my two-year term as president, one memory in particular stands out. Last year Rachel and I had both supported the proposal by Social Action chair Andy Schatz to conduct a CBSRZ forum on the effort by certain groups to promote a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign on Israel. We wanted to have representatives of Jewish organizations that both opposed and supported BDS for a broad spectrum of opinion, so that congregants could get the full picture of this emerging challenge. This was something no other synagogue had yet done. But some in our community were heart-felt in their objection; they opposed hosting under our roof anyone prepared to advocate a boycott of Israel. Rather than avoid or paper over differences, Rachel brought proponents together in her office for an open, tough, courageous, but civil and loving dialogue. With her guidance, each yielded some and, in doing so, found common ground and a way forward together. We postponed and restructured what ultimately proved a successful forum that made us proud — and drew admiration from the national leadership of the Reform movement. But, for a time, some outside assumed the worst. A rabbi even reached out to Rachel to offer sympathy and support on the erroneous assumption of an ugly rift at CBSRZ. She responded with the truth: we had wrestled, certainly, but with mutual respect, and had found a resolution that made us stronger as a community. That is what I will most take away from my experience with Rachel: even while leading us in being daring, she made sure that we are resolutely together for each other.

As we reach the end of Rabbi G’s remarkable rabbinate on June 30, please make time to share your memories and hopes with her. Join our special Havdallah farewell to her on June 4. Let her know, in the weeks of our long Jewish goodbyes, that she, Jim, Amina and Ziv have helped us ‘bliss out on the magic of human connection’, and that we look forward to seeing her and her family here again. CBSRZ will always be their home.

Four Presidents Reflect on Rabbi Goldenberg...

Susan Peck

In my second year as president of CBSRZ, we hired Rabbi Goldenberg to be our permanent rabbi for what was to be her first solo pulpit after three years as assistant rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas. I never expected to remain as president during her first and transitional year as our rabbi but, sadly, my would-be successor, Sheldon Kutnik, passed away shortly before she began her tenure on July 1, 2007. Since that time, Rabbi Goldenberg has proved herself to be a talented spiritual and pastoral leader. Her contributions to our community are immeasurable and, wherever she lands, she will always be an important part of our congregational life.

Jo-Ann Price

I was fortunate to get to know Rabbi Goldenberg before I was honored to serve with her in my role as President. Knowing her so well through the search process made me look forward with great anticipation to the two years we would work together. One of the goals of my presidency was to lead a Visioning process that would lead to a Strategic Plan for the congregation. The process took into account the input of every member of the congregation, not just the board members and more active members. It was a grassroots and collaborative effort with the Rabbi’s help and support. We hired a consultant who helped us to look long and hard at who we were, and at our dreams and our visions. It was the time and energy that the Rabbi put into the process that helped to make it such a success.

During the two years of my presidency, under Rabbi Goldenberg’s guidance, we were able to bring more spirituality to our congregation. We had our first and only Women’s Spirituality Retreat. We were honored to have Rabbi Laurence Kushner as a scholar-in-residence;
Rabbi Goldenberg taught a class on Kabbalah and instituted meditation services. Although this was something that was of great interest to me, it would not have been possible without the leadership of Rabbi Goldenberg. Her personal studies in the area of women’s spirituality is what gave me the encouragement to bring these spiritual experiences to our synagogue.

We instituted a new prayerbook, Mishkan T’filah, under the guidance and gentle coaching of Rabbi Goldenberg as we all stumbled to make our way through its many versions of the same prayer.

Our Rabbi’s strong involvement in Rabbis for Human Rights brought new areas of knowledge and activity to our congregation. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We were one of the first religious institutions in Connecticut to support Universal Health Care for all. She led us in protests at the State Capital. And she took our teens to the L’Taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington where they learned first hand about advocacy and activism. Brave woman!

Very important to me personally was Rabbi Goldenberg’s support of Israel. We were a congregation without much knowledge of Israel and its importance to us as Jews. She instituted dialogues, Israeli film festivals, speakers, dance classes and an interfaith trip to Israel. All of these activities educated the congregation in ways that had not been done before.

These years were only the second and third years of the Rabbi’s tenure with us. It gives us a hint of what she was able to do in the years to follow.

**Bruce Josephy**

Rabbi Goldenberg and I arrived at CBSRZ the same year. I joined the congregation wanting to be an active member. At the time, I didn’t realize how active that would be. I fell in love with the congregation, and I would say that Rabbi Goldenberg did too. So much so that she led our congregations through nine years and partnered with five presidents. I had the privilege to serve as one of those five presidents. The partnership of a rabbi and synagogue president is a sacred one. The health and vitality of a synagogue depends on both clergy and lay leaders, with the most being able to be accomplished if the rabbi and president are working together towards common goals. During Rabbi Goldenberg’s nine years at CBSRZ, Susan Peck and Jo-Ann Price served as presidents before me, and Lary Bloom and Stephen Davis followed. The congregation will now be welcoming Rabbi Marci Bellows and Maxine Klein as president, who will be forging their sacred partnership. As the next chapter in our congregation’s history begins to be written, we are in a solid position due to the commitment, energy, and enthusiasm of Rabbi Goldenberg and our lay leaders who ensured that the continuity of the Jewish people is able to passed on to future generations as it was passed on to us. I wish Rabbi Goldenberg only the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her journey. May she be blessed materially and spiritually.

**Lary Bloom**

Rachel and I met every few weeks for lunch at Simon’s Market where I ordered the meatloaf and the Rabbi had the rabbit food. She always carried a list with her of matters that I, as president of the board, might be able to help her with. In this, she may have had an outsized sense of my power. After all, for two years I had campaigned for moving the buffet table away from the wall so that two lines could be formed instead of one. Alas, this lifetime dream of mine went unfulfilled. Still, she was patient with me. And she was savvy, too. In our sessions, she started with requests that were very easy to address. So, halfway through, I was relieved that nothing in her rabbinate had gone terribly awry. But there was on rare occasions a Terribly Awry matter that she brought up at the bottom of her list — ah, that woman has patience and tact. I did my best to tend to the matters and sometimes even succeeded. But as president I felt this above all: that I was privileged to have the job and to have such valuable chances to sit down, break bread, and benefit from being in the company of a gifted rabbi, and I felt satisfaction that I could help her in some way.
Join our Celebration to Honor

Rabbi Goldenberg’s
Nine Years at CBSRZ
Special Tributes | Music | Surprises | Fun

Saturday
June 4, 2016
6-9 PM

Congregational
Pot Luck Dinner
Please bring dairy or parve salad,
veggie or side dish to share (A-N)
or dessert (O-Z)

Havdalah

Silent Auction
Includes nine items from some of
Rabbi Goldenberg’s favorite places!

RSVP by Thursday, May 26, 2016
office@cbsrz.org or (860) 526-8920
There is no charge to attend this event :-)
On June 4, 2016, the entire CBSRZ community is invited to come together to celebrate Rabbi Goldenberg’s tenure as our spiritual leader at a festive evening event. There is no charge, but this family event will feature lots of fun, celebration and surprises. The evening will begin with a community pot luck dinner followed by Havdalah, special presentations by the congregation, dessert and individual time to express your personal wishes to Rachel, Jim, Amina & Ziv.

A vibrant SILENT AUCTION will be part of the evening’s festivities with exciting items large and small. We invite you to be generous with your bids to help support CBSRZ’s Kivun, Chesed, adult education, social and cultural programs. As a special feature, the silent auction will feature RABBI G’S ANNOINTED NINE—that is, 9 items from places identified by the rabbi as her local favorites, one for each year she has been with CBSRZ. Lucky winners will be able to eat at Rachel’s favorite restaurant, shop where she has shopped, walk where she has walked, sample life in the Connecticut Valley as she has lived it.

What happens when? Surprises might come at any moment—but here’s what is planned:

6:00 PM - Pot Luck Dinner - Free of charge. Main dish will be provided. We are only able to offer this at no cost if members contribute side dishes or desserts as follows:

Last name beginning A-N, please bring a dairy or parve salad or other side dish.

Last name beginning O-Z, please bring a dessert.

7:00 PM - Havdalah led by Rabbi Goldenberg

7:30 PM - Congregational Presentations

7:45 PM - Dessert Reception

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Individual time to share with Rachel, Jim, Amina and Ziv. Bids close for silent auction at 8:00 PM.

Dress comfy casual. In addition to the silent auction, there will be other fundraising activities to cover our annual budget shortfall. A percentage of the funds raised from this special evening will be donated on behalf of the entire congregation to the Goldenberg-Talbott Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund, which the Rabbi and her family have established for CBSRZ children wishing to go to Jewish summer camp.

Please join us as we come together as a community to extend good wishes to the entire Goldenberg-Talbott family as they begin the next stage of their life journey.

PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO OFFICE@CBSRZ.ORG OR TELEPHONE (860) 526-8920 BY MAY 29, 2016.
Goodbye ...  
by Sean Konecky

As a way of saying thank you to our beloved spiritual leader, Rabbi Goldenberg, I asked members of the congregation and the broader CBSRZ community to share their thoughts and recollections about the Rabbi’s time here.

I personally will always be grateful to the Rabbi for her visits with my dad. In the last year of his life my father Bill moved in with us. Although he was entirely cogent, he was bedridden and in considerable amount of discomfort. The Rabbi’s presence acted as a tonic. She brought her inimitable brightness into the sickroom. She even inspired him to recount a chapter in his life that I had never heard about. At the beginning of his career in publishing (before World War II) he worked at Parents Magazine in charge of their monthly “beautiful child” contest, where parents would send in photos of little Johnny or Susie. It was his job to choose among the entries. If you had known my father you could not have helped to have been struck by the wild cognitive dissonance of this job. A more unlikely judge would be hard to find. Thank you Rabbi for your caring and concern and helping me smile at a difficult time.

Sandy Herzog

It is hard to put into words what Rabbi Goldenberg has meant to me. She has been there for me during my trials and tribulations and I so appreciate that. Services have meant more to me since Rachel has been in our midst. Her smile brings smiles and the room comes alive when she is on the Bima. I will miss her and her lovely family.

Laurie Bauchman

One of the most indelible moments will always be when I was first going to services at the Temple. The Rabbi’s son came into the room before the service had ended and shouted out “that’s my mommy.” The Rabbi stopped where she was, mid sentence, and let Ziv run into her arms. That small episode showed me a form of Judaism that was tender and caring, and how enveloping and in touch she was with the essence that melds family and faith. Totally inspiring.

Jerry Kelly

I will long remember with much gratitude how Rabbi’s cheerful visits in 2008 significantly helped my recovery from major surgery.

Arthur Solomon Meyers

My strongest appreciations of Rabbi G. are her ongoing evolution in welcoming interfaith families, reaching out to congregants in our diversity and in response to varied needs, advocacy for Jewish and Arab equality in Israel, standing for greater justice by CBSRZ and for all in the U.S., and wonderful Shabbat and holiday services and life events — with passion, reverence, deep knowledge, stirring song, and good humor (when appropriate!)

Appreciation also to her loving and greatly contributing Jim.

Remarkable!

Herb Ross

I am not a conventionally religious person. At the same time, I have been attracted, since joining CBSRZ to the idea of Torah study as an intellectual exercise. But what has struck me above all else in “Scrollers” sessions is the enthusiasm and joy which Rabbi Rachel brings to the effort. Whether in the offerings of Nachmanides, or some Hasidic Rebbe on a particular passage, which she tosses out to be chewed over — and there is a lot of chewing among the folks around the table — or in some take of her own, what emanates from her presence is the infectious sense of pleasure she feels at her, and our immersion in the ancient text. Her tolerance in handling some of our own offerings, mine certainly included, is remarkable as well.

What comes across on Friday evenings is the same emanation — a feeling of peace and serenity in the liturgy which washes over the assembly — all this without the need for doctrine. Ritual is transformed from an end in itself into a means of attaining that feeling of oneness with the Transcendent — she would maybe call it mindfulness — which eludes so many others whose officiating I have experienced.

For me, that has been unexpected and gratifying. She will be “a tough act to follow.” I am confident, though that she will bring that same inner light to wherever she goes and whatever she does. We have been fortunate indeed, to have had her among us.

Linda Sherman

Rachel has been a wonderful spiritual leader for me, and I will miss her greatly. She has encouraged me to grow spiritually by learning how to give a dvar torah, lead services, and teach Torah study. She has also been open to new ideas like “torah tea-chings” and other creative adventures. Most importantly, she has become a cherished friend to me and partner in Chessed, and really helped build our caring community.

Beth Gottlieb

A couple of days after my hip surgery at Middlesex Hospital last August, Rabbi Goldenberg visited me. I was heavily medicated; so much so that I was able to forget her visit until recently, when Sean asked everyone to write a sentence or two about Rabbi G.

What I now remember is that she walked into my shared room and sat down to chat. She was there, for me, with nothing else to do and no place else to be. And when I had had enough visiting, she asked if she might pray — she then asked if I wanted her to sing. She placed her hands on my head, and prayed; and it seemed to me that all the universe could hear those beautiful, healing sounds. And I knew I could and would heal as well.

Michael Roth

I’ll always think of Rachel as a teacher. She offered powerful and subtle perspectives on the Torah at Scrollers, and she brought our daughter Sophie into a healthy, thoughtful and authentic connection to Judaism. I learned something from Rachel in every sermon I heard, especially at High Holidays. She displayed more than intelligence; she showed deep feeling and real courage without an ounce of pretension. I will miss her voice.

Jess Maghan

In 2006 I asked my good friend David Hays to introduce me to Rabbi Cory Weiss for some dialogue about the Prophet Ezekiel. And he guided me to Scrollers at Synagogue Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. And now I’m still a Holy Scroller. And these hundred-plus weekly sessions, led by Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, have given
me an insightful domain of clarity and comradeship. Bravo, Rabbi Rachel! May your future continue with your steady contribution to all manners of your life.

**Phyllis Ross**

Herb and I had just moved to Lyme, Connecticut from New Rochelle, New York when we joined Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. To my surprise, Rabbi Goldenberg called to invite us to meet with her in her study. Why was she interested in meeting us? What would we talk about with a rabbi? I was not enthusiastic about the visit, but we decided to go. When we arrived and were warmly greeted, my reluctance began to fade. She was easy to talk to, and words and ideas flowed freely. By the time we left, we felt a bond with her and the synagogue.

Not long after that, my mother died. My family and friends gathered in New Haven for the funeral and afterward at my sister’s home in Hamden. But when Herb and I returned home, I felt alone. My close friends lived far away, and since we had only been living in this area for a short time, we didn’t know many people. Then the rabbi called and asked if we were going to observe Shiva and would we like to have her with us. We said we would only have visitors for one night but would be happy to have her with us. She notified the Chesed committee, and Marilyn Gottfried made all the arrangements for the evening. The Rabbi arrived with Cantor Belinda, conducted a beautiful service and spoke to me about my mother. A number of new CBSRZ friends came to be with us. I felt I had a new family.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Rabbi Rachel and a joy to have had her family amongst us, actively participating in synagogue functions. Having her as our spiritual leader and friend has been a blessing. We will miss her and her delightful family.

**Paula Feder**

I never joined Beth Shalom when it was situated in Deep River. I went several times to their Bagels and Lox meetings, primarily for the food. I confess I still go for the food at CBSRZ.

It was only when I did join CBSRZ, that I, as a questioner of God’s existence, but with a strong sense sense of Jewish pride, did begin to explore and investigate the Jewish religion. I owe this to Rabbi Goldenberg’s acceptance of my POVs. With her Jewish knowledge, Reform Jewish practices, social activism and willingness to listen, explain and question, she pulled me into a more active role regarding the world of Judaism. I still question, but think more. Thank you Rabbi Goldenberg for your gifts to young and old and your gift to me.

**David Hays**

It has been an honor to have such a great spirit among us.

**Linda Rigono**

Here is one of my favorite memories. It was a Friday night in June, I knew because it was Marilyn and Gene Kalet’s anniversary. In the middle of the service a youngster pointed up at the skylight. Soon everyone was looking up at a rainbow. Rabbi Rachel said that we should continue the service outside. When we were all gathered outside gazing at an amazing double rainbow. Rachel led us in a special prayer for seeing a rainbow. Then we went inside and finished the service!

**Rita Christopher**

I will always recall the hospital visit Rabbi Goldenberg made when my husband David was in intensive care at St. Raphael’s in New Haven. He had what should have been a fairly routine operation but there were complications and he ended up not only in Intensive care but intubated as well. As he lay in bed with a large tube running down his throat, he could not speak when the rabbi entered his room but his face lit up and reflected real joy. Visiting a congregant in a hospital in New Haven is a time-consuming job; an hour drive down from Chester and an hour back. The rabbi stayed with us for half an hour or so and lifted both our spirits immeasurably. David recovered, in fact more rapidly than doctors had predicted, and we remain deeply grateful to Rabbi Goldenberg for her visit.

**Shelley Sprague**

Rabbi Goldenberg will always have a very special place in my heart because of the love, support and wisdom that she gave me during my conversion process. When I sat down with her and told her that I wanted to explore Judaism but was not sure that I wanted to convert, she said, “I want to walk this path with you with no expectation of the outcome. Let’s just see where it leads”. Her knowledge, her deep religious beliefs, her kindness and her clarity were what drew me into Judaism and led a clear path to my conversion. I am deeply grateful for her generosity of spirit. She has given me one of the greatest gifts of my life.

**Liz Jones**

I am so grateful to Rabbi G for helping me through the conversion process! I appreciate all the time she took to teach me and answer my questions every step of the way!

**Ann Louise, Sam, Zac and Trevor Rosensohn**

I’ll always remember Rabbi’s time at CBSRZ with joy. In my years as Kindergarten teacher she always made me feel welcome and supported. Speaking for my family, we all were inspired by her passion for teaching — from the very youngest to the Confirmation classes, to the Religious school teachers in her vibrant workshops, to Holy Scrollers and beyond into the wider community. We’ll miss you Rachel, Jim, Amina and Ziv, but know that with your shared desire to care for the world around you, your passion for social action, and with Rachel’s insightful and inclusive spiritual leadership, you will all thrive in your new venture.

**Bye-Bye, Rabbi**

(To the tune of Bye-Bye Blackbird)
Music by Ray Henderson; Lyrics by Phyllis Ross

We got tzuures and we got woes
Cause pretty soon our Rabbi goes.
 Bye-bye, rabbi.

She brought us joy and brought us Jim.
Now she’s leaving and taking him.
 Bye-bye, rabbi.

She’s the perfect spiritual leader.
No one else can possibly succeed her.
Her years here have made us kvell.
With teary eyes we say farewell.
Rabbi, bye-bye.
Heartfelt goodbyes

The transition committee is working in teams with the naturally strong leadership, energy and enthusiasm of the many working parts.

Ellen Nodelman is chairing the Memory Book with the assistance of Erica Udoff. You will see a separate report on this initiative in this newsletter.

Susan Peck is chairing the June 4 Havadalah event celebrating nine great years with Rabbi Goldenberg. Lenny & JoAnn Goldberg, owners of Lenny & Joe’s have offered to provide the main dish for the pot luck, Pauline Kaplan is donating Howard’s Bread, Stephen & Clo Davis are donating Prosecco.

During the week of June 13, both the Talbott/Goldenberg house and the Rabbi’s office and study will be packed up. They are planning to move out of their house June 19. Two people at each location would be welcomed to assist wrapping and packing. Please contact Wendy or Debbie at the office if you might be able to help.

Warm Welcomes

Marci Bellows, her husband Seth Lindenman, their new son Spencer Benjamin Lindenman and their three cats will be moving to Chester April 26. Beth Brewer has been instrumental in finding a wonderful home for them within walking distance of the synagogue on East Kings Highway that suits them perfectly. Revalyn Hickey is taking on the position of concierge to make sure the family has a point person for information in settling them and providing information or pointing them in a direction for what they might need. Linda Sherman is coordinating some meals when they arrive to welcome them as new parents as well as new members of our community.

Bob Zemmel will be coordinating with George Amarant and Wendy Bayor for any refreshing to Rabbi Bellows office and study that might be needed.

Friday, July 1 is Rabbi Bellows’ first day and service. Laura Roman pointed out it is Tot Shabbat and we thought it would be a nice to have a Pot Luck to welcome both our new Rabbi and new President, Maxine Klein. Bob Zemmel and Linda Giuca, owners of Alforno have offered to provide the main dish and bread for this event.

Maxine Klein is chairing the Meet & Greet events, with the assistance of Hila Rosen, to introduce Rabbi Bellows and her family to our synagogue family. Individuals have volunteered to host, and others will be contacted.

We are aware there are many b’nai mitzvah families and want to assure them they are a priority for not only the transition committee, but the community at large. Lisa Connelly and Amy Conley are both aware, involved and working with Belinda Brennan for smooth transitions.

Maxine and Hila will have more to report in the next issue of the Whole Megillah.

Shelley Sprague is chairing the Installation Weekend scheduled for November 11-13 so SAVE THE DATE.

RABBI BELLOWS

At the meeting of March 17 the congregation voted by acclamation to engage Rabbi Marci N. Bellows as our new Rabbi. Our president, Stephen Davis, called her on the telephone during the meeting to congratulate her, and all assembled could hear her enthusiastic agreement. Her tenure begins on July 1.

Rabbi Bellows has been the spiritual leader of Temple B’nai Torah, a Reform congregation in Wantagh, Long Island, for the past seven years. Prior to that she was adult Program Director and Assistant Rabbi at Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York City. Rabbi Bellows has a B.A. in Psychology from Brandeis University and an M.A. in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She was ordained in 2004.

Rabbi Bellows and her husband, Seth Lindenman, and their newborn Spencer Benjamin are in the process of moving to Chester.”
Our annual musical picnic offers some fascinatin’ rhythm as well as a chance to swing, cha-cha, waltz, tango and otherwise strut your stuff. And to take this Sentimental Journey, you don’t have to board the Chattanooga Choo-Choo or a Slow Boat To China. It all takes place on our very own shul’s lawn with the great music of The String of Pearls Big Band, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 26.

The last concert of our hugely successful eighth Music & More season is a free event, and jointly produced by the Music & More and our Social Action committee, and is intended not only as a joyous musical treat but something that will benefit those in need.

SAC will share with the concert attendees information about the various social action work that CBSRZ is doing in our communities, including feeding the hungry, providing housing, and working on justice, prison and children’s issues. We will ask attendees to choose one of the two organizations that will receive the proceeds from the sale of kosher hotdogs and other foods prepared by our Holy Grillers. (You certainly may bring your own entrees if you wish, as well as wine or whatever libations you prefer.)

The String of Pearls Big Band, “a much treasured Connecticut resource for 25 years,” says our concert producer David Zeleznik, provides the means to the great American music of the twentieth century.

The musical director, Dick Campo, has brought the musicians to new heights with his innovative arrangements and superb drumming. In his early years in the business, he toured with Tex Beneke and the Glenn Miller Group. (The event provides a good chance for all of us who remember that wonderful musical era to introduce it to youngsters.)

No reservations are required, but if you’d like to know more call the office, and then get ready to perform a dance and a mitzvah at the same time.
“Started in 2002, the Connecticut Valley Camera Club is an active group that boasts 45 members with backgrounds as diverse as the photographs they create. From architect to molecular biologist, to flight attendant, to landscape architect, they are united in their passion for capturing sights that speak to them.”

(University of Connecticut, Norman D. Stevens Gallery)

This organization will make its second appearance in our Main Street Gallery during May, June and July with a juried selection of photographs covering a wide variety of subjects.

The group’s main purpose is to help its members hone their technical and creative skills through presentations, interactive workshops and critiques. Members are encouraged to share their work, and CBSRZ is one of the fortunate beneficiaries of this goal.

A wine and cheese reception on Sunday, May 15, from 3PM to 5PM will kick off this exhibit. This event is free and open to the entire shoreline community. The exhibit can be viewed Monday through Friday, 10AM to 3PM. All photos will be available for sale and 35% of the sale price will be donated to CBSRZ.
Dean Rupp, *Standoff*

Victor Filepp, *Spiral Jetty*
Tell the congregation a little about yourself.
I’m Kyra Brennan. I like to play soccer and am on the Travel and JW team. I am also in the JW school musical this year. I have a little sister in 5th grade. I am a 7th grader at John Winthrop Middle School. I love to read.

What excites you the most about your Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
What I am most excited about is being able to have all my hard work pay off. After it all ends I will be able to say I did it.

What does becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah mean to you?
For me it means that I become part of something. I will be recognized as an adult in the Jewish community. Not just a kid anymore.

Have you thought at all about your Torah portion? Any thoughts on what you will be discussing?
My torah portion is Emor. I am doing the part where it says what Priests can and cannot do. I will be discussing why they cannot do things.

Have you done a mitzvah project?
For my mitzvah project, I collected money and supplies for an animal foster and rescue organization. The organization I chose was Furry Friends Foster and Rescue. I raised over $500 from donations and the bake sale I had. I also collected supplies such as dog and cat toys, treats, food, collars, and leashes.

Tell the congregation a little about yourself.
My name is Jeremy Evans and I am thirteen and I am in 7th grade at John Winthrop Middle School. I enjoy playing soccer and played for my Middle School team and Valley Soccer Club. My Bar Mitzvah is on May 16th.

What excites you the most about your Bar Mitzvah?
It will be a fun experience. Also, after all the hard work I put in I will be able to have a fun party, and celebrate with my family and with my friends.

What does becoming a Bar Mitzvah mean to you?
It means being a more mature, young adult. It also shows that you are responsible for yourself.

Have you thought at all about your Torah portion? Any thoughts on what you will be discussing?
No, I haven’t, but I am meeting with the Rabbi soon to start discussing it.

Have you done a mitzvah project?
Yes. By doing a bake sale at the temple, I raised money for Soccer for Peace. It is a non-profit organization that gives Jewish and Arab children in war torn regions the opportunity to get together in the love of soccer. This program gives children a chance to accept each other for who they are.
**Mishpacha**

**Happy Birthday!**

**Yom Huledet Sameach!**

- **May**
  - Bella Fishman: May 4
  - Rebecca Rosenblum-Jones: May 16
  - Elijah Pollock: May 19
  - Kyra Brennan: May 23
  - Rhya Sinnappen: May 26
  - Ethan Corpuel: May 27

- **June**
  - Nathalie Morra: June 2
  - Nina Fishman: June 8
  - Jake Linder: June 14
  - Ben Mercier: June 16
  - Leo Francino: June 23
  - Morah Belinda: June 20
  - Morah Tracy: June 21

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**Confirmation and Shavuot: Embracing Torah, Wrestling with God, from Generation to Generation**

**Sunday June 12, 10:30am**

What is the relationship between God and the reality of evil in the world? What does God have to do with my responsibility to repair the world? What is special to me about being Jewish? If God doesn’t answer my prayers, then what use is faith?

These are just some of the questions that members of this year’s Makom class (formerly known as Confirmation) are engaging with as they prepare for the Shavuot service they will lead on the morning of June 12. The Festival of Shavuot celebrates the covenantal relationship our people sealed with God at Mount Sinai. This year’s service will be led by Casey Elkin, Madelyn Evans, Maya Gold, Lili Kleinberg, Andi Roman, Jody Smith. In addition to the always popular sermonettes, these young women will lead us in prayer and song and chant the Ten Commandments from the Torah. “Makom” means, “place,” in Hebrew, and it is one of the many names that the rabbis of the Talmud and Midrash gave to God. God is the central topic of discussion in Makom – the 10th grade year in our Kivvun program.

By the time we reach the Spring, it is time for the rest of the congregation to listen in on our teens’ thinking, and it always is a powerful and stimulating experience. I invite you to come and be inspired and challenged by their struggles, their questions, their hope, their faith.

Our Shavuot Festival service will also include the customary Yizkor memorial service for the festivals. A luncheon, sponsored by the families on the Confirmands, will be served following services. As we get closer to June, more information about this joyful occasion will be published in our weekly emails.
Kid’s Purim goes boldly where no Purim has gone before.

Charles Savitt brings the story of Esther to life.

Rabbi Goldenberg in awe of the dramatic talent at the adult Purim spiel.
Rabbi Search Committee holding their hallmark bags of popcorn.

Caravan of Thieves with program chair David Zeleznik and Maxine Klein
Juniper Foster discusses her work at art opening.

One of our favorite photos: Rabbi Goldenberg enjoying a falafel with Reverend Kathy Peters on the congregation’s trip to Israel.

Juniper Foster with mother Evelyn.
Good turnout for Shabbat across the Shoreline

Ed Pinn and Brad Jubelirer

Mike Peck and Jon Joslow: official Shabbatini mixologists

Meg Gister at the piano.
The following is the first part of an article written by Arthur Meyers about his experiences in Israel. The second part will appear in the July–August issue of The Whole Megillah.

**Why?**

For nearly 50 years, I was envious of Marcia.

Committed to Israel, she spent a year there as a teen working on a kibbutz, a decade after the country had gained independence. In 1995, we made our first visit together for the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. In 2002, I returned on my own for the Bar Mitzvah of a cousin. In 2005, we went to another genealogy conference. All these visits to the country were meaningful, and I had supported Israel Bonds, marched, and advocated through my congregation, but I had not worked in Israel — I had not made the commitment that she had.

In 2009, I learned about Volunteers for Israel. It is a program in which people work for two weeks on an army base, carrying out vital but non-military tasks. It frees up reservists for essential training as Israel relies so heavily on them for defense. This was the program for me. I filled out the application form, went through the screening process, and was accepted. Checking off the packing list, and after the purchase of work boots and a few other items, I left on May 1.

**Settling In**

VFI-ers are met at Ben-Gurion Airport by the Sar-El (Service for Israel) Coordinator and taken by bus to an army base. Upon arriving at the base in the evening, the madrichot (young women soldiers in charge of our group) showed us our barracks. The facilities were not bad, compared to my U.S. Army days of a half-century ago. We even had air conditioning and hot water, although I don’t remember such snoring from my earlier soldier days! We were reminded of VFI rules: No drugs, alcohol, talking about politics or religion, visiting other barracks (even the married couples in our group), or revealing military information by text or photos.

**The Volunteers**

Our group of 38 was a wide cross-section of men and women of various ages, several non-Jewish, some from different countries, varying degrees of religious practice, all committed to Israel in some way. After the morning flag-raising, the madrichot would read brief headlines of the news, especially as it related to Israel. If some report was detrimental to Israel, or when the leaders conveyed the wide range of political opinion among Israelis, several volunteers complained loudly. Similar feelings came out during break or evening periods in the courtyard. We were reflecting the deep feelings and divisions among Israelis on the path to peace.

Despite our differences in politics, religious practice, and personalities, we bonded together over the two-week program. We had all volunteered for the same reason — commitment to a homeland where Jewish people would be safe. But it was the passion and work ethic of the non-Jewish volunteers from other countries that really stood out. Two Pentecostal sisters from Finland were exceptional all around — as workers on the job, in interacting with the group as a whole, and even in cleaning the barracks for weekly inspections!

Another outstanding worker was a graduate of Spain’s national military academy. He had been a colonel in their army and now worked as an intergovernmental liaison at NATO headquarters in Belgium. He had brought with him to the VFI program his own father, a retired soldier who had fought 50 years ago in the Span-
ish Sahara in northwest Africa. Both men were outstanding in their work group, interacting with the larger group, and (once more) cleaning!

One evening, I went for a long walk with a twenty-year-old Italian youth. He had come to the program on his own, as he was exploring his path after high school, both for his career and personal interest in Judaism and Israel. The Spanish father and son took him under their wing over the two weeks, and included him on their visit to Masada at the end of the first week.

The VFI program also builds into the two weeks opportunities to broaden us about Israel and to get to know one another. At the start of the second week, we went on a bus trip to Zichron-Ya'acov, the first settlement in the north in 1882, and visited a Druze village and biblical park. Special programs during the weeks framed most of the learning. One night, the speaker was a nurse who had lived through the siege of Jerusalem in the War of Independence. She told a harrowing story, drawing from letters she had written home at the time that have now been published as a book. We also heard from the Israeli general who began Sar-El in 1982. The planned programs strengthened our awareness of how much Israel has had to put into surviving for six decades. There is no other option.

One night, the group began a spontaneous dancing and singing session in the courtyard. A Volunteer wrote and sang poems of thanks to our leaders and Sar-El to the tune of Hatikvah.

The Work

The base where we worked is the central medical supply base for Israel’s military. My group, under a savvy civilian of Yemeni descent, worked with a variety of supplies — intravenous kits, kits to clear airways, and tourniquets. We sorted, checked for cleanliness, stamped expiration dates, counted, and boxed up the supplies. Some of the supplies had been in Haiti, as Israel had responded immediately to the recent earthquake with rescue units and the only fully equipped, fully functioning hospital in the first week. Other work groups put together individual first aid kits or packed supplies in large containers. In my group was a hard-working managing director of a global bank in NYC. She had attended elementary school in the Bronx with another worker in the group. Six decades later, they had arranged to be in the same VFI program. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Marines, and had done legal and staff work in several countries, serving in both Vietnam and the Gulf War. As we worked together, he recalled teachers, students, and accomplishments from nearly 60 years ago. It was fascinating conversation — and she confirmed his recollections!

Also working in the warehouses were Israelis with mental or physical challenges and the mothers of fallen soldiers, reflecting the desire for everyone to contribute to the nation. One day, the bank managing director needed an item to complete a task. A young Israeli in uniform, who came to the base every morning, gave it to her. While he likely had Down’s syndrome, and spoke only Hebrew, in a moving linking up, they slapped hands. Differences in language, intelligence and background faded away — a perfect image for the Volunteers for Israel program.

Yom Ha-atzma’ut

In celebration of Yom Ha-atzma’ut, Israel Independence Day, Mitch Beck will be the speaker at services at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek on Friday, May 13. He is Professor Emeritus, Central Connecticut State University, where he was the chair of the Special Education Department. He is the Connecticut regional director of Volunteers for Israel, Sar-El, and has participated in the experience six times.

Sar-El is open to those who wish to participate in a service program akin to national service, without enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces. The program consists of 2-3 weeks of volunteer service on rear army bases, doing non-combative work. The volunteers live and work on the base, sleep in the barracks, eat in the mess hall, and wear an IDF uniform. They do a variety of jobs that are essential for the function of the IDF. They may pack medical bags, build antennas, do inventory, paint barracks, and maybe a little KP.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut commemorates the date when David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, publicly read Israel’s Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. This was the fifth day of Iyar, the eighth month of the civil year, in the year 5708.
Kivun students with Morah Debby at the Chester Soup Kitchen
Blood Drive June 20

Twice each year the Social Action Committee sponsors a blood drive for an afternoon at CBSRZ – the next date is Monday, June 20.

This year, the possibility of a decreasing pool of donors (eliminating anyone who might have been exposed to the Zika virus) means all who can donate may be more important than ever.

Donating blood not only saves lives, it may be very healthy for the donor. The donor gets a blood analysis (know what “type” you are) and mini-checkup for free. And giving blood may actually help your cardiovascular health (by reducing blood thickness and amounts of oxidized iron) and reduce the risk of stroke, heart attack and certain cancers. It can even help with weight loss (although it is not recommended as a method of weight management).

And we’ll have free snacks! Please join us on June 20.

Kitah Har Collects and Donates Food

Kitah Har, the religious school class led by Mora Debby (Trautmann), collected over 288 pounds of food that it donated to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, which they sorted and shelved at the pantry in Old Lyme. We asked them to describe their experience. Their report follows in the format they selected:

Kitah Har’s Mitzvah Project: Q. What are you doing for your class’s Mitzvah project? A. We recently prepared food for the meal site in Chester. In addition, we went to the meal site and prepared more food.

Q. What did you make? We prepared soup and baked cookies. Then we made a salad and fruit kabobs.

Q. What else did you do besides preparing food? A. We also wiped down and set the tables. When we finished that, we served the food to the people that showed up. After that, we sat down with them and enjoyed our cooking. Lastly, we packed up the extra food for the food insecure people that showed up.

Help Direct Social Action

Each year, proceeds from the sale of food at the synagogue picnic helps support social action activities, and the Social Action Committee staffs the food sale. At this year’s picnic, which is free and open to the public on Sunday, June 26 at 5pm, featuring the band The String of Pearls, SAC also hopes attendees will sample some social action fare and help choose where the money raised will do the most good.

SAC will share with the concert attendees information about the various social action work that CBSRZ is doing in our communities, including hunger, housing, justice, prison and children’s issues. We will ask attendees to choose one of the two organizations that will receive the proceeds from the food sale.

And attendees can volunteer to help with some of those social action activities in the fall. We hope to see you there!

A Very Special Easter Meal

At the special request of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, the Social Action Committee took on an additional meal site to staff, cook and serve the Easter meal in Chester. SSKP had to cancel the Easter dinner in past years, but the attendance of over 30 this year was much larger than the typical attendance of 10 at the regular Sunday site in Chester. Special thanks to Sue and Tom Baehr, Lynn Coville, Rita Fink, Henry Gottlieb, Liz Jones, Herb and Phyllis Ross, and Debby Trautmann for their creative ideas and hard work in making the evening such a success and bringing our community closer together.

Sue Baehr shared her thoughts: “The United Church of Chester was the meal site for Sunday, March 27. Since it was Easter Sunday, CBSRZ hosted the dinner so that the Christian faith communities could observe their holiday. The tables were festively decorated with springtime colored napkins and placemats. Potted pansies, generously donated by Lynn Coville, decorated each table and added to the cheerful atmosphere. Delicious dishes were prepared and served by the CBSRZ volunteers to the 34 guests that came. Once everyone was served, we joined the guests at the dinner tables and enjoyed good food and friendly conversation. Everyone that had come for dinner had received a raffle ticket upon entering. Lynn started calling the raffle during dessert. Those that won the raffle were pleasantly surprised to learn that they would take home a beautiful pot of pansies. Care packages of food were prepared and served by the CBSRZ volunteers to the 34 guests that came. Once everyone was served, we joined the guests at the dinner tables and enjoyed good food and friendly conversation. Everyone that had come for dinner had received a raffle ticket upon entering. Lynn started calling the raffle during dessert. Those that won the raffle were pleasantly surprised to learn that they would take home a beautiful pot of pansies. Care packages of food were prepared for next day’s meal. The room was filled with warmth, good cheer, and all that attended expressed their gratitude. Good food, pleasant company, and thoughtful details truly added to the holiday atmosphere that was so appreciated by all.”

(Continued on page 26)
Letter from a Parkville Community School Parent

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
55 E. King’s Highway
Chester, CT

Dear Congregation Members:

I, Damarys Padilla, give many thanks for the donations given to the Parkville School. Thank you for the hats, gloves, scarves and other clothes donated. These were of so much help for my children and for myself. Your donations helped me prepare for the cold weather. My kids, Jessmarie, Noel and Linda, want to also thank you to all of those who donated to my children’s school.

Thank you for all of your donations and many blessings for you all.

Sincerely yours,
The Padilla Family

To make a donation of clothing please contact Sandy Herzog at sandherz2003@yahoo.com.

Letter from York CI

Scott Semple
Laura Greene
Commissioner
Principal

February 24, 2016

CBSRZ Social Action Committee
123 Broad Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Social Action Committee Members,

Thank you for your recent donation of books to the library at York CI. The library workers are always excited to hear we have a book donation coming and this time was no different. They can hardly wait to go through the boxes of books: carefully inventorying each one, getting the books out on the shelves and into circulation. I have to tell you it is wonderful just to witness their excitement.

Many times during my day I am thanked by women who are leaving the library with a couple of books tucked under their arm for helping to coordinate the book donations. Our library operates solely on donated books and without help from people like Linda, we wouldn’t have much of a library. It takes donations from the public to make our library a fully functioning library that the women look forward to visiting. I believe it truly offers a reprieve from the austerity of prison life.

Thank you on behalf of the women at York CI. They are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Helen DeCiantis
York CI State School Teacher

The Social Action Committee will be collecting books in May and June for York Correctional. We are now also collecting junior high and high school level books for the young men at Manson Youth Correctional Institution in Cheshire. They are 14 to 21 years old. All book donations may be dropped off in the synagogue lobby.
FROM OUR COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATOR

Iris Freeman

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**Living with Intention**

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**Road Trip**

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On Monday evening, May 23, author and journalism professor Iris Krasnow will be speaking at Beth El Temple, West Hartford, sponsored by Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy. Her presentation is titled “The Circle of Life: Finding Intention and Passion at Every Age.”

Ms. Krasnow is the author of six books, has written for many national publications including The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, and has appeared on programs such as Oprah, Good Morning America, and All Things Considered.

I have room for 7 passengers, so call me to reserve a spot. There is a $15 charge for the program.

**Daytime Programming**

**Fourth Thursday**

We will be specially honored to have Rabbi Stephen Fuchs joining us for our Daytime Luncheon on May 26th at noon.

Upon his retirement from the pulpit in 2011, Rabbi Fuchs served as President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. He and his wife have spent several months in Germany over the past few years promoting a Progressive Jewish approach to Torah, and teaching about the Holocaust to German high school students.

I invite you to look through the essays on his website blog: www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com to see some of the things about which he has written. I am confident you will find his writing as warm and engaging as I did.

Also, you can enjoy an audio taste of his book, “What’s in it for Me? Finding Ourselves in Biblical Narratives” through the Amazon website link. In this book, Rabbi Fuchs looks at biblical narratives from a contemporary perspective, asking the reader to focus on “What do these stories teach ME that can help me to be a more self aware, caring, and compassionate human being?”


As we do every month, we will have a home-cooked lunch as part of the program.

Please RSVP if you can join us for this event.

If you need transportation or know someone who might like a ride, contact me at irisafreeman@gmail.com or phone the CBSRZ office at 860-526-8920.
It's always a treat to have a President of our congregation as the featured author in our Books & Bagels series and a rare treat when it is our current President. Please join us on Sunday May 22 for this highly anticipated event when Board President Stephen Davis and one of his co-authors, Jon Lukomnik, school us on the faults of the financial system and how to fix them, as they discuss their new book *What They Do With Your Money: How the Financial System Fails Us, and How to Fix It* (third co-author, David Pitt-Watson, is unable to join us).

This book, written by three respected practitioners from within the financial system, addresses two simple questions: How could we have made such a bad job of such an important industry? And how can we find a new path that allows the finance industry to help serve us?

Each year we pay billions in fees to those who run our financial system. The money comes from our bank accounts, our pensions, our borrowing, and often we aren’t told that the money has been taken. These billions might be justified if the finance industry did a good job, but too often it fails us. Financial institutions regularly place their business interests first, charging for advice that does nothing to improve performance, employing short-term buying strategies that are corrosive to building long-term value, and sometimes even concealing both their practices and their investment strategies from investors.

In *What They Do With Your Money: How the Financial System Fails Us, and How to Fix It*, the authors explain how a tyranny of errant expertise, naive regulation, and a misreading of economics combine to impose a huge stealth tax on our savings and our economies. More important, they lay out an agenda for curtailing the misalignments that allow the financial industry to profit at our expense. The financial system is absolutely essential to our economy, the authors assert. Without it we won’t be able to solve the world’s great problems, such as poverty, sustainability, and development.

Without it we won’t have pensions, mortgages or savings accounts. With so much at stake, this is a book that analysts, economists, policy makers, and anyone with a retirement nest egg can’t afford to ignore.

This is an important opportunity to hear about a subject that we can’t afford not to learn a bit more about. Don’t miss Books & Bagels on Sunday May 22 at 9:30 am with Stephen Davis and Jon Lukomnik. As always, bagels, baked goods and coffee will be provided for your enjoyment.

---

**A Kind and Courteous Note from Paul Winter.**

Dear David,

We all loved the experience of being at the Synagogue on Sunday, and my colleagues and I much enjoyed playing in that magnificent space. And of course we were gratified by the audience response, and the kind comments many people made to us after the concert. Many thanks to you, and to Miriam, for your superb and professional promotion and presentation of the event, and for your hospitality. We felt very much at home. With gratitude again, for the privilege of playing at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek.

Warmest regards,
Paul
Memorial Plaques
Nissan 23, 5776 to Iyar 23, 5776

Abraham Abramowitch
Estelle Salowitz Alcon
Catherine Androccio
Anna Axelrod
Gertrude Baron
Harold Baron
Max Baron
Saro Baron
Sidney Baron
Caroline Baskin
Charles Bernstein
Helen Bloom
Thomas Roy Bowin
Irvings Cohen
Anna Cooperstock
Bertha Diamond
Jennie Dietch
Esther B. Divins
Betty Drilich
Lois Eichengreen
Ruth Elgart
Eva Fast
Ghores Fisher
Mildred Friedman
William Baer Friedman
Lillian Fuchman
Golde Glassman
Sarah Glodz Glazeter
Beatrice Goldenberg
Millie Goldfarb
Faye Goldstein
Samuel Goldstein
Shirley Goller

Jennie Gugenheim
Sara Harris
Dennis Hess
Shirley Bob Hesslein
Sam Horowitz
Lena Jacobs
Gusse Kleinberg
Mary Elgart Land
Harvey Landers
Shirley Lebert
Edith Marks
Abraham Melter
Jessica Cohen Melter
Morris Navasky
Bennett Pearl
David Pinn
Seymour Pivnick
Nathan Ritter
Esther Ronan
Rebecca Rosenberg
Miriam Rosenberg
William Lasker Rossohn
Hilda Rosenthal
Roger “Sonny” Rubinow
Celia Savitt
Siegfried Schwarz
Philip Shaftei
Louis Shenkman
Nathan Sherman
Mandel Slater
Barney Smith
Joseph Solomon
Herman Sondak
Mollie Spatz
Allan Storch
Rita Sumner
Willie Jean Talbott
Louis Taubman
Si Taubman
Cindy Tilles
Joanne Vioator
Dora Weiner
Nathan Weiner
Samuel Wilkes
Sidney Winkler
Edward Yudkin

Yahrzeits
Nissan 23, 5776 to Iyar 24, 5776

Estelle Salowitz Alcon - mother of Hyla Cohen
Catherine Androccio - mother of Carol LeWitt
Caroline Baskin - mother of Linda Pinn
Helen Bloom - mother of Larry Pinn
Thomas Roy Bowin - father of Jackie McKown
Irvings Cohen - loved one of Solomon Tilles
Jennie Dietch - mother of Susan Peck
Betty Drilich - cousin of Johanna Schaefer
Lois Eichengreen - mother of Roy Eichengreen
Mildred Friedman - mother of Ava Tyler
William Baer Friedman - husband of Ellen Friedman
Lillian Fuchman - mother-in-law of Maxime Leichman
Golde Glassman - grandmother of Ron and Richard Glassman
Beatrice Goldenberg - grandmother of Rabbi Goldenberg
Faye Goldstein - mother of Heather Schwartz
Shirley Goller - mother of Ethan Goller
Jennie Gugenheim - great-grandmother of Gail Feld

Dennis Hess - friend of Sandy Seidman
Shirley Bob Hesslein - mother of Laura Hesslein
Sam Horowitz - grandmother of Sheila Byrne
Lena Jacobs - mother of Stephen Jacobs
Harvey Landers - father of Marjorie Landier
Edith Mack - sister of Beatrice Case
Abraham Melter - grandfather of Laura Roman
Jessica Cohen Melter - mother of Laura Roman
Benet Pearl - uncle of Susan and Charles Savitt
David Pinn - father of Ed Pinn
Miriam Rosenblum - grandmother of Debra Traupman
Roger “Sonny” Rubinow - father of Laurie Rubinow
Celia Savitt - grandmother of Susan and Charles Savitt
Siegfried Schwarz - father of John Schwarz
Philip Shaftei - father of Maxine Leichman
Hennie Sherman - wife of Arthur Sherman and

mother of Linda and Doug Sherman
Mandel Slater - brother of Bernard Slater
Barney Smith - father of Susan Furman and
Martin Smith
Allen Storch - father of Liz Storch
Rita Sumner - sister of Steve Nadler
Willie Jean Talbott - grandmother of Jim Talbott
Louis Taubman - father of Si Taubman
Si Taubman - husband of Sharon Taubman
Cindy Tilles - daughter of Solomon Tilles
Joanne Vioator - mother of Emily Merriam
Dora Weiner - mother of Eva Davis
Nathan Weiner - brother of Eva Davis
Samuel Wilkes - father of Don Wilkes

Bernard Horning - father of Rick Horning
Minnie Horowitz - grandmother of Sheila Byrne
Morton Iberman - father of Barry Iberman
Odette Jubelirer - brother of Brad Jubelirer
Rita Krasner - mother of Ron Berson Weiner
Alfred LeWitt - relative of Carol LeWitt
Sophie LeWitt - mother-in-law of Carol LeWitt
Ellie Linden - daughter of Larry & Dana Linden
Nathan Meyers - father of Arthur Meyers
Selma Meyers - mother of Arthur Meyers
Samuel Michael - brother-in-law of Jacqueline Michael
Jack Michael - husband of Jacqueline Michael
Henry Miller - father of Suzanne Levine
Samuel Miller - uncle of Ellen Friedman
Jacob Nodelman - father of Ava Tyler
Sarah Palmer - mother of George Palmer and
grandmother of Peg Palmer
Morton Pepper - father of Andy Pepper Jacobs
Howard Cutler Redak - brother of Danny and
Harvey Turkel
Fanny Saffir - grandmother of Ron and Richard Glassman
Albert George Samburg - father of Jonathan Samburg
Dr. Harold Samuels - father of Palmer Morrel-
Samuels
David Schafer - father of Joanna Schafer
Esthine Levine Schafer - mother of Joanna
Schoeler
Marjorie Schneller Dewitz - sister of Richard
Dewitz
Reba Schwam - mother of Elias Schwam
Rose Meyers Schwartz - sister of Arthur Meyers
Abraham Seidman - father of Sandy Seidman
Louis Shenkman - father of Linda Pinn
Harry Sabol - father of Bertram Cost
Mark Solomkin - father-in-law of Harvey
Hoberman
Amy Sullivan - wife of Bruce Josephy
Elinor Tilles - wife of Solomon Tilles
Harvey Turkel - father of Robin Freeman
Adam Weissman - brother of Laura Roman
Marilyn White - friend of Lynn Coville

...Our Chessed Committee is here to help.

Condolences are extended to:

Stephen Barasz, on the loss of his uncle, George Denes
Jeannette Ickovics, on the loss of her father, Barry Ickovics
Bill Gilman and Betty Gilman, on the loss of her wife and her daughter-
in-law, Mitzi Gilman

Peg Palmer, on the loss of her father, Dr. George Palmer
Rabbi Goldenberg, on the loss of her cousin, Leon Horlick
Lisa Connelly, on the loss of her grandmother, Adele Small
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<tr>
<th><strong>SUNDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Breakfast w/Rabbi</td>
<td>9:00 am Books &amp; Bagels with Daniel Rosenfeld</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>5:45 pm Tot Shabbat Service</td>
<td>11:30 am - 1:30 pm Gesher</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala</td>
<td>9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00 pm Tea &amp; Cookies with Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00 pm Tea &amp; Cookies with Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
<td>6:15 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck</td>
<td>12:00 - 2:00 pm Closing Reception for Joseph Foster &quot;Emerging Worlds&quot;</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom</td>
<td>11:30 am - 1:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:30 pm Facilities</td>
<td>5:30 pm Facilities</td>
<td>7:00 pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>12:00 pm Lunch and Learn</td>
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<td>9:30 am Byachad Meeting</td>
<td>3:00 pm SSKP Board Meeting</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service celebrating Israel Independence Day, with speaker Mitch Beck, CT Regional Director of Volunteers for Israel, Sar-EI</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00 pm Tea &amp; Cookies with Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00 pm Tea &amp; Cookies with Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
<td>10:30 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Jeremy Evans</td>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens</td>
<td>10:30 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Joseph Foster &quot;Emerging Worlds&quot;</td>
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<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr 10)</td>
<td>3:00 pm Beginner Hebrew</td>
<td>3:00 pm Beginner Hebrew</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat with Piano</td>
<td>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck</td>
<td>12:00 pm Lunch and Learn</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth-4yrs)</td>
<td>9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Choir</td>
<td>10:30 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Joseph Foster &quot;Emerging Worlds&quot;</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Choir</td>
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<td>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens</td>
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<td>6:15 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Art Reception - CT Valley Photo Club</td>
<td>4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens</td>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Mindfulness through a Jewish Lens</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Piano</td>
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<td>9:30 am Books &amp; Bagels with Stephen Davis and Jon Lukosnik</td>
<td>9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth-4yrs)</td>
<td>9:30 am Books &amp; Bagels with Stephen Davis and Jon Lukosnik</td>
<td>9:30 am Books &amp; Bagels with Stephen Davis and Jon Lukosnik</td>
<td>12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program</td>
<td>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Adult Ed Committee</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 pm Wine and Dessert with Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
<td>5:45 pm Tz Shabbat 6:15 pm Dairy/vegetarian Potluck 7:00 pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner, Havdalah and Celebration in honor of Rabbi Goldenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Israel Fest NewHaven at the JCC</td>
<td>Megillah Deadline (July/ August)</td>
<td>5:30 pm Facilities</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal</td>
<td>12:00 pm Lunch and Learn</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with lay D’var Torah leader</td>
<td>No 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service this month 9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
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<td>3:00 pm SSKP Board</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>6:00 pm Board of Directors 7:30 pm Annual Congregational Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Choir</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>6:00 pm Board of Directors 7:30 pm Annual Congregational Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Choir</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers 10:30 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Nathalie Mora</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program 7:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Adult Education</td>
<td>12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program 7:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Adult Education</td>
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<td>12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program 7:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Adult Education</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat service with Piano</td>
<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers 10:30 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Grace Cohen</td>
<td>5:00 pm Music &amp; More featuring String of Pearls and CBSRZ annual Community Picnic</td>
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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>6:00 - 6:00 pm Deep River Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>6:00 - 6:00 pm Deep River Soup Kitchen</td>
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JUNE 2016

24 IYYAR- 24 SIVAN, 5776
Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Ali Rosenblum & Liz Jones
Debby Trautmann
Holly Starkman-Smith
Shelley Sprague & Stephen Barasz
Rita Christopher & David Frank
Josie & Merito Elmoznino

Mama Loshen  By Marilyn Kalet

Vos kocht zich in teppel? (or vos tut zich)
What’s cooking?

Yiddisher Kop
Jewish head

Pupiklech
A dish of chicken gizzards

Ess gezunterhait!
Eat in good health!

Genug es genug!
Enough is enough!

“Today I am a man. Tomorrow I return to the seventh grade.”
From “Haikus for Jews”  For you,
A little Wisdom

David Bader

Cottage for Rent:
25 Maple La., Stannard Beach, Westbrook, CT.  8-rm, heated cottage...
4 bedrms, 3 bathrms, attached shower house, fully equipped kitchen, all linens, blankets, etc., shaded backyard, parking for 4+ vehicles, one minute (or less) walk to sandy beach. Call Linda Pinn at 860-4349901 (cell 860-3912643) or email: lisp1019@aol.com