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Deborah Rutty

Rabbi Marci Bellows

www.cbsrz.org
It is truly a pleasure and an honor to begin my tenure as the spiritual leader at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. After an illuminating search process, it became clear that my path was leading me to Chester, Connecticut. As Rabbi Goldenberg passes the torch to me, I know that we all will have many wonderful, fruitful experiences together in the coming years.

CBSRZ is a noteworthy, extraordinary congregation, a fact that was evident from the start. I hope each member can appreciate what a special community it is. As I’ve gotten to know the congregation, I have found myself drawn to your compassionate Chesed committee, your creative programming, your devotion to lifelong learning, your pursuit of social justice, and your love for the arts. The leadership is devoted to making CBSRZ a second home for whomever wishes to join, and there seems to be a true sense of family. I feel privileged to take part in all these facets of the congregation, and more.

As I shared with the search committee, I describe my rabbinate as a search for “love and joy” in a Jewish context. Those two words — so simple yet profound — capture much. I believe that we can, and even should, enjoy coming into our synagogues. I believe that a feeling of love, safety, and home should surround us when we are in our congregation. I also believe that we can leave each visit feeling enriched, enlivened, and connected to something greater than ourselves.

One of the best parts my work as a rabbi is finding the aspect of each person that is a reflection of Tzelem Elohim, the image of God. We, as clergy, have the privilege of accompanying people through some of the most profound moments in their lives, and I take this aspect of the work most seriously. I love seeing the divine spark glow in people of all ages and backgrounds, and in families of all kinds. No matter our religious background, we all share the most fundamental hopes and dreams: for meaning, for connection, and to leave the world better than it was when we found it. There is so much more that joins and unites us than divides and separates us.

Additionally, it is important to me to cultivate a culture of “Yes,” where people’s ideas, suggestions, and brainstorming thoughts are welcome. I see it as a worthy and welcome challenge to make good, new concepts a reality, especially when it seems that obstacles or barriers may block our path. When people are not afraid to fail, they enter experiments and new ideas with a sense of openness. I hope you will feel comfortable bringing new ideas to me along the way. Together, we can all collaborate in the creation of an environment that is vibrant, healthy, and productive. Most importantly, our congregation will continue to be a meaningful place in which we all feel involved and invested.

My family and I (husband, Seth Lindenman, and newborn son, Spencer) have already settled in to our home in Chester. With great thanks to Doreen and Jon Joslow, Rita Christopher, Beth Brewer, Stephen Davis, Linda Sherman, and so many others behind the scenes, we had plenty of food to eat and support when needed during our first few days. My family has been warmly welcomed to spend Shabbat with some very kind members over the past few weeks, and we are excited to meet many more. I am thrilled to begin working with the tremendous staff with which CBSRZ has been blessed.

I hope you will take part in one of the “Meet and Greet” sessions which have been ably organized by the Rabbinic Transition Committee. Seth, Spencer, and I can’t wait to get to know you, hear your story, and learn what has drawn you to take part in this special community. There is so much that we will do together — let’s go!

L’shalom — In peace,
— Rabbi Marci N. Bellows
Was it preordained that Rabbi Marci Bellows would come our way? Though she doesn’t argue that landing in Chester is the result of Divine Intervention, she admits the evidence may be persuasive.

How, for example, would one explain what happened even before Rabbi Bellows, then in her seventh year as the spiritual leader at Temple B’nai Torah in Wantagh, Long Island, decided to build on her experience, and to seek another pulpit? It was back then that her husband, Seth, a native of that area, woke up one morning and told his wife that he dreamt that our state is where the two of them and their three cats and their as-yet-unborn baby would end up.

Indeed, after she sent her CV to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), she saw one job posting among many others that stood out. “I was immediately drawn to the synagogue in Chester. It seemed to me an extraordinary place.”

Not a bad outcome for a 38-year-old woman who as a youngster thought she’d become a psychologist or a lawyer or a Broadway star. But there was something in her blood that argued otherwise — something that came both from family and living circumstance. She grew up in Skokie, Illinois, “In the shadow” of an anti-Semitic episode in 1978 that rattled Skokie and the country. “Skokie was a place that drew many Holocaust survivors, in part because it was largely Jewish. [More than half of its 70,000 residents.] Hebrew was one of the languages offered in the high school.”

The suburb of Chicago was, then, “a deliberate choice,” she says, “of Neo-Nazis to march.” The legal battle that ensued resulted in the court defending the marchers’ First Amendment rights even as it decried their highly offensive message. But no doubt the legacy of the ugliness affected young Marci Bellows and other impressionable young minds.

And that something became clear to her when she attended a campus High Holiday service and was enthralled by the rabbi on the bimah — a woman. “There was an epiphany, and an incredible sense of awareness that this was what I was supposed to be doing. It brought everything together — the law, the psychology, the theater and music… So I changed my mind, and applied for Rabbinical school after college.”

As a child, she had also seen Judaism from up close — on Friday nights she and her three siblings attended services in the synagogue in which her mother served as the longtime cantor. This, too, had a profound effect. In a time when a woman presiding on the bimah was still a rare phenomenon, young Marci thought such achievement was possible for females.

Besides, there was something in her that yearned to come out, and to make use of her desire to delight and inform. This manifested first in a love for American musical theater. She eventually played Reno Sweeney in a production of Anything Goes and Vera Charles in Mame. (She has not lost this inclination — she recently played Mama Rose in Temple B’nai Torah’s production of Gypsy.)

Her other passion was social action. She majored in psychology at Brandeis to deepen her understanding of human nature. The emphasis that Brandeis places on social action was a draw, along with its large Jewish student body. But as she delved into psychology, she decided, “Something was missing.”

And that something became clear to her when she attended a campus High Holiday service and was enthralled by the rabbi on the bimah — a woman. “There was an epiphany, and an incredible sense of awareness that this was what I was supposed to be doing. It brought everything together — the law, the psychology, the theater and music… So I changed my mind, and applied for Rabbinical school after college.”

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One of the aspects of Rabbi Bellows’s career was of particular interest to our search committee: her experience and her commitment in the area of interfaith families.

“I became interested in the question of how people adopt a Jewish identity. It all started with a conversation I had while I was a student rabbi, serving a community in Florida. [She flew there on weekends from New York.] I was talking with a conversion student there, and one day she said to me, ‘I know how to light Shabbat candles, I come to Torah study, I feel Jewish in many ways, but I have to tell you I don’t understand Seinfeld.’

“So I was thinking it’s one thing to learn rituals, but how do you get a Jewish sense of humor, a Jewish mindset, a taste for gefilte fish, or falafel. How do you do identity shifts?”

More than that, she has had to counsel couples on the delicate matter of what religious traditions to pass along. “One of the most important things I learned about interfaith was that couples have to decide on just one religion to raise the children. The research has shown that when we raise a child as both Jewish and Christian the child doesn’t see it as a choice between religions but between mom and dad — who am I going to disappoint? This is something that has had a direct impact on my rabbinate.”

She employed these experiences and views when she was hired as an assistant rabbi at Temple Sharray Teffila on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She stayed there five years before earning a pulpit of her own in Wantagh, a place that offered the challenges inherent in the merging of congregations. Our congregation, of course, is a product of a merger, and also reflects a diversity of traditions and rituals that requires tact and mediation.

In the case of the Wantagh merged congregation, there were two distinct ways of doing things, and members of each wanted the merger to reflect their own traditions. Still, she found ways of compromise that all could accept.

During this process she also found a husband, through the Internet. Surprisingly it was not through JDate, (“I was jaded by JDate,” she says). So it was on OK Cupid that she saw a photo of Seth Lindenman, who had been a communications major in college and had worked as a DJ, and in ad sales. “What struck me was in the picture he posted he was holding his nephew, only a year old at the time, and his face was kvelling. You could see the love in it.”

They had other things in common, though one of them was not heavy metal music, a passion of Seth’s. Fortunately, he also loves Broadway shows, and among the couple’s music collection is a recording of Les Miz — in Hebrew.

They also have a new arrival, one that can make us all kvell. Spencer Benjamin, their first child, was born in April, just before the family moved to a rental property on East King’s Highway, a literal stone’s throw from CBSRZ.

Rabbi Bellows points out that she and her family have been recipients of the largesse of many congregants, starting with Rita Christopher. “She is extraordinary — she knows so much, and is so wise. The Search Committee, coupled with the Transition Committee (led by Doreen Joslow) has made our move so easy. Beth Brewer helped us find a place to live that’s across the street from the synagogue.”

The excitement level is on all fronts. Stephen Davis, president of our board during the rabbi search, says, “From our first Skype call with Rabbi Bellows I thought she was right for CBSRZ — a rabbi with a big heart, a smile for everyone, grounded in both learning and real life, a natural teacher, an instinctive creator, someone who could match and indeed advance our culture of warmth and wisdom.”
In 2013, when I joined the lineup to take up the presidency of CBSRZ, I asked my father, long involved in synagogue affairs, if he had any advice. He had no hesitation: “Resign!”

Well, after completing my term of two years on the job, I have indeed stepped down, and with a profound sense of gratitude. Rabbi Jonathan Sachs has written that “Jews have had an influence out of all proportion to their numbers because we are all called on to be leaders, to take responsibility, to contribute, to make a difference to the lives of others,” and to carry on the values handed to us by generations before us. I have had the immense privilege of serving with a team of CBSRZ leaders who have embraced that challenge and made a difference. They begin with Rabbi G, Cantor Belinda and Temple Administrator Wendy, of course, but they include board members, committee chairs, volunteers and others. Here’s an accounting of what they have achieved, building on the work of boards before ours, in the form of a Top 10 list for the past two years.

No. 10 Nuts and Bolts

Homework for our board meetings isn’t easy; it now involves reading a dozen or more reports in advance. But it has made for more efficient conduct of business and wider understanding of who does what. For example, we introduced a CBSRZ Dashboard, updated regularly, to see at a glance the many programs and duties being carried out under our roof—and beyond it. A parallel Investment Dashboard gives the board a listing of where our congregation’s endowment and other funds are invested. In other housekeeping, over the past two years we created an orderly succession plan, commissioned a successful independent “stress test” of our financial controls, formalized a Design Committee to opine on building changes, and built the B’yachad (“together”) Committee, led by Maxine Klein, to coordinate the work of all program chairs. We clarified Belinda’s job title as cantor of our congregation. And we oversaw Wendy’s expert assumption of the role of Temple Administrator. Finally, we were sorry to see the amazing Charles Savitt move on as Wendy’s assistant, but welcomed the cheerful and efficient Debbie St. John. And while we now have a beautiful blue, made-in-Israel gavel for board meetings, I’m proud to say that not once in two years was anyone even tempted to use it to impose Roberts Rules of Order.

No. 9 Making the Treasurer Happy

By the time this is published, we will have raised more than $100,000 in donations over the past two years to support our many programs for youth and adult education, Chesed, Social Action and cultural events. Most effective have been our Music & More performances, silent auctions at our 100th celebration (thanks to Clo Davis and Rochelle Dauenheimer) and Rabbi G farewell, and Jon Joslow’s documentary We Built This House, in which donors became movie producers. And, thanks to Bruce Josephy, our signature Sol LeWitt yarmulke’s continue to sell far
and wide. We are grateful for support extended to us by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. But there’s more to do—we too often end the fiscal year on a shoestring. Come July, I will be chairing a new Second Century campaign that the board plans to help relieve some annual financial stress. The goal is to recruit 10 new donors among our congregants who will each commit to a $5,000 yearly contribution for five years.

No. 8 Keeping House

Just about the first thing that happened after I took office was a rare incident of vandalism. But while troubling, it prompted the board to invest in a major upgrade in our building security. We now have a bank of outside cameras and internal monitors, for instance. And a recent survey conducted by Susan Sobolov shows confidence in our security measures. Harvey Payton, chair of our Facilities Committee, coordinated repairs of roof leaks and window failures in concert with Henry Resnikoff, George Amarant, and Jeff Brewer. David Tilles, meanwhile, put our library in order with cataloguing that will soon go online. Stu Baker made progress in the work of expanding our cemetery at Fountain Hill, in Deep River. And Steve Barasz and Melinda Alcosser launched a bold, new Farmland Committee to rediscover CBSRZ’s agricultural roots. The community garden looks set to flourish with fencing, a water pump, and compost, but next phases could include an orchard, and maybe even a sustainable farm. We also adopted innovative ethical kashrut principles to guide us in the future.

No. 7 Reaching Out

With the blessing of the board, CBSRZ became among the first congregations in Connecticut to livestream services and other events to the outside world, including our own homebound or Snowbirding congregants. The results, thanks to project masters John Hausman and Lon Seidman, are astounding. From inception on July 31, 2014 through May 9, 2016 we created no fewer than 130 videos. Some 91 individuals subscribed to our YouTube channel, while records during the period show 8,289 views racking up 55,436 minutes in watch time. People in countries all over the globe have tuned in. We also commissioned a top-to-bottom overhaul of our website, our main statement of identity to the outside world, so that it is now gloriously world class—far ahead of peers and equipped with a platform that will get better and better, with a special focus on interfaith considerations. As you know, we can now reserve tickets online, saving Wendy and Debbie hours of labor. Thanks go to Maxine Klein and a team of committee chairs, plus Dass Sinnappen and our outside consultant Rebecca Mead. Finally, Ed Finn led Shabbat Across America and Shabbat Across the Shoreline events that brought crowds to our building.

No. 6 Staying Youthful

Just as secular school populations around us are shrinking, our youth population has been declining. Our board realized that doing the same was no solution. It acted in partnership with Belinda Brennan, our lead educator, to invest in innovation as a way of retaining vital youth programs. For one, we rebranded the school as Kivvun, or “pathways”, shifting to a message of deep exploration rather than routine schooling. Belinda and Education Committee chair Karen Burzin worked closely with parents and the rabbi to get our language right, especially for the compelling new brochure. Then a working group led by Liz Jones embarked on a new marketing campaign, with advertisements in secular media both conventional and online. Finally, in an effort to remove barriers to entry, the board approved freewill tuition for K-3. These are the foundation steps for renewal.

No. 5 Caring for Each Other

CBSRZ’s culture has long emphasized being there for each other in times good and bad. Rabbi G, for instance, has urged anyone who can to attend shiva services, whether or not you know the person who has died. So it is no surprise that our congregation, 14 months ago, pioneered a new concept in Jewish life in New England: a Caring Coordinator, to help our Chesed Committee and strengthen our helping hand. Whatever someone’s condition, we want to help them be a part of the community. Iris Freeman has done this masterfully, and Linda Sherman has at the same time built a Chesed team determined to be at our sides when needed. But we’ve hardly stopped there. The board approved CBSRZ’s participation in a refugee resettlement program. Izzi Greenberg has been our link to this interfaith initiative, which recently brought an Iraqi family to Middletown. And all of this sits alongside work done by our Social Action Committee, chaired

(Continued on page 8)
by Andy Schatz, to assist local food banks.

**No. 4 Synaplex**

Few synagogues of any size host programs like we do. In the past two years alone we have gathered under our dome to hear Sweet Honey in the Rock, the Afro-Semitic Experience, Paul Winter Consort and many other Music & More events, thanks to Miriam Gardner-Frum, David Zeleznik and their team. We've also held a vast array of Books & Bagels and film events, workshops and lectures, from ‘The Making of House of Cards’, to an appreciation of Nelson Mandela, to our pioneering discussion on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). Thanks for those go to Tracy Kleinberg, Clo Davis, Michael Price, Henry Resnikoff, Andy Schatz, and Elliot Schwam. Rabbi G and Belinda have jointly led prayer labs, exploring new ways of experiencing ritual, while the Rabbi has convened popular meditation sessions and Belinda has built a national model of Mussar learning. Henry Resnikoff led a campaign for voting in worldwide ARZA elections. Meanwhile, on Main Street, Linda Pinn’s magic has brought us a parade of extraordinary exhibits, turning us into a gallery of note for artists such as Richard Newton, Juniper Foster and Jeremy Horseman.

**No. 3 Who We Are**

The board focused much of the past two years on building awareness and pride in our community, special culture, and unique building. We started by planning our 100th birthday, with Lary Bloom chairing, Sue Fine as the maestro of our centennial gala, Sandy Hertzog as field trip leader, and Ellen Nodelman leading a team of historians on our soon-to-be-published book. In a remarkable parallel effort, Jon Joslow produced *We Built This House*, an hour-long documentary film on our building, which opened to a packed, red-carpet premiere at the Madison Arts Cinema. To honor our heritage, the board voted to found an annual Pursuer of Peace and Justice Award, later named in memory of Phil Scheffler. Martha Stone was its first recipient. Artist Bill Farran created a custom linocut of our building, matching in style those he did of wooden synagogues of Eastern Europe, for framing and cards. Linda Pinn helped coordinate this project, while Sue Peck and the Wednesday Minyanaires funded it. At Wendy’s suggestion, the board adopted a new logo for CBSRZ—an inspiring design by Erica Udoff, evoking the colors of Sol LeWitt. And all of this we did in CBSRZ fashion, which we tagged as “ancient and cool.”

**No. 2 Finding Leaders**

The way our board, Search and Transition Committees led the rabbi search over the past year should give us pride. In fact, the Reform movement points to us as a model in accomplishing these tasks. Search chair Rita Christopher and vice chair Ali Rosenblum kept everyone in the loop through the online Basecamp platform, while Linda Sherman prepared expert minutes and Adina Rippin produced video and channeled youth opinion into the long process. Throughout its eight-month lifespan the Search Committee kept the trust of the congregation with consultations and regular updates capped by a thorough presentation.

With the appointment of Rabbi Bellows made, the Transition Committee, under chair Doreen Joslow, has taken up the next tasks with the same measure of responsibility and dedication. I am also happy to say that the board focused on creating a pipeline of fresh leaders at many levels. Still, there’s much to be done.

**No. 1 Popcorn!**

When I started my term I thought adding an hour of ‘Popcorn and Pinot’ for schmoozing before board meetings would be welcome. The wine never really took hold. But the popcorn—wow! Not only have board members debated the finer points of cheddar-dusted v. maple glazed, the popcorn fad spread quickly to other committees. Rabbi Search Committee chair Rita Christopher even awarded each member of her panel their own honorary bag. So now, as a final act, I have the honor of bequeathing stewardship of the next generation of popcorn deliberations to my warm and wise successor Maxine Klein. I am fully confident in her and the new board’s judgment, and in the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Bellows, in this and in all matters, as they take their turn carrying on a mission thousands of years old and passing it, renewed, to others. Thank you all for your trust and support. It has been an honor I will never forget.
On Saturday June 4 the congregation gathered to celebrate Rabbi Goldenberg’s nine years as our leader, to say goodbye and to send her onto the next stage of her journey with warm well wishes.

Over 200 people attended drawn from Beth Shalom and the surrounding community. Dinner featured appetizers and desserts prepared by congregants and delicious salmon courtesy of Lenny and JoAnn Goldenberg and Fish Tale and yummy lasagna courtesy of Bob Zemmel and Linda Guica and Al Forno. Thanks also to Pauline Kaplan for the fabulous Howard’s Bread. Michael Peck and Jon Joslow artfully prepared potent “rabbitinis” that contributed to the party mood.

After dinner the rabbi conducted a meaningful and emotional Havdalah service offering her heartfelt appreciation of those present and those no longer with us who have contributed so much to CBSRZ’s ongoing story.

Once the service concluded, presentations began. In the words of our Congregation president Stephen Davis: “It is right that we are gathering tonight at the service of Havdalah, which signals the close of the period of Shabbat. The word Havdalah is usually interpreted as meaning a ‘separation.’ But the great 16th century kabbalist Rabbi Moshe Cordovero defined it as ‘a separation which contains an attachment and union.’ You separate from Shabbat, but take it with you inside. Rachel, Jim, Amina and Ziv, our attachment and union with you is forever; this will always be your home.”

We were particularly honored by the presence of Baba Wawa (as channeled by Charles Savitt) acting as the mistress of ceremonies. Past president of the Jewish Federation of New Haven, Sydney Perry, spoke of Rabbi Goldenberg’s inspiring leadership and our privilege and obligation to carry on her good work. Tributes to the rabbi’s courage and warmth came from Andy Schatz, Sue Peck, Peg Palmer, Henry Resnikoff and the Gabbais (good name for a rock and roll group) and Linda Sherman. Jim Talbott spoke movingly of the openhearted embrace that the community has offered to him and his children. Then a copy of a memory book compiled by Ellen Nodelman and designed by Erica Udoff was given to the rabbi. (Another copy of the book can be found in the synagogue library). The evening concluded with Belinda Brennan’s performance of a song that she and John DeNicola wrote in the rabbi’s honor and a rousing send-off from the choir.

A silent auction of donated goods and services capped the evening. The auction raised over $10,000.

Thanks for all of the hard work involved go to Sue Peck and Shelley Sprague; to Doreen Joslow and the Transition Committee; to Clo Davis for organizing the silent auction and all the many donors; and to John Hausman for video.

Rabbi Goldenberg leaves us with an inspiring legacy. She has made a lasting impression on the congregation and the lives of its members. Yasher Koach on a job well done.
Dear CBSRZ,

The June 4th celebration of our 9 years together was an incredible experience for me and my family. Thanks to each and every one of you for the beauty and authenticity and the gifts you gave us in your presence, your words, the food, the amazing memory book, the music. Cantor Belinda and John’s song said it all. I said to Jim the next morning that I could have used a whole second body and heart to contain all that we were given — I was feeling so full of everyone’s love. The event, among all of the other wonderful interactions I’ve had with you in these past few months, have helped me and my family to know that we will always have a home here, and to come to a sense of closure, and I hope that the same is true for CBSRZ. This community has phenomenal potential to bring goodness and meaning through Jewish life — continue to unlock those gifts for yourselves, with Rabbi Bellows as your partner. May you all go from strength to strength.

With love and affection,

Rabbi Goldenberg
News from the Transition Committee

The warm and wonderful goodbye of Rabbi Goldenberg and her family after nine years at CBSRZ was chaired by Susan Peck. Dinner was served to 212 people; the social hall was filled to capacity with congregants and special friends from far and near. The Silent Auction brought in almost $10,000 to help close the budget gap.

Rabbi Bellows is now settled in Chester and has been hosted at shabbat dinners at the Foster, Rosen, Davis and Peck homes giving her the opportunity to meet small groups of congregants.

Maxine Klein and Hila Rosen are heading up the meet and greet events that will be taking place throughout the summer and early fall with the goal of having our new rabbi meet at least 50% of the congregation prior to High Holy Days. You will be hearing more about these in emails. Below are the dates:

Friday 7/1, Oneg - Committee as a whole
Sun 7/10, Afternoon Tea
Sat 7/16, Havdalah
Friday 7/22 Oneg
Sun 7/31, Afternoon Tea
Sat 8/6, Havdalah
Fri 8/12, Oneg
Sat 8/13 Afternoon Tea
Sun. 8/21 Blessing of the Animals
Mon. 8/29 Desserts

Belinda Brennan is working with Rabbi Bellows and B’nai Mitzvah families to insure a smooth transition.

The installation of Rabbi Bellows will take place over the weekend of November 11–13. More information will appear in the next issue of the Megillah. Shelley Sprague is chairing the event and will be reaching out for assistance in the various components of the weekend. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.

In Time

Music and Chorus Lyrics by Belinda Z Brennan
Lyrics by John Sebastian DeNicola
(Inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

With sun and rain, and gentle breeze,
You grow the fruits of many trees.
You make a forest full of memories.
With setting sun a season has begun.

Like moon and stars, like tide and sea,
You wake one day and suddenly.
What you used to know is what used to be.
And then the dawn, a season has moved on.

There’s a season.
A story that unfolds.
There’s a reason.
One our hearts are meant to hold.
There’s a season.
Whose time will slip away.
For every season, there’s a reason
So they say.
To every purpose there’s a season.
A time for everything.
Laughing, mourning, dancing, weeping,
Silence, and a time to sing.
Rending, sewing, losing, reaping,
Planting, plucking, casting, keeping.
Time to build, a time to break,
A time to tear a time to heal, and care
With love enough to spare - to share - so,

There’s a season.
A story that unfolds.
There’s a reason.
One our hearts are meant to hold.
There’s a season.
Whose time will slip away.
For every season, there’s a reason
So they say. (2x)

Familiar things become estranged,
And everything gets rearranged,
That’s the constant that is never ever changed,
That’s how we grow, and how we know,
There’s a reason, that the seasons,
Come- and seasons go.
IN MEMORY OF PHILIP SCHEFFLER

Philip Scheffler, a dear friend, long-time member of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, part-time resident of Essex, and investigative journalist at CBS for fifty-two years, passed away on April 7, 2016, in New York City. Phil generously committed his time to several programs at CBSRZ and, along with his wife Linda, contributed his efforts and resources to beautify our building and support our congregation. Phil also was a moving force in an effort to secure the financial future health of our congregation by working with fellow congregant, the famed conceptual artist Sol LeWitt, to kick start an endowment fund for the congregation by creating a series of prints of the ark cover, numbered and signed by the artist, to be marketed first to our members at a discounted price, and eventually, to the general public, as a means of securing the long-term financial viability of the congregation. At its April 14, 2016 meeting, the board of directors voted to rename the CBSRZ Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award, an award created in 2015 to mark the 100th anniversary of the congregation, the Philip Scheffler Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award. On the occasion of a memorial service in Phil’s honor, held on May 10 in New York City, Linda Scheffler requested that memorial gifts in Phil’s name be made to CBSRZ in support of this award. For those of you who missed the obituary released by CBS, what follows is an excerpt:

“Philip Scheffler, CBS News’ first television street reporter, a documentary producer and the executive editor at 60 MINUTES for many years, died April 7 in New York Presbyterian-Cornell Weill Medical Center. He was 85 and lived in Manhattan. Until recently he also spent much of his time in Essex, Connecticut where he had a home for decades.

Scheffler retired from 60 MINUTES in June of 2003 and had served as a consultant to CBS News up until a few years ago. He was a friend and mentor to Jeff Fager, executive producer of 60 MINUTES. “Phil was a guiding force behind the success of 60 Minutes for more than two decades,” said Fager. “Don Hewitt often said he couldn’t have done it without him. He was a first-class journalist, an admirable human being, and a great friend to many of us. We will miss him very much.”

Scheffler was a reporter and producer for CBS News for the first half of his 52-year career. He became the senior producer at 60 MINUTES in 1980, handling the day-to-day responsibilities — essentially the right hand of the broadcast’s executive producer Don Hewitt. Hewitt named him executive editor later. In this capacity, Scheffler had a direct hand in producing every 60 MINUTES report broadcast from 1980 to 2003 — a period during which 60 MINUTES was the number-one program in America five times.

Scheffler oversaw the reporting from the field and handled most of the producers’ journalistic issues, enabling Hewitt to focus almost exclusively on shaping the newsmagazine’s stories. When tempers flared in the screening room between Hewitt and one of his correspondents, such as Mike Wallace or Morley Safer, it was the professorial Scheffler, sporting a bow tie and close-cropped beard, who played referee.

Before his senior positions, Scheffler produced 60 MINUTES stories over nine seasons for Wallace, Safer, Harry Reasoner and Dan Rather. Hewitt hired him in March of 1951 as a copy boy for “Douglas Edwards with the News,” which Hewitt directed and produced. Debuting in May 1948, that broadcast was the first network television news program, and in 1951, Scheffler became its first street reporter.

His first field assignment was to ask people whether they thought Gen. Dwight Eisenhower should enter politics and run for the Republican presidential nomination. But reporting was only one of the hats worn by early television news people like Scheffler. Out of necessity, he also invented a makeshift news teleprompter. . . [Scheffler] briefly served as an associate producer on “The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite,” where he covered the Kennedy assassination, before joining the documentary unit in 1964. There, Scheffler became a producer of documentary and special news broadcasts, including “CBS Special Reports” and “CBS Reports.” He produced more than 100 of them, including: “After 10 Years: The Court and the Schools” (1964), on school integration; “CBS REPORTS: Robert F. Kennedy” (1967), on Sen. Kennedy and his political ambitions; and “The Cities” (1968), about the nation’s urban crisis.

Scheffler’s assignments took him to 47 states and to 50 foreign countries, including Vietnam. He traveled there for six assignments during the war; his output included three two-hour specials on American policy in Southeast Asia, “Where We Stand in Vietnam” (1967), “Where We Stand in Indochina” (1970), and “The Changing War in Indochina” (1971).
CBS News broadcasts that Scheffler worked on, especially 60 MINUTES, have received the industry’s highest recognition, including the Peabody, DuPont and Emmy awards. In 1981, he received the Alumni Award for distinguished contributions to journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, from which he received a master’s degree. As an adjunct professor, he once taught classes there as well.

Scheffler was born Sept. 16, 1930 in New York City and graduated from the City College of New York. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Linda Weingarten Scheffler, a clinical psychologist, author and retired professor at Hunter College in New York City, his daughter Ramsay Klaff of Massachusetts and a son Adam of Chicago.”

Contributions may be made in honor of Phil’s memory to the Philip Scheffler Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award Fund, CBSRZ, 55 East Kings Highway, Chester, CT 06412.

PHILIP SCHEFFLER
Pursuer of Justice and Peace Award

At its April 14, 2016 meeting, the board of directors voted to rename the Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (“CBSRZ”), Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award (“Peace & Justice Award”), an award created in 2015 to mark the 100th anniversary of the congregation, as the Philip Scheffler Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award. Phil passed away suddenly at New York Presbyterian Hospital on April 7, 2017.

The Peace & Justice Award was created in 2015 to help mark the centennial year of CBSRZ, founded in 1915, when Rodfe Zedek was formed in the town of Moodus. The name of the award is taken from the translation of the Hebrew name of our blended congregation, Beth Shalom, house of peace, and Rodfe Zedek, pursuers of justice.

The award is designed to commemorate the spirit of the founders of our congregation and to reflect the commitment to religious tolerance and social justice that still animates our congregation 100 years later. Phil Scheffler was committed to these ideals throughout his career as a television news journalist that spanned more than fifty years. A fund in memory of Phil was recently announced by Linda Scheffler as a mechanism to honor Phil and his life’s work. Although plans are still being formulated, the award committee will be discussing a proposal to create an essay contest for religious school students and/or madrichim and, depending on the success of the fund, a speaker’s program.

The first recipient of the Peace & Justice Award was Martha Stone, a CBSRZ congregant and Durham resident, who, as founder and director of the Center for Children’s Advocacy, has devoted her legal career to representing the most vulnerable children in our society and advocating issues important to their welfare. As exemplified by Martha, the award is meant to be presented to a person whose actions reflect the values inherent in the pursuit of peace and/or justice, values imbued deeply in the heart of Judaism, a person with ties to our area and whose activities serve to inspire others.

The members of the award committee are the rabbi, the president of the board of directors, Ellen Nodelman and, the chair, Susan Peck. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 award. The deadline is October 1, 2016. Because the 2016 high holy days are late this year, and Rabbi Bel lows’ installation is scheduled for the weekend of November 11-13, 2016, it has been proposed that the 2016 Peace & Justice Award be presented on the occasion of the Martin Luther King Day service in January.

Nominations may be made by letter or by using the form available on the CBSRZ website, www.cbsrz.org. Look for the link, “Peace & Justice Award” and click on it. If you choose to send a letter, be sure to include your contact information and that of your nominee, as well as a description of the qualifications of the nominee for the award. Please submit your nomination by email to office@cbsrz.org or to susanpeck@sbcglobal.net or mail it to Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe. Zedek, 55 East Kings Highway, Chester, CT 06412).
“I Believe”.....The Art of Assemblage

“I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God even when he is silent.”

—written on a cellar wall in Germany during the Holocaust

“I was reared in a family with Russian and Polish roots. My wife, Linda, and I reared two sons. We wanted to be role models for our children which led us to study Judaism... As I continue to study Judaism, the way I come to terms with what I am learning is by making “Hand Made Midrash.” (Jo Milgram, “Handmade Midrash: Workshop in visual Theology” Jewish Publication Society, 1992) My works are study pieces on Jewish life, Jewish ritual objects and on Holocaust studies.” (Philip Levine...artist’s statement)

Beginning in August, our Main Street Gallery will feature a composite retrospective of flat and sculptural work by Stratford, CT, artist and sculptor, Philip Levine. Levine has been an artist/educator for 40 years in public and private schools as well as at colleges. His sculptures and art have been featured in both group and solo exhibits in Connecticut museums and galleries. Levine’s recent works have been included in the permanent collections of D.R.Scinto Corp. and the Housatonic Community College Museum. He lives and works in Stratford and New Haven, CT, Gloucester, MA and Santa Fe, NM.

Philip Levine’s sculptures are truly amazing. His insight into Jewish a
commitment to history, and the way he weaves Judaism like a thread, in and out of his artistic interpretation of our history moved me profoundly. His work cries out to the viewers, pulls them into their own history and evokes an emotional reaction to what they are seeing. You don't just view Levine's art, you are forced to experience it.

"A major part of my artwork, sculptures, drawings and assemblages, are based on my Jewish identity as a member of the Jewish community and a part of Jewish history...My continued study is one of the rich sources of my work. What I create is 'Hand Made Midrash.' Midrash is a method of interpreting biblical stories and historic events that goes beyond simple distillation of religious, legal or moral teachings. It fills in gaps left in the biblical narrative regarding events and personalities that are only hinted at. There is a moment of gestalt when I see and understand what my hands have made."

"Varied materials, construction methods, connecting dissimilar objects, musings on math and the infinite forms of nature, spark and excite my sculptural imagination. The science of structures, the process of natural growth and decay and the final resting place of all objects are basics of my art...I harvest materials from construction sites, demolished houses, dumpsters, roadside piles, and re-dignify them as art and sculpture... My works are study pieces about Jewish life. They span from generation to generation. We are continually writing a dynamic Torah...I am a narrative Jewish artist, a storyteller. I try to engage my viewers in questions about Jewish life and ritual. I want to challenge their understanding of the Jewish past and what they envision for Judaism in the future."

(Philip Levine, artist’s statement)

Levine's exhibit ends in late October and will be open to the public Mondays - Fridays, 10AM - 3PM. Call CBSRZ office for details (860-526-8920). There will be an opening reception on Sunday, August 28, from 3PM - 5PM with an artist talk at 4:30PM. This event is free and open to the public. Levine will donate a generous percentage of the proceeds of all artwork sold during his CBSRZ show.
PICTURE GALLERY

Organizer Sue Peck addresses group

Rabbi G. leads the havdalah service

The Rabbi with Jim and Ziv

The incomparable Charles Savitt as Baba Wawwa
Chocolate lovers have attacked the cake!

Erica Udoff and Ellen Nodelman present Rabbi G with the Memory Book

Cantor Belinda speaks from the heart
Happy Birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!

July

Ella Connelly  July 3
Daphne Liss  July 3
Nicholas Randall  July 19
Grace Cohen  July 29

August

Jody Smith  August 14
Avi Siegel  August 18
Madeline Siegel  August 18
Gabriel Sirot  August 18
Zachary Infeld  August 23
Josh Linder  August 29

Confrirmands: Lili Kleinberg, Maya Gold, Casey Elkin, Andi Roman, Madelyn Evans, Jodi Smith

Jackie McKown and Trip

Paul Winter leads His Consort

Rabbis tag team at Holy Scrollers

Books & Bagels: Authors Stephen Davis and Jon Lukomnik talk about their book *What They Do with Your Money*
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS OF CBSRZ JUNE 16 2016

The board, following the report of the Nominating and Governance Committee, recommends that the following members of the congregation be elected to serve as directors of CBSRZ:

Term of 2015-2017:
- Rita Christopher

[Note: directors in the 2015-2017 class who are not up for election now but who continue to serve on the board are: George Amarant, Karen Burzin, Brad Jubelirer, Maxine Klein, Harvey Payton, Ed Pinn, and Susan Sobolov.

Term of 2016-2018:
- Melinda Alcosser
- David Fogel
- Kevin Fox
- Tracy Kleinberg
- Henry Resnikoff
- Ali Rosenblum
- Sandy Seidman

Members of the congregation may nominate candidates from the floor who are not on the endorsed slate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF CBSRZ JUNE 16 2016

The board, following the report of the Nominating and Governance Committee, recommends that the following directors serve as officers beginning July 1 2016:

- President: Maxine Klein
- Vice President: Brad Jubelirer
- Financial Vice President: Sandy Seidman
- Treasurer: Kevin Fox
- Secretary: Ali Rosenblum.

Join Our Legacy Society!

CBSRZ has been in its new home for over 15 years. And as you look around you can see new faces, new babies and that some familiar faces are missing. It is a time to recognize that our long time stalwarts are aging. As our congregation matures and to insure the future of our vibrant Jewish community the Legacy Committee, headed by Kevin Fox, asks you to consider a legacy gift to the future of our community and congregation.

The Grinspoon Foundation, in conjunction with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, has set up a very simple and generous program that provides incentive awards to congregations like ours for achieving participation in the Legacy Program. CBSRZ has received over $20,000 for its operating budget in recognition of the participation of its congregants in this program. As we enter the third year of the program we can anticipate additional donations but only if YOU participate.

Of course you are asking, what is the Legacy Program? It is simple gift giving that can be done currently or, as most participants are choosing, by leaving a bequest for CBSRZ in your will or trust, or naming CBSRZ as a beneficiary of part of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. Our congregation has been very fortunate with 28 generous legacy gifts amounting to slightly more than $600,000.

The Legacy Committee is seeking at least another 25 commitments. You can choose to donate as little as $1,000 to as much as you wish. The paperwork and amending your will is simple and quick.

Please consider making a legacy gift. It costs no dollars today but your choice to leave a gift will assure lasting funding for our community. Please contact Kevin Fox at 860-597-6302 (kevin.b.fox96@gmail.com) for the paperwork or to answer questions.
UACT ANNUAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
NEED FOR FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY

United Action of Connecticut (UACT), a coalition of central-Connecticut faith organizations, including CBSRZ, honored two immigrant rights activists and heard a message of tolerance and inclusion from the president of a Meriden mosque at its annual Justice Celebration on June 8 in Middletown. CBSRZ members and friends were well represented at the dinner, at which the audience also heard remarks about faith-based organizing from Mark Kosnoff, executive director of UACT, and from Andy Schatz, chair of social action at CBSRZ.

The two honorees, Ana Maria Rivera-Forastieri and Alok Bhatt, have been active in immigration issues and immigrant advocacy for many years. Rivera-Forastieri, director of advocacy and program development at Junta for Progressive Action and former political director of Working Families Organization, was a founder of Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance (CIRA), and Bhatt, currently with the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, also worked with CIRA. Both discussed their experiences and the need for advocacy for immigrant groups. Ms. Rivera-Forastieri told of lock-ups of Mexicans who came to Louisiana legally to help with the clean-up after Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Mohammed Quereshi, president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which oversees Baithul Aman “House of Prayer” Mosque in Meriden, guest speaker at the event, discussed Islam and experiences following the shooting at his Mosque in November 2015. His community held teaching sessions, has received a personal apology from the shooter, a neighbor and former U.S. Marine, and is recommending against any further punishment of the shooter. Dr. Quereshi spoke about significant misunderstandings of Islam among the American public and the welcoming and inclusive views of Islam, particularly the importance of accepting other faiths and the right of anyone to believe and worship as they wish. He discussed the great need for interfaith work on issues and expressed interest in his community joining UACT (a church in Meriden is already a member).

Schatz’s comments in part focused on the importance of UACT as a coalition of faith-based organizations and urged that Islamic communities, including Dr. Quereshi’s join in UACT’s push for social justice. He noted that cooperation among the faiths often viewed as at odds, historically, is also instructive to legislators often immobilized by partisan wrangling. Schatz also urged UACT to support some of the criminal justice and prison reform legislative efforts in Hartford, noting that such efforts have brought a focus on redemption and “second chances” so important in all of our religions.

Perhaps most important, Mark Kosnoff, executive director of UACT, articulated the unique responsibilities and opportunities of faith-based groups to engage in social justice work and advocate for protections for immigrants and others. Kosnoff noted that the current election cycle has opened with attacks on social justice workers and work done over decades. Kosnoff said it is up to faith-based groups like UACT to counter hate within our communities.

One of the great benefits of this event is always the international food and camaraderie, and the 2016 version didn’t disappoint. Platters of food from Indonesia, Mexico, Poland and China were among the choices for diverse group of over 100 who attended the event, including CBSRZ social action committee activists Lynn Coville, Rita Fink, Paula Feder and Linda Rigono, who also serves as a board member of UACT.

SPECIAL BLOOD DRIVE AUGUST 15 —VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS WANTED

The American Red Cross has asked CBSRZ to do an additional blood drive on August 15 at the synagogue from 1 to 5 pm. “We were happy to help, but we need volunteers to help staff the room,” said Linda Rigono, who has organized the blood drives on behalf of the Social Action Committee every June and December for years. “Blood is needed in the U.S. every two seconds, with 21,000 units transfused every year, so anything we can do to help is worth it.”

In addition to giving blood, congregants can help by staffing some of the areas for volunteers, including serving liquids and cookies after donors have given blood.

To volunteer for any part of the afternoon of August 15, please contact lrigono@sbcglobal.net.

State Budget Cuts Provide Crisis and Opportunity—How You Can Help

The budget cuts now taking effect at state and local levels will have ramifications for social action, large and small. The Social Action Committee urges all congregants to bring to our attention information about dislocations that may be addressed through social action.

For example, one of our successful programs has already been made much more difficult. Over many years, SAC members have worked with York Correctional Center (formerly the women’s prison), especially to provide books for the library. However, the librarian retired last year, and it now appears that there will be no replacement due to the budget cuts.
We will do whatever we can to ensure that the flow of books for the women and their children continues,” said Linda Rigono, who has supervised the SAC book collection efforts for many years.

“We expect increased needs for tikun olam in the areas of hunger, mental health and children’s issues arising from the severe budget cuts, but we hope congregants will bring to our attention any increased needs they see in their communities,” said Andy Schatz, chair of social action.

Please contact andy@andrewschatz.com.

FIRST REFUGEE FAMILY ARRIVES

Our first family has arrived!

On May 11, following a multi-day journey, an Iraqi couple and their children became the first refugee family sponsored by a coalition of congregations including CBSRZ to arrive for resettlement in Middletown. [Due to privacy concerns, we are not issuing a picture or the names of any family members at this time.]

The coalition prepared for their arrival by renting and furnishing an apartment, and making local connections to help them resettle.

Shortly after arriving, the family’s school-aged children enrolled in their respective schools. The children are in pre-K, Kindergarten, second, and ninth grades.

Meanwhile, the parents are in the process of establishing themselves, making connections, and starting anew. That includes English lessons, job training, figuring out the library, medical appointments, and all of the other mandatory meetings that refugees must attend; it’s quite an extensive process. The father in the family is an experienced I/T & Networking professional, and is beginning the process of looking for a job. If anyone is aware of any skill appropriate possibilities in the Middletown area, please email middletown.refugees@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, coalition members have remained busy, setting up social appointments, finding a washer/dryer, getting home Wifi so the family can communicate with their loved ones, and finding used air conditioners so they can be comfortable -- all with the help of our terrific volunteers.

The effort is a huge interfaith partnership, and has been very successful. Janie Pittendreigh and Izzi Greenberg have been the most active members from CBSRZ, giving their time to help with logistics and welcoming. “It is very satisfying to know that our collective group’s actions can help to make such a difference in the lives of six people,” said Izzi Greenberg. “I hope we will welcome many more, but we’re taking it slow for now. Our group is figuring out how to streamline our process so that it’s even easier next time. This has been an extremely rewarding and eye-opening experience.” In addition, the Social Action Committee at CBSRZ donated $1,500 from our social action fund as CBSRZ’s contribution to the financial expense of the relocation.

The family is overcome with the support of our community. They said that they feel “very safe” here in their new home, and seem happy to be starting a new life.

Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), which has coordinated hundreds of refugee resettlements throughout Connecticut, has been pleased with the opportunities in Middletown and is enthusiastically supporting our efforts to resettle two more families. We hope those families will arrive this year.

Thank you to all who have helped or offered to help. If you have not yet signed up to help but would like to do so, please go to http://tinyurl.com/middletown-refugee-volunteer. And you may keep up with developments at https://www.facebook.com/MiddletownRefugees/.

We haven’t needed everyone’s help yet, but we will contact you down the road when we do.
Editor’s note: This is the second installment of a two-part article written by Arthur Meyers about his recent volunteer work in Israel.

The Soldiers
While the main goal of the VFI program is to free up reservists from such tasks as we were doing, an important second goal is to get to know Israeli soldiers, as well as the country in general. Although I can’t converse in Hebrew, I took full advantage of the opportunity by sitting with soldiers or civilians at meal times or speaking with them on the busses on the weekends. The soldiers reflected the full gamut of personal, family, ethnic and occupational backgrounds that make up Israel. Dark-skinned soldiers at every level showed the integration that has been taking place. The soldiers I talked with were often the first generation born in the country, as their parents had made aliyah from North Africa, the Middle East or the former Soviet Union, or sometimes they had arrived as young persons.

Some soldiers went to their own homes at night, if they lived nearby, and nearly everyone went home for the weekend. The small geographical footprint of the nation and the continuing threat to its existence became very real in the movement of thousands of soldiers around the country, many with their weapons, each weekend.

Family
A number of us were able to achieve a third goal: to link up with family. On the first Thursday, we were bussed to the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv. For me, the first weekend was a chance to visit with my cousins in Jerusalem.

While walking into their Orthodox neighborhood from the Central Bus Station, I saw an image I have seen of a home-schooling family in my library in the U.S. — a mother and her three daughters in modest long dresses. It confirmed my belief that there are more similarities than differences among people. The large number of children walking home after school or playing on the sidewalk, as well as the expectant mothers, also brought home that the Jewish population is increasing here. Street signs in the area note that no vehicles are allowed on Shabbat.

On Friday, I went with my cousin Shlomo to his yeshivah, Torah Ore. We talked, went to services, and he gave me a book he had written, The Torah Home. In the afternoon, I watched Shira preparing for Shabbat — baking six challah! She is a speech therapist during the week and exemplifies the loving, traditional Jewish wife and mother, balancing many responsibilities. Shira and Shlomo followed their path to Jerusalem a quarter of a century ago, and the children convey the same caring and commitment.

In the afternoon, Reuven, whose Bar Mitzvah I attended in 2002, and who now studies in a yeshiva, took me to the Kotel, the Western Wall, in the Old City. Jordan occupied the Jewish Quarter from 1948 to 1967, but finally, Israelis can pray here. As we walked through the narrow streets, Reuven pointed out a recently rebuilt synagogue. In the Arab
Volunteer for Israel

[Part II]

Quarter, I saw women in the same modest dress that I had seen in the Orthodox area, proving once again the universality of family values.

The next day, I had a wonderful time with Reuven and the youngest children, Rivkie and Naftali. I saw the central role that Shabbat holds for the family. As we walked along, the only sounds were families together and children playing, often with American voices.

When I walked back to my hotel that night, I passed Magen David Adom ambulances ready for emergency calls at their station. Lettering on the vehicles noted the donor communities around the world that made them possible, including from the Detroit area. Marcia’s brother Simon and sister-in-law Helen strongly support this vital need, so viewing the ambulances was another personal connection I had with the country.

On the following Thursday, we Volunteers bid farewell and were again bussed to Tel Aviv. From there, I took a bus to Herzyliah to visit Marcia’s cousins. Tamar, whose father had fought in the War of Independence, has been researching family history for many years, tapping deep into Israeli resources. Her twin daughters recently completed their military service.

Shabbat dinner included Tamar’s mother Nesia (Marcia’s first cousin), Tamar’s sister Leora, her husband Shuki, and two of their children. All three children are currently or recently in the military. Once again, the peril the nation faces came through. While most of Israeli life has an ordinary every-day feeling, the need to be vigilant is in the fabric of daily life, from the first call-up mailing that teens receive to security checks everywhere.

**The Flight Home**

On the return flight, my seat mate was a Lubavitch rabbi. Originally from Iran, he was headed to Brooklyn for a gathering of rabbis. We had a lively dialogue during the night and I showed him the book that my cousin had written. His starting point was tradition and carrying out rituals, while I focused on deeds. I wish I had *Sayings of the Fathers* with me to show him the basis for my beliefs. But when I began to talk about my rabbi — mentioning “she” — he drew a line. Towards dawn, we reached agreement, that we respected each other.

**Summing Up**

The commitment to Israel was why we 38 volunteers came together, and the passion of the non-Jewish volunteers brought an unanticipated depth. It confirmed my feeling of universality, that we are not alone, that as long as we live our values each day, we will be okay. True, Israel needs a strong defense, as shown in the soldiers I met, but ultimately it will be how we live that will make a difference, and in the process draw more volunteers to the country.

We were broadened individually as we connected. We gave, and we gained.
Thank you from Josephine Elmoznino

I was more than a trifle nervous on Saturday during the conversion ceremony and I forgot to say some very important things, and so, with apology I wish to give heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Goldenberg for the incredible support, patience, understanding and sharing of the knowledge and love of Judaism. Without her this day would most likely never have happened.

Thank you Phyllis and Herb Ross for the lovely luncheon, and great moral support, that helped make this such a wonderful day for me.

Thank you Belinda for the beautiful joyful music.

And thanks to all who came to the ceremony during a busy Memorial Day weekend and participated with such warmth, joy and enthusiasm to make this day so very special, one that Merito and I will never forget.

Mazel Tov!!

The Seidman family, Lon, Melissa and big sister Keira, welcomed a new member to their family! On Friday, May 6th, Ellie Maloy Seidman (named for her great grandfather Edmund Maloy) entered the world, at 8 lbs 9 oz and 21.5” inches long. All are healthy and doing great.

Mazel Tov to the entire Seidman family.
Memorial Plaques
Sivan 25, 5776 - Tammuz 24, 5776

David Irving Adler - father of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Yolanda Baliko - sister of Tony Ronco
Karen Joy Berford - niece of Norman Needelman
Estelle Siker Bernstein - mother of Holly Ronco
Sara Ascher - niece of Steven and Sherry
Milton Bulion - father of Leslie Bulion
Beatrice Chananie - mother of Noam Friedman
Estelle Siker Bernstein - grandmother of Philip Friedman
Sarah Bernstein - mother of Abigail Peck
Abe W. Bloom - father of Martin Bulion
Dr. Samuel Hutt - father of Phil Hutt

Yahrzeits
Sivan 25, 5776 - Tammuz 24, 5776

Linda Schellfer, on the loss of her husband, Philip Schellfer
Jeff Merriam, on the loss of his grandfather, Samuel Merriam
Daryl Meninsky, on the loss of her father, Sal Meninsky
Lynn Coville, on the loss of her dearest uncle, Howard Trist
Jane Safer, on the loss of her husband, Morley Safer

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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<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>12:00 pm Daytime Luncheon Program</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Executive Committee</td>
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<td>9:00 am Holy Scrollers</td>
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<td>31 27 AV</td>
<td>8:00 Morning Minyan</td>
<td>8:00 Morning Minyan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>4:45 pm 4th Annual Shabbat BBQ Dinner</td>
<td>No second Saturday Service</td>
<td>9:00 Holy Scrollers</td>
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</table>

- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive
- 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Art Opening - Phil Levine
- 8:00 Morning Minyan
- 7:00 pm Board of Directors
Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Beth Brewer
Bianca and Emma Gonzalez-Lesser
Charles and Susan Savitt
Liz Jones and Ali Rosenblum
David Tilles, Linda Sherman and Paula Retsky
Infeld Family
Ed & Linda Pinn

Mama Loshen  By Marilyn Kalet

Alevai!
Would that it comes true!

Loz mich tzu ru
Let me be in peace!

Ziseh neshomeh
Sweet soul

Gai feifen ahen yam!
Go peddle your fish elsewhere!

Trombenik
No gooder

“Yom Kippur—forgive me, God, for the Mercedes . . . And all the lobsters.”

From “Haikus for Jews”  For you,
A little Wisdom

David Bader