

The Whole Megillah

September & October 2016

28 Av – 27 Tishri

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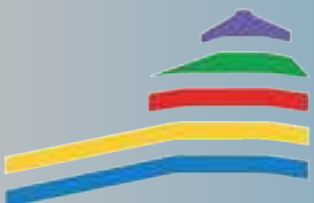
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Israel David Luzzatto (1746-1806), Sukkah Decoration. Courtesy of Google Art Project



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By Rabbi Marci Bellows

From our Rabbi

Preparing our Hearts and Souls for a New Year

Shalom, Chaverim — Hello, friends,

It is truly a privilege to approach my first High Holy Day season with you and your families. I hope you have had a summer filled with fun, play, warmth, and rejuvenation. I hope learned something new, traveled to a place you had never been, and made a new friend. .

The High Holy Days are nearly here, and it is very easy to allow them to “sneak up on us.” Traditionally, the Hebrew month of *Elul*, which falls right before the High Holy Days, is set aside for contemplation and reflection. *Elul* gives us four weeks to think about the past year – our relationships, our choices, our successes, our mistakes – and we are encouraged to ponder what we would like the New Year to look like.

During this time, I strongly recommend an exercise called a *Cheshbon HaNefesh* – an accounting of the soul. It can be as simple or as complicated as you like. Set aside an hour or more in a quiet place. With a piece of paper and pen/pencil in hand, begin writing about who you are. Not what you are, not the labels based on occupation, accolades, or awards. Rather, think about your soul, your personality, your qualities and characteristics. Write down what you are proud of – what makes you a “good person.” How do you act towards family and friends? Towards colleagues, subordinates, superiors? Towards strangers and those in need?

All of these questions allow us to take part in the process of *Teshuvah* – repentance and returning. In the coming year, what might you choose to do more of in your life? What might you choose to do less? As you think back, allow yourself to look forward as well. What would you like to set as a goal for your soul this upcoming year? What would you like to learn? Change? Experience?

I’m sure you will make mistakes long the way – these are an important part of the process, but forgive yourself as easily as you would forgive others, and try again. For a little more inspiration for the coming year, I share with you a short excerpt from Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins’ book, *Rosh Hashanah Readings* (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2006):

The following story speaks for itself, in giving us insight into the process of growing wisdom and performing *Teshuvah*, repentance:

After a long, hard climb up the mountain, the spiritual seekers finally found themselves in front of the great teacher. Bowing deeply, they asked the question that had been burning inside them for so long: “How do we become wise?”

There was a long pause until the teacher emerged from meditation. Finally the reply came: “Good choices.”

“But, teacher, how do we make good choices?”

“From experience,” responded the wise one.

“And how do we get experience?”

“Bad choices,” smiled the teacher.

I wish you a sweet, good, and healthy New Year!

L’shanah tovah tikateivu v’tichateimu,

— Rabbi Marci Bellows

L'SHANA TOVAH TIKATEIVU

In the month of Elul we open our hearts to reflection, repentance and renewal as we prepare for the days of awe. The four Friday evening services preceding the New Year will focus on the Sound of the Shofar and what that Sound inspires us to do.

On 9/9, Rabbi Bellows will speak on how she was inspired to become a Rabbi; on 9/16, we will hear from Izzy Greenburg on her personal journey with civic engagement; on 9/23, Kierstin Pupkowski will tell us what motivated her to get more involved in adult life at CBSRZ than she had anticipated; and on 9/30, Jenna Randall will speak about her inspiration to convert to Judaism.

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

Our Erev Rosh Hashanah service concludes with honey cake oneg, as Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Belinda Brennan, and choir director Meg Gister greet all and extend wishes for a happy, healthy 5777.

"I will lift up my voice unto God and cry; I will lift up my voice unto God that he may give ear to me," *Psalms 77:2.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

7:00 PM JOINT REFORM SELICHOT SERVICE AT B'NAI ISRAEL OF SOUTHBURY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

7:30 PM WE CHANGE THE TORAH MANTLES FROM BLUE TO OUR WHITE HIGH HOLY DAY MANTLES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

7:30 PM EREV ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

9:30 AM ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE, FOLLOWED BY TASCHLICH

2:00 PM ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY PROGRAM

3:00 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE WITH APPLES & HONEY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

9:30 AM ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE, 2ND DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

5:45 PM TOT SHABBAT FOLLOWED BY POT LUCK DINNER

7:00 PM SHABBAT SHUVAH

Childcare will be available for CBSRZ children from age 3 through grade 7. There is no fee for this service, but children age 3 through grade 3 must be signed up in advance through the CBSRZ office – to ensure we have adequate staff available. Parents and children under age 3 are welcome to stay in the playroom, where they can hear the audio feed of High Holiday services. Children and teenagers are encouraged to be with their parents for parts of the service that parents deem appropriate. **Please note that we will NOT have the structured program for grades 4 – 7 this year.** More information will be provided on the FAQ sheets distributed in late Sept.

We honor the tradition of Taschlich on the Chester ferry, casting out wrongdoing as we cast crumbs into the river following morning services on Oct 3.

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

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

On the first day of Rosh Hashana, Rabbi Bellows will deliver a sermon on the Akedah, the binding of Isaac.

On the second day of Rosh Hashana, David Tillis will give a D'Var Torah on Genesis 21, which includes the birth of Isaac.

"And, the Eternal said, 'I pardon you as asked'." *Numbers 14:20.*

*Shema Koleinu –Hear our voice, Oh God; have compassion upon us,
and with compassion, accept our prayers, High Holy Day Liturgy*

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

Yom Kippur afternoon services will feature Katie Burzin, Ben Crair, Madelyn Evans, Alex Infeld, Brian Jubelirer, and Andrea Roman reading the Holiness Code.

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

Yahrzeit Candles will be available during Rosh Hashana.

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

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

Yom Kippur afternoon service will include Rick Hornung's interpretation of the Story of Jonah.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

**1:00 PM CEMETERY SERVICE
FOUNTAIN HILL, DEEP RIVER
2:30 PM CEMETERY SERVICE
RODFE ZEDEK, MOODUS**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

7:30 PM KOL NIDRE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

**9:30 AM YOM KIPPUR MORNING
2:30 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE
4:00 PM AFTERNOON SERVICE
WITH YIZKOR AND NEILAH, FOLLOWED BY THE
BREAK THE FAST**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

**5:45 PM HANG IN THE SUKKAH POTLUCK
6:45 PM EREV SUKKOT SERVICE AND
NEW MEMBER BLESSING**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

9:00 AM SCROLLERS IN THE SUKKAH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

**6:30 PM EREV SIMCHAT TORAH AND
CONSECRATION SERVICE**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

**8:00 AM SIMCHAT TORAH MORNING SERVICE
WITH YIZKOR**

"Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are towards the righteous and His ears open to their cry." *Psalms 34:15-16*

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

Following Neilah and Yizkor Services, the congregation will come together to Break-the-Fast. Please bring a dairy dish to share.

"And now that I have been formed, dust am I in my life...Behold, O Lord, I am before you like a vessel filled with shame and confusion. May it be your will, O Lord, my God, that I sin no more; and, as to the sins I have committed, purge them away in your abounding compassion." *Berachot, 17a.*

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

SUKKOT

The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur (10/16/16). Sukkot is a seven-day festival so unreservedly joyful that it is commonly referred to in Jewish prayer and literature as the Season of our Rejoicing. It is during this holiday that we thank God for the harvest food and are grateful for God's pro-

tection. It is a time to feast and welcome visitors in the Sukkah.

We begin our Sukkot celebration on Sunday night October 16:

4:45 - Program for Kivvun

5:45 - The annual "Hang in the Sukkah" Potluck Dairy Dinner

6:45 - Erev Sukkot Services including a blessing for our new congregants.

This is a rain or shine event. If the weather is not cooperating, we will eat inside.



On Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 A.M., Holy Scrollers will be held in the Sukkah, weather permitting.

BUILD OUR SUKKAH

Are you handy with a hammer? Do you want to perform a mitzvah? Please join us as we build our beautiful Sukkah. Many hands make light work! And it's a fun way to get to know your fellow congregants. We will be starting on October 13, at 10:00. If you have a hammer, ladder and other building tools, bring them along! Please email Laura Roman, chair of Religious Affairs, if you are able to help...landdroman@gmail.com or call 860-301-9590.

We will also need help in dismantling the Sukkah on Sunday, October 30 at 10:00. Please let Laura know if you can help. See contact info above.



Simchat Torah

Following Sukkot comes the dancing and festivities of Simchat Torah, *Rejoicing with/of the Torah*. On Sunday, October 23, we celebrate the cycle of reading the Torah. Kivvun will meet at 4:45 for a special program, including a light dinner. Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Service will be at 6:30.

During Simchat Torah services, we will gather, take out the Torah scrolls and dance around the synagogue as people dance and sing along. The dancing with the Torah is known in Hebrew as *bakafot* – which means

to march around. There are seven *bakafot*, so as soon as the circle around the sanctuary is completed, the Torah is handed to another person to complete a circle and the ritual begins anew.

Along with Simchat Torah, we will celebrate the consecra-

tion of new students in our religious school. This is a special way to commemorate the beginning of a child's formal Jewish education at CBSRZ and



affirms our commitment and dedication to educating our children in Jewish tradition.

SELICHOT—Saturday, Sept 24, 7:00 at B’Nai Israel of Southbury

As the month of Elul draws to a close and the mood of repentance becomes more urgent, please join us for the joint Selichot worship services. This year, the area Reform congregations will gather together as one at B’Nai Israel of Southbury, 444 Main Street North in Southbury, at 7:00 for Havdalah and study. The topic of study will be “The Strength to Overcome Fear and Falsehood”. Study and services will be led by the Rabbis, the joint choirs and the Cantors of the Reform congregations.



From our
Editor

REVELATION AND THE PROBLEM OF ISLAM

By Sean Konecky

I have been thinking about the question of revelation with particular reference to Islam. To begin the consideration of this question I first need to set down some thoughts about God. The physical universe is vast beyond the human mind's ability to comprehend. The language of mathematics allows us to make some general claims. But if we consider that Joyce's vaunting ambition in *Ulysses* was to describe one day through the eyes of one man in the life of Dublin, we can readily acknowledge that the cosmic orchestration of phenomena from the beginning of time as known by the mind of God is so far beyond the reach of our conception as to be incomprehensible. This realization is beautifully expressed in the *Kaddish* and is symbolically enacted in theophanic episodes in the *Tanakh*. (God shields Moses lest he see His face; the seventy elders are given a vision of His footstool and Ezekiel His chariot.)

This leads me to the conclusion that revelation is by its very nature severely limited. The vision that it affords is through a peephole. Our eyes can only perceive a fragment of the spectrum of light; our ears hear a limited range of frequencies. Dogs

possess 300 million receptors in their noses; humans 6 million. There are senses that we lack entirely such as echolocation, and probably many that we have no concept of whatsoever. All this evidences the vast extent of human incapacity. So true revelation can only be a translation of what God knows into human terms. It is like a static-filled message from a distant galaxy. For this reason the exceptionalist claims of any religion need to be rejected.

The Problem of Islam

If we consider prophets to be faulty transmitters of Divine truth, Islam is faced with a particular difficulty. Its revelation occurred more recently than those of Judaism and Christianity. Some of the thorny problems raised by Judaeo-Christian scripture can be attributed to the vagaries of historic transmission. This is especially true of Judaism's very ancient texts, but also an issue in Christianity, where endeavors such as the Jesus Project try to winnow down New Testament accounts to discover the words that Jesus actually spoke.

The case is different with Islam. Its historicity is not in doubt. There is

no doubt that Muhammad lived and that he claimed to have received a series of revelations from the Angel Gabriel. His teaching rapidly transformed the world. Within 100 years of his death Islam had spread from Poitiers in France to the borders of India.

Furthermore the Koran was written down in the Prophet's lifetime or shortly thereafter. So Muslims have a hard time rejecting fundamentalist claims by arguing that there are transmission failures. The Koran does contain the Prophet's own words. Arguing with a literal interpretation can be construed as an attack upon the religion itself.

But if we turn to my original point, we see that Muhammad may well have received genuine revelations. But they were necessarily expressed in language that is contingent upon historic conditions, channeled through the Prophet's own personality. Muhammad is a window through which we are afforded a glimpse of the totality of the Divine, but this entails rendering Allah in human terms and necessarily doing Him an injustice.

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS SERIES ON ISLAM

So what do you really know about Islam? With the recent death of Muhammad Ali, the election of Sadiq Khan to be Mayor of London, the continued impasse between Palestinians and Israelis, Donald Trump's proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States, the plight of refugees — mostly Muslim but with other religions represented as well — the rise of Isis and the rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere, deepening our understanding of Islam and of its adherents becomes increasingly crucial to all of us, as Jews, as Americans, as global citizens.

The Adult Education Committee is offering a three-part series, **Islam: History, Practices & Beliefs**, three Wednesday evenings in a row: September 7, September 14 and September 21, from 7 to 9 pm. Dr. Reza Mansoor, Aida Mansoor from the Connecticut Muslim Coalition and Imam Refai Arefin, also a member

of the Coalition but also the assistant imam of the Berlin Mosque of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford will be our guest speakers. Each will present one of the three sessions and collaborate with each other on the others.

The first session, conducted by Dr. Reza Mansoor, is intended to be an overview of Islamic tenets, values and practices. The second, led by Imam Refai Arefin, will include an introduction to the history, culture, divisions within, governance, leadership and jurisprudence of the Muslim world. In the third, Mrs. Aida Mansoor will focus on Islam today, with a contemporary view of Islamic leaders, Women's Rights, the spectrum of Islamic beliefs/practice and attitudes both toward and of Muslims (including Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia).

While these will be presentations, there will be Q&A sessions at the

end of each and at the third, a discussion intended to bring everything we heard, think and feel together.

The Adult Education Committee has been working closely with the presenters who are looking forward to reaching out to our congregation and to the general public as well. We will make these sessions open to the public and will be inviting other religious communities as well to attend. The timing will make this particularly interesting with the presidential campaign in full swing at the time. Given the sensitive nature of the topic and the somewhat fraught atmosphere of our times, we will provide some security at the event.

We will be sending out more information later this summer, including some suggested readings if people wish to do that beforehand. We hope to see everyone there.

فَالَ شَاعِرٌ وَكَانَهُ عَزَّ لِسَانِي يَا سَافِيَتِي أَخْمَرُ فِي كُفَا وَسِيكَامُ فِي
كُأُوسِيكَامُ وَتَسْهِيْدُ أَخْضَرَةٌ أَنَا مَا لِي لَا يَغِيْرُنِي هَذَا الْمُدَامُ وَهَذَا
الْأَغَارِيْدُ وَقَالَ الْآخِرُ مِنْ لِي بِلِقَاكَ يَا جِيْبِي هَيْهَاتَ وَدُونَهُ مَنَا
أَمْ كَيْفَ وَبَيْتَا جِبَالٍ فِي السَّبْدِ وَبَيْنَهَا جَنَارٌ لِي وَشَدَائِدُ الْمُنَا
شَدَتْ قَدَمِي بِالسَّلَاسِلِ وَهَذِهِ الْآبِيَاتُ مَا فَالَهَا الْهَانِفُ
الْأَصْفَهَانِي فِي جَوَابِ الْوَصَافِ حَيْثُ وَصَفَ عَنِ الشَّمْسِ أَنَّهُ قَالَ
الْعِشْقُ مِنْ أَقْرَبِ الْوَسَائِلِ وَالذَّمْعُ وَسَيْلَةُ الْمَسَائِلِ وَالْبَالُ مِنَ
الْهُمُومِ بِالِ لَا يَكْفِيْهَا سِوَى الْبَلَابِلِ حَزْنٌ فِي سِدْنِ الصَّعْفِ

PICTURE GALLERY



Trina and David Shiling celebrate the bris of their son Judah Moses Shiling, which took place on July 26. Flanking the proud parents are Lary Bloom and Maxine Klein.



After a plane crashed into Norman Hanenbaum's house in Haddam, he appreciated Trip McKown's sympathetic ear.



During a lunchtime program organized by our caring coordinator Iris Freeman, Israeli Emissaries Amit Horovitz and Sagi Zazon shared their experiences and candid reflections after spending almost a year in the U.S.



Paula Retzsky



Paula Retzsky

Shabbat + BBQ what could be better?



Paula Retzsky



Paula Retzsky

Caring coordinator Iris Freeman brought Devout mahjongg players to Canton, MA to visit Jackie Michael. From left to right: Jackie, Carol Thody of Lyme, Judy Jazek of Moodus, Iris and Marilyn Kalet.



Opportunities to Help with Meal Sites

Some live in cars, some rent rooms with no kitchen privileges. Many are employed but struggling from something gone wrong — an illness or injury, elderly parents, a struggling child. They may make the difficult choice between buying food or medicine. This may be their only meal. And some just crave the companionship offered by a meal with others.

They struggle, and the meal site is a haven, a respite after a hard day. We provide a meal and a small place of peace where they can, for an hour, find comfort.

As we prepare our communal time of reflection and renewal, our Social Action Committee has renewed its commitment to help those in need in our immediate community. One of those commitments remains preparing and serving fresh and nutritious meals for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries each calendar quarter on a Thursday in Deep River and a Sunday in Chester (we could use help on November 6 in Chester and December 8 in Deep River). Starting last year, we added an Easter meal site in Chester, and this year, we've been asked to help with the Christmas meal site in Old Saybrook.

There has been an increase in attendance this year and with State budget

cuts affecting us all, we expect to see more people in the future.

There are so many ways you can become involved! We welcome help at a meal-site (4–6pm for Deep River and Chester) — we cook and serve, and we eat with our guests with kindness and respect. But you can also cook part of the meal ahead of time (we will even cover any cost), or donate fresh produce from your garden or the farmers market (it need not even be the day of our meal site).

“Everyone can play a part even if they cannot be there on a specific day or time,” said Lynn Coville, a SAC member who supervises CBSRZ’s work at the Chester meal site. Debby Trautmann, who leads our efforts in Deep River, added: “It’s also a great opportunity to work with a team from the synagogue as well as to fulfill our Mitzvah to feed the hungry.”

Just a couple of hours of your time can make a world of difference. Please contact Debby at debbytrautmann@comcast.net or Lynn at lcoville@sbcglobal.net to discuss how you can get involved. Thank you!

CBSRZ High Holiday Food Drive 2016 – Helping Others and Our Own Members

Each of the past few years, we at CBSRZ have collected and donated over a ton of food to Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries during the High Holidays. We are told by SSKP that this is often the largest single annual collection and delivery of food.

And this year, we’re also paying special attention to our own congregants who are struggling to make ends meet. As some CBSRZ families live in areas not covered by SSKP, we will be ensuring that food collected also meets their needs.

Please start collecting food now! Although all non-perishable food is welcome, the following staples are especially necessary:

- Canned soups
- Cereal & oatmeal
- Instant milk, powdered milk
- Fruit juice
- Baby items: baby food, disposable diapers, etc.
- Tuna fish
- Peanut butter
- Canned tomatoes, all types – spaghetti sauces
- Rice and pasta – all kinds,
- Canned vegetables, Canned fruit, instant potatoes
- Meals in a can – ravioli, spaghetti, hash, chili
- Baking mixes, muffin or bread mix, baking basics
- Diabetic foods, “open-and-eat” foods (flip top cans)

“It’s easy to lose sight how important this basic food drive is to folks who literally don’t have enough to eat each week,” commented Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee and one of the members of the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, which CBSRZ helped start in 2013. “The Task Force continues to work on more systemic solutions for hunger in our land of plenty, but the food we deliver each year is critical to helping our neighbors and a great way to honor our Jewish tradition and welcome the New Year.”

Debby Trautmann, who leads the work of the SAC in areas of hunger pro-

grams, also noted that our collection of food for those in need continues throughout the year. “Folks can put non-perishable food in the box in the entryway at CBSRZ at any time, and it will get to those in need. And we will continue to have our other food programs during the year, including ‘Stuff a Truck’ events in the spring.”

STRONGER TOGETHER

In a year when we are reminded that “it takes a village” and that we are stronger together, the Social Action Committee is proud to be working with other committees at CBSRZ to educate and bring about change.

Since 2015, SAC has been working with the Adult Education Committee to present programs that would teach those within and outside the CBSRZ community about issues of interest that are also ripe for action. These have included the first-in-the-country session on Jewish perspectives on the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction (BDS) Israel in August 2015 and the forum on the Right to Aid in Dying in March 2016. We are now working together on the upcoming series on Islam sponsored by the Adult Education Committee (starting September 7), the third session of which, on September 21, will focus on current political and social issues in Islam in the U.S. and actions that might be taken to address “Islamophobia” and other problems. “Education is such an integral part of a program for action, and we have been grateful to have the benefit not only of the creativity of the Adult Education Committee but also its training in facilitation of discussion of sometimes difficult and emotional issues,” said Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee. Ellen Nodelman, chair of Adult Education, noted that CBSRZ members Linda Rigono, Sandy Herzog, Paula

Feder and Johanna Schaefer serve on both committees and commented: “We think the joint work has already brought to the congregation several important discussions and we look forward to working together on the Islam series this month and on other issues going forward.”

SAC is also continuing our work with the Chesed Committee to address basic needs faced by some of our CBSRZ members. In the past, some of our collections of furniture and clothes have been directed to synagogue members in need. Currently we are focusing on food, as some congregants live in towns that do not have adequate food programs and are not served by Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. SAC and Chesed will try to identify those households affected and arrange for food delivery from among the food gathered by CBSRZ (at High Holidays and throughout the year), seamlessly and without any publicity or stigma. “Working with Social Action is a natural fit, as it is has been Jewish doctrine and tradition that we help not only our own family but the stranger in our midst,” said Linda Sherman, chair of the Chesed Committee.

Taking Action Against Solitary Confinement

We’ve talked about solitary confinement. Now we will try to do something about it.

Solitary confinement is at the intersection of prison reform and mental illness, two of the themes of our Social Action Committee for several years. Not only are the mentally ill often simply imprisoned and put in soli-

tary confinement as a less expensive alternative to services, but solitary confinement is believed to exacerbate mental illness and possibly even cause it. Solitary confinement is also contrary to theories of rehabilitation and concepts of hope and redemption.

In 2014, we aired the full-length documentary, *Herman’s House*, about a prisoner held in solitary confinement for over 40 years, and held a discussion about solitary confinement and prison reform. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are more than 80,000 men, women and children in solitary confinement in prisons in the U.S. (President Obama recently took steps to end solitary confinement of juveniles in federal prisons, but the practice still exists in state prisons). Although the prison population has been dropping in Connecticut for several years following bi-partisan legislation to limit over-incarceration, our state still uses solitary confinement, and, indeed, houses some prisoners in some “newer” SuperMax prisons built specifically to hold (only) violent offenders in solitary confinement.

Rabbi Bellows, following her first SAC meeting, noted that Torah and Jewish scholarship argue against solitary confinement: “Judaism has clear-cut visions of how to achieve a sense of justice when a crime has been committed, while still focusing on rehabilitation of the criminal. Our fundamental belief, mentioned in the very beginning of the Book of Genesis, in the holiness of every single individual, obligates us to treat every person with dignity and respect. Rabbi Suzanne Singer, in a powerful op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle, entitled, *A Moral Case Against Solitary Confinement*, points out: ‘The Jewish concept of justice focuses on restitution for the victim, rather than separating the criminal from society. Under our tradition, the goal is for offenders to return to society after they have paid their debts to those they have wronged, and to ultimately become contributing members of society.’”

T'ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, has made reduction or elimination of solitary confinement one of its prime goals. Noting the "well-documented devastating and long-lasting psychological and physical effects," T'ruah argues that solitary confinement "violates the Jewish prohibition against excessive and degrading

punishment" and amounts to torture in violation of international law and standards. For details, go to: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/2162/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=11109

The Social Action Committee will seek to eliminate the use of solitary confinement except where actually

necessary to protect against physical harm. In addition to educational efforts, this will be a focus of our advocacy during the 2017 state legislative session.

If you are interested in being involved in any of these activities, please contact andy@andrewschatz.com.



Some members and supporters of the Social Action Committee met in August to discuss plans for 2016-17 and hear a presentation about sustainable/affordable housing. Attending were SAC members (top row from left) Debby Trautmann, Teri Fogel, Johanna Schaefer, Andy Schatz, Lynn Coville, Kate Cotton, Sue Baehr, Melinda Alcosser and (bottom row, from left) Rabbi Marci Bellows and Beth Gottlieb, and supporters Susan Nygard and Jonathan Shea.

SAC DONATES CONCERT MONEY TO SUPPORT FOOD AND HOUSING PROGRAMS

At its meeting in August, the Social Action Committee decided to split the net proceeds raised at the CBSRZ concert in June between Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries and HOPE

Partnership, two non-profits based in Old Saybrook that serve the valley-shore area. The net amount raised from the sale of food at the concert was slightly over \$500.

SSKP, long supported by CBSRZ, provides food to residents of towns throughout the area, running pantries and meal sites, including the Deep River and Chester sites hosted 8-10 times a year by SAC members and supporters. In 2013, SAC helped SSKP start the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, which has engaged in successful advocacy on the local, state and national levels on food policy as well as housing and wage issues. The Task Force is now focusing efforts on AL-ICE (asset-limited, income constrained, employed), the United Way inspired effort to focus attention on the issues faced by many working families in

our communities who are above the poverty level but barely making ends meet, and who are at risk with any additional cost factor, including work, healthcare or childcare. Information about SSKP is at www.shorelinesoup-kitchens.org and about the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force at www.facebook.com.

HOPE Partnership was formed to help provide sustainable housing for low-income residents and was the developer of Ferry Crossing in Old Saybrook. The non-profit organization, which met with the SAC at its August meeting, is now exploring development for several potential sites, including in Chester. Discover more at www.hope-ct.org.

SAC wishes to thank the many CBSRZ members and friends who made these donations possible.

Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!

September

Tillie Ripin	September 2
Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones	September 8
Morah Karen	September 9
Allie Champion	September 10
David Crair	September 11
Maya Gold	September 13
Lilian Kleinberg	September 17
Cole Merriam	September 22

October

Jacob Randall	October 1
Phineas Scott	October 2
Aria Sinnappen	October 4
Rachel Gelven	October 13
Seraphin Merriam	October 17
Morah Eric	October 29

FROM OUR CARING COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



Iris Freeman

Daytime Luncheons Resume at CBSRZ in September

We usually meet each month on the Fourth Thursday for a home cooked Lunch and Program, We will resume our lunch on Thursday, September 22nd. Watch the weekly CBSRZ email for program information. If email is not your thing, please call CBSRZ and let me know that you would like a telephone notification/reminder and I will put you on my list to receive a call.

I welcome your suggestions for topics. If you or someone you know would like to present, share a skill or interest, please contact me.

Emotional Support? Friendly Visit?

Transportation? Community Resource Info?

If you or someone you know might benefit from a friendly visit, emotional support, community resource information, or assistance with transportation, please contact me through the temple office or by email at irisafreeman@gmail.com. I'm always available to make home visits or meet wherever is comfortable, to provide a supportive contact.

Holy Rollers Looking for Drivers

We welcome new names to add to our list of folks willing to provide a ride on occasion to members of the commu-

nity. The requests are usually for rides to a temple activity, but could include other needs, such as a trip to a medical appointment or grocery shopping. These are matched based on geography and availability, so I'd love to include you in my list even if your schedule is limited to certain days or time of day.

In addition to looking for people to add to my general list, I presently have one lady who lives in Essex (near downtown) and would love to come to a Friday evening service.

Let me know if you would like to be added to the list or might be able to help with the latter request at irisafreeman@gmail.com or at the CBSRZ office.

Kivvun

On behalf of the education committee, I'd like to welcome all families, teachers and Kivvunites back to our program. At the end of May, on our final day of Kivvun, we presented Rabbi Goldenberg with a book of memories illustrated and written by those enrolled in our program throughout the Rabbi's tenure. On this day, we said our heart-filled goodbyes to our Rabbi.

I along with our educators now share the overwhelming excitement of welcoming Rabbi Bellows as our new Rabbi and educator to Kivvun. If you have not met Rabbi Bellows previ-

ously, we look forward to parents meeting her during the first day of Kivvun on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30.

For parents with children enrolled in Kivvun, please plan on spending a portion of the morning with us, as there will be time for a visit to your child's classroom. Additionally, parents will gather in the social hall for a discussion about the upcoming year with Cantor Belinda and Rabbi Bellows, and of course, we will have food.

For families needing financial assistance with Kivvun, please contact me

directly for a brief and confidential discussion by October 15.

Please join us on Sunday, September 25 at 9:30 for our first education committee meeting of the 2016/17 year. As a group, we meet on Sunday mornings approximately every six weeks. Our committee needs people to be involved and is not limited to parents. Any congregant is welcome to be on our committee.

Karen Burzin, CBSRZ Education Chair
karenburzin@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE

Memorial Plaques

Av 28, 5776 - Elul 27, 5776

Mary Auster
Samuel Axelrod
Eva Sylvia Baron
Lee Baron
Joseph Belport
Rubin Bernstein
Min Chiat
Marcia Cohen
Harry Coville
Natt Crair
Gussie Davis
Morris Divins
Prosper Elmoznino
Esther Farber
Harriet Feldmar
Raymond O. Fielding
Harry Fischbach
Lola Fischer
Alan Fishman
Herman Frankel
Shirley Freed
Abraham Glassman
Blossom Glickman
Lillian Goldstein
Murray Goldstein
Murray Goldstein
Ben Gordon
Abraham Gottfried
Isadore Gottfried
Sarah Gottfried
Ruth Gottlieb

Rose Hanenbaum
Jeanne Hoberman
Joan Hoberman
Joey Horton
James Maurice Hyman
Ida Issner Benjamin
James Jubelirer
Abraham Kandell
Ruth Kaufmann
Irene Kemp
Lowell Klappholz
Pearl Klein
William Konecky
Mary Krupnikoff
Caral Lebworth
Abraham LeWitt
Pell LeWitt
Barbara Margolis
Isabelle Medina
Leo Merris
Albert Meschmar
Donna Moran
Leo Nevas
Rita Nirenstein
Jack Pear
Henry Price
Nancy Reider
Doris Reiner
Hortense Ross
Mildred Ross
Ida Sacks
Saly Scharer
Nancy Suisman Schneller
Allan Schwam

Saul Seligman
Harry Silverman
Fannie Sobol
Irving Sobolov
Eshuwa Soobitsky
Sophia Starr
Dace Stone
Bernard Strick
Mary Trepel
Berthold Triest
Lena Triest
Felix Wald
Daniel Weintraub
Rabbi Harold Saul White
Morris Wolff
Richard Zwilling

Memorial Plaques

Elul 28, 5776 - Tishrei 29, 5777

Louis Alcon
Kate Baron
Denise Berwick
Belle Birnbaum Rodkin
David Bockstein
Abraham Breitman
Herbert Breslow
Sondra Burzin
Mene Case
Theodora Chaimovitz
Anna Cirulnick
Dorothy Cohen

Irwin Davidson
Milton Davis
Phyllis G. Diamond
Henry Drobiarz
Lester Feld
Beatrice Fischbach
Adele Fox
Joseph Friedman
Hindie Hall
Anna Gelper
Sol Goldstein
Carol Ruth Goodman
Beatrice Gottfried
Mortimer Hays
Rose Heller
Anna Needle Joseloff
Louis Joseloff
Rose Kabatznick
Howard Kaplan
Max Krasner
Barbara Krohn
Sam Krupnikoff
Benjamin Lake
Rose Leiwant
Doris Levin
Ann Samuels Levine
Ida Levinson
Sidney LeWitt
Clara Mager
Nat Mason
Elaine Mellion
Esther Miller
Libby Nevas
Rhoda Patkin

Robert Patkin
Celia Pear
Leah Katz Pear
Michael Pear
Irving Pivnick
Ida Polstein
Jean Polstein
Tillie Polstein
Elinor Reiner
David Ross
Morris Roffuss
Ada Sager
Morris Savitt
Martin Saykin
Max Schulman
Harry Schwartz
Adele Siker
Philip Sprague
Morris Sprecher
Sidney Swadosh
Dale Taylor
Charles Thorpe
Robert A. Tobis
Marie Waldinger
Matthew Wartel
Melville S. Wein
Pauline Weinstein
Rose Weintraub
Aaron Weissman
Edith Weissman
Bruce White
Jennie Young
Morris Zelin

Yahrzeits Av 28, 5776 - Elul 27, 5776

Joseph Belport - father of Barbara Davis
Marcia Cohen - sister of Hila Rosen
Harry Coville - grandfather of Lynn Coville
Natt Crair - grandfather of Michael Crair
Gussie Davis - grandmother of Stephen Davis
Prosper Elmoznino - brother of Merito Elmoznino
Esther Farber - mother of Beverly Glassman
Harriet Feldmar - grandmother of Tracy Kleinberg
Raymond O. Fielding - grandfather of Irving Friedman
Harry Fischbach - grandfather of Nancy Fischbach
Lola Fischer - grandmother of Rick Hornung
Alan Fishman - father of Jonathan Fishman
Abraham Glassman - grandfather of Ron and Richard Glassman
Blossom Glickman - mother of Sharon Taubman
Ben Gordon - father of Elaine Gordon
Abraham Gottfried - father of Ellen Gottfried
Ruth Gottfried - grandfather of Ellen Gottfried
Ruth Gottlieb - mother of Robert Gottlieb
Rose Hanenbaum - mother of Norman Hanenbaum
Jeanne Hoberman - mother of Harvey Hoberman
Joan Hoberman - daughter of Ruth Solomkin and wife of Harvey Hoberman
Joey Horton - brother of Joan Horton
Ida Issner Benjamin - aunt of Marlene Scharr
James Jubelirer - father of Brad Jubelirer
Abraham Kandell - father of Marilyn Kalet
Ruth Kaufmann - mother of Janie Pittendreigh
Irene Kemp - mother of Linda Rigo
Lowell Klappholz - husband of Lorraine Klappholz
Pearl Klein - mother of Maxine Klein
William Konecky - father of Sean Konecky

Caral Lebworth - mother of Alva Greenberg
Abraham LeWitt - father-in-law of Carol LeWitt
Barbara Margolis - dear friend of Neil Gottfried & Marilyn White-Gottfried
Isabelle Medina - granddaughter of Maia & Kay Chiat
Albert Meschmar - grandfather of Rachel Goldenberg
Donna Moran - wife of George Amarant
Leo Nevas - father of Jo-Ann Price
Rita Nirenstein - mother of Nancy Schwarz
Nancy Reider - sister of Marcia Meyers
Doris Reiner - sister of Marilyn Kalet
Hortense Ross - sister of Herbert Ross
Saly Scharer - grandmother of Belinda Brennan
Allan Schwam - brother of Elliot Schwam
Saul Seligman - uncle of Peg Palmer
Fannie Sobol - mother of Beatrice Case
Irving Sobolov - father of Susan Sobolov-Jaynes
Dace Stone - sister of Martha Stone
Berthold Triest - grandfather of Lynn Coville
Lena Triest - grandmother of Lynn Coville
Felix Wald - father of Marc Wald
Daniel Weintraub - father of Marcy Saltzman
Rabbi Harold Saul White - uncle to Mariltn White-Gottfried
Morris Wolff - father of Daniel Wolff
Richard Zwilling - husband of Jacqueline Zwilling

Yahrzeits Elul 28, 5776 - Tishrei 29, 5777

Louis Alcon - father of Hyla Cohen
Sondra Burzin - mother of Jeffrey Burzin
Mene Case - mother of Lewis Case
Anna Cirulnick - grandmother of Ellen Friedman
Dorothy Cohen - loved one of Solomon Tilles
Irwin Davidson - father of Shari Foley
Milton Davis - father of Jeffrey Davis
Henry Drobiarz - father of Martin Drobiarz

Lester Feld - father of Gail Feld
Beatrice Fischbach - grandmother of Nancy Fischbach
Adele Fox - stepmother of Kevin Fox
Carol Ruth Goodman - sister of Linda Polomski
Beatrice Gottfried - mother of Corinne Weber
Rose Heller - mother of Betty Gilman
Howard Kaplan - husband of Pauline Kaplan
Max Krasner - father of Roni Berson Weiner
Barbara Krohn - cousin of Melanie Greenhouse
Doris Levin - mother of Stephanie Arbige
Ann Samuels Levine - Relation to Steven & Frani Ross
Sidney LeWitt - father of James Cohen
Nat Mason - father of Stephen Mason
Elaine Mellion - mother of Eileen Ilberman
Esther Miller - grandmother of Ellen Friedman
Libby Nevas - mother of Jo-Ann Price
Rhoda Patkin - sister of Marlene Scharr
Robert Patkin - nephew of Marlene Scharr
Celia Pear - mother of Joel Pear
Leah Katz Pear - mother of Sidney & Adrienne Hopfer
Elinor Reiner - wife of Irving Reiner
Morris Savitt - grandfather of Susan Savitt and Charles Savitt
Martin Saykin - father of Adele Saykin
Harry Schwartz - father-in-law of Irving Shiffman
Philip Sprague - brother of Shelley Sprague
Dale Taylor - father of Scott Taylor
Charles Thorpe - father of Tyler Thorpe
Robert A. Tobis - father of Justine Redak
Rose Weintraub - mother of Marcy Saltzman
Aaron Weissman - grandfather of Laura Roman
Edith Weissman - grandmother of Laura Roman
Bruce White - first husband of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Jennie Young
Morris Zelin

Condolences are extended to:

Meg and Lauren Gister, on the loss of their father, Ron Gister
Sharon Goldberg, on the loss of her husband, Bob Goldberg

Please remember to inform Linda Sherman, chair of the Chesed Committee, if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help, or has experienced a death in the family...

...Our Chesed Committee is here to help.

SEPTEMBER 2016

**28 AV-
27 ELUL,
5776**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 28 AV	2 29 AV 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Pottluck Dinner 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service	3 30 AV 9:00 am Torah Study
4 1 ELUL 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Chester Soup Kitchen	5 2 ELUL LABOR DAY	6 3 ELUL 5:30 pm Facilities	7 4 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Religious Affairs 7:00 pm Adult Ed Islamic Program	8 5 ELUL 7:00 pm Board of Directors	9 6 ELUL 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat	10 7 ELUL 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat service and bar mitzvah of Phineas Scott
11 8 ELUL 9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years) 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7)	12 9 ELUL	13 10 ELUL	14 11 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7) 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Islamic Educational Program	15 12 ELUL 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Deep River Meal Site 7:00 pm Adult Ed Meeting	16 13 ELUL 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	17 14 ELUL 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Prayer Lab
18 15 ELUL 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 11:00 am B'yachad 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr 10)	19 16 ELUL	20 17 ELUL	21 18 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7) 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Islamic Educational Program	22 19 ELUL 7:00 pm Executive Committee	23 20 ELUL 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	24 21 ELUL 7:00 pm - Joint Reform Selichot Service at Temple B'nai Israel (Southbury) 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am - 1:00 pm B'nei Workshop #2
25 22 ELUL 9:30 am Education Committee 9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years) 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Tashlich 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Geshet (Gr 8-9) 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr 10)	26 23 ELUL	27 24 ELUL	28 25 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)	29 26 ELUL	30 27 ELUL 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	

OCTOBER 2016

**28 Elul-
29 Tishri,
5776-5777**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 28 ELUL 9:00 am Torah Study
2 29 ELUL EREV ROSH HASHANAH No Kivvun - Rosh HaShanah 7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	3 1 TISHRI ROSH HASHANAH <i>Office closed</i> 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service 12:30 pm Tashlich @ CT River - time approximate 2:00 pm Rosh Hashanah Family Program 3:00 pm Children's Service	4 2 TISHRI ROSH HASHANAH <i>Office closed</i> 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Service (Day 2) 5:30 pm Facilities Meeting	5 3 TISHRI <i>Megillah Deadline</i> 8:00 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Religious Affairs 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)	6 4 TISHRI	7 5 TISHRI 5:45 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck 7:00 pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Service	8 6 TISHRI 9:00 am Torah Study <i>No second Saturday Service</i>
9 7 TISHRI 9:15 am Breakfast w/Rabbi (Gr K-3) 9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years) 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 1:00 pm Cemetery Service Fountain Hill, Deep River 2:30 pm Cemetery Service Rodfe Zedek, Moodus	10 8 TISHRI	11 9 TISHRI KOL NIDRE 7:30 pm Kol Nidre	12 10 TISHRI YOM KIPPUR <i>No Kivvun</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30 am Yom Kippur Morning Service 2:30 pm Yom Kippur Children's Service 4:00 pm Afternoon service w/ Yizkor & Neilah, followed by Break the Fast	13 11 TISHRI 7:00 pm Board of Directors	14 12 TISHRI 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	15 13 TISHRI 9:00 am Torah Study
16 14 TISHRI EREV SUKKOT <i>No Morning Kivvun</i> 4:45 pm Learning Time (Gr K-7) 5:45 pm Hang in Sukkah Potluck Dinner 6:45 pm Erev Sukkot Service with New Member Blessing	17 15 TISHRI SUKKOT <i>Office Closed</i>	18 16 TISHRI SUKKOT	19 17 TISHRI SUKKOT 8:00 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)	20 18 TISHRI SUKKOT	21 19 TISHRI SUKKOT 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service	22 20 TISHRI SUKKOT 9:00 am Torah Study in the Sukkah
23 21 TISHRI SUKKOT EREV SIMCHAT TORAH No Morning Kivvun 5:00 Pm Learning Time (Gr K-7) 6:00 Pm Pizza/Salad 6:30 Pm Erev Simchat Torah Service	24 22 TISHRI SIMCHAT TORAH <i>Office Closed</i> 8:00 am Simchat Torah Morn- ing Service w/Yizkor	25 23 TISHRI	26 24 TISHRI 8:00 am Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)	27 25 TISHRI 7:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Adult Ed Meeting	28 26 TISHRI 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	29 27 TISHRI 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am - 1:00 pm B'nei Workshop #3
30 28 TISHRI 9:15 am Breakfast w/Rabbi (Gr 4-5) 9:30 am - 10:15 am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years) 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Geshet (Gr 8-9) 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr 10)	31 29 TISHRI					



BETH SHALOM RODFE ZEDEK

55 East Kings Highway
PO Box 438
Chester, CT 06412

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

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pfeder1@mindspring.com
cell: 860-304-2158

Mama Loshen By Marilyn Kalet

Besser ain ku in shtal aider tsen in feld
Better one cow in the stable than ten in the field

Fun dein moil in Got's oi'eren arein
From your mouth to God's ears

Gringer iz herren a sod aider hiten a sod
It is easier to hear a secret than to keep it

Kainer vaist nit vemes morgen es vet zein
No one knows what the morrow will bring



"Today I am a man. Tomorrow I return
to the seventh grade."

From "Haikus for Jews" For you,
A little Wisdom

David Bader

VACATION RENTAL

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