May & June 2017                                                                       6 Iyyar – 6 Tammuz

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Moses Hoskins, Untitled.
2nd Century Campaign
William & Janet Brownstein
Stephen & Clo Davis
Saul & Hila Rosen
Irving & Ed Shiffman
Robert & Debra Troutmann
Music & More
Maia & Kay Chiat
Food/Beverage Fund
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine
David Zelenak & Maxine Klein
Joseph & Lillian Friend Fund
Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Joseph Friend
Meditation Garden Fund
Ed & Dee Baum: in memory of Bernard Slater
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in memory of Bernard Slater
Eric & Barbara Infeld: in memory of Bernard Slater Slater Family: in memory of Bernard Slater
HolyScrollers
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in memory of Jackie Michael
Dana Dixon
Henry & Elizabeth Gottlieb:
Ronald Hirschel
Rick Hornung & Peg Palmer
Michael & Susan Peck:
Herbert & Phyllis Ross:
David Tilles:
Solomon Tilles
Philip Scheffler Pursuers of Peace & Justice
Linda Scheffler: in memory of Philip Scheffler
Goldenberg/Talbott Camp Scholarship Fund
Christopher George Wich
Donations
Doran & Eve Bar: in memory of Gilda Biener
Joan Bernard: in appreciation of our Shabbat Across America service
Jeff & Terry Bernstein: in memory of Alfred Bernstein
Roni Berson Weiner: in memory of Morton Weiner
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in memory of Ursula Miller
Estelle Breslow: in memory of Max Mayer, Anna Mayer and Morris Breslow
Emily Case & Brett Bentson: in honor of Lewis Case’s 100th birthday

Lewis Case: in memory of Beatrice Case
Maia & Kay Chiat: in memory of Maria Chiat and Leo Denette
Arnold & Barbara Davis: in memory of Irving Davis
Stephen & Clo Davis: in memory of Arvah Stein-Azan
Nancy Fishbach & Martin Wolman: in memory of Bernie Slater
Anne Freedman: in memory of Edward Freedman
Melanie Greenhouse: in memory of Helen Ehrmanwold
Melanie Greenhouse: in memory of Walter Schonfeld
Norman Hanausbaum: in memory of Bernie Slater
Norman Hanausbaum: in memory of Israel Hanausbaum
Janet Herschel & Murl Sanders: in honor of Linda Sherman & Beth Brewer
Janet Herschel & Murl Sanders: in memory of Laura Herschel
Barry Ibberman: in memory of Debra Million Prustion
Barry Ibberman: in memory of Franklin B. Million
Eric & Barbara Infeld: in memory of Irwin Braverman
Gene & Marilyn Kalat: in memory of Ira Kalat
Lorraine Klappholz: in memory of Dora Zarchin
Carol, Sofia & Eva LeWitt: in memory of Sol LeWitt
Ellen Maloney: in appreciation of CBSRZ
Palmer & Susan Morrel-Samuels: in memory of Rito Samuels
Alan & Laura Moss: in appreciation of Rabbi Morci Bellows and CBSRZ
Steve & Jill Naftler: in memory of Rito Sumner
Michael & Luisa Pear: in memory of Sam and Bertha Pear
Sydney Perry: in honor of Andy Schatz receiving the Pursuers of P&J award
Michael & Mary Roothbott: in honor of Lewis Case’s 100th birthday
Jerome & Marlene Scharf: in memory of Bernie Slater
Jerome & Marlene Scharf: in memory of Jackie Michael
Elliot & Nancy Schwam: in memory of Elias M. Schwam
Elliot & Nancy Schwam: in memory of Jackie Michael
John Schwalb & Elizabeth Storch: in memory of Evelyn and Irving Schwalb
Peter Schwalb: in memory of Evelyn Schwalb
Peggy Tunick: in memory of Nat Schuler
Christopher George Wich
Daniel & Lynda Wilkes: in memory of Esther Wilkes
Daniel & Lynda Wilkes: in memory of Fred Wackenhut
Joacqueline Wolff: in memory of Daniel Wolff
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2017-2018 Calendars

2017–18

2018–19
I feel bad for Shavuot — the lesser-known, infrequently celebrated, but super important, holiday in late spring. It should be one of the biggest festivals on our calendar. It is one of the Shalosh Regalim, the three pilgrimage holidays of ancient Judaism. Plus, it celebrates the receiving of Torah on the top of Mt. Sinai. Yet, because it usually falls after the typical religious school year, or even after secular school has ended, few of us have a chance to properly observe Shavuot, the festival of “Weeks.”

Honestly, I find Shavuot to be incredibly inspiring. On this day, we reenact the moment of revelation. We remember what it was like to receive the Torah, the central, holy text of our tradition. In that extraordinary moment, all of the Israelites arguably became JEWS, in that we finally had a unifying document that would serve as the basis for our religion, culture, and values-system. Our Sages saw it as a communal conversion moment; we all accepted Torah as our own on that day.

Likewise, we read from the Book of Ruth on Shavuot, and we celebrate her individual conversion to Judaism. With the following words, she linked herself to our people and our beliefs:

Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may the Eternal do to me if anything but death parts me from you.” (Ruth 1:16-17)

The sage, Resh Lakish, wrote a famous midrash: “The proselyte who converts is dearer to God than Israel when they stood at Mt. Sinai. Why? Because had Israel not seen the thunders and the lightning and the mountains quaking and the sound of the shofars, they would not have accepted Torah. But this convert, who saw none of these things, came, surrendered himself to the Holy One, and accepted upon himself the Kingdom of Heaven. Could any be dearer than he?”

In my thirteen years as a rabbi, I have personally worked with at least three-dozen conversion students. I have sat on a Beit Din for many, many more. I have heard many a student weep with joy and wonder from the waters of the mikveh. They enter the waters in one state, and they emerge a Jew. Something magical, mystical, and beautiful happens in the water, and he or she is now fully a Jew. They won’t ever have to tell anyone that they have converted if they don’t want to — they can just say that they are Jewish. A favorite midrash of mine discusses the souls who gathered at Sinai to receive the covenant — the text says that the Torah is given to those who stand there, and those who are not there. One midrash believes that this refers to future converts, meaning they were at Sinai, as well. Thus, when I conclude a conversion ceremony, I do not say, “Welcome to the Jewish people.” Rather, I say, “Welcome Back.”

As we continue to count the Omer and thus approach the festival of Shavuot, we all reaffirm our Judaism. In an important way, we are all Jews-by-Choice. We all choose to be here, to be a part of this special global community and to apply a Jewish lens to our lives. I hope that we all remember to appreciate this precious heritage, so easily taken for granted, and use its teachings to inspire us to live lives of goodness, righteousness, and justice.

By Rabbi Marci Bellows

From our Rabbi
On Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 5:00 pm, you can start your summer off right at CBSRZ’s annual community musical picnic. Kick up your heels to the sounds of Bivolița Klezmer Quartet while enjoying some really good grilled food prepared by our “Holy Grillers.” Bring a dish to share, your own entrée, your favorite lawn chair or blanket. This free concert is also open to the public so bring your friends. Jointly produced by our Music & More and Social Action committees, it is intended not only as a joyous musical treat, but something that will benefit those in need. Although there is no charge for the performance, concertgoers will have the opportunity to purchase delicious grilled food — and all proceeds will benefit local charitable organizations.

In the event of rain, we’ll move the music inside. So, come, enjoy, dance and perform a mitzvah (a good deed) at the same time. No reservations are necessary.

A few words about Bivolița (Bee-vo-lee-tsa) Klezmer. This young group’s repertoire is drawn from the early European sources of Jewish instrumental wedding music but finds contemporary interpretations to reveal the diverse musical experiences of its members. Assembled through years of travel and research, the program includes suites that link nearly forgotten ritual melodies with the more commonly known American klezmer repertoire and Moldovan dance music. The group uses tradition as a springboard to new spontaneous interpretations and a deep appreciation of the core dance rhythms as the foundation for elaboration and improvisation. As this infectious music ensues you might find yourself dancing.

Here is some background on the name Bivolița. The coat of arms of the principality of Moldova bears the symbol of a large, horned aurochs (bull or bison) surrounded by a flower, crescent moon, and star. The true origin of the aurochs as the symbol for Moldova is lost to time, but the bison—in Romanian “Bivol” or “Bivolița”—has come to represent the agricultural richness of the Moldavian lands, and the tribute paid by the Moldavians to the Grand Porte in Istanbul during the time of Ottoman Rule. Cattle were driven annually to the Black Sea coast and sold at fixed rates to Ottoman merchants, who sent them on to butchers in Istanbul. Both Jewish (Klezmer) and Gypsy (Lăutar) musicians would travel with the drovers to play in the streets and cafes of the capital during the winter months when there were few weddings back home. They would also play for the annual Greek Christian butcher’s guild Lenten festival (Carnival) and hear local popular Turkish and Greek music. This musical cosmopolitanism led to a rich interaction between Jewish and Gypsy musicians, and the infusion of both musical styles with Ottoman, near Eastern, and Mediterranean influences. Bivolița Klezmer members include:

**Christina Crowder,** Accordion

Christina has been performing and researching Jewish music for over twenty years, beginning in Budapest, Hungary in 1993, continuing with a Fulbright grant to Romania in 1999 to document Jewish music. Since 2002 she has had an active research, teaching, and performing career in the US. She is currently examining the connections between Jewish, Bessarabian, and Greek music through a project with NYU Abu Dhabi. Christina lives in New Haven, Connecticut. She performs with the Nu Haven Kapelye, her klezmer chamber trio Bivolița, the Alexander Fiterstein Trio, the Wholesale Klezmer Band, the Goldenstern Kompaniye, and the Dave Levitt Klezmer Trio. She has been a guest instructor in klezmer accordion and ensemble performance in Paris, Albuquerque, and Asheville, and performs regularly with the renowned klezmorim Margot Leverett, Alicia Svigals, and Zev Feldman.
Gretchen Frazier, Viola

Gretchen Frazier holds degrees from the Crane School of Music and the Cincinnati Conservatory, where she studied with Sarah Hersh, Masao Kawasaki, Lee Fiser, and the Tokyo String Quartet. She is currently Assistant Principal Viola of Eastern Connecticut Symphony and Section Viola in New Haven Symphony. She has performed with Chamber Music Charleston, the Mannheim Steamroller, Blood Sweat & Tears, and for President Bill Clinton with CCMsquared String Quintet. Recent appearances include Violette Trio, the Apollinaire Duo, the New Haven Chamber Klezmer Ensemble, and the New Haven Symphony Hard Rock Quartet.

Brian Slattery, Violin

Brian Slattery plays violin and banjo in as many styles as he can muster. In addition to Bivolita, as a member of Dr. Caterwaul’s Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptraps, a New Haven-based group, he plays music ranging from Eastern Europe to South America to Africa to the United States, including jazz, spirituals, and blues. With Harry Bolick, a master old-time fiddle player now based in Dutchess County, NY, he plays music from across the American South with a special focus on the music of Mississippi. With the Mystic Playboys, a CT-based dance band, he plays Cajun, zydeco, and honky-tonk. He has taught workshops in fiddle and banjo and hosts monthly jams centering on jazz and Appalachian fiddle music.

Keryn Kleiman, Violin

Keryn Kleiman is a New York-based violinist specializing in Jewish and Eastern European folk styles. She is a member of a number of klezmer groups, including Kadya’s Project, Bivolita, and the New York Fidl Kepelye. Keryn graduated with a degree in ethnomusicology from Columbia University-Barnard College, where she was the student-leader of the Columbia Klezmer Band. While in college, Keryn was awarded a grant to research Jewish music and its relationship to co-territorial repertoires in Moldova. She has performed classical and folk music internationally at various music festivals and recently taught as a fellow at Klezkanada. Keryn spent five years studying with Vladimir Zyskind at Manhattan School of Music, where she was the Preparatory Division Concerto Competition Winner at 17 years old.
Because of the plethora of wonderful programming filling up our CBSRZ schedule, the Adult Education Committee regretfully decided to postpone the next two events in Noshing Our Way Through Jewish History until the fall. Our Medieval French Rosh Hashanah Dinner will be held in early September and our Spanish/Converso session in early November. We are already deep into the planning for both events but would love to have members of the congregation join us in preparing for these, so if you like to cook, let us know! And if you’re interested in medieval times and would like to help us put our holiday dinner together, we’d love to have you!

We’re also looking for stories and recipes stemming from the late medieval/early Renaissance Spanish/Portuguese experience, including stories and recipes that may have been handed down by “hidden Jews.” If you have anything like that or if you know of someone who might have, we’d love to know about that. We hope to do some story telling along with food tasting at the Spanish/Converso session and would love to include anyone with anything to contribute. Please feel free to contact Ellen Nodelman (ellen-nodelman@gmail.com) for any and all of the above.

We apologize for the delay but think the wait will be well worth it!

We are going ahead with our Great Bake-Off Challenge for the end of this year at the CBSRZ picnic on June 25th. The big question, still to be settled: WHAT SHOULD THE PRODUCT BE? Current candidates include challah and coffee cake. We would welcome any suggestions people might have and hope to decide on this by the middle of May to give everyone time to tweak their favourite recipes in time for the Bake-Off. So send in your suggestions and get your submission ready to bring in to the Klezmer concert/picnic in June.

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**Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!**

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<td>Rebecca Rosenblum-Jones</td>
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**May**

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

**June**

- June 3: Morah Burzin
- June 8: Nina Fishman
- June 14: Jake Linder
- June 15: Morah Jackie
- June 16: Ben Mercier
- June 20: Cantor Belinda
- June 21: Morah Tracy
- June 23: Leo Francino
Bagels & Bagels with Sam Kantrow

Bagels & Bagels

by Ellen Nodelman

You’re not going to have to worry about the weather for Sunday, May 7. We already have the FORECAST: GREAT BAGELS! All you’ll need to do is come to CBSRZ at 11:30 that morning for Bagels & Bagels with Sam Kantrow. Yes, our favourite local weatherman, from Channel 8, will be at CBSRZ to introduce us to the secrets of making great bagels.

Sam will begin with a bagel-making demonstration, then allow us all to try our hands at adding our own special touch (sesame seeds, poppy seeds, onion, garlic — whatever!) to a bagel that will then be popped into the oven for the final stage of bagel making. While they all bake, we will be able to indulge ourselves on already finished bagels and all the trimmings — lox, whitefish salad, you name it. At the end of the session, we’ll each leave with a freshly baked bagel to show off (or eat).

The fee for the event will be $18.00 and $20.00 for no-members. All monies received will benefit CBSRZ. Make your reservation as soon as possible so we can plan properly.

Those interested in delving even deeper into the mysteries of bagel making can avail themselves of the Sous Chef Opportunity. With a donation of $36.00, individuals can join Sam in the kitchen and learn the bagel baking business from beginning to end. But we have to limit this opportunity to 18 people because of the size of the kitchen.

The Adult Education Committee is thrilled to be able to offer yet another culinary learning experience. Special thanks to Sam for offering this, to Melissa Lieberman, his very special Assistant, and to Jody Dole who was able to get all this not only into motion but to bring it to its very exciting culmination.

Open letter to sculptor Richard Newton from Linda Pinn Director of CBSRZ Art Program:

Dear Richard,

I so wish you could have been at CBSRZ this past Friday (Shabbat Across America celebration). 136 people joined together at the Temple for this occasion, and I would estimate that 100 pairs of eyes lit up when they realized your sculpture was “home.” The comments were so warm and joyful...I couldn’t get over how much this piece of art meant to our congregants...that it had truly become part and parcel of their Temple and that it had been greatly missed. Richard, you would have been moved. I know I was.

So, thank you so very much for giving us back this wonderful treasure.

Warm regards,

Linda Pinn
Moses E. Hoskins was born in 1953 in Iowa, received a BFA from the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History. As a visual fine artist, his roots were in figurative rendering, but he has worked abstractly since the mid-1980s. He has lived in New York City since 1988 and has exhibited in a variety of venues. He is a recipient of grants for support of his continuing work in painting, drawing and collage from the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation and also from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. He exhibited regularly with OK Harris in NYC from 2000 until its closing in 2014. (“Mo ‘s Art - the work of Moses Hoskins - collectable artwork for the discerning eye”)

“As a visual fine artist, it is customary for me to work abstractly or nonrepresentationally in conventional mixed media, painting and drawing combined. Everything I do is manual. My work is made with old media: cotton canvas on wood stretchers, paint, drawing media and paper. That is, I am some guy who paints and draws and makes collages... Whatever I find in construction site dumpsters, of near empty or half full paint cans I’ll use.” (Moses E. Hoskins)

Artist, art writer and curator, D. Dominick Lombardi calls Hoskins, “The Real Deal” and an “urban archeologist...saving all the bits and pieces of detritus while walking from place to place.” Dominick goes on to say “...he continues to paint, assemble and collage works that inspire the mind and soothe the soul.”

“My work really isn’t about anything other than actual painting and drawing. It is not rhetorically dependent or reliant upon ‘content’ as its excuse. This is art that is art of itself. It is not social engagement. I have no intent in mind other than to make a work of Art. There was never a Plan. Anything evoked within the viewer is the result of the viewer’s own perception.” (Moses E. Hoskins)

“Mr. Hoskins is a consummate abstract artist. He is extremely proficient in any medium he takes on. In his works

Artist: Moses E. Hoskins
he demonstrates an innate feel for color, texture, line and movement. His works reflect a vibrant intelligence and sensitivity, and because of this his paintings and works on paper transcend the often staid sphere of abstraction.” (Suzanne Kreps, Director & Archivist at OK Harris)

This particular showing is comprised of small canvases representative of work from various series produced since 2012 composed from real art supplies and not from “dumpster paint.” Moses Hoskins’ exhibit can be viewed in our Main Street Gallery from May through July, Monday–Friday, 10AM–3PM, and Sunday mornings when school is in session. The artist will make a generous donation to CBSRZ on all work sold during his show.

**Have YOU wanted to lead a Shabbat Service? Are you interested in learning how?**

**Shabbat Service Leading Workshop**

**Wednesday, May 10, 6-8pm and Wednesday, May 17, 6-8pm**

You are cordially invited to attend our two-part workshop on the inner workings of a Shabbat service. We will look at the overall structure of the worship service, and how one goes about putting together a meaningful service for the congregation. Bring your questions and enthusiasm! No prior experience required.

Opportunities will be available for workshop participants to lead services throughout the 2017-2018 year.

Questions? Contact Rabbi Bellows at rabbibellows@cbsrz.org
We are honored to invite you to help our Makom (10th grade) students confirm and affirm their dedication to Jewish life as young adults. This educational milestone marks the culmination of many years of learning, as well as celebrating how much our students have learned since becoming a Bat/Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi Bellows has guided them through a year of discussion, debate, ethical questions, and lots of pizza! Along they way, they’ve pondered: How have they wrestled with Judaism?

How have they sought to balance their 21st century American lives with being a Jew? How do they conceptualize being Jewish as anti-Semitic acts are on the rise?

Our service will be lead by our exemplary students: Rachel Cohen, Ethan Corpuel, Tillie Ripin, and Gabriel Sirot. Throughout our worship, they will share musings on the larger Jewish world, and how they view themselves within it. They will read the traditional texts for Shavuot which commemorate the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, namely the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the Book of Ruth. The service will also include the customary Yizkor Memorial Service which takes place throughout the year.

We warmly invite the entire Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek community to show their support and pride by attending this joyous event. A celebratory Oneg will follow.
PICTURE GALLERY

MAMMA MIA! Musical Converts to Judaism as “ESTHER MIA!”

Costume contestants Marilyn and Neil Gottfried, Maxine Klein, Brad Jubelirer, Tracy Kleinberg

Neil Gottfried and Norm Rutty in the Purim spirit

Cantor Belinda and Rabbi Bellows prepare to read from Megillat Esther

Meg Gister channels Vashti
Concert sponsors Hila and Saul Rosen and Maxine Klein pose pre-concert with The Maccabeats.

CBSRZ students and Rabbi Bellows in Washington Square Park.

Enumerating the Plagues at the Women’s Seder

Aspiring astronaut William Covey of Cheshire gets a beatbox lesson from Michael Ribalt.

The Maccabeats in performance.
Abigail Pogrebin signs copies of her latest book: *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*

Joyous celebration of Shabbat Across America

Michael Peck, Miriam Gardner Frum, Maxine Klein and Clo Davis sharing the Shabbat meal.
The Philip Scheffler Pursuers of Peace and Justice Award

Andy Schatz and wife Barbara listen as Michael Peck offers praise for Andy’s accomplishments; to their right, Susan Peck, event organizer.

Forum on Social Justice and the News Media panelists. Left to Right: James Jacoby, Producer for PBS’ Frontline; Jeff Cohen, journalist and reporter for NPR; Andy Schatz, President ACLU of CT; Allan Appel, author and journalist, staff reporter, The New Haven Independent

Honoree Andy Schatz and family: (left to right) Andy’s mother, Norma Schatz, Andy’s son and daughter, Jeffrey Wolf Schatz and Laura Wolf Schatz; back row: Andy and his wife Barbara Wolf
SAC Distributes Coats and More

Once again, Sandy Herzog has spearheaded a successful Social Action Committee winter clothes drive to benefit students in need. The coats and other clothes collected from CBSDZ congregants went to the students at M.D. Fox (K-8) Elementary School in Hartford. The donated clothes included scarves and hats knitted by Pamela Peterson-Craig's mother, Gloria Peterson.

In addition to delivering the clothes to many grateful recipients, we were also able to help a family that lost everything in a fire.

On three things the world stands: on Torah, on worship, and on deeds of loving kindness (Pirke Avot 1:2). Thanks to all who took the time to donate!

Second Refugee Family Arrives!

The family we welcomed last May is about to celebrate one year in our community, and they’re doing quite well. Dad has a job, though it may yet be temporary. Everyone’s English is improving dramatically, and they are knitting close relationships and friendships within Middletown.

Their journey hasn’t been entirely easy, but it has been positive, and we are lucky to have them in our community.

Meanwhile, a second family has moved to the city — this one from Syria. In early April, we welcomed them to Middletown. In an effort to protect their privacy, we’re not naming them here, but we hope that they, too, will find our country to be a hospitable new home.

This effort is the product of hours of work from an amazing interfaith coalition of volunteers who give their time to help with grocery shopping, medical appointments, vehicle procurement, school engagement, and more. The people are the power of this work, and we welcome new volunteers. If you’d like to help repair the world in this small, but significant, way, please be in touch with Izi Greenberg, at 860 558 2041 or izzie@middlesexchildren.org.

Organizing a Very Special Book Club For Women

The Social Action Committee is looking for a few women to join a book club with residents of York Correctional Institution, the women’s prison in Niantic.

One of the ideas that came out of a meetinging SAC members held with the warden and other officials was a book club among members of CBSRZ and prisoners. The book club would likely meet monthly. Time of the book club meetings is somewhat flexible but would likely be sometime during 3-11 pm. Books would be approved by the social worker at York.

Please contact Linda Rigono, lrigono@sbcglobal.net or 860-345-3839.

Legislative Advocacy 2017—Prison Isolation Bill Still Alive and Needs Support

After a legislative forum at CBSRZ on March 8, at which the Social Action Committee and many others interested in legislative advocacy learned about many bills proposed this year, SAC decided to support three bills. One of those bills, restricting isolation (solitary confinement) in prisons, was approved by the Judiciary Committee and may proceed to votes in the House and Senate.

However, there is still much work to do, not only to ensure passage of the bill but also to seek further amendment of a substitute bill approved by the committee that may limit the effectiveness of any law. SAC continues its meeting with area legislators before they vote on the proposed legislation and any amendments. The legislative session ends on June 7.

The bill would severely restrict the use of isolation for minors and persons with disabilities, require review of any long-term use for others, and ensure that all persons in isolation are provided the same basic human needs as others in the prison receive, including food, sanitary facilities, medical care and periodic contact with family. Most of these provisions of this bill have been implemented administratively, but the goal is to ensure that Connecticut does not slip backwards in the future.

Rabbi Marci Bellows and Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee, submitted testimony on behalf of SAC in favor of Raised Bill 7302 on isolated confinement. The testimony focused on how isolation is destructive of human skills and souls and strongly opposed in Jewish tradition, including in the Torah and Talmud. Their testimony can be read in full online at:


PDF: All information about the legislation can also be read online at https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB07302&which_year=2017.

“The public support of the faith community is so helpful in focusing on the basic human decency of restricting solitary confinement to those situations where it is absolutely necessary,” said David McGuire, executive director of the ACLU of Connecticut, a primary supporter of the legislation.

Unfortunately, two other proposed bills discussed at the March 8 forum and supported by SAC were not voted on in legislative committees before the April 7 deadline and are therefore effectively dead this session.

Continued on page 16
The National Alliance on Mental Illness sought a bill to ensure parity in insurance coverage of mental health with physical health conditions. The Center for Children’s Advocacy sought a bill to ensure that when kids “age out” of state services, the Department of Children and Families discharges them to some form of shelter rather than to homelessness. SAC will review these and other bills with these organizations again before the 2018 legislative session.

If you would like to participate in our legislative advocacy efforts or have other questions, please contact andy@andrewschatz.com or 860-202-2690.

**Economic Action With Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force**

The Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, which members of SAC helped form four years ago, is taking another step toward economic action in the Valley-Shore area, with SAC helping to lead the way. These efforts may include economic development and financial literacy training.

For the past year, SBNTF has led efforts to introduce area residents and officials to the priorities of ALICE, which stands for Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained and Employed. ALICE is often represented by a cut-out figure brought with SBNTF members to community meetings, has become well known within the area.

Even more important, many of our leaders have learned the shockingly high levels of ALICE in our communities. For example, although Westbrook has a small population below the federal “poverty level,” its ALICE level (based on actual local costs of living) is 37%, higher even than Middletown (which has a much higher poverty level population). Noel Bishop, first selectman of Westbrook, has responded with public support for the SBNTF and town efforts to address issues of hunger and housing.

As it is not just the poverty level population but ALICE that drives use of governmental programs such as food stamps, Medicaid and students’ free and reduced cost lunch, attention is now focusing on increasing economic development. SBNTF members, including SAC, have formed a new Economic Action Committee, which hopes to work with area towns, businesses and economic development professionals. In addition, SBNTF, inspired in part by SAC’s plan to develop a financial literacy program for York Correctional Institution (the women’s prison in Niantic), would like to develop or improve financial literacy programs for the schools in the Valley Shore area.

Anyone with an interest in helping with these economic development activities should contact andy@andrewschatz.com or 860-202-2690.

**Raising Funds and Awareness for Mental Illness — NAMI Walk May 20**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut provides support, education and advocacy for Connecticut’s citizens affected by mental illness. As in past years, the Social Action Committee is supporting the annual NAMI Walk in Hartford to raise funds and awareness to continue NAMI-CT’s work for helping families with educational seminars and legislative advocacy. CBSRZ has again teamed up with United Action Connecticut, a group of ten faith congregations in central Connecticut (CBSRZ is the only synagogue).

Please help us by contributing online at: https://fundraise.namict.org/UACTCBSRZ

Contact Johanna Schaefer at johannadschaefer@gmail.com to participate in the walk.

**Forum on Islamophobia (phobia) now May 6**

Postponed by a February storm, the forum “Islamophobia or Islamophobia-phobia? Tough questions about politics and Islam” will now be held May 6 at 1–3 pm. This event will seek to address questions arising following the three-part series on Islam sponsored by the Adult Education Committee in September. The event is open to CBSRZ members and friends and will include a panel discussion with questions and may include smaller roundtable discussions.

“Although the postponement was unfortunate, as a result we were able to add a fourth scholar who had been unavailable in February,” said Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee, which is hosting the program.

Colleen Keyes, a graduate of Hartford Seminary and vice-president of academic affairs at Zaytuna College, the nation’s first Muslim college, will be joining Imam Omer Bajwa, chaplain and director of Muslim life at Yale University, Sam Ross, a graduate student at Yale and convert from Judaism to Islam, and Imam Refai Arafin, who presented the general background session on Islam as part of the September program.

The forum is designed to allow more probing questions on Islamic religion and politics, in keeping with the forum program of SAC aimed at “embracing diversity.” “The Islamic community has recognized the importance of full and frank dialogue,” Schatz noted, “and they look forward to discussing any and all questions folks might have about Islam and its role in life and politics today.”

Written and anonymous questions will be permitted to ensure that nobody is deterred from asking a question due to perceived “correctness” issues.

Please contact andy@andrewschatz.com or 860-202-2690 for further information.
Condolences are extended to:

- And to the Congregation for the loss of members and friends of the synagogue: Margot Stern.
- Corinne and David Weber, on the loss of their cousin and Holocaust survivor, Starkman.
- Holly Starkman Smith and Martin Smith, for the loss of Holly’s mother, Esther Miriam Rosenblum – grandmother of Debra Morton Pepper – father of Andi Pepper Jacobs
- Samuel Michael – uncle of Sally Michael
- Selma Meyers – mother of Arthur Meyers
- Edith Mack – Beatrice Case’s sister
- Barry Lindenman – uncle of Seth Lindenman
- Alfred LeWitt – relative of Sol LeWitt
- Arthur LeWitt – father-in-law of Jan LeWitt
- Henry Miller – father of Suzanne Levine
- Morton Pepper – father of Andi Pepper Jacobs
- David Pinin – father of Ed Pinin
- Howard Cutler Redak – brother of Danny Redak and Harvey Redak
- Miriam Rosenblum – grandmother of Debra Traumman
- Roger “Sonny” Rubinow – father of Laurie Rubinow
- Morley Safer – husband of Jane Safer

Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit 5, 5777 to Siman 6, 5777

- Catherine Androccio – mother of Carol LeWitt
- Meyer Breslow – father of Abe Breslow
- Lena Buchezeiger – sister of Estelle Breslow
- Carlyn Censer – mother of Gary Clarkson
- Irving Cohen – father of Solomon Tilles
- William Baer Friedman – husband of Allen Friedman
- Lillian Fuchs – mother-in-law to Maxine Leichman
- Faye Goldstein – mother of Heather Schwartz
- Esther Gordon – mother of Elaine Gordon
- Belle Greenberg – mother of Jacqueline Wolff
- Philip Greenberg – father of Jacqueline Wolff
- Minnie Horowitz – grandmother of Sheila Friend
- Byrnes
- Sam Horowitz – grandfather of Sheli Friend
- Morton Liberman – grandfather of Barry Liberman
- Odette Jubelirer – mother of Brad Jubelirer
- Max Ginsberg – grandfather of Marlene Scharr
- Max Glassman – father of Abraham Glassman
- Max Goldstein – father of Elizabeth Drozbiarz
- Harry Goldstein – father of Jackie Hasting
- Rebecca Gottfried – great-grandmother of Ellen Gottfried
- Mildred Greenwald – dear friend of Maxine Leichman
- Elizabeth Gwilt – wife of Larry Boly
- Barbara Hochberg – aunt of Seth Liberman
- Bernard Hornung – father of Rick Hornung
- Esther Indiander – mother of Marcia Meyers
- Morris Mager – father of Estelle Breslow
- Ida Malol – aunt of Doug and Linda Sherman
- Lee Marcus – father of Natalie Lindstrom
- Nathan Meyers – father of Arthur Meyers
- Jack Michael – father of Selma Pomerantz
- Samuel Miller – uncle of Ellen Friedman
- Sarah Palmer – grandmother of Peg Palmer
- Saul Redak – father of Danny Redak and Harvey Redak
- Frances Ulrich Rickard – mother of Nancy Schram
- Raymond Rickard – stepfather of Nancy Schram
- Dr. Harold Samuel – father of Palmer Morel-Samaels
- Lillian Saykin – daughter of Abe Loly
- Reba Schwam – mother of Larry Bloom
- Louis Sherman – father of Linda Pinn
- Harry Sobol – father of Beatrice Case
- Amy Sullivan – wife of Bruce Josephy
- Elaine Turkel – mother of Robin Freeman
- Lillian Wald – mother of Marc & Andrea Wald
- Adam Weisman – brother of Laura Romans
- Marilyn White – friend of Lynn Coville
- Meyer White – father-in-law of Marilyn White-Gottfried

- Harry Fox – brother of Kevin Fox
- Richard Freedman – husband of Frances Freedman
- Simone Frum – mother of Miriam Gardner-Frum
- Diane Gibralter – mother of Phyllis Ross
- Max Glassman – father of Marlene Scharr
- Anna Glassman – mother of Abraham Glassman
- Max Glassman – father of Abraham Glassman
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Please remember to inform Linda Sherman, chair of the Chessed Committee, if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help, or has experienced a death in the family...

...Our Chessed Committee is here to help.

Condolences are extended to:

- Jo-Ann and Michael Price, for the loss of your loved one, Debbie Stewart.
- Holly Starkman Smith and Martin Smith, for the loss of Holly’s mother, Esther Starkman.
- Corinne and David Weber, on the loss of their cousin and Holocaust survivor, Margot Stern.
- And to the Congregation for the loss of members and friends of the synagogue: Laura Hesslein,
- Joseph “Joe” Bergonzini, Bernie Slater, and Betty Gilman.
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**1 May**
- 5:30 pm Facilities Meeting
- 6:30 pm Communications Committee
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**2 May**
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan
- 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)

**3 May**
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan
- 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)

**4 May**
- 7:00 pm Board of Directors

**5 May**
- 7:00 pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service

**6 May**
- 9:00 am Torah Study
- 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

**7 May**
- 5:30 pm SSKP Board meeting
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**8 May**
- 3:00 pm Mitzvah Project Presentations
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr. 10)

**9 May**
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan
- 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)

**10 May**
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch & Learn
- 7:00 pm Religious Affairs

**11 May**
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch & Learn
- 7:00 pm Religious Affairs

**12 May**
- 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service with Piano

**13 May**
- 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
- 10:30 am 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

**14 May**
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Interfaith Dinner Series at House of Peace Baitul Aman Mosque & Community Center, Meriden

**15 May**
- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Gesher
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr. 10)
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah

**16 May**
- 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Snow Date (If needed) - Intro to Judaism
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**17 May**
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan
- 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)

**18 May**
- 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service
- 9:30 am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years)

**19 May**
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)
- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Gesher
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr. 10)
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah

**20 May**
- 9:00 am Holy Scrollers
- 9:00 am - 11:00 am National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk

**21 May**
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)
- 9:30 am Maccabiah Games & Teacher Appreciation
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr. 10)
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah

**22 May**
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Kadima (Gr. 4-7)
- 9:30 am Maccabiah Games & Teacher Appreciation
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Makom (Gr. 10)
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah

**23 May**
- 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Social Action Committee
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**24 May**
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan

**25 May**
- 7:30 pm Lay led Erev Shabbat Service

**26 May**
- 1 SIVAN
- 7:30 pm Lay led Erev Shabbat Service

**27 May**
- 9:00 am Holy Scrollers

**28 May**
- 3 SIVAN MEMORIAL DAY
- Office closed

**29 May**
- 4 SIVAN ERUV SHAVUOT
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Shavuot Service with Confirmation and Yizkor

**30 May**
- 5 SIVAN ERUV SHAVUOT
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Shavuot Service with Confirmation and Yizkor

**31 May**
- 6 SIVAN SHAVUOT
- Office closed
- 8:00 am Morning Minyan
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<td>6:30 pm Communications Committee</td>
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<td>10:30 am 2nd Saturday Shabbat Service and Kiddush luncheon</td>
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<td>FATHERS’ DAY</td>
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<td>1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>8:00 am Morning Minyan</td>
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<td>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Mavens vs. Adult Ed Cook-off</td>
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The Whole Megillah may be viewed in color on the web at www.cbsrz.org

Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

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