

# The Whole Megillah

July & August 2017

7 Tammuz – 9 Elul



Photograph by Michael Pressman

## Inside this issue

Fences: Exhibition of the Photographs of Michael Pressman

pg 4

Meet the Confirmands.....7

Remembering Peggy Tunick  
and Harvey Redak.....8-9

CBSRZ: The Book.....13

# THANK YOU

to the following donors from 4/6/2017 to 6/5/2017

## Bagels & Bagels

Jody & Abbe Dole  
Michael & Susan Peck

## 2nd Century Campaign

Ray & Liz Archambault  
David & Teri Fogel  
Stephen Jacobs & Andi Pepper Jacobs  
John Schwolsky & Elizabeth Storch: in memory of  
Evelyn and Irving Schwolsky and Allen and  
Florence Storch

## Social Action Fund

Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Susan Glantz: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Anthony & Linda Rigono

## Community Garden

Anonymous Donor

## Food/Beverage Fund

Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine

## Torah Fund

Jeffrey & Karen Burzin: in appreciation of  
Laura Roman for her caring support

## Joseph and Lillian Friend Fund

Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Harvey Redak  
Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Peggy Tunick  
Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Sam and  
Minnie Horowitz

## Religious School Fund

Jeffrey & Karen Burzin: in appreciation of  
Belinda Brennan for a beautiful shiva minyan and  
her care and support  
Jeffrey & Karen Burzin: in appreciation of Rabbi  
Bellows for her caring support with Phil's passing  
Brad & Lori Jubelirer: in memory of Odette Jubelirer  
Daryl Meninsky: in memory of Marilyn Meninsky

## Meditation Garden

Michael & Susan Peck: in memory of Bernie Slater  
Natalie Slater: In memory of Bernie Slater

## Philip Scheffler Pursuers of Peace and Justice

Stephen & Clo Davis: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Rita Fink: in honor of Andy Schatz  
William & Carolyn Fish: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Jon & Doreen Jaslow: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Carol LeWitt & Bruce Josephy: in memory of  
Philip Scheffler  
Michael & Susan Peck: in honor of Andy Schatz  
Michael & Susan Peck: in memory of Philip Scheffler  
Norma Schatz: in honor of Andy Schatz

## Goldenberg/Talbot Camp Scholarship Fund

Christopher George Wich

## General Fund Donations

Ray & Liz Archambault: in memory of Harvey Redak  
Barbara Beckerman: in honor of the Mavens and  
Rabbi Bellows  
Jeff & Terry Bernstein: in memory of Joan Morse  
Lary Bloom & Suzanne Levine: in memory of  
Henry Miller

Estelle Breslow: in memory of Lena Buchzeiger  
Estelle Breslow: in memory of Morris Mager  
Samuel Chorchos: in memory of Louis Chorchos  
Arnold & Barbara Davis: in memory of Florette Belport  
Charles & Deborah Farrow: in memory of  
Harvey Redak

Myra Fishman: in memory of Harvey Fishman  
Frances Freedman: in memory of Richard Freedman  
Irving Friedman: in memory of Irene Fielding  
Ron & Kim Glassman: in memory of Fanny Saffir  
James Goodwin: in memory of Harvey Redak  
Melanie Greenhouse: in memory of Paul Ehrenwald  
Norman Hanenbaum: in memory of Harvey Redak  
John & Jackie Hastings: in memory of  
Dr. Harry Goldstein

Harvey Hoberman: in memory of Mark Solomkin  
Barry Ilberman: in memory of Morton Ilberman  
Carol LeWitt & Bruce Josephy: in memory of Catherine  
Androccio, Sophie & Alfred LeWitt

David Lyon & Stuart Ruff: in memory of  
Harvey Redak  
Michael & Susan Peck: in memory of Betty Gilman  
Michael & Susan Peck: in memory of Jackie Michael  
David & Laura Roman: in memory of Abe Melter  
David & Laura Roman: in memory of Jesse Melter  
Herbert & Phyllis Ross: in memory of Diane Gibraltar  
Stephen Rozenberg & Michele Kleiman: in memory  
of Peggy Tunick

Adele Saykin: in memory of Lillian Saykin  
Jerome & Marlene Scharr: in memory of Betty Gilman  
Jerome & Marlene Scharr: in memory of  
Shifra Scholer  
Sandy & Andrea Seidman  
Sandy & Andrea Seidman: in memory of  
Abraham Seidman  
Sandy & Andrea Seidman: in memory of  
Dennis Hersh

Arthur Sherman: in memory of Hennie Sherman  
Phillip Sylvester: in memory of Harvey Redak  
Sharon Taubman: in memory of Si Taubman  
Marc & Andrea Wald: in memory of Lillian Wald  
Christopher George Wich  
Jacqueline Wolff: in memory of Philip and  
Belle Greenberg  
Peter & Jane Zanardi: in memory of Harvey Redak

## Year-End Appeal

Roni Berson Weiner  
Norman Needleman  
Jacqueline Wolff: in memory of Harvey Redak  
Robert Woolf

## Building Fund

Edward & Linda Pinn: in memory of Caroline  
Sherman Baskin  
Edward & Linda Pinn: in memory of David Pinn

## Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Anonymous Donation  
Janet Hesslein & Murl Sanders: in appreciation of  
Rabbi Bellows  
Andrea & Jeffrey Webb: in honor of the baby naming  
of Noah Webb

## Minyan Fund

Maia & Kay Chiat: in honor of Joel Pear

# IN THIS ISSUE

## From Our Rabbi

3

## Art on Main Street: Fences. Photography by Michael Pressman

4-6

## Adult Education

6

## Confirmation

7

## Peggy Tunick

8

## Letter for Harvey Redak

9

## Photo Gallery

10-12

## CBSRZ: The Book

13

## Social Action

14-16

## Remembrance

17

## Calendars

18-19



**BETH SHALOM  
RODFE ZEDEK**

Rabbi Marci Bellows  
860-526-8920  
rabbibellows@cbsrz.org

Cantor Belinda Brennan  
Cantor Educator  
860-526-8920  
belinda@cbsrz.org

Maxine Klein  
President  
860-346-2399  
president@cbsrz.org

Brad Jubelirer  
Vice-President  
860-349-2386

Sandy Seidman  
Financial Vice President  
860-399-5709  
financialvp@cbsrz.org

Ali Rosenblum  
Secretary  
860-391-3231

Kevin B. Fox  
Treasurer  
860-597-6302  
treasurer@cbsrz.org

Wendy Bayor  
Administrator  
860-526-8920  
wendy@cbsrz.org

**The Whole Megillah**  
Published bi-monthly by  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Rodfe Zedek

55 East Kings Highway  
PO Box 438  
Chester, CT 06412  
Voice: 860-526-8920  
Fax: 860-526-8918  
www.cbsrz.org

Editor  
Sean Konecky

Editor Emeritus  
Lary Bloom

Photo Editor  
Deborah Rutty

Contributing Photographer  
Paula Retsky

Kiwun Photo Editor  
Ben Rosenblum-Jones

Editorial Assistant  
Wendy Bayor

Design/Production  
Justin Marciano





# From our Rabbi

## The Urgency of Now

By Rabbi Marci Bellows

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke frequently about “the fierce urgency of now.” “We cannot walk alone,” he said. “And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back.” Dr. King used this phrase to encourage Americans to work tirelessly on the most pressing issues of the day.

Though we find ourselves more than fifty years since Dr. King’s call, there is still much that urgently needs to be addressed in our society. As Reform Jews, we heed our tradition’s mandate to repair the world around us through acts of *Tikkun Olam*. We also take to heart the name of our very own congregation: we are *Rodfe Zedek*, pursuers of justice.

In late April, Andy Schatz, Johanna Schaefer, and I attended the Religious Action Center’s Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C. The Consultation is Reform Judaism’s biennial social justice leadership conference. We spent three days with fellow clergy, lay leaders, and activists from all over the country. We learned about community organizing, leadership development, networking, and how to best communicate with our legislators. We heard from major figures in the world of civil rights and social justice, such as Rev. Cornell William Brooks (President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Piper Kerman (Author and Activist, *Orange is the New Black*), Michael Waldman (Brennan Center for Justice, New York University), and Anat Hoffman (Director, Israel Religious Action Center).

The Religious Action Center (RAC) leadership presented their Urgency of Now campaign, and it is comprised of three main areas of concern:

- Immigration Reform
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Protection of Transgender Individuals (especially students)

Each area is supported by Jewish values, as explained by the RAC:

**Immigration Reform:** Jewish tradition is clear on the treatment of immigrants. Our faith demands of us concern for the stranger in our midst. Leviticus commands, “When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (19:33-34). This principle permeates Jewish tradition and is echoed 35 times in the Torah — the most repeated of any commandment. Our own people’s history as “strangers” reminds us of the many struggles faced by immigrants today, and we affirm our commitment to create the same opportunities for today’s immigrants that were so valuable to our own community not so many years ago.

**Criminal Justice Reform:** While preventing and punishing criminal conduct are among the primary obligations of government at all levels, it is also the obligation of government to ensure that no one is unjustly accused, convicted, or punished. We reaffirm the Biblical concept that a criminal is a human being, capable of reshaping his or her life. “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn away from his way and live” (Ezekiel 33:11). We must work for a criminal justice system that gives those who are incarcerated a real chance for reform and to reenter society.

**Protection of Transgender Individuals:**

We are guided by the very basic belief that all human beings are created b’tselem Elohim (in the Divine image), as it says in Genesis 1:27, “And God created humans in God’s own image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them.” Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said in an interview with Fox News, “As it says in Genesis, all humans were created in the image of God. And that means that every person, every soul, is a creature of God that looks like God, whether they are transgender or lesbian or gay, and so we welcome all of them.”

In addition, the RAC continues its work on Women’s Health Care, Americans with Disabilities, Gun Violence Prevention, Combatting Hate Crimes, and much more.

Throughout the conference, the primary focus was helping us to ground our social justice work in Jewish text and tradition. The issues presented were never political or partisan. Rather, they were approached through a Jewish lens, meaning that we were supporting issues precisely because of what our heritage teaches us.

I hope you’ll consider visiting <http://www.rac.org> to learn more about this important arm of the Reform movement, sign up for weekly updates and action alerts, and answer the call of the urgency of now.

L’shalom,  
**Rabbi Marci N. Bellows**

# Art of Main Street: **FENCES** Photography of Michael Pressman

Curated by Linda Pinn

---



## **Artist Statement:**

As a recent settler here in the Valley/Shoreline (from the New York City area), I was struck by the great beauty surrounding my new home — the marshes, rivers, and preserves. But as a nature photographer who rejects hackneyed picture-postcard images, I felt discontent with my efforts to photograph my new surroundings in a meaningful way. In my restlessness, I

sought inspiration in the very first photograph I fell in love with as a young man: *White Fence* by the great Jewish master Paul Strand (1890–1976).

Strand's 1916 photograph emphasizes a mundane white picket fence. Yet, Strand was fascinated, saying the fence was "very much alive, very American, very much a part of the country." Strand's groundbreak-

ing, beautifully composed image plays tricks with depth and light and emerges as an unforgettable portrayal of Americana.

In 1983 when my wife and I bought our first house (a 1906 four-square), we promptly put up a white picket fence. I know I channeled Strand in wanting that fence. One might say, as a new homeowner, moving from the





city to suburbia, I had no choice but to get that fence built!

Fences are as beautiful to me as the rocky shore of Hammonasset. My challenge was to combine the natural beauty of the area with the practical and evocatively metaphorical structure of fences.

Fences protect, isolate, delineate, beauty, enhance, diminish, and imprison. Fences can be personal, political, welcoming, or discouraging. Fences (and of course walls!) have figured prominently on the world stage.

“My journalism career focused on film and video, but throughout my life,

single-image photography has been a steady joy. We are bombarded daily with thousands of fleeting images, yet a single photographic image can remain for decades indelibly etched in our minds. Evocative, disturbing, soothing. Why? Why do some images succeed while similar ones fail? In the Serengeti, three other serious

*Continued on page 6*

**Art of Main Street** Continued from page 5

photographers and I were delighted when an old lion decided to enjoy the shade cast by our vehicle. The magnificent creature, just a few feet away, seemed to pose for us like a languid fashion model. We all snapped away furiously. Did we capture the same image? The same feel for that battered, scarred warrior? Astonishingly, no! The resulting images were completely different in almost every respect — as if we had photographed different lions in separate locations. And for me, some of the images were hauntingly beautiful, while others were banal, lifeless. Photographers see the same thing, differently; viewers see the same thing, differently. Books and schools might tell you otherwise,

but no formula exists for taking a good photograph. We pretend we are in control with our mega-pixels and f stops, with our angles and intention, but the image, the glorious, inspiring, infuriating, elusive image taunts, beckons, and keeps us enthralled.



Michael Pressman spent more than thirty years as a national broadcast journalist for both ABC News and NBC News, on programs that included ABC News 20/20, Dateline NBC, and the Today show. Mostly working in “long-form” — news magazines and documentaries — as a producer, director, and writer, he is the recipient of

the Overseas Press Club’s Edward R. Murrow Award, an Emmy, and the Cine Golden Eagle award. He has exhibited his photography widely in the metro New York City area.

An opening reception for his photographic exhibition, “Fences,” will take place in our Main Street Gallery on Sunday, August 13, from 5PM to 7PM. Wine and other refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome at this free event.

“Fences” will be on view through October and can be seen Monday through Friday from 10AM to 3PM. The artist will make a generous donation to CBSRZ for all work sold during this exhibit.

**5TH ANNUAL SHABBAT AT CEDAR LAKE – JULY 28TH AT 6:00.**

*Have you always wanted to celebrate Shabbat in a bathing suit? Come and beat the heat Friday July 28th at Cedar Lake in Chester where we will celebrate Shabbat lake-side! Please join friends and family at 6:00 pm at Cedar Lake under the pavilion for a short but sweet Shabbat service followed by dinner and a dip in the lake. Dinner will be brown bag, picnic-style, which means bring your own food and utensils!*

*We will bring Challah, candles, juice for kiddush and some soft beverages.*

*Cedar Lake is located in Chester on Route 148, next to Camp Hazen. From Old Saybrook or points south, take route 9 North to exit 6. When you exit the highway, turn left onto Route 148. Follow 148 for approximately 1.5 miles. Immediately after passing Camp Hazen, you will see the lake entrance on your right. Parking is directly across the street on the left. From Middletown or points north, take Route 9 South to exit 6. When you exit the highway turn right onto Route 148. Follow 148 for approximately 1.5 miles. Immediately after passing Camp Hazen, you will see the lake entrance on your right. Parking is directly across the street on the left.*

*We will meet under the pavilion at 6:00 pm for services. If it is raining we will have Shabbat services and dinner at CBSRZ also at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you at Cedar Lake!*

# Confirmation

This year CBSRZ can boast of four extraordinarily gifted confirmands. The Whole Megillah has asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves.



**Rachel Cohen**

My name is Rachel Cohen. I live in Chester, Connecticut and I am a sophomore at Valley Regional High School. I have 3 brothers named Jake, Sam, and Matt and I have 2 sisters named Anna and Grace. I have a dog named Sparky, 2 cats names Lucky and Lucy, and a hamster named Phoebe. I love to listen to music, watch YouTube and write in my free time. My favorite class in school is Psychology and my favorite music to listen to is Pop. I have learned so much in Confirmation this year and am glad to have experienced it.



**Ethan Corpuel**

I personally think that confirmation is just another step towards becoming a Jewish adult. Up until this point, I have just been told to pray and I never could give my rationale on why I should or my interpretation of the



Confirmands left to right: Gabe Sirot, Tillie Ripin, Rachel Cohen, Ethan Corpuel.

prayers and of God. But now, I am able to share my view of God and what I think they do and what I think the prayers mean to me. This is such a great experience and I have enjoyed going through the process with all my peers. I am a sophomore at Guilford High School and enjoy being part of the CBSRZ community.



**Tillie Ripin**

In my mind, confirmation is the journey you take to not only affirming your loyalty to God, but figuring out how you view God. I view God as the one who brings you comfort in the forms of the people who love you. I have really enjoyed experiencing this with my fellow classmates in Makom, who have really become family in a sense, and am excited to continue this journey with them until I go off to college.



**Gabriel Sirot**

Gabe is happy to be part of the CBSRZ community, serving as one of the Madrachim assisting teachers in the religious school. He enjoys working with the younger kids and using his creativity. Gabe feels Makom further develops his understanding of Torah and ability to teach, thereby being able to help guide the service for the congregation.

The Megillah joins with the entire CBSRZ community in offering them an enthusiastic mazel tov upon the completion of this important phase of Jewish life.

Deborah Ruffy



# Remembering: Peggy Tunick

---

**W**e built this house with our hands and with our hearts.” This greets everyone on the circular wall in the sanctuary. One of the people who built it with her hands and heart was Peggy Tunick. Born and raised a conservative Jew from Long Island, Peggy wanted her daughter to have a Jewish education. She joined Congregation Beth Shalom and along with another volunteer mother, Dawn Sonn, started and organized the religious school and taught every Sunday in the basement of the Synagogue on Union Street.

The enrollment grew until overcrowded would have been an understatement. One cold winter Sunday, Peggy came charging out of the building and informed the president that this was unsafe, a fire hazard, harmful, overcrowded, and unacceptable and a different place would need to be found for the school and the children. Thanks to Peggy’s insistence, a contract was signed that summer and the school and new offices were moved to the Annex. This then led to the subsequent search for a permanent home for the congregation. Peggy was a member of the early building committee for the new synagogue.

Eventually Peggy became the chair of the education committee, then moved to membership chair and on to become one of the at-large board members, then the second vice-president.



Peggy Tunick

One year the Religious Affairs Committee in its wisdom voted unanimously to bring to the board a recommendation to change the time of Kol Nidre from sundown to 8 o’clock. It was felt that this would make it easier for everyone to get to temple on time after having a sumptuous prefast dinner. Peggy did not like this idea as it was not Jewish. After spending 30 minutes in a monologue and dialogue with other board members, not ever finishing her sentences or thoughts, as Peggy was wont to do, the board voted down the RAC’s recommendation and kept the time of services at sundown.

Peggy was a conservative Jew whose ideas of tradition ran deep. Despite that, it was to Peggy’s home that members took their children for lunch as their parents fasted on Yom Kippur.

Peggy remained on the board as a vocal second vice-president always pursuing justice in board discussions and endeavors. Her conscience was so present that when the powers that be rewrote the temple bylaws her board position was eliminated, thus quite unceremoniously removing her from the board. Peggy’s work with teenagers was so well respected that she was asked to administer the Temple youth group, and took part in hiring the youth group advisors.

She worked for 22 years as a social worker in Regional School district #8 Middle School and was promoted to Director of Program where she was responsible for the supervision of 24 intervention, prevention and juvenile justice programs.

In 2014 she was recognized by her peers across Connecticut when she received a prestigious Connecticut Youth Services Association special award honoring a lifetime of dedication for advancing the social and emotional needs of children.

If you were a friend of Peggy’s, you were a friend for life. She cared deeply about her friends, her family the people for whom she worked and the children for whom she advocated.



# An Open Letter to the Congregation from Norman Hanenbaum in Memory of his Friend Harvey Redak

## Remembering Harvey Redak

My friendship with Harvey for the past 25 years has been memorable. As musicians, we participated in the Klezmer; the George Manston Big Band every Tuesday evening at the Elks Club in Westbrook; you served as the first commander of the Major General Maurice Ross Post 51 of the Jewish War Veterans; you played TAPS at the Et. Veterans Cemetery prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day after we recited the Kaddish; and lastly, you blowing the shofar at Beth Shalom holiday services.

So dear Harvey, wherever you are, keep blowing your horn and continue making music.

We'll be listening!

Goodbye Dear Friend

Norman Hanenbaum

# PICTURE GALLERY

## *Bagels & Bagels*

---



Jody Dole

As these snappy photos make clear the fine art of bagel making is alive and well at CBSRZ thanks to Sam Kantrow and the Adult Education Committee.

---





Bubbles rule at Fun First Friday Shabbat. Photo credit Ethan Kleinberg



Susan Peck

Betty & Joel Pear





Moses Hoskins poses in front of one of his paintings with Ed Pinn.



Mo and Sean Konecky at the artist's reception on Main Street.



Susan Peck

Minyan breakfast to celebrate Joel Pear, June 7, 2017.



Poet Suzanne Levine with Lisa Connelley and Paula Retsky at her reading.

# CBSRZ: The Book

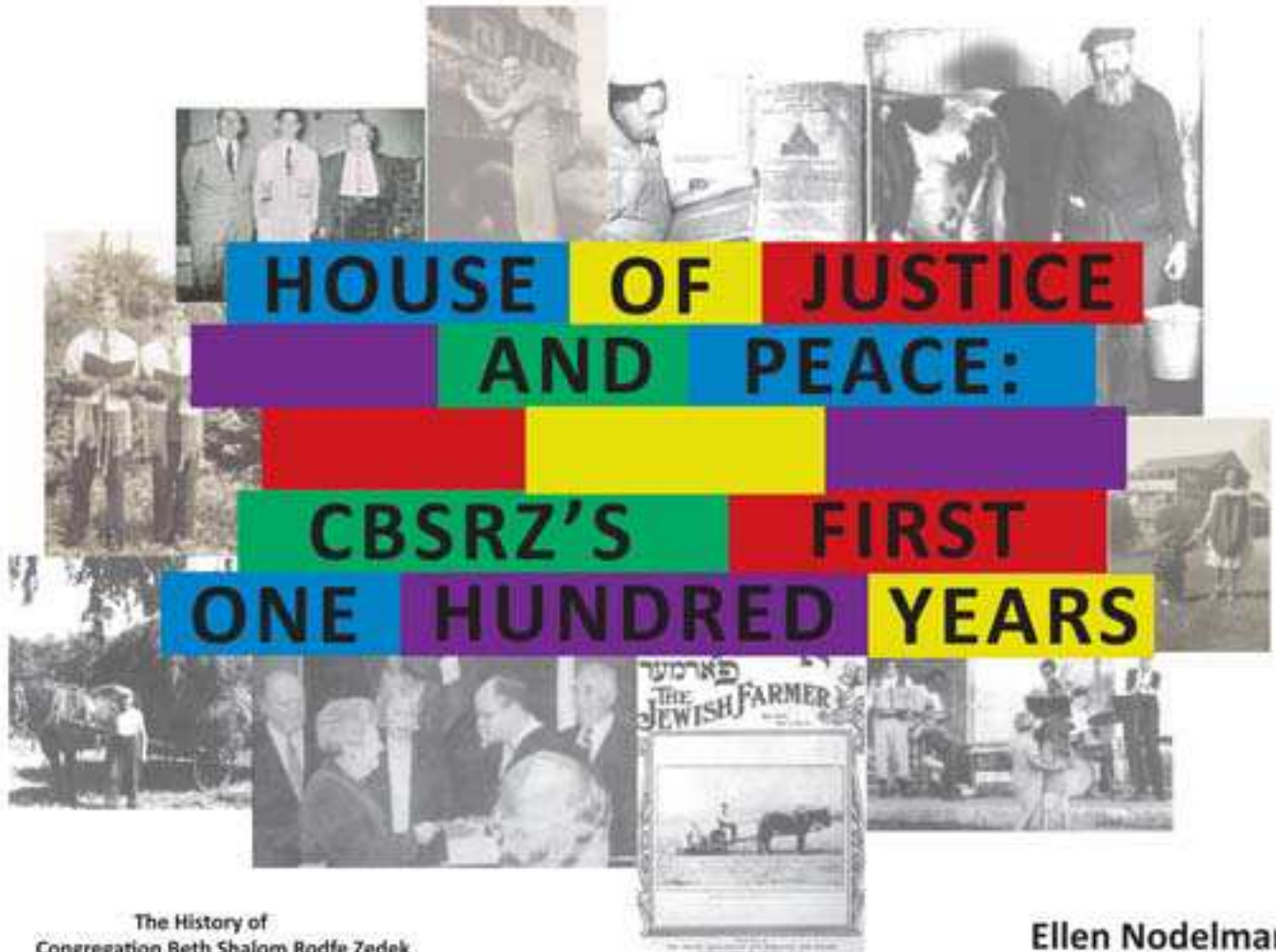
The following is a leaked unredacted excerpt from Ellen Nodelman's, certain to be a bestseller, history of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, entitled *House of Justice and Peace: CBSRZ's First One Hundred Years*. It describes the launching of the first synagogue in Moodus

While nothing succeeds like success, success has a habit of creating its own set of problems; in a pattern instantly recognizable to almost anyone involved in the workings of a Jewish organization (or of any other organization, for that matter) one triumph leads inexorably to a new and pressing emergency. It became obvious before the next few years were up that the new Chevra needed far more room than that provided by the old farmhouse. So in 1922 the Chevra went ahead and began building a new synagogue on a plot

of land right next door to the little farmhouse on North Moodus Road.

Building a new synagogue in those days was a much simpler process. Members of Rodfe Zedek bought shingles and lumber in the rough from nearby sawmills and hauled most of the lumber to the site themselves. They hired two local carpenters, Albert Alger and Arthur Williams, to erect the building, its design copied from the nearby Colchester synagogue. It resembled nothing more exotic than the traditional New England house. It cost \$4000 and was paid for, in full, within the year.

It wasn't fancy. It had no basement, resting instead on stone piers. It had no heating since there was no furnace, making it challenging in a cold New England winter. So before long money had to be raised for a stone foundation and for a furnace to keep the winter at bay. Once again, the familiar story: moments of triumph quickly succeeded by moments of daunting challenge. But the congregation proved — and has consistently proven ever since — to be resilient and both willing and able to take these challenges on and overcome them.





# SOCIAL ACTION

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Double Duty in Deep River this Summer Requires More Volunteers

Although CBSRZ's Social Action Committee normally hosts a meal-site dinner in Deep River once a calendar quarter, we will be hosting the meal on both July 13 and August 10 — so we need more volunteers!

CBSRZ sponsors a meal site each calendar quarter at each of two Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries meal sites, in Deep River and Chester. We provide a balanced home cooked meal for 35 to 55 people at these meal sites. Although the meal sites are in churches and non-sectarian, we introduce the meals with the HaMotzi and sometimes throw in a bit of Jewish lore.

Debby Trautmann, who supervises the Deep River meal site for SAC, noted: "Hosting and preparing two dinners in a month challenges us to have more volunteers at a tough time of year." Trautmann asked that any potential volunteers contact her ASAP at [debbytrautmann@comcast.net](mailto:debbytrautmann@comcast.net).

It's more about connecting with people than providing a meal. "Preparing and serving the food is gratifying, but what's more meaningful is interacting with these guests," said Johanna Schaefer, who supervises the Chester meal site. "Sitting with them, sharing a meal and talk, makes a difference in their lives and ours."

Please consider joining Debby Trautmann for Deep River, [debbytrautmann@comcast.net](mailto:debbytrautmann@comcast.net), and Johanna Schaefer for Chester, [johannadschaefer@gmail.com](mailto:johannadschaefer@gmail.com), to volunteer and provide a mitzvah. Upcoming dates for Deep River are July 13 and August 10, and for Chester are September 3 and November 5.



Claire Bellerjecu

"It was another successful Stuff-A-Truck," said Debby Trautmann, who supervised the April 30 event for SAC that collected \$112 and 480 pounds of food for Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. "When these sweet faces asked for donations to the Food Pantry, no Stop and Shop patrons could come out without contributions." Pictured, from left, are Becca Rosenblum-Jones, Ella Connelly and Gloria Conley, with Kevin Conley. Other children who participated included Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones, Byce Connelly and Jack Conley. Liz Jones and Debby also participated, with Debby driving the truck.

### Faith Based Organizing and Social Action —a proposal

SAC hopes to start a synagogue-wide program that engages our entire congregation in pursuit of action based on our shared Jewish values. We have no idea — and will have little say — in what that action may be. Let us explain.

Focusing on common moral ground has long been one of the tenets of "faith-based organizing." Jewish morality and values have long informed advocacy of the Social Action Committee. Jewish values, as evidenced by tradition and text, was the explicit basis of testimony submitted to the Connecticut legislature in March by Rabbi Marci Bellows and Andy Schatz on behalf of the Social Action Committee of CBSRZ in support of a bill (which, modified, became a law) limiting the use of solitary confinement (particularly with juveniles).

An appeal to common values is critical in organizing a congregation in pursuit of social justice. Social justice work must include service work but should also address root causes. Addressing root causes generally requires issue advocacy and "political" (though non-partisan) action, including

legislative advocacy ("lobbying"). And synagogues are almost invariably a mix of different social and political views (we call them "congregations" for a reason). Those same common Jewish values provide a common ground to pursue social justice through activism.

At its recent Consultation on Conscience, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) urged congregations to use a multi-part "organizing cycle." First, form a "social justice team" (not the ongoing social action committee) of congregants with diverse political and social views to help identify an organizing issue. Second, conduct a "listening campaign" (not as extensive or unfocused as the one we conducted several years ago) with a cross section of congregants, again trying to ensure input of different social and political views. Third, identify through the shared values that emerge a focus of *tikkun olam*, what portion of the fabric of the world we as a congregation may help (God) repair. Fourth, take action (and fifth, celebrate and evaluate).

SAC has initiated this process, but it will only be successful as a congregation-wide effort. SAC will continue to do our work — service programs, forums and advocacy addressing hunger, housing and problems affecting our large population of ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed). But engaging our entire congrega-





David Zeleznik

Rabbi Marci Bellows speaking at the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford (Berlin Mosque) on June 9 to a large crowd gathered to show solidarity with the Muslim community. Other speakers included Governor Dannel Malloy and Christian clergy as well as area activists. The event took place the day before an anti-Muslim demonstration was planned for Waterbury, was a show solidarity with the Muslim community on the eve of demonstrations nationwide, including in Waterbury, by a national "hate" group against "Sharia law," which is generally misunderstood or misrepresented.



From left, Rabbi Marci Bellows and Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee and president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut, joined panelists Sam Ross, a PhD student at Yale University, Imam Omer Bajwa, Director of Muslim Life and chaplain at Yale University, Colleen Keyes, PhD, former Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Zaytuna College, the first Muslim liberal arts college in the U.S., and Imam Refai Arefin, attorney and Imam of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford (Berlin Mosque), for a forum on May 6 titled "Islamophobia or Islamophobia-phobia: Tough Questions about Politics and Islam."

tion in pursuit of action (whatever it may be) based on our shared Jewish values may not only help (God) repair the fabric of the world but help strengthen our congregational relationships as well.

If you would like to join the core committee (or ensure you are contacted as part of the listening campaign), please contact [andy@andrewschatz.com](mailto:andy@andrewschatz.com) or 860-202-2690.

## The Urgency is Now for Social Justice

**Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism – Consultation on Conscience April 30 to May 2, 2017**

### Johanna Schaefer

It was extremely gratifying to see and interact with so many Jewish people who are deeply passionate as I am about social justice work or Tikkun Olam – repairing the world. I had an

incredible experience when I attended the RAC's Consultation on Conscience conference. We were 800 strong and were inspired by talks from Reverend Cornell Brooks, President and CEO, NAACP; Piper Kerman, activist and author of *Orange is the New Black*; Anat Hoffman, Israeli activist, executive director of the Israeli Religious Action Center (IRAC), Reform Judaism's social justice affiliate in Israel, and founding member of Neshot HaKotel, a/k/a Women of the Wall, to name just a few of the leaders who spoke.

The workshops that I attended were incredible. I learned about refugee programs and their challenges from Rabbi Pinkus of Temple Beth Israel in West Hartford and Rabbi Jeffrey Saxe of Tem-

ple Rodef Shalom. These congregations raised a lot of money in support of the program as well as hands on help for the families from their congregants. The one main challenge was to find families affordable housing. The next workshop I attended was on communications. Two incredibly talented RAC communications team members presented ways to craft a memorable narrative through telling stories and strategically choosing the tools, including social media, to get these messages out into the world. I am so grateful to have attended this conference and shared this experience with Rabbi Bellows and Andy Schatz.

The conference stressed racial justice and the RAC's Urgency of Now Campaign begun last year

(from Martin Luther King’s stress of “the fierce urgency of now,” including in his famous 1963

Washington Mall speech). RAC is focused on three issues this year – racial justice, LGBTQ rights and the rights and protections of immigrants. All three were discussed throughout the conference.

**Following are some of the more memorable quotes from speakers at the recent Consultation on Conscience conference in Washington, D.C. (with apologies if the quotes are a little off):**

**Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union of Reform Judaism:**

“Judaism without social action is not Judaism.”

**Anat Hoffman, Israeli activist, executive director of the Israeli Religious Action Center (IRAC), Reform Judaism’s social justice affiliate in Israel, and founding member of Neshot HaKotel, a/k/a Women of the Wall:**

“Israel is way too important to be left to the Israelis.”

**Jack Markell, recently retired governor of Delaware, who ascribed his views on social justice largely to his Jewish tradition and upbringing:**

“We must push the moral base.”

**Cornell Brooks, then (until last month) president of the NAACP:**

“Values is the lingua franca of politics ...”

“When we speak of our humanity rooted in our theology, if we talk about ‘they’ as ‘thou,’ people listen. Otherwise, we are unintelligible to each other ...”

“As prophets we are called – but we also organize.”



Mark Kosnoff

Johanna Schaefer represented CBSRZ in joining a team from United Action of Connecticut to raise money and consciousness for mental health advocacy with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in a walk in Hartford. The team exceeded its goals, and everyone had a good time!



On May 4, members of the Social Action Committee met with Art Linares, State Senator for a large area including Chester, at CBSRZ. Discussions included the solitary confinement bill pending before the legislature, which passed in June. Pictured are, from left, Linda Rigono, Rabbi Marci Bellows, Senator Linares, Andy Schatz and Teri Fogel. Other SAC members attending but not in the photo included Paula Feder, Johanna Schaefer and Shelley Sprague.

**Piper Kerman, formerly incarcerated activist and author of Orange is the New Black:**

“One of only rights respected in prison is the right of worship; it’s the only thing a prisoner can count on ... Transparency that would reform prisons doesn’t exist, but those of faith are able to have access and make it more transparent.”

**Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU and author of Fight to Vote:**

“The values of reform Judaism are the values of America at its best – equality, justice, tolerance and dignity.”

**Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism since 2015:**

“We are all bound up in the liberation of others ...”

When one of us is hungry, all of us are hungry ... These are our stories. ... We are facing deportation ... racial bias or islamophobia. We are called to holiness in action ... We are called to action by the millions of stories ... These stories call us to love ... Dr King did teach us that tomorrow is today, that we are confronted by the ‘fierce urgency of now’ ... that there is such a thing as being too late ... We become holy together.”



# REMEMBRANCE

## Memorial Plaques

Tammuz 7, 5777 to Av 8, 5777

David Irving Adler  
Dora Tomim Adler  
Lena Altman  
Lillian K. Ansell  
Lena Auster  
Philip Auster  
Yolanda Baliko  
Karen Joy Berfond  
Jacob Bernstein  
Sarah Bernstein  
Frances Blumenthal  
Barbara Anita Brunell  
Margery Bruno  
Ted Bukofsky  
Martin Bulion  
Beatrice Chananie  
Adeline K. Chorches  
Frances Cohen  
Newton Cohen  
Anna Davis  
David Davis  
Stella Davis  
Anna Debowsky  
Josephine Deusch  
Fannie Diamond  
Isadore Diamond  
Esther Divins  
Seymour Divins  
Lena Dorenbaum  
Samuel Edelson  
Celia Elkin  
Michael Elkin  
Samuel Friedman  
Sam Gelper  
Ron Gister  
Robert Goldberg

Elton Goldstein  
Louis Goodman  
Louis Gottfried  
Harry Hamburg  
Ida Hyman  
Freda "Fritzie" Kaplan  
Anne Kent  
Yetta Klar  
Alfred Kram  
Rose Kurfist  
Flo Levowitz  
Irving Levowitz  
Zahava Caspi Levy  
Abraham Michael  
Barney Milavsky  
Adele Miller  
Clarice "Tops" Miller  
Murray Miller  
Arnold Morganstern  
Emma Nadler  
William Payton  
Morris Pear  
Louis Peck  
Richard Pepper  
Isack Polstein  
Isidore Polstein  
Adolf Pukoff  
Rose Pukoff  
Aaron Rodkin  
Harry Rosen  
Mildred Rosen  
Jacques Rosenblatt  
Isidor Rubin  
Hyman Salowitz  
Alice Saltzman  
Morris Sandberg  
Mabel Naomi Scharr  
Sol Schreiber  
Pearl Shiling

Samuel Sober  
William Sondak  
Esther Starr  
Isidore Starr  
Frieda Stolzberg  
Ann Elkin Strauss  
Benjamin Strom  
Elaine Traeger  
Lillian Tuch  
Dr. Emanuel Waldinger  
Yetta Weber  
Kurt West  
Ruth West  
Donald Wilson  
Alice Wolff  
Arthur G. Wolff  
Meyer Zarchin

## Memorial Plaques

Av 9, 5777 to Elul 9, 5777

Scott Angel  
Hazel Archambault  
Samuel Axelrod  
Beatrice Baron  
Eva Sylvia Baron  
David Baum  
Joseph Ber  
Rabbi Henry Bernstein  
Rubin Bernstein  
Anna Blumenthal  
Elaine Bruno  
Harry Coville  
Natt Crair  
Gussie Davis  
Bertha Elkin  
Prosper Elmoznino  
Rose Feingold  
Anna Feld

Isidore Feld  
Dora Frank  
Shirley Freed  
Hinda Ginsberg  
Blosson Glickman  
Dr. Louis Glickman  
Dr. Sumner Gochberg  
Harry Goldstein  
Ben Gordon  
Abraham Gottfried  
Arthur Gottfried  
Isadore Gottfried  
Aaron Greenberg  
Rose Hanenbaum  
Joan Hoberman  
James Maurice Hyman  
Ida Issner Benjamin  
James Jubelirer  
Abner Kabatznick  
Jack Albert Kabatznick  
Irving Kalet  
Abraham Kandell  
Ruth Kaufmann  
Paul Kaye  
Edna Klar  
Pearl Klein  
Mary Krupnikoff  
Fannie Lerner  
Barney Levine  
Abraham LeWitt  
Nellie LeWitt  
Pell LeWitt  
Helman Lieber  
Jack Lindenman  
Nathan Magida  
Menachem Mandel  
Harriet Marcus  
Barbara Margolis  
Leo Merris

Donna Moran  
Ann Needleman  
Leo Nevas  
Adam Nodelman  
Morris Palmer  
Jack Pear  
Martha Raab  
Anita Redak  
Nancy Reider  
Jeffrey Reiner  
Sy Reiner  
Stephanie Reuter  
Goldie Rosenblum  
James Rosenblum  
Leon Saltzman  
Joseph Savitt  
Samuel Schaffer  
Allan Schwam  
Harry Silverman  
David Sockut  
Charlotte Soobitsky  
Eshuva Soobitsky  
Marion Sprecher  
Dace Stone  
Florence Storch  
Helen Katz Suisman  
Sara Swing  
Mary Trepel  
Berthold Triest  
Lena Triest  
Brenda Tuman  
George Ellis Ulrich  
Daniel Weintraub  
Baronet Zavadnick  
Goldie Zvelen  
Louis Zvelen  
Richard ZwillingeMeyer  
White

## Yahrzeits Tammuz 7, 5777 to Av 8, 5777

David Irving Adler—father of Rochelle Dauenheimer  
Dora Tomim Adler—mother of Rochelle Dauenheimer  
Yolanda Baliko—sister of Tony Rigono  
Karen Joy Berfond—niece of Norman Needleman  
Barbara Anita Brunell—mother of Robert Brunell  
Margery Bruno—mother of David Bruno  
Ted Bukofsky—nephew of Rita Fink  
Martin Bulion—father of Leslie Bulion  
Adeline K. Chorches—mother of Sameul Chorches  
Frances Cohen—mother of Hila Rosen  
Newton Cohen—father of Rebecca Blake and David Cohen  
Stella Davis—mother of Jeffrey Davis  
Samuel Edelson—husband of Barbara Edelson  
Celia Elkin—grandmother of Robin Freeman  
Ron Gister—father of Lauren and Margaret Gister  
Robert Goldberg—husband of Sharon Goldberg  
Elton Goldstein—brother of Heather Schwartz  
Louis Goodman—father of Linda Polomski  
Louis Gottfried—great grandfather to Ellen Gottfried  
Ida Hyman—grandmother of Stephen Davis  
Freda "Fritzie" Kaplan—mother of Howard Kaplan  
Anne Kent—mother of Joel Kent and Fern Cohen  
Zahava Caspi Levy—mother of Hadass Rubin  
Abraham Michael—grandfather of Sally Michael Pomerantz  
Adele Miller—mother of Ellen Friedman  
Clarice "Tops" Miller—mother of Suzanne Levine  
Murray Miller—father of Ellen Friedman  
Emma Nadler—mother of Steve Nadler  
William Payton—father of Harvey Payton  
Louis Peck—father of Stanley Peck  
Richard Pepper—brother of Andi Pepper Jacobs  
Harry Rosen—father of Saul Rosen  
Mildred Rosen—mother of Saul Rosen  
Isidor Rubin—father of Matthew Rubin  
Hyman Salowitz—uncle of Hyla Cohen

Alice Saltzman—mother of Joel Saltzman  
Mabel Naomi Scharr—mother of Jerome Scharr  
Pearl Shiling—mother of David Shiling  
Frieda Stolzberg—mother-in-law of Corinne Weber  
Elaine Traeger—mother of Sharon Goldberg  
Lillian Tuch—grandmother of Peg Palmer  
Kurt West—great uncle of Lynn Coville  
Ruth West—great aunt of Lynn Coville  
Donald Wilson—father of Cindy Taylor  
Alice Wolff—loved one of Jacqueline Wolff  
Arthur G. Wolff—brother of Daniel Wolff  
Meyer Zarchin—father of Lorraine Klappholz and Sandy Herzog

## Yahrzeits Av 9, 5777 to Elul 9, 5777

Scott Angel—cousin of Leslie Krumholz  
Hazel Archambault—mother of Ray Archambault  
Joseph Ber—father of Doron Ber  
Rabbi Henry Bernstein—father of Joel Bernstein  
Elaine Bruno—wife of David Bruno  
Harry—Coville—grandfather of Lynn Coville  
Natt Crair—grandfather of Michael Crair  
Gussie Davis—grandmother of Stephen Davis  
Prosper Elmoznino—brother of Merito Elmoznino  
Anna Feld—grandmother of Gail Feld  
Isidore Feld—grandfather of Gail Feld  
Blossom Glickman—mother of Sharon Taubman  
Dr. Louis Glickman—father of Sharon Taubman  
Dr. Sumner Gochberg—father of Robert Gochberg  
Ben Gordon—father of Elaine Gordon  
Abraham Gottfried—father of Ellen Gottfried  
Isadore Gottfried—grandfather of Ellen Gottfried  
Rose Hanenbaum—mother of Norman Hanenbaum  
Joan Hoberman—wife of Harvey Hoberman and daughter of Ruth Solomkin  
Ida Issner Benjamin—aunt of Marlene Scharr  
James Jubelirer—father of Brad Jubelirer  
Jack Albert Kabatznick—friend of Justine Redak  
Irving Kalet—brother of Gene Kalet  
Abraham Kandell—father of Marilyn Kalet

Ruth Kaufmann—mother of Janie Pittendreigh  
Pearl Klein—mother of Maxine Klein  
Barney Levine—relationship to Steven and Frani Ross  
Abraham LeWitt—father-in-law of Carol LeWitt  
Nellie LeWitt—cousin of Sol LeWitt  
Jack Lindenman—grandfather of Seth Lindenman  
Nathan Magida—father of Meg Magida  
Menachem Mandel—stepfather of Stephen Rozenberg  
Barbara Margolis—dear friend of Neil Gottfried and Marilyn White-Gottfried  
Donna Moran—wife of George Amarant  
Ann Needleman—mother of Norman Needleman  
Leo Nevas—father of Jo-Ann Price  
Adam Nodelman—son of Leonard and Ellen Nodelman  
Morris Palmer—grandfather of Peg Palmer  
Anita Redak—mother of Danny Redak and Harvey Redak  
Nancy Reider—sister of Marcia Meyers  
Jeffrey Reiner—nephew of Gene and Marilyn Kalet  
Sy Reiner—brother-in-law of Marilyn Kalet  
Goldie Rosenblum— aunt of Debra Trautmann  
James Rosenblum—grandfather of Debra Trautmann  
Leon Saltzman—father of Joel Saltzman  
Joseph Savitt—father of Charles Savitt and Susan Savitt  
Samuel Schaffer—father of Marilyn White-Gottfried  
Allan Schwam—brother of Elias Schwam  
Dace Stone—sister of Martha Stone  
Florence Storch—mother of Liz Storch  
Sara Swing— aunt of Marilyn Kalet  
Berthold Triest—grandfather of Lynn Coville  
Lena Triest—grandmother of Lynn Coville  
Brenda Tuman—mother of Belinda Brennan  
George Ellis Ulrich—father of Nancy Schwam  
Daniel Weintraub—father of Marcy Saltzman  
Richard Zwillinge—husband of Jacqueline Zwillinge

## Condolences are extended to:

Jeff and Karen Burzin, for the loss of Jeff's father, Philip Burzin.  
Daryl Meninsky and Gabe Sirot on the loss of Daryl's mother and Gabe's grandmother, Marilyn Meninsky.  
Roni Berson, on the loss of her companion, Bennett Millstein.  
Belinda Brennan and her family, on their loss of family friends, Mark & Brenda Richards.

Linda Sherman and Arthur Sherman, on the loss of her uncle and Arthur's brother-in-law, Robert Kopp.

Justine Redak, for the loss of her husband Harvey Redak.

And to the Congregation for the loss of member Peggy Tunick and her mother, Shifra Kirsch Scholer.

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...



# JULY 2017

**7 Tammuz**  
**8 Av,**  
**5777**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 7 TAMMUZ 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Aria Sinnappen
<b>2</b> 8 TAMMUZ	<b>3</b> 9 TAMMUZ	<b>4</b> 10 TAMMUZ INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>Office closed</i>	<b>5</b> 11 TAMMUZ 8:00am Morning Minyan	<b>6</b> 12 TAMMUZ	<b>7</b> 13 TAMMUZ 7:30pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Service	<b>8</b> 14 TAMMUZ 9:00am Torah Study
<b>9</b> 15 TAMMUZ	<b>10</b> 16 TAMMUZ	<b>11</b> 17 TAMMUZ 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm Communications Committee	<b>12</b> 18 TAMMUZ 8:00am Morning Minyan	<b>13</b> 19 TAMMUZ 4:00pm - 6:00pm Deep River Meal Site 6:30pm Board of Directors with dinner	<b>14</b> 20 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>15</b> 21 TAMMUZ 9:00am Torah Study
<b>16</b> 22 TAMMUZ	<b>17</b> 23 TAMMUZ	<b>18</b> 24 TAMMUZ 5:00pm - 9:00pm Social Action Committee	<b>19</b> 25 TAMMUZ 8:00am Morning Minyan	<b>20</b> 26 TAMMUZ	<b>21</b> 27 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>22</b> 28 TAMMUZ 9:00am Torah Study
<b>23</b> 29 TAMMUZ	<b>24</b> 1 AV	<b>25</b> 2 AV	<b>26</b> 3 AV 8:00am Morning Minyan	<b>27</b> 4 AV 7:00 pm Executive Committee	<b>28</b> 5 AV 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Service at Cedar Lake - bring own dinner	<b>29</b> 6 AV 9:00am Torah Study
<b>30</b> 7 Av	<b>31</b> 8 Av 7:00 pm Erev Tisha B'Av Study Session					

# AUGUST 2017

**9 AV -  
9 ELUL,  
5777**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9 AV TISHA B'AV	<b>2</b> 10 AV 8:00 am Morning Minyan	<b>3</b> 11 AV	<b>4</b> 12 AV 7:30pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Service	<b>5</b> 13 AV 9:00 am Torah Study
<b>6</b> 14 AV	<b>7</b> 15 AV	<b>8</b> 16 AV	<b>9</b> 17 AV 8:00 am Morning Minyan	<b>10</b> 18 AV 4:00pm - 6:00pm Deep River Meal Site 7:00pm Board of Directors	<b>11</b> 19 AV 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>12</b> 20 AV 9:00 am Torah Study
<b>13</b> 21 AV 5:00pm - 7:00pm Art Opening - Michael Pressman	<b>14</b> 22 AV	<b>15</b> 23 AV	<b>16</b> 24 AV 8:00 am Morning Minyan	<b>17</b> 25 AV	<b>18</b> 26 AV 6:00 pm Annual Shabbat BBQ and Potluck Dinner and Service	<b>19</b> 27 AV 9:00 am Torah Study
<b>20</b> 28 AV	<b>21</b> 29 AV	<b>22</b> 30 AV	<b>23</b> 1 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan	<b>24</b> 2 ELUL 7:00 pm Executive Committee	<b>25</b> 3 ELUL 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	<b>26</b> 4 ELUL 9:00 am Torah Study
<b>27</b> 5 ELUL	<b>28</b> 6 ELUL	<b>29</b> 7 ELUL	<b>30</b> 8 ELUL 8:00 am Morning Minyan	<b>31</b> 9 ELUL		



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](http://www.cbsrz.org)

## Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors:

Charles Savitt & Susan Savitt  
 Beth & Jeff Brewer

Daryl Meninsky  
 Conley Family

Rosenblum-Jones Family  
 Barbara & Eric Infeld

**Reading Teacher** looking to help young children (K – 2nd Grade) improve their reading skills.

I will be available from June 20th through end of August.

I have a Masters Degree in teaching of reading and have been very successful bringing students to grade level and beyond.

If interested, email me, Sandy Herzog, at Sandherz2003@yahoo.com



## Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!

### July

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

### August

Gabriel Sirot	August 18
Zachary Infeld	August 23
Josh Linder	August 29

**creations.**

Gifts for Him • Her • Home • Children  
 Regionally sourced from independent makers

Creations | 712 Boston Post Road | Madison  
[creationsmadison.com](http://creationsmadison.com)

All proceeds from Creations support Vaisa Life Innovations' programs and services.