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I wish you for all to have a good and healthy New Year, and that 5778 brings you much blessing and joy. This busy season always reminds me of a humorous moment many of us experience just after Yom Kippur. Just when we think to ourselves, “We got through the High Holidays! We can take a break from going to temple,” a few days later we have ANOTHER holiday on our hands: **Sukkot**. Our children spend time building or decorating the holiday’s Booths, or **Sukkot**, but when do we, as adults, take time to appreciate the themes and teachings of this beautiful holiday?

During a rabbinical internship at the Union of Reform Judaism’s Commission on Social Action, I had an opportunity to create a Social Action Holiday Guide for **Sukkot** (all Social Action Holiday Guides, including my other guide, *Pessach: Season of Justice*, are available at http://rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/). **Sukkot**’s emphasis on the environment, on economic justice, and on hospitality can inspire us to add more **G’milut Chasadim**—acts of loving-kindness, to our lives.

One of the most enjoyable traditions associated with **Sukkot** is the welcoming of **Ushepizin**, or holy guests, into our homes, one for each night of the week. In a modern variation to this custom, each night can be connected to a related social action theme. I invite you to choose one or more of the following suggestions and discuss them in your home:

**First Night:** On the first night we welcome Abraham and Sarah, the primary exemplars of hospitality and welcoming. They teach us **Hesed**, loving-kindness. Whom do we invite into our homes? What are other groups that we might welcome more warmly into our lives, homes, or communities?

**Second Night:** On this night, we welcome Isaac and Rebecca, who teach us **Gevurah**, strength. Isaac is an exemplar of powerlessness—one who was passive and had no will of his own. On the other hand, Rebecca, by causing Jacob to take his brother’s birthright, is an exemplar of proactivity, taking control over the future of her people. When might it be best to sit back and subdue ourselves, and when is it important to take action for what we believe in? What are examples of actions that we can be taking in order to ensure a better future for humankind?

**Third Night:** Tonight, we welcome Jacob and Rachel. Jacob fell in love with Rachel because of her beauty, rejecting her sister, Leah, who had “weak eyes.” What role does physical appearance play in our lives? How can we embrace diverse beauty concepts that recognize the value in various cultures and backgrounds? In what ways do we discriminate on the basis of physical characteristics and abilities? How can we ensure justice and equality for all, regardless of appearance?

**Fourth Night:** On the fourth night, we welcome Yocheved and her son, Moses. Yocheved ensured the survival of the Jewish people by defying the ruling power and saving Moses. Moses’ acts of leadership resulted in our freedom from slavery. They encourage us to remember the importance of standing up for what is right and taking action to bring about justice for ourselves and others. Today, are there others who are still struggling for their freedom? What is our responsibility to those people?

**Fifth Night:** On this night, we welcome Miriam and her brother, Aaron. Miriam and Aaron are known for their words. Miriam led the women in song at the shore of the sea, and was also punished for spreading gossip about her sister-in-law. Aaron was Moses’ spokesperson, standing up to Pharaoh and helping the Israelites find freedom. How do we use our speech—to hurt or demean others, or to make the world a better place? How can we use communication to create change? What are some specific ways we can raise our voices to speak out for social justice?

**Sixth Night:** Tonight we welcome Joseph and his Egyptian wife, Osnat. After suffering injustice and servitude, Joseph became quite powerful in the land of Egypt. Both Joseph and Osnat are symbols of wealth, power, and abundance. The Israelites found refuge in Egypt as they fled famine; so too, many now come to America to find a better life. How might this analogy affect our perception of America’s role in the world? What should our sense of responsibility and action be in light of our overall wealth and power?

**Seventh Night:** On the last night of **Sukkot**, we welcome David and his wife, Michal. Although he is remembered as a great leader, as king, David shed much blood and abused the power of his office for personal gain. Today as well, world leaders have the capacity to make war or peace, to use their authority to help others or to achieve personal profit. Do our leaders use their power wisely? If not, what is our responsibility to make sure that they do?

May you have a **Sukkot** holiday filled with justice, abundance, light, and righteousness.

L’shalom,

Rabbi Marci N. Bellows
Change is sometimes difficult. I notice that with new synagogues. Sometimes the prayers are different. You can even feel like it’s a foreign language — like you are a stranger in a strange land. It seems it even applies to our most basic Jewish prayer, the Sh’má.

“We hear, Our God, the One God, Our God, Israel!” (“Sh’ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echod!”)

As a kid, I remember our rabbi announcing the Sh’má by prefacing it with the words “. . . as together we proclaim the watchword of our faith” (his emphasis clearly on the word “watchword,” whatever that meant to a seven-year old). When he said it, and how he said it, in that confident voice, you had to believe it was truth. And it was followed by the line said (in Hebrew, then English), and then sung, with full force, with emphasis on “Shemá,” “Eloheinu” and “Echod.” “HEAR, O Israel, the Lord OUR GOD, the Lord is ONE!” A prayer of God — yelled out to the world.

It is perhaps the prayer that most unites us as Jews, the one that also most clearly sets forth our claim to religious invention.

Yet, at services these last few years, the Sh’má hasn’t sounded the same. It was not the forceful statement of faith I remembered but a slow, soulful, almost mournful, cadence, with eyes covered. Sounding not like a prayer of God but a prayer to God. At first, the prayer was still sometimes chanted the way I remembered it, but recently much less often. [I wrote most of this two years ago, but I note that our newer Yom Kippur prayer book quotes Rabbi Judah Ben Samuel, a German Hassidic rabbi of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, as follows: “Chant your supplications to God in a melody that makes the heart weep, and your praises of God in one that will make it sing.” But I have never placed too much emphasis on instructions by rabbis on how to pray. And I suppose different hearts sing in different ways.]

I have long been a strong advocate of celebrating diversity, and that should include how we pray. We can each pray to God and of God in many ways.

Yet, we are drawn to the ways of our youth — perhaps that comfort derives from our more innocent time, or one in which our emotions were more raw. I can accept that.

Or, perhaps, I am troubled by this new Sh’má because change is just difficult. I can accept that too.

But then there is that exclamation point!

In Reform prayer books, that line of the Sh’má still ends with an exclamation point (not so in many current Conservative prayer books). That
includes both the old and new sid-
durs. That’s indeed how we said it 
back then — that watchword of our 
faith! But it doesn’t sound much like 
an exclamation these days; it sounds 
more inward than outward looking.

Perhaps it’s worth exploring a bit 
more. The late Carl Becker, a Cornell 
University historian and president of 
the American Historical Association, 
taught that “every man is his own 
historian” — that we tend to see 
things through our own situations.

Perhaps it was the time. The Fifties 
and Sixties were a time of stridency 
and concern. As Americans, we 
were an economic giant and a newly 
dominant superpower in a cold war, 
yet worried about the Soviets and 
Sputnik, assassinations and unrest. 
As Jews, we had survived the Holo-
cast, Israel had been established, 
and we were confidently proclaim-
ing “never again.” Maybe that led 
to the defiance with which we pro-
claimed the Sh’ma — loud, outward, 
no eyes covered.

Perhaps before the War, during the 
depression, during the Holocaust, 
before Israel, it had been different.

Perhaps the Sh’ma has changed as 
Reform has sought to become more 
traditional (the most recent Pew 
study found that 30% of Reform 
Jews have grown up Conservative, 
and another significant number 
Orthodox). Maybe our current 
Sh’ma sounds more like that of 
Conservative synagogues back then 
— although I don’t recall it being 
different when I attended Conserva-
tive friends’ Bar Mitzvahs in the Six-
ties.

Perhaps the Sh’ma has become a 
more tenuous cry to reflect more 
nuanced times, enduring endless 
war, social upheaval, occupations 
and intifadas.

Perhaps we should reassert the 
forceful exclamation that has always 
been and remains a key part of the 
Sh’ma and our personal connection 
to our faith. As if we are each Abra-
ham’s hand striking the idols. As if 
we are each fighting evil in Warsaw 
— fighting anti-Semitism and other 
forms of racism throughout the 
world. A prayer of God set forth to 
the world.

I would like to think that we are 
able to celebrate our diversity, even 
within our Reform tradition, by at 
least sometimes singing the Sh’ma 
as an exclamation too. I would like 
to think that we are also embrac-
ing those who grew up in the old 
Reform tradition.

And I would like to think the God 
of our prayers does not need to 
hear our Sh’ma as much as does 
the rest of our world. To think that 
God wants us to use this effort to 
make the world a better place. To 
think that God hopes that if Jew and 
Christian and Muslim all vigorously 
and proudly proclaim there is but 
one God, we will realize it is the 
same God.

That is a point worth exclaiming!
In the month of Elul we open our hearts to reflection, repentance and renewal as we prepare for the days of awe. The three Friday evening services preceding the New Year will include speakers who will focus on the theme of “reconciliation.”

Our speakers will be: September 1 – Revalyn Hickey; September 8 – Sean Konecky; September 15 – Rita Christopher.

Each speaker will approach the topic from their own unique point of view. Join us for these personal, thought-provoking presentations during our worship services.

“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*, cb. 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 5778.

We honor the tradition of Tashlich on the Chester ferry, casting out wrongdoing as we cast crumbs into the river following morning services on September 21.

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 3rd grade 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.

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_Saturday, September 16_

6:30 pm Selichot Program at CBSRZ, including screening of *Into the Woods*, Dessert, and Worship Service

_Wednesday, September 20_

7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

_Thursday, September 21_

9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, followed by Tashlich

2:30 pm Children’s Service with Apples & Honey

_Friday, September 22_

9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning service, 2nd Day

7:30 pm Lay Led Shabbat Shuvah

_Sunday, September 24_

1:00 pm Cemetery Memorial Service

Fountain Hill, Deep River

2:30 pm Cemetery Memorial Service

Rodfe Zedek, Moodus

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Indeed, there was healing. Not of the body – that fight was lost – but of the soul – that fight was won. You had found yourself. – Rabbi Karyn D. Kedar, *The Bridge to Forgiveness*

“When you forgive, you in no way change the past. But you sure do change the future.” – Bernard Meltzer

“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 praise and glory.” - Jeremiah 33:7-9.

“And, the Eternal said, ‘I pardon you as you have asked.’” *Numbers* 14:20.

“When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.” - Martin Buber

“There is no power greater than the power of humility.” – Rabbi David Stern
On Yom Kippur afternoon, before and after the 2:00 p.m. children’s service, the sanctuary will remain open for quiet individual meditation and prayer.

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

Yahrzeit Candles will be available during Rosh Hashanah.

“Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom.” - Hannah Arendt

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

“Character is a person’s only real possession.” – Rabbi Israel Salanter

“There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty. But the crown of a good name excels them all.” - Pirke Avot

**Friday, September 29**
7:30 pm Kol Nidre

**Saturday, September 30**
9:30 am Yom Kippur Morning
2:00 pm Children’s Service
3:30 pm Afternoon Service, Yizkor Memorial Service, & Neilah, followed by Break the Fast

**Sunday, October 1**
9:30 am Sukkah Building and Decorating

**Wednesday, October 4**
5:45 PM Brown Bag Dinner
6:15 pm Erev Sukkah Service

**Friday, October 6**
5:45 pm Hang in Sukkah Pot-Luck Dinner
6:45 pm First Friday Service, including New Member Blessing

**Saturday, October 7**
9:00 am Scrollers in the Sukkah

**Wednesday, October 11**
6:15 pm Yizkor Memorial Service
6:45 pm Erev Simchat Torah Service

“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.

Yom Kippur afternoon service will include David Hays’ interpretation of the Story of Jonah.

Following Yizkor and Neilah, 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 Eternal, I am before you like a vessel filled with shame and confusion. May it be your will, O Eternal, my God, that I sin no more; and, as to the sins I have committed, purge them away in your abounding compassion.” Berachot, 17a.

“Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all of your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.” - Golda Meir
Sukkot

The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur (10/04/17). 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 protection. It is a time to feast and welcome visitors in the Sukkah.

We begin our Sukkot celebration on Wednesday night October 4:
• 5:45pm - Brown bag Dinner
• 6:15pm - Erev Sukkot Services

Hang in the Sukkah
Our annual “Hang in The Sukkah” Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Friday October 6 at 5:45pm followed by a 6:45pm Shabbat Service including a blessing for our new congregants.

BUILD OUR SUKKAH

Are you handy with a hammer? Do you love being crafty? Do you want to perform a mitzvah? Please join us as we build and decorate our beautiful Sukkah. Many hands make light work! And it’s a fun way to get to know your fellow congregants. On October 1 at 9:30am we will be decorating our sukkah. If you have some crafty ideas and supplies bring them along! Otherwise, use our crafty ideas and supplies! Please email Laura Roman, if you are able to help or just show up….landdroman@gmail.com or call 860-301-9590.

We will also need help in dismantling the Sukkah on Sunday, October 15 around 10:00am after consecration during Kivvun. At 9:30am we will celebrate the consecration 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.

Simchat Torah
Wednesday October 11 at 5:45pm

Following Sukkot come the dancing and festivities of Simchat Torah, Rejoicing with/of the Torah. On Wednesday October 11, we celebrate the cycle of reading the Torah. Please join us for pizza and salad at 5:45pm followed by Yitzkor and Erev Simchat Torah services. During Simchat Torah services, we will gather, take out the Torah scrolls and dance around the synagogue. The dancing with the Torah is known in Hebrew as hakafot – which means to march around. There are seven hakafot, 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.

Following the hakafot we will move to the social hall where we will unroll a Torah with the assistance of the congregation. The children will stand in the middle of the circle surrounded by the Torah as Rabbi Bellows points out the highlights of the year!
Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek invites you to our

Selichot Program

An evening to welcome the High Holy Day season with community, reflection, friendship, discussion & dessert!

Into the Woods
Saturday, September 16
6:30 pm

Our feature movie, Into the Woods (2014), stars Meryl Streep, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, and Johnny Depp. Into the Woods is a modern twist on the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales in a musical format that follows the classic tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel—all tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife, their wish to begin a family and their interaction with the witch who has put a curse on them. Small decisions and choices can deeply impact the paths of our lives—watch as the new paths play out in these familiar fairy tales.

Our evening includes:

Havdalah, Film Screening & Discussion,
Snacks, & Worship Service,
including the changing of
the Torah mantles to white.
The first Books & Bagels of 5778, Sunday, October 29th, at 11 am, will be unusual even for CBSRZ, which specializes in the unusual. In the past, we’ve featured books by CBSRZ authors and books written by a wide variety of people from outside the CBSRZ ranks. This session, however, will mark the launch of CBSRZ’s very own book, *House of Peace and Justice: The First One Hundred Years of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek*. This will be your first chance to get your hands on a copy of this book.

Three years in the making, *House of Peace and Justice* began with an idea that it would be wonderful to have a history of the shul undertaken with
the approach of CBSRZ’s centennial observation. What started as a pamphlet soon morphed into something more ambitious and complex.

The Adult Education Committee, which was instrumental in researching the history of both Rodfe Zedek and Beth Shalom, is sponsoring the session and providing the bagels and more. Happening slightly later in the morning than usual, this Books & Bagels session will lean more towards brunch than breakfast. We appeal to the wonderful chefs within our community to bring in some of their special dishes to add to the largesse.

We will have several speakers, including author Ellen Nodelman, who will read from the book and talk a little about the experience of putting the whole thing together. We will also take the opportunity of honoring the many different people who contributed in so many different ways to this book.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Four Questions:

Why does it have four eternal lights instead of one?

Why is this Jewish community different from all other Jewish communities?

Why over its first century has it drawn members from forty Connecticut towns?

Why and how did its Chester home become an icon in the art and architectural world?

Here on these pages are the answers to those and many more questions in a history of the first 100 years of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek.

Author Ellen Nodelman documents the struggle and achievement, heartbreak and exultation, and the enduring gifts of those who turned the dreams of immigrant chicken farmers into a thriving spiritual and cultural center.

And to build, as our entrance wall specifies, a synagogue

“with our hands and with our hearts, to honor those who came before us, and as a house for all:

to worship, to rejoice, to heal, to learn,

to savor the great gift of Torah.”
The education team at Kivvun is excited to share their groundbreaking new program, now underway in the religious school wing! As we have learned, Kivvun means “direction.” This year it is our intention to provide even more “paths” or “access points” into Judaism, while empowering each child to grow into their best selves, and experience their lives through a Jewish lens, within a vibrant Jewish Community. We are reminded by our Madrichim that what most impressed them as young students was how we created the space for each individual to “find his/her own path within Judaism.” With that in mind, and taking into consideration the changing demographics of our school community, we embarked on a mission to enhance our program.

Utilizing many aspects of the Project Based Learning model, our learners will drive the creation of “questions” in order to determine how to best answer our first QUEST: “How can we build a better Kivvun Community?” Asking questions is quintessentially “Jewish.” We predict that the students will see that they need to understand what a community is, what makes Kivvun a Jewish community, their role in the community, and much more, to thoroughly explore this Quest.

Students will explore answers to their questions through the study of Hebrew, Prayer, Holidays and Values. We will continue to use the Shalom Learning curriculum and other materials.

Following their study of content, they will begin to formulate ideas and have the opportunity to analyze (critical thinking) and express their thoughts through modes such as art, legos, cooking and possibly storytelling. These electives or “Chugim” will be chosen by the students according to their interests and will offer an opportunity for learners of all grades to interact.

In addition to our restructured program for young learners, we will be offering new and exciting opportunities for our teens. Morah Tracy will coordinate the activities of our Madrichim each Sunday. This will allow us to further develop the talents of our Madrichim. Our intention is to build their ability to oversee each child’s Hebrew Progress, lead services and run the projects (Chugim) alongside our veteran teachers. They may also assist in running groups in the absence of a teacher. Morah Tracy will also help this group build their own teen community through their work on Sunday mornings, and possible additional activities including recreational and social action.

Quest #1 will run from September through December. By the end, learners will be able to share the project work they’ve done, and make recommendations to the leaders of CBSRZ to answer the question “what can we do to make Kivvun a stronger community?” Be on the lookout for the projects our youth create and opportunities to hear their recommendations and reflections!

Did you Know?
No student at any learning level will ever be excluded from Kivvun due to financial hardship.

In order to help us continue to offer scholarships to families who need them, please make a donation to the Samuels Scholarship Fund by mailing in your donation or contacting the office. The Samuels Scholarship Fund is named in honor of Rita & Harold Samuels, the first female president of the Deep River Synagogue, and one of the founders of our religious school. Last year five CBSRZ learners were supported with this fund.

Important Dates for Kivvun Families:
- Opening day of Kivvun: September 10, 2017 9:30am
- Kivvun Taschlich Walk: September 17, 2017
- Education Committee meeting September 24, 2017 10:30am
- Erev Simchat Torah Service: October 11, 2017 5:45 Pizza for Kivvun Families, followed by Simchat Torah Service at 6:15
- Consecration Service: October 15, 2017
- Education Committee meeting October 22, 10:30am
- Jewish Spiritual Parenting Class: October 29, 2017 9:30-10:30

Please watch weekly emails for detailed information about these activities, and see the full calendar on www.CBSRZ.org
David Crair

What grade are you going into at school?
8th grade

What school do you go to?
Elisabeth C. Adams Middle School in Guilford

What sports or activities do you enjoy?
soccer

What does becoming bar mitzvah mean to you?
I have responsibilities as a Jewish adult.

What can you tell us about your Torah portion?
I’m chanting about the fifth, sixth, and seventh days of creation in B’reishit, talking about the creation of animals and also about Shabbat.

Do you have any advice for others who are about to go through this process?
Pick a part of the portion that interests you.

David will be become a bar mitzvah October 14.

Zachary Infeld

What excites you most about your Bar Mitzvah?
What excites me the most is the fact that I get to lead services and get to have all my friends and family around me to celebrate this occasion.

What does becoming a Bar

Mitzvah mean to you?
Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means I now get to take part in practices I haven’t been able to do and to become a leader for younger kids. It also makes me feel closer to God because I can read Torah.

Have you thought at all about your Torah Portion? Any thoughts on what you will be discussing?
My Torah Portion is Ki Tetzei, the final parshat that explains the laws for the Israelites to follow in the Promised Land. I will be talking about being indifferent to other people and other religions, and being honest to others, no matter what they are.

Have you done a Mitzvah Project? (If not, what you are you thinking about doing?)
My Mitzvah Project is raising money for the National Parks Foundations by using an APP called Charity Miles, which donates money every time you are active, such as walking, biking or hiking.

Any advice for kids who haven’t begun preparing?
Make sure to create a playlist of all the chanting and the blessings really early so you can have a good rhythm of practicing. When you don’t practice you can find yourself getting lost and that is not fun.

Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tille Ripin</td>
<td>Jacob Randall</td>
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<td>Benjamin Rosenblum-Jones</td>
<td>Phineas Scott</td>
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<td>David Crair</td>
<td>Aria Sinnoppen</td>
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<td>Cole Merriam</td>
<td>Rachel Gelven</td>
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<td>Seraphin Merriam</td>
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<td>Moreh Eric</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
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PICTURE GALLERY

Bivolita Klezmer Band performing at Annual CBSRZ Picnic

Rita Fink and Gay Clarkson at the Pressman exhibition opening.

Opening of exhibition of the photography of Michael Pressman. The artist talking with Gay Clarkson.
Here are photos from a special session of the Holy Scrollers held to honor longtime Scroller Jesse Maghan.
A little over two years ago I got an email inviting me to Volunteer Appreciation Night at York Correction Institute. It is the only prison for women in Connecticut and has about 1,000 inmates. As part of the Social Action Committee I have helped collect books for the prison library. I’m sure many of you have donated books, and some congregants have helped us gain access to books that their public libraries no longer wanted.

I filled out the long form that accompanied the invitation and sent it in to be sure they would receive it two months ahead of time, so they could do a security check on me. When the much-awaited day arrived, I went to the prison and was turned away by the guards because of a misunderstanding about the starting time.

Last year I got the same invitation and the same forms. This time, instead of emailing them back, I mailed them to the address provided. When I got to the guardhouse, they refused to let me in, as my name was not on their list.

This year the invitation came with the same forms, the same address. I called the phone number on the form. I was told that the address on the form was not related to Volunteer Appreciation Night and that was why they didn’t have my name last year. I filled out the form, emailed it and crossed my fingers.

A week before the event I got an email from Wally Lamb saying that he was sitting one seat away from me. I tell him that the last time I saw him was at the synagogue in Chester. He asks me if I do volunteer work for the prison, and I tell him about bringing books there for many years and my frustration that the current librarian always tells me his shelves are full and will not accept any books. Wally Lamb says he had the same problem.

The theme of this year’s program is “Choices.” According to the program it is the culminating performance of the Judy Dworin Performance Project’s 12th annual multi-arts collaborative performance residency at York C.I. Judy Dworin and her crew come every Friday to work with the women, and together they create dances, songs, poetry and stories. It is obvious that many of the women have had the benefit of classes with Wally Lamb. The performances – by about 24 women from York, sometimes as individuals, some in groups – last two hours without an intermission.

All the performances had to do with past, present and future choices. I can’t describe how powerful and hopeful it was. The fact that they were sharing their own admissions of bad choices, their hopes and dreams all on a very personal level made it very touching. You can get a small taste of it on Oct. 5 when CPTV airs a documentary called “Making Me Whole: Prison, Art and Healing.”

There were also important voices from “the outside.” Two retired teachers said that voluntary teaching at York has been their most rewarding teaching experience. We were introduced to some young men from Wesleyan University who volunteer to teach at York. And, critically, two audience members introduced themselves as “previous performers” who were now “returned citizens.” Hope.

It was definitely worth the long wait for me to get into prison.

Linda Rigono is the member of the Social Action Committee who has supervised our work at York. SAC is looking forward to expanding our activities at York through a congregant/resident book club and teaching financial literacy at York. Any CBSRZ member interested should contact lrigono@sbcglobal.net.

UACT Annual Justice Celebration: Taking a Lead Toward More Civil Discourse

The eleventh Annual Justice Celebration of United Action Connecticut featured the first annual remarks by Johanna Schaefer, new board president of UACT and long-time member of CBSRZ Social Action Committee, and a keynote speech by Andy Schatz, chair of CBSRZ Social Action Committee and board president of the American Civil Liber-
ties Union of Connecticut. The June 21

dinner and celebration honored Father
Russell Kennedy, pastor at St. Francis of
Assisi Church in Middletown, who has
not only served in many Connecticut
parishes for over 40 years but also
served as chaplain for York women's
prison for 11 years.

The remarks of the evening focused on
the emerging importance of working
together to achieve social justice. UACT,
with six member congregations (of
which CBSRZ is the only synagogue and
is joined by two Catholic, two Protestant
and one Episcopal churches) and ten ad-
ditional partner congregations (including
nine churches and one mosque) focuses
on issue advocacy. Please read more
about United Action at uact4justice.org.

Schaefer's remarks focused on “build-
ing bridges.” She noted that this
concept is not only a key part of the
Jewish concept of tikkun olam (“repair-
ing the world”) but is also key to the
teachings and speeches of modern
Christian leaders from Martin Luther
King, Jr. to Pope Francis. She suggested
that UACT “brings people together
to help with this important mission.”

Schaefer also reported on the recent
“Consultation on Conscience,” the
biennial social justice conference of
the Religious Action Center of Reform
Judaism that she and Schatz attended
with Rabbi Marci Bellows this spring.

Schatz addressed “faith-based organiz-
ing” and called for more dialogue among
those with different political views to
replace the collapse of civility that has
accompanied the polarization of the
American public along partisan lines.

Using both stories and statistical surveys,
he suggested that people are increas-
ingly choosing friends and neighbors by
political party and “unfriending” (both
on Facebook and in life) those with
different views. Schatz noted that Con-
necticut towns were evenly split in the
2016 election and that our congrega-
tions include all parties and views. He
said that as faith-based communities, we
should be leaders in the effort to reach
out and dialogue based on common core
values derived from our shared religious
traditions — of feeding the hungry,
sheltering the homeless, caring for the
stranger, and, more generally, of treating
others as we would want to be treated.

Schatz also suggested that congrega-
tions now engage in listening campaigns
among their members to help guide the
legislative work of United Action, whose
members encompass a large portion of
legislative districts throughout central
Connecticut.

Father Kennedy was a most gracious
host and honoree. He not only delivered
prayer and song (he is known for playing
his mandolin at services) but spoke of
the work of so many across communi-
ties. But perhaps most enlightening to
the CBSRZ attendees was his touching
childhood story of his pigtailed Jewish
“love” in First Grade and the confusion
and heartbreak he suffered upon being
told by an adult that she could not go to
heaven. Perhaps United Action and our
other Social Action activities give us the
opportunity to embrace diversity and
teach our children well.
Social Action Committee News  Continued from page 17

High Holiday Food Drive Relieves Hunger Throughout the Valley-Shore Area!

Please start putting aside food for the CBSRZ High Holiday Food Drive.

It has become an annual tradition at CBSRZ to collect and donate over 2000 pounds of food to Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. We can be proud that our collection is one of the largest single annual community food drives benefitting SSKP.

“Food donations traditionally drop during the summer,” said Ellen Rabin, new Executive Director of SSKP. “High Holidays are an important time for replenishing our supplies and ensuring a supply for families in need. Congregants at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek have provided amazing support over the years, and we are so grateful that the congregation is helping again this year.” The need for food assistance is growing among working families, seniors, those with disabilities and single moms.

Andy Schatz, chair of the Social Action Committee, which is sponsoring the High Holiday food drive again, hopes Rabin’s arrival at SSKP will encourage even more support this year. After growing up in the West Hartford Jewish community and spending summers in Old Lyme, Ellen spent her career in non-profit management in California, and has now returned to guide efforts in the valley-shore area. “We look forward to welcoming Ellen at CBSRZ, and what better way than with another hugely successful food drive to honor our Jewish tradition and welcome the New Year,” Schatz said.

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)

SAC will provide bags for the food during Rosh Hashanah and collect food during Yom Kippur, but please feel free to bring food to CBSRZ sooner and drop it off in the entryway. Some of the food collected will go to the Chesed Committee to distribute to our own members who are struggling to make ends meet, including families who live in areas not covered by SSKP.
Communications Survey to Members of CBSRZ

This survey is to help the CBSRZ communications committee and the board understand how you learn about CBSRZ activities, special events and services. Once completed please mail it to the CBSRZ office.

If you would rather like to take the survey online please use this web address: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMNCVBZ

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionaire and sending it in.

Questionnaire:
Do you read the Whole Megillah bimonthly newsletter regularly?
___ Yes in print ___ Yes on the CBSRZ website ___ No
If you answered no, why do you choose not to read it. _________________________________

Do you receive the email CBSRZ weekly eNewsletter? ___ Yes ___ No
If you answered no, and you would like to receive it, please provide your email address _________________________________
If you answered yes, do you feel it has useful information for you? ___ Yes ___ No
How can we improve it? _________________________________

Do you visit the CBSRZ website? ___ Yes ___ No
If you answered yes, how often do you visit the website?
___ frequently ___ once every so often
If you answered yes, what of the following sections of the website do you visit?

Pray
Services ___
Holidays ___
Sermons ___
Music ___

Join ___
Engage
Membership ___
Events ___
Art Exhibits ___
Lifecycles & Celebrations ___
Social Action ___
Chesed ___
Ethical Kashrut ___
Farmland & Community Garden ___

Learn
Youth ___
Adult ___
Holy Scrollers ___

Calendar ___
About
Our Synagogue ___
Our Clergy ___
Our Staff ___
Officers/Board of Directors ___
Pursuer of Peace & Justice Award ___
Resources ___
CBSRZ Cemeteries ___
Give ___

Do you find the website useful? ___ Yes ___ No
Any additional comments about the CBSRZ website _________________________________

Have you signed up for the Member Portal? ___ Yes ___ No
Do you find the Member Portal useful? ___ Yes ___ No
If you answered yes, how do you use? _________________________________
Any additional comments _________________________________

Do you watch live stream of services on the CBSRZ Youtube Channel?
I watch the CBSRZ channel live ___
I watch the CBSRZ channel replays ___
I don’t watch _____

How do hear about special secular events like the Music & More Concert series?
___CBSRZ Email ___ CBSRZ Whole Megillah ___ Received postcard
___CBSRZ Website ___ Picked up flyer at CBSRZ ___ Saw Poster
___ Social Media (e.g. Facebook) ___ Newspapers or Community Calendar ___
Friend/Family/Word of Mouth ___ Other email list ___ Other

Do you use Social Media and if so what platforms do you use?
___ Facebook ___ Twitter ___ Instagram ___SnapChat ___ Youtube
Others, please list them __________________________________________

Are you following CBSRZ on ___ Facebook ___ Twitter ___Youtube?

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AND SENDING IT IN.
Join us for an unforgettable experience!

Together with clergy, staff, and members, we’ll journey to Boston for the URJ Biennial 2017.

Contact:

URJ.org/Biennial  #URJBiennial
Memorial Plaques
Elul 10, 5777 to Tishrei 10, 5778

Louis Alcon
Mary Auster
Kate Baron
Lee Baron
Joseph Belport
Belle Birnbaum Rodkin
Herbert Breslow
Theodora Chaimovitz
Min Chiat
Marcia Cohen
Irwin Davidson
Milton Davis
Phyllis G. Diamond
Morris Divins
Tom Doyle
Henry Drobiarz
Esther Farber
Harriet Feldman
Raymond O. Fielding
Beatrice Fischbach
Harry Fischbach
Lola Fischer
Alan Fishman
Adele Fox
Herman Frankel
Lillian Goldstein
Murray Goldstein
Murray Goldstein
Carol Ruth Goodman
Sarah Gottfried
Ruth Gottlieb
Mortimer Hays
Jeanne Hoberman
Joey Horton
Irene Kemp
Lowell Klappholz
William Konecky
Benjamin Lake
Caral Lebworth
Rose Lewinant
Doris Levin
Isabelle Medina
Albert Meschmar
Esther Miller
Rita Nirenstein
Leah Katz Pear
Jean Polstein
Tillie Polstein
Henry Price
Doris Reiner
Hortense Ross
Ida Sacks
Ada Sager
Saly Scherer
Nancy Suismann Schneieller
Max Schuman
Saul Segalman
Adele Siker
Fanny Sobol
Irving Sobolov
Philip Spragin
Morris Sprecher
Sophia Starr
Bernard Strick
Dale Taylor
Robert A. Tobis
Felix Wald
Marie Waldinger
Melvile S. Wein
Edith Weissman
Bruce White
Rabbi Harold Saul White
Morris Wolff
Jennie Young

Memorial Plaques
Tishrei 11, 5778 to Heshvan 11, 5778

Daniel Alan Altman
Bella Astrove
Harry Baron
Isaac Baron
Celia Baum
Denise Berwick
Araham Blecher
Mendel Bloch
David Bockstein
Abraham Brittain
Sandra Burzini
Mene Case
Anna Cirulnik
Dorothy Cohen
Lester Feld
Max Frankel
Elizabeth Friedman

Yahrzeits
Elul 10, 5777 to Tishrei 10, 5778

Louis Alcon – father of Hyla Cohen
Joseph Belport – father of Barbara Davis
Marcia Cohen – sister of Hila Rosen
Irwin Davidson – father of Shari Faley
Milton Davis – father of Jeffrey Davis
Tom Doyle – husband of Jane Doyle and friend of Carol LeWitt and Bruce Josephy
Henry Drobiarz – father of Martin Drobiarz
Esther Farber – mother of Beverly Glassman
Harriet Feldman – grandmother of Tracy Kleinberg
Raymond O. Fielding – grandmother of Irving Friedman
Beatrice Fischbach – grandmother of Nancy Fischbach
Harry Fischbach – grandmother of Nancy Fischbach
Lola Fischer – grandmother of Rick Hurnung
Alan Fishman – father of Jonathan Fishman
Adele Fox – stepmother of Kevin Fox
Carol Ruth Goodman – sister of Linda Polomski
Ruth Gottlieb – mother of Robert Gottlieb
Jeanne Hoberman – mother of Harvey Hoberman
Joey Horton – brother of Joan Horton
Irene Kemp – mother of Linda Rigano
Lowell Klappholz – husband of Lorraine Klappholz
William Konecky – father of Sean Konecky
Caral Lebworth – mother of Alva Greenberg
Doris Levin – mother of Stephanie Arbige
Isabelle Medina – granddaughter of Maia & Kay Chiat
Esther Miller – grandmother of Ellen Friedman
Rita Nirenstein – mother of Nancy Scharz
Leah Katz Pear – mother of Sidney and Adrienne Hopfer
Doris Reiner – sister of Marilyn Kalot
Hortense Ross – sister of Herb Ross
Saly Scherer – grandmother of Belinda Brennan
Nancy Suismann Schneieller – mother of Juliet & John Van Enevly
Saal Segalman – uncle to Peg Palmer
Fanny Sobol – mother of Beatrice Case
Irving Sobolov – father of Susan Sobolov-Jaynes
Philip Spragin – brother of Shelley Spragin
Dale Taylor – father of Scott Taylor
Robert A. Tobis – father of Justine Redak
Felix Wald – father of Marc Wald
Edith Weissman – grandmother of Laura Roman
Bruce White – first husband of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Rabbi Harold Saul White – uncle of Marilyn White-Gottfried
Morris Wolff – father of Daniel Wolff

Yahrzeits
Tishrei 11, 5778 to Heshvan 11, 5778

Mendel Bloch – grandfather of Michael Craig
Sandra Burzini – mother of Jeffrey Burzini
Mene Case – mother of Lewis Case
Anna Cirulnik – grandmother of Ellen Friedman
Dorothy Cohen – loved one of Solomon Tilles
Lester Feld – father of Gail Feld
George Glassman – father of Ron Glassman and Richard Glassman
Norma Glassman – mother of Ron Glassman and Richard Glassman
Albert Goller – father of Ethan Goller
Joseph Friedman
Hindle Gall
Anna Gelper
Solomon Ginsberg
George Glassman
Norma Glassman
Sol Goldstein
Albert Goller
Beatrice Gottfried
Nathan Gottlieb
Leonora Hays
Rosa Kabatznick
Howard Kaplan
Max Krasner
Barbara Krohn
Sam Krupnickoff
Lloyd Levin
Ann Samuels Levine
David Levine
Ida Levinson
Bernard LeWitt
Betthie LeWitt
Sidney LeWitt
Nathan Luchnick
Morris Mackover
Clara Magor
Nat Mason
Elaine Melion
Beatrice Gottfried – mother of Corinne Weber
Nathan Gottlieb – father of Henry Gottlieb
Leonora Hays – wife of David Hays
Rachel Ickovics – mother of Jeannette Ickovics
Howard Kaplan – husband of Pauline Kaplan
Max Krasner – father of Roni Berson Weiner
Barbara Krah – cousin of Melanie Glassman
Lloyd Levin – father of Stephanie Arbig
Ann Samuels Levine – relative of Steven & Franci Ross
Sidney LeWitt – father of Jim Cohen
Nathan Luchnick – father of Lois Glazer
Nat Mason – father of Stephen Mason
Elaine Mellion – mother of Eileen Iberman
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
Libby Peck – mother of Michael Peck
Paul Peck – father of Michael Peck
Harriet Pepper – mother of Andi Pepper Jacobs
Elinor Reiner – wife of Irving Reiner
Rita Ruzansk – mother of Susan Bush
Morris Savitt – grandfather of Susan Savitt and Charles Savitt
Martin Sykin – father of Adele Sykin
Harry Schwartz – father-in-law of Irving Shiffman
Sadie Case Sharp – sister of Lewis Case
Nathan Sigal – grandfather of Peggy Palmer
Charles Thorpe – father of Tyler Thorpe
Sam Tilles – son of David Tilles and grandson of Sol Tilles
Rose Weintraub – mother of Marcy Saltzman
Aaron Weissman – grandfather of Laura Roman
Sarah Zomback – mother of Beth Brewer

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>7:30pm 1st Friday Shabbat Elul Service</td>
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<td>10:30am Shabbat service and Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Infeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>11:00am Adult B’not Mitzvah Class</td>
<td>3:00pm SSKP Board meeting</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan 4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>7:00 pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>7:30pm Shabbat Elul Series Service with Piano</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>17 26 ELUL</td>
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<td>21 1 TISHRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala 9:00am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 11:00am Tashlich Walk 12:00pm - 1:30pm Gesher (Gr 5-9) 12:00pm - 1:30pm Makam (Gr 10)</td>
<td>5:00pm - 8:00pm Social Action Committee</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan 4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah No Morning Minyan 7:30pm Erev RH Service</td>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah Office closed 9:30am RH Morning Service 2:30pm Children’s Service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>24 4 TISHRI</td>
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<td>29 9 TISHRI</td>
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<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7) 10:30am Education Committee Meeting 1:00pm Cemetery Service at Fountain Hill 2:30pm Cemetery Service at Rudof Zatik</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan 4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>4:00pm - 6:00pm Soup Kitchen - Deep River Meal Site 7:00pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>4:00pm - 6:00pm Soup Kitchen - Deep River Meal Site 7:00pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>4:00pm - 6:00pm Soup Kitchen - Deep River Meal Site 7:00pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>Erev Yom Kippur 9:30am Yom Kippur Service 2:00pm Children’s Service 3:30pm YK Afternoon service with Yiskor and Neilah, followed by the Break the Fast</td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
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<td>5 15 TISHRI</td>
<td>6 16 TISHRI</td>
<td>7 17 TISHRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am Build Sukkah</td>
<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years)</td>
<td>5:30pm Facilities Meeting</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>5:30pm Office closed</td>
<td>5:45pm Hang in Sukkah Potluck Dinner</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>(Gr K-7)</td>
<td>6:30 pm Communications Committee</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>5:45pm Brown Bag Dinner</td>
<td>6:45pm 1st Friday Erev Shabbat Sukkot Service &amp; New Member Blessing</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>8 18 TISHRI</td>
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<td>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</td>
<td>10:30am Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>1:00pm Adult B’not Mitzvah Class</td>
<td>3:00 pm SSJP Board</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>5:45pm Pre-service Pizza</td>
<td>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>15 25 TISHRI</td>
<td>16 26 TISHRI</td>
<td>17 27 TISHRI</td>
<td>18 28 TISHRI</td>
<td>19 29 TISHRI</td>
<td>20 30 TISHRI</td>
<td>21 HESHVAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</td>
<td>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</td>
<td>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</td>
<td>7:00pm Education Committee</td>
<td>7:00pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service with Choir</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala (Birth to 4 Years)</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>10:00am - 1:30pm Gesher (Gr 8-9)</td>
<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm Makom</td>
<td>7:00pm Education Committee &amp; 7:00pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service &amp; Choir</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 2 HESHVAN</td>
<td>23 3 HESHVAN</td>
<td>24 4 HESHVAN</td>
<td>25 5 HESHVAN</td>
<td>26 6 HESHVAN</td>
<td>27 HESHVAN</td>
<td>28 8 HESHVAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>10:30am Education Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Belozer</td>
<td>8:00am Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:00 pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat with Piano - early service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am Jewish Spiritual Parenting</td>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>11:00am - 2:00pm Books &amp; Bagels: House of Peace &amp; Justice: CBSG’s 1st 100 Years</td>
<td>4:15 pm Kadima</td>
<td>7:00 pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat with Piano - early service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 9 HESHVAN</td>
<td>30 10 HESHVAN</td>
<td>31 11 HESHVAN</td>
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</table>
Mama Loshen  By Marilyn Kalet

A Lantsman
A countryman! (discovery that someone comes from the same part of the world that you do)
(Two New Yorkers meeting in Paris might use this exclamation)

Nu, vos hert zich
So, what’s new?

Azoy goyt
And so it goes
(Recently a Broadway show entitled “And So it Goes” opened......I guess they could have called it Azoy goyt es...... hmmm.)

Zay nit keyn
Don’t be a stranger
(This parting word from a host means: Keep in touch, let’s hear from you)