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The following is excerpted from Rabbi Bellows’ Yom Kippur morning sermon. As human beings, it is so natural to ponder – to whom do I belong? There are so many different answers. Identity is more fractionalized and complex, determined by such factors as country, language, gender expression, profession, political party, socioeconomic status, and religion. Each of these components makes up our identity like pieces of a pie.

For many of us, identifying the Jewish slice of that pie or its importance among the other pieces has become increasingly difficult.

What is the binding agent that connects us to the Jewish people? What helps us feel like we belong? There is fear that loyalty to Judaism may be waning among younger generations of Jews, who tend to dislike labels and prefer more fluid lifestyles. They may seek out the Jewish community to fulfill current needs, such as a lifecycle ceremony or the education of their children, rather than regarding synagogue membership or involvement as a lifetime commitment.

We in the leadership all feel fortunate that you have chosen to belong here, to CBSRZ. You belong to the CBSRZ family. And I don’t use the word “family” lightly.

Let me share with you why we should make that Jewish piece of the pie, and the CBSRZ piece of the pie, more present in our lives in this new year.

WHY belong to CBSRZ?

In order to come together as a Jewish community so that we can care for each other and the world.

We really care about each other here, and it is heartwarming and inspiring, every day that I have a chance to witness it and be part of it. We learn each other’s names. You find your own unique place, on your own terms, within our larger structure. We care when you aren’t around.

You may recall receiving a phone call from a member of our Board of Directors over the past few weeks. Our lay leadership wanted to wish you a Good New Year, as well as learn more about why CBSRZ is special to you and what you’d like to see more of here. More than two-thirds of those who answered shared that it is our community which is most precious to them. And that is remarkable.

Additionally, many of us express a deep desire for spirituality and connection with something greater than ourselves, and numerous paths are open to you.

Some connect with the Divine through prayer or music. Some through learning our sacred texts or languages. Some through guided meditation or walking through our meditation garden. Some through performing acts of Tikun Olam and good deeds which change the world. All of these actions, whether we think consciously about it or not, allow us to experience the Oneness which unites us all.

We strive to be inclusive and welcoming to folks with all different kinds of stories or journeys which led you to CBSRZ. No matter what brought you here, welcome home. We are proud to have active members of all ages at CBSRZ. And all ages are invited to learn with us, participate and interact with us, and help shape CBSRZ into what you envision it could be. We have babies, we have nonagenarians, and every age in between.

And, we really hope you just enjoy being here. That you find meaning in our well-curated art exhibits. That you are moved and entertained by our musical performances. That you find yourself sitting on the comfy couches just outside the sanctuary and engaged in friendly conversation.

So, chaverim, I have a job for you. On this Day of At-One-Ment, 5779, I invite you to do five things:

1) Be proud of your involvement with CBSRZ. Continue to think about why this community is so special to you, and help us take steps to ensure that it remains for generations to come.

2) If you are feeling disconnected from CBSRZ, please reach out to one of us in the staff or leadership, anyone with whom you feel comfortable, and talk with us. We’d love to understand more, and we’d be honored to help you find your place here.

3) If you are feeling disconnected from the Jewish community, please let me or Cantor Belinda know. We’d love to talk with you, and help you along a path to a new feeling of belonging and being at home in our faith tradition.

4) Learn something new – some new piece of Jewish text, some new part of a lifecycle event, or something new about a Jewish ritual. The more you know, the more you’ll feel like a confident, competent part of the community. Explore your heritage, discuss it, and debate it. Try a new ritual. You might decide that you don’t like it, or that it isn’t meaningful to you, but you will have experimented and expanded your own Jewish identity. You will have made an INFORMED CHOICE about your own Jewish life.

5) Make a new friend here at CBSRZ. So many wonderful people are here, and we all have unique stories to tell.

And may we all have a good and healthy new year. Amen.

L’shalom – In peace,
Rabbi Marci N. Bellows
Dear Friends and Fellow Congregants:

I want to begin by wishing each and everyone of you Good Yentif and hope 5779 brings us closer to our families, our friends, and to our community in peace and in good health.

As I have the greatest honor to stand on this bima and address you as President of our congregation, I look out upon this grand sanctuary and I see our Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek family.

I see love.

I see unity.

On this most solemn day I see and I feel forgiveness, inclusion and acceptance. Therefore, I see and feel Peace in this House of Peace.

I see a holiness and goodness in all of you, and hence, as I look at you all, I see and I feel G-d’s presence.

At the beginning of our service, our Choir and Cantor bring our mind set into worship by singing Ma Tovu:

How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel!
As for me, through Your abundant grace, I enter your house to worship with awe in Your sacred place.

While these words bring us to the Israelite camp of Bedouin tents encircling the Tabernacle extending over the desert plains prior to crossing the Jordan, this verse reminds us of the awe and the beauty of this sacred place, as we worship as one.

When Sol Lewitt designed our sanctuary, I believe he knew that each of the unique features of his design would keep the inattentive congregant in holy thought. So, I need to make a confession. I know it may be hard to believe but there are moments in the service where my attention just wanders off.

I gaze upward and stare upon those magnificent beams that create the Mogen Davud: The Star of David frame that supports our sanctuary from above.

My eyes wander to study the selected divine phrases from Torah inscribed in gold leaf on the beams of each wall, reminding us of God’s holiness and our obligation as a nation of Israel to live as a holy people by pursuing peace, justice, and truth through Torah, worship, and acts of tzedakah — righteous giving.

I look beyond the Rabbi and Cantor and I become entranced with the ark presenting its magnificent design and colors.

Certainly, I know I am not alone.
How lovely is it to take in the splendid landscape and the exterior structure of this holy building as you approach from East Kings Highway when you came here this morning, or any morning?

Our community has a beautiful sacred place here at CBSRZ that we all can proudly call our home.

For the past seventeen years, we have come together here to weave our Jewish identity and our spirituality. We learn together, celebrate together and support one another in times of need or loss. This is the Center of our Jewish life. We are a Jewish family, and this is our family’s home!

However, please take the time to look around carefully and you will see that the exterior of our synagogue, specifically our siding and roof, needs repair, replacement, and restoration. With the changing environment, modifications for better functionality and safety are necessary as well.

During these Days of Awe, we focus on our inner soul, and we work on mending and restoring ourselves so that we can be more effective as G-d’s partners in Tikun Olam for the soul that we can be more effective as mending and restoring ourselves on our inner soul, and we work on During these Days of Awe, we focus and safety are necessary as well.

My fellow congregants, it is now imperative that we as a united congregational family take the necessary action to preserve and to protect our Jewish Home.

Twenty years have passed since we last launched a Capital Campaign. It was so successful that we were able to build our holy space on this large parcel of land and pay off the mortgage within months. We were fortunate in that we had many very generous benefactors. All of us benefited and continue to benefit from their generosity. Sadly, many of them are no longer with us. But their legacy lives on, as they were among the many who built this house and made it our congregational home.

What made the campaign truly successful was that nearly every Congregant contributed and thus was able to take joy in the Mitzvah of Righteous Giving knowing that part of each of them lives in CBSRZ forever. We are all rewarded for these gifts every time we enter this shul, and yes, our legacy will be here as long as this building stands.

With this in mind, Rabbi Bellows reminded me of the Midrash involving Honi, a famous first-century Jewish sage. It goes like this:

One day Honi was journeying on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked, "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied: "Seventy years." Honi then further asked him: "Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?" The man replied: "I found already grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me, so I too plant these for my children."

In order to protect our home now and preserve it for our children and generations that come after us, it is essential that we launch a Capital Campaign for our Second Century.

Everyone will have the opportunity to give out of love for this sacred place. We hope that those of us with means will feel compelled to give generously and feel appreciation from within for the goodness of their philanthropy. Equally as important, those of us with financial constraints will have the opportunity to fulfill the Mitzvah of Tzedakah by giving whatever they can. We are a congregation that recognizes that a small gift from some can be a bigger personal expense than a large gift from others. This is and always has been the spirit of CBSRZ. Any gift is precious. Thus, every one of us can savor the benefit of knowing that part of each of us and our legacy lives in CBSRZ forever.

Exodus 25:2 states: "And G-d said to Moses, Tell the Israelites to bring Me an offering for the Tabernacle. You are to receive My offering from only those whose hearts are compelled." My fellow congregants, as I believe you have been spiritually uplifted throughout these High Holiday Services in our beautiful sacred place we call House of Peace, Pursuers of Justice, it is my prayer that all of our hearts stay compelled throughout this year to do what we can to preserve our home (and our legacy) through the Mitzvah of righteous giving.

Like these beams that surround us and merge above to form the Mogen Davud to frame our sanctuary, our synagogue needs our support.

G’Mar ChatiMAH Tovah.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year.
Siblings Vlad Smolkin (artist) and Victoria Smolkin (Russian History Professor) will be joining forces on Sunday, November 11, at 4 pm, to share their work with the public at a new and revamped Main Street Gallery Art Opening/Books & Bagels Talk at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester.

Sharing space at CBSRZ seems to be a highly appropriate thing for this brother and sister to do, since each of them is heavily invested in space of one sort or the other. Vlad Smolkin describes himself as a VERY Reformed Jew with strong cultural ties to his Jewish heritage. He believes that "The essence of all religions is wonder, and Judaism embraces that essence...Art-making is a faith system that weaves in and out of all religions." Smolkin's work begs the question "What is faith... what do we structure our faith around...ideas, physical objects..." His work references movements such as the Hudson River School in which artists see G-d through idyllic landscapes.

Although serious at its core, Smolkin's art is often whimsical, almost "nonsensical" (Smolkin's comment). His outer space series, for example, envisions how Judaism might exist on other planets such as Mars and the transfer of the Western Wall to Mars or the last vestige of our Jewish humanity being the cultivation of flowers on Mars.

Smolkin has been making art that relates to Judaism since childhood. In 1988 four-year-old Smolkin and his family immigrated to the United States from the Soviet Union, in part because of their experience as Jews who were treated especially badly as both religious and ethnic outsiders. Although he did not grow up religious, his "...family history is marked by intolerance, oppression and murder based on the fact that they were Jewish." Now, living in the United States, Smolkin feels "...a strong attachment to his ethnic and cultural Jewishness and to the history of his family."

"Questions of faith and identity are always present in my work — especially because, for me, being an artist is itself a faith system and world view, a perspective on life's big questions and an attitude about people and things. I do not keep kosher. I do not subscribe fully to the stories of the Tanakh, and I struggle with the concept of a unifying G-d force. With that said, I do not consider myself to be any less Jewish than more traditional Jews. The works that I will present at CBSRZ explore the contradictions and complexities of this attitude using humor and an idiosyncratic approach to art making. Self-criticism, irony and humor have always been central to Jewish life and culture, and there is a rich history of Jewish artists, comedians and musicians doing just this. I see myself as working within and continuing this tradition. My works often depict unconventional meeting points and overlaps between groups and cultures: to explore commonality rather than difference in the most unexpected places."

Victoria Smolkin, a professor of history at Wesleyan University, will be bringing us her new book *A Sacred Space is Never Empty*, in which she explores the history of atheism in the Soviet Union and shows how, in different ways during differing periods of Soviet history, atheism was reimagined as an alternative cosmology that in the end failed to take hold and replace the religious beliefs that never really disappeared during the Soviet period.

*A Sacred Space is Never Empty* has been greeted with critical acclaim. Paul W. Werth, author of *The Tsar's Foreign Faiths: Toleration and the Fate of Religious Freedom in Imperial Russia*, wrote: "This splendid
book skillfully reveals the changing nature of religion in the USSR, the limits of secularization under Communism, and the important place of spirituality in the twentieth century. Smolkin exposes the striking irony of how Soviet authorities found themselves trying to replicate the spiritual and emotional offerings of religion even as they sought to destroy it."

Denis Kozlov, author of *The Readers of “Novyi Mir”, Coming to Terms with the Stalinist Past* notes: "This is a very important book, highly innovative and superbly researched. Smolkin has written nothing less than a history of the making — and subsequent unmaking — of Soviet atheism. A must-read."

Catriona Kelly, in the *Times Literary Supplement*, called the book "engaging and informative" and described its prose as lively and often entertaining.

Vlad and Victoria will be sharing their work with us in our space at CBSRZ on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 4 pm. This opening reception is open to the public at no charge.

Vlad's art will be on display, available for sale, in our Main Street Gallery, and Victoria's book will also be available both for sale and for autographing after she gives a talk on the origin of and impetus behind her book. Her family's background and experience were no less pivotal for her than it was for her brother in determining the direction she was to follow — specializing in Soviet and contemporary Russian history. She has written that her historian's interest in the forces that shape human experience led her to focus on the institutions and structures of power that shape culture and everyday life: politics, ideology, and religion. That in turn led her to investigate how
modern states, in their efforts to mobilize citizens for particular political and economic goals, shape lived experience through various ideological and cultural projects. Certainly, an important, topical and thought-provoking subject in our day. But one that will be leavened by Vlad’s whimsical art and the always ample refreshments and beverages, this time thematically adapted to include blintzes, blinis and, who knows, perhaps a little vodka?

Vlad Smolkin’s exhibit can be viewed Monday through Friday, 10am–3pm, November, December, 2018, and the first three weeks of January, 2019. And be sure to come to a new type of art opening/book event on Sunday, November 11, at 4 pm, and share our ‘Sacred Space’ with both Smolkins, their thought-provoking insights and the fascinating work they have created.
We want to send a heartfelt thank you to the 140 plus congregants that participated in our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Many of you get nervous but we truly appreciate your participation. Our Torah readers and Hebrew Haftarah readers are a very special group and obviously have the hardest job. Those that were asked to open the ark, or have an aliyah, or read one of the English prayers, were chosen because they help make CBSRZ what it is today. These are our Board members, our Committee Chairs and our volunteers. Without them, CBSRZ would not be the spiritual and lively place that it is. It was wonderful to see you all up on the bima along with our beloved Rabbi, Cantor and choir. Every year, we come up with a theme for the Kol Nidre Torah holders. This year’s theme was congregants who have been members for twenty or more years. Fortunately for us, we have many such congregants and had to pick a representation so the bima didn’t get too crowded!

On behalf of your Gabbis, we wish you a healthy and sweet new year.

—Kevin Fox and Laura Roman

Religious Affairs At CBSRZ

Celebrate the Festival of Lights!!

Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat and the sixth night of Chanukah! On Friday December 7 at 6:00pm we will have a NON-DAIRY potluck dinner. A gorgeous brisket is being provided by Bob Zemmel of Alforno Restaurant and CBSRZ will provide latkes and beverages. We ask that those coming for dinner to bring a meat dish, or other non-dairy side dishes (salads, latkes, vegetables, rice, etc.). Services will begin at 7:00pm when we will be joined by our beautiful choir. Please bring your favorite menorah and seven candles; we will continue our tradition of lighting all of the menorahs and basking in the glow of the candle light. Oneg will follow services.

This promises to be a great evening, but we will need help! Beginning at 4:00 pm, Liz Jones and Sue Peck will be working in the kitchen at LATKEPALOOZA making the delicious latkes we will be eating at dinner. If you are able, please come and help them! You can simply come to help, or bring your own latke batter to add to the festivities. Please contact Liz Jones if you are interested in helping, sagenbasil@aol.com.

Gabbi Report

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—Kevin Fox and Laura Roman
Kivvun Korner

Happy Birthday! Yom Huledet Sameach!

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ATTENTION: Looking for philosophers, satirists, humorists, Rabbis, scholars, scientists, artists, mystics, mathematicians, cantors, doctors, therapists, humanists, poets, etc. who would be interested in participating at CBSRZ on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019. Time to be announced.

This will be a mock-formal debate, in true academic style. Participants will march into the Great Hall of CBSRZ (social hall) in full academic regalia, to the strains of 'Pomp and Circumstance', with flunkies holding banners for each ‘side’, one banner for Latkes, one for Hamantaschen.

The moderator, Rabbi Bellows, will start the proceedings by making a few remarks about the historical significance of this momentous event, then introducing, one by one, each of the debaters with short and pithy recital of his/her credentials (faux credentials, if you please).

The debaters will sit in a row behind the podium. Presentations can vary in length from short and sweet to long and ponderous, and will be staggered with long ones preceded and followed by short ones.

The audience will act as judges for the debate and vote for a winner at the end of the proceedings. The moderator, Rabbi Bellows, will announce the winner but may decide, as moderator, to use her power to 'moderate' the final score(s).

Examples of thrust of different arguments:

Anti Arguments:
- Anti-Hamantaschen - Hamantaschen come from a violent story.
- Anti-Latke - Latkes are made of potatoes which contributed to the Irish famine.

Pro Arguments:
- Pro-Latke: The latke represents warmth, a mother's love and the case rests.
- Pro-Hamantaschen - The triangular shape of Hamantaschen is symbolic to Jews. Two triangles make a Jewish star.

Food (obviously, latkes and hamantaschen) will be served as will liquid refreshment, including wine.

CBSRZ Yarn Crafters
– ShelleySprague

For the last 6 months or so, the CBSRZ Chesed Yarn Crafters have been knitting and crocheting 6 inch by 6 inch squares for an organization called Project Amigo, in addition to the comfort shawls and chemo caps that we create for Yale-New Haven Hospital and Hospice. Project Amigo is a charity that supports students in Colima, rural western Mexico so that they can create their own educational opportunities and better their quality of life.

The foundation removes the financial barriers to education through scholarships that include school fees, transportation, uniforms and school supplies, and a hot lunch.

Many scholarship students live in unheated homes in the mountains where it can get down to the 50s at night. The hope is that the afghans will help keep the students warm on chilly nights, contribute to many nights of restful sleep and lead to alert students who do much better academically.

In July our group held a Knit-in at CBSRZ and collected 160 squares! On August 8, I drove to Cheshire to meet Sam Brown and to drop off our squares. It was so much fun to go down to Sam and Sharon's basement, which is totally dedicated to the cause, to see the meticulously sorted thousands of colorful knitted and crocheted squares that are waiting to be sorted into lots of 96 (the amount of one afghan). There are individuals and groups from 48 states busily creating these beautiful squares and sending them to Cheshire. Sam just shipped 16 large boxes, each containing 9 packages of 96 squares, to Mexico, and there are many more needing to be bundled.

The CBSRZ Yarn Crafters will be reaching out to area senior centers and knitting groups to see if we can double the number of squares we donate next time! So, if you are inspired to join us, contact me at spragueshelley@gmail.com.
PICTURE GALLERY

Doing what we do best.
The congregation unspools a Torah scroll to celebrate Simchat Torah.
Consecration ceremony in the sanctuary: 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 the Jewish tradition.
CBSRZ VP Amy Conley addresses the crowd at the dedication of the Syd and Bernie Slater Meditation Garden. 

Dedication of the Syd and Bernie Slater Meditation Garden.

Erica Udoff and Linda Pinn present contribution from the Art Gallery Committee.

Liv and Noa González Lesser (Liv on left, Noa on right)

Twins. Doubly welcome

Ellie and Evan Philips
There are many reasons we explore genealogy or (my preference) family history. One friend likes to see how far back his family can be traced through the computer. Another friend proudly shares his pre-Mayflower roots. Still others work in a determined way (and against some “brick walls”) for basic documentation, such as Marcia, my wife.

Some are handed published research (my German side.) Others are content to find in written history enough information to understand what it was like in that time and place for families, without having all the documentation or knowing specific details. (I wondered what my Russian side ate on the ships they came on and there it is in books today.)

By borrowing books through your local library, such as *Photographing the Jewish Nation: Pictures from S. Ansky’s Ethnographic Expeditions* (Brandeis Univ. Press; Univ. Press of New England, 2009), you can see what Czarist Russia looked and felt like for people in the Pale. Or you can visit outstanding free, nearby exhibits as an individual or on a group tour: https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/visit/permanent-visiting-exhibits

Another path to the past is through attending conferences and weekend programs, as Marcia and I did in October at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. We had attended another program there two years ago but this one was truly outstanding. The Center brings in eminent scholars, who are excellent in communicating. In this instance it was Gabriella Safran, very knowledgeable Professor in Jewish Studies at Stanford University.

Over three days, we explored the life and writings of S. Ansky, Russian and Yiddish writer, ethnographer, and revolutionary. He wrote *The Dybbuk*, the cornerstone of the Jewish theater in both Hebrew and Yiddish, during devastating war and violent revolutions. Professor Safran led us in learning about the writer’s life and work and the connections between political crisis and Jewish creativity through lectures, a film screening, guided readings, and much discussion among the participants, who came from around the country with a wide range of ages and backgrounds. For the next such weekends, call 413/256-4900, or look at: https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org

Still another path to the past (and forward to the present) is to reflect on our own stories, as I did 30 years ago, during an earlier national debate on immigration, when I wrote:

*We walked across the frozen Bering Strait*

And spread out across the land,
explored the northeast coast
But decided not to stay,
came in search of opportunity
And found it,
came for religious freedom
But not for everybody,
were forced to come, and remained,
*If we didn’t die during the passage,*
were starving and had no other choice,
So we worked and prospered,
were fleeing tyranny,
And heard about this land,
came to be with family,
*But didn’t always stay,*
had no choice,
If we wanted to live.
*We came on ships*
planes
any transport
walked
hid
bribed
lied.
*We are here now.*
*We all came here.*

(By the way, my Russian family came through “chain migration,” _as the first ones worked to save money to bring the others._)
We hosted Thanksgiving for many years. In addition to family, we started inviting friends who didn’t have extended families in the area. We have been as large a group as 25 in all, different ages, different religions, different regions of origin and different diets. We planned for vegetarians, vegans, gluten-frees and pickies. And my sister and her husband keep kosher. The first year, we even bought an organic, free-range, kosher turkey, but my son and I were up until 2am pulling out pinfeathers with pliers, so we’ve had a little low-key kosher turkey since, and one year a minister friend who’s a great cook made a kosher turducken!

Most fascinating has been the potatoes. As our guests offered to bring various dishes, someone asked about bringing “the” mashed potatoes. I’ve occasionally liked mashed potatoes, but I realized I’d never been to a Thanksgiving with mashed potatoes before. I’ve never eaten mashed potatoes before.

I was intrigued, so I did an informal survey. Sure enough, every one of our non-Jewish guests had always had mashed potatoes on the Thanksgiving table. None of our guests who’d grown up with two Jewish parents had ever had mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving.

It’s not hard to figure out why. Mashed potatoes have (or is it “has”) milk. Milk and turkey isn’t kosher (or is it “aren’t” — but I digress).

But almost none of the Jewish guests (other than my brother-in-law) had a family tradition of kashrut for at least several generations. Indeed, most of our Jewish guests eat treif and have no problem with their Thanksgiving pie a la mode. Yet, the tradition for Jewish families of only sweet potatoes remained. Despite significant and regular publicity in the general press about people serving mashed potatoes at Thanksgiving.

Traditions are that way. We talk of mindfulness, yet many decisions seem to be because we’ve always done it that way. Religious customs, political affiliation, and other “identities” often tend to follow those of our parents. Traditions provide comfort — as does family — and Thanksgiving is nothing if not family and comfort.

I’m thankful for the mashed potatoes, though I don’t eat them: always the sweet potatoes. And it is fun — and important — to make everyone feel at home.

Celebrate diversity!

Historical note: Neither potatoes nor sweet potatoes were likely included in the original Thanksgiving, though both had been brought back to Europe by early explorers of South America, and both were plentiful in Europe by the time of the Plymouth and Jamestown colonies. Mashed potatoes were included in cookbooks as early as the mid-eighteenth century, and sweet potatoes not long after. Perhaps also of interest, candied yams, a Thanksgiving favorite, used meringue until about 1919, when there was a big push to use the newly introduced marshmallow; the popular switch from meringue to the generally non-kosher marshmallow does not appear causally related to the severe anti-immigrant sentiment at that time.

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**Shrink Wrapped at BOOKS & BAGELS**

On Sunday, December 9, Books & Bagels will be welcoming Irene Silvers (Silberstein) and her new novel, *Shrink Wrapped*, a humorous, contemporary love story. This witty and irreverent tale tracks Sophie Mark’s remarkable and amusing journey to find empowerment and happiness in a world of messy relationships and surprising twists. Irene will delight us with readings from the book and the story of bringing this book to fruition. Come prepared to be highly entertained!
Constance Baker Motley, Chester’s Civil Rights Giant—Human Rights Shabbat December 14 at 7:30 pm

On the evening of December 14, following a short Shabbat service for Human Rights Shabbat (beginning at 7:30 pm), CBSRZ will host a presentation and discussion of the life and work of Constance Baker Motley, who as a key civil rights lawyer and strategist, elected official and judge helped dismantle segregation in America. Born in New Haven, she worked with Thurgood Marshall, as a lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, including on the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case. She was later elected to the New York State Senate, was the first female elected as Manhattan Borough President and first African American woman appointed a Federal District Court Judge. Judge Motley spent weekends, vacations and holidays at her home at 99 Cedar Lake Road in Chester from 1965 until her death in 2005.

Writer, activist and historian Marta Daniels will lead a discussion after presenting Crusader for Justice, a power-point slide show she created exploring Judge Motley’s life as a lawyer, public servant and judge, as well as her life spent in Chester. Ms. Daniels, author of three books, dozens of academic papers and hundreds of research papers and op-ed articles, spent a 35-year professional career focused on expanding and improving civic engagement on public policy issues of peace, justice and economic inequality. She helped organize the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign conceived by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She remains a political and civil rights activist as well as serving as a trustee of the Chester Historical Society and member of the Chester Land Trust.

Sponsored by Truah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, Human Rights Shabbat celebrates International Human Rights Day on December 10, the date on which the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

The Constance Baker Motley Preserve on Cedar Lake Road in Chester, across from the Motley’s home from 1985 to 2005, was created last year by the Chester Land Trust and contains a written and pictorial history of Judge Motley’s life in Chester.

CBSRZ TO HOST LEGISLATIVE FORUM MARCH 7

Regardless of who wins when Connecticut goes to the polls this month, profound issues will face our government in 2019. With expected deficits in the billions, hard choices are likely, and prioritization among programs will be critical.

Against this backdrop, the CBSRZ Social Action Committee will host a legislative forum on Thursday March 7. We will look at several possible areas for legislative advocacy. These may or may not require financial appropriations. We particularly look for issues that involve essential Jewish commandments and traditions.

SAC invites all members of CBSRZ to submit issues for consideration. What issues raised during the campaign resonate with you? As the parties prepare their agendas over the next two months, what issues should we air? As organizations that you value tell you of their goals – or concerns – please pass those along to andy@andrewschatz.com.

And then come be part of the discussion and decision.

JEWS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT – OUR DISCUSSION CONTINUES

Please hold Friday evening January 18 – the start of the weekend honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

The Social Action Committee has traditionally hosted an MLK weekend event focusing on civil rights. Last year, we showed a film about Rabbi Joachim Prinz, one of Dr. King’s friends and colleagues, who spoke immediately following Dr. King at the 1963 March on Washington, urging that in the face of discrimination “the most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence.” A talk by Judge Clifton Graves, Jr., and discussion that followed, highlighted the role that the Jew-
ish community played in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

This year, we hope to continue that discussion. We will be joined by a representative of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). It has long been noted that the RAC conference room is where lawyers drafted much of the civil rights legislation of the 1960s, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We will try to explore more deeply the historic relationship between the Jewish and African American communities – and where we go from here.

**YORK PRISON TO HOST CBSRZ BOOK CLUB AND CHOIR**

York Correctional Institution, the all female prison in Niantic and only women's prison in Connecticut, has accepted two CBSRZ proposals for ongoing projects.

CBSRZ and York will assemble a joint women's book club, to meet at York and discuss books chosen by the entire group. We anticipate meetings once a month beginning soon. Dates and times have not yet been selected, and will probably be determined by schedules of the women at York, but it is likely to be weekday or Sunday afternoons. Depending upon the number of women at York who are interested, CBSRZ may put together more than one book club. Anyone interested in possibly being part of the book club should contact Linda Rigono (lrigono@sbcglobal.net).

The choir at CBSRZ will also be doing a joint program with women at York. The program will focus not only on music in general but religious music in particular. Meg Gister, CBSRZ choir director, plans to include not just singing but discussions about experience and connection.

**Want to Volunteer to Help with a Meal Site?**

CBSRZ prepares and serves meals each calendar quarter in Deep River and Chester. The upcoming meal in Deep River is Thursday November 15, and Chester is Sunday December 16. Volunteers are needed to help with preparation serving and clean up between 4 and 6pm.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Teri Fogel for Deep River (tmellafogel@aol.com) or Johanna Schaefer for Chester (johannadschaefer@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE DIRECTS FUNDS TO SUPPORT SANCTUARY**

The Social Action Committee has sent a check for $600 on behalf of CBSRZ to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meriden to support its efforts in providing sanctuary. For over a year, the UU Church has provided sanctuary for Sujitno Sajuti, 69, who came from Indonesia in 1981 to pursue his Master’s (Columbia University) and PhD (UConn). Mr. Sajuti, who has been trying to get a green card for nearly 40 years, has worked extensively on social justice in Connecticut throughout that period, including with United Action Connecticut (UACT). CBSRZ is a member, and SAC’s Johanna Schaefer is current president, of UACT, and members of the CBSRZ social action team have worked with Mr. Sajuti through UACT.

Each year, SAC raises money through the sale of food at the annual CBSRZ spring concert and sends proceeds to area non-profit organizations. Past recipients have included Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, HOPE Partnership, York Correctional Institute and Bare Necessities, among others. Although CBSRZ does not have the ability to provide physical sanctuary, by sending this money to the Unitarian Universalist Church, we hope to call attention to the help that congregation, also a member of UACT, has provided to Mr. Sajuti, his family, and the cause of freedom over the past year; as Mr. Sajuti fights legal battles to stay in the U.S. SAC also thanks the CBSRZ congregants who have donated funds to support sanctuary for Mr. Sajuti.

If you would like to help in the sanctuary efforts, please contact Linda Rigono—lrigono@sbcglobal.net.

**Annual Clothes Drive for Parkville Community School**

For the past four years, we have sponsored a clothing drive for Parkville Community School in Hartford. 83% of the 535 students in this PK through 5th grade public school are students from low income families.

Many of you contributed in the past from the goodness of your hearts in the true spirit of Tzedakah. We are again appealing to you to help provide winter coats and jackets for the students. Sizes range from 6 to 16. Clothes can be dropped off in the box located in the religious school wing, as you enter on the left. If you prefer, you can give Wendy a check made out to CBSRZ, and we will purchase the needed clothes.

In appreciation, Sandy Herzog Social Action Committee Sandherz2003@yahoo.com
### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 1917</td>
<td>Lord Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, signed the Balfour Declaration established the state of Palestine for Arabs and Jews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 1995</td>
<td>Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at a peace rally by Yigal Amir, an Israeliite right-wing extremist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4, 1954</td>
<td>Abe Ribicoff elected governor of Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4, 1938</td>
<td>The Andrew Sisters record “Bei mir bist du Schön.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4, 1938</td>
<td>Kate Smith introduces “God Bless America” to her radio program, song composed by Irving Berlin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9-10, 1938</td>
<td>Kristallnacht, Night of the Broken Glass, in Germany and Austria, considered the beginning of the Holocaust.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 1945</td>
<td>Nuremberg trials begin for the Nazi leaders.</td>
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### Deceased

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 1985</td>
<td>Phil Silvers: comedian, actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 1995</td>
<td>Yitzhak Rabin: Israeli prime minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 1847</td>
<td>Felix Mendelssohn: composer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 1983</td>
<td>Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan: founder of Reconstructionism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 1905</td>
<td>Dorothy Kilgallen: writer, newscaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9, 1991</td>
<td>Yves Montand: actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9, 1952</td>
<td>Chaim Weizman: first president of Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 1960</td>
<td>Isadore Freed: composer of Jewish melodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10, 1973</td>
<td>Allan Sherman: singer, comedian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 1995</td>
<td>Jerome Kern: composer</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18, 2004</td>
<td>Cy Coleman: composer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2004</td>
<td>Yasser Arafat: leader of PLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 2014</td>
<td>Claire Bagelman: singer (of the Barry Sisters)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23, 2006</td>
<td>Betty Comden: lyricist</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23, 2009</td>
<td>Yitzhak Aronowitz: captain of the Exodus, a ship with 4500 Jews on board bound for Israel but refused entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29, 1986</td>
<td>Cary Grant (born Archibald Leach): actor</td>
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### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 1763</td>
<td>Dedication of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Touro is the oldest synagogue in America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2017</td>
<td>U.S. recommends that Jerusalem become the capital of the State of Israel.</td>
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<td>December 8, 1987</td>
<td>Palestine Intifada founded by Yasser Arafat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 26, 1936</td>
<td>Arturo Toscanini conducts the first performance of the Israeli Philharmonic in Tel Aviv. The orchestra was founded by the Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman in 1935.</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 1973</td>
<td>David Ben Gurion: Israeli Prime Minister</td>
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<td>December 2, 1990</td>
<td>Aaron Copland: musician</td>
</tr>
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<td>December 8, 1978</td>
<td>Golda Meir: Israeli Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1987</td>
<td>Jascha Heifetz: violinist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 1971</td>
<td>David Sarnoff: founder of RCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14, 2014</td>
<td>Bess Myerson: politician, television actress, former Miss America</td>
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<td>December 16, 1984</td>
<td>Jan Pierce: opera singer</td>
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<td>December 20, 1962</td>
<td>Arthur Rubinstein: pianist</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 23, 2000</td>
<td>Victor Borge: pianist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25, 2016</td>
<td>Carrie Fisher: actress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 26, 2016</td>
<td>Debbie Reynolds: actress</td>
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<td>December 26, 1974</td>
<td>Jack Benny: entertainer</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 29, 1967</td>
<td>Paul Whiteman: conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 30, 1979</td>
<td>Richard Rogers: composer</td>
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</tbody>
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Jewish Trivia for November courtesy of Norman Hanenbaum
Memorial Plaques
Heshvan 23, 5779 to Kislev 22, 5779

Jack Banner
Samuel Banner
Bonnie Baron
Jack Baron
Rose Baron
Nathan Benson
Sam Chait

Condolences are extended to:

Denny Van Liew, on the loss of his mother Mary Ann Van Liew
Marvin and Rita Ruzansky, on the loss of their daughter Susan Bush
Peter Leff M.D., on the loss of his mother Deborah Leff
Michele Kleinman, Stephen Rozenberg and family on the loss of Michele’s father, Howard Kleinman

Yahrzeits
Heshvan 23, 5779 to Kislev 22, 5779

Barney Gilman – cousin of Ellen Gottfried
Rachel Friend – grandmother of Sheila Friend
Helen Friedman – sister of Linda Polomski

Yahrzeit
Kislev 23, 5779 to Tovet 23, 5779

Leone Palmier Tobias
Justive V. Tobis
Regina Waldinger
Sara Rotfuss Yosoloff
Dora Zelin

Memorial Plaques
Heshvan 23, 5779 to Tovet 23, 5779

Eleanor Adler
Lawrence Joel Adler
Samuel Adler
Abraham Alman
Asher Baran
Leah Baran
Norman Bass
Pearl Wexler Bass

Rabbi Alexander Schindler – father of Debra Trautmann
Lillian Shaffel – mother of Maxine Leichtman

Jewish Home and new

Yoram Glick – son of David Glick

Rabbi Alexander Schindler – father of Debra Trautmann
Lillian Shaffel – mother of Maxine Leichtman

M. C. LeWitt – father of Pearl Wexler Bass

Sally Michael Pomerantz

Sally Michael Pomerantz

Esther Sivin – mother of Arthur Tobias

Our Chessed Committee is here to help.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 HESHVAN</td>
<td>26 HESHVAN</td>
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<td>Congregational Trip to Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala</td>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>Congregational Trip to Israel</td>
<td>5:30 pm Facilities</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>5:30pm Facilities</td>
<td>7:30pm Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am - 10:00pm Gesher (Grades 8-9)</td>
<td>4:00pm - 6:00pm Smolkin</td>
<td>Choir and Torah Study</td>
<td>12:00 pm Lunch and Learn</td>
<td>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>11 KISLEV</td>
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<td>VETERANS DAY</td>
<td>30 HESHVAN</td>
<td>Congregational Trip to Israel</td>
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<td>Art Reception and Book Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala</td>
<td>3:00pm SSKP Board meeting</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>4:00pm - 6:15pm Deep River Meal Site</td>
<td>7:30pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6:00pm - 7:30pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah</td>
<td>7:00pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>3:00pm SSKP Board meeting</td>
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<td>10:30am Education Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Trinity Lutheran Church Centerbrook</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr K-4-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Trip to Israel</td>
<td>Congregational Trip to Israel</td>
<td>CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL</td>
<td>No Kivvun</td>
<td>CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am Rabbi’s Book Club</td>
<td>Social Action Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Social Action Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>7:00 pm Erev Shabbat with Piano</td>
<td>7:00 pm Erev Shabbat with Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Heshvan</td>
<td>22 Kislev, 5779</td>
<td>23 Heshvan</td>
<td>24 Heshvan</td>
<td>25 Heshvan</td>
<td>26 Heshvan</td>
<td>27 Heshvan</td>
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<td>9:30am - 10:15am Hatchala 9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7)</td>
<td>6:00pm Communications Committee</td>
<td>5:45pm Facilities Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7) 6:00pm - 7:30pm Adult B’nai Mitzvah</td>
<td>6:00pm Non-Dairy Potluck Dinner 7:00pm Hanukkah Service and Celebration</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>No 2nd Saturday Service 9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>6:00pm Communications Committee</td>
<td>5:45pm Facilities Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>No 2nd Saturday Service this month 9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am - 12:00pm Kadima (Gr K-7) Baking 9:30am Books &amp; Bagels with Irene Silvers reading from her book, Shrinkwrapped</td>
<td>12:45pm - 6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn 7:00pm Board of Directors</td>
<td>7:30 pm Human Rights Shabbat Service and Program</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>No 2nd Saturday Service this month 9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm Gesher 4:00pm - 6:00pm CBSRZ at Chester Meal Site (UCC)</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>4:15pm - 5:45pm Kadima (Gr 4-7)</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service 9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<td>16 TEVET CHRISTMAS EVE</td>
<td>17 TEVET CHRISTMAS DAY Office closed</td>
<td>No Kivvun</td>
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<td>No Kivvun</td>
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<td>New Year's Eve</td>
<td>7:00 pm Executive Committee</td>
<td>7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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</table>
Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors

Ellen & Len Nodelman
Brad & Lori Jubelirer
Maxine Klein & David Zeleznik
Ruth Levy and Stephen Nardine
Phil and Susan Fine
Shelly Sprague and Stephanie Arbige
Doreen & Jon Joslow