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Congregational attendees at Consultation on Conscience
THANK YOU

to the following donors 4/6/2019 to 6/5/2019

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2nd Century Campaign
William & Janet Brownstein
Rita Christopher & David Frank
David & Teri Fogel
Edward & Linda Pinn: in memory of David B. Pinn
Edward & Linda Pinn: in memory of Louis Sherman
Saul & Hila Rosen
Andy Schatz & Barbara Wolf
Irving & Edie Shiffman

Social Action Fund
Marjorie Hurt: to honor the life and work of Leese Luna
Linda Rigano

Joseph & Lillian Friend Fund
Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Minnie Horowitz
Sheila Friend Byrne: in memory of Sam Horowitz

Samuels Scholarship Fund
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Carol, Sofia & Eva LeWitt: in memory of Sophie LeWitt
Danny Redak: in memory of Saul, Anna, Howard and Harvey Redak
Laura Roman: in memory of Abe & Jessie Moller
Sam & Ann Louise Rosensohn: in honor of Zac Rosensohn’s marriage to Amy Sidelecki
John Schwolsky & Elizabeth Storch: in memory of Allen Storch
Sandy & Andrea Seidman: in memory of Abe Seidman
Sandy & Andrea Seidman: in memory of Dennis Hersh
Barbara Spargo: in memory of Alan David Spargo
Sharon Taubman: in memory of Shira Taubman
Jacqueline Wolf: in memory of Belle Greenberg
Jacqueline Wolf: in memory of Philip Greenberg

Year-End Appeal
Sandy & Andrea Seidman
Sandy & Andrea Seidman

Capital Campaign
Anonymous Donor
Stephen Angle & Debra Guss
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“Do not turn inward, into your silos. Face outward – join hands.”

Again and again, this message of unity was shared as I joined eight other CBSRZ congregants at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism’s Consultation on Conscience 2019. Held biennially in Washington, DC, this gathering of 1200 Reform Jewish professionals and lay leaders focused on the Reform movement’s important work in the world of social justice and advocacy.

Just as our sanctuaries are to be built with windows, to enable us to always engage with the world outside, we must also remain involved in the world around us. The Consultation on Conscience focused its programming on a number of current issues and helped us understand them through a Jewish lens. What does our Jewish heritage say about gun violence prevention? What does it say about racism? How can it inform our feelings about Transphobia? Civil Rights?

The quote I began with above, from Eric Ward, Executive Director of an organization called Western States Center, was a highlight during one of the morning plenary sessions. At this historic moment in the United States, a time of great division, fear, and growing hatred of the other, we were encouraged instead to build bridges and alliances with other groups who can help repair the world.

Mr. Ward is especially well known for his work which links the roots of racism and anti-Semitism, in a groundbreaking article entitled, “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism.” He has documented white nationalist rallies since 1990 and has marked the ways in which they have gone from the margins of society towards the mainstream. As a black man, he has felt it to be critical to point out the links between racism and anti-Semitism to groups of African Americans and to groups of Jews. He writes:

“Because I grew up Black in a city and a scene where people of color were under attack by White nationalists, the immediacy of the movement’s threat and its hatred of dark-skinned people like my family and friends is something I have always known. I thought I understood what motivated them, and I thought their motivation always looked like me. What I learned when I got to Oregon, as I began to log untold hours trying to understand White nationalists and their ideas, was that antisemitism was the lynchpin of the White nationalist belief system. That within this ideological matrix, Jews — despite and indeed because of the fact that they often read as White — are a different, unassimilable, enemy race that must be exposed, defeated, and ultimately eliminated. Antisemitism, I discovered, is a particular and potent form of racism so central to White supremacy that Black people would not win our freedom without tearing it down.”

Thus, as we strongly declare, “Enough is enough” with the rise in anti-Semitism, we must also work hand-in-hand with the other groups affected by the dangerous scourge of white nationalism. He encouraged “radical solidarity,” meaning that sometimes we must ally ourselves with groups whose missions sometimes differ from ours, but whose ultimate goals are the same: freedom, civil rights, human rights, inclusion, religious safety, and equality.

I’ll admit that this is a difficult concept to swallow at times, but it certainly makes sense. Divided, it will be impossible to put an end to the rising tides of anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, etc. But supporting the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism’s efforts to work with other social justice agencies and advocacy organizations is an integral part of a plan which will lead to a renewed feeling of safety and security as Jews in America.

Continued on page 4
My eyes were opened even more when I attended a workshop about the experiences of Jews of Color. When we imagine a Jewish person in our mind’s eye, I would guess that the majority of us imagine someone with “white” skin. Yet current studies are showing that at least 10-15% of the Jewish community in America is “of color.” The word, “intersectionality” came up quite a bit over the conference, and it hit home during this workshop: Jews of color exist in both worlds — among Jews and among other People of Color — equally, and experience struggle in both worlds as well. They may not feel fully accepted in either. Our panelists (some of whom are even on the senior staff of their synagogues) shared stories of feeling unwelcome or facing uncomfortable questions or doubts of their legitimacy as Jews. It made me wonder — what am I doing to help all those who enter our doors feel equally welcome and comfortable in our space? What should I be doing better?

Finally, I was struck by a theme which was also woven through the majority of the programming: we must include our youth in much more of our synagogue’s life. We heard from a number of the teens from Parkland, FL, who mobilized a national movement of gun violence prevention following the terrible murders at their school last year. Our youth at CBSRZ are wise, insightful, and enthusiastic Jews, and I know that there is so much more that they could be contributing to the life of our community. I can only imagine the rich additions to synagogue life which could be gained by including them in more facets of CBSRZ. There were suggestions to include teens on the social action committee, on the Board, and in other key conversations which direct the life of the congregation. It would make such an important statement to our youth: we truly value you, your presence, and your contribution to our synagogue family.

As you can see, I still have much to process and ponder from our profound experience at the Consultation on Conscience. Many of the keynote presentations and plenary sessions are available on the RAC’s website, so you can learn from these leaders yourself and join me in pondering so many of these important topics. It is worth noting: even though we are considered a “small congregation,” CBSRZ still had one of the largest delegations present. I hope that our community’s passion for social justice translates into us making a real difference in the world around us, as we all strive l’taken et haolam — to repair the world.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

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**Don’t Miss Shabbat at Cedar Lake!!!**

If you haven’t been to our Annual Shabbat Gathering at Cedar Lake, you should really come check it out this year! I promise you won’t be sorry! On Friday July 12 at 5:30 pm we will meet at Cedar Lake in Chester, under the pavilion for a short but beautiful Shabbat service followed by a brown bag dinner. It’s a fabulous, relaxing way to start Shabbat on a warm summer evening. Feel free to bring bathing suits and towels or toys for kids who like to play in the sand. The Ritual and Celebrations Committee will bring Challah, candles, juice for kiddush and some soft beverages. Please bring your own brown bag meal of your choice, this is not a potluck dinner. We hope to see you at Cedar Lake!

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

We will meet under the pavilion at 5:30 pm for services. If it is raining we will have Shabbat services and dinner at CBSRZ also at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you at Cedar Lake!

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**Summertime Sha-BAR-B-Q**

On Friday August 9 at 6pm, please join us for Shabbat services outside in our courtyard, followed by a BBQ potluck dinner on the front lawn. We will be serving our World Famous all beef hot dogs and hamburgers! Please bring a non-dairy potluck item to share (ex. Salads of all kinds, roast veggies, pickled veggies, you get the idea, but no dairy, please). The Ritual and Celebrations Committee will provide the burgers and dogs, watermelon, desserts and soft beverages (BYOB alcoholic beverages). This is a super chill evening and always tons of fun, so please join us for this CBSRZ summer tradition!
The CBSRZ Philip Scheffler Pursuers of Peace and Justice Award ("the award") Committee ("the committee"), is pleased and honored to announce that the recipient of the 2019 award is Norm Eisen of Washington, D.C. This year, the committee has voted to make this award for the third time since its inception, on Saturday, November 16, 2019, in conjunction with Shabbat services that day. Although the recipients of the award thus far have been members of the congregation, the initial plan was always to look beyond the CBSRZ community, when and if it was appropriate to do so.

Among Norm Eisen’s many accomplishments, he is an author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a CNN political commentator, and the chair of the government watchdog group CREW. He served from 2009 to 2011 in the White House as President Obama’s “ethics czar,” and as the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2011 to 2014. Most recently, he was named as co-counsel to the House Judiciary Committee in its oversight of the Justice Department and special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia probe. Norm has been profiled in The Washington Post, New York Magazine, Politico, The Wall Street Journal and Tablet. He was been named #11 on the Politico 50 list of thinkers shaping American politics, and to the Forward 50 list of the most influential and interesting American Jews.

Previous recipients of the award have been Martha Stone (2015) and Andy Schatz (2017). The members of the award committee are Rabbi Marcy Bellows, Allan Appel, Jeff Cohen, Stephen Davis, James Jacoby, Bruce Josephy, Susan Peck, Ramsay Scheffler Klaff, Ellen Nodelman, Michael Price, Andy Schatz and Linda Scheffler. If you are interested in participating in planning this exciting event, please contact susanpeck@sbcglobal.net.

Save the Date
Presentation and Reception
2019 CBSRZ
Philip Scheffler
Pursuers of Peace & Justice Award

November 16, 2019
Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
Chester, Connecticut
A Campaign for Our Community has been quietly working for the last seven months with the Facilities Committee and the Board to identify the major capital expenditures and costs needed to update our CBSRZ home as well as creating enough funds for continued maintenance and unanticipated capital costs in the future. The visual presentations that accompany this article provide some key information: the priority of capital needs, how the capital decision process by project is achieved and a ten-year capital needs program.

The priority of the Board, the Facilities, Security and Capital Committee is security improvements. Without rehashing the obvious whys of the need for these improvements, these needs have created an unexpected additional demand upon the capital resources of the community. Please, when reading the material and considering your donation, keep in mind that many of the initial capital projects have to be delayed to address security issues. The Committees are focused on protecting our children, our home and our community to the extent that capital improvements will help mitigate any security issues. Please keep that in mind when you are asked to donate.

Led by Chairs Sandy and Andrea Seidman and Assistant Chair Henry Resnikoff, members of a small, but dedicated group, including Kevin Fox, Rita Fink, Jon Joslow, David Fogel, Amy Conley, Steven Rosenberg and especially Brad Jubelirer, have been meeting with fellow congregants to gather steam to a broader solicitation.

The Committee is pleased to be able to announce that, as of May 31, 2019, it has reached 30% of its $1,000,000 goal in pledges and donations. The Committee is especially thankful to those who have given the one major leadership gift to date. The Committee is diligently working with several of our congregants to donate additional leadership gifts.

The Committee thanks one and all. We remind all of our CBSRZ community that when a solicitor calls please listen, consider and donate what you are able to. No one in our community measures how much you give but rather that you gave and participated in the future of our community home. Please feel free to call Brad Jubelirer, president, Erica Udoff (Facilities) or Henry Resnikoff (Capital) if you have specific questions.

Below is a list of congregants who have already contributed or have pledged their support.

Anonymous
Angle, Steve & Guss, Deb
Archambault, Ray & Liz
Baker, Stuart & Perizza-Baker, Mar-C
Barasz, Steven & Sprague, Shelley
Bloom, Lary & Levine, Suzanne
Breuer, Jeff & Beth
Brunell, Robert & Cheyney, Karen
Buzin, Jeff & Karen
Byrne, Sheila

Cohen, Jeff & Greenberg, Izzi
Conley, Kevin & Amy
Crair, Michael and Pamela
Davis, Stephen & Clo
Evens, Karen & Julian
Fine, Philip & Susan
Fink, Rita
Fischbach, Nancy & Wolman, Martin
Fishman, Myra
Fogel, David & Teri
Fox, Kevin
Glassman, Abe and Beverly
Goller, Ethan & Malakoff, Rona
Gottfried, Neil & White-Gottfried, Marilyn
Hirsch, Rubin & Bulion, Leslie
Hoberman, Harvey (estate of)
Hornung, Rick & Palmer, Peg
Jacobs, Stephen & Pepper-Jacobs, Andi
Joslow, Jon & Doreen
Jubelirer, Brad & Lori
Klar, Iris
Kleinberg, Ethan & Tracy
Laites, Alan & Beth
Leichtman, Maxine
LeWitt, Carol & Josephy, Bruce
LeWitt, Sofia & Cohen, Asaf
Liss, Stephen & Maya
Meyers, Art & Marcia
Miner, David & Robiner, Penny
Needleman, Norman
Nodelman, Ellen & Leonard
Peck, Micael & Susan
Perl, Michael & Susan
Pinn, Ed & Linda
Resnikoff, Henry & Nielsen, Daphne
Rigono, Linda
Roman, David & Laura
Rosenblum, Ali & Jones, Liz
Roth, Michael & Weil, Kari
Rozenberg, Stephen & Kleiman, Michele
Scharr, Jerry & Marlene
Seidman, Lon & Ozols, Melissa
Seidman, Sandy & Andrew
Seidman, Stacie
Shafner, Lori & Payton, Harvey
Shifman, Irving & Edie
Sinappen Dass & Stoane, Danae
Tilles, David
Tilles, Solomon
Udoff, Erica
Wolff, Jacqueline
Zeleznik, David & Klein, Maxine
CBSRZ Capital Plan: 10 Year Planning Horizon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate</th>
<th>Short Term</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety &amp; Security $ 20,000</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security $ 40,000</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security $ 25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roof $135,000</td>
<td>Parking Lot-Maintenance $12,000</td>
<td>Parking Lot-Replacement $162,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gutters $ 55,000</td>
<td>Bimah $40,000</td>
<td>Kitchen $ 50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siding $144,000</td>
<td>MeditationGarden $25,000</td>
<td>Sanctuary Walls $125,000</td>
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<td>Total Immediate $354,000</td>
<td>HVAC $ 60,000</td>
<td>Total Long Term $362,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painting Interior $75,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kitchen $10,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Short term $262,000</td>
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General Capital Expenditure Needs $22,000

Grand Total $1,000,000

A Campaign for our Community

Our Progress Thus far

• Family Units that have thusfar made a pledge over 40 households (20%)
• Amount of monies collected goal over $175,000 (17% of
• Amount of total pledges goal! nearly $350,000 (35% of
• Our current balance in our Capital Fund over $250,000

Making Progress toward Our $1,000,000 Goal

- Pledges to Date (as of June 1, 2019) 30%
- Pledges needed to complete our goal 70%
- Pledges needed to complete our goal
This fall the High Holiday services at CBSRZ will be augmented by the work of nationally recognized artist Miriam Stern. A Jewish themed, multi-media exhibit will adorn the walls of our Main Street Gallery. Stern was born in New York City in 1946 and was raised in an Orthodox Jewish household. After graduating from high school, she enrolled as an art major at the City College of New York and simultaneously took art courses at the New School for Social Research. Stern married before completing a degree, and as a young wife with two small children, worked in her basement studio, outside the larger art community.

In the 70s Stern explored women's roles both in society and the family sphere expressing herself through experimental photo processes combined with painting, printmaking and observational drawing. During the late 80's and 1990's, in line with her progressive set of mind and the rise of identity politics in art, she began examining the tension between the women's liberation movement and the teachings and rituals of Judaism. Stern's outlook was that of a socially alert wife and mother in a conservative Orthodox community. Her inaugural effort to convey the discord she felt between religious convention and secular modernity was a series of paintings and prints that questioned the tradition of covering the hair and the dress codes rigidly enforcing

The Work of: Miriam Stern

by Linda Pinn

Crusader Bible IV, Monoprint on Paper
female modesty. Chafing at the centuries of subordination that women had experienced, Stern wanted to articulate her dissatisfaction without repudiating her religion. Much of her work vividly exposes the gender bias in Orthodox Jewish practices with wit and passion.*

When asked how her art fitted in with her Jewish life and beliefs, Stern replied, "I used to think I could compartmentalize my art between Jewish and secular. But I’ve come to see that you can’t separate one part of yourself from another. There’s always spillover when one cares about something deeply. At times my art reflects religious practice because I am committed to the tradition. However, it also challenges the tradition and status quo. My art reveals my struggle to reconcile faith with my feminist values. In the end my artistic practice is inextricably linked to, and informed by, my gender and faith. I love being a woman, a Jew, and an artist. It is who I am." *

If Stern’s standing devotion to women’s issues in the context of Jewish tradition and culture mark her work, it is further distinguished by her purposeful and incisive technical innovation in the service of evolving philosophical and political concerns. The foundation of Stern's practice has remained painting and printmaking, especially her unique combination of monoprint and inkjet printing processes; her three-dimensional work and installations have, for the most part, elegantly combined these forms. Conceptually, the newer prints move beyond her earlier ideas about feminism and Jewish tradition towards a broader fascination with time and its existential consequences that has arisen as she has grown older. Stern views a person's life as an initially empty vessel that becomes fuller, richer and more complex as the years pass; events and incidents, seemingly minor choices and inconsequential decisions, fill the vessel and create the substance of the person. Her work reflects this evolution through progressively more abstract imagery resulting from freer experimentation with process and materials.*

Continued on page 10
Miriam Stern’s work will be on view from early August through October, 2019. The public is invited to visit this exhibit, at no charge, Monday - Friday, 10AM - 3:00PM, and Sundays when religious school is in session.

Please call the CBSRZ office (860-526-8920) to make suitable arrangements.

*Much of the information for these paragraphs has been gathered from an essay by Sharon Butler and an interview by Sandee Brawarsky... both of which were published in the book "Miriam Stern" by Miriam Stern, published 2016.
Alex Infeld

Alex Infeld is a Sophomore at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham. From a young age, Judaism has been part of his life, from going to services or Kivvun at CBSRZ, to celebrating Shabbat and holidays at home with his family, to spending his summers at URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA. In his spare time, Alex enjoys playing Tuba in Concert Band, singing in Concert Choir and Coginchaug's Boys A Capella Group "No Refund," acting in many plays, including Beauty and The Beast. Alex is a Boy Scout having achieved the rank of Life Scout. Alex also likes to hang out with his friends. Alex would like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Morah Belinda, everyone else at CBSRZ and his family for helping him learn about what it means to be a Jew and the process of Confirmation.

Kyra Brennan

Kyra Brennan just completed her sophomore year at Valley Regional High School.

She is a member of the Girl's Soccer Team, Crew Team, and is a cast member in the high school musical productions. She loves to sing and is in the women's choir as well.

Kyra teaches swim lessons and is a lifeguard and camp counselor for the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department. She is also a lifeguard at Cedar Lake in Chester.

She lives in Chester with her parents Robyne and Craig and her younger sister Erin.
PICTURE GALLERY

CBSRZ delegation at RAC Consultation on Conscience along with Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Left to right: Jpsy Wintsch, Rabbi Bellows, Michael Price, Andy Schatz, Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Bruce Jacoby, Brad Jubelirer, Carol LeWitt, Izzi Greenberg, Jo-Ann Price.
Author Lary Bloom looking awfully handsome.

Journalist Kevin Conley interviewing Lary

Books & Bagels & Borscht
Lary Bloom discusses his new book
Sol LeWitt: A Life of Ideas

Phyllis and Herb Ross with copy of Sol Lewitt: Life of Ideas.
Artist Gabriella DuCharme with Main Street Curator Linda Pinn.

Artist in front of her painting, *Phoenix Monument*.
Music & More presents Comedy Night with stars of Comedy Central, Network TV and NYC Comedy Circuit . . .
An evening of Jewish ghost stories with Reb Simcha Raphael.
Conscience and Covenant

In May, Rabbi Bellows led a delegation of CBSRZ members (Izzi Greenberg, Bruce Josephy, Brad Jubilirer, Carol Lewitt, Jo-Ann Price, Michael Price, Andy Schatz and Jody Wintsch) to Washington, D.C. for the Consultation on Conscience, the biennial social justice conference of the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center. During an exciting three days, about 1200 participants heard often-inspiring speakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Delaware Senator Chris Coons, Congressional Representatives Pramila Jayapal, Ted Deutch and Kim Schrier, as well as the Reverend Al Sharpton (who focused in part on his past mistakes in dealing with Jews and Jewish issues) and Rabbi Jonah Pesner (the Director of RAC). All seemed to agree that one of the most important, inspiring and troubling talks was by Eric Ward, executive director of the Western States Center; whose article “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism” (The Public Eye, Summer 2017) is seen as a seminal work and basis in recognizing that anti-Semitism “forms the theoretical core of White nationalism.”

Participants also attended smaller group discussions. Some focused on the “process” of organizing social justice campaigns within our congregations. Others addressed potential Jewish approaches to specific substantive issues, ranging from anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry to gun violence and environmental issues.

A mass of participants then descended upon Capitol Hill to meet with elected congressional representatives and their staffs. This included advocacy about issues of particular interest to RAC, including immigration (specifically, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA) and rehabilitation of ex-offenders (specifically, a federal “ban the box” proposal that would prevent employers from inquiring about a criminal record until after a conditional job offer is made). In addition to joining with other Connecticut conference attendees to meet with a staff member to Senator Chris Murphy, some members of CBSRZ (the only congregation at the conference in Connecticut) met with a staff member and then personally with Representative Joe Courtney to discuss these and other issues.

The conference also discussed the Brit Olam (a covenant with our world), which CBSRZ and 100 other congregations adopted in 2017 (and more than 100 others have adopted since). Issues RAC has focused on for the Brit Olam over the past two years have included immigration, racism and LGBTQ rights. This year, RAC added reproductive rights and environmental issues. The Consultation attendees, along with the Social Action Committee, hope to recommend a major campaign to CBSRZ in the months ahead.

You have the opportunity to share in these experiences! You can listen to the great Consultation plenary sessions, including talks by Nancy Pelosi, Al Sharpton, Eric Ward and others by clicking here or pasting https://raco.org/2019-consultation-conscience-livestream-recordings into your browser.

Also, please see Izzi Greenberg’s personal take on her first Consultation and Rabbi Bellows’ thoughts on some of the important take-aways from the Consultation.

Reflections from the Consultation

Izzi Greenberg

This Consultation on Conscience was the first I’d attended. It was a great gathering, and I’d encourage anyone to consider attending in future years.

My major takeaway was that antisemitism is interlocked with white supremacy and white nationalism and that to ignore one ignores the full depth of the battle. I’d like to excerpt the lecture author Eric Ward gave, because he said it better than I can:

“Antisemitism doesn’t exist just on the right, nor on the left. It is within the air we breathe. Let’s be clear. Hate groups don’t bring antisemitism into our communities. They simply organize the antisemitism that already exists. If we are to take this moment seriously, it means addressing it, and that takes courage in a society that has not discussed the question of Antisemitism in decades. It takes courage from Jews and non-Jews to stand up and say enough is enough.

“We are in a moment where we have to understand that we cannot address Antisemitism without experiencing Antisemitism. We cannot address racism without experiencing racism. This is not a time to turn inward and into our silos, but to face outward and to join hands with every vulnerable community whose rights are being assaulted in this moment. Whether it’s #NotOneMore, whether it is #BlackLivesMatter, whether it is #OneMillionRising, these hashtags simply mean ‘room to breathe.’ That is, room to embrace opportunity and hope, the right to envision an inclusive democracy that is people centered, accountable and transparent. If racism is the paper upon which historical and present day white supremacy is written, white supremacy is written on the paper of Antisemitism. This is a message for non-Jews who might be listening. The truth is that the rise in Antisemitism in America may prove to be more of a threat to the non-Jewish community than the Jewish community itself. It is time for us to stand.”

I feel activated and inspired to action. As the incoming chair of the Social Action Committee, I look forward to leading the Social Action Committee next year to organize social justice campaigns that speak to even more of our congregation’s members and organizations. I look forward to working with our Congress representatives, our rabbi, Izzi Greenberg to work together to create a safer world for us all. Amen.”
Committee, I hope to bring these ideas into our work. Our small congregation can do a lot in our region as trusted partners and friends, but we also have to reach out to other marginalized communities we may not be working with yet.

Please come to Dinner — no experience necessary!

Sharing meals is at the center of Jewish life and tradition. And what better, easier and more effective way could there be of spreading Jewish love — and fighting anti-Semitism — than sharing a community meal.

Toward this end, SAC would like to invite you to share in some upcoming meals. CBSRZ hosts meal sites for Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries every three months at Deep River Congregational Church (1 Church Street). Groups of CBSRZ members and friends prepare and serve these meals. Please come and share the meal with the 40-50 community members who come to share food, companionship and community. This will help us share our food and our blessings with our wider community — a key to helping address the seemingly increasing prejudice and bigotry of our time.

Please watch for weekly emails on upcoming dates and contact Teri Fogel at tmellafoigel@aol.com to let her know you might come to Deep River and if you would like to bring something to add to the meal.

United Action Connecticut

The thirteenth annual Justice Celebration of United Action Connecticut was an amazing coming together of forces in the immigrants’ rights fields. UACT, an organization of ten faith communities, including CBSRZ, focuses on community organizing and legislative advocacy, including immigrant rights and healthcare. Linda Rigono, longtime member of the CBSRZ Social Action Committee, has served on the board of directors of UACT for many years, as did SAC member Johanna Schaefer, who recently served as president of UACT until she moved out of Connecticut this spring.

In addition to updates on UACT’s domestic workers campaign, immigration, mental health and health care, music from a Wallingford based mariachi band and comments from UACT’s new president, Father Russell Kennedy of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Middletown, UACT honored two very special people. Al Dornan of Wethersfield, a 78 year-old with significant health issues, explained why he walks 2.2 miles every day with a sign that reads: “I walk for Dreamers and all immigrants.” Dana Bucin, an immigrant from Romania and immigration attorney who is fluent in Spanish and participates in United Action’s Know Your Rights Forums, as well as with other community organizations, was recently named Attorney of the Year by the Connecticut Law Tribune.

The keynote speaker was Chris George, executive director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) for the past fourteen years. IRIS, which is based in New Haven but works with community groups throughout Connecticut, has welcomed more than 1,000 refugees to Connecticut over the past three years, including refugee families that were assisted by the Middlesex Refugee Resettlement Coalition, of which CBSRZ was a participant. Mr. George tasked UACT members with the job of explaining to other people what it means to be a refugee.

But the icing on the cake was having two long-time United Action members there with us — Sujitno and Dahlia Sujitno. Sujitno had been permitted to leave sanctuary in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden the previous Friday after 598 days of confinement! Jan Carlsson-Bull, the U.U. Church Reverend, who is about to retire and led the church throughout that sanctuary, fittingly gave a closing prayer for the evening — and the Sujitno ordeal.

Interfaith Pot-Luck Dinners Resume

Please join in special interfaith dinners organized with many local Christian clergy as well as the House of Peace Mosque in Meriden. We had similar dinners in 2017, which were a great success, as we shared not only food but discussion about our different religions’ textual and traditional take on specific subjects of mutual interest.

These are vegetarian potluck dinners beginning at 6:15pm. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

The first dinner occurred at CBSRZ on June 19. The next two dinners are as follows:

July 17 - UCC Chester church, 29 W. Main Street, Chester
August 28 - House of Peace Mosque, 410 Main Street, Meriden

Contact Wendy at the office for details.

Looking Back — and Ahead

After seven years as social action chair, I wanted to reflect on our journey as I enthusiastically pass the baton to Izzi Greenberg to lead us further forward.

Shortly after my wife and I joined CBSRZ, I joined in our work at the “Deep River Soup Kitchen,” our quarterly activity preparing and serving dinner (and eating with the community members who come to the meal). While that was, and still is, most fulfilling work, when I agreed to become chair in 2012, it was with the understanding that we would increase our focus on education and impact work, including legislative advocacy, to address root causes of social problems. And through my tenure with four CBSRZ presidents and two rabbis, I am grateful to have received the support we needed to grow in that direction.

I should make clear that we have not only continued but expanded our service work. One quarterly meal site (Deep River) became two (Deep River and Chester) plus meals at Christmas and/or Easter to assist our Christian friends. Our annual High Holiday food drive has increased our delivery of needed food to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries to over 2000 pounds each year; and we provide further food deliveries through our Stuff a Truck event with our students, and from donations to the box in our CBSRZ entryway throughout the year. We have hosted 2-3 blood drives for the Red Cross each year. We now sponsor an annual (and year-long) collection of warm clothing for elementary school students in Hartford (thanks to Sandy Herzog). We provide books and art supplies to York Correctional Institute, and after a two-year application process, we should soon start a book club and a choir interaction with the women of York. We have helped settle immigrant and refugee families in Middlesex County. We have provided furnishings for apartments in Middletown and elsewhere, and we have helped with Habitat for Humanity home builds in Middletown and New Haven. SAC has contributed money and raised money
to address disasters nationally and internationally, and we have provided money and support to local causes from diapers to affordable housing. And this does not even include the hundreds of hours that are spent by CBSRZ members in service projects on their own, some initially inspired by CBSRZ/SAC but now without any formal CBSRZ/SAC involvement.

But we have also focused on how we might overcome the systemic obstacles that make this service work so necessary. Fighting the root causes of bigotry (including anti-Semitism, other religious prejudice and racism) and economic insecurity can best be done by working with others, so we have engaged with many others in our community, including many faith-based organizations. We have worked with the Muslim and Christian communities throughout central Connecticut, engaging not only in shared meals and educational efforts but also through an interfaith task force that has inspired concerted action and explored how our common values and concerns might help address deeper problems.

We have not only continued to work with United Action Connecticut, a group of ten faith communities (CBSRZ is the only synagogue), in addressing issues of immigration, health (and mental health) care and gun violence, but we have become more involved in the leadership of that organization. We participated from the beginning in 2013 of the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force (initiated by the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries working with many members of faith communities), which has sought to attack economic insecurity by addressing systemic issues underlying hunger, housing, and, most recently, impactful economic development in Middlesex County. SAC has also worked with SBNTF to spread information about ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) in Middlesex County, part of the United Way's ongoing effort to educate nationally about folks increasingly left behind by the economy's success and often one accident or illness away from poverty.

Education is a key, so we brought in speakers and held public forums. These included many, sometimes controversial, issues, including anti-Semitism, racial prejudice and criminal justice/juvenile justice, Islam and Islamophobia, solitary confinement and other prison reform, gun violence, mental health, human sex trafficking, poverty and hunger, environmental protection, and LGBT rights and religious prejudice. We have been grateful to share hosting some of these events with the Adult Education Committee, of which many members are also SAC members.

We have also sought to influence by action. When appropriate, we have demonstrated in the streets — including for fair wages, LGBT rights, immigrant and refugee rights and racial justice. And we have sought to influence legislation, including calls and letters to state legislators or members of Congress about many of the subjects of our forums listed above, and formal written testimony recently about gun violence and the use of solitary confinement.

Our impact work is more powerful in part because it derives from our Jewish texts and traditions. Tikkun olam, the obligation to help God repair the broken fabric of our world, is a core Jewish value. Our legislative advocacy — whether on gun control, criminal justice, immigrants’ rights, or basic needs for housing and food, are based on teachings of our prophets. We do this because it reflects our common values, but elected leaders and lobbyists have said that our efforts are more impactful as a result.

Not that this work has been without some hiccups along the way. It has oft been said that “if you want to change the world, you must first change yourself” and “change is difficult.” Discussions about Israel remain divisive issues as BDS, religious objections to LGBT rights, gun control, and even whether a synagogue should be acting on these issues at all, may permit us to understand and address the root causes of our increasingly divided society.

And, alas, we have not succeeded as much as I would have liked in channeling our energy for real change. We have struggled to find a social justice project to engage more of our congregation in systemic change. Our “listening campaign” and “book discussion” didn’t help with that effort as much as I had hoped. Addressing root causes of social problems is always more difficult; and divisions in society, including Anti-Semitism, appear more open and prevalent than at any time in decades.

Yet I remain hopeful. The outpouring of support against anti-Semitism following the Shabbat massacre in Pittsburgh may provide a unique opportunity for Jews and non-Jews to recognize the connection between anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry and to address them together. We have a core corps of dedicated congregants who have led and staffed our work throughout the years, in some cases for longer than I have been involved; although all of them are critical to our success, I would be remiss not to single out Linda Rigono, who represents the best tradition of tikkun olam and overwhelming commitment to making the world a better place. Izzi Greenberg, who will be chairing SAC going forward, has spent her professional life focused on social problems and their root causes and brings to this work an experience and perspective that can help take our program to the next level.

And Rabbi Bellows has shown continually that the work can be done with insight, with grace and, most importantly, with joy.

The CBSRZ website page for social action includes the seminal quote generally attributed to Rabbi Tarfon in the Second Century: “You are not obliged to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” I thank you all for the opportunity to help lead this work over the past seven years and look forward, joyfully, as we continue along our path.

—Andy Schatz
On June 2, 2019, Rabbi Marci Bellows sanctified our new cemetery section in historic Fountain Hill Cemetery in Deep River. Members of the CBSRZ Cemetery Association, Inc. were present along with members of our congregation. This new area provides 183 new cemetery plots for our burial ground there. Please contact Wendy Bayor at the Temple office regarding details for obtaining burial plots.

Below is a transcript of the welcoming address given by Stuart Baker, out-going president of the cemetery board.

“Welcome everyone and thank you for coming to this historic dedication of our new cemetery section for our community. I was taught that there is no greater mitzvah than to do something for someone who cannot even thank you. And that is what we do with our cemetery. We pay final tribute to our loved ones. “Zichrono Livracha.” So we can remember.

I especially want to thank each of the people who worked so hard and so long on this project.

Bruce Josephy began what we see here today with an idea: “Why not put that big empty space next to our cemetery to good use?” Thanks to Rich Forristall and the Fountain Hill Association for their willingness to donate the land and to partner with us in designing and creating this new space. George Amarant deserves thanks for his early work on the project – clearing trees – looking for fill. Thank you Maxine Klein and Brad Jubilirer and to the CBSRZ Board of Directors for ongoing support for the Cemetery Committee and for the vision to help create the CBSRZ Cemetery Association as a governing body for our cemeteries. Thanks to our Cemetery Association members: Bruce Josephy, Ellen Friedman-Smith, Martin Nadel, Rabbi Bellows, Brad Jubilirer, Maxine Klein and especially Henry Resnikoff, Sandy Seidman and Wendy Bayor.

Let me tell you about Henry. He brought his experience, talent, and knowledge into this project. More importantly, he poured his heart and dedication into ensuring that our new cemetery was done well. Sandy, through his generous emotional and financial support, allowed us to complete the project. And where would we be without Wendy? Her attention to the details and practicalities keeps us running smoothly and stay focused and grounded.

In the 1960’s Harold and Rita Samuels had a vision for a cemetery for the fledgling Jewish Community Center in the lower Connecticut River Valley. Their generous gift of the original cemetery property started us off. As you walk through and look at the grave markers, you will see their names and the names of so many people who have meant so much to our community.

When I first got involved in the late 90s Harvey Redak, of blessed memory, for many years cared for our cemetery. I remember how he lovingly crafted a cemetery sign at one point. Then he put in the post himself and put it up at the base of the steps. In 2001, using soil from the excavation for the new Temple building, under the guidance of George Amarant, we added more plots to our original cemetery. But those were quickly gone and we had “no more room.” Then, as I mentioned earlier, Bruce Josephy and Lary Bloom, Board President at the time, approached me with an idea. The wooded section next to our cemetery might be available. Bruce approached Rich Forrestall from Fountain Hill, and here we are today.

So following our brief ceremony, please spend a few minutes here. Visit some of the grave-sites, appreciate the view of the river and the forest, as we dedicate this sacred space.

Thank you.
Memorial Plaques
Sivan 28, 5779 to Tammuz 28, 5779
David Irving Adler – father of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Dora Tomim Adler – mother of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Lois Jane Harmon Alcosser – mother of Melinda Alcosser
Yolanda Baliko – sister of Tony Rigon
Karen Jay Bertford – niece of Norman Needlemaker
Barbara Anita Brunell – mother of Robert Brunell
Ted Bukovsky – nephew of Rina Fink
Martin Bulion – father of Leslie Bulion
Adeline K. Chorches – mother of Samuel Chorches
Frances Cohen – mother of Hila Cohen
Celia Elin – grandmother of Robin Friedman
Gary Fox – brother of Kevin Fox
Richard Freedman – husband of Frances Freedman
Sandra Freum – mother of Miriam Gardner-Frum
Ron Gister – father of Lauren and Margaret Gister
Anna Glassman – mother of Abraham Glassman
Max Glassman – father of Abraham Glassman
Robert Goldberg – husband of Sharon Goldberg
Elton Goldberg – brother of Heather Schwartz
Louis Goodman – father of Linda Polomski
Louis Gottfried – great-grandfather of Ellen Gottfried
Rebecca Gottfried – great-grandmother of Ellen Gottfried
Barbara Hochberg – aunt of Seth Lindeman
Ida Hyman – grandmother of Stephen Davis
Esther Indrius – mother of Marcia Meyers
Anne Kent – mother of Joel Kent and Fern Cohen
Morris Mager – father of Estelle Breslow
Ida Malani – aunt of Linda Rigon
Lee Marcus – grandfather of Lauren and Margaret Gister
Abraham Michael – grandfather of Sally Michael Pomerantz
Adele Miller – mother of Ellen Friedman
Clara “Tops” Miller – mother of Suzanne Levine

Yahrzeiten
Sivan 28, 5779 to Tammuz 28, 5779
David Irving Adler – father of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Dora Tomim Adler – mother of Rochelle Dauenhauer
Lois Jane Harmon Alcosser – mother of Melinda Alcosser
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Abraham Michael – grandfather of Sally Michael Pomerantz
Adele Miller – mother of Ellen Friedman
Clara “Tops” Miller – mother of Suzanne Levine

Please remember to inform either Beth Brewer or Shelley Sprague, co-chairs 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.
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- **1st July** (28 Sivan): 5:30pm RiC Meeting, 5:45pm Facilities Meeting
- **2nd July** (29 Sivan): 3:00pm SSKP Board meeting
- **3rd July** (30 Sivan): 7:00pm Board of Directors
- **4th July** (1 Tamuz): 7:30pm First Friday Erev Shabbat Service
- **5th July** (2 Tamuz): Office closed
- **6th July** (3 Tamuz): 9:00 am Torah Study
- **7th July** (4 Tamuz): 5:30pm Cedar Lake Shabbat Service and Brown Bag Dinner
- **8th July** (5 Tamuz): 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service
- **9th July** (6 Tamuz): No Second Saturday Shabbat Service
- **10th July** (7 Tamuz): 9:00 am Torah Study
- **11th July** (8 Tamuz): 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service
- **12th July** (9 Tamuz): 6:15pm Peace Potluck at UCC (Chester)
- **13th July** (10 Tamuz): 9:00 am Torah Study
- **14th July** (11 Tamuz): 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service
- **15th July** (12 Tamuz): 6:15pm Peace Potluck at UCC (Chester)
- **16th July** (13 Tamuz): 9:00 am Torah Study
- **17th July** (14 Tamuz): 7:00pm Executive Committee
- **18th July** (15 Tamuz): 9:00 am Torah Study
- **19th July** (16 Tamuz): 7:00pm Executive Committee
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Megillah Deadline (Sept/Oct)

No 2nd Saturday service this Month
Many thanks to these recent Oneg sponsors:

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