

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

# BULLETIN



One Man. One Night.  
One Concert.

*Sam Glaser*

Saturday, December 3

concert 8:00 pm  
doors open 7:30 pm

\$18 general / \$36 premier

Reserve in advance or pay at the door  
at Rodeph Sholom / Call 203-334-0159



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy  
of Greater New York and New Jersey

Sponsored by Congregations Rodeph Sholom, Beth El, and B'nai Torah.  
2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 | Visit [www.samglaser.com](http://www.samglaser.com)

**CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM**  
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203-334-0159, Fax 203-334-1411  
[www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com), F [rodephsholombridgeport](http://rodephsholombridgeport.com)

Rabbi Emeritus  
Executive Director  
Hazzan  
Ritual Director  
President  
Gabbai  
Men's Club President

Israel C. Stein, D.D.  
Mark Block, FSA  
Neima Hirsch  
Irwin Schildkraut  
Peter Zeidel  
Sy Wiesenfeld  
Harold Goodman

## IN MEMORIUM

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

Members:

Sophie Secor – October 22, 2017

## THANK YOU

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

A special "Thank You!" to all of our Rodeph Sholom members who volunteered to help make our High Holiday and Festival services both meaningful and spiritual this year. We are especially grateful to the rabbinic leadership of Rabbi David Nelson and the musical talents of Hazzan Neima Hirsch.

The feedback received has been nothing short of overwhelming agreement that from erev-Rosh Hashanah straight through Simchat Torah, the holidays brought a renewed sense of community to our synagogue.

## BULLETIN

All new design!

Mark Block, Executive Director, has redesigned and is producing, beginning with this issue, the bulletin entirely in-house. This change saves both time and money for Rodeph Sholom. We maximize our internal resources while providing you with valuable information and articles of interest. We hope you like what you see and read here. Design and layout using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Headings typeset using Bell Gothic Standard 14 pt., text typeset using Chaparral Pro 11 pt.

## DAILY SERVICES

Bufferd/Vogel Chapel unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Weekdays	7:10 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Rosh Hodesh	7:00 a.m.
Friday evening	See website
Shabbat Morning	9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	Sundown, See website

For any changes and up-to-date service times, visit [www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com).

## MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is dedicated to two guiding principles:

To serve as a vibrant center for the practice and teaching of Conservative Judaism.

To create a spiritual and social atmosphere in which congregants feel part of a larger synagogue family.

## WEBSITE

[www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com)

On the synagogue's website, [www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com), you'll find up-to-date information on programs, activities and services going on throughout the week at Rodeph Sholom. Visit the website often to find out what's going on at the synagogue.

# President's Message

Peter Zeidel

**"We are taking the necessary preliminary steps to begin the critical process of searching for an experienced, committed and learned Rabbi to work along with and lead us to a bright future."**

Dear Fellow Members,

At the time of last writing to you, we were preparing to welcome the New Year. Well, from your comments, I am assured that, indeed, we welcomed the New Year in a reflective, positive and invigorating manner.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to Rabbi David Nelson, Cantor Neima Hirsch and Cantor Melissa Puius for their inspirational leadership of our services. They were ably assisted by our Ritual Director Irwin Schildkraut and Gabbai Sy Wiesenfeld and so many of our members who volunteered their services for Torah reading, chanting of Haftorah, Shofar blowing and ushering. Rayhan and Igor Pasternak reminded us how much musical accompaniment can bring to our services. Faith Bader Vogel cast her watchful eye over our "smaller" congregants. And, of course, Mark Block, Ainsley Friedberg and Willie Cuevas saw to it that all of the administrative and physical preparations were accomplished in a professional and efficient manner.

We also extend our gratitude to you, our membership, for the large number of you in attendance and for your overwhelming response to the High Holyday Appeal. We are pleased to advise you that not only did we surpass our budget projection; we more than doubled the 2015 appeal response. You answered the question, "Will you financially support this congregation to the best of your ability?"

We take your response as a validation of support for the direction your leadership and staff are taking to insure the future of our beloved congregation.

So, what is next?

We are taking the necessary preliminary steps to begin the critical process of searching for an experienced, committed and learned Rabbi to work along with and lead us to a bright future. We are hopeful that shortly after the first of the year we will begin scheduling candidate interviews. The best of those will then be presented to the congregation for consideration.

We are also forming a committee to review and revise our By-Laws. We have determined that this is a necessity. Conservative Judaism, as a whole, and our congregation, specifically, has changed over the years. The needs of our present membership, what segments of the population will consider membership with a Conservative congregation and what are the criteria of those considering membership with us. Accordingly, our By-Laws must keep pace.

Our programming efforts continue to evolve. While we continue to see increased participation, we know we can do more. But we need your assistance. If you attend a program, give us a call, send an email, drop us a note. Tell us what you liked, what you didn't like and if you have any suggestions as to how to improve. If you didn't attend a particular program, for a specific reason, let us know what that reason was.

We are particularly gratified by the large number of you who participated in the Pre High Holy Day Shabbat services and dinner and the Sukkot barbecue. A hearty yasher koach to all those who made those evening's so special.

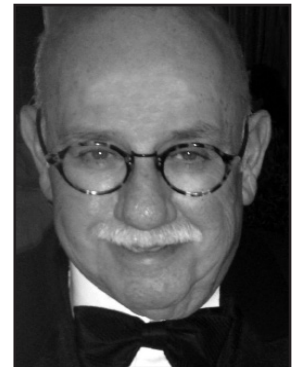
And watch for information about H-H-H! You won't want to miss it.

We are working with Cantor Hirsch to begin a series of musically oriented Friday evening Shabbat services. We anticipate starting after January 1. Please plan on joining with us as we welcome Shabbat with song, melody and ruach.

We have previously reported that we are actively marketing the vacant classroom space. We continue to be encouraged by the interest we have received. We are pleased to advise that we are in negotiations with an organization with substantial resources for a lease that will bring a new source of revenue to meet our annual expenditures.

Our Treasurer Cheryl Green and our Executive Director Mark Block have agreed to co-chair a committee to raise funds to be matched by a benefactor of the congregation. With your cooperation and generosity, we have the potential to raise \$200,000! If successful, we will earmark these funds for the future maintenance needs of our building.

As previously announced, but certainly worth repeating, our Sisterhood, the Woman of Rodeph Sholom, has generously donated substantial funds to be used towards our programming



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efforts and to provide funding for our Shabbat and Festival Kiddush's.

Membership. The key to our future. Perhaps, the most important issue facing us. We are evaluating those segments of the population that are underserved by local synagogues and what we can do to become the go to synagogue. A monumental task and one in which each of you can assist. Send us your suggestions. Work with

us. Play a role in the growth of your beloved congregation.

We must continue to focus our attention on the present and future as we reinvent Rodeph Sholom to serve the Jewish community - the path to a secure and peaceful future.

On behalf of your officers, trustees and staff and from Judy and me, our best wishes for a peaceful, happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

"Let us not take our blessings for granted. Let us share them with others, with thanks".

L'Shalom,

*Peter Zeidel*



Nearly 150 congregants were joined by visiting Rabbi David Nelson and Hazzan Neima Hirsch to enjoy a full-course Pre-Rosh Hashanah dinner in Friend Hall to usher in the High Holidays — the start of a new Rodeph Sholom tradition!

# Facing the Headwinds

## Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA

**“We must be open to substantive change that allows us to be relevant and viewed as an important home for the practice of Judaism.”**

Most of us are aware of the general trends outlined in the Pew Research Center survey of U.S. Jews released just a few years ago. This survey has been determined to be the most comprehensive national survey of the American Jewish population in the last 20 years, and confirmed what many in the Jewish professional field have long suspected—more and more American Jews no longer look to religious practice for Jewish identity. While this is a troubling confirmation for the organized Jewish community, its ramifications have been seen and felt locally for quite some time.

Whether it be the shuttered doors of the now gone Jewish Community Center a few years ago, the closing of synagogues in our area, and the continued disaffiliation of self-identified Jews, the signs of struggle are real for our people. If you ask any Jewish communal professional how the synagogue they serve is doing, and if all are honest, they will say it is more difficult to maintain members, increase contributions and generate enthusiasm for many programs than ever before. But no matter how disturbing the survey's findings prove for those who deal in the Jewish world daily, most will tell you that while the challenges are significant the opportunities are even greater, and that as Conservative Jews we should “embrace” the reality and work to extend our reach.

I want to offer just a few statistics to frame the conversation that many of my colleagues and I have been talking about to one another. According to the Pew report, 32% of the youngest generation of Jewish adults—so-called “Millennials,” those born between 1980 and the early 2000s—describe themselves as having “no religion,”

and instead identify as Jewish “on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture.” This is a striking trend in contrast to other generations of American Jews and earlier times in Jewish life; and if this trend continues we will be witness to an even greater shrinkage in the number of identified Jews in the United States over the course of the next decade. The study's findings also indicate that among “Jews of no religion,” only 12% say that being Jewish is “very important to them,” while a full two-thirds say they are not raising their children Jewish at all. There are tremendous headwinds to face as synagogues like ours plan for the future.

While the responses of the twenty to forty year olds is troubling it stands in noticeable contrast to the response of our older Jewish population where over 93% identify as Jewish on the basis of religion; and though they may identify as Jewish we only need to look around us on the High Holidays, Shabbat morning or daily services to see there has been a significant decrease in synagogue ritual attendance. If we look to the overall Jewish community we see dramatic decreases in other organized Jewish communal affiliation and involvement as well.

A glimmer of light is seen when it comes to traditional Jewish practices, though this may be cultural and not religious. About 70% of self-identified Jews continue to participate in a Passover seder, and over 50% say they fast for all, or part, of Yom Kippur.

With the challenges executive directors face in today's Conservative synagogue we have begun to take steps to more forcefully address the issues of who we are and where we want to go. Whether this be focusing our core programming

around holidays and festivals, or redefining the way we plan special events; providing meaningful study opportunities that enhance our connection to

Judaism; or redefining our mission to serve a population that is underserved, together we must be open to substantive change that allows us to be relevant and viewed as an important home for the practice of modern Conservative Judaism.

The synagogue leadership is also looking at other models that provide for affordable contributing throughout the year and new models to replace old thinking. While our own synagogue's impact on the Conservative Movement will be negligible—we will not be afraid to take steps to meet people where they are within our movement. By adapting to reality and making common sense changes to address the challenges we face, our creativity will be tested and our efforts to engage Jews in a meaningful and thoughtful way will be a highlight from which we will look back on with satisfaction years from now. Beyond this we must take our obligation to be responsive to people's needs in a very real and Jewish way. We will provide the kinds of programs, activities and services that help those who maintain their affiliation with us to be one that allows us to interact with the wisdom that comes from our Jewish tradition.



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If social action is important to us let's look at how we can perform acts of tikkun olam in our own community or house of worship. Social justice was identified by nearly half of the survey's respondents as essential to being Jewish. We are committed to the values of Jewish tradition and that has not lessened in the second decade of this century.

Erosion of Jewish identity is not a foregone conclusion of the Pew Research Study. The study simply confirms that the American Jewish

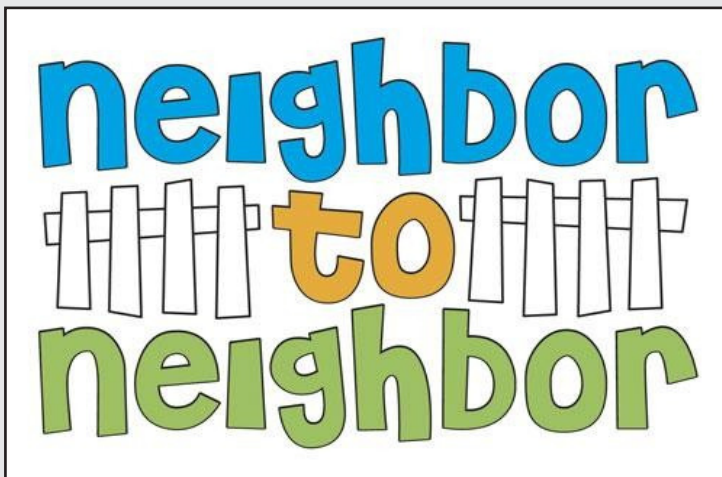
experience is just that – an American experience. From generation to generation the Conservative Movement has evolved to meet the challenges and opportunities of its times. We are no less compelled to do so today than 20, 50 or a hundred years ago. As we take steps forward we should commit to doing so together. If change is to come we should be open and willing to listen to each other, our thoughts, rationales and even fears. Then we must make decisions that will perpetuate the Conservative Movement and the ideals we stand for

as a sacred community for our children and their children. One people, one voice alive thriving.

L'Shalom,

*Mark Block*

## Social Action Project Updates



Thank you to everyone who brought in shoes for the children in Jamaica. Mike Dworkin's friend picked up the shoes and the ones they couldn't use will be brought to the United Congregational Church's clothing closet.

Leave your clean bottles and cans on the stage in Friend Hall (soda, water or beer). We will be recycling the unwanted keys we've collected and the bottles and cans later in November. All of the money will be used to purchase large cans of vegetables and paper goods for St. John's Soup Kitchen since they have not received as many funds for food and supplies this year. We will bring them when we volunteer on Tuesday, November 29.

We will continue collecting old eyeglasses and hearing aids for the Lion's Club. The box is in Friend Hall.

Bring in newspapers and blankets, towels, and sheets that you no longer want. They will be put into the crates to keep the animals warm at the Monroe animal shelter, a no kill-shelter. The box is also in Friend Hall.

Prior to Thanksgiving the CT Food Bank had special dates when people could volunteer. We stood outside of designated markets and handed out lists of food they needed to make up holiday baskets. Shoppers took the lists and brought the foods to us to put into shopping carts that werethen emptied into huge trailer trucks. You signed up for two-hour shifts and dressed warmly. Below are the dates and locations this year.

1. November 17, Shop Rite Supermarket , Hamden Plaza, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, 26th annual Stuff-a-Bus Food Drive.
2. November 17, Stop & Shop Supermarket, 898 Bridgeport, Avenue, Shelton, Star 99 Food for Friends Food Drive.
3. November 17, Stop & Shop Supermarket, 370 Hemingway Avenue, East Haven, WPLR Food for Friends Food Drive.
4. November 18, Shop Rite Supermarket, Hamden Plaza, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, KC 101 Annual Stuff a Bus Food Drive.

We need volunteers to help cook and serve at St. John's Soup kitchen on Tuesday, November 29 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., especially since some of our regulars will have already headed south for Florida.

Meet us once a month at the CT Food Bank Backpack program in Fairfield on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. (You must be able to stand for the entire time you are there).

# Torah Fund

## Women Ensuring Conservative / Masorti Jewish Education

2016/2017 – 5777 TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

*'Pri yadeha'*, which means the *'fruit of her hands'*, is a phrase from Eishet Chayil in the biblical Book of Proverbs. In this, the 100th year of Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the 75th year of the Torah Fund Campaign, we celebrate women's achievements and creativity – the fruit of her hands – in the family, in the synagogue, in the community, as dedicated volunteers, as leaders in the Jewish world and the secular world.

This year, Torah Fund has added the Zacharias Frankel College in Potsdam, Germany to the list of institutions it supports. Its mission is to train Masorti/Conservative Rabbis to meet the spiritual needs of a growing European Jewish population.

We thank the women, whose names appear below, who have already responded to our call for Torah Fund donors. We look forward to hearing from more of our past donors. Prospective donors will be receiving information from us soon. In the interim, all new donors can receive their pins by calling or emailing Lisa at 203-372-8203/rappo@optonline.net or Roz at 203-952-1023/roslynstein@optonline.net.

Our 5777 campaign is off to a great start. Let us hear from you.

### **Guardians**

Julie Rappoport  
Lisa Rappoport  
Marilyn Rappoport  
Svetlana Weisman

### **Benefactors**

Carol Battin  
Beattie Bernstein  
Gertrude Broder  
Tamara Bush  
Toby Folman  
Cheryl Green  
Edith Katzen

### **Benefactors (cont'd)**

Marion Richer  
Susan Spivack  
Barbara Srebnick  
Roz Stein  
Lisa Stein  
Judy Weiss  
Judy Zeisler

We have two new Sympathy cards as well as an All Occasion card for those of you who want to write your own message, and our usual assortment of Mazel Tov and Get Well cards. For cards, please call or e-mail Debbie Baer at 203-371-4915/dpbtrav@aol.com, Selda Dworkin at 203-374-6847/Seldwork@aol.com or Sue Forman at 203-374-1497.



## Art Discussion Well-Attended



Marcie Slepian presented an informative and well-attended and visual discussion, "Images of Jews from Renaissance Italy" on Sunday, September 25, as many made final preparations for the High Holidays.

# Program and Membership

## Committee Update



Rodeph Sholom is very busy with programs, both collaboratively with Beth El and B'nai Torah, through the generosity the Federation mini-grants and on our own. The Kulano Lemba program was such a success last year that it is being brought back again this year.

Sam Glaser, famed singer from Los Angeles, will be in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 3 as part of his "Rock Your Life Tour".

Once again, we will be co-sponsoring a Film Festival with B'nai Torah which will continue during the winter and spring of 2017.

Marcie Slepian, one of our own congregants presented *Looking at Jewish Life in Renaissance Italy* through Illustrated Manuscripts which was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

We welcomed back AARP for Fraud Alert and this time, Mike Klein, one of our congregants, co-presented. The afternoon focused on protecting oneself from scams, in the mail, on the phone and the Internet. The audience realized that no one is immune from these attacks and learned some tricks for protection and were provided with contact information if they needed it.

Our pre-Rosh Hashanah dinner, chaired by Helaine Alper and Judy Zeidel and committee, including

Marcy Gollinger, Cheryl Green, Peachie Resko, Marion Richer, Carol Weinshel, and Edith Winick was a tremendous success. Friend Hall was transformed into a warm, welcoming and festive room with delicious food, wonderful camaraderie and the beautiful voice of our Cantor, Neima Hirsch. Close to 150 people left the event smiling and happy.

To celebrate Sukkot, we hosted a barbecue prior to the Board Meeting... lots of fun, food and chatter...on a beautiful warm Fall evening.

With the national election behind us, Fairfield University's Lifelong Learning Program under the direction of Elizabeth Hastings brought Dr. Donald W. Greenberg, Professor of Politics, Emeritus, of Fairfield University who discussed "The Election is Over...Now What?"

Always remembering our Veterans, we once again celebrated their service during Shabbat Services on November 12.

Opening our doors to the greater community, we welcomed Ahmed M. Ebrahim, PhD, CPA, CMA from Fairfield University and Dr. Mohamed El-Samara, a Muslim psychiatrist and the CT Director of the Muslim American Society to talk about Islam, misconceptions between Islam and Muslims and to answer questions.

Upcoming and continuing with the UCONN Roadshow, Jeffrey Shoulson, Ph.D. - Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies - Director, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life - University of Connecticut will speak on *Who Was a Jew? The Emergence of Jewish Identity*...a very timely topic concerning all of us.

PERSONAL and REALISTIC REFLECTION:

I have come to realize that quality does not mean quantity. Each and

every program we have presented has been informative and/or enjoyable. As long as those who attend leave happy, having learned something, enjoyed being together, and talk about the programs (favorably), I consider this a success and I hope you do!

### MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE:

Each Board member was asked to call 11 members of the congregation to wish them a happy and healthy new year. From the comments of both those calling and the recipients, it is evident that the congregants were very pleased to be remembered and enjoyed the opportunity to connect. The birthday and anniversary cards continue to be sent and people are happy to receive them.

It has been a whirlwind of a year and it's only November. It's been fun (those are the words I'm hearing from the volunteers) to re-connect, fulfilling to present programs that make our congregants happy and exhausting to look at such a busy calendar but I wouldn't have it any other way. The message should always be - Rodeph Sholom is alive and well...come on down, see what's going on, meet some new people, re-connect with old friends and always know we are family.

*Carol S. Weinshel*

Vice President, Programming and Membership



# Milestone Anniversaries

We congratulate the following couples on their anniversaries both past and upcoming!

## **DECEMBER 2016**

Leonard & Barbara Srebnick (62)  
Charles & Joy Whitman (56)  
Melvin & Jacqui Garelick (46)  
Jonathan & Vicky Kantrowitz (46)  
Plinio & Vivian Perez (34)  
Brad & Randi Weinstein (23)  
Larry & Abby Rohinsky (16)

## **JANUARY 2017**

Wallace & Sheila Sloves (56)  
Milton & Betty Rosenbloom (55)  
Steven & Marsha Brody (43)

## **FEBRUARY 2017**

Harvey & Barbara Gaberman (62)  
Richard & Dorothy Blank (59)  
Aaron & Sheila Ment (51)  
Charlie & Susan Widlitz (50)  
Robert & Sarah Block (16)



The High Holidays were especially meaningful this year as Rabbi David Nelson, son of the Congregation's late, long-serving Rabbi, Harry Nelson, along with his wife Alicia, officiated from the bima from which he became a Bar Mitzvah himself. Rabbi Nelson was joined by Hazzan Neima Hirsch who brought her beautiful voice and special holiday tunes to all of our services.

The Congregation stood with love and respect for Rabbi Israel C. Stein, emeritus Rabbi, as he was called to the Torah for an aliyah, marking over 40 years of dedicated ministry to our synagogue.

# The Festival of Chanukah

## Why We Celebrate Eight Days

The 24th of the Jewish (lunar) month of Kislev, corresponding to the 24th of December, 2016, is the first night of Chanukah. Because of its proximity on the calendar to Christmas, Chanukah is one of the most well known Jewish holidays. But in actuality, it is a minor holiday, or rather more accurately, a festival.

Chanukah has two stories, historical and mythical. The history is found in the First Book of Maccabees, which covers historical events from 175 to 134 BCE. The Book of Maccabees opens with Alexander the Great's conquest of Israel, followed by Alexander dividing his kingdom on his death bed. Later, there "came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king." 1 Mac 1:10. Antiochus reconquers Jerusalem (it had apparently reverted to Jewish control after the death of Alexander) loots the temple, slaughters many Jews, and then forbids Jews from practicing their faith:

Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and that each should give up his customs. "And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die."

The rebellion, likely the first rebellion for religious freedom, was begun under the leadership of Mattathias, and, after his death, under the leadership of his son, Judah Maccabee. Like our own American Revolution, the war was as much a civil war against Hellenistic Jews as against foreign occupiers. But the army of Judah Maccabee triumphs and captures Jerusalem and the Holy Temple.

Then said Judah and his brothers, "Behold, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it." So all the army assembled and they went up to Mount Zion. And they saw the sanctuary desolate, the altar profaned, and the gates burned. In the courts they saw bushes sprung up as in a thicket, or as on one of the mountains. They saw also the chambers of the priests in ruins.

1 Mac. 4:36-38. So the Jews repaired the temple, rededicated it, and Judah Maccabee decreed that the eight days of rededication, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev, would forever be celebrated as Chanukah:

...Then Judah and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the 25th day of the month of Kislev.

The fruits of the military victory for which our ancestors originally celebrated Chanukah didn't last very long. In chapter 8 of First Maccabees, Judah Maccabee, now the new Jewish king, invites the Roman army to protect Israel by occupying the country. Once the Roman army arrived, they would not leave until the conquest by the followers of Muhammed, over 700 years later. Twice the Jews rose in rebellion, twice they failed to defeat the great superpower of that era, and, after each of the two wars, the Romans slaughtered Jews in mass, and forced many others into

slavery. By the time the rabbis penned the above paragraph, the victory of the Maccabees, while still celebrated every year, was both a distant memory but was also a symbol of hope in the face of Roman persecution.

The rabbis, in writing these few pages of Talmud—Shabbat 21a through 24a—obviously intended that the observance of Chanukah not be forgotten. Other pages in the Talmud

reference obscure military victories from earlier centuries on which fasting and mournful prayers are forbidden—these battles are otherwise forgotten today. But the rabbis, in these seven pages of Talmudical text, transformed the purpose of Chanukah and ensured that it would be observed as long as there were Jews. They decreed that every Jew, on each of the eight nights of Chanukah, not only light his or her Chanukah menorah but to place the lit menorah in the window "to advertise the miracle" and to shine that light into the outside darkness. Those lights shining into the darkness represent beacons of hope—that light will triumph over darkness.





# How to Light the Chanukah Menorah:



These instructions are intended for when you are facing the front of the Chanukiah. The candles must burn for 30 minutes after nightfall. On the first night, **Saturday, December 24**, place the Shamash in its holder and then place the first candle in the right-most position. Light the Shamash, recite all three blessings (below), then use the Shamash to light the first candle.

← Fill this way  
Light this way →

1. בָּרַךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵיר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha-olam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are you, Hashem our God, Ruler of the universe, Who makes us holy by God's commandments, and has commanded us to light Chanukah candles.

2. בָּרַךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים וּמוֹפְתִים בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּיָמֵינוּ הָאֵלֶּם

*Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha-olam,  
She-asa nissim la'avoteinu, bayamim haheim baz'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are you, Hashem our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who did miracles for our ancestors in olden days at this season.

3. בָּרַךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁחַיָּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִבִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha-olam,  
Shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are you, Hashem our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous season.

**On the second night**, place the Shamash in its holder. Place a candle in the right-most position, and then add the candle for the second night in the second-to-right-most position. Light the Shamash. Recite the first two blessings only (no shehecheyanu). Use the Shamash to light the **NEWEST** (ie., left-most) candle first, and work your way right.

**Each successive night**, continue in this way, adding candles in from right to left, reciting the first two blessings, and lighting them from left to right. Many people sing Chanukah songs at this point, such as Haneirot Hallalu (We Light These Lights) and Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages).

1st  
Night



2nd  
Night



3rd  
Night



4th  
Night



5th  
Night



6th  
Night



7th  
Night



8th  
Night





# High Holiday Appeal

## 5777 Pledges

We thank the following congregants who have made their pledge to this year's annual High Holiday Appeal. If you have not yet made your pledge, please do so by calling Mark Block at the synagogue office, 203-334-0159. We are striving for 100% Congregation participation. This list is up-to-date as of November 10, 2016.

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Aaron  
Allan & Helaine Alper  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Applebaum  
Dr. Milton & Mrs. Ann Armm  
Ms. Marilyn Auerbach  
Mr. Bernard Baer & Mrs. Deborah Pensak Baer  
Mrs. Robbie Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Bedford  
Mrs. Sondra Berkman  
John & Honey Blank  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blank  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Ann Block  
Lanny & Debbie Boles  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Brody  
Mr. Lewis Brosowsky  
Mrs. Janis Bufferd  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Burros  
Mrs. Selma Cohen  
Mr. Harry K. Cohn  
Mr. & Mrs. David Comen  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Deutsch  
Henry Diamond  
Lois Fagan  
Mr. Ronald Farrell  
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Feinberg  
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Toby Folman  
Susan Forman  
Melvin & Jacqueline Garelick  
Mrs. Annette Gelber  
Mrs. Florence Germaine  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Gershman  
Kenneth & Susan Ginsberg  
Irving & Visselle Glazer  
Mrs. Bernice Goldbloom  
Mr. Michael Goldbloom  
Dr. & Mrs. George Goldfarb  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Gollinger  
Ms. Iris M. Gomberg  
Mr. Abraham Gordon  
Mr. Stuart Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Green  
Joram & Niema Hirsch  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hochberg  
Dorothy Hurwitz  
Dr. Lawrence & Mrs. Clara Kahn

Jonathan & Monica Kantrowitz  
Mr. & Mrs. David Kiselstein  
Mr. Michael Klein  
Mrs. Iris Krawitz  
Pearl Levy  
Mr. & Mrs. Mikhail Liderman  
Sheila Lieff  
Mrs. Miriam Madwed  
Mr. & Mrs. William Markowitz  
Mr. Samuel Mayer & Mrs. Carol Battin  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Munk  
Daniel Pallay  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Passo  
Mrs. Naomi Rappoport  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Ravage  
Bruce & Malvene Ravage  
Mrs. Bernice Resnick  
Stanley & Marion Richer  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Ringelheim  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Roberts  
Mr. Lawrence Sax  
Mr. & Mrs. William Serlin  
Mr. Ronald & Dr. Deborah Sheiman  
Mr. Donald Sherman  
Mr. Laurence Shire  
Susan Silver  
Mr. & Mrs. David Slepian  
Wallace & Sheila Sloves  
Dr. Susan Spivack  
Howard & Florence Splaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Srebnick  
Mr. Samuel Stern  
Ernest & Ethel Tischler  
Mr. & Mrs. John Ward  
Michael & Carol S. Weinshel  
Mrs. Helen Weinstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Weinstein  
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Weisman  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Whitman  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Widlitz  
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Wiesenfeld  
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Wolf  
Martin & Hinda Wolf  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Zeidel  
Dr. & Mrs. Jonas Zucker



Sukkot was celebrated with a delicious barbeque immediately preceding the Board of Trustees meeting on October 19. Taking their grilling duties seriously were President Peter Zeidel, Allan Alper, Vice President of Finance & Operations, and Michael Weinshel, past President. Blessings took place in the sukkah, and a large crowd enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating the holiday.



Rodeph Sholom welcomed Dr. Donald Greenberg, Fairfield University emeritus Professor of Politics on November 9, immediately following this year's Presidential election. Dr. Greenberg's talk, "The Election is Over...Now What?" was an enlightening and thought-provoking, post-election discussion on what the next four years might look like when the new President takes office in January 2017.

Dr. Greenberg was accompanied by Elizabeth Hastings, Director, Community and Lifetime Education – Fairfield University.



# Contributions, Congratulations & Remembrances

## **RABBI STEIN DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Harry & Anna Bernstein  
Larry Fenick  
Gerald Wayne Kaufman  
Lou & Rose Marcus  
Art & Adrienne Bernstein

## **FANNIE & ABE BERKOWITZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Samuel W. Stein  
Rabbi Israel & Roslyn Stein

## **MORT BERNSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Malvin Gelber  
Annette Gelber

## **KIDDUSH FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Miriam Madwed  
Bert Madwed,  
Susan Guttman Madwed,  
Mark Madwed and  
Sarah Bazydola

## **MINYAN BREAKFAST**

### **In Memory of:**

Mary S. Pensak  
Bernard & Deborah Pensak  
Baer  
Hannah & Matthew Lipshires  
Barbara Srebnick

## **SYNAGOGUE FUND**

### **Donation from:**

Hon. & Mrs. Joseph Lieberman  
Bill Schwartz

### **In Honor of:**

David Goldstein  
Susan Spivack  
Miriam Madwed  
Sue & Marc Forman  
Susan Spivack  
Judy & Bob Zeisler  
Samuel Mayer & Carol Battin  
Robert Shubs  
Rabbi David Nelson  
Rabbi Israel Stein  
Paula & Israel Hersch & Family

### **In Memory of:**

Stanley Hutkin  
Lila Grossman  
Allan Rosen  
Lawrence A. Sax

Irving Schwartz  
Ann & Mark Block  
Lawrence Sax

## **WEINSHEL FAMILY FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

The Wedding of Hank & Marilyn  
Banach's daughter  
Michael & Carol S. Weinshel

## **YAHREZEITS**

### **In Memory of:**

Isidore Bauchner  
Lillian Bauchner  
Eugene & Roberta Bauchner  
Lester Blank  
Victoria Blank  
Lena Cohen  
Betty Rosenbloom  
Cilla Cohn  
Evelyn Wiesner  
Mark Comen  
Roslyn & David Comen  
Jack Feinberg  
Rose Feinberg  
Samuel Feinberg  
Ronald Sheiman  
Ethel Feldman  
Israel Feldman  
Albert Goodman  
Marcia Fields  
Lawrence Roberts  
Rosa Fischer  
Evelyn Wiesner  
Florence Freedman  
Roslyn & David Comen  
Rose Freedman  
Jean Freedman  
Rita Gershman  
Stanley Gershman  
Alfred Gold  
Visselle Glazer  
Anna Gold  
Jacob Gold  
Blanche Koppelman  
Mandel Gollinger  
Neil & Marcy Gollinger  
Sarah Kramer Gomberg  
June Levy  
Fannie Goodman  
Louis Goodman  
Albert Goodman  
Louis Hillman  
Mae & Allan Margolis  
Israel Isenberg  
Dolores & John Ward

Selma Jonas  
Samuel Stern  
Esther Kelman  
Rabbi Stuart Kelman  
Ernest Laden  
Sara M. Laden  
Louis Ladinsky  
Gertrude Broder  
Laura Levin  
Nancy Kay  
Isidore Levy  
Pearl Levy  
Samuel Liderman  
Mikhail Liderman  
Lottie Lieff  
Irving Lieff  
Richard Lieff  
Mae & Allan Margolis  
Hanchen Bergheimer Lion  
Ellie & Fred Rosen  
Herbert Lobe  
Irene Lobe  
Betty Fox  
Solomon Lobe  
Shari L. Lobe  
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Mae & Allan Margolis  
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William Rappoport  
Sarah Resnick  
Miriam Resnick Friedman  
Mary Roberts  
Lawrence Roberts  
Sally Rome  
The Rome Children: Bruce,  
Phyllis Rome Zuckerman &  
Gary  
Charles Rosenberg  
Ruth Rosenberg  
Marsha Brody



# Contributions, Congratulations & Remembrances

Bernard Rosenbloom  
Rose Rosenbloom  
Milton Rosenbloom  
Gertrude Rubin  
Alvin Ruben  
Sally Simony Salamy  
Judy Zeisler  
Frank Michael Sales  
Ann Block  
Sidney Schloss  
Visselle Glazer  
Abraham Schwitzman  
Minnie Schwitzman  
Shirley Presant  
Samuel C. Sheiman, M.D.  
Phyllis & Leonard Feinberg  
Ronald Sheiman

William Sherman  
Donald Sherman  
Harry Shwartz  
Ronni Lustig  
Samuel Singer  
Shirley C. Ruben  
Chava Volstein  
Leib Volstein  
Eva Goldman  
Herman L. Weinberger  
Leon Spivack  
Carol S. & Michael Weinshel  
Sadie "Bobby" Weinshel  
Carol & Michael Weinshel  
Denih Weisman  
Shifra Weisman  
Benjamin Weisman

Arthur Winick  
Edith Winick  
Ida Winnick  
Lois Schoenhorn  
Gustave A. Wolf  
Austin Wolf  
Martin Wolf  
Ethel Zouderer  
Irving Fleischer

## Chanukah Candles



The synagogue has boxed Chanukah candles available for members in the synagogue office. Our quantity is limited. One box per member unit, additional boxes for family or friends in limited number at \$3/box. Candles may be picked up in the office after December 1 while supplies last.

## Special Note

Please be sure if you have any contact information changes, i.e., address, email, etc. that you let the office know as soon as possible. We want to ensure you receive all of the synagogue mailings and email blasts in a timely manner.



Ahmed M. Ebrahim, PhD, CPA, CMA – Fairfield University, and Dr. Mohamed El-Samara, CT Director of the Muslim American Society presented *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Islam But Never Asked* – a basic introduction to Islam (Islam 101) to a diverse audience on November 15. The audience was engaged in discussion on its applications in modern times.

## Congregation Rodeph Sholom

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By simply completing a matching gift form (on-line or paper), you may be able to double, or even triple, the impact of your gift! Contributions of any amount help us continue to operate Rodeph Sholom in a sound, fiscal manner. Check with your employer and see how you can continue to make an impact on Rodeph Sholom's fiscal bottom-line.



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