

Late Summer/Fall 2018 / 5778-5779

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

# BULLETIN



## HIGH HOLIDAYS



See inside for more information and service times or visit [www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com)!

**Rosh Hashanah Eve**

*Sunday, September 9*

**Yom Kippur Eve**

*Tuesday, September 18*

## Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Friday, September 7, following services @ 6:00 p.m. See inside for more details!

# CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1499

203-334-0159, Fax 203-334-1411

[www.rodeshsholom.com](http://www.rodeshsholom.com),  [rodeshsholombridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/rodeshsholombridgeport)

Rabbi  
Hazzan  
Executive Director  
President  
Gabbaim  
Rabbi Emeritus

David Barnett, D.D.  
Niema Hirsch  
Mark Block, FSA  
Cheryl G. Green  
Sy Wiesenfeld, Irwin Schildkraut  
Israel C. Stein, D.D. z"l

## IN MEMORIUM

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

### Members:

Rita Sheiman (July 18, 2018 / 6 Av 5778)

### Member Relatives:

Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn (July 14, 2018 / 2 Av 5778)

Father of Dr. David Wolfsohn

## DAILY SERVICES

Bufferd/Vogel Chapel and Friend Hall  
unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	8:30 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	6:00 p.m.
Shabbat Morning	9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	Sundown, See website

For any changes and up-to-date service times, check out our weekly email blast or visit [www.rodeshsholom.com](http://www.rodeshsholom.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.

## SIMCHAS

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Miriam Madwed on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Carly Samantha Greenman, daughter of Dana and Dr. Jason Greenman of New York, and granddaughter of Bert and Ilene Madwed of Samford, CT.

Mazal Tov to our Gabbai Rishon, Sy and Faith Wiesenfeld, on the August 12, 2018 Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Jessica Wiesenfeld, daughter of Steven and Carolyn Wiesenfeld.

Email Mark Block at [mblock@rodeshsholom.com](mailto:mblock@rodeshsholom.com), or call the office at 203-334-0159 with your family simchas.

## WEBSITE

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

At [www.rodeshsholom.com](http://www.rodeshsholom.com), you'll find up-to-date information on programs, activities and services going on throughout the week at Rodeph Sholom. Visit [www.rodeshsholom.com](http://www.rodeshsholom.com) often to see what's going on, and browse through the special links to Shabbat, holidays and festivals uploaded regularly.

Note: Rabbi Barnett deeply cares about all of our congregants, and wishes to be informed directly in case of any emergencies by calling the synagogue office at 203-334-0159. You may leave a voice mail message at his extension, as hospitals will not release any personal information in case of illness or crises.

# Rabbi's Message

Rabbi David S. Barnett, D.D.

## Return and Renewal

During the entire High Holy Day period, beginning from the first day of Elul through certainly Yom Kippur, and in fact even as late as Sh'mini Atzeret, the primary rabbinic concept which is emphasized is that of "Teshuvah," variously translated as "return" or "repentance" in the larger and broader "classical" sense. Linguistic understanding is always helpful here, as one needs to know that the root in the word "Teshuvah" is "Shuv," meaning "return". It is especially during this period when we focus both as a community and individually on returning first to God, to ultimate Source. We then focus on the same and eternally valid, binding, and morally operative orienting principles of law and ethics which form the internal theological and moral schematic so crucially necessary for us to function as a people with a divine mission.

These guiding and formative principles function as our guide, compass, and map – all in one – and our tradition as a whole is permeated and infused with moral and ethical principles which themselves are embedded in sacred laws and customs.

However, the context in which these principles are enacted is constantly changing; thus, one of the aspects of God we consciously attempt to embrace and return to is that of continual creation, evolution, and transformation. Each and every day, indeed each and every moment, we are enjoined to praise and celebrate God as "m'chadesh b'tuvo," the God who "renews through his goodness" all of the wonders of creation, including God not only

as manifested in nature but most specially in all aspects of our own lives. Being aware of this keeps our relatedness to our tradition and to our lives in keen relevance. There is no time for boredom when truly engaged and involved in the creative process. By analogy in nature, the individual plant germinates in the quiet dark from a small sometimes tiny seed, grows in sunlight and in turn produces its own seeds, and eventually withers and returns to the earth – grounded source; however, the species continues! The organic "community body" continues!

Keep in mind also, that on Rosh Hashanah when we dip the apples in honey, we proclaim the phrase/prayer/affirmation "Sh'tchadesh Aleinu Shanah Tovah U'm'tukah," "that we should be RENEWED for a good and sweet year." Thus, things and conditions change from moment to moment, from day to day, and certainly from year to year. Our environment/living social and religious fabric is always in the process of transformation: the remaining question is, do we actively and proactively embrace and anticipate the changes with foresight, daring, innovation, and vision, and bold planning for the future, or do we insist that the path of the past will and must be the identical path of the future?

We, now as a community, have an opportunity to try and address many of the long-term aspects of challenge to the survival of Jewish life and community both here and in the United States at large. There are many communal challenges which have, it seems, been "pushed under

the rug" for decades; we have ignored addressing certain long-term challenges in thoughtful and innovative



ways, to our collective peril. Many of these opportunities, and we should see them as such, will be addressed at least in part during our upcoming holidays. Rather than listing the various groups who are disengaged at present, who fall through the cracks of our present religious/social/communal infrastructures, and lengthening this present article, I'm going to encourage you in the meantime to think creatively yourself, and think about whom we could engage more, and how we can do it. Both the above-mentioned models of God and nature encourage and enjoin us to survive, perpetuate, and embody the principle of active growth; how can we even have more fun and meaning in rising up actively and being fully engaged ourselves to this challenge?

Shanah tovah,

*Rabbi Barnett*



# Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Join us for a pre-holiday communal, spirited, festive, and sumptuous holiday meal as we usher in the New Year with our third annual Rosh Hashanah Dinner.

**Friday, September 7**

Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport

Dinner will follow 6:00 p.m. services

**There is NO CHARGE, though reservations are required no later than September 4 for proper food preparation.**

We invite you to bring an unaffiliated guest or couple to dinner and for High Holiday services at no charge to members.

Complete schedule of holiday services may be found at [www.rodephsholom.com/holidays5779](http://www.rodephsholom.com/holidays5779).

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

# Notes from Niema

Hazzan Niema Hirsch

“There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in.” - Leonard Cohen

Only God is perfect and only God can create a world which is both perfect and incomplete. God is the whole; we and all of creation are parts of that whole. The crack in Leonard Cohen’s “Anthem” is the imperfection that exists in every living thing. Yet we have the capacity to reach to a greater existence. We can do a Tikkun, a correction, and the upcoming High Holidays are a special time for doing a Tikkun. We can change the arc of our lives for the better.

This is a time of transition in the Jewish calendar from the year 5778 to 5779. We see the transition in nature as the seasons change from summer to fall. Any transition can be daunting; a change of season, a change in occupation, or moving to a new home. Change can be exhilarating and challenging. I am curious to see how the decision to sell the building and move to a new location will shape up in the coming year. The leaders of our congregation are working hard to make the best decision for our congregation. I am excited about the change and welcome the renewal. I believe that we have a capacity to adapt to change and even enjoy it. Let me share a few examples with you. Recently, I introduced a new melody for “Mi Shebeirach;” everyone joined in

and adapted to it quickly. Another example is the wonderful core group of people who come every Thursday to my Yoga class – we breathe, chant prayers, and meditate; and, oh yeah, we also do a lot of yoga postures. Another group does Yoga on Shabbat. There has been a wide acceptance of a shorter version of Musaf. In all, it gives me a sense that our community is open to explore and experiment with new things.

We learn from Chassidic master that in the month before Rosh Hashanah, “the King is in the field.” In this month of Elul, God is more accessible than ever. He is waiting for us to greet Him; He is there for us in the “field” of our everyday lives. We add Psalm 27 to the daily service. The Psalm opens with “God is my light and my salvation.” Indeed, the mood of the Psalm is one of yearning to come closer to God, of strengthening our faith that God can and will remove obstacles to approaching Him if we come to pray with sincerity. Thus, the Psalmist is preparing us to pray with kavanah (intention) during the Days of Awe extending from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur.

You may have noticed that the services on Rosh Hashanah are starting at the crack of dawn –

8:00 a.m.  
The Torah service will start around 9:15 a.m.  
We have made this decision to accommodate you and



finish services at a reasonable time. We know that people get hungry around 12:30 p.m. and begin to wonder when it will be over. Me, too! So, we are having an early start and an early finish.

I pray that God will continue to bless this holy congregation. I pray that you will accept me as your Hazzan and that our voices join together with the traditional melodies of the holidays. I pray that God will accept our deepest wishes for good life, for health, happiness and peace. I pray that we direct our hearts towards God and request with great humility that the new year, 5779, will indeed be a sweet one.

Shanah tovah u’metukah,

*Niema Hirsch*

## High Holiday Service Start Times



Please note that morning service times for the coming High Holidays will begin earlier than in years past. Services on Rosh Hashanah morning will begin at 8:00 a.m. and on Yom Kippur at 8:30 a.m. This is being done so that morning services will conclude at an earlier time allowing you to spend more time with family and friends as we celebrate the New Year.

# President's Message

Cheryl G. Green

## The Fork in the Road

*"Rosh Hashanah isn't just about being new, it's about a change." – Max Levis*

It is hard to imagine that a year has passed since I assumed my first term in office. So much has transpired during that time that has set us on the road to our future. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we reflect upon the previous year, taking stock of what was good and meaningful in our lives, what made our days peaceful and fulfilling. Did we accomplish all that we set our minds too? Did we think of our fellow man or were we consumed with our own needs? Were we the best version of who we could be?

In my most recent communication to the congregation, I was forthright in detailing all that had transpired in a very short period of time. At the July board meeting, the vote to accept the purchase contract for the property at 3160 Easton Turnpike Fairfield was approved. This road to our rejuvenation includes a new location, new physical home and a new form of worship. We have been working towards this goal for nearly a year with tremendous enthusiasm as we are optimistic that the future we have envisioned will allow us to build upon the legacy of Rodeph Sholom for a new generation. Some have questioned the wisdom behind the construction of a new building when synagogues and churches are closing at an alarming rate. It's a great question and one that deserves an honest answer. Our priority is to reach out into the community for those who are unaffiliated, disenfranchised and questioning their relationship to Judaism in a

world that is changing at lightning speed, leaving many feeling adrift and lost. We recognized and acted upon the reality that our current building and location no longer addresses a population that demands a convenient right size location, environmental sustainability and open flow worship space in an area that is active. We have been exploring the implementation of a more relaxed form of worship that speaks to a deeper personal spiritual relationship with Contemporary Conservative Judaism and God, understanding why we say certain prayers, when we say them and how do they affect me. We have questioned whether meditation, music, yoga, discussions and even coffee can become part of our Shabbat services and were pleasantly surprised that not only they can, but should be incorporated.

What has been proposed may not appeal to all our current members as we recognize that Rodeph Sholom has within its congregation many levels of observance of Conservative Judaism. It is our intention to continue the time-honored traditions of our current services as we embrace the diverse changing landscape of Contemporary Conservative Judaism. Synagogues today offer multiple forms of worship so no one is left unfulfilled in a time when feeling nourished spiritually and being part of a larger community helps to sustain the soul. To focus solely on our current membership and not institute an avenue for community outreach would be foolhardy. To build upon the legacy of Rodeph Sholom, we must look to



*One Year Later!*

those who have distanced themselves from organized Judaism and offer the opportunity to rediscover their religious roots in a communal environment that allows for personal spiritual growth through learning, prayer and song that is unique and dynamic.

As we traveled down the road to what your leadership felt was an appropriate destination, we heard a group passionately campaign for a dialogue with Congregation Beth El about joining together. We listened and as previously written, met to discuss the possibility of forming one cohesive congregation. To date, deliberations are ongoing, however, due to the complex nature of mergers a tremendous amount of time and work is required with everyone needing to check their own institutional protections at the door. It is incumbent upon your officers and board of trustees to have a plan in place should the discussions not bear fruit, hence the importance of a signed contract for the Easton

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## President's Message (Cont'd.) The Fork in the Road

Turnpike land. The end results are quite different and the means to achieve the desired goals that are in the best interest of the congregation require a different set of guidelines to employ. The road we were traveling maintained the autonomy of our beloved congregation and allowed for the vision of discovering Contemporary Conservative Judaism in an active, readily accessible location. We would be the masters of our own destiny with much to gain as we write a new chapter in the legacy of Congregation Rodeph Sholom adding to all those who came before us. The new road with Congregation Beth El would establish a unified congregational family bringing the history of both together under one roof and begin the process of writing a new story for the next generation. Our future is an uncertain one, but I believe as do our officers and board of trustees that Rodeph Sholom still has a place in our community.

Referring to the questions I proposed at the beginning of this article, I am confident that our leadership has acted in the best interest of the entire congregation. I don't know where the road will lead, but I think you will agree that our officers and board of trustees have been open minded and deliberate in steering this congregation to a bright future.

As always, I can be reached by phone 475-999-2114 or email [cgreen@rodephsholom.com](mailto:cgreen@rodephsholom.com) to discuss whatever is on your mind, or Mark can be reached at the synagogue office 203-334-0159 or by email [mblock@rodephsholom.com](mailto:mblock@rodephsholom.com).

In this season of renewal, I look forward to a year of renaissance, innovation and reinvigoration. From my family to yours, wishing you all a year of health peace and happiness.

Shanah tovah!

*Cheryl G. Green*

## Adult Education with Rabbi Barnett

**Tuesday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.  
Beginning, October 9**

"No matter where you are on the spectrum of Jewish literacy, from beginner to expert, come and immerse yourself in our treasury of Jewish stories, history, legacies, texts, and inspirations...interactive discussions and dialogues will certainly broaden your horizons and appreciation!"



## Cemetery Visitation

The tradition of visiting the graves of the ancestors and praying for both the deceased and the living is very old. It is written in the Book of Numbers 13:22 about Caleb that, "And they went up into the south, and he came to Hebron." The Talmudin Tractate Sotah 34a explains that he went there to pray by the graves of the Patriarchs. Visiting graves is an important demonstration of respect and remembrance.



**Sunday, September 2, 2018**

10:00 a.m. Memorial Park,  
Kings' Highway, Fairfield

10:30 a.m. Old Cemetery,  
Shepard Street, Fairfield

(Minyan needed at the both cemeteries.)

Zecher L'tzadikim Livracha  
(The memory of the righteous shall remain as a blessing.)

# Striving for a Good Outcome

Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA

## Change Must Come from Within

Each of us makes hundreds of big and small decisions every day of our life and many of these decisions are opportunities that can change our day or even our life. Here at the synagogue our lay leaders, clergy and staff do much the same as we go about the business of the synagogue and the life of an active shul. Even as we do all of this it can be difficult in the moment to assess whether or not a decision will yield a good outcome.

Decisions are indeed forks in the road and life doesn't just happen to us or our synagogue; we are active participants. More than just a choice in the moment, good decision-making takes discipline. At Rodeph Sholom, just as I know my colleagues say, we often go about it the hard way, learning what not to do and creating understanding going forward. Successful organizations approach decisions through a methodical approach of looking at choices—some obvious, others not as clear. However, when you have the tools and willingness to be open then confidently navigating the right option becomes easier and more comfortable.

Successful organizations know there are a myriad of decisions to be made; from small to medium and big. Small decisions require little in-depth thought or research. The impact is minimal and the outcome rarely is noticeable by others. Medium decisions impact the daily life of the synagogue and while they can be congregation altering they are not so bold as to change the trajectory of the synagogue. They are designed to nudge the institution in a direction that causes the least amount of

significant discussion or discord. In other words, those decisions affect the life of the synagogue, but they aren't crash-and-burn moments.

Successful organizations don't spend a lot of time or energy on small decisions and neither should we. The outcome will be pretty well known in advance and what would be expected. We can make over a hundred small decisions a day with minimal risk because the consequences are low.

Bigger decisions that affect the synagogue are made infrequently, maybe only once or twice a year, sometimes even less, and successful leaders are clear in stating the purpose and goals in order to navigate to the best decision. Our leaders have always relied on others to challenge and support them. By knowing the intended goal the approach to reaching it is the key. Successful organizations often employ four main strategies of approach and communication that help them clearly define what they seek to achieve, much as the leadership of our synagogue has been doing for well over a year now.

They keep prime goals clear; stay focused on them and regularly communicate with you.

They identify the top priority and work to create a climate of understanding that encourages a favorable treatment when making decisions.

They look for goal and decision overlap and treat the decision with more care.

They understand the value of

timing and identifying the benefits of continuing to move in a forward-thinking direction.

Just as we all make good decisions, we can make bad decisions as well. Successful people and organizations can course correct more quickly, even though most people don't act, they react. Their reaction is often one that's painful and requires time to process, but frequently they move on, and then they don't talk about it again.

Organizations that seek to move forward have the ability to fix fast because it isn't a matter of trying harder, that's a trap; it's about not doing the same thing over and over expecting a change. It's about recognizing that the change has to come from within because trying hard is already something that is being done.

Every organization has mistakes they've made and almost every one of them has made poor decisions on big issues. The key is to not get mired in self-doubt or loathing over what might have been. There is nothing more deflating. So, what do we do about it? The worst reaction is to adjust our goals downward to fit our current circumstances. We do it to avoid feeling bad or guilty for not having done more or having done things better. Successful organ-



*(continued on page 9)*

## Executive Director's Message (Cont'd)

izations keep goals solid, understandable and achievable, and then continue to make decisions purposefully around them.

Making decisions based on facts not fear avoids consequences piling up and turning into regret. Regret has a big impact, and the baggage it brings with it can be carried around due to bad decision-making, so when successful organizations assess regrets, they learn from them and then they're done with them; they put them away.

The leadership of Rodeph Sholom has made a conscious decision to not give up control to things like fate and luck. As we prepare to turn the calendar from 5778 to 5779 we have the opportunity and obligation to reflect and assess on ourselves and our community. If we own our decisions in the New Year as we have in the one soon to pass we get what we choose. By being forward looking we can do more than imagine the good things that can come from the hours of hard work that have been put forth to decide our synagogues future—we can record our own history as being good decision makers.

L'shana tova tikatanuh,

*Mark Block*

## Neighbor to Neighbor

Barbara Srebnick is looking for volunteers to knit hats and/or headbands for our social action school project. Barbara can supply the yarn and instructions! Distributions is usually the first week in December.

For more information, please call Barbara at 203-371-9939.



## Not Your Bubbe's Kitchen

From the kitchen of our office administrator/bookkeeper, Ainsley Friedberg.

I thought it would be fun to research the origins of New Year apple and honey customs. I got, well, bubkes. However, I did come across some fascinating facts. First of all, when scripture refers to Israel as the land of milk and honey, it isn't referencing cow's milk or bee's honey. Goat's milk and a date 'honey,' a paste made of the overripe fruit, were what were plentiful in the new land. Apples, however, were pretty rare, so it seems that when Jews started to populate Eastern Europe, they took advantage of the abundance of such a valued fruit. In ancient Russia, there were three separate harvest holidays, one for honey, one for apples and one for nuts that have since been, expectedly, Christianized. So these, long ago, may have been adapted for the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. The medieval era brings us records of folk wishing for themselves and others a 'sweet' New Year, and there was also a documented custom of carving blessings into the apple before it was eaten on the holiday. In keeping with that tradition, the apple used in this recipe was carved with the word 'Joy'.

I decided to try something super simple and very versatile:

### Easy Cinnamon Honey Apple Syrup

In a 2 or more cup bowl or Pyrex measuring cup, stir together 1/3 cup honey, 1/3 cup apple juice and 1/4 tsp cinnamon. Add 1 peeled and diced apple and stir again. Microwave for two minutes and stir once more. I used some of the syrup to make a light autumn sangria with chilled white wine and lemon seltzer. I then spooned the apples with the rest of the sauce, still warm, over ice cream. I'm not a big fan of alcohol with dessert, but this went together pretty well. It makes 4 servings of each. This would also make a great filling for crepes or blintzes, or can be marbled through a box cake batter before baking.



# High Holy Days 5779

## Service Schedule

### ROSH HASHANAH

#### **Sunday, September 9, 2018**

Evening Service, Erev Rosh HaShanah	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:53 p.m.

#### **Monday and Tuesday, September 10-11, 2018**

Rosh HaShanah Services Begin	8:00 a.m.
Shacharit	8:30 a.m.
Torah Service	9:15 a.m.
Child Care	9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Sermon	10:45 a.m.
Musaf	11:00 a.m.
Service Concludes	12:45 p.m.
Tashlich (Day I)	5:00 p.m.
Evening Service (Day I)	6:00 p.m.
Evening Service (Day II)	7:15 p.m.
Havdalah	7:50 p.m.

### YOM KIPPUR

#### **Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

Erev Yom Kippur Mincha	1:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre	6:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting/Fast Begins	6:38 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

Yom Kippur Services Begin	8:30 a.m.
Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Torah Service	9:45 a.m.
Child Care	9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.
Sermon/Yizkor	10:45 a.m.
Musaf	11:30 p.m.
Mincha	4:45 p.m.
Neilah	6:15 p.m.
Ma'ariv	7:20 p.m.
Havdalah/Final Shofar/Fast Ends	7:36 p.m.

# Holidays and Festivals 5779

## Service Schedule

### EREV SUKKOT

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**

Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:29 p.m.

### SUKKOT - DAY ONE

**Monday, September 24, 2018**

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.

### SUKKOT - DAY TWO

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:45 p.m.
Havdalah	7:26 p.m.

### HOL HAMO'ED ONE - SUKKOT - DAY THREE

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018**

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	5:45 p.m.

### HOL HAMO'ED TWO - SUKKOT - DAY FOUR

**Thursday, September 27, 2018**

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	5:45 p.m.

### HOL HAMO'ED THREE - SUKKOT - DAY FIVE

**Friday, September 28, 2018**

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:21 p.m.

### HOL HAMO'ED FOUR - SUKKOT - DAY SIX

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:30 p.m.
Havdalah	7:19 p.m.

### HOSHANA RABBAH - SUKKOT - DAY SEVEN

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**

Shacharit	8:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:17 p.m.

### SHEMINI ATZERET

**Monday, October 1, 2018**

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
(Yizkor and Dedication of Memorial Plaques)	
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
(Evening Celebration with Dancing and Singing)	
Candle Lighting	7:16 p.m.

### SIMCHAT TORAH

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:45 p.m.
Havdalah	7:14 p.m.



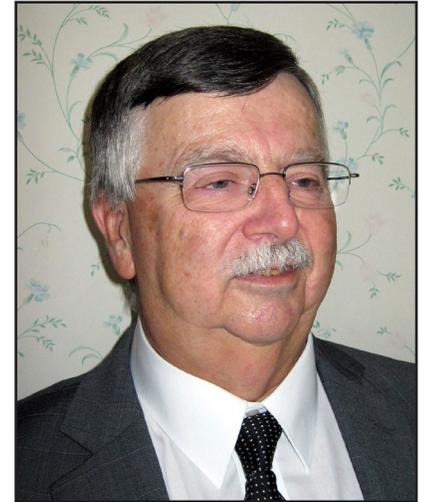
(Visit [www.rodephsholom.com](http://www.rodephsholom.com) for additional holiday and festival information.)

# 2018 Shem Tov Award Recipient

## Brian Bedford

Brian Bedford, a native of Fairfield County, is the middle child of the late Archie and Betty Bedford. He has a sister and brother living in Florida, a brother living in New York and a brother who is deceased.

Brian became associated with Rodeph Sholom some 45 years ago through his engagement to Ellen Rozene. Ellen's family had been associated with Rodeph Sholom for decades prior to that. As many of you are aware, Rabbi Israel Stein married Brian and Ellen on the Bima on August 11, 1974, making them one of the first couples to be married by Rabbi Stein in his rabbinate at Rodeph Sholom. However, getting to this point was a challenge. Back in 1972, finding a Rabbi willing to even discuss the topic of conversion was very difficult. Most would not. However, most of you know how determined Ellen was to get things done. She was not going to let a blockade of Rabbis stop her from getting the information she needed. Bearing down during a follow-up conversation with one local Rabbi, it was offered that there might be a Rabbi in New Haven who could know something about this. This led Brian and Ellen to Rabbi Melvin Libman of Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel in New Haven, who was instrumental in opening the door and making the process of conversion to Judaism possible for Brian. He provided the education and oversaw the entire process from beginning to end. As it turned out, it is believed that Rabbi Stein and Rabbi Libman had met each other at the JTS. Officiating at Brian and Ellen's wedding were Rabbi Israel Stein, Rabbi Melvin Libman, Cantor David Leon and Cantor Solomon White, Ellen's grandfather. Cantor White was Cantor of Rodeph Sholom in the late 1930's when it was on Iranistan Avenue.



Following graduation from Trumbull High School, Brian attended the University of Bridgeport full-time while working full-time at the D.M. Read department store in Trumbull in the Domestic department. Back in those days, there were cashiers in every department. A couple of them were Yentas and they determined that Brian might be a good match for a part-time cashier named Ellen Rozene, and so it was. Brian graduated in 1973 from UB with a BS degree in Business Administration.

Professionally, Brian was employed 40 years in accounting and finance. He was the Corporate Controller at Acco Babcock for 11 years, Marketing Corporation of America for 16 years, MetaCorp Strategies and BMW of Bridgeport for 5 years and retired from Greens Farms Academy after 8 years.

Brian has two sons, Scott and Jamie who are married to Denise and Renata, respectively. Scott and Denise live in Trumbull and Jamie and Renata live in San Francisco. Both Scott and Jamie graduated from Ezra Academy and Merkaz. They grew up at Rodeph Sholom and celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs here.

Brian and Ellen were a team when it came to the many volunteer projects they were involved with. Ellen was a great idea person and organizer and always provided the to-do list. Brian provided suggestions, tools, supplies, and muscle to help make them happen. They worked on numerous projects and fundraising including for the area homeless, people resettling here from other countries, the hungry, people in need of clothing, the underemployed, the visually impaired and the many needs of the synagogue. Together, they got things done efficiently and without fanfare. Brian has continued his volunteering on many of these projects.

Brian attends Shabbat services every week and every afternoon/evening Minyan Sunday through Friday. As our membership numbers have declined, we sometimes struggle to have a Minyan when the Torah service begins on Shabbat. We strive to get ten for the daily Minyans and many times we do not. Brian encourages people to attend Minyans so our members, family, and friends can say Kaddish for their loved ones when the time comes. It is a wonderful and simple Mitzvah that shows compassion for people in our community, and it is sincerely appreciated. One does make a difference.

**This year's Shem Tov presentation will be made on Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot, Saturday, September 29 during Shabbat morning services. A special kiddush will immediately follow services.**

## Hatan Torah - David Hochberg

### Simchat Torah, Last Aliyah

Congregation Rodeph Sholom has always been a part of my life. My parents joined the synagogue in the late-1940s. My brother Marshall and I were graduates of Talmud Torah and Hebrew High School (Merkaz).

Carol and I became members in 1972, a year after we were married. Both our daughters, Jennifer and Amy are graduates of Talmud Torah and Merkaz.

I am retired from our family business, Hochberg Jewelers; however, I have part-time employment. I volunteer at Operation Hope in Fairfield, and have been involved with Probus Club (Greater Bridgeport chapter) for many years which included serving as President, and am a past Probus National President.

In previous years I have served on the executive board for the synagogue, and the Board of Trustees.

I want to thank you and am humbled by being honored with the Hatan Torah. May the members and families of Rodeph Sholom continue in the coming year with good health and peace.



## Summer Book and Bake Sale

With the help of very dedicated volunteers, Debbie Boles, Brian Bedford, Marcy Gollinger, Larry Shire, Marion Richer, Charlie and Susan Widlitz, under the guidance of Carol Weinschel, Rodeph Sholom held a book sale. Along with the book sale, Ann Block, Miriam Madwed and Edith Winick baked plenty of sweet treats to enjoy as well. The goal of the sale was to reduce the size of our library holdings while offering books to people who love them and would cherish them as much as we did. Additionally, there were a significant number of Talmud Torah books which were offered to synagogues and schools throughout the country and the world. There was response from near and far, including one from Spain. People who love books appreciate them for their content, for the stories they tell, for the art that is included and so much more. We achieved our goal and now have a collection in the Grama Resource Center that is focused in subject and title while being comprehensive for our synagogue and members. We'll be finishing up cataloging our collection and it will once again be available for you to browse through—happy reading.



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## Kallah Bereshit - Pearl Zucker

### Simchat Torah, First Aliyah

My husband Jonas and I joined when our daughter began studying for her Bat Mitzvah and I have been an active member of our congregation since then. Rodeph Sholom has been an important part of my family since we joined. Three of my children celebrated their Bnei Mitzvah here, all four of my children attended Hebrew School, Hebrew High school, participated in USY, LTF, boy scouts and served as leaders in these and other synagogue activities. Jonas and I celebrated our important birthdays and anniversaries here as well as hosting a wedding reception for one of our children.



I participated in Rabbi Stein's study sessions faithfully for many years. I walk to services each Shabbat - albeit a bit slower and with more care than when we first joined. I sang in the choir with Cantor Green and still look forward to and enjoy leading V'Shamru when asked. I am a member of Sisterhood.

Outside of the synagogue I began volunteering with the American Heart Association after my daughter was born with a congenital heart defect and received life-saving treatment. Since then I have volunteered for Meals on Wheels and read stories at Hallen School to pre-school students. I am a life member of Hadassah, a board officer for many years and received the Hadassah National Leadership Award in 2004.

Thank you for bestowing upon me the honor of Kallah Bereshit.

# Wedding Anniversaries

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

## SEPTEMBER 2018

Robert and Judith Jacobson	54
Allan and Helaine Alper	48
Michael and Norma Passo	48
Michael and Judith Fleischer	37
William and Barbara Markowitz	34
Cary and Laura Friedman	34
Morris and Cynthia Allinson	34
Benjamin Schultz and Chyai Mulberg	33
Gene and Beth Gold	31

## OCTOBER 2018

Ernest and Ethel Tischler	65
William and Diane Serlin	54
Ronald and Deborah Sheiman	47
Sheldon and Maribeth Lawrence	42
Milton and Ann Armm	27
Jonathan and Emily Green	1

## NOVEMBER 2018

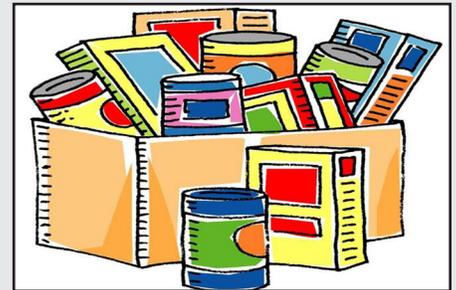
J. Robert and Barbara Friend	63
Martin and Hinda Wolf	62
Arnold and Erica Cohen	47
William and Lisa Rappoport	34
Donald and Jody Kramer	27
Austin and Ellen Wolf	18



## Operation Isaiah 5779 Kol Nidre "Fast" Food Drive!

Synagogues all across the country will be participating in Kol Nidre Food Drives again this year. Please fill a bag with nonperishable, packaged food items. Some of the items needed include: Cans of fruit, peanut butter, small (11 oz.) boxes of cereal, canned soups, vegetarian baked beans, cans of tuna fish, two pound boxes of rice, jars of mayonnaise, cans of sardines.

Please bring your bag with you when you come for Kol Nidre services on Friday, September 18, or you may bring your bag to the synagogue office any time between now and Kol Nidre evening. Thank you.



## Lulavim and Etrogim Order Your Set Today!

We are pleased to once again this year make available through Rodeph Sholom the purchase of high quality lulav and etrog sets. We will ensure our members celebrate the joyous festival of Sukkot with the traditional ritual objects. We will also have sets of Hoshanot – willow branches, which are used during services on Hoshana Rabbah. To be certain to get a lulav and etrog this year, please return this form with your check for \$60 to the synagogue no later than September 12. Please call the synagogue office at 203-334-0159 for pick-up information. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Sets

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed



# Torah Fund

## Women Ensuring Conservative / Masorti Jewish Education

Torah Fund Pin for 5779 (2018-2019)

Atid means “future” in Hebrew. As Women’s League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, Torah Fund begins its 77th annual campaign. We look forward with joy to our future together with you and our supporters of Torah Fund.

The seminars of the Conservative/Masorti movement, which we support through Torah Fund, are doing the great work that helps us navigate our future together, as one people.

The 5779 Torah Fund pin envelopes the Hebrew word for “future” (atid) with a stylized Magen David. It represents our wish for a distinctly Jewish future, for ourselves as individuals, for our families, and our communities.



We hope you will join your fellow congregants listed below by becoming a Guardian or Benefactor.

To become a Guardian or Benefactor, contact: Roz Stein, RoslynStein@optonline.net or 203-336-1360, or Lisa Rappoport, LisaRappoport@gmail.com or 203-372-8203.

To send Torah Fund donation cards in your name, contact: Debbie Baer, dpbtrav@aol.com or 203-371-4915, or Selda Dworken, SelDwork@aol.com or 203-374-6847.

5578 (2017-2018), Guardians - Annual Gift of \$300; Benefactors - Annual Gift of \$180.

### **Guardians**

Debbie Boles  
George Goldfarb  
(In memory of Phyllis Goldfarb z”l)  
Cheryl Green  
Harriet Moriber  
Julie Rappoport  
Lisa Rappoport  
Marilyn Rappoport  
Marion Richer  
Roslyn Stein  
Svetlana Weisman

### **Benefactors**

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(In memory of Ellen Bedford z”l)  
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Gertrude Broder  
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Susan Spivack  
Barbara Srebnick  
Judy Weiss  
Sy Wiesenfeld (Friend of Torah Fund)  
Jane Willner  
Judy Zeisler



## Casting Away Our Sins

Tashlich 5779 - Monday, September 10

“Tashlich” is the Hebrew for “cast away” (referring to the commandment to cast away our sins). In the afternoon of Monday, September 10, the first day of Rosh Hashanah, we will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the aqueduct on the corner of Brooklawn and Laurel Avenues for the traditional Tashlich ritual. We visit a body of moving water to recite the brief Tashlich prayer in which we “cast away” our sins, often symbolized by bread. As fish depend on water, so do we depend on God’s providence. Also, as the eyes of a fish never close, so too is God’s watchfulness over us unceasing. We welcome you to join us for this beautiful tradition.

# Contributions, Congratulations & Remembrances

## **ADELLE & MYRON ALPER FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Dr. Fred Sabsowitz  
Sylvia Sabsowitz  
Adelle Alper  
Myron Alper

Helaine and Allan Alper

### **In Honor of:**

Sherry and Fred Weiner on their  
50th Wedding Anniversary

Helaine and Allan Alper

### **Mazel Tov to:**

Sam and Cheryl Green in honor of  
Matthew Green's Wedding.

Helaine and Allan Alper

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

### **In Memory of:**

Fannie Berkowitz

Kenneth, Barbara, Cynthia and  
Jennifer Berkowitz

## **MORT BERNSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

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Sheila Lieff

## **ABRAHAM AND RUTH COHEN FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Benedict Zwecker

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## **DWORKEN MEMORIAL FUND**

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## **KELMAN FUND**

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## **SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

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### **In Honor of:**

Mila Nishball's 97th birthday

Roz Stein

Lee and Patsy Bakunin

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### **In Memory of:**

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Frances Spivack

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## **PETER I. ZEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND**

### **In Loving Memory of:**

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Rita Sheiman

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Liselotte Kiselstein Weiss

Judi and Joe Goldberg

### **In Honor of:**

David and Judith Kiselstein's 45th  
anniversary

Judith R. Zeidel

### **With Thanks to:**

Judith R. Zeidel

Judy, David, Marc and Meghan  
Kiselstein

### **Birthday Wishes to:**

Arthur Hiller on his 75th

Charles Widlitz on his 80th

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

## **RABBI BARNETT DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Rabbi Barnett for conducting a  
beautiful funeral service for mother,  
Frances Spivack

Amy Cooney

## **HAZZAN HIRSCH DISCRETIONARY FUND**

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Niema Hirsch for ritual books

### **In Honor of:**

Cantor Niema Hirsch with many  
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Wallace Sloves on his 85th birthday

Sheila and Wallace Sloves

## **MINYAN BREAKFAST**

### **In Memory of:**

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Royce Wolfsohn

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## **RODEPH SHOLOM SISTERHOOD**

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Pamela and Howard Burros

Don Sherman

### **In Honor of:**

Stanley Block on his 85th birthday

Mark, Ann and Emily Block

Bob Jacobson on his birthday

Eric, Michal, Danielle and Yuval

### **In Memory of:**

Susan Forman

Selda Dworkin

Rita Sheiman

Joan and Stanley Carp

Alfred and Cecila Fressola

Dennis Krize

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Larry Sax

### **Mazel Tov to:**

Bebe and Mark Feinberg and Phyllis  
Feinberg on the marriage of Evan

Feinberg and Danielle Marshak  
Jill and Stanton Lesser  
Cheryl and Sam Green on the  
marriage of Matthew Green and  
Lindsay Raber  
Mike and Judi Fleischer  
Ainsley Friedberg  
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**Yahrzeits:**

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Howard Aaron  
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Ruth Mayer  
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