



Chag Shavuot Sameach!

WE WELCOME THE SHAVUOT FESTIVAL

The Festival of Shavuot will be observed this year beginning on Tuesday evening, May 30th – Thursday evening, June 1st. Shavuot is the last of the three ancient pilgrimage festivals of the Jewish year. It celebrates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people.

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held on the second day of the Festival (Thursday, June 1st). We look forward to greeting many members of our Synagogue family on both days of this joyous holiday.

SHAVUOT FESTIVAL SERVICES

Tuesday evening, May 30th	5:45 p.m. (Mincha); 8:40 p.m. (Ma'ariv)
Wednesday morning, May 31st	9:00 a.m. (Shacharit w/Hallel, The Ten Commandments)
Wednesday evening, May 31st	6:00 p.m. (Mincha, Ma'ariv)
Thursday morning, June 1st	9:00 a.m. (Yizkor, Memorial Plaque Dedications, and the Chanting of Megillat Ruth)
Thursday evening, June 1st	8:30 p.m. (Mincha); 9:09 p.m. (Havdalah)

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Our 18th annual “Tikkun Leil Shavuot” (learn until you drop study session), led by our Hazzan Neima Hirsch will be held from 9:00 p.m. to Midnight on Tuesday evening, May 30th in Friend Hall. While enjoying dairy desserts, we continue to devotedly study our sacred texts in our day. This is the never ending realization and affirmation of the “continuous revelation” that was initiated nearly 4,000 years ago at Mount Sinai with the ultimate covenantal “opening ceremony” between God and the Jewish people. The learning will be preceded by vibrant holiday worship beginning at 8:40 p.m. in the chapel.

We are encouraged by the steady growth of congregants and friends who have availed themselves of our Shavuot all night study sessions. Everyone leaves feeling deeply fulfilled by the fascinating material, animated conversations and provocative discussion. We hope everyone will consider this night as an opportunity to advance their own religious acumen and biblical literacy. Refreshments (cheesecake and more) will be served.

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM
2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1499
203-334-0159, Fax 203-334-1411
www.rodephsholom.com,  rodephsholombridgeport

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 z"l
Sy Wiesenfeld
Harold Goodman

IN MEMORIUM

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

Members:

Edythe Sochard

February 27, 2016 / 1 Adar 5777

Peter Zeidel

March 10, 2017 / 12 Adar 5777

Estelle Ravage

March 21, 2017 / 23 Adar 5777

Dr. Leonard Feinberg

March 30, 2017 / 3 Nisan 5777

Betty Fox

April 5, 2017 / 9 Nisan 5777

Samuel Marks

April 18, 2017 / 22 Nisan 5777

Member Relatives:

Robert Lesser (Father of Stanton Lesser)

March 10, 2017 / 12 Adar 5777

SIMCHAS

Mazal Tov!

Please email Mark Block at mblock@rodephsholom.com, or call the synagogue office at 203-334-0159 with your family simchas. We would love for everyone to know!

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.

DAILY SERVICES

Bufferd/Vogel Chapel 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, visit www.rodephsholom.com.

WEBSITE

www.rodephsholom.com

On the synagogue's website, www.rodephsholom.com, you'll find up-to-date information on programs, activities and services going on throughout the week at Rodeph Sholom. Visit www.rodephsholom.com often to see what's going on.

BULLETIN

Cleaner - Clearer - Crisper!

Rodeph Sholom's redesigned bulletin design and layout are done entirely in-house. This saves both time and money for our synagogue. The print version is output on high resolution, quality commercial printers, and the online version you can find posted in full-color on the synagogue website at www.rodephsholom.com. We maximize our internal resources while providing our members and others with valuable information and articles of interest. Design and layout using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Headings typeset in Bell Gothic Standard 14 pt., text typeset in Chaparral Pro 11 pt.

Vice President's Message

Allan Alper

The current and future leadership of our synagogue is committed to the continued and successful stabilization of our beloved shul.

Dear Friends,

This is an article I never believed I would be called upon to write. As Vice President of Finance and Operations my job was to work to ensure our fiscal and physical house were in order and we were being responsible with your dues, contributions and other donations made to Rodeph Sholom. Sadly, that all changed in mid-March upon the passing of Peter Zeidel z"l, our beloved President.

As I write this article, something I have not done for nearly thirty years since my term as President in the late-1980s came to an end, I do so with a heavy heart, but also with a healthy dose of optimism for Rodeph Sholom's future.

First, I would like to thank so many who have come together following Peter's death on March 10. Peter was an inspiration to so many of us who worked closely with him, both volunteers and staff, especially these past couple of years. His presence, time and energy will be missed by our synagogue family.

My heartfelt thanks go out to our amazing Executive Committee: Cheryl Green, Carol Weinshel, Jill Lesser, and Iris Krawitz for the time and effort they have put forth in order to keep our ship heading in the right direction, all while not slowing down in the face of sadness. They have been a pleasure to work with and epitomize the very essence of Rodeph Sholom; a house of worship, study and assembly.

I also want to thank our Board of Trustees who have shown a great deal of support and wisdom during this very difficult time. As we made every effort to not break stride, as Peter would not have wanted us to, our Board has continued the hard

and necessary work of keeping our synagogue moving forward in a positive direction.

A special thank you to Mark Block, Ainsley Friedberg and Willie Cuevas for their support as well. They have ensured our operations have been maintained and our congregants serviced during these trying weeks.

It has been my responsibility to complete some very important projects that Peter started. As I write this article this third week of April with the Pesach holiday having just been completed, I want you to know that we are in the final stage of contract negotiations with Rabbi David S. Barnett to join Rodeph Sholom July 1 as our permanent, full-time Rabbi. I am pleased that we have had such amicable discussions and look forward to their conclusion, resulting in stable Rabbinic leadership in the coming months.

We are also negotiating with a potential tenant to lease space in our building where they will occupy all of our classrooms. The negotiations are ongoing and we hope they will be fruitful in their conclusion. We will have more information regarding this important opportunity in the near future, and we will communicate it to you so you are well aware of the benefits to Rodeph Sholom.

The current and future leadership of our synagogue is committed to the stabilization of our beloved shul. We have an opportunity for growth through an untapped population of unaffiliated Jews in our geographic service area. Additionally, we will continue to offer programming to our members in the areas of education, music and social activities.

Cheryl Green, our current Treasurer and nominee for President, and Mark Block our Executive Director are co-chairing



the synagogue's major fund raising effort and have been hard at work to make this effort a huge success. We are well on our way to meeting our goal through the generosity made by Merryl Snow Zegar, daughter of our late beloved member, Ruth Snow Levin z"l. In addition to her outright gift, Mrs. Zegar has established a Challenge Grant that would double our congregations donations. Cheryl and Mark will be providing more information on the status of this critical campaign and the next steps to ensure we maximize our donations.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Friend Hall. We are required by our By-Laws to present a budget for the coming fiscal year and take a vote on the officers and trustees to lead Rodeph Sholom in the year ahead.

The officers, trustees, and staff would like to thank each and every congregant for your continued support and loyalty to Rodeph Sholom. As we pursue peace, as our name translates, we recall with affection our President, Peter Zeidel z"l.

L'Shalom,

Allan Alper

Thinking Smarter

Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA

“Adapting to a changed world provides unique opportunities for growth.”

Dear Friends:

For close to ten years now faith-based organizations and houses of worship have faced what may be considered the stress and strain of a steady and unprecedented storm. Synagogues, not unlike other nonprofits have found it increasingly important to think smarter about the best and most cost-effective ways to work more efficiently while serving our members better.

It takes time to evaluate the best ways to improve operations and programs, all this while maintaining a level of service in programming and ritual that meets the needs of our congregational family. At one time some were taken for granted. They have since been viewed as luxuries, and we have worked hard to streamline out of necessity. We have encouraged volunteer growth to fill in the gaps—and ease the burden on our institution—and it has worked!

We do not necessarily have to produce a groundbreaking new program or business process in order to be successful. We can do much the same by simply rededicating ourselves to the core mission of the synagogue, one that keeps us highly focused on service to achieve results. The guiding principles of Rodeph Sholom are (i) To serve as a vibrant center for the practice of Conservative Judaism, and (ii) create a spiritual and social atmosphere in which congregants feel part of a large synagogue family. Focusing on our basics can be precisely what we need most, not just because of the economy but also because of the change in Jewish demographics and rates of affiliation.

Thinking smarter involves identifying new programs or improving tried-and-true processes. Thinking smarter requires attention and deliberation. Ultimately thinking smarter requires

the commitment and support of all of us to ensure the highest level of success.

Too often we run the risk of swerving, stumbling and falling without understanding that the needs of the synagogue are not passive but active. They can change from day to day and week to week. We realize business as usual is not an answer or reason for not identifying and solving problems. The world of Judaism has changed, and we must be willing to openly discuss and adapt to change where and when it occurs while maintaining our core beliefs and values. Adapting to a changed world provides unique opportunities for growth, and evolving as a synagogue will allow us to remain relevant in our community.

Just as we encourage each other to take chances we must also embrace the importance that the idea of collaboration is not an obsession but one of a communal reality. For our Jewish community to survive and thrive the old way will not lead us to a new result. Thinking smarter and encouraging innovation in our programming and services will serve to benefit our community longer.

For over 110 years Rodeph Sholom’s leadership developed strategies and delivered programs and services that addressed the needs of our membership. We have identified symptoms in the Conservative Movement that give pause as we invest in efforts to build our institution. Sustainability in doing so is a question that has yet to be answered.

There is a solid argument to make and logic in the investment we make in planning. Ultimately it leads to improvements that will better serve our synagogues members. There is also a fear that questioning unrealistic expectations about systemic problems

will lead to anger and dissention. In fact just the opposite is true.

Time to think is essential to improving our

synagogue, its operations and the services provided on a regular basis. To do this, we must ensure there are effective ways to encourage and foster creative thinking, whether by lay leaders or staff. This can and does happen at Executive Committee and Board of Trustee meetings, directly from congregants or our various committees, even by regular every week talk at our Shabbat Kiddush.

Numerous economic and religious affiliation studies have shown that institutions like Rodeph Sholom manage short term interests best while planning for long term benefits to the organization. So while it may seem like a luxury in these transitional times, taking the time to think smarter is essential for the health and future of our beloved synagogue.

By showing true leadership and finding ways to stimulate and tap the creative energy of our congregation we will have benefitted greatly from thinking smarter.

L’Shalom,

Mark Block





Congratulations 2017 Merkaz

Graduates!

on behalf of the Officers, Trustees and Staff

Rachel Goodman
Natalie Held
Emily Kramer
Madelyn Weinstein

We wish you a Mazal Tov upon the completion of your studies,
and wish you success in all your future endeavors!

Rodeph Sholom is pleased to host this years' Merkaz Graduation Ceremony, Sunday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Not Your Bubbe's Kitchen

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

It's that time of year again, where everyone seems to have half a bottle of Manischewitz left over from the holiday. My grandmother used to drink it because she actually liked it, but most of us find it to be a little too syrupy sweet. So, we put the half-used bottle in the back of some closet where it gathers dust and occasionally we'll open it, sniff it, wonder if wine goes bad and then, just put it back. There is, however, one thing that syrupy sweet wine is absolutely made for, and that is Sangria. The following recipe is for a surprisingly good one.

I once again used my family as guinea pigs for this article. With everyone gathered in the kitchen I asked, "Who would like to try some Manischewitz Sangria? I'm working on a recipe for the Bulletin." I got a lot of dead stares and some half-hearted responses of, "Okay." After one sip, however, everyone's face changed. "This is really good!" my sister's friend said in a shocked tone. "I actually like it with the seltzer. It gives it just enough bubble." My sister, who had insisted that soda never goes into sangria, added. Some even asked for a second glass, but the best comment came from my 83 year old uncle. He took a gulp, his eyes widened and he said "I'm drinking Manischewitz and I actually like it".

I guarantee you; this is really nice sangria.

If you wanted to use the recipe for the holiday next year, it is not Kosher-for-Passover but could be made so by using Cointreau triple sec and replacing the brandy with potato vodka. Tropicana Pure Premium orange juice is KFP and very easy to find in stores.

Manischewitz Sangria

3 cups Concord Grape Manischewitz Wine

½ cup triple sec

1/3 cup brandy – unflavored – E & J is fine. You don't have to spend money on a good brandy.

1/3 cup orange juice

1 cut up apple

Seltzer water

Mix the wine, triple sec, brandy, orange juice and apple together. Let it sit for at least 3 hours for the flavors to blend. Fill large wine glasses with ice. Fill halfway with wine mixture and top with at least an inch of the seltzer water.

You can add cut up oranges, peaches and/or pears to the mixture before serving. Lemon or lime, or even pomegranate flavored seltzer may be used instead of plain. Be as creative as you'd like. I promise you, you'll love it.

Look for another exceptional recipe from around the world in the next issue of the bulletin.



Thank You

Dear Rodeph Sholom Congregants:

No words can adequately express our appreciation and gratitude for the outpouring of love and comforting expressions of sympathy in the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and Rodeph Sholom President, Peter I. Zeidel z"l.

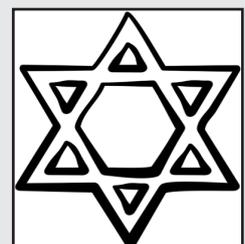
Peter cherished his beloved synagogue and was passionate about moving it forward.

We will all miss Peter dearly and truly appreciate your support during this very sad time.

Thank you again for your kindness. We are most grateful.

Fondly,

Judy, Michael and Rachel



Torah Fund

Women Ensuring Conservative / Masorti Jewish Education

2016/2017 – 5777 TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

Women’s League and Torah Fund are proud to support the education of the future rabbis, cantors, educators, and scholars who will serve as the gifted leaders and innovators of the Conservative Movement. Torah Fund has raised more than \$95 million since its inception as a grass-roots fund-raising campaign.

For more than 75 years, Torah Fund has raised funds for unique special projects at our seminaries, above and beyond the Annual Torah Fund Campaign.

Thank you to:

<u>Guardians</u>	<u>Benefactors</u>	<u>Benefactors (cont’d)</u>
Julie Rappoport	Deborah Baer	Iris Krawitz
Lisa Rappoport	Carol Battin	Marion Richer
Marilyn Rappoport	Beattie Bernstein	Susan Spivack
Svetlana Weisman	Gertrude Broder	Barbara Srebnick
	Tamara Bush	Roz Stein
	Toby Folman	Lisa Stein
	Cheryl Green	Judy Weiss
	Edith Katzen	Judy Zeisler



The Women of Rodeph Sholom has raised \$4,080 for this year’s campaign to date. The campaign is open until June 30th. We hope that those who have not yet pledged their support will do so before the close of 5777. You can call Lisa Rappoport at 203-372-8203 or Roz Stein at 203-336-1360 to let us know you wish to be counted as a Torah Fund supporter, \$180 Benefactor; \$300 Guardian.

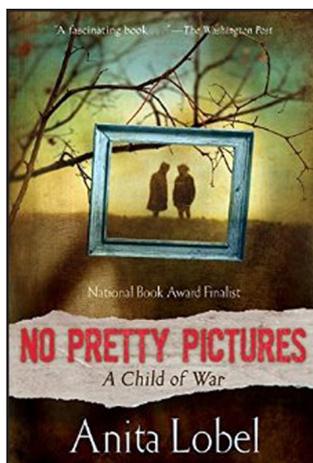
We have Sympathy cards as well as an All Occasion card for those of you who want to write your own message, and our usual assortment of Mazel Tov and Get Well cards. For cards, please call or e-mail Debbie Baer at 203-371-4915/ dpbtrav@aol.com, Selda Dworkin at 203-374-6847/Seldwork@aol.com or Sue Forman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

“No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War” by Anita Lobel

Book Review by Ann Block

Of course there are so many stories about the Shoah from so many different perspectives, but this book is fascinating as it is through a child’s eyes.

The author gives an amazing account of her life as the war approaches. One interesting part is her love for her nanny who has an obsessive attachment to the author and her brother. She does save the children in many situations, but seems to have disdain for their Jewishness. Lobel also gives details about being rescued and sent to Sweden where she was welcomed and grew to love her new country. Again, Sweden saved her, but did little to foster her Jewishness.



Another heart wrenching part was her parents inability to adjust to Sweden. They did eventually come to America to be with some family, but their adjustment, as well as the authors was difficult, like so many immigrants.

Anita Lobel is an illustrator of children’s books. Her memoir that depicts her childhood of flight and imprisonment in Nazi-occupied Poland, “No Pretty Pictures” was a finalist for the National Book Award.

She has also received the Caldecott Honor Medal.

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers (First Edition: September 28, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0380732858 ISBN-13: 9780380732852

Yom Hashoah Remembrance

April 23, 2017

For the 24th year, Rodeph Sholom has been commemorating Yom Hashoah. Each year we did something different, beginning with the 24-hour-round-the-clock reading of names. In the wee hours of the morning, Rabbi Stein and Cantor Grama sat with those folks who came to a dimly-lit sanctuary to read names of those who perished in the Holocaust, stunned by the ages and the number of family members taken. There were years when we watched movies, listened to outside speakers and asked our own Rodeph Sholom family members to share the names of their own families who were taken from them.

Each year we heard the stories, many personally, thought we had heard them all. However, this year in the evening of Sunday, April 23rd it seemed different.

Edith Winick talked about her memory as a very young child, sailing to the U.S. on the *Vulcania*, the last ship allowed to leave. She came with her four sisters and her mother through the Suez Canal. Her memory is very clear that as a child of ten she was told she had a secret to keep – her family was going to the United States the following year, thanks to HIAS. Upon reflection, she wonders how she ever kept that secret!

Larry Shire, whose family came from Denmark, had no idea until recently when attending a family wedding that he had lost two teenage cousins.

Erica Cohen shared an interview of her uncle, Henry Laks that was published in the *Bridgeport Post*. As was typical in those days, the spelling was different than that of her father, Lax. He managed to escape from Czechoslovakia in 1939 just prior to the Nazi invasion, fighting in several European battles during WWII. Henry joined the French Foreign Legion and even spent time in Liverpool, England where he spent almost a year.



Ultimately, Henry came to the United States in 1948 to live in freedom. In 1970, Erica, her mother, father, and brother came to join Henry and his family.

Sy Wiesenfeld told the group his mother managed to bring her mother, younger sister and brother to the U.S. prior to the beginning of the war but sadly left her beloved father and



another married brother with two children...they all perished in the Holocaust. As a young child, Sy still remembers the hushed tones in the discussions her mother and father had. To this day, Sy still credits his mother with her loving kindness.

Betty Deutsch read the names of her family and the longer she read, the more you couldn't help but realize how lucky she is to be able to share. Almost her entire family was wiped out. The

list seemed endless.

Bob Folman, as the last speaker, explained that his family was complicated. He told how his father had been the "mayor" of a town in Germany after the war. While no one knew he was Jewish, he had papers saying he was a socialist (even though he wasn't) and by virtue of his title, his mother was therefore, the mayor's wife. When the time came to entertain the 'Russian Eisenhower', as Bob called him, his mother had nothing to wear so being resourceful, made a dress from the drapes. Bob likened this to *Scarlett O'Hara* which put a smile on people's faces. He had anecdotal story after anecdotal story that he was fortunate enough to document and shared a few with us.

We sat mesmerized, wide-eyed, teary-eyed but strong as a family together. When we began this program, we made a commitment to 'Never Forget'. While there are many interesting and valuable community programs to commemorate Yom Hashoah, we owe it to our own congregants to ask them to share their stories, their families, their lives and help them to keep their memories alive...and that is exactly what we did again this year. It was a meaningful, emotional, respectful and important evening at Rodeph Sholom.

Wedding Anniversaries

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

MAY 2017

Howard & Florence Splaver	52
Mark & Felice Resko	50
Michael & Sylvia Nahoum	48
Robert & Toby Folman	45
Lanny & Debbie Boles	39
Brian & Laura Ullman	33
Allen & Ivy Sailer	26
Lawrence & Agnes Roberts	23
Seth & Lisa Stein	21
Joel & Sheila Krawitz	16



JUNE 2017

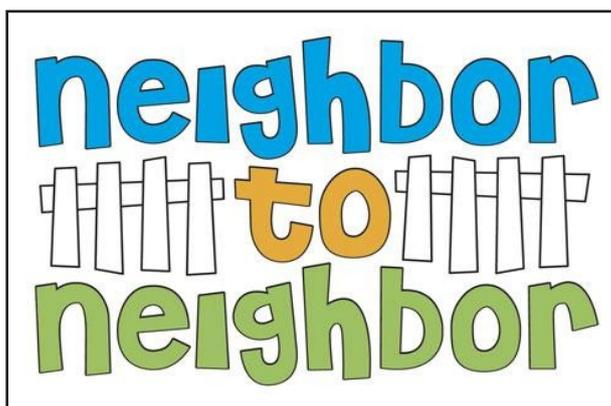
Will & Nancy Wetenstein	71
Jonas & Pearl Zucker	68
Irving & Visselle Glazer	65
Andrew & Elizabeth Deutsch	63
Mikhail & Ketrina Liderman	62
Stanley & Claire Block	60
Sidney & Evelyn Wiesner	55
Gerald & Tamara Bush	55
Stanley & Joan Carp	53
Neil & Marcy Gollinger	50
Lawrence & Clara Kahn	49
Jay & June Ringelheim	44
David & Judith Kiselstein	44
Mark & Krista Murzin	40
Samuel & Cheryl Green	37
Robert & Laurie Sachs	37
Fredric & Renee Beitman	34
Jill & Rik Bachman	33
Michael & Robin Beitman	33
Keith & Ellen Ashkins	33
Stanford & Judith Weiss	32
Jon & Wendy Durica	29
David & Elise Wolfsohn	20
Howard & Judith Meyers	18

JULY 2017

Howard & Diane Aaron	60
John & Dolores Ward	55
Steven & Arlene Tuchband	48
Robert & Bobbi Markowitz	47
Allen & Helene Skott	47
Stanton & Jill Lesser	41
Charles & Mary Zwecker	22
Jeremy & Elizabeth Greenstein	11



Social Action Update



This year's CROP Walk for Hunger takes place on Sunday, May 7th. Participants on the walk will meet at the Park Avenue entrance to Seaside Park at 1:30 p.m. There is no fee for the walk, you are asked to bring a bag of canned goods with you. You can walk as long as you like. The route is flat and scenic along the water front.

After six years of collecting unwanted door keys we raised \$16 from Keys for Hope. We are paying that forward by purchasing large cans of vegetables to bring with us to the soup kitchen when we next participate on Tuesday, May 30th.

We continue collecting old eyeglasses and hearing aids for Lions Club. There is a box located in Friend Hall for the Lions Club. They collect both items, clean them, fix them and distribute them to those who

need them. Even old-style glasses are welcomed when you don't have any. So pass the word around.

The Southbury Rose Hope animal shelter, a no kill-shelter, needs blankets, towels, and sheets that you no longer need to put into the crates to keep the animals warm. Also, if you have pet litter boxes, beds, feeding bowls that you no longer need, we can take those too. Contact Faith Bader-Vogel at faithbv@gmail.com. Write 'animal shelter' in the subject. The collection box is in Friend Hall.

For many years we volunteered once a month from 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m. at the Backpack Program for the CT Food Bank packing bags of food for hungry school children in 18 CT towns. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ellen Bedford at ellenbeford@hotmail.com.

Program and Membership

This has been a whirlwind year for all of us. We have undertaken some new initiatives, both with Programming and Membership. Since this is my last article as V.P., Programming and Membership, I will provide a synopsis of the year.

Our goal has been to continue the sense of family that has always been Rodeph Sholom, through good times and bad. We need you to spread the word that Rodeph Sholom is alive and well. We are excited and enthusiastic about having a new permanent, full-time Rabbi, David Barnett. You will be hearing more about him but rest assured he will help us strengthen our family and move to the next level. Our synagogue family has suffered some significant losses this past year, including our President, Peter Zeidel z"l. We need to pick ourselves up, remember the course he began and continue. We need to keep family ever in our minds and hearts. We need you, our members, to join with us. "A Lot of People Doing a Little" was very successful 30 years ago and there's every reason that it can work today, so as in your own families, when you are called upon to help, step up to the plate and ask "What Can I Do?" There's always room for one more!



We have offered programs, including dinners at no charge, to promote camaraderie and a sense of family and we saw that you all enjoyed them and liked to come. The High Holidays began differently this year with a festive evening and dinner chaired by Helaine Alper and Judy Zeidel. It was during that evening that we re-connected with Rabbi David Nelson and his wife, Alisha. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year. After all, what could be bad – you didn't have to shop, prepare, cook or clean up – and the food we provided was delicious! We saw, and you saw, that you enjoyed each other's company; you re-connected with people you hadn't seen in years and remembered how good it felt to be together.

We continued our visiting lecture series through UConn's Judaic Studies Department and were privileged to hear some very informative and provocative lectures. Sincere thanks to Susan Widlitz for her efforts in coordinating this series. Keeping with the university theme, we brought in Jason Gaines, a professor at Fairfield University, and saw that he was a big hit with everyone in attendance. Jason will return in the fall for a Scholar-in-Residence weekend. Additionally, we reached out into the community and invited another professor from Fairfield University, along with a psychiatrist who spoke on "Everything you wanted to about Islam" but were afraid to ask. This was an evening that provoked much discussion, both from within our congregation and outside. There is so much to learn and we are in the perfect position to continue our learning...one of the goals of Rodeph Sholom.

Through the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County's generosity, we received another grant and collaborated with Congregations Beth El and B'nai Torah to bring singer/songwriter Sam Glaser to our sanctuary. A great time was had by all.

Never wanting to forget the horrors of the Holocaust and yet recognizing those within our community who both lost and did survive, we hosted our 24th Annual Yom Hashoah program. We heard stories, anecdotes and testimony to the tragedy and are grateful that we have people who are willing to share and so thankful they are part of our family. We will never forget!

We sent hand-written, personal birthday and anniversary cards to every member, thanks to Helaine Alper, Cheryl Green, Iris Krawitz, Peachie Resko and me. It was particularly nice to be able to send an extra-personal note to someone we knew. The phone calls and notes we received, not to mention a few contributions, were heartwarming. You liked hearing from us. It made you feel special, it made you feel a part of the Rodeph Sholom...and that was just what we wanted to achieve.

It has been a busy year. For me, personally, I answered the call to come out of retirement and serve as your Vice President of Program and Membership. Retirement didn't suit me well because I never did walk away but remained in a myriad of positions after my presidency. I never thought I'd return to the Executive Committee but there was a need, so I was told. I have no regrets, I am re-energized, I believe in Rodeph Sholom and I hope you do, too. When called upon, answer that call. I promise you won't be sorry...and I never make promises I cannot keep!

Thank you for being a part of our family and for letting me be a part of yours.

Carol S. Weinshel

V.P., Program and Membership

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Levin



Congregants enjoy a monthly Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Amy Levin, live from Israel via Skype.

We Want You!



We would love to be able to join in the celebration of your birthday or anniversary. Please be sure we have this important information by letting us know at afriedberg@rodephsholom.com or calling the office at 203-334-0159. If the office is not open at the time you call, please leave a message in Ainsley's voicemail box #11. Thank you.



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Rodeph Sholom's 2017 Annual Meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m. in Friend Hall. The Annual Meeting precedes the regular monthly Board of Trustees Meeting.

Synagogue By-Laws require "The Congregation shall meet annually at the Syangogue or at such place as the Board may designate during either the months of April or May at the call of the president or, in the absence of the president, at the call of a vice-president. The agenda of the annual meeting shall include the election of officers and trustess and such other business as may lawfully come before the meeting.

A quorum of thirty-one (31) members in good standing is required to conduct the business of the Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting of the Congregation.