

Winter 2018 / 5778

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

BULLETIN



We'll Provide the
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HANGOVER!**
You Bring Your
Own Kosher Wine!

CELEBRATE

urim



A Night of Music and More!

SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 24 @ 7:30 PM

OPENING WITH

LANNY BOLES and BRETT BOLES

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IAN BIGGS and SARAH GONZALES

FOOD, FUN & MORE: \$15/Member, \$20 Non-Member

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CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1499

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

www.rodephsholom.com, [f rodephsholombridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/rodephsholombridgeport)

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 z"l

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

Members:

Bernard Postyn (September 2, 2017 / 11 Elul 5777)
Raymond Lobovits (September 6, 2017 / 15 Elul 5777)
Rabbi Israel C. Stein (September 23, 2017 / 3 Tishrei 5778)
Leonard Srebnick (September 29, 2017 / 9 Tishrei 5778)
Shirley Zwecker (October 7, 2017 / 17 Tishrei 5778)
Sally Burstein (November 5, 2017 / 16 Heshvan 5778)
Bernard Baer (November 22, 2017 / 4 Kislev 5778)
Helen Zabin (December 23, 2017 / 5 Tevet 5778)

Member Relatives:

Sidra Rausch (August 14, 2017 / 22 Av 5777)
Sister-in-Law of Joseph Schwartz
Zoltan Guttman (September 1, 2017 / 10 Elul 5777)
Father of Vivian Perez
Hilda Brier (October 30, 2017 / 10 Heshvan 5778)
Sister of Natalie Schwartz
Fred Bader (November 9, 2017 / 20 Heshvan 5778)
Brother of Faith Bader
Phyllis Goldfarb (December 24, 2017 / 6 Tevet 5778)
Mother of George Goldfarb

DAILY SERVICES

Bufferd/Vogel Chapel unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	8:30 a.m. (Beth El) 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.rodephsholom.com.

SIMCHAS

Mazal Tov!

We extend a Mazal Tov to Harriet Moriber and Paul Moriber on the marriage of their daughter, Elissa Moriber, to Paul Bogdanoff, son of Jacqueline and Robert Bogdanoff of Woodbridge, CT. Elissa is also the granddaughter of Donald Sherman.

Mazal Tov to Roz Stein on the birth of a great-grandson in Israel to his parents, Andrew & Miriam Stein, to his grandparents, Jeremy & Marcy Stein and to his siblings, Shalev, Matar and Netzach.

Mazal Tov to Roz Stein on the marriage of her son Rabbi Jay Stein to Sharon Gross.

Email Mark Block at mblock@rodephsholom.com, or call the office at 203-334-0159 with your family simchas.

WEBSITE

www.rodephsholom.com

Visit www.rodephsholom.com often to see what's going on, and browse through the special links to Shabbat, holidays and festivals uploaded regularly.

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.

Rabbi's Message

Rabbi David S. Barnett, D.D.

From Revelry to Redemption to Renewal

Each of the Jewish holidays has a unique and special “flavor”, an ambience, and a set of feelings which are truly communally perceived and felt by those who have lived through many yearly cycles of Jewish observance.

The upcoming festivals of Purim and Passover are no exception, and indeed, may be the paradigms for the observation itself. During the two and a half month time frame for the reading of this bulletin, both festivals will be soon upon us, although it is somewhat hard to conceive of Passover in the middle of a blizzard!

Purim is considered by the tradition to be a minor festival, certainly not on the same level as the biblically enjoined pilgrimage festivals of Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot. Its practice and observance was introduced significantly after the codification of the Bible by the rabbis. Nonetheless, it is a fun and wonderful festival, especially for children (and for some adults as described below), with special motifs of looking beyond first perception to determine an ultimate reversed outcome from peril to salvation for the Jews – hence the custom of the costumes, “hiding” the true reality. Another custom, observed by some, (not this author) is to become so inebriated that one is not able to distinguish between Haman and Mordechai, i.e., completely “plastered”. On a moral level, this would be symbolized by the inability to tell good from bad, to distinguish the trivial from the essential.

Regarding Pesach, it is interesting to note items of similarity with Purim and crucial differences. Like Purim, we are dealing initially with a situation of peril

– the state of slavery, the exodus and potential massacre of all of the Jews as they actually escape and come to the Sea of Reeds – and ultimate salvation through God’s guidance and protective power. However, at no time, neither during the original exodus as portrayed, nor in any aspect of its observance, is one enjoined to be “out of touch” with reality. Rather, one is enjoined to be fully conscious and participatory, as expressed in the central dictum, in the center of the Haggadah itself, namely “that each person is obligated to see himself/herself as he/she was present at the original exodus out of Egypt.” Here there is no emphasis on frivolity, on muddled thinking, but rather a clear and definite understanding of all of the factors that enable a nation to survive, in each and every generation, through each and all of the particular perils and threats to survival challenging them.

Therefore, we can now ask: What is the meaning for us of these two contrasting paradigms of festival observance, and even more importantly, what relevance does that meaning have for the contemporary survival and future of the Jewish people in general and for this congregation in particular? In attempting to delve into this question, I was discussing the concept of this article with our executive director, Mark Block. I always take the writing of bulletin articles seriously; however, I frankly played “devil’s advocate” in elucidating two polarities of positions and approaches. One could take a more jaded, cynical approach and say that in the history of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, that over the years since its inception to the present, thousands of articles have been written by its distinguished clergy, tens and

hundreds of thousands of words making their way from initial formulation to ink on paper.

How much difference would/ could one more article make in the scheme of things? The other polarity is much more immediate, much more relevant to the particularities of our immediate challenges of adaptive change and survival, one which I urge you to embrace, and assumes therefore a crucially important significance at this juncture more than ever before in our institutional history.

As a congregation and as a movement, we face unprecedented demographic challenges. The demographic of Rodeph Sholom is only perhaps a small number of years ahead of many other congregations across the country. Since the component of younger families with children is not our current reality, in order to increase current numbers and rejuvenate our membership for the future, and in order to survive, this congregation desperately needs to engage, embrace, and bring into our congregational actual membership, with some credible degree of commitment, people from the following specific demographics: the second half of the “Gen-X” group, those born between roughly 1974-1984, now aged around 41-51, and as many of the “Baby-Boomers”, those born between 1946 –1964, now aged roughly between 54



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Rabbi's Message (Cont'd.) Revelry, Redemption, Renewal

and 72, as possible. For this congregation, at this time, in this place, this needs to be our plan and mission.

No rabbi can do this alone, and just as an organization in a network framework grows by each person bringing in two, and those duplicating the same in sequence, so also this needs to be an active model here.

Our Passover festival provides us here with a perfect paradigm shift in connection with the personage of that great prophet Elijah. How do we celebrate the fifth cup of wine at the Passover Seder, reserved for him? We go and open the door, and invite him in. We can now go beyond that – by actively taking the step of going over the threshold of our homes, going out and finding all of the “Elijahs and Miriams”, all fellow unaffiliated Jews, meeting them, greeting them, engaging them, and bringing them into our fellowship and religious community. This needs to be our new, invigorating, and transformed model, I suggest.

Therefore, between now and the High Holy Days, I want to encourage you to clearly plan and be willing to share what we can offer to unaffiliated Jews in those groups as you reach out and meet them – which for starters can be a warm and caring community with a history and presence in Bridgeport – and actively engage them and ask them to join our congregational family. In order to be relevant and contemporary with their needs, our own programming and offerings can be enhanced and expanded to address their driving needs and priorities, in addition to what we can presently offer. Our Congregational President, Cheryl Green, our Cantor, Niema Hirsch, our executive director, Mark Block, and myself will all be playing both leadership and supportive roles in this hopefully dynamic process – however, we truly need you to engage yourselves so that you can engage others! In so doing, may we all become rejuvenated in the process!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Barnett

Rabbi Barnett: Office Hours for Visiting and Appointments

Since my arrival here at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting and getting to know many of you in the context of many of the events and services that we've held. Whether it be for some of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting to come in and just say hello, or whether some would like to come in and discuss any matter individually, I'm always happy to be able to greet you. While I'm indeed at the synagogue at many other additional hours and times, I'm almost always here (unless an unusual event or emergency is taking place) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. While making an actual appointment is always preferable in case I have already scheduled a commitment, please also feel free to come in at any time during those days and hours just to say hello on an informal basis. I'm looking forward to our future times and consults together as we collectively work to enhance and strengthen our vision of a revitalized, expanding, and engaging Rodeph Sholom.

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

2017 Keeper of the Flame

The Rodeph Sholom Men's Club would like to thank the following congregants for their generous support of the Club and honoring of our Brother,

Joe Schwartz,

as our 2017 Keeper of the Flame

Charlie and Eidie Appelbaum

Bernie (z"l) and Debbie Baer

Dorothy and Richard Blank

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Ronda and Brian Cantor

Debbie and Harold Goodman

Judy and Bob Jacobson

Clara and Larry Kahn

Sam and Carol Mayer

Harriet Moriber

Norma and Michael Passo

Lisa and Bill Rappoport

Diana Rich

Lawrence Sax

Ben Schultz and Chyai Mulberg

Michael Schwartz

Don Sherman

Barbara and Len (z"l) Srebnick

Sam Stern

Roz Stein and Family

Ethel and Ernie Tischler

Sy Wiesenfeld

Pearl and Jonas Zucker

Daily Minyan

RS Board of Directors

Notes from Niema

Hazzan Niema Hirsch

Seek the Warmth of our Community

Lights of Hanukkah

Lights and songs filled the halls of our synagogue during the holiday of Hanukkah. We celebrated with a fun Grandchildren Shabbat. Jessica Wiesenfeld delighted us by chanting Ashrei like a pro. Jessica is currently studying for her Bat Mitzvah. Abby and Sofia Copperthite, along with Jessica, enjoyed some holiday craft and then acted the story of the Maccabim. In our short play, Rabbi Barnett acted as Judah Maccabee and Cheryl Green was King Antiochus.

On the last day of Hanukah we had a fabulous mid-day celebration with lunch and music. Rabbi Barnett delighted us with his excellent skills on the guitar. Rabbi also made an amazing organic salad and he made everyone feel very welcome. I hope to see you at future holiday celebrations this year. Bring the kids!

Yoga and Meditation

A few years ago I started on a journey of spirituality and created a daily practice of yoga and meditation. In addition to my personal practice, I got a teaching certificate from Kripalu school of Yoga, and started teaching at Merkaz high school. This year I expanded my teaching to all age groups. From our own shul members to preschool kids 4-year olds, and parents during Sunday school and at Merkaz. My weekly yoga class at Rodeph Sholom is off to a great start. We do gentle postures, breathing, and meditation. Soon I wish to expand my practice and begin to lead a special Shabbat experience. Our tradition teaches us that on Shabbat we have an extra soul. Shabbat is naturally the best day of the week to delve into

moments of mindfulness, find joy, relax and just be.

Hebrew Lessons

This is an open invitation to anyone who wishes to learn Hebrew with me. You can decide what you want to learn! It can be contemporary Hebrew, slang or swear words (just kidding), perhaps you want to understand the prayers, or prepare to read Torah and Haftarah. Please call the office, leave me a message, and let's get started.

Fiddler on the Roof

If you attended the Fiddler show you already know how much fun it was. I will share with you a few anecdotes from behind the scene. The show was organized by David Weisberg - the CEO of our Federation. David acted and sang as Tevye and my dear friend Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray was Golde. I am deeply indebted to Cantor Debbie who had tutored me in preparation for high holiday services. All our colleagues from near and far participated: Rabbis, cantors, educators, an executive director and several choir members. Many of the clergy (who were singing in the play) had not been at Rodeph Sholom before. They were amazed at the beauty of the sanctuary, the huge stage and the enormous seating area. The cantor's office served as the Green Room during rehearsals and on the day of performance. In the cantor's office we changed costumes, stored personal items, took selfies with our cell phones, and had a lot of laughs.

Torah is a Tree of Life

The Torah teaches us that God created the world and all of creation has the same basic structures, beginning with

the cellular level all the way up to the complete body. You can notice that people have a lot in common with trees.

We have roots (feet)

branches (arms) and we bear fruit (children). The Torah compares itself and compares people to trees, here are a few examples:

- *Torah is a tree of life for all who grasp it. (Proverbs 3:18)*

- *A person is like the tree of a field... (Deut. 20:19)*

- *For as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people. (Isaiah 65:22)*

- *He will be like a tree planted near water... (Jeremiah 17:8)*

The same four elements are nourishing people as well as they nourish trees. The four elements are earth, water, air and fire. EARTH: We are made of earth and our spiritual roots are the traditions and good deeds that we do on earth. WATER: Torah is like water nourishing us with its wisdom. Torah and rain water are flowing from God to nourish our body and soul. AIR: The air contains oxygen that we all need to survive. Our very Neshama (soul) is made from the air that God breathed into us. While we inhale Oxygen and exhale CO₂ the tree uses the carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. FIRE: the heat of the sun is the fire, the energy that a tree



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Notes from Niema (Cont'd.)

needs to activate the photosynthesis process. So too people need fire for cooking and heating, and the warmth of community to enrich their lives.

On these cold winter months, I hope you seek the warmth of our community and allow it to nurture your spirit. Join us and celebrate Tu Bishvat on Shabbat! Saturday, January 27, 2018.

L'Shalom,

Niema Hirsch

More About Our Hazzan: Niema Hirsch

Niema Hirsch is the Hazzan at Congregation Rodeph Sholom here in Bridgeport Connecticut. Prior to that, she served as Cantor/Educator at Congregation Beth El in Fairfield and The Conservative Synagogue in Westport. Her excellent skills in Hebrew and music have been put to good use in preparing hundreds of children for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. She grew up in Israel and moved to the United States, married and had two children. She earned a BA degree at The George Washington University and a master in business at Sacred Heart University. Prior to working as Cantor/Educator, she was a manager at United Technologies and Computer Science Corporation with responsibilities for planning and implementation of Information Technology infrastructure. Niema grew up in Israel in a traditional Jewish family, where from a young age, she began chanting the prayers by heart. She received liturgical training from Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray and has taken voice lessons with coach Martha King. Niema reads Torah and Haftarah regularly and she trains children and adults to read Torah and lead prayers. Niema is a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher and leads yoga and meditation classes at Merkaz Jewish high school. She lives with her husband Joram in Fairfield and they have two grown children, Etan and Amir.

Torah Fund Women Ensuring Conservative / Masorti Jewish Education

2017/2018 – 5778 TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

Our current Torah Fund campaign is in progress and we already have 6 Guardians and 19 Benefactors! We especially thank Brian Bedford who made a contribution in memory of his beloved wife and our deeply missed congregant, Ellen.

Please join these women who have committed to sustaining the education of the next generation of leaders in the Conservative Movement.

Guardians

Cheryl Green*
Marion Richer*
Julie Rappoport
Lisa Rappoport
Marilyn Rappoport
Svetlana Weisman

Benefactors

Ellen Bedford z"l*
Deborah Baer
Carol Battin
Beattie Bernstein
Gertrude Broder
Muriel Brown
Tamara Bush
Toby Folman
Beth Gold

Benefactors (cont'd)

Edith Katzen
Iris Krawitz
Shelley Kreiger
Susan Spivack
Barbara Srebnick
Lisa Stein
Roslyn Stein
Judy Weiss
Jane Willner
Judy Zeisler



Email or call Lisa Rappoport at rappo@optonline.net or 203-372-8203 or Roz Stein at roslynstein@optonline.net or 203-952-1023 to let us know you will be a donor this year. Guardians \$300; Benefactors \$180.

*New Guardians/Benefactors this year.

President's Message

Cheryl G. Green

What – Me Worry?

It's 3:30 in the morning and once again I find myself unable to sleep, so I decide to make good use of the time and put the finishing touches on my bulletin article. Now some are assuming if I'm not sleeping it's because of all the stress in my life. You may have asked yourself, what stress could a synagogue president possibly have, especially one whose building is 70 years old with a heating system designed in the 1940s and it has been 0° for what seems like forever. Actually, an incoming text from my son at this ungodly hour grabbed my attention. He was kind enough to inform me that he landed safely in Seoul, South Korea. What a good kid! When he was a teenager living at home, somehow a phone call at 11:30 p.m. to let me know he was running late eluded him because he didn't want to wake me, but 3:30 a.m. is not an issue. In case you are wondering, he wasn't sent on a secret mission to have a sit down with Kim Jung Un, although it couldn't hurt. He works for NBC Olympics and this is a shameless plug to watch the Olympics on NBC, or live stream it on your computer or mobile device February 8th-25th so my son's job is secure. It will be one less thing your synagogue president will be stressed about.

So why can't I sleep? Could it be the concern over synagogue finances? We received written confirmation from Merryl Snow Zegar that the challenge grant has been certified and by the time you read this article, the remainder of her matching gift will have arrived in the synagogue office. The total amount donated to the synagogue in memory of her mother, Ruth Snow Levin will be \$135,000.00, which gives us some breathing room, but that's not to say that we are living on easy

street. The cost to run our oversized aged building with staff is \$30,000.00 a month! After doing the math, we can breath easier for 4 ½ months. Personally, that brings me no comfort. We were in serious negotiations with a tenant to rent the school wing for some much-needed income to help shore up the budget. But this was only a Band-Aid fix for a very big problem. The building is old, the heating and air conditioning systems are overtaxed, the plumbing is ancient and outdated and as landlords, we are responsible to provide all the mechanical systems necessary for a potential tenant to operate comfortably and safely in the building. We have already experienced what happens with old equipment – the failure of the elevator was a very rude awakening, one that set our budget back nearly \$50,000.00 with no capital improvement reserve to access. The appeal for each member to send an additional \$200 above their High Holiday pledge for the elevator was met with abject failure. This sent a very clear message to the officers and board. A rental would provide some financial relief, but another failure of any of the building's infrastructure could be catastrophic to us financially. But why lose sleep.

So, if it's not finances, could it be our ritual observance? We must be relevant and contemporary as a house of worship to attract those looking for a newer version of Conservative Judaism and at the same time provide for our more traditional members. As we stand now, we miss the mark and offer very little that speaks to a society straying from organized religion, especially Conservative Judaism. As far as Shabbat morning attendees, we

hold steady at 40-45 people depending on the weather. The early unbearable cold and snow did not help which

is understandable, but we see a consistently familiar group of congregants at our Shabbat services. What we need to see are the unfamiliar. Carol Weinshel as chair of ritual, along with Rabbi Barnett and Hazzan Hirsch, have been addressing this very issue and developed an experiential Shabbat morning service different from anything we have ever done. On Saturday, January 27th from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., we offered a more relevant, contemporary and shorter Shabbat service to those members desiring this type of experience. We encourage you to come to synagogue for future spiritually uplifting mornings. But why should I lose sleep over the changing nature of Conservative Judaism just because I am president of a Conservative synagogue.

Could our diminished and aging membership be the problem causing lack of sleep? Our numbers are stable, which is a good sign however, growth is essential, especially in an elderly congregation. Membership recruitment is not just a problem to be addressed by the officers, board or executive director. We depend on congregants to get the word out that Rodeph Sholom has a lot to offer. We encourage you to invite

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President's Message

(Cont'd)

your friends to our next big event to celebrate Purim on Saturday, February 24th at 7:30 p.m. We have a terrific evening planned beginning with musical entertainment by our member Lanny Boles and his nephew Brett Boles. Many of you know Lanny from the community and his memorable performance as Tevya at the JCC, but for those unfamiliar with Brett, he recently portrayed Professor Higgins in "My Fair Lady" at the Center Stage and I had the pleasure of seeing his original off Broadway production of Foreverman, which enjoyed an extended sold-out run at NYMF, where it picked up two awards. The evening continues with the musical duo of Ian Biggs and Sarah Gonzalez. Their style is contemporary pop, perfect for a cabaret type evening. And don't forget, we will be serving Haman's Hangover cocktails to truly capture the essence of Purim at its best. If you prefer the less hard stuff, you are encouraged to bring your own kosher wine. Are events the cure all to increase our membership? No they're not. We must finally talk about the elephant in the room and recognize that Rodeph Sholom's physical plant and location could very well be a deterrent

in attracting new members. That future conversation couldn't possibly be causing insomnia.

I've laid out every possible reason why sleep eludes me as synagogue president with one possible exception. Could it be the fact that as I write this I am preparing to fly out on a much-needed vacation? I love to fly, I pack light, have my noise cancelling headphones, i.e. can't hear the crying babies and will have time to read, so that can't be it. Oh wait, it's the germs! It takes me 10 minutes to get situated in my seat as I wipe down every surface as recommended by the CDC. Yes, I am one of those annoying passengers who does everything in their power to avoid getting sick from an airplane flight. With flu season upon us, I'm not about to ruin my vacation by not being proactive. So, to all those other JetBlue passengers wishing they had thought of this, NO! You can't have any of my antibacterial wipes – by the way, they didn't help!

L'Shalom,

Cheryl Green



Our Gabbai Sheni, Irwin Schildkraut extends the following to the congregation:

"I would like to thank the leadership for being selected as Rodeph Sholom's representative for the Federation's Mitzvah Hero Celebration.

Knowing that there are so many people who do so much to help make Rodeph Sholom function makes receiving this honor all the more special to me.

Todah Raba! Irwin"

The synagogue would like to thank Brian Bedford for taking it upon himself to wash our tallit in preparation for the High Holy Days.

A special thank you to all those who continue to cook, prepare and ensure we have a delicious kiddush each week following Shabbat morning services. Your dedication to Rodeph Sholom is never taken for granted!



Edith Winick, Dorothy Blank, Miriam Madwed, Judy Zeidel, Marion Richer, David Hochberg, Michael Passo and Larry Shire put a "shine" to the synagogue's silver in advance of the High Holy Days this past fall.



Don't Remember, Renew

Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA

We Should Ensure that We have Seats of All Types

Hillel was a poor man who earned no more than a meager amount a day. He was a proud and studious man. He cared for his family by keeping half of his earnings and the other half he gave to the guard at the Beit Midrash for his work in protecting the House of Study. But as we often know from history, not all that appears is as good as it seems. One day the guard would not let Hillel in for he had earned nothing for which to give him. This did not deter Hillel, he climbed onto the roof of the Beit Midrash and listened to the teachings as they emanated up through the chimney. In the morning the scholars in the Beit Midrash were curious as to why the light wasn't shining in the house. They discovered Hillel was outside covered in snow. He had stayed there all night. That was how much Hillel wanted to learn Torah—everyday.

Fast forward many years later and Hillel's descendent, Rabbi Gamliel was removed from his position as Head of the Beit Midrash for shaming another Rabbi. Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah was appointed in his place. As it happens on that day, the guard was removed from his post as doorkeeper and the doors of the Beit Midrash were open for all to enter. Benches were added to the study hall, and others were welcomed.

What we see in this story are two openings to Jewish life. One is closed, guarded and exclusive. The other is accepting, inclusive and welcoming. But this isn't a story that is all one or the other. It is neither black nor white, for Hillel is a hero, as much as Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah is. Our challenge as Jews is to color in the lines with shades of grey that cause us to think about what it takes to build and maintain a house of worship open to all.

This is not a new struggle; it is one that has evolved with considerable effort throughout our history. I recently attended the USCJ Biennial Convention in Atlanta where I had the opportunity to learn more about what happens when a synagogue is too closed, too discerning—we risk becoming like Rabbi Gamliel, and harming those in our community—leaving them out, not inviting them in.

We all know the benefits of a warm, welcoming environment, open to everyone; after all, it is the type of secular communities we ourselves live in. More though is the enticement of the challenge involved in piercing what for many seems like a locked fortress. As I learned in Atlanta, we must renew, not remember. We must turn from the luster of being impenetrable and involve ourselves in the difficult work of growing, changing, learning and hopefully making our synagogue relevant in today's world, a world of disengagement where the barriers to entry are far greater than the guard at the door of the Beit Midrash.

Perchance one way of renewing and not remembering is to recognize that Jewish life should be accessible. There should be fewer hurdles to jump and those that remain should be lower. You shouldn't need to be an Olympic gold medalist to clear them. We should be welcoming to all, and all should be welcome. We should be relevant in today's culture even while we are challenged to grow. Let's fling the doors open and let the crowd pour in, and when they do let's be sure they experience a relevant and contemporary brand of Conservative Judaism that recognizes this is not the time of Hillel, but the time of technology and

distraction—a time to renew.

We have a great challenge and a unique opportunity to design a new Beit Midrash for ourselves

and those who choose to join us. We should ensure we have seats of all types—ones for those who choose to pray, and others who are looking to study with the Rabbi and Hazzan. There should be seats for holiday programs and the occasional get-together in a social setting which build community. In essence, our seats should never be empty; no one should ever feel left out. In doing the work of the synagogue our officers and trustees, clergy and staff should pause, first to listen to you, and second to test our vision, structures, and efforts. If we are open, meeting the needs of the people we strive to serve all of us will see it, and see it quickly. Let's challenge ourselves and our community to be better, to grow and learn and give. To be part of a community that doesn't say it's open and relevant, but in fact, puts those words into action.

Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote in *The House of Seven Gables*, "We shall live to see the day, I trust...when no man shall build his house for posterity. Why should he? He might just as reasonably order a durable suit of clothes, — leather, or gutta-percha, or whatever else lasts longest, — so that his great-grandchildren should have the benefit of them, and cut precisely the same



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Renew (Cont'd)

figure in the world that he himself does. If each generation were allowed and expected to build its own houses, that single change, comparatively unimportant in itself, would imply almost every reform which society is now suffering for. I doubt whether even our public edifices – our capitols, state-houses, court-houses, city-halls, and churches – ought to be built of such permanent materials as stone or brick. It was better that they should crumble to ruin, once in twenty years, or thereabouts, as a hint to the people to examine into and reform the institutions which they symbolize.”

We must build our own Beit Midrash, not as one to lock people out or knock people down, but one that renews us and invites and encourages us so we may keep re-building and re-designing the gateway that will be necessary to engage today's Conservative Jew.

L'Shalom,

Mark Block

Wedding Anniversaries

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

DECEMBER 2017

Charles and Joy Whitman	57
Melvin and Jacqueline Garelick	47
Jonathan and Monica Kantrowitz	47
Plinio and Vivian Perez	35
Bradley and Randi Weinstein	24
Larry and Abby Rohinsky	17

JANUARY 2018

Wallace and Sheila Sloves	57
Milton and Betty Rosenbloom	56
Steven and Marsha Brody	44

FEBRUARY 2018

Harvey and Barbara Gaberman	63
Richard and Dorothy Blank	60
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Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Barnett

Bring your own dairy or pareve lunch on Tuesdays and study with Rabbi Barnett at 12:00 noon, beginning February 13th.



Chair-Yoga and Hebrew Roots with Hazzan Hirsch

Hazzan Hirsch is offering two exciting classes on Thursdays: Chair-Yoga at 10:00 a.m. and Hebrew Roots at 11:00 a.m. Come in for one or both!



There is no charge for either of these classes!

Not Your Bubbe's Kitchen

From the kitchen of our office administrator/bookkeeper, Ainsley Friedberg: The Matilda Plate.

The Bene Israel are the largest of India's three Jewish communities. They were said to have arrived in India 2000 years ago after a shipwreck off the Konkan coast, South of Bombay. Although never recognized as such, many believe them to be one of the lost tribes.

Originally, the community had no Torah scrolls, prayerbooks or synagogues. Three religious leaders called 'kazis' would travel from town to town conducting all special ceremonies. This position was hereditary and considered similar to that of a Cohen. They knew nothing of rabbinic Judaism or details of Jewish law. Their first synagogue was founded in 1796 and it was actually a Christian missionary, a co-founder of Bombay University, that helped them integrate into main-stream Judaism by providing them the means to learn Hebrew and translate teachings into local language.

The Bene Israel are said to have a special relationship with the Prophet Elijah who is central to their tradition. Their signature dish, is actually one prepared as a sort of mincha to him, The Malida.

"The malida is a very old Bene Israel tradition, an offering to the prophet Elijah, our Elijahoo Hanabee...When you do the malida, you make a mixture of beaten rice and coconut, and you decorate it with five fruits. The person seeking a wish to be granted asks the prophet Elijah for his help. Then you distribute the mixture to be eaten. When the wish is granted, then again you do the malida to thank him." - Sadia Shepard, "The Girl from Foreign: A Search for Shipwrecked Ancestors, Forgotten Histories and a Sense of Home"

Some families use seven fruits, instead of five, but the number does hold spiritual significance, so it's considered important to choose one, I believe, five for protection or seven for blessings. The food itself is considered to be talismanic as well. During the Mehndi ritual, the hennaing of brides several days before the wedding, some malida is wrapped in the brides sari near her belly to help with fertility.

A quick search on YouTube will bring up videos of the malida ritual which is led by a cantor singing the Eliyahu Hanavee over the plate. I will definitely be looking more deeply into the fascinating culture and history of the Bene Israel people and would be happy to share my online references with anyone who would like to email me for them at afriedberg@rodephsholom.com

Recipe for Malida:

2 cups poha*

1/4 cup grated unsweetened coconut

1/4 cup sugar, preferable raw

Seeds from 3 cardamom pods, ground

3 minced dates.

handful of golden or black raisins (optional)

handful of almond slices or pistachios (optional)

Five different kinds of fruit: grapes, apples, pears, oranges, bananas, raspberries, whatever you prefer.

Cover the poha and coconut with cold water and let sit for 4 minutes. Do not let it sit for too long as it will become too mushy. Drain water in a large sieve, pressing out extra water. Immediately mix in sugar, fluffing with a fork, then blend in raisins and nuts.

Mound onto large round platter surrounded by sliced and arranged fruit. Banana is traditionally sliced with the skin on in large chunks. Decorate with roses or rose petals.

Malida is traditionally served on a small plate with some of the sliced fruit and a date.

*Poha is a special kind of flattened rice available at Indian food stores or, more conveniently, on Amazon.com. I should also mention that the original recipe used far more cardamom but I found the flavor overpowering. You can double the recipe and use leftovers as a breakfast food, which is often done in India.



PASSOVER 5778

Service Schedule

Passover 5778 / 2018 will begin on the evening of Friday, March 30th with the First Seder and ends on Saturday, April 7th. The schedule of services is as follows:

Friday, March 30 First Seder	14 Nisan	6:45 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:51 a.m. 11:54 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:58 p.m.	Erev Passover Services Ta'anit B'chorim (Fast of the First Born) Siyyum and Breakfast Latest Time for Eating Chametz Latest Time for Burning Chametz Mincha and Ma'ariv Services Candle Lighting
Saturday, March 31 Pesach I Second Seder	15 Nisan	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:59 p.m. 8:10 p.m.	Shabbat/First Day Passover Services Mincha and Ma'ariv Services Havdalah Candle Lighting
Sunday, April 1 Pesach II First Day of the Omer	16 Nisan	9:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Second Day Passover Services Mincha and Ma'ariv Services
Monday, April 2 Second Day of the Omer Pesach III	17 Nisan	6:45 a.m. 5:45 p.m.	Morning Services Mincha and Ma'ariv Services
Tuesday, April 3 Third Day of the Omer Pesach IV	18 Nisan	6:45 a.m. 5:45 p.m.	Morning Services Mincha and Ma'ariv Services
Wednesday, April 4 Fourth Day of the Omer Pesach V	19 Nisan	6:45 a.m. 5:45 p.m.	Morning Services Mincha and Ma'ariv Services
Thursday, April 5 Fifth Day of the Omer Pesach VI	20 Nisan	6:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Morning Services Mincha and Passover Ma'ariv Services
Friday, April 6 Sixth Day of the Omer Pesach VII	21 Nisan	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:05 p.m.	Seventh Day Passover Morning Services Seventh Day Mincha/Shabbat Services Candle Lighting
Saturday, April 7 Seventh Day of the Omer Pesach VIII	22 Nisan	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:07 p.m.	Shabbat/Eighth Day Passover Services Yizkor (approximate time) Mincha and Ma'ariv Services Havdalah

PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

Getting Your House Ready

Preparing for Passover usually begins a full month before the holiday arrives, just after the festival of Purim. Since no leavened bread may be eaten during all seven days of Passover, we make a special effort to remove leaven entirely from our homes, in obedience to the Torah's command (see Exod. 12:15). This means we clean every room of the house so that all "chametz," or leavened products, are removed. We search for bread crumbs and remove every trace. We also thoroughly clean our stove, oven, refrigerator, and freezer. It is a big job to spring clean the house so thoroughly, but doing so provides an important "object lesson" about the need to separate ourselves from corrupting influences in our lives.

Removing Chametz

The process for removing chametz from your house is an involved one, and takes time and energy to perform a thorough cleaning in the traditionally prescribed manner. Nonetheless, the traditional steps include:

1. Cleaning all possible locations where chametz might have been eaten or might be found in the house. This means searching for crumbs under the cushions of your sofa or stuffed chairs, in the pockets of your coats and pants, on closet floors, and so on. After a room is entirely cleaned and declared chametz-free, it is called "Pesachdik" and no further eating in that room is allowed until after Passover.
2. Emptying and scrubbing down the entire refrigerator to remove all traces of chametz. This includes washing out the freezer as well.
3. "Kashering" your stove and oven. This involves a thorough scrubbing of the entire oven, stove top, and racks and then turning the stove (and stove tops) on for over one hour at the highest temperature. A microwave oven can be kashered by boiling a bowl of water inside it for more than 20 minutes.
4. Putting away all dishes, silverware, pots, utensils, etc. that are normally used during the year. Only dishes, silverware, pots, utensils, etc. that are dedicated for Passover may be used during Passover Week.
5. "Kashering" your dining room and kitchen tables by pouring boiling water over them and then thoroughly scrubbing them down with soap and water. After kashering, the tables are covered until Passover.
6. Scouring the sink, counters, and all other appliances with boiling water.
7. Scrubbing down the floors, windows, and all other parts of the house.



Once the house is thoroughly cleaned, chametz may still be eaten up until the morning of the day before Passover. That day, however, the Bedikat Chametz ritual is performed to finally dispose of any remaining chametz. Only after this may the house be considered chametz-free and ready for Passover.

Why are we commanded to remove chametz? We remove it because it represents a corrupting influence, a hidden uncleanness that manipulates purer elements. Like the influence of a small lump of leaven in a batch of dough, "spiritual" leaven functions as an evil impulse within us that corrupts and "sours" our inner life. This "yeast in the soul" is essentially pride that manifests itself in idolatrous desires and lusts.

Clean Haggadot

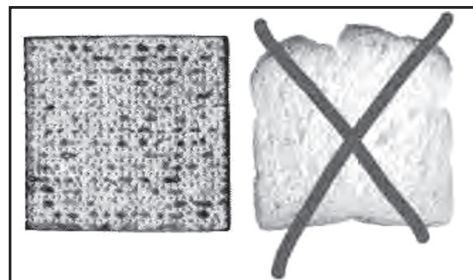
Finally, any book at the Seder table must be "chametz-free." Since this is difficult to accomplish, many will wrap their Haggadah in plastic and put it away all year long so that it is completely clean for the Seder table (if you want to study the Haggadah before Passover, you must read from a different one than the one you will bring to the Seder table).

Search Me, O God

The search for chametz is not unlike the soul searching we do before the fall High Holidays, when we perform chesbon hanefesh by taking inventory of our spiritual condition before God. In other words, we are commanded to search and remove sources of inner impurity so that we might experience the truth that we are a new substance that is untainted by the sour and rotting influences of our past lives.

Sale of Hametz

Note: If possible, all chametz – food not acceptable during Pesach (Passover), or materials containing such unacceptable food – should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the chametz may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends. Please complete the form below and return it to the office (Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604) no later than Thursday, March 29. Any monies received will be placed in the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, unless otherwise indicated.



KNOW ALL PEOPLE BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, the undersigned do here by make and appoint RABBI DAVID BARNETT my true and lawful representative to act in my place and stead, for me and in my name and in my behalf, to sell all chametz owned and possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly, as stated in the Torah and defined by the sages of Israel (e.g., chametz; hashash chametz – suspect chametz; and all kinds of ta'arovet chametz – chametz mixtures); also, chametz that tends to harden and to adhere to the surface of pans, pots, or other cooking or eating utensils, of whatsoever nature, and to lease all places wherein the aforementioned hametz owned or possessed by me may be found, especially in the premises located at (your address here). RABBI BARNETT has the full authority and power to sell said chametz and to lease said place or places where in said chametz may be found, upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. RABBI BARNETT has the full power and authority to assign or appoint a substitute or substitutes to act in my behalf with all the same powers and authority that I have invested in the rabbi, and I do hereby ratify and confirm all that RABBI BARNETT or a rabbinic substitute lawfully does or causes to be done by virtue of these presents. And to this I hereby affix my signature.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



PURIM 5778
February 28 - March 1, 2018

We will be joining Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, on Wednesday evening, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner followed by costume parade and Megillah reading.

Thursday morning services with Megillah reading will be at Rodeph Sholom at 7:15 a.m.

For dinner reservations at Beth El, call 203-374-5544.

USCJ CONVENTION - ATLANTA

Cheryl Green and Mark Block

We were among 1000-plus like-minded Jewish leaders from Conservative congregations across the world who convened in Atlanta, GA, for the 2017 USCJ Convention in early-December. A heavy emphasis was placed on addressing critical issues in the Jewish community, inspiring participants to innovate and advance Conservative Judaism's role in North America, Israel, and around the world.

According to Rabbi Steven Wernick, USCJ CEO in his keynote address to the assembly, "The issues facing Conservative Jews are clear. We've had, and will continue to have, debates about them, but it's our duty to do more than just discuss the state of the union. It's time to start laying the foundation for our future and offer ideas that will help congregations navigate the new paradigms of a rapidly changing world."



We were fortunate enough to attend the convention at the beautiful Marriott Marquis Peachtree and were busy from early morning to late at night in plenary sessions, small group workshops, one-on-one meetings with other lay leaders

and professionals and soaking up some of the energy of Atlanta during the SEC championship game between Georgia and Auburn. It's amazing how seriously they take their college football.



The convention provided us with relevant and contemporary ideas and tools for how congregations like ours must embrace change, engage key demographics such as empty nesters in their Jewish journeys, and renew a passion for the pillars of Jewish life. As we were told: don't remember, renew. The old ways no longer suffice. New, innovative, transformational thinking is the key to a potentially successful future. As we discussed in sessions and over meals, if we are visionary we may be successful.

The USCJ Biennial is the largest gathering of Conservative Jewish leaders in North America. Joining hundreds of rabbis, executive directors, presidents, educators, millennials and others to tackle big questions facing synagogues and leaving Atlanta inspired and empowered with new ideas, strategies and skills to strengthen our own community was energizing. Our challenges are significant but our opportunities may be even greater.

Let's face it, our eyes were wide open to the challenges we face, and we had reinforced for us what we have been saying for some time, the Jewish community and Jewish institutions will look different in the next three

to five years. There were engaging sessions that provided case studies on how communities like Fairfield County can embrace the changing role of synagogues, the increasing presence of interfaith families, evolving financial structures and new definitions of Jewish engagement.

Certain key Jewish moments were defined in determining whether or not the next stage of a person's Jewish life is attached or detached to deep Jewish community. We learned more about the current trends in Jewish institutions which are no substitute for Jewish passion, and we were captivated at the Ebenezer Baptist Church by an incredibly moving musical performance by Neshama Carlebach in concert with her Gospel choir. We also had the opportunity to get inspired and empowered at a private visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights. Lastly, in visiting the Carter Presidential Library and Museum we were able to relive the Camp David Peace Accord and follow the career of the State's only U.S. President.



We have already begun the discussion of transformation with the officers of the synagogue and will soon be doing the same with the Board of Trustees, and then you, our congregants. Atlanta made clear our future is one we must design for ourselves in a very new, different and unique way.

Contributions, Congratulations & Remembrances

ADELLE & MYRON ALPER FUND

In Honor of:

Sam and Cheryl Green on their son
Jonathan's marriage
Don Sherman on granddaughter Elissa
Moriber's upcoming marriage
Helaine and Allan Alper

In Memory of:

Bernard Baer
Leonard Srebnick
Rabbi Israel Stein
Peter Zeidel
Helaine and Allan Alper

Get Well Wishes for:

Allan Alper
Susan and Charles Widlitz

FANNIE & ABE BERKOWITZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donation from:

Mrs. Roslyn Stein

In Celebration of:

Rabbi Jay and Sharon Stein's Marriage
Iris Krawitz and Family

In Memory of:

Abraham Berkowitz
Kenneth, Barbara, Cynthia and
Jennifer Berkowitz
Roslyn Stein

MORT BERNSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Raymond Lobovits
Beatrice Bernstein
Nettie Gelber
Sylvia Sachs
Leonard Singer
Samuel Singer
Sheila Leiff
Rabbi Israel Stein
Beatrice Bernstein
Nettie Gelber

SOPHIE AND LEON JACOBSON FUND

In Honor of:

Their great-great grandchild, Lauren
Balfour on her Bat Mitzvah
Eric Balfour

THE KELMAN FUND

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Rabbi Stuart and Victoria Kelman

BETSY ELAINE KORFF FUND

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Betty Cohen
Leo E. Cohen
Evelyn Wiesner

RODEPH SHOLOM SISTERHOOD

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Elizabeth Deutsch

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Bernard Baer
Sally Burstein
Maurice Silverman
Sue Forman

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Miriam Madwed
Linnie and Marc Newman
Philip Rudnicki
Sandra and Robert Rudnicki
Mrs. Roslyn Stein
Carol and Michael Weinshel
Evelyn and Sidney Wiesner
Jane and Peter Willner

WEINSHEL FAMILY FUND

In Memory of:

Fred Bader
Bernard Baer
Sally Burstein
Leonard Srebnick
Carol and Michael Weinshel

In Honor of:

David Goldstein for his
accomplishments
Iris Krawitz on receiving the honor of
Kallah Bereshit
Larry Sax on receiving the honor of
Hatan Torah

Carol and Mike Weinshel

PETER I. ZEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor Of:

Henry Diamond; Wishing him a Happy
95th Birthday
Judith R. Zeidel

Debby Hiller on becoming Co-President
of the Women's Auxiliary of the Jewish
Senior Services

Rabbi Israel Stein

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Judy Zeidel in celebration of her
retirement

Debby and Arthur Hiller

In Loving Memory Of:

Fred Bader

Judith R. Zeidel

Sally Burstein

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Michelle O'Neil

David Speicher

Judith R. Zeidel

Leonard Srebnick

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Rabbi Israel Stein

Lisa Weiss

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Mazel Tov to:

Cheryl and Sam Green on Jonathan and
Emily's Marriage

Debby and Arthur Hiller on grandson

Jacob's Bar Mitzvah

Judith R. Zeidel

Max on his Bar Mitzvah

Arthur and Debby Hiller

Gloria and Dick Petersen on their 60th
anniversary

Marion and Stanley Richer on the Bat
Mitzvah of granddaughter Gabriele
Elyse Richer.

Judith R. Zeidel

Wishing Continued Good Health to:

Sy Wiesenfeld

Judith R. Zeidel

Wishes for Full and Speedy Recovery:

Allan Alper

Ann Block

Judith R. Zeidel

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Wedding of granddaughter, Elissa, and
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Don Sherman
Rabbi David Barnett
Iris Krawitz – Kallah Bereshit
Larry Sax – Hatan Torah
Joe Schwartz – Shem Tov Recipient

Susan Spivack

Complete and Speedy Recovery to:

Roma Sue Barnett
Cheryl and Sam Green

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Leon Spivack
Susan Spivack
Rabbi Israel Stein
Renee and Frederic Beitman

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**In Memory of:**

Leon Spivack
Susan Spivack

KIDDUSH FUND**Donation from:**

Brian Bedford
Cheryl and Sam Green
Joe Schwartz

MINYAN BREAKFAST**In Honor of:**

The Rodeph Sholom community in
thanks for their support after the
passing of Sally Burstein
Clara and Larry Kahn

In Memory of:

Abraham Berkowitz
Roslyn Stein
Hannah and Matthew Lipshires
Barbara Srebnick
E. Philip Pensak
Deborah Pensak Baer
Mary S. Pensak
Deborah Pensak Baer and
Bernard Baer z"l
Albert Weinstein
Kenneth Weinstein
Helen Zabin
Mary McCarthy
Dr. Louis Zucker
Jonas and Pearl Zucker

SYNAGOGUE FUND**Donation from:**

Estate of Elinor Alpern
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Marjorie and David Renken
Lil and Julie Rosenberg Foundation
Larry Sax
Susan Spivack
David and Harriet Stone
Dolores and John Ward
Carol and Mike Weinshel
Judith Zeidel

In Appreciation of:

Being able to Chant the Haftarah on my
52nd BarMitzvah Anniversary
Rabbi Richard Eisenberg

In Honor of:

Richard Blank (The Pa) on his 90th
Birthday
Jackie Friedman and Evan Stein
Jill and Stanton Lesser
Ruth Cohen on her Birthday
Irv Fleischer and Janis Bufferd
Henry Diamond on his 95th Birthday
Deborah and Wallace Zuckerman
Sam and Cheryl Green on the Marriage
of Jonathan
Ainsley Friedberg
Jill and Stanton Lesser
Iris Krawitz for her honor
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Marion Richer's Birthday
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Edith Winick
Larry Sax for his honor
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Irwin Schildkraut for being named
Mitzvah Hero
Cheryl and Sam Green
Joe Schwartz as Shem Tov
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Barbara Rifkin and Amishav
Zabari
Don Sherman and Harriet Moriber on
the Marriage of Elissa Moriber
Jill and Stanton Lesser
New Great-Grandchild
Ari Zucker
Pearl and Jonas Zucker
Pearl Zucker on her 90th Birthday
Richard and Dorothy Blank
Adrienne and Neal Fishman
Jonathan and Jeanne Zucker
Pearl and Jonas Zucker

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Jill and Stanton Lesser
Bernard Baer
Ann and Mark Block
Selda Dworkin
Robert and Toby Folman
Susan Forman
Cheryl and Sam Green
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Clara and Larry Kahn
Jill and Stanton Lesser
Miriam Madwed
Lisa and William Rappoport
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Helen Weinstein
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Phyllis Goldfarb
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Jill and Stanton Lesser	Marilyn Rappoport	Cheryl and Sam Green
Miriam Madwed	Myrna and Michael Retsky	Sy Wiesenfeld
Michelle Myer	Marion and Stanley Richer	Gracey and Charles Oksenberg
Lawrence A. Sax	Jay and June Ringelheim	Mazel Tov to:
Don Sherman	Ira Robbin	Ainsley Friedberg on the Marriage of
Florence and Howard Splaver	Rodeph Sholom Sisterhood	her son
Helen Weinstein	Naomi Rosenberg	Cheryl and Sam Green
Pearl and Jonas Zucker	Susan and Eliot Rudnicki	Cheryl and Sam Green on the marriage
Rabbi Israel Stein	Lawrence A. Sax	of their son Jonathan and Emily
Leah and Kenneth Alper	Lesley Schwimmer	Ann and Mark Block
Charles and Eidie Applebaum	Eva Shragis	Ainsley Friedberg
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Joan and Stanley Carp	Helen Weinstein	Brian Bedford
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Allan and Mae Margolis		David Goldstein

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 Stuart Gordon
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 Jack and Marilyn Grogins
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 Alan and Beverly Schpero
 Rita Sheiman
 Ronald Sheiman
 Larry Shire
 Marcie and David Slepian
 Wallace and Sheila Sloves
 Barbara Srebnick
 Roslyn Stein
 Samuel Stern
 Harriet and David Stone
 John Ward
 Carol and Michael Weinshel
 Helen Weinstein
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 Susan and Charles Widlitz
 Sy Wiesenfeld
 Austin and Ellen Wolf
 David and Rachel Wolfe
 Judith Zeidel
 Judy and Robert Zeisler
 Sylvia Zigun

Pearl and Jonas Zucker
 Charles and Mary Zwecker

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 Etan Hirsch and
 Carmina Tessitore
 Michael Klein
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 Roslyn Stein
 Harriet and David Stone
 Carol and Michael Weinshel
 Liselotte Weiss
 Stanford and Judith Weiss
 Mark and Jayne Yerushalmi
 Judith Zeidel
 Pearl and Jonas Zucker

In Honor of:

Pearl Zucker on her 90th Birthday
 Ernie, Ethel and Lesa Tischler
 Jeanne and Jon Zucker

In Memory of:

Leon Spivack
 Marjorie and David Renken
 Lesa Tischler
 Rabbi Israel Stein
 Susan Spivack
 Lesa Tischler
 Ernie and Ethel Tischler

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Snapshots!

It has been a busy year celebrating the holidays and festivals. We enjoyed programs interacting with our community Israeli Young Emissaries Yuval Hazan, Bar Degani, Itamar Erez, and Ofek Moscovich and each other in the Sukkah. Our annual Sukkot BBQ was delicious and the Board gathered around for the lighting of the menorah for Hanukkah.



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