

Rodeph Sholom Welcomes Rabbi Aaron Gaber on Veteran's Shabbat, November 7th

Rabbi Aaron Gaber is currently on a 90-day tour and serving as the Medical Support Chaplain for the U.S. Army Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY.

In June 2025, he completed a year-long deployment to Grafenwoehr, Germany, serving as the Brigade Chaplain with the 56 Stryker Brigade Combat Team Headquarters from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The deployment was in support of training for the Armed Forces of Ukraine including providing direct training to Ukrainian military chaplains to enhance their skills as pastoral counselors. Before his deployment, Rabbi Gaber served at Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, PA (2014-2024), Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor, NJ (2000-2014), and Adat Chaim in Reisterstown, MD (1996-2000). Since his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, he has dedicated his life to learning about faith, serving the community, and helping others live full and meaningful lives in the modern world. Most importantly, Rabbi Gaber aims to ensure everyone, regardless of background, religious faith, or curiosity about spirituality, feels welcome.

Rabbi Gaber is an active community leader, serving on the boards of clergy and community organizations.

He served as Chair of the Greater Philadelphia

Rabbinical Assembly Cluster (2023-2024).

He also chaired the Bucks County Council of Rabbis and Cantors and was engaged with the

Newtown-Yardley Ministerium. In March 2020, he rejoined the Army National Guard and served as the Chaplain for the 228th Transportation Battalion in Pennsylvania. In December 2022, he was deployed to Kuwait to support soldiers during Hanukkah.

Rabbi Gaber's journey to becoming a respected leader in the Jewish community started with his ordination and master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He furthered his education by completing the joint program between the School of General Studies at Columbia University and the List College of Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary. In recognition of his more than 25 years of service to the Jewish community, the Jewish

Theological Seminary awarded Rabbi Gaber an honorary Doctor of Divinity in December 2022. He looks forward to beginning work at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) at the end of the summer.

Rabbi Gaber's personal life is just as fulfilling as his professional career. He is married to Sharon Bromberg and is a proud father of four children and two grandchildren.



Rabbi Aaron Gaber, Chaplain in the Army with the rank of Major.

Rabbi	Richard Eisenberg
Rabbi/Hazzan	Niema Hirsch
Rabbi	Daniel Satlow
Ex-Officio Rabbi	David Nelson
Rabbi Emeritus	Israel C. Stein (z"l)
Synagogue Administrator	Scott Bedford
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Treasurer	Charles Zwecker
Co-Secretaries	Laura Friedman and Laurence Shire
Senior Gabbai	Sy Wiesenfeld

DAILY SERVICES

Details available on weekly email

Monday and Thursday Mornings..... 8:15 a.m.
Sunday through Thursday Evenings 6:00 p.m.
Friday Evening..... Times vary
Shabbat Morning..... 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Evening..... Times vary

For changes and up-to-date service times,
check out our weekly email, or visit
www.rodephsholom.com.

MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is dedicated to two
guiding principles:

- To serve as a vibrant center for the practice and teaching of Conservative Judaism.
- To create a spiritual and social atmosphere in which congregants feel part of a larger synagogue family.

Mazel Tov to our Members

Lanny Boles on his milestone 75th birthday.

Erica and Arnold Cohen on their granddaughter Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah.

Lois Fagan on her son Ira's marriage.

Lois Fagan on her granddaughter Esme's graduation from Georgia Tech.

Cindy and Gary Katz on their grandson Noah's graduation from Yavneh Day School.

Chyai Mulberg and Dr. Benjamin Schultz on the birth of their grandson Weston.

Donald Pollack on his milestone 80th birthday.

Diana Rich and Joe Schwartz on the birth of their grandson.

Dr. Benjamin Schultz on winning the E-36 event at the 2026 National Free Flight Aeromodeling Championships.

Lesley Schwimmer on her grandson Amichai's graduation as valedictorian from Yeshiva High School.

Donald Sherman on his milestone 90th birthday.

Susan Widlitz on her granddaughter Sydney's graduation from Union College.

Judy Zeidel on her grandson Jack's graduation from Emory University.

Rabbi Richard Eisenberg

We often think of the High Holy Days as a time of introspection, of taking a spiritual inventory. We are invited to review our deeds during the past year and to see how we can improve ourselves. But introspection, looking inwards, can also mean examining whatever makes us happy or sad, agitated or serene, satisfied or wanting. There is always room for improvement in how we can move from negative feelings to positive feelings; how we can move from anxiety and fear to a state of calm reassurance is a goal worthy of our effort.

I choose to focus on anxiety and fear especially now for a good reason: the rise in worldwide anti-semitism. It seems as if a day doesn't go by when we don't hear about an anti-semitic incident or statement. If we are taking the time to look inward, it is impossible to ignore the agitation that wells up inside whenever we hear of such things. So what do we do with our upset? Knowing we cannot solve the problem of anti-semitism and knowing how much it troubles us, how can we work through our feelings to reach a calmer state of heart and mind?

Prayer and meditation are tried and true ways of moving from anxiety to calm. Many of us have tried different forms of meditation. Most of us try prayer, whether personal or formal (such as the prayers in our Siddur).

Meditation and deep breathing turn our agitation into relaxation. Prayer turns our fear and anxiety into hope and affirmation.

On Shabbat and holidays we always include prayers for our country, Israel and for peace. The prayers we use in our Siddur are useful and meaningful. I would not make



any changes here. But were I to be involved in compiling a new Siddur, I would propose adding a prayer that addresses the reality of anti-semitism, especially during times like the present when it is most rampant. In this light, I am sharing with you a prayer I have composed that I hope could be helpful. Please feel free to use it whenever you need some extra spiritual support, whenever you are feeling upset and depressed about the scourge of anti-semitism in our society. It is written in first person plural but you can replace the "we's" with "I's" if you're saying it to yourself.

PRAYER UNDER THE DURESS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Our God and God of our Ancestors. We turn our hearts to You in this moment of our inner trouble, as we are reminded of the plague of anti-semitism in our midst. The scourge of bigotry directed against our people continues to spread and deepen. We stand by and listen day by day to the reports of acts of hate directed against Jewish individuals,

synagogues and communal institutions. We shake our heads in confusion and dismay. We continually wonder how we, the people Israel who have suffered from persecution for three millennia simply because of our faith and heritage, can still be despised by so many of the ignorant.

We are reminded that during times of trouble, when we are shaken by the external forces of intolerance directed against us, we can look towards You for reassurance. Despite the cruel efforts aimed at us throughout the centuries, we have survived. Our ancestors suffered martyrdom at the hands of those who hated us and millions of us have perished, yet we are still here. While we decry the plague of anti-semitism in one breath, in the other we proudly declare, "Am Yisrael Chai!"

We pray that You grant us the strength to persevere as Jews in the face of adversity and bigotry. We ask You to fortify our resolve to affirm our loyalty to You, the Torah and the Jewish people. Bless us with the wisdom to unite with one another despite our differences. Keep us from despair when we are under siege. Grant us the courage to publicly raise our voices against hate whenever necessary. Guide us under the light of Your Torah and Your teachings so that we may never lose hope or faith in the essential goodness of humanity and the possibility that anti-semitism can and will be overcome.

May we always find reassurance in the words of the prophet, "Every one shall sit under his vine and his fig tree, and none shall make him afraid (Micah 4:4)."

Judy joins me in wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year 5787.

Rabbi Niema Hirsch

Summer Trip to Israel

One of the joys of serving our congregation is sharing with you some of my experiences when I visit Israel. Every trip is different, yet each one deepens my appreciation for our people, our history, and our homeland.

This July I spent time with my mother, who still lives on Kibbutz Sa'ad in the northern Negev, not far from the Gaza border. Many of you will remember my stories about Sa'ad. Despite the challenges of recent years, the kibbutz continues to thrive with remarkable resilience and optimism.

A highlight of my visit was a small family reunion. Not everyone was able to come, but enough of us gathered to make it a memorable afternoon. We shared pizza and ice cream outdoors while the children laughed and played. It was one of those simple moments that reminds us what

family is all about. Living thousands of miles apart makes these gatherings even more precious, and I treasured every minute.

From the Negev I traveled to Jerusalem, where I walked the recently opened Pilgrimage Road. Archaeologists have uncovered the very street that Jewish pilgrims walked nearly 2,000 years ago as they ascended from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple Mount during Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Buried after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., the ancient road has now been carefully restored. Walking on those original stones was deeply moving. I stood there with our guide and twenty-five fellow Israeli tourists, and all around us youth groups and children streamed past, laughing and full of restless energy. The road was anything but quiet. And yet, amid all that commotion, I



felt something powerful: we were not so different from the pilgrims who once filled this very street, ascending toward the Temple with their songs and shouts of joy, fulfilling the biblical commandment to appear before God on the festivals. For a brief moment, the past and present seemed to blur together, and history became wonderfully tangible.

Another memorable day brought me into the hills of Samaria, beginning at Mount Gerizim, the mountain that overlooks ancient Shechem and remains the spiritual center of the Samaritan community. Nearby stands the site where, each year on Passover, the Samaritans continue their ancient tradition of offering lambs according to their interpretation of the Torah; a remarkable custom that has survived for centuries.

From there, my sister and I continued to Ancient Shiloh, one of the most important



Four generations of my family gathered during my July visit to Israel. Moments like these remind us that family, faith, and the Land of Israel remain deeply intertwined.

See NIEMA on page 6

Rabbi David Nelson

Thank you... I am sorry... I wish... If only I had... I feel like crying... It makes me want to smile... I'm awed in wonder... There is such a sense of confusion... My sense of satisfaction is broad and complete...

It would take a year of sermons, a library of books, hours of podcasts to put into words what we feel at this season. Our thoughts are many, our feelings are strong, and our hopes... our

dreams... our prayers... know no limits. We struggle with unanswered questions. We are thankful for the blessings we have received. We revisit our family tensions and those political arguments we have had with our friends.

Another year is over. And this has been a difficult year – difficult for Israel, difficult for Jewish students, difficult for us as Jews.

What could make next year better?

Perhaps that is what makes this season so special. It reminds not of “who we are” as much as of “who we can become.”

What counts most in our lives is exactly what we most often take for granted – our families, our friends, ourselves.

My message is the message of this holiday season itself... The message we share as Jews. The basic task of this High Holy Day season is to be honest, honest with ourselves and with each other. And my prayers for all of



us are: that God will bless us with life, love, peace, and good health – and with the appreciation and understanding – with the strength to care just a little bit more about ourselves, our people, and each other. My prayer is that you will find that space that gives you a space of calm, a feeling of satisfaction, and a feeling of connection to Rodeph Sholom and to Israel.

Rodeph Sholom Welcomes Rabbi Satlow as Part of Clergy Team



Rabbi Dan Satlow was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1996 and served congregations in Los Angeles, Wilmington, Delaware, and Fairfield for 16 years.

He lives in Fairfield with his family and currently works as the Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Yeshiva University in New York City.

Kind Words From Our Congregation

Dear Rodeph Team,

Do you know how profoundly spiritual and beautiful you made this Shabbat Service at Rodeph for me?

Rabbi Eisenberg, your personalized interactive greeting to my guests from the pulpit, made them feel that they were so welcome, and at home.

And I felt humbled, and was very much taken, by the thoughtful, kind words you said about me.

Rabbi Niema, in subsequent conversations following Tefillah, my guests made a point of telling me how much they loved, and enjoyed your cantorial singing.

And, Debbie and Carol, all the effort, time you devoted, planning,

and work you did, made a fabulous Kiddush into an unexpected Simcha for me.

And, Yes, you can add "Event Planner" to your resumes...

You all made it one of the best days of my life!

A final thought I'd like to share...

As you all well know, it's the Leadership of any organization or community that determines and sets the tone, and ramifications, of all its facets, and components...and you guys are unquestionably the best, par excellence!!

With much admiration and appreciation...

Gratefully, Gilda Vogel

President's Message

Shalom, Friends!

Our Senior Citizen membership is not only the majority but also the beating heart of our congregation. Your wisdom, resilience, and stories continue to inform and inspire us. Indeed, it is the legacy upon which we build. The leadership of this congregation is deeply committed to ensuring that all of our members feel valued and connected.

Please read this bulletin and make sure you receive our emails so that you are aware of all that Rodeph Sholom offers

throughout the year. We invite and encourage you to take advantage of the special programs, classes, and services either in-person or on Zoom. Consider joining us for a weekly Shabbat service followed by lunch, Rabbi Eisenberg's classes, online speakers, and/or holiday and weekday services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Clergy, Staff, Officers, Board of Trustees, and volunteers who make a difference every day. Their years of ongoing efforts ensure

we are able to be there for and meet the needs of our membership through connection, commitment, and communication. Furthermore, I want to thank our entire synagogue membership for your ongoing support, dedication, and participation. Together we are a strong, caring, and vibrant congregation.

With warmest regards, blessings of good health, and greetings of Shana Tovah...

Debbie Boles, President

NIEMA (continued from Page 4)

archaeological sites in Eretz Israel. Long before Jerusalem became the religious center of the Jewish people, Shiloh was home to the Tabernacle, where the Ark of the Covenant rested for generations. It was there that Hannah poured out her heart in prayer and where the young Samuel first heard God calling. Walking among the excavations, surrounded by the hills described in the Bible, we gained a vivid sense that these are not simply stories from long ago. They took place in real places that continue to speak across the centuries.

Every visit to Israel reminds me that ours is a people with an extraordinary memory. The places we read about in the Bible are not distant legends but living landscapes, where Jewish life continues to flourish in the very valleys and hillsides where our ancestors had walked.

I feel profoundly grateful to live in an age when Jews have returned to the land, when Hebrew is spoken, and when communities throughout Israel continue to grow and thrive. For generations, our ancestors prayed, "L'shanah haba'ah B'Yerushalayim" — next year in Jerusalem. We have the extraordinary privilege of witnessing the fulfillment of those ancient hopes in our own lifetime. May we never take that blessing for granted.

As we now turn toward the High Holidays, I carry these memories of Sa'ad, of Jerusalem's ancient stones, and of Samaria's quiet hills with me into the season of reflection ahead.

Shanah tovah — from my family to yours.

In Memoriam

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

We recall with affection our members who passed since the publication of our last bulletin:

Rabbi Stuart L. Kelman

(1 June 2026 - 16 Sivan 5786)

Selda Dworkin

(5 June 2026 - 20 Sivan 5786)

Sheila Ment

(9 July 2026 - 24 Tammuz 5786)

Beverly Schpero

(11 July 2026 - 26 Tammuz 5786)

Neil Gollinger

(3 August 2026 - 20 Av 5786)



V.P., Program and Membership's Message

In May of 2025 as has been done in the past, Jonathan Green and I placed flags for Memorial Day. Additionally, Debbie Boles and I visited the KIA's buried locally and placed stones on their headstones (Coleman Ashkins – Old Rodeph Sholom Cemetery, Francis Bresler – Shaare Torah Adath Israel Cemetery in Fairfield, Paul Leopold Drotch – Rodeph Sholom Memorial Park, Alfred Gold – Loyalty Lodge Cemetery in Fairfield). These men plus the following always have their names read during Memorial Day Shabbat: William Aaron – Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri; Eli Allinson – the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, Hamm, Canton de Luxembourg, Luxembourg; Leon Gellis – Missing in Action – memorialized at Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium; Morris Horn (died in the Normandy region); Edward Jeruss (shot down over Soviet Armenia), Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.; Herman Leonard Weinberger (died not battle-DNB–drowned on maneuvers) – Mount Hebron Cemetery, Flushing Queens, N.Y.

The Annual Veterans Shabbat will be held on 7 November. We will welcome Rabbi Aaron Gaber, U.S. Army Chaplain (Major) as this year's guest speaker. There are connections to Rodeph Sholom that Rabbi Gaber will share! Our Book of Veterans continues to be revised with additions and photos. There is still time for our members to submit names and photos, even if the veteran is not in uniform.

Milton Armm, Brian Bedford, Cheryl Green and I visited the West Haven Veterans Memorial, in the hopes of taking a group from Rodeph Sholom on a field trip and highlighting our veterans in their facility.

I have plans to visit Debra Emery, Special Projects Coordinator, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County located in Stamford when we will share information on veterans.

While not officially a Rodeph Sholom program, Haviv Rettig Gur is coming to our area to lecture on October 12. He is one of the leading voices in Israel today and has a very popular podcast.

Thanks to the Norman Rappoport Memorial Fund, Rodeph Sholom is one of the sponsors of this very important program.

We will, once again, collect toys for the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association Holiday Toy Drive.

Hanukkah preparations are in the planning stage! Ideas are welcome as are participants – for Zoom!

Howard Splaver continued the tradition established by his father, Ben Splaver of blessed memory, who sponsored the Breakfast for the First Born on the morning of the first night of Passover. It is always a wonderful opportunity to learn and enjoy one last bagel before the menu is Matzah!

We held the second Seder at Mozaic in a private room using the Rabbi Harry Nelson and Harry Malin Model Seder. Rabbi Eisenberg and Rabbi Hirsch led the Service. Coordinated by Debbie Boles and Judy Eisenberg, the evening was a huge success and plans are already underway for 2027.

Susan Unrad, long-time member of our congregation and one-time teacher in our Talmud Torah, shared her family's history for Yom Hashoa. An excellent speaker, Susan answered questions following her presentation and truly lives the words "Never Forget". Rodeph Sholom has held a Yom Hashoa program since the early 90's and continues to do so with dignity, respect and the responsibility to tell the stories of those who cannot tell them themselves.

Rabbi Eisenberg's classes, a Journey Through the Prayer Book, have been very inspiring, well attended and on schedule for the coming year.

Kiddushes for the holidays, although not officially under a Program, were prepared through the generosity of both Debbie Boles and Carol Weinshel.

The format of the Annual Meeting has become a new tradition with the raffle drawing, a complimentary light lunch, entertainment, a 'fun' raffle and an afternoon of camaraderie.

Carol S. Weinshel

Administrator's Message

As many of you know, aside from my position as our Synagogue Administrator, much of my time is spent working as a professional live music photographer capturing concerts around the country. Quite often while immersed in that live music world, I'm struck by the similarities to religious prayer in synagogue services. I believe it is no coincidence why so many Jews gravitate towards such live music experiences: the power of collective space and communal effervescence is deeply prevalent in both worlds.

In Jewish tradition, the concept of *Kehillah* (community) relies on showing up together. When we gather in the sanctuary for Shabbat, individual voices blend into a single, resonant prayer. There is a distinct vibration in the room when everyone is singing the *Oseh Shalom* in unison – a moment where the mundane melts away and we touch something greater than ourselves. In the live music environment, the exact same phenomenon occurs.

This is particularly the case with the band whose shows I've seen with the greatest frequency: Phish, a four-piece

improvisational group from Vermont that began in the early 1980s and is still one of the most popular live acts touring today. Two of the musicians in the band are Jewish and a very large percentage of their audience – I would estimate upwards of nearly half – is Jewish as well, a rarity in modern rock 'n' roll fanbases.

This July I spent five nights attending their sold-out concerts at Madison Square Garden. On one of these nights, the band played *Avinu Malkeinu*, a prayer which has frequently made an appearance in their shows throughout the years. It is truly an amazing thing to stand amongst 20,000 people of different backgrounds, all of whom including the non-Jewish attendees, are singing and swaying along and having a powerful communal spiritual experience together in that space.

At its core, the goal of transcendent art experienced through live music is much like that of *Tefillah le-tzibbur* (communal prayer). Regardless of whether the music being played is Jewish in nature or not, when thousands of people

at concerts synchronize their movements and voices to a shared rhythm, it causes the boundary between the individual and crowd to disappear. These live music experiences fundamentally embrace the same spiritual architecture and purpose as communal prayer: an intentional gathering of souls looking for meaning, joy and elevation.

Whether we call it *Kedushah* in the synagogue or "the vibe" at the concert, the reality is the same. Sacred spaces are created by the people who fill them and, together, we experience a feeling that we are part of something infinitely larger than ourselves. To that end, the synagogue and concert hall are twin spaces built to remind us that no one carries the weight of existence alone.

As we approach the High Holidays, may our synagogue always be a place where the music of our prayers lifts us high, grounds us in community, and fills our souls with light.

Scott Bedford, Synagogue Administrator

A Note From Carol:

With heartfelt thanks to Scott Bedford, Debbie and Lanny Boles, Sue Spivack for their attention to detail in reading this bulletin and to Paul Silverfarb for his incredible creativity.

Kind Words

A message from Selda Dworkin's nephews and niece...

Your synagogue was a source of great meaning and comfort to her.

David Goldstein is This Year's Shem Tov Recipient

Being honored with Rodeph Sholom's Shem Tov Award has given David an opportunity to reflect on his Jewish roots. Among his earliest memories were holidays, Friday night candles, and Seders with his grandparents. One year, he and an aunt swapped the afikoman with a ransom note stitched on cardboard! His Hebrew school education featured the Jewish Heroes books with stories of the prophets and sages.



As you can imagine, David's hearing problem as well as attending school away from home interrupted the normal course of events. There was no involvement in Temple life for many years; however, he was tutored and had a small Bar Mitzvah. Along the way, there were family trips to Israel. David attended Manhattanville College and Grad School at the American University, which had a Hillel chapter. He moved to Bridgeport where he was a program director and writer for Neighborhood Studios, a school of the arts.

According to David, in Bridgeport he met Ellen Bedford who invited him to attend a cantor's concert at Rodeph Sholom. What was most enticing was that the synagogue had a listening system for the hard of hearing. Interacting with clergy and the Minyan gang gradually convinced him that it was time to fill in the gaps in the Jewish experiences he had missed. At that point, he was running a program for blind students planning to study music in college. "It was good to have something I could do for myself," he says.

"It's different as an adult—no Merkaz graduation, no reason to stop." His first accomplishment was a second Bar Mitzvah, a Shidrug or upgrade. Then came readings from the Torah and Haftarah. His niche turned out to be the five megillot. David chants

from the Song of Solomon and Lamentations each year. Producing worksheets combining the text with the trope symbols in braille is particularly challenging, but one that David has embraced. This past winter David decided to add to his repertoire by learning to lead the Maariv service over Zoom. That came in handy on a snow day when someone was needed to run the Minyan. "There are still

things on my list that I want to learn," he says.

David is a co-Vice President of Ritual with Irwin Schildkraut and is proud to serve on the Board of Trustees with his brother, Howard. Most of David's participation is via Zoom from a senior community in North Branford. You can hear him chant Ashrei from there. For several years, David has shared the Haftarah reading for Rosh Hashanah with Keith Rubenstein.

In David's words:

"I have always thought of the Shem Tov award as being for a mensch, and I don't think of myself in anyway like that. I think that if my mom were here, she'd be confirming with the Temple that I'm still a rotten kid. I am deeply honored."

David Goldstein is recognized for his exceptional service to our Congregation. David, with his zest for learning, sense of humor, and class, is an inspiration to all.

Editor's Note:

The above picture of the Goldstein Family, Caryl, Howard, David and Melvin, is the perfect picture to highlight our 2026 Shem Tov Award recipient. Both David and Howard serve on our Board of Trustees, having been raised by the most patient and loving parents. How proud they would be of these talented, thoughtful and intelligent sons.

Sharon Sax is This Year's Kallah Torah

Sharon is truly a daughter of Rodeph Sholom, beginning with her baby naming in the sanctuary in 1962. She began her Talmud Torah education with Mechina and graduated from the Hebrew High School in 1980. She was a regular participant in Junior Congregation which helped prepare her for her Bat Mitzvah in 1975, Rabbi Stein's first full year at Rodeph Sholom. Sharon has recited her Haftorah several times since then, most notably on her 30th and 50th Bat Mitzvah anniversaries.

Sharon grew up in Fairfield, and during her Junior High and High School years, Sharon was a member of Rabbi Albert Martin B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG). She held numerous chapter and regional board positions including Chapter President and eventually as Regional N'siah (President) for Connecticut Valley Region. She attended numerous leadership training programs, Regional, District, and International Conventions, and spent the Summer of 1978 with BBYO in Israel. She credits her BBG/BBYO years for developing and honing her leadership skills, as well as her lifelong commitment to Judaism, and volunteering her time when available. She had excellent role models in all of these areas in both of her parents: Hyla (Sax) Lipsky and Larry Sax.

After attending Brandeis University, Sharon graduated from Ithaca College with a Communications degree in Television/Radio and Sports Broadcasting. Sharon spent nearly 26 years working in the Sports News industry, ultimately as a Supervising Producer for a news feed service, providing sports highlights to all local NBC stations across the country. Although mostly working at the production facility in northern New Jersey, her on-site production work included events such as the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and numerous Stanley Cups, Daytona 500s and NBA Drafts, among others.

As local news delivery became increasingly available on personal electronic devices, the business changed and Sharon looked for a new direction, eventually launching a career as an independent insurance broker with Aflac in 2016. She has since expanded her business and areas



of focus to include Life Insurance, Long Term Care and Medicare, and takes great pride in providing the “personal touch” with all her clients.

Outside of work, Sharon spent several years involved with the local Rotary and Democratic clubs in Maywood, NJ, serving 2 terms as secretary for both groups.

Although she relocated from Connecticut to New Jersey in 1990, Sharon has always called Rodeph Sholom home, attending High Holiday services at Rodeph over the years when her schedule allowed. She joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 and has served as VP of Finance since 2020. Sharon coordinates all transactions between the bank and the investment firm, processes the synagogue payroll, and co-chairs both the Finance and Investment Committees.

Sharon enjoys spending time with her partner Marcie, their toy poodle Shayna, and their numerous friends in both Connecticut and New Jersey.

Lana and Ben Weisman, Kallah/Hattan Bereishit Torah Honorees

Svetlana (Lana) and Benjamin (Ben) Weisman, children of holocaust survivors, are from Chernovitz, western Ukraine of the former Soviet Union.

Ben, age 18, arrived in the United States in 1969 with his parents, Denih and Shifra Weisman, sister Eva (Isaak) Goldman, and nephew Boris to join his maternal aunt Luba (Fred) Pollak in Bridgeport. Ben knew no English but appreciated his neighbors and young Jews who helped ease his transition to the American way of life. Driven to succeed, Ben worked at a variety of jobs while continuing the medical education he began in Ukraine. He earned a B.A. in Biology from the University of Bridgeport and a respiratory degree from Northeastern University, and M.D. from the University of Rome.

Lana, age 16, arrived in the United States in 1971 with her parents, Matvia and Roza Tesliar and brother Akiva to join maternal aunt Hanna Glazer and her family in Brooklyn. Her aunt assisted them to enroll in Yeshivah of Flatbush where they were warmly received. Lana was the only Russian Jew to lobby for passage of the "Let My People Go – Jews for Grain" amendment sponsored by Senator Jackson. After high school, she attended Barnard College graduating with a degree in chemistry.

Lana and Ben met on a blind

date in 1974, married, and settled in Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter, they decided that Ben should pursue his medical studies in Rome; off they went, first enrolling in an Italian language immersion program in Perugia.

As an American citizen, Lana could not seek employment as a chemist in the Common Market System. Also driven to succeed and being multilingual, she worked in Rome for HIAS and other agencies as an immigration caseworker.

Lana and Ben returned to Bridgeport after five years in Italy. As a physician, he continued his post-medical training in surgery, medicine and pulmonary fellowship at St. Vincent's Hospital. In addition to his private practice, Ben, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, was a founding and managing partner, corporate medical director for Interchurch Residencies, civil surgeon for Homeland Security, CT medical examiner, and assistant professor/instructor at several area medical programs.

Lana earned her M.S. degree and worked at CBS (Columbia Records) Research Center; Duracell; and as a practice administrator for Pulmonary and Internal Medicine, the private practice Ben started with offices in Bridgeport and Trumbull. She is a licensed nursing home administrator and has served on

St. Vincent's Health Care Partners Care Coordination Committee. Lana is a life member of Hadassah and a Guardian of Torah Fund of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Ben and Lana, married 52 years, were the proud parents of three children – David, Sharon (z"l), and Brian. Their beautiful daughter, Sharon, was kept at home on 24/7 life support until passing away at the age of 29. David, an electrophysiologist, lives in Jupiter, Florida with his wife Megan and three children – Ella Rose, Liam and Aaron – who attend Jewish day school. Brian, a financial and corporate strategist, lives in Stamford with wife Gisselle and stepdaughter Margie. Both sons are active members of their respective Jewish communities.

Lana and Ben have been proud members of Rodeph Sholom since the early 80's. Both sons attended Talmud Torah and became Bar Mitzvah there. Since Lana's dad passed away, she and Ben participate in the daily evening minyan.

Jewish faith is very important to them. They are strong supporters of Israel and proud, die-hard Americans who appreciate the opportunities and freedoms this country has to offer! Lana and Ben are humbled and very honored to be recognized with the Kallah/Hattan Bereishit Torah honor.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES
2026/5787



SELICHOT

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Information will arrive via email.

ANNUAL CEMETERY SERVICES Sunday, September 6 Memorial Park – 9:30 a.m. Old Rodeph Sholom Cemetery – 10:15 a.m.

ROSH HASHANAH

All services In-person and Zoom.

Friday, September 11, 2026

Evening Service, Erev Rosh Hashanah6:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1 – Saturday, September 12, 2026

Morning Service9:00 a.m.

Evening Service6:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, Day 2 – Sunday, September 13, 2026

Morning Service8:15 a.m.

Please arrive before 9:15 a.m. to secure parking.

Tashlikh.....Following Morning Services

Evening Service7:15 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

All services In-person and Zoom.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Erev Yom Kippur Mincha1:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre6:30 p.m.

Monday, September 21, 2026

Morning Service9:30 a.m.

Sermon/Yizkor.....11:00 a.m.

Mincha5:00 p.m.

Neilah.....6:30 p.m.

Ma'ariv.....7:20 p.m.

Havdalah/Final Shofar/Fast Ends7:35 p.m.



SUKKOT

Friday, September 25, 2026

Erev Sukkot Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 1 – Saturday, September 26, 2026

Shacharit (In-person and Zoom)9:30 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:30 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 2 – Sunday, September 27, 2026

Shacharit at Rabbi Hirsch's Home (In-person and Zoom)9:30 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah (In-person and Zoom)6:45 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 3 (Hol Hamo'ed 1) – Monday, September 28, 2026

Shacharit (**Zoom Only**)8:15 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 4 (Hol Hamo'ed 2) – Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 5 (Hol Hamo'ed 3) – Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 6 (Hol Hamo'ed 4) – Thursday, October 1, 2026

Shacharit (In-person and Zoom)8:15 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

Sukkot, Day 7 (Hoshana Rabbah) – Friday, October 2, 2026

Shacharit (In-person and Zoom)8:15 a.m.

Mincha/Ma'ariv (In-person and Zoom)6:00 p.m.

SHEMINI ATZERET

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Shacharit (In-person and Zoom)9:30 a.m.

Yizkor (In-person and Zoom)11:00 a.m.

(Dedication of Memorial Plaques)

Mincha/Ma'ariv6:00 p.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Shacharit at B'nai Israel (In-person and Zoom)9:30 a.m.

(Torah honors)

Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah (In-person and Zoom)6:30 p.m.



The 2026 Annual Meeting was well attended as congregants enjoyed a delicious lunch, entertainment, camaraderie and voted on the new officers and Board of Trustees.

Yom Kippur Food Drive

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is joining USCJ and Conservative Masorti / Movement again this year to participate in Operation Isaiah Food Drive. This collection is in keeping with Isaiah's Yom Kippur Haftorah directive against empty piety. Don't merely fast. Feed the hungry; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless. Please bring non-perishable food on Kol Nidre or Yom Kippur Day. Recommended items include: canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly (not in glass containers), pasta, and condiments.



A Happy Group of Volunteers



Lois Fagan, Sheila Lieff and Leslie Schwimmer are quite the threesome as they prepare a mailing for our congregants.

Helping Our Friends Throughout the Country



BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

3/16/26

Dear Congregation Rodeph Sholom of Greater Bridgeport Attn: Scott Bedford,

On behalf of Beth Israel Congregation, thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 received in the aftermath of the fire at our synagogue. Your support has been a profound source of comfort and strength.

As assessments continue, we are learning that the damage to our building is more extensive than initially understood. The fire, smoke, and water impact reached far beyond the library itself, affecting spaces central to our prayer and learning, even affecting the structural integrity of the building itself. The road to recovery and rebuilding will be longer and more complex than we first hoped.

Your gift is a powerful expression of solidarity and hope, reminding us that we are not alone and that we will move forward together.

Your contribution will directly support our recovery and rebuilding efforts and help sustain our sacred work. We are deeply grateful that you choose to stand with us by bringing light in a moment of darkness and helping ensure our community remains strong, vibrant, and alive.

With heartfelt thanks and blessings for peace and wholeness,

Zach Shemper
President
Congregation Beth Israel

Benjamin Russell
Student Rabbi
Congregation Beth Israel

Sheila Hailey
Executive Director
Congregation Beth Israel

Note: You may use this letter as a receipt for income tax reporting purposes. Beth Israel Congregation's Tax ID is 64-6013141, and our address is 5315 Old Canton Rd. Jackson, MS 39211. All contributions to Beth Israel Congregation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.

Dates to Remember



September 7 - September 22 – Project Isaiah Food Drive



October 12 – Co-Sponsoring Haviv Rettig Gur Lecture
(information will be emailed)



November – Funeral Directors Toy Drive



November – Park City Initiative “Box of Love”
Thanksgiving Giveaway



November 7 – Veterans Shabbat



December 4-11 – Zoom Menorah Lighting



December 5 – Hanukkah Celebration
Shabbat Lunch following Services



December 27 – Winter Zoom Morning Services begin



March 13 – In-Person Morning Services resume



April 22 – Rodeph Sholom second night Seder



May 4 – Yom HaShoah Service and Program



May 19 – Annual Meeting and Luncheon



All updates, programs, classes and service times
are emailed on a regular basis.



If you are not receiving our emails
please call the office at **203-334-0159**
or email info@rodephsholom.com
to get on the list.

A Friendly Meeting Far, Far Away



It's a small world when Judy and Rabbi Eisenberg saw Sue Spivack in Alaska. One never knows where you will find our Rodeph Sholom family.

Game Time at Rodeph Sholom!



Erica Cohen, Rabbi Niema, Rachel Shur and Beverly Peck enjoy each other's company while playing Rummikub.



Keeping our congregants safe through their vigilance, headed by Ricky of CWC on Shabbat and holidays.

A Community That's Better Together

Better Together is an intergenerational program that brings students from Merkaz together with Jewish Residents of Mozaic Jewish Home (skilled nursing Residents) to build meaningful relationships grounded in Jewish values, mutual respect, and shared experiences. Mozaic and its foundation in compassion, dignity, and community, reflect the values the students learn and live. Through weekly gatherings, students develop a sensitivity to the needs and experiences of older generations and gain an understanding of the importance of honoring and caring for those who came before them. In turn, residents engage in meaningful

connections and have the opportunity to share their stories, wisdom, and life experiences.

The impact of Better Together extends far beyond the weekly visits. Residents experience joy and meaningful engagement, while students gain empathy, responsibility, and an appreciation for Jewish tradition and the importance of caring for older generations. The students also partner with the Women's Auxiliary for three Shabbat Celebrations and Onegs (Chanukah/Purim/Israel) and are involved with the annual Centenarian Brunch event.

Rodeph Sholom is a co-sponsor of this program for 2026-2027.

2026 Yom Hashoa



Members read the names of those who perished during the Shoah and shared stories of loved ones who were lost. Susan Unrad presented the story of her parents to a full house in Friend Hall, offering a moving and personal tribute that honored their memory and ensured their stories will not be forgotten.



— Congregation —
RODEPH SHOLOM

RODEPH SHOLOM LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

We are once again offering scholarships for the **2026-2027** Hebrew School year.

We offer Legacy Scholarship Memberships for **\$318**.

We will then send **\$618** to your home synagogue.

If you have more than one child in Grades K-8, you can elect to send in **\$318** per child; we will send your synagogue **\$618** per child.



REQUIREMENTS

- Family has an affiliation or past affiliation with Congregation Rodeph Sholom
- Member in good standing of a synagogue anywhere in the United States
- Child or children grades K-8 enrolled in Talmud Torah
- \$318 paid in full to Rodeph Sholom
- Permission to publish your name as a Legacy Member in our bulletin
- Send one picture of your child in Hebrew School, synagogue or celebrating a holiday to Rodeph Sholom in January for our spring bulletin
- Complete both membership and scholarship applications



**Any questions?
Contact us!**



Call our office at
203-334-0159



Email us at
info@rodephsholom.com

RODEPH SHOLOM CLASS PHOTOS



Congregation Rodeph Sholom
Bridgeport, CT
Class Photos
1970 - 2004

1970-2004

The pictures from Friend Hall are not only digitized and on our website but are also in hard copy books housed in the Weinshel Family Lounge. Feel free to stop in and peruse them!



Congregation Rodeph Sholom
Bridgeport, CT
Class Photos
1959 - 1968

1959-1968



Congregation Rodeph Sholom
Bridgeport, CT
Class Photos
1933 - 1958

1933-1958

2025-26 Torah Fund Campaign Raises \$3,720

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Torah Fund Guardians and Benefactors. With your help we raised \$3720!

This year, we fondly remember Selda Dworkin, whose dedication and hard work were an integral part of the Torah Fund campaigns for many years. We honor her memory with heartfelt gratitude.

As we begin the new year, the 2026-2027 campaign is getting under way. This year's theme is Shema Koleinu – Hear Our Voice.

Shema Koleinu, Hear our voice, marks 40 years since the first female cantor was invested. This year's Torah Fund pin with its joyful women and musical symbolism expresses the right of every woman's voice to be heard as we celebrate this anniversary. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the global Conservative/ Masorti institutions of higher Jewish learning.

Our 2026-2027 Shema Koleinu campaign supports scholarships and programming at the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher Jewish learning. Help strengthen Jewish education and ensure the vibrancy of the Jewish people for decades to come with your gift to Torah Fund.



Please contact Lisa Rappoport at 203.331.2817 or email her at lrappo@gmail.com, if you would like to become a Guardian (\$300) or Benefactor (\$180) this year. You will receive the beautiful pin pictured here and be able to send unlimited Torah Fund cards in honor or in memory of special people and occasions.

GUARDIANS

Debbie Boles
Michael Goldbloom
George Goldfarb
Julie Rappoport
Lisa Rappoport
Don Sherman
Roz Stein
Svetlana Weisman

BENEFACTORS

Deborah Baer
Dorothy Blank
Toby Folman
Jacqueline Garelick
Cheryl and Sam Green
Marion Richer
Carol Weinshel
Jane Willner
Judy Zeisler

Cemetery Visitation - Sunday, September 6

The tradition of visiting the graves of our loved ones and praying for both the deceased and the living is an important demonstration of respect and remembrance.



9:30 a.m. – Memorial Park, Kings Highway, Fairfield

10:15 a.m. – Old Rodeph Sholom Cemetery,
Shepard Street, Fairfield

(Minyan needed at both cemeteries.)

Zecher L'tzadikim Livracha

(The memory of the righteous shall remain as a blessing.)

Contributions, Congratulations & Remembrances

ABRAHAM AND FANNIE BERKOWITZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of:

Fannie Berkowitz

*Kenneth, Barbara, Cynthia, and
Jennifer Berkowitz*

ESTHER KELMAN/PATTI MINTZ MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of:

Wilson Kelman

Rabbi Stuart Kelman (z"l)

WEINSHEL FAMILY FUND

In Honor of:

Lanny Boles' 75th Birthday

Donald Sherman's 90th Birthday

Gilda Vogel

Carol S. Weinschel's Birthday

Sy Wiesenfeld's 95th Birthday

Carol S. Weinschel

In Memory of:

Selda Dworkin

Norman Goldstein

Rabbi Stuart Kelman

Regina Passo

Earl Postol

Randy Reich

Carol S. Weinschel

In Thankfulness For:

Cheryl Green's successful surgery

Sheila Lief's successful surgery

Carol S. Weinschel

Mazel Tov To:

*David Goldstein on his 2026 Shem Tov
Award*

*Sharon Sax on her 2026 Kallah Torah
honor*

*Lana and Dr. Ben Weisman on their
2026 Kallah/Hattan Bereshit honor*

Carol S. Weinschel

PETER I. ZEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND

In Loving Memory of:

*My beloved husband, cherished father
and grandfather, Peter I. Zeidel*

*My cherished parents, Liselotte Kiselstein
Weiss and Jacob Kiselstein*

*Ruth and Morris Zeidel, devoted parents
of Peter I. Zeidel*

PETER I. ZEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND (cont'd.)

*Susan Greenblatt, beloved and adored
wife, daughter, mother, grandmother
and friend*

*Ellie Guma, a beloved and cherished
daughter, sister and sister-in-Law*

*Jeffrey Koltenuk, beloved husband, father
and grandfather*

Our beloved and cherished friend

*for decades, Billy (William) Serlin, a
man with many talents and areas of
knowledge, devoted to his family and
friends, and "Son of Rodeph Sholom"*

Philip Watnick treasured and adored

brother of Marshall Watnick

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

Bill Serlin

Susan and Murray Morrison

Joy, Happiness and Continued Good Health to:

*The extraordinary, remarkable and kind
Sarah Marx on her retirement from
Merrill Lynch*

Judith R. Zeidel

Mazel Tov to:

*Judy Zeidel on her grandson Jack's
graduation from Emory University*

Susan Widlitz and Family

Mazel Tov, Best Wishes and Continued Good Health to:

*Donald Sherman on his milestone 90th
Birthday*

Judith R. Zeidel and Family

RABBI EISENBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation:

Lois Fagan

In Gratitude for:

Rabbi Eisenberg

Debbie and Lanny Boles

In Honor of:

Donald Pollack's 80th Birthday

Norma and Mike Passo

In Thankfulness for:

*Rabbi Eisenberg's teaching to the Temple
Beth Tzedek Ritual Committee about the*

Triennial Cycle

Rabbi Sara and Ezra Rich

RABBI EISENBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (cont'd.)

*Rabbi Eisenberg's meaningful words at
my father's unveiling*

Sharon Sax

*Rabbi Eisenberg for leading a beautiful
unveiling service for our mom's
headstone*

The Silverfarb Family

RABBI HIRSCH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation:

Lois Fagan

In Gratitude for:

Rabbi Hirsch

Debbie and Lanny Boles

CEMETERY FUND

In Loving Memory of:

Frieda Siegel

Nathan Siegel

Charles Widlitz

Susan Widlitz and Family

KIDDUSH FUND

In Honor of:

Gilda Vogel

Ari Vogel

Deborah Weiss

*Friends of the Westport Center for
Senior Activities*

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In Appreciation:

Sharon Shapiro

In Gratitude:

Lois Fagan

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Annual Meeting Donation:

Clara and Larry Kahn

Beverly and Irwin Peck

Donation from:

Tamara and Gerald Bush

Michael Goldbloom

Judith and Robert Jacobson

Manuel Mejicanos

Rosanne Lazar and

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus

In Appreciation of:

Men's Club

David Goldstein

Rodeph Sholom's Officers

Debbie Boles

SYNAGOGUE FUND (cont'd.)

Susan Unrad for her Yom Hashoa presentation

Debbie Boles

In Honor of:

Lanny Boles' 75th Birthday

Marjorie Levin

The graduation of Amichai Danilewitz from yeshiva high school as valedictorian

Lesley Schwimmer

Donald Sherman's 90th Birthday

Michael Goldbloom

Gilda Vogel, a very "special" woman who devoted her life to helping others with her compassionate and empathetic heart

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Erica and Arnold Cohen

Sheila Lieff

Rachel Shur

Carol Weinshel's Birthday

Lana and Ben Weisman

Sy Wiesenfeld's 95th Birthday

Lois Fagan

Judith and Robert Jacobson

In Loving Memory of:

Selda Dworkin

Debbie Boles

Susan L. Spivack

Eleanor Eisenberg

Cheryl and Sam Green

Judith and Robert Jacobson

Annette "Nettie" Gelber

Elaine and David Emery

Norman Goldstein

Brian Bedford

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Lois Fagan

Sheila Lieff

Rabbi Stuart L. Kelman

Debbie Boles

Alicia and Rabbi David Nelson

Susan L. Spivack

Judy Kohn

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Donald Sherman

Regina Passo

Debbie Boles

Joan Carp

Susan L. Spivack

Florence and Howard Splaver

Earl Postol

Debbie and Lanny Boles

SYNAGOGUE FUND (cont'd.)

Charlotte Reuben

Cheryl and Sam Green

Beverly Schpero

Debbie Boles

Donald Sherman

Dr. Philip Serlin

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Susan L. Spivack

William "Bill" Serlin

Susan Widlitz and Family

Pearl Zucker

Stanley Rosenstein

Mazel Tov to:

Erica and Arnold Cohen on their granddaughter Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Rabbi Niema and Joram Hirsch

Sheila Lieff

Lois Fagan on her son Ira's marriage and granddaughter Esme's graduation from Georgia Tech

Sheila Lieff

Diana Rich and Joe Schwartz on the birth of their grandson

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Lana and Ben Weisman

Thank You to:

Joe Schwartz for davening on my father's

Yahrzeit

Alan Willig

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Arnold Cohen

Debbie Boles

Susan L. Spivack

Lois Fagan

Debbie Boles

Cheryl Green

Debbie and Lanny Boles

Susan Widlitz

Sheila Lieff

Debbie Boles

Lois Fagan

Gracey and Charles Oksenberg

Susan L. Spivack

Charlie Oksenberg

Susan L. Spivack

David Stone

Debbie and Lanny Boles

YAHREZEIT FUND**In Loving Memory of:**

David Aaron

Mildred G. Aaron

Miriam Aaron

Rubin K. Aaron

Howard Aaron

Nellie Alpert

Faith Heimer

Sarah Applebaum

Charles Applebaum

Lillian Bader

Phillip Bader

Faith Bader

Bernard Bauman

Jan Mayer

Ellen Bedford

Denise and Scott Bedford

Fred J. Beitman

Joan Beitman

Belinda, Jonathan, Daniel, and

Andrew Kaufman

Fannie Berkowitz

Roslyn Stein

Robert Berry

Roberta Berry

George S. Blank

Dorothy Blank

Miriam B. Blank, M.D.

John Blank

Paul Block

Susan L. Spivack

Esther S. Bogin

Simeon J. Bogin

Harriet Bogin Yogel

Gertrude Broder

Saul Broder

Lisa Stein

Estelle Brown

Debbie Boles

Donald Sherman

Harry Brown

Donald Sherman

Pearl Poretsky Brown

Barbara Rosenthal

Reuben Burstein

Clara Kahn

Stanley Carp

Joan Carp

George Chaiklin

Susan L. Spivack

YAHREIT FUND (cont'd.)

Betty Cohen
 Leo E. Cohen
 Alfons Cohn
 Evelyn Wiesner
 Esther Cohen
 Robyn Winograd
 Roslyn Comen
 Shari Solon
 Samuel Cotzin
 Sylvia Cotzin
 Norma Passo
 Anna Covitt
 Susan L. Spivack
 Andrew Deutsch
 Ignatz Deutsch
 Theodore Deutsch
 Gerald Deutsch
 Frances Rappoport Dober
 Phyllis Dober
 Moses Dober
 Gabriella Dober
 Sylvia Weintraub Dvorchik
 Naomi Rappoport
 Sue Eisenberg
 Rabbi Richard Eisenberg
 Lena Egri
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 Louis Fagan
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 Minnie Fiedelholz
 Paul Friend
 Chana Fisher
 Judy Zeisler
 Alice Fitelson
 Susan L. Spivack
 Isaak Fischer
 Lotte Fischer
 Nathan Fischer
 Evelyn Wiesner
 Leo Fisher
 Sue Fisher
 Celia Fleischer
 Judi and Mike Fleischer
 Irving Fleischer
 Janis Bufferd
 Judi and Mike Fleischer
 Lillian Fleischer
 Janis Bufferd
 Betty Fox
 Shari Lobe

YAHREIT FUND (cont'd.)

Barbara Gaberman
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 Ida Gaberman
 Harvey Gaberman
 Adolph Gelber
 Sheila Ment (z"l)
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 Florence Germaine
 Lonnie Germaine
 Samuel Germaine
 Sherman Germaine
 Glenn Germaine
 Thomas Germaine
 Glenn Germaine
 Lonnie Germaine
 Isaac Glaser
 Naftali Haim Glaser
 Lana and Ben Weisman
 Anna Glazer
 Charles Glazer
 Visselle Glazer
 Cheryl Green
 Bernice Goldbloom
 Michael Goldbloom
 Florence Goldfarb
 Solomon Goldfarb
 Sara Laden
 Jacob Goldman
 Isaak Goldman
 Juliette Goldman
 Peachie Resko
 Caryl Goldstein
 David Goldstein
 Howard Goldstein
 Lillian Goldstein
 Gilda Vogel
 Anna Gostola
 Dorothy Blank
 Diana Gould
 Leon Gould
 Michael Gratt
 Francine Gratt
 Abraham Green
 Samuel Green
 Howard Greenstein
 Janet Greenstein
 Isadore Greenstein
 Mildred Greenstein
 Karen Greenstein
 Frances Grishaver
 Michael Charles Weiner

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 Harris Herman
 Mark Herman
 Olga Hirsch
 Joram Hirsch
 Anna Gloria Horwitch
 Harry Horwitch
 Samuel Horwitch
 Robin Horwitch
 Barbara Markowitz
 Arie Leon Huss
 Rachel Shur
 Jacob Jonas
 Samuel Stern
 Hedwig Joseph
 Simson Joseph
 David Kiselstein
 Bennett Josovitz
 Fannie Josovitz
 Robert Josovitz
 Marjorie G. Kahn
 Lawrence Kahn
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 Ida Kiner
 Max Kiner
 William Kiner
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 David Kiselstein
 Anne Roberts Kish
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 Claudia Klein
 Daniel Klein
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 Michael Klein
 Theodore Kramer
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 Fannie Lea Krasnow
 Faith Heimer
 Marjorie Laden
 Sara Laden

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 Mildred Lang
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 Morris Lebowitz
 Joy Whitman
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 Peter Mark Lee
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 Florence Lefkowitz
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 Rene Lehrberger
 Diana Levison
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 Lance Lewis
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 Robert Lobe
 Shari Lobe
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 Harry Markowitz
 Barbara and William Markowitz
 Richard Mayer
 Ruth Mayer
 Jan Mayer
 Harvey Medlinsky
 Hinda Wolf

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 Ethel Nelson
 Rose Susan Nelson
 Alicia and Rabbi David Nelson
 Harry Nemeth
 Lillian Nemeth
 Julie Risisky
 Leo Nemeth
 Paulette Nemeth
 Honey Blank
 Etta Isserlis Nevins
 Leonard Nevins
 Abraham Passo
 Michael Passo
 Norman Postol
 Barbara Rifkin
 Benjamin Primack
 Robin Horwitch
 Barbara Markowitz
 Norman Rappoport
 Bill Rappoport
 Estelle Ravage
 Bruce Ravage
 Maurice E. Resnick
 Miriam R. Friedman
 Lazarus Ribak
 Lillian Ribak
 Elinor Taylor
 Paul Ringelheim
 Diana Ringelheim
 Ethel Risisky
 Nathan Risisky
 Julie Risisky
 Beatrice Rock
 Bernhard Rock
 Judith Kiselstein
 Frances Rostholder
 Jane Willner
 Freda E. Rubenstein
 Janet Greenstein
 David Louis Rubin
 George Rubin
 Lillian Russakoff
 Sherry Wiener
 Albert Sabsowitz
 Helaine Alper
 Abraham Sasson
 Allegra Sasson
 Raymond Sasson
 Gracey Oksenberg

YAHREIT FUND (cont'd.)

Perry Saxe
 Naomi Rappoport
 Schildkraut Family
 Silverman Family
 Charna Silverman and
 Irwin Schildkraut
 Bernice Schirwindt
 Roy Schirwindt
 Michael Klein
 Martha Gold Schloss
 Cherly Green
 Harry Schopick
 Minnie Schopick
 Debbie Boles
 Bette Schwartz
 Lesley Schwimmer
 Golda Schwartz
 Lana and Ben Weisman
 Fred Shapiro
 Malvene Ravage
 Morris W. Shapiro
 Joan Carp
 Ronald L. Sheiman
 Deborah Sheiman
 Carole Sherman
 Geraldine Sherman
 Debbie Boles
 Donald Sherman
 Harold Sigel
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 Sadie Singer
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 Marge Renken
 Susan L. Spivack
 Carol S. Weinshel
 Paul Spivack
 Theodore Spivack
 Amy Cooney
 Susan L. Spivack

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Samuel Spivack
 Amy Cooney
 Susan L. Spivack
 Carol S. Weinshel
Jacob Stein
 Roz Stein
Dora Stern
 Samuel Stern
Matvia Teslar
 Lana and Ben Weisman
Bertha Tischler
 The Tischler Family
Jeanette Toledano
 Gracey Oksenberg
Mildred Ullman
 Brian Ullman
Mordechai Unrad
 Israel Unrad
Marfizia Valente
 Michele Valente
Boris Vaysman
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Serina Vogel
Stanford Vogel
 Gilda Vogel
Chava Volstein
Leib Volstein
 Eva Goldman
 Lana and Ben Weisman
Samuel Waldman
 Barbara and David Waldman
Herman L. Weinberger
 Susan L. Spivack
 Carol S. Weinshel
Herbert Weiner
Ira Weiner
 Michael Charles Weiner
Ida Weiner
 Lois Fagan
 Michael Charles Weiner
Dorothy Weingarten
 Seth Weingarten
Nathaniel E. Weinshel
 Judy Ann Kaplan
 Carol S. Weinshel
Helen Weinstein
 Kenneth Weinstein
 Richard Weinstein
Rose Weintraub
 Naomi Rappoport

YAHREIT FUND (cont'd.)

Bella Weisman
 George Weisman
 Janet and Gary Colangelo
Benjamin Weisman
Fruma Weisman
Hassia Weisman
Hayyim Weisman
Moshe Weisman
Shmuel Weisman
 Eva Goldman
 Lana and Ben Weisman
Liselotte Kiselstein Weiss
 David Kiselstein
Benjamin Wheeler
 Lois Fagan
Bertha Wiener
 Fred Wiener
Morris Wigder
 Elliot Wigder
Robert Willig
 Alan Willig
Margaret Willner
 Peter Willner
Dorothy Winograd
Raymond Winograd
 David Winograd
Daisy L. Wolf
Gregory Wolf
 Martin Wolf
Dorothy Sparber Wolfe
Melvin Wolfe
 David Wolfe
Marshall P. Wolfe
 Leslie Wolfe Arista
Daisy Youshah
Morris Youshah
 Roberta Berry
Robert Zeisler
 Judy Zeisler
Benedict Zwecker
 Charles Zwecker
YIZKOR:
In Loving Memory of:
Our dear departed relatives
 Gracey and Charles Oksenberg
MEN'S CLUB - YOM HASHOA:
 Ann and Dr. Milton Armm
 Brian Bedford
 Dorothy Blank
 Debbie and Lanny Boles
 Erica and Arnold Cohen
 Harry K. Cohn

MEN'S CLUB - YOM HASHOA (cont'd.)

Phyllis Dober
 Judy and Rabbi Richard Eisenberg
 Lois Fagan
 Ronald Farrell
 Judi and Mike Fleischer
 Jacqui and Mel Garelick
 David Goldstein
 Cheryl and Sam Green
 Judith and Robert Jacobson
 Adele and Robert Josovitz
 Cindy and Gary Katz
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 Iris Krawitz
 Jill and Stanton Lesser
 Sheila Lief
 Susan and Roger Levine
 Diana Levison
 Lance Lewis
 Sally Melzer
 Chyai Mulberg and
 Dr. Benjamin Schultz
 Gracey and Charles Oksenberg
 Beverly and Irwin Peck
 Lisa and Bill Rappoport
 Marge and Dave Renken
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 Julie and George Risisky
 Agnes and Lawrence Roberts
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 Donald Sherman
 Susan L. Spivack
 Mary and Joseph Steinfeld
 Samuel Stern
 The Tischler Family
 Susan and Israel Unrad
 Seth Weingarten
 Carol S. Weinshel
 Victoria Weiss
 Susan Widlitz
 Sy Wiesenfeld
 Hinda and Martin Wolf
 Elise and David Wolfsohn

In memory of my family that perished in the Shoah

Susan Unrad

**Contributions listed as of
 August 1, 2026**

The Journey of a Special Torah

Editor's Note: This was written by Rabbi Stuart Kelman (z"l) upon receiving the Torah from Rodeph Sholom:

"This Torah scroll is a gift to Netivot Shalom from my home shul, Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Bridgeport, Connecticut. We don't know when or who wrote it because no scribe puts their name on it; however, it is beautifully written in this Ashkenazi script. I am indebted to the staff and clergy for providing me with an outstanding foundation: Rabbi Harry Nelson, Cantor David Leon, Mr. Harry Malin, Gloria Sussman and others. Rodeph Sholom is where I grew up; indeed, it was my second home. At one point, the congregation had more than 750 households and around a dozen or so people became rabbis and Jewish educators.

Before this Torah was first dedicated on June 6, 1964 by Mrs. Morris Nowitz in memory of her late husband, Morris. It came from a synagogue called Ein Jacob (Ayn Yacob), an orthodox synagogue located on Connecticut Avenue that had disbanded in 1962, having been at that location since 1918. The president of Rodeph Sholom, Debbie Boles, found the announcement of that dedication in the RS Bulletin. As it turns out, my mother, who was executive director of the shul at that time, probably wrote that notice!

That's not the whole story: A few weeks ago, after we had received the Torah, another family friend and past president, Carol Weinshel, happened to be standing in line at a kiddush and mentioned a synagogue, Ein Jacob, when the person she was

standing next to, said: "I grew up on Connecticut Avenue and knew that shul. That woman would go there in her youth when her family needed food. Carol then went to that part of town and took a picture of the old building which just happens to be located near the Bridgeport Rescue Mission where Rodeph Sholom brings food in cooperation with Operation Isaiah on Yom Kippur, another connection.

You may have noticed that there is a binder wrapped around this scroll. I purposely left it that way because that is an indication that there may be something that is not Kosher about a particular scroll. *K'vod hatorah* is the primary value, so placing a piece of paper inside the scroll renders it pasul, and putting the binder on the outside indicates that it is indeed not to be used—yet—for the purpose of reading from it.

Now: The Torah came with this red mantle. When I told the story of this Torah to Nancy Katz, our wonderful textile artist, she volunteered to chair a group, the quilting group, to create a new one. With the help of Diane Bernbaum, Carol Dorf, Karen Friedman, Claire Sherman and Vicki Sommer, we will have yet another occasion to celebrate. In the meantime, we'll use this red one. Rodeph Sholom also sent us



The Torah that went to Rabbi Kelman's synagogue originally lived on Connecticut and Carroll Avenues in Bridgeport before it was moved to Rodeph Sholom. What a journey it took.

a white mantle to use on the High Holidays. One final coincidence: it's dedicated to the memory of Peter Zeidel, who was a close friend of my parents."

Proclaiming it a Shehehiyanu moment, Stu welcomed this new addition to the Netivot Torah family.

The Torah was crated, bubble-wrapped, and shipped from a local UPS store with the utmost care and respect.

This Torah was not one of the two Czech Torah scrolls which are on loan from the Memorial Scrolls Trust in England. As an aside, those scrolls were so badly damaged that they are encased and on display in our Chapel.

While Stu was profoundly grateful to Debbie Boles, the Board of Rodeph Sholom, Carol Weinshel, Sue Spivack and Rabbi Richard Eisenberg for their efforts, Rodeph Sholom was very pleased and proud to make this gift and bring joy to a distinguished son of our congregation; indeed a *L'dor v'dor* moment.

2nd Seder 2026



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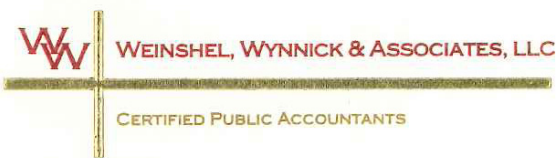
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Old Cemetery Gets a Much-Needed Facelift

The Cemetery Committee has been very busy this past year, carefully researching projects for the Old Rodeph Sholom Cemetery on Arising Street in Fairfield. There is now a new sidewalk which required removal of tree stumps as the first step. Currently, there is a signed contract to repair the gates at either end to ensure functionality once again. At that point, new letters for Congregation Rodeph

Sholom will be replaced at the Arising Street entrance. This cemetery is well worth a visit; it is historic, interesting and beautiful. We are very proud of being able to preserve the history in a most respectful way.

The Committee has also revised the section of the Cemetery Policy on Cremation, with the guidance of Rabbi Eisenberg. The policy is available in the Office and will be on the website in the near future.

Prior to Rosh Hashanah, glass stones are placed on graves where no one visits. It is obvious to see where our volunteers have been and they take their job very seriously.

Thank you to Lois Fagan who placed stones last year. This is one more way we can remember and pay respects to those who have passed and rest in our cemeteries.



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Mitzvah Makers at Rodeph Sholom

In late April, Rodeph Sholom was honored with becoming Mitzvah Makers for the Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Services.

Below was the Facebook post from JFS:

"We were so grateful to partner with PJ Library and the PJ Library Mitzvah Makers for a meaningful afternoon with our Mobile Food Pantry. Families took part in a grocery store scavenger hunt, using kosher symbols to guide their shopping, and helped fill our food truck with shelf-stable food and fresh produce for neighbors in need.

Thank you to Congregation Rodeph Sholom for helping sponsor this experience and supporting our shared commitment to community, dignity, and care.

The food donated will go a long way in helping feed our clients and care for families facing food insecurity."



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Ben Schulz, Carol Weinshel, Gary Katz, Brian Bedford, Sheila Lieff, Marion Richer and Sy Wiesenfeld assemble the mailing for the annual Men's Club Yellow Candle Project for Yom Hashoa.

