

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

February 2017

Shevat 5777

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

Some of you may remember our friend, Yehuda Kimani, who came to teach us about the trajectory and the reality of the Jews living in the Kenyan highlands, in the community of Kasuku.

Like many of us, I was surprised even to learn that there were Jews in Kenya¹, even though Chabad is not there yet. They live in a homestead

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***Kayruv* means “Welcoming.”**

agrarian community, no running water and no electricity. After all, they are not in Nairobi, but even farther away.

Distance, however, is a matter of perception. We can be physically close to someone, and not close to them emotionally or intellectually at all. And particularly nowadays, we can be very involved with people in other countries even though we do not see them in person, through this truly miraculous thing called the internet.

In our Hebrew School, we had, last year, a few Skype visits between the kids from that community and our kids. Everyone had a grand time, and as a school we raised funds for them. Now they need it again. Why do they need money?

Differently than America, Kenya does not offer public education of any quality. The Kasuku community, in the words of Louis Armstrong “wants a chance to give his kids a better life”² – and we all know how that is done, through education.

¹ But I read two pieces and discovered that their story is even more enmeshed with Conservative Judaism than I ever thought possible. One of my colleagues at Ziegler was Uganda's rabbi Gershom Shizomu, instrumental in

bringing the Kasuku Jews closer to the center of Judaism. You can read more about them here:

<http://tinyurl.com/KenyanJews1>

<http://tinyurl.com/KenyanJews2>

² Hello Brother

Education is the single most important investment one can make, according to the economists behind Freakonomics, both the books and the podcasts³ - and according to our fathers and mothers, and our tradition in general. Giving a child the possibility to go to school up to High School dramatically changes the future of that child.

And how much does it cost to send a child for a full year to school in Kenya? What is the investment? 120 dollars. NO, I did not forget any zeros. It is one hundred twenty – and that will give a child a FULL YEAR of elementary education. For High School, a year costs \$270. They also need shoes, and pencils, and books, and fountain pens and ink. And shoes, backpacks and uniforms.

If you live in an agrarian community of subsistence, this is an enormous amount of money. For us, American Jews, 120 dollars is a trip to the supermarket for a week. Some of us spend that on a pair of tennis shoes.

So, I am asking you to help them, either through the link of the fundme page for Kenyan Jews, www.gofundme.com/kenya-jews or sending a check to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, marking it "For Kenyan Jews" and I will deposit the funds on their fundme page.

To inspire you, I will leave you with three photos of that community:

Now, let's have courage to really change the world for a few kids.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly



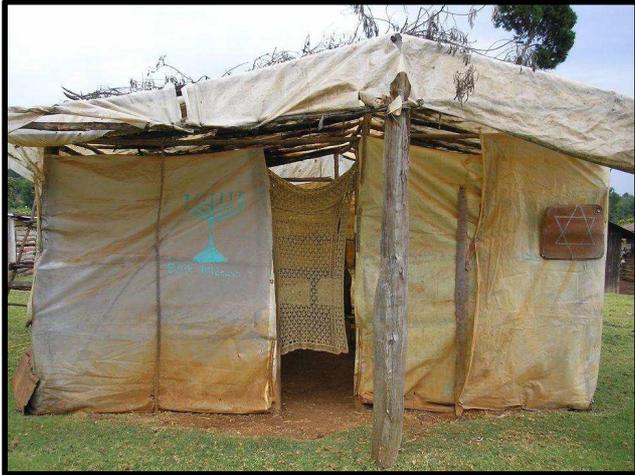
Some of the community's children see a computer for the first time: from right to left: Eliyahu Muya, Moshe Chege, Isaac Ndungu, Raphael Muraya, Yehudit Wambui, Sarah Wambui



The adults studying Judaism with Yehudah Kimani (blue kippah in the center) through the computer in the synagogue.

³ Up to a point: after the high school diploma, the value of education plateaus and there is little difference between what institution one goes to for college. The Ivy League's greatest value is the connections one makes

while studying there. The market will go according to the competence of the individual – after what s/he can do, and how well, much more than what kind of brand name is on his/her diploma.



The Kasuku shul.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

If you or anyone you know is ill or in need of support, please call our **Bikur Cholim** (Caring) **Committee** at 203-792-6161.

RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS

Rabbi Altenburger invites you to meet with her and will be available any day except Wednesday and Shabbat. Please feel free to call or stop by.

Jewish Family Services of Greater Danbury/Putnam

Donna Prywes M.S.W., Administrator

Located at the United Jewish Center, 141 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

203-794-1818 - jfsdanbury@mail.com

JFS in a confidential, no fee, information, resource and referral service that provides personalized assistance, support and advocacy to individuals and families.

Seeking help for any of these issues?

- *Homecare, assisted living, and nursing home options
- *Individuals facing physical or emotional challenges
- *Caregiver support, self-help groups and mental health counseling
- *Normal life transitions or stressful, traumatic life events

JFS is your helping hand-reach out to us!

HUMANITY RALLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017 2:00 PM

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

71 WEST STREET

DANBURY, CT



Stand together to defeat hate and build and reinforce positive bridges in greater Danbury. Featuring Latino, Muslim, and Jewish guest speakers. Come be with neighbors and help plan further actions.

Sponsored by the Association of Religious Communities

For more information, contact Rev. PJ at 203-792-9450 ext. 102

Or Lisi Marcus at 203-792-9450 ext. 106

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem like this has been a bad winter so far (despite a miserable head cold Adina has graciously shared with me), and not just because I've hired a service to plow my driveway when it snows

heavily, so I don't have to do much shoveling. There really has been hardly any snow this winter, we have enjoyed many sunny days, and the temperatures have been fairly reasonable for this time of year. Not that we haven't had some bone-chillingly freezing mornings, as I head out long before sunrise for the gym, mind you. So, it came as quite a visceral shock to hear about families in our area braving the icy nights without adequate shelter, even though I knew intellectually that such things happen all too frequently. My painful epiphany was delivered by the Reverend Phyllis J. Leopold (whom everyone knows as "PJ"), Executive Director of the Association of Religious Communities (ARC) of Danbury, and Elke Sweeney, ARC's Homeless and Housing Advocate and Program Director, when they attended our Board of Trustees meeting at the end of January.

If you're not familiar with ARC, I'd like to give you a capsule summary, although it's quite a challenge because they do so much: domestic violence prevention programs, homeless and housing support and advocacy, emergency financial aid for low-income households to buy basic necessities, resettlement assistance for refugees and immigrants, volunteers to mentor students in Danbury's Title I schools (with high proportions of families below the poverty line), and on, and on. ARC is an incredible organization that has championed interfaith and other partnerships to revolutionize support for the most destitute and vulnerable in our midst, and their officers and program directors are exceptionally efficient—they know how to

squeeze a dollar until it hollers. Please consider lending a hand at arcforpeace.org.

Back to the board meeting: PJ and Elke were visiting us to see if there might be some way that Congregation B'nai Israel could help fill a serious gap in support for families who are homeless in our community. Danbury only has one shelter for families who are homeless, with limited space and a long waiting list, and it only allows mothers with children 13 years of age and younger to stay—no older children or fathers. The story PJ and Elke told us about a family sleeping on tires behind a gas station was bad enough, but the story about a mother who was forced to send her 14-year-old son with special needs and a very close bond with his younger sister off to stay with a grandmother, where, unable to comprehend what was happening to him, he attempted to commit suicide and ended up in the hospital, was absolutely devastating—and obviously unnecessary, if only the family had been able to stay together. ARC's proposal to fill this gaping hole is a pilot program called Winter Warmth: a temporary warm and safe place to sleep for two or three families who are currently homeless and have no other shelter available to them.

I'm always proud of CBI, of course, but there are times I'm *really* proud of CBI, and this was definitely one of them. Our board was willing to look beyond some minor inconveniences for us and agree to make our basement space available for four nights a week (the other three nights will be covered by a grant ARC has received to provide inexpensive hotel accommodations) to two or three families through the middle of March, when the program ends. And to be sure, ARC made it easy for us: they are providing cots, bedding, and volunteers to stay overnight with the families, who will be carefully screened and assessed by Elke (including a police background check) and must agree to abide by strict program rules. ARC has been doing this kind of work for many years, and they have insurance to cover our involvement in the program. Nevertheless, this is a big step for

us that required a broad and inclusive vision of how we could make a difference in the broader Danbury community, and I'm proud of the path we're lighting for other synagogues and churches in our area to follow our lead.

Finally, there's one more bit of news that makes me proud of CBI: our own Rabbi Altenburger will be one of the speakers at a "Humanity Rally" that ARC is sponsoring on Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 pm at Central Christian Church (71 West Street) in Danbury. It will be a wonderful opportunity for communities in Danbury to weave ourselves together to shape and reinforce tapestries of connection that will help us defeat hatred and bigotry. Please join me in standing tall with our community!

Together with warmth, vision and action,
Kennis Koldewyn

SUPER BOWL UPDATE

This year 33 people participated in our Super Bowl fundraiser - members, associate members, our usual contingent of New Jersey ex-members, and friends of B'nai Israel. Thanks to all of you who helped make it a success with a net contribution to the synagogue of more than \$2500.

Congratulations to our winners, Nada Adler who matched the half-time score, and Kennis Koldewyn with the final score numbers.

Ad Hoc Super Bowl Committee
Henry Tritter, Paul M Simon, Cheryl A. Vanak

SAVE \$1.00 A WEEK

In 52 weeks, the NFL will give us Super Bowl LII and CBI will run its annual fundraiser which, this year was, again, very successful.

I believe we can do even better, both financially and in building a sense of community, if we can find a way to increase participation. If you've never taken part, and are not philosophically opposed to the concept, and are financially able to do so, consider putting \$1.00 a week for 50 weeks into an envelope. Next January, when you read the Kayruv or get a call, open the envelope and claim a box.

Increasing our income is important. Giving more members an opportunity to contribute to our sense of community is essential. After all, community is what we are all about!

Please give me feedback. I want to know what you think about this.

Henry Tritter

IN THE COMMUNITY



Jewish Federation Friends of Fiber Arts



**Mondays: Jan 9, Feb 13, March 13 & April 10
at 1:00 PM**

Calling all knitters, spinners, weavers, crocheters, felters, quilters and other textile enthusiasts! Share in the company of others who enjoy expressing their creativity with yarn and/or fabric. Bring your favorite project.

Jewish Federation of Western CT
444 Main Street North, Southbury
RSVP 203-267-3177, x340

Everyone is welcome! \$2.00 Donation



Love & Knishes Lunches features New Entertainment!

(SOUTHBURY) Music lovers, take note: make your reservations for the Love & Knishes Lunch program. All area adults are invited to make reservations for the lunches, which feature live musical entertainment, good cheer and delicious food catered by Creative Events by Bonnie. Lunch takes place at 12 noon in the social hall at the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, 444 Main St. North in Southbury.

Get your dancing shoes on and your requests ready! Bob and Josie Schmidt of Solid Gold Times Two will be playing at The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut on Wednesday February 8,

2017. Expect to hear all your favorite music from the 50's and beyond from two fabulous musicians (who are also husband and wife)! The program will begin at 12pm with lunch, followed by Solid Gold Times Two at 1pm.

Lunch reservations should be made by the Monday before each lunch. There is a suggested lunch donation of \$7.50 for adults age 60 and better. To RSVP, call [203-267-3177 x340](tel:203-267-3177) or email rsvp@jfed.net.



What's Happening at the JCC in Sherman

Family Movie Night

Rescheduled for February 17th at 6:30PM

Movie: *Tomorrowland*

\$5 Per Person / \$15 Family of 4
includes popcorn & drink

Musical Jamboree

February 25th 7:30 PM

Members \$10 / Nonmembers \$15

Students \$5 / kids under 10 free

Bring your own food and beverages

Operation Wear Red

Hope for Aplastic Anemia

February 27- March 5

Join the JCC in Sherman and the Julia's Wings Foundation in bringing awareness to aplastic anemia by wearing red to the Jamboree on February 25th!

To learn more about the Julia's Wings Foundation and Operation wear red, visit www.juliaswings.org

Kids Canvas Paint Day

With Color on Wheels

Saturday, March 11th, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

\$30 per child / Ages 7-17

Light snacks and drinks provided

Family Creative Movement
Class Taught By: Kaitlin Clark of Integrative
Healing Arts

6-Week Series – Feb. 28th – April 4th

Tuesdays, 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

Children Ages 0-5 & Parents

Members: \$105 for one parent, 1 child

\$150 for one adult, 2 children

Non-members: \$120 for one parent 1 child \$165
for one adult, 2 children

Creative movement and dance focuses on the body, space, relationships, and quality of movement concepts for work alone, with a partner, and in small groups. The techniques and concepts incorporate the uses of problem solving, cognitive, cooperative, and improvisation learning techniques. Props are also used including beanbags, hula-hoops, scarves, jump ropes instruments and more! Children's literature books are the focus on a theme such as numbers, letters, animals, insects, ocean, country, color, farm, etc. Laugh, dance and feel the JOY of movement.

Pre-paid Registration Required.

Parents/Guardians must attend with child.

Kids' Relaxation and Journaling Series

Class taught by Shannon Marzella

6-week series – March 1st – April 5th

Wednesdays, 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM / Ages: 9-13

Cost: \$75 for members / \$80 nonmembers

Do your kids need a break from screen time? In this Relaxation and Journaling series, kids ages 9-13 will have time each week to learn important relaxation and meditation skills to help them calm their mind and body. They will also have the opportunity for self-expression in a personalized journal. These are tools that can last a lifetime, and it is so important that children integrate these skills at a young age. Join us for fun, relaxation, and creativity!

Register online at jccinsherman.org
[860-355-8050](tel:860-355-8050) / info@jccinsherman.org

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Below are business cards of members of the Greater Danbury Community who have been instrumental and generous to us in the renovation of our building. We ask you to help show our thanks by supporting them whenever possible.



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 15 Shevat, February 11, B'Shalah:**

Crossing the sea and singing for joy!

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

☆ **Shabbat, 22 Shevat, February 18, Yitro:**

Standing at Sinai and receiving the Word of God.

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6;9:5-6

☆ **Shabbat, 29 Shevat, February 25, Mishpatim:**

Sealing the Sinai Covenant and receiving the Code of Civil Law. *Haftarah:* 2 Kings 12:1-17

☆ **Shabbat, 6 Adar, March 4, Terumah:** The Israelites are instructed to build a sanctuary to house the two tablets and to serve as a center for worship. *Haftarah:* 1 Kings 5:26-6:13

☆ **Shabbat, 13 Adar, March 11, Tetzaveh:** Moshe and Aaron are instructed about the intricate designs of the priestly vestments.

Haftarah: 1 Sam. 15:2-34

CANDLE LIGHTING

February 10, 2017:	5:04 PM
February 17, 2017:	5:13 PM
February 24, 2017:	5:21 PM
March 3, 2017:	5:29 PM
March 10, 2017:	5:37 PM

Yahrzeits

17 Shevat, February 13, 2017

Sophie Bloomfield (Heather K. Mazarakos)

20 Shevat, February 16, 2017

Lisa Sharon Steinberg (F. Richard Steinberg)

24 Shevat, February 20, 2017

Doris Hornstein (Heather K. Mazarakos)

27 Shevat, February 23, 2017

Sara Kruzansky (Dina Markind)

30 Shevat, February 26, 2017

Meir Rabinovich (Eliezer Rabinovich)

Steven Schorr (Heather K. Mazarakos)

1 Adar, February 27, 2017

Esther Breeman (Barbie Steinberg)

9 Adar, March 7, 2017

Beatrice Hermann (Patricia Weiner)

14 Adar, March 12, 2017

Fred Stein (Michael Stein)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆ Gail and Abe Boms in memory of Doug's mother Harriet

For the General Fund

☆ Pam Lampell in honor of Gerald Hecht

☆ Pat and Alvin Goldman *refuah shlema* to Rochelle Hutchings

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ Marty Waltuch in memory of his wife Susan and in honor of daughter Lisi's return from Israel

☆ Dina Markind