

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

February 2016

Shevat/Adar I 5776

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

A small, soul-wrenching book is called “Autopsy of a Deceased Church”. It is soul-wrenching because, of course, it talks about how communities get sick, die, and eventually

disappear – which is the fear and dread of each person working in any faith community. How does it happen? How can it be prevented?

One of the general ideas I got from the book is the need for vitality. And vitality is measured three ways. First, a vital sense of community: one that gathers together to do what faith communities do - to praise the Life in the Universes, to do holy work, to love this world together. Second, a vital sense of purpose: its members know what they stand for, and how they shape their community into its dream. And third, a vital sense of direction: they know what they dream for their community, and are able to speak to others about it.

In our community, I do think we need to work on the third aspect, and certainly a bit of polishing of the second aspect. On the first aspect, however, I never cease to be amazed by us.

We are small – but we are vital. In the almost ten years I have had the opportunity and honor to be your rabbi, we did not have a *minyan* only once. It was during a snowstorm, and three feet of snow came pouring down from heaven. I thought the same would happen last Shabbat, when another storm was brewing, but I was wrong.

People came. We prayed. We studied. We had community. We had a clear sense of *kedushah*, holiness on what we were doing. We, at that moment, felt the calling for transcendence – whether one believed in God with all her/his soul or had questions; whether one knew the service by heart or was still struggling with the songs or the Hebrew. At that moment, we all belonged, and our holiness was reflected on one another.

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Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

So in that aspect yes, we are a living community. On that Shabbat we made a small miracle – and we really tasted what a piece of the world to come is.

I never cease to be amazed by us. May we continue to walk together, to work together, to love together - and to keep our community vital and alive.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

DONATIONS NEEDED!



FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES!

This is CBI's ongoing project to help our local food pantries. Items most in need are dried/canned beans, canned fish, peanut butter, jelly, fruit juice, sugar, flour, personal care items such as soap and shampoo. (The pantries get cereal, canned veggies and rice from area supermarkets.)

CBI is a generous and caring community and as always, we thank you for your donations and support as they are truly appreciated.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As many of you may know, and without bragging too much, I think I can safely say that my powers of procrastination are almost legendary (as I'm sure the long-suffering Kayruv editorial team can attest after badgering me to get

my article in after the deadline practically every month). But this month I nearly have an excuse: I've been waiting to hear what I expect will be good news about our application to join the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) Ruderman Inclusion Action Community. The USCJ launched this initiative in 2014 in partnership with the Ruderman Family Foundation to support congregations in developing and implementing comprehensive vision and action plans on inclusion. We applied last year and didn't quite make the cut, but I have high hopes this year, because I sense a growing groundswell of support for making a major leap forward in our inclusiveness as a community.

As Matan Koch, our speaker this coming Shabbat, has discovered, "readiness for inclusion begins with a state of mind and a commitment to grow and change." I think we're ready for inspiration, excited by the "unknown benefit, the potential of the untapped treasure" that universal inclusion practices could bring to our community. I expect that Matan's conversation with us on Saturday, February 6, will provide the spark that will light a fire for inclusion at B'nai Israel, and hopefully this week we'll hear that the USCJ Ruderman Inclusion Action Community will help us follow through with support and coaching to develop and implement an appropriate plan of action. Please join us on Saturday! (Need I mention that there will be amazing food?)

And speaking of change and growth, after hosting the "New Horizons: A Small Summit for Small Congregations" back in October, we're ready to take the next step in creating a vision and mission for our future by applying this month to the USCJ Sulam for Strategic Planners (SSP), now entering its fourth year. SSP consists of two parts: a "learning community" of webinars and training exercises about strategic planning, and an "action community" of congregations who are going through the process together, supported by in-person training, coaching and assistance to collect and analyze data, and then develop and implement a strategic plan. It's tremendously exciting, because it gives us a way to dive into the fundamental questions I raised last June at our annual meeting of who we are, who we would like to become, and how we would like to change the world that are critical to not merely surviving, but thriving as a community. Strategic planning isn't just for the Board of Trustees, it ultimately involves every member of B'nai Israel. If you're interested in helping with the process, which will run for 12 to 15 months, please let me know (or remind me that you've told me before, so I don't forget).

And speaking of community, I'd like to close by thanking the "dudes" behind our annual Peter Ohring Foods by Dudes Friday night service and dinner last month: Sam Markind (for both great food and as always, a beautiful service), Paul M Simon, Joel Levitt, Jason Mix (our newest dude, mazel tov!), Henry Tritter, yours truly, and our inspiration, in whose memory we're keeping alive the tradition he started, Peter Ohring z"l. It was a marvelous evening. Please join us again next month for another Friday night service and dinner (this time fleishik, but as usual, with a veggie option) for Shabbat Across America on March 4.

Together with inspiration, vision and action,

Kennis Koldewyn

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Saturday, February 6 at 11:00 A.M. Guest Speaker Matan Koch Speaks about “Igniting the fire for inclusion”



Join us as we experience the spark that has led Matan Koch to a lifetime of advocacy for all people and for all possibilities. Matan is at home working with individual synagogues, Jewish and general communal organizations, corporations and universities to remove the barriers; physical, spiritual and attitudinal toward full participation of people with disabilities.

February 9th, Adult Hebrew Course



Are you stumped by your siddur? Have you always wondered how to decipher the ancient symbols of the Hebrew language? Look no further, because, this February, Congregation B'nai Israel will be offering a FREE Beginning Level Adult Hebrew course.

All are welcome to learn to read and write Hebrew in a friendly, nonjudgmental environment. The course begins on February 9th at 7:00 P.M. and will be taught by our own Hebrew School teacher Jason Mix. Textbooks will be provided. Please call the office at (203) 792-6161 to enroll.

February 18th Chai Mitzvah

The next daytime meeting of *Chai Mitzvah* is Thursday, February 18th, at B'nai Israel from 10:00-11:30A.M.

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATES:



SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

On Friday night, March 4, 2016 hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat. Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages.



Fourth Annual Touch A Truck!

This year it will be held on Sunday, May 22nd from 8:00 A.M. (set-up time) to 4:00 P.M. (done with clean-up time).



CBI TAG SALE IS BACK

We will let you know the date as soon as we firm it up. In the meantime, spring cleaning is around the corner put those little treasures aside for our tag sale.

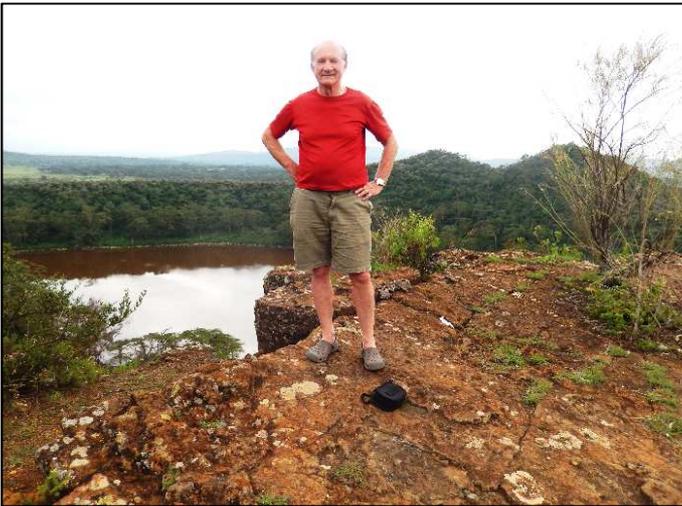
BEST ITEMS: Books, household items, towels, sheets, knick-knacks, jewelry, toys, games and other children's items, (all items must be in good condition.)

ITEMS WE DO NOT ACCEPT: Clothing, computers, car seats, strollers, cribs, bulky furniture, or TV's. When in doubt, throw it out!!!

Let us know if you'd like to help. As always we need to price items, set up, clean up.

EYOND B'NAI ISRAEL

This is the first of an occasional series of profiles of B'nai Israel members and some of the unique and interesting activities they are involved with "outside of shul". We hope you'll agree that our members have many "hidden" talents and interests and we're happy to share a side of them that many of us may not be familiar with. We're beginning with Phil Cook. He and his wife Paula have been longtime members of our congregation. We think you'll find this aspect of Phil's life enlightening.



As a young geologist, Phil Cook spent time in Kenya about 40 years ago through a Peace Corps-like program for volunteers sponsored by his British homeland. Since 2010, Phil has returned annually to Kenya, again as a volunteer, but this time specializing in the economics of water distribution and conservation: vital areas of concern in the developing world.

The focus of Phil's efforts is Naivasha, known as the "Lake City," a Kenyan metropolis with a population of over a quarter of a million. Leaders of the community call the land use plan Phil is a part of, the "New Urban Plan to turn Naivasha into a World Class City." The surrounding region is known for farming, horticulture and a thriving tourism industry centered on its magnificent biological diversity.

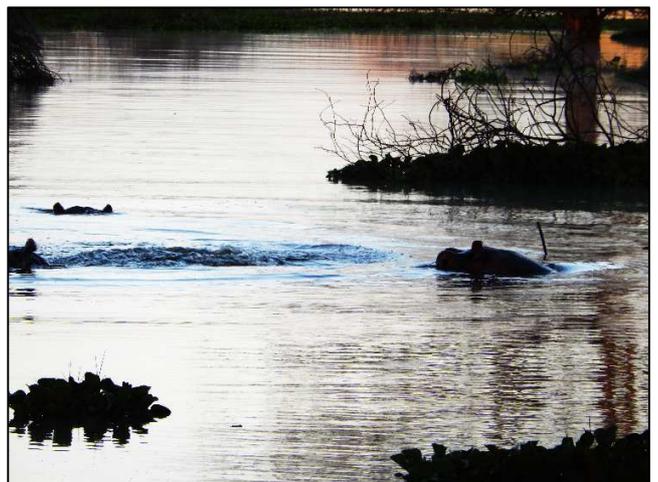
Phil's academic and commercial interests have taken him from geology through chemistry and economics, which has enabled him to bring a varied and unique perspective to his work in Africa: the economics of how to price and allocate water resources to ensure maximum efficiency and minimal environmental impact. To accomplish this, Phil has worked with the World Wildlife Fund and currently with a wildlife biologist to develop economic models to promote sustainability and commercial viability, so that water in the region's Naivasha Basin is clean and available.

He points out that "Israel is the most efficient country in the world in how it manages its water." His sister lives on a kibbutz that produces mangoes, bananas and avocados for export and Phil has visited often and spoken to farmers there about their practice of creating what they call, "Happy Trees," that is, trees that get "the water they need, when they need it." This has influenced his volunteer work in Africa.

A man of deep intellect, wide interests and a smashing British accent, Phil Cook is making a difference that will ultimately reap benefits for many people over many years.

*"You visit the earth and water it,
You greatly enrich it,
The river of God is filled with water:
You provide the people with grain,
For you have prepared it."
Psalm 65.9*

Joel Levitt



GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

Our Foods by Dudes chefs hard at work!



Sam Markind and Paul M Simon



Jason Mix

IN THE COMMUNITY



Pajama Drive to benefit local children!*



Call TODAY!!!!
[203-267-3177!!!!](tel:203-267-3177)

Extended to February 29
We are collecting NEW pajamas in various sizes ranging from infant to youth size 18 for one month! Drop

off locations will include: Jewish Federation of Western CT in Southbury.

*Donations will be distributed by the Department of Children and Families. Details to follow.



NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

NEW DATE!

Sunday, February 21st
at 9:30 A.M.



Join us for a light breakfast as we launch into a New and Healthy Year! We will host a panel of subject matter experts who will discuss: Podiatry, Nutrition, Chiropractic, Overall

Health Coaching and MORE!

Breakfast cost: \$12 paid in advance, \$15 at the door

SAVE THE DATE!



SUNDAY, March 13 9:30-1:00 PM and 5-8 PM
SUPER SUNDAY!
Calling all volunteers, we need your help!



JOURNEY TO IMMORTALITY

Beth El- Woodbury
Sunday, March 6 at 2PM
Life and work of Frederick Fancois Copin
Featuring Zoya Kalamanovsky
For reservations call: [203-264-4500](tel:203-264-4500)



**B'nai Israel Casino Bus Trip!
(B'nai Israel of Southbury)**



Thursday, April 7, 2016,
A day of fun! Motor Coach
Bus leaves Walzer Campus
at 9:00 A.M. and returns at
approx. 6:00 P.M.

\$36 B'nai and Federation Members \$40 Non-Members



What's Happening at the JCC in Sherman

Musical Jamboree

February 27th, 2016
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM BYOB
\$10 Adults/ \$5 Students w/ IDs & Kids
Musicians: Small Town Sheiks, John Kildahl, &
Robert C. Fullerton

Yoga: Mondays & Thursdays 9:00 AM
Gentle Yoga - Fridays 10:30 AM
\$14 Members/Seniors / \$18 Non-Members

**The Place of Peace: Meditation and Journaling
Taught By Shannon Marzella, Life Coach**

6-Week Series – March 2nd – April 6th
Wednesdays 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM
Non-members: \$90 / Members: \$75
Limit 10
Pre-Paid Registration Required

**Digging In: A Primer on Growing an Organic
Vegetable Garden**

Class Taught By: Michele MacKinnon

3-week Series: May 7th, 14th, & 21st
Saturday Mornings: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
\$75 members / \$90 Non-members
(Includes all materials)
Limit 12

Pre-Paid Registration Required.

Great Decisions 2016

Begins Sunday April 10th, 2016 / 10AM-12PM
Great Decisions is America's largest discussion
program on world affairs. The program model
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Discussion Group to discuss the most critical
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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 27 Shevat, February 6, Mishpatim:**

Sealing the Sinai Covenant and receiving the Code of Civil Law. *Haftarah:* Jeremiah: 34:8-22;33:25-26

☆ **Shabbat, 4 Adar I, February 13, 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, 11 Adar I, February 20, Tetzaveh:**

Moshe and Aaron are instructed about the intricate designs of the priestly vestments.

Haftarah: Ezek: 43:10-27

☆ **Shabbat, 18 Adar I, February 27, Ki tissa**

Moshe is gone too long and the people of Israel build a golden calf. *Haftarah:* 1 Kings 18:1-39

☆ **Shabbat, 25, Adar I, March 5, Vayakhel:**

The portable sanctuary is built by the Israelites.

Haftarah: 2 Kings 12:1-17

☆ **Shabbat, 2 Adar II, March 12, Pedudei:**

The *Mishkan* is completed and assembled to close the

Book of Exodus. *Haftarah:* 1 Kings 7:51-8:21

CANDLE LIGHTING

February 5, 2016: 4:57 P.M.

February 12, 2016: 5:05 P.M.

February 19, 2016: 5:14 P.M.

February 26, 2016: 5:23 P.M.

March 4, 2016: 5:31 P.M.

March 11, 2016: 5:39 P.M.

YAHARZEITS

9 Adar I, February 18, 2016

Beatrice Hermann (Patricia Weiner)

14 Adar I, February 23, 2016

Fred Stein (Michael Stein)

19 Adar I, February 28, 2016

Helen Maser (David Maser)

24 Adar I, March 4, 2016

Sarah Slavin (Natalie Slavin & Evelyn Weinstein)

25 Adar I, March 5, 2016

Adele Small (Pam Lampell)

Hilda Hirsch (Peter Hirsch)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

☆ Herman Lepson and Esther (Lepson) BarLev in memory of their brother Sol

☆ Marilyn Mishaan in memory of Vicki Akel and Evelyn Mishaan

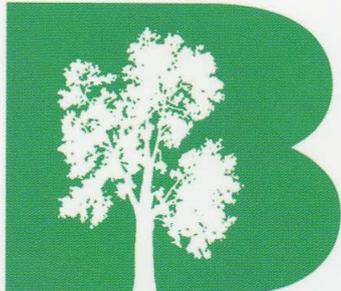
For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ The Dudes

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY

These pages contain 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 for the following services.

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