

# Kayruv



# קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

November 2015

Cheshvan/Kislev 5776

## FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

Every so often, I get asked what I think about this or that event in the Orthodox world, and how we can better understand our Orthodox brethren. And more often than not,

the issue in question has to do with inclusion. The questioner usually is taken aback by how this or that rabbi included, or failed to include, in his

community, people that the questioner thought ought to be included. And seeing the recent developments in the Modern Orthodox world, I can't help but think that, in ten years, the single line that will be dividing Orthodoxy will be what latitude in inclusion and leadership will be given to women.

It should not come as a surprise that the game “I can be more Jewish than you” is alive and well in Orthodoxy. Now that almost all *mitzvot* (commandments) have been dissected and reduced to measurements, the playing field for the dispute has become how far can women go – and what will men allow them to be called.

The Rabbinical Council of America has just passed a resolution<sup>1</sup> forbidding women from being “ordained” or serving in some capacity as a “rabbi.” The resolution is directed against the women who graduate from Yeshivat Maharat, receive titles akin to rabbis (maharat is a technical title<sup>2</sup>) and the men who ordained them. The RCA does not want its member institutions to hire these women, or to allow any woman to serve in a rabbinic capacity. Conferring “ordination” on women, giving women a title that implies a rabbinic credential - *that* is beyond the pale.

And the interesting thing is that for all the resolutions passed so far (this is the third on this subject in the past five years) none brings anything more explicit than “this is a violation of our *mesorah* (tradition).” One would really expect

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**Kayruv means “Welcoming.”**

<sup>1</sup><http://www.rabbis.org/news/article.cfm?id=105835>

<sup>2</sup>An acronym for female leader of Jewish law, spirituality and Torah

a group of so many Orthodox rabbis to be able to find explicit laws supporting their resolutions. But they can't because there *is* nothing explicit, and the nuances in the law where women might be unequal to men can be legislated over with a modicum of legal procedure.

And even the idea that the entrance to the rabbinate is similar to Moses placing his hands on Joshua<sup>3</sup> is far from reality: "ordination" or "*semicha*" are terms that assure that a male Orthodox student has passed the required tests, and that he is of fairly good character. All rabbinic certificates today, of all denominations, are more similar to a Master's degree than to an esoteric process. Even in the Orthodox world it is certainly not a holy transmission passed on to the unique few holy students worthy of being called by the holy title of rabbi: hundreds, if not a full thousand, of students receive "ordination" in hundreds of *yeshivot* around the world each year. There is no particular mystery to the process, and in more than eighty percent of the cases the newly-minted rabbis will not work in the pulpit.

This anxiety surrounding the role of women is a peculiarity of Orthodoxy in America, I want to add. In Israel, where the same pressures and grassroots movements are seen in the Modern Orthodox world, the response of the Orthodox community has been one of indifference. There, in June, two women received the title '*rabba*' together with two men who received the title '*rav*'<sup>4</sup> by the *Yeshivat Har'el*. But in Israel, the Chief Rabbinate is controlled by the Haredi system, which excludes all liberal forms of Judaism, Modern Orthodoxy included. Here, on the other hand, since Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform movements already have female rabbis, the Orthodox establishment has always responded by condemning the ordination of women.

In sum, it is politics, more than religion, that causes the pressures around the roles of women in the non-liberal world. One can only hope that those who are actually engaging with Torah will not bend to the pressures of those who are engaging in politics, and that the voices of bright, interesting and learned women will also be heard

<sup>3</sup>Which is how the Talmudic rabbis understand how the process of *semicha*, literally 'laying hands' began.

<sup>4</sup><http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/rabbis-round-table/.premium-1.661807>

in the halls of Orthodox Judaism – for the enrichment of us all.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

Dear Friends,

It was brought to our attention that a family member's *Yahrzeit* wasn't in the bulletin. The reason it wasn't printed was simply because we did not have the information.

If you would like a loved one remembered, please email their name and Hebrew date of passing. If you do not know the Hebrew date, but you have the date of passing and if it was before or after sundown, we can look the Hebrew date up for you.



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

The light is fading fast as I write these words, in the middle of *Marcheshvan*, the eighth month of the Jewish year. You may have heard that the “mar” in *Marcheshvan* has been interpreted as the Hebrew for “bitter”, because this month is the only month without holidays or fasts (and certainly the falling leaves, gathering darkness and chillier weather can make those of us who love summer feel a bit glum), but I find that I appreciate some peace and quiet after the high impact, high intensity workout I get during the High Holy Days. The Days of Awe are truly full of awe at B’nai Israel—it’s amazing how the community comes together to pull it all off. As always, there are far too many people to mention here, but I would like to thank just a few as representatives of the extraordinary breadth and depth of our community’s involvement: Joe Namer for directing traffic and facilitating parking, Paul M Simon for ushering, Sarah Namer and the Ritual Committee for organizing everything and working so hard to ensure that everyone was honored and included, Jason Mix for leading the children’s services, Mary Ohring for story time with the little ones, Harriet and Glen Lebetkin for supplying the *Yom Kippur* break-fast, and Rabbi Altenburger for her guidance and words of wisdom and insight throughout. I’m especially grateful this year for the return of our marvelous cantor, Re’ut Ben Ze’ev, who raised our services to an entirely different plane of existence. To everyone, *Kol Hakavod!*

Now that the school year is well underway, I’m proud to report that we really have more than doubled the size of our Hebrew School this year with the addition of the preschool, and I’m ecstatic that my intuition was right on target: my daughter Adina absolutely loves the preschool. She still can’t wait to go every Sunday morning, and always comes home singing, (“*David Melech Yisrael*” is a particular favorite at the moment.) Our new teachers, Mary Ohring and Jason, Mix have brought energy and passion to their work, and the results speak (or in Adina’s case, sing and dance) for themselves! I’d like to particularly thank Barbara Levitt for having the vision to see

this unmet need in our community, the imagination to realize what a difference it could make, and the fortitude, drive and *chutzpah* (along with the Education Committee) to make that vision a reality. *Yasher koach!*

There’s one more thing I’d like to kvell about before I sign off this month, and that’s the “New Horizons Summit for Small Congregations” that we hosted at B’nai Israel a couple of weeks ago. Organized by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (of which B’nai Israel has been a member for many decades), it was an opportunity for leaders from small Conservative congregations from all over New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts to meet, discuss, learn and commiserate together about the challenges small congregations face, strategies and best practices for creating visionary leadership teams to meet these challenges, and innovative and transformational methods for strengthening and enhancing our congregations. I’m greatly indebted to Howard Goldberg, our “Kehilla Relationship Manager,” for suggesting that B’nai Israel host the conference. He thought we were in a great location for synagogues from both the Northeast District and Metropolitan New York District to visit us, and he was still surprised by nearly double the turnout he expected! So why am I kvelling? Not only did we have a great turnout, not only did I get to brag about the leadership training Rabbi Altenburger has been doing with our Board of Trustees to help it work more effectively and better understand its strengths and weaknesses, and not only did we have a great turnout of both our own board members and congregants-at-large who were engaged and active participants, but our food totally rocked! Howard had everyone expecting snacks and light refreshments (fruit, pastries, snack bars), but we gave them a full, no-holds-barred, multi-course, sit-down, complete banquet. It was simply incredible, and absolutely knocked everyone’s socks off. Special kudos to the kitchen and set up/clean up team, including (but not limited to) Pam Lampell, Julie Leventon, Paul M Simon, Isabel Kaplan, Barbie Steinberg, and Lois Stein.

Together with culinary and community vision,  
Kenniss Koldewyn

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### ***Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcome the Sabbath)*** **November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.**

Come welcome the Sabbath. This is another of our Friday evening services that we are doing this year. The service is lay led and if you would like to participate, but you have never done so before, Sam Markind is happy to help you. Save the date for our next Kabbalat Shabbat service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. Our Next Adult Education Course Jewish Spiritual Practices**

Our next Adult Education Course, "Jewish Spiritual Practices" will begin on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. The class will end at 9:00 P.M. The course will consist of ten sessions.

**Summary:** We will be learning and discussing the work of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, the Piaseczno rebbe. Rabbi Shapira wrote several books, and we will be reading through "Conscious Community" and a few of his early Holy Fire *drashot* (Torah commentary). Using the book Jewish Spiritual Practices by Yitzchak Buxbaum we will explore ideas and actions grounded in Jewish thinkers to uplift and deepen our practice of Judaism, giving priority to the Piaseczno rebbe and to Elimelech of Lizhensk.

### **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

The Association of Religious Communities (ARC) has been sponsoring a program which meets weekly at various local places of worship. The mission statement of ARC is "to facilitate interfaith cooperation and other partnerships to alleviate the causes of violence, suffering and hatred while advancing peace, justice and human dignity."

ShariLynn Kochman and Jason Mix have been attending the program, called Caravan of Peace, as representatives of our congregation. The concluding event will be an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which is open to everyone. We hope that our congregation will be well represented at this event, which is a lovely way to begin the holiday of Thanksgiving!

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at the United Methodist Church 5 Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury at 7:00 P.M on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reverend Joseph Krasinski will speak on the topic "Love is the Answer" and the price of admission is a canned goods item for the ARC food pantry. Hope to see you all there, and please leave a message at CBI if you need to arrange a ride!

Harriet Lebetkin

### **Thanksgiving Meals for Families in Need**

CBI has participated in providing Thanksgiving meals for families in need in the Danbury area for many years and we will continue to help again this year. The program is sponsored by the Interfaith AIDS Ministry.

We will be providing trimmings for six families. Please choose one or as many items as you'd like from the list of items. All items must be at the synagogue by **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 A.M.**

Please email the office ([cbi193clap@gmail.com](mailto:cbi193clap@gmail.com)) with what items you will be bringing and to see how you can help. You can start bringing items to the synagogue on Tuesdays from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M., Sundays from 9:00 – Noon or call the office if you need to drop off at a different time.

If you are able to pick up these donations of food and bring them to IAM on Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> please let Rabbi Altenburger know or call/email the office.

6~boxes of mashed potatoes or bags of fresh potatoes  
6~ bottles of apple juice/other fruit juice  
6~ bags of dinner rolls  
6~ cans/jars of gravy  
6~boxes of stuffing  
6~canned vegetables  
6~bags of dinner rolls  
6~large cans of yams or fresh sweet potatoes  
6~cans of cranberry sauce  
6~large cans of chicken broth

\*\*Root vegetables, fresh fruits and pies that will keep for several days are also appreciated. All items must be brought in by Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

CBI hosted a group of more than forty five representatives of small synagogues from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York for a conference entitled New Horizons: A Summit for Small Congregations. The meeting, was held on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The group members were warmly greeted with the legendary CBI hospitality and a gourmet lunch created by our renowned chefs including Pam Lampell, Susan Tritter, Julie Leventon, Isabel Kaplan, Barbie Steinberg, and Paul Simon.

Once “fueled”, the appreciative participants launched into discussions of various challenges to area small synagogues.

Dina Markind described the event as follows: “The program itself emphasized ways of moving forward with a recognition of the unique strengths of each congregation. The importance of defining a mission/vision was one of the motifs emphasized. It was pointed out that many small congregations struggle with day to day activities such as building maintenance. (And we discovered that we are not the only ones who struggle with such mundane issues as roof repairs!) So often the Board of Directors is so busy putting out metaphorical fires that it doesn’t have the opportunity to implement a meaningful vision.

That being said, and having served on boards in the past, I know the importance of having a clear mission statement with a vision that provides a compass for good decision making. I am gratified that CBI has embarked on developing and updating our mission statement.”

On completion of several lively sessions dealing with ways to create a visionary leadership team and financial sustainability the consensus was that the sharing and camaraderie created during the day made for a most successful Summit meeting. And the ambiance created by CBI was, no doubt, a significant factor in its success.

Pat Goldman



Howard Goldberg





### **KIDDUSH HOSTS NEEDED!**

We are in need of Kiddush hosts for the dates below.

If you haven't hosted one in a while, if you have never hosted, and would like to, please pick one of the dates below.

Don't worry, if you've never hosted before, we have wonderful Kiddush mavens who will guide you through the easy process.

Come on...let's fill up the calendar!

- November 21<sup>st</sup>
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>
- February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>
- March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>, (April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Pesach – kitchen closed)

## 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.

### *Stew Leonard's* Gift Card Fundraising Program



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## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 25 Cheshvan, November 7, Hayyei**

**Sarah:** Sarah dies and Isaac is paired with Rebecca. *Haftarah:* I Kings 1:1-31

☆ **Shabbat, 2 Kislev, November 14, Toldot:** The wrestling twins Jacob and Esau are born.

*Haftarah:* Mal. 1:1-2:7

☆ **Shabbat, 9 Kislev, November 21, Vayetze:**

Jacob leaves home to make his own life.

*Haftarah:* Hosea 12:13-14:10

☆ **Shabbat, 16 Kislev, November 23, Vayishlah:**

Jacob reunites with his brother Esau.

*Haftarah:* Obadiah 1:1-21

☆ **Shabbat, 23 Kislev, Decemer 5, Vayeshav:**

Joseph, the favorite son, is sold by his brothers and taken down to Egypt. *Haftarah:* Amos 2:6-3:8

☆ **Shabbat, 30 Kislev, December 12, Miketz:**

Joseph's powers as a dream interpreter bring him to Pharaoh. *Haftarah:* Zechariah 2:14-4:7

## CANDLE LIGHTING

November 6, 2015:	4:24 P.M.
November 13, 2015:	4:17 P.M.
November 20, 2015:	4:12 P.M.
November 27, 2015:	4:08 P.M.
December 4, 2015:	4:06 P.M.
December 11, 2015:	4:06 P.M.

## YAHARZEITS

**4 Kislev, November 16, 2015**

Aaron Klebanow (Marcia Klebanow)

**5 Kislev, November 17, 2015**

Jerry Simon (Paul Simon)

**8 Kislev, November 20, 2015**

Gertrude Glickman (Sol Berman)

**10 Kislev, November 22, 2015**

Golde Rochma Kerstein (Michael Kerstein)

**12 Kislev, November 24, 2015**

Gloria Mark (Paula Cook)

**13 Kislev, November 25, 2015**

Barbara Salm (Joyce Shenker)

**18 Kislev, November 30, 2015**

Shlomo Boms (Abe Boms)

**19 Kislev, December 1, 2015**

Sidney Rudick (Charles Rudick)

**21 Kislev, December 3, 2015**

Robert Reynolds (Joyce and Martin Shenker)

**28 Kislev, December 10, 2015**

Pearl Wexler Bass (Gail Boms)

## THANKS! THANKS!

**For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

☆ Lucinda and Joel Kramer

**For the General Fund**

☆ Selma and Jim Rodgers thanking CBI for the warm welcome during *Rosh Hashanah*

☆ Richard and Mila Schonfeld in honor of their parents

**For Their Generous Kiddush**

☆ David Maser in memory of his father Rubin

☆ Pam Lampell in honor of Shalom's birthday

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Stand With Israel!

Conversation with guest  
speaker/former  
CNN correspondent  
Linda Scherzer

Wednesday, Nov 11 at 7:00 PM

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Linda is a former Mideast correspondent  
for CNN and Israel Television  
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