

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

September 2015

Elul 5775/Tishrei 5776

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

As Rosh Hashanah is coming upon us quickly, one question that should engage our attention is “how to be good”. In a world where we see so much brokenness, and

hear of so much suffering, this is one of the supreme questions. Why? You may ask, and I will tell you – because we all believe we are good people, and we all believe that we are doing good.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rabbi's Message	Pg. 1
President's Message	Pg. 3
High Holy Day Schedule	Pg. 4
Meet Re'ut Ben Ze'ev	Pg. 5
<i>L'dor V'dor: From Generation to</i>	
<i>Generation-Shalom Lampell</i>	Pg. 6
In the Community	Pg. 7
Schedule of Services	Pg. 10

Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

But then it turns out that we are then faced with terrible crises, one after the other, in such a rapid succession that our goodness is called into question. Can we actually recover from the 10 o'clock news if we really open our hearts and have compassion for all the suffering we see in these 45 minutes?

Can we actually recover from the heartbreak of the feed in Facebook or Twitter if we actually stop and read it all?

Did you see the anonymous father selling pens with his four year-old asleep on his shoulder, his expression a mix of despair and resilience?

Did you see the drowned toddler, his little body looking like he was asleep?

Did you see the people in the train cars, forbidden to come off, a mix of bodies where you could only distinguish little ones on the top?

Those pictures, and many more, are asking us for the same thing. Compassion for the other. Particularly when the other does not look like us.

TRUTH: the single father of two, a Syrian refugee in Beirut, received \$180,000 in donations – all through the effort of one individual, a human rights activist in Norway. Internet miracles: in 24 hours the father was identified, an Indiegogo account opened with the modest goal of \$5,000 which was met in 30 minutes.

TRUTH: it was the image of the toddler that made the change in the pressure of “popular opinion” of the refugee problem. Now European nations are taking 20,000 or more refugees. Germany tops them all, taking in 800,000 – or 10% of its current population.

TRUTH: there was not so much reaction to the hundreds in trains, even though they looked eerily familiar to those who know about the Holocaust.

TRUTH: it was that image of the toddler, all alone in death, that touched the hearts of millions.

Psychologists were quick to point out that our compassion soars when we are confronted with pictures of the suffering of a single individual. Put in the big numbers involved – 4 million Syrian refugees according to the UN – and compassion plummets. Our goodness, it turns out, has limits.

The question of the limits of our goodness is put poignantly in the mouth of a child in a novel with the curious title “How To Be Good.” The novel tells the adaptation of a family to the father’s newfound calling: to be good. After a meeting with a full-time social activist, the father begins to engage the household in his quest for goodness. One of his first actions is donating one of their computers to a domestic violence shelter. His son is shocked. When the father asks whether the child wants to help the world become a better place, the child replies that, yes, he does want to help, “but not as much as a whole computer.”

It seems to me that we all feel like that child: we all want to help, we all want to make the world a better place, we all want to be good, but not as much as – fill in the blank with your own personal limit on giving. How to be good and how good do we have to be turns out to be not such an easy question to answer, and one of the fundamental questions of a Jewishly meaningful life.

The balance between our existence and our neighbor’s existence is at the core of the rabbis’ understanding of the limits of *zedakah*: no one is supposed to give so much money as to become dependent on *zedakah* herself. So they cap the limit on giving: a fifth of all you have. And the rabbis understand a world built in concentric circles of giving: your family comes first, your neighborhood, your town, your state, your country.

And yet, our tradition at this moment in the year also wants to remind us that we are connected to the entire universe. *Rosh Hashanah* is the celebration of creation, the creation of the entire universe. The creation of all animals and trees, of all humans, living in all places.

It is at this moment of the year that we are supposed to look and see humanity in all. Not just in that toddler, but in all the children suffering with war, uncertainty and violence. Not just in that father, but in all parents seeing their children going through a world crazed by greed, power and thoughtlessness. Not just in the people in the trains, but in all of our fellow travelers in this world.

As the *shofar* calls us to repent, may we be blessed with the power of compassion, and so usher in a year of love and plenty.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It's amazing how fast summer days fly by - *Rosh Hashanah* is only two weeks away! And speaking of the High Holy Days, I am delighted to confirm that our marvelous cantor Re'ut Ben Ze'ev will be rejoining us this year on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* with support from generous donors. If you've been intending to make a contribution to the Cantor's Fund to support Re'ut's return, but haven't quite gotten around to it yet (guilty as charged myself, I'm afraid), then now is the time to get it in.

Hebrew school is back in session, and our new preschool program Gan Shalom (garden of peace) will start right before *Rosh Hashanah*. My daughter Adina is very excited to be attending the preschool. I've noticed that when I mention this to people, I sometimes get a wry look or comment hinting that the excitement might not last (from folks who undoubtedly suffered through some of their own Hebrew school education), but in this case I have many reasons to be optimistic. Rabbi Altenburger and Mary Ohring have put together an innovative program that combines hands-on learning with games, yoga, stories, songs and crafts - all of which Adina loves - so I'm confident that Gan Shalom will be a gateway for Adina to a lifelong love of Jewish learning and celebration. The preschool is off to a great start, but we still have spots available. If you know of anyone with Jewish children or grandchildren, please send them our way - we've really got something special to offer.

Meanwhile, Jason Mix and Sam Yolen are putting together a Youtube video to introduce themselves to our weekly teen discussion group, which will be starting up in October with teens from Congregation Adath Israel in Newtown (and possibly other places as well - stay tuned). Jason and Sam have a lot of energy and great ideas, and I think the teens are in for a real blast.

Finally, speaking of blasts (for all the times I've thought about just giving up and dynamiting the place so we could rebuild it right), the basement reconstruction is almost entirely done! The drywall is up, the bathrooms are beautiful, the nursery and neighboring classroom are pretty much ready to go. There's still some painting and clean up to do, but it's really remarkable how far we've come with such a big job, thanks to our crack team of daredevil volunteers who never cease to amaze me with their feats of derring-do. *Kol hakavod*, all of you! Daring-to-do is the hallmark and linchpin of our community. May all of us and our loved ones be inscribed in the book of daring-to-do and daring-to-become our best in the coming year.

Together for a new year of life, community and derring-do,

Kennis Koldewyn



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Contact Gail Boms
For Information
203-740-9888

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE 2015



ROSH HASHANAH - 5776

Sunday, September 13, 2015

Candle lighting at 6:48 PM

Erev Rosh Hashanah services begin at 7:30 PM

Monday, September 14, 2015

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services begin at 8:30 AM

Tashlich at 5:00 PM

Candle lighting (from preexisting flame) at 7:47 PM

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Services begin at 8:30 AM

Havdalah 7:38 PM



Youth Services for both days of *Rosh Hashanah* from 10:15-11:45 for children ages 5 and up in the big room downstairs. Story Time in the Nursery from 10:15-10:45.



YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Candle lighting/Fast begins at 6:32 PM

Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Services begin at 6:45 PM

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Yom Kippur services begin at 8:30 AM

Study Session begins at 4:00 PM

Mincha Neilah services begin at 5:20 PM

Havdalah/Break Fast 7:24 PM



Youth Services for *Yom Kippur* from 10:15-11:45 for children ages 5 and up in the big room downstairs. Story Time in the Nursery from 10:15-10:45.



SUKKOT

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Candle lighting at 6:24 PM

Monday, September 28, 2015

Sukkot Day 1 services begin at 9:30 AM

Candle lighting (from preexisting flame) at 7:22 PM

September 29, 2015 – Tuesday

Sukkot Day 2 services begin at 9:30 AM

Havdalah at 7:14 PM

****Parking for the High Holy Days will be available at St. Anne's Church.**

MEET RE'UT BEN-ZE'EV



This year, we welcome back Re'ut Ben-Ze'ev to co-officiate our High Holidays services.

Ms. Ben-Ze'ev, has won critical acclaim for her versatility, her "outstandingly beautiful voice and performance" (YIVO News,) "impassioned" singing (*The New York Times*.) Passionate about music of all genres, as a Cantorial Soloist she is an avid promoter of a wide range of Jewish music, including Hazzanut, Yiddish and Hebrew Art-song, operatic repertoire as well as musical theater, folk music, chanting and renewal music.

Re'ut began her journey into the world of Cantorial music unexpectedly, when the cantor at Temple Shalom, of Naples, Florida took ill and she was called to fill-in at last minute for the High Holidays services. Since then, she has had the pleasure of co-officiating in services at various synagogues in Florida such as Temple Shalom, Naples, Temple Beth El, Boca Raton, as well as B'nei Israel Congregation at Deerfield Beach, and B'nei Torah Congregation in Boca Raton. From 2001-2010 Ms. Ben-Ze'ev co-officiated High Holidays services here at Congregation B'nai Israel. From August 2011 to July 2015, Ms. Ben-Ze'ev has been the Cantorial Soloist of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City.

Re'ut recorded Yiddish art and folk songs for the Milken Archive of American-Jewish Music on the Naxos Label, the YIVO Label, Delos Records, Albany Records and others. She appeared internationally in venues as Lincoln Center, Tel Aviv Museum, American Academy in Berlin, Israel

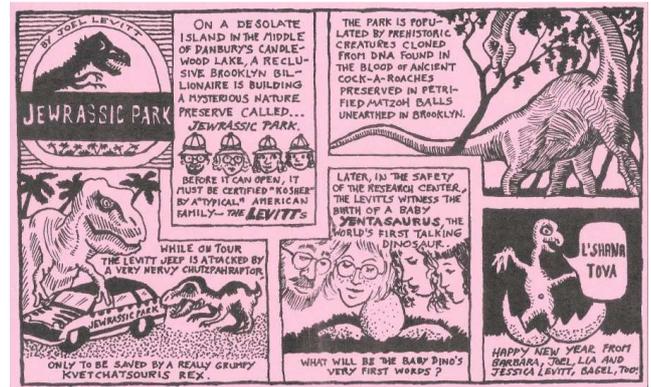
Chamber Orchestra, collaborated with conductors as Leonard Slatkin and Lucas Richman.

Re'ut's singing will be heard on the soundtrack of Natalie Portman's new movie **A Tale of Love and Darkness**, opening in 2015, based on Amos Oz' autobiography. She received the Phi Kappa Phi Society Top Scholar Award (1999) and was a finalist in the Kurt Weill Competition (2003).

Re'ut is delighted to be back at B'nai Israel for these High Holidays

JEWRASSIC PARK

Kayruv staff writer Joel Levitt has started a new humor blog called, LEVITTY. It features his movie spoof Jewish New Year cards, as well as new humorous essays, etc. You can visit his blog at, www.levitty.wordpress.com.



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.

L'DOR V'DOR: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

SHALOM IN AMERICA

We continue Shalom Lampell's story with his odyssey to America. Still in Israel, he decided to leave the army and study geology. He was particularly interested in engineering and mining, but there were no schools in his adopted country which provided those combined areas of study. He would have to travel abroad and attend a school in England or America. Columbia University was one of the schools offering this program.

"I had an uncle who lived in New York City who rented out rooms in his home for \$5.00 a week," Shalom told me. "He promised to rent a room to me if I came over. Also, his house was close to Columbia, Broadway and 108th Street, so I chose New York because I knew I'd have an inexpensive place to live."

Shalom was twenty-three years old when he arrived in New York City. It was October, 1954; he had just \$10 in his pocket. The voyage from Haifa on the good ship 'Shalom,' (yes, really!) – via Greece, Spanish Morocco and Halifax, Nova Scotia, took ten days. Although quarters on-board ship were tight – there were six to a room – Shalom has only fond memories of his trip across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Perhaps, the girl he befriended along the way – the one who taught him English, had something to do with that, although he wouldn't say . . .

Never having met his uncle and aunt before, it was something of a miracle that they were ever able to connect. They 'bungled' into each other in the area where all the passengers' luggage had been piled up on the dock. Most of the bags had been picked up; Shalom's was one of the few that remained.

"We found each other by process of elimination," he told me. "We were hovering over the same bag. I held out the *lulav* and *etrog* for them, the gifts I'd brought from Israel, just to say thank you for taking me in."

Columbia was a very expensive school and Shalom had to work hard to support himself and pay the tuition. During the summers, he lived in

Atlantic City, working as a waiter. When school was in session, he worked as a night security guard at the Israeli embassy in New York. One evening while on duty, two policemen knocked on the door. "Guess who was standing between them," Shalom said. "It was Abba Eban, the Israeli ambassador to the United States. They'd found him wandering, lost on the streets of the city."

Soon, the rising tuition at Columbia proved too costly, so Shalom followed the footsteps of a friend and transferred to the University of Bridgeport. He switched his major to mechanical engineering because Bridgeport didn't have a mining program. He attended Bridgeport for three years; that's where he met Pam; they taught Hebrew together in a religious school.

"On our first date, we saw the movie, '12 Angry Men' – I still remember! Maybe she thought I would be the next Henry Fonda! We were married in January, 1962. First, we lived with Pam's parents in Hempstead, New York. We bought our first home nearby, in Baldwin, in 1965."

It was also during this time that Shalom was offered a job by General Foods in White Plains. His world-wide engineering career was launched.

Working for the international division of the company, Shalom designed and equipped factories that were built all over the world, manufacturing General Foods staples like coffee, cereal and chewing gum. He and his family lived in such diverse countries as Germany, France, Korea, Finland and China.

From 1971-78, there was a hiatus in Shalom's international work: he lived in Battle Creek, Michigan, working as a project manager for Post Cereals. He then resumed his overseas work for the company, building a coffee plant in South Korea.

Shalom moved to the Danbury area when he retired, in 1996. He and Pam purchased a home in Brookfield, where they still live today. "When I retired, I never smoked another cigarette," he told me.

"Everywhere I worked and lived," Shalom continued, "I found a synagogue. Each was unique. For example, in Korea, the temple was

set up on a military base. At first, I was surprised that there were Jewish people in Korea, but I soon found out that they were soldiers and their families who stayed in the country after the war. It was interesting . . . we could only pray on Friday nights. The base was closed to civilian personnel on Saturday.

“In Helsinki in Finland,” he continued, “even though I didn’t know the language, the music in the synagogue was very similar to the melodies we sang in our *shul* in Bucharest when I was growing up. I didn’t need to know the language to feel the emotion in the prayers.”

Perhaps today, the richness of Shalom’s melodious chanting, echoing through the synagogue during services, reflects the depth of the experiences and stories that make up his life: from Romania to Israel, to the United States, and then all around the world: always finding a religious home in whatever community he and his family reside.

Lucky for B’nai Israel, Shalom found a home with us, a home he has helped build and nourish for almost twenty years, now. We are all eternally grateful for his presence among us.

Marc Heller

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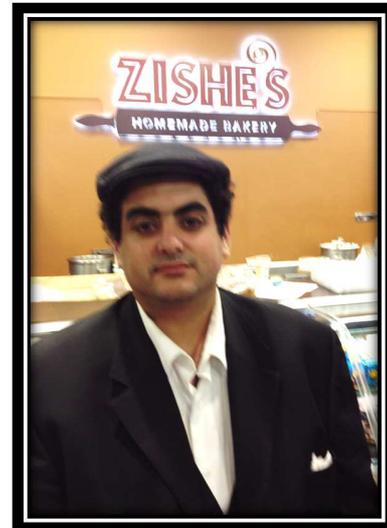
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IN THE COMMUNITY

Meet Rollie Issa



Many of us have seen Rollie Issa, a young man active in Greater Danbury’s Lebanese Maronite Christian community at B’nai Israel in recent years, but now there’s less of him to see.....and therein lies a unique and interesting tale. Rollie attributes his weight loss of 55 lbs. to eating kosher meat only (he has his own set of kosher meat pots and pans) and following many Jewish dietary laws (he does not mix meat and dairy, feeling that the added cheese or cream to meat dishes just provides needless fat and makes digestion more difficult). He lives at home with his parents (they once owned Roland’s of Lebanon, a Danbury restaurant) and the family is serious about the quality and freshness of the foods they prepare and eat.

When Rollie decided a couple of years ago to follow a portion of the laws of *Kashruth*, his parents supported his decision and are proud of his weight loss. But Rollie, while committed to the Maronite religion and his Lebanese roots, is also committed to learning about other cultures and religions (he is currently studying for his Master’s at WCSU in Chinese Culture and Religion) and sees himself as part of a larger and more diverse world. “We are who we are when we are born,” he told me, “but how we live our lives is between us and God.”

Rollie took an undergraduate course in Jewish History at WCSU taught by Rabbi Judy Frankel, a former member of B’nai Israel until her move to

New York City. One day he asked her where he could attend High Holidays services and she told him there were two Danbury congregations, one Reform and the other, Conservative. Being a traditional type himself, he visited us. He felt, "Overwhelmingly welcomed" by our members, "as if it was an extension of my own church (St. Anthony's Maronite Church in Danbury)". When CBI hosted parishioners from the church and their priest at B'nai Israel a few years ago (interesting fact: Maronite services are held in Aramaic, a common language in ancient Israel and one that Jesus is believed to have spoken), Rollie and his dad cooked many Lebanese specialties in our kitchen. And he has continued to attend occasional services and special events at our synagogue.

Barbara and I spent a recent Friday with Rollie as he drove from one kosher store to the other in Monsey, an Orthodox/Chassidic enclave in Rockland County, NY. Rollie worked the crowd in each like the very best Borsht Belt *schmoozer*, asking after owners' families, *kibbitzing* with clerks, wishing a "Gut Shabbos" after each transaction (the proprietors know he's not Jewish and treat him like family). And does Rollie know his kosher meats and prices! He introduced me to a sale in one store: \$5.99/lb for first cut brisket, compared to the \$13.99/lb I paid a short time ago. (Of course I had to buy what looked like a half a cow, but in reality was just over 5 lbs).

Rollie is a young man who straddles the worlds of tradition and modernity, seeing both unique and universal qualities in the people who inhabit them and the foods we consume. The folks he knows are as distinct as the ingredients of an All-American beef stew, an Eastern European cholent or a Lebanese khoroshta. One world, many flavors. We are proud to have him in our B'nai Israel family.

Michael Kerstein
Financial Consultant
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- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>OCTOBER ~~~</p> <p>10/13 New Friends, New Year</p> <p>10/27 A Nursery Rhyme, Just in Time!</p> <p>NOVEMBER ~~~</p> <p>11/10 Almost Time for Turkey</p> <p>DECEMBER ~~~</p> <p>12/1 Chanukah Happiness</p> <p>12/15 Dance and Giggle!</p> | <p>JANUARY ~~~</p> <p>1/5 Warm Up with Song and Fun!</p> <p>1/19 Celebrating Dreams</p> <p>FEBRUARY ~~~</p> <p>2/2 Fun Stories for You & Me</p> <p>2/23 Sing, Dance and Pretend</p> <p>MARCH ~~~</p> <p>3/8 Fun with Friends!</p> <p>3/22 Purim Madness!</p> | <p>APRIL ~~~</p> <p>4/5 Get Ready for Passover</p> <p>MAY ~~~</p> <p>5/3 Moving with the Music</p> <p>5/17 We Are All Actors!</p> <p>JUNE ~~~</p> <p>6/7 Celebrate Shabbat</p> |
|--|---|---|

Jacqueline Herman, Head of School
Rabbi David Israel, Rabbinic Dean

For more information contact:
Joanne Karow, Director of Admissions
203-329-2186 Ext. 1310 or e-mail: jkarow@bcds.org


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EXCITING NEWS!

Co-sponsored by Congregation B'nai Israel and Congregation Adath Israel of Newtown, our discussion group for teens with a Jewish focus will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 P.M., beginning on Thursday, October 1st, 2015.

Meetings will cover contemporary issues for today's savvy teens, exploring Judaism in a way that includes a world view for understanding the times we live in. Each session will highlight topics of interest to teens through media, poetry, art, current events, bibliodrama, literature, music and conversation.

Let's come together and continue the chain from Sinai to Connecticut.

**FIRST SESSION: October 1, 2015
Newtown Library (I-84 Exit 10)**

NO charge, OPEN enrollment, NO affiliation necessary.

Possible topics of beginning sessions:
Social Media, Sexuality, Environment, Israel, and Anti-Semitism.

Class Instructors will be Jason Mix, area youth educator and Sam Yolen, Rabbinical student in Riverdale, NY.

Please contact Barbara Levitt for more information at 860-799-0744 / blelevitt@yahoo.com or David Smith at 203-770-1685 / david.smith@acm.org

EVENTS AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION

SEPTEMBER 27 (SUNDAY, 2:00 PM)
FILM FEST- (Sophie Tucker)
At the Heritage Hotel – 522 Heritage Road, Southbury. Call for tickets: [203-267-3177](tel:203-267-3177)

SEPTEMBER 30 (WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM) Pizza in the Hut- Sukkot- Call to RSVP

OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY 2:00 PM) FILM FEST- Heritage Hotel (24 Days)
At the Heritage Hotel – 522 Heritage Road, Southbury. Call for tickets: [203-267-3177](tel:203-267-3177)

OCTOBER 19 (MONDAY 12:30 PM) UCONN TALK-by Judaic Studies Dept @ Federation – German Nazi Hunters. Call to RSVP

OCTOBER 20 (TUESDAY 9AM-4PM) Back to Work-SHOP. Full day workshop, including sessions on Resume Writing, Interviewing, Indeed job search, Linked in, Networking and more.... All in one day! If you are currently underemployed, unemployed and/or just need to brush up on your skills, this is the workshop for you!

For more information on all programs, and to rsvp: Call [203-267-3177](tel:203-267-3177)

Antonieta Hallet
Director, Communications & Marketing
Jewish Federation of Western CT
[203-267-3177, x307](tel:203-267-3177)

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆**Shabbat, 21 Elul, September 5, Ki Tavo:**
Come and discuss blessings and curses in Jewish thought. *Haftarah:* Isaiah 60:1-22

☆**Shabbat, 28 Elul, September 12, Nitzavim:**
Choose life! How do we do that?
Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

☆**Shabbat, 6 Tishrei, September 19, Vayelekh:**
Moshe prepares himself and the people for his death. *Haftarah* Hosea 14:2-10, (Micah 7:18-20)

☆**Shabbat, 13 Tishrei, September 26, Ha'azinu:** Come and listen to one of the most beautiful poems in all *Tanakh* (Bible). *Haftarah:* 2 Sam. 22:1-51

☆**Shabbat, 20 Tishrei, October 3, Sukkot**
Haftarah: Ezek. 38:18-39:16

☆**Shabbat, 27 Tishrei, October 10, Bereshit:**
Haftarah: Isa. 42:5-43:10

CANDLE LIGHTING

Sept. 4, 2015:	7:03 P.M.
Sept. 11, 2015:	6:51 P.M.
Sept. 13, 2015: <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	6:48 P.M.
Sept. 18, 2015:	6:39 P.M.
Sept. 22, 2015: <i>Yom Kippur</i>	6:32 P.M.
Sept. 25, 2015:	6:27 P.M.
Sept. 27, 2015: <i>Sukkot</i>	6:24 P.M.
Oct. 2, 2015: <i>Sukkot</i>	6:15 P.M.
Oct. 4, 2015: <i>Shemini Atzeret</i>	6:12 P.M.
Oct. 9, 2015:	6:04 P.M.

Yahrzeits

10 Tishrei, September 23, 2015

Edythe Nackman (Joyce Shenker)

19 Tishrei, October 2, 2015

Yafa Boms (Abe Boms)

Yetta Bat Ya'acov (Martin Waltuch)

21 Tishrei, October 4, 2015

Louis S. Rosenberg (Alice Cahn)

23 Tishrei, October 6, 2015

Engeltje Smeer (Dina Essinger)

25 Tishrei, October 8, 2015

Rubin Maser (David Maser)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆Gail and Abe Boms *refuah shlema* to Shalom Lampell

☆Daniel Turk in memory of his father Amos

☆Jonatha Turk thank you for your kind and compassionate voice during the time of mourning for Pearl and Amos

☆Janet Turk Wittes thank you for all you did for my family over these past difficult months

For the General Fund

☆Paula and Philip Cook in memory of Pearl Turk; *refuah shlema* to Glen Lebetkin

☆Fran and Chris Kimball *refuah shlema* Glen Lebetkin

☆Amos Turk in memory of his father Amos

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆Joyce and Martin Shenker

☆Religious School in honor of Barbara Weisblatt

☆Barbara and Joel Levitt

☆Benny Mandell in honor of Jack's birthday

☆Jason Mix in honor of his birthday

☆Vanessa and Peter Hirsch in honor of Joshua's *bar mitzvah*

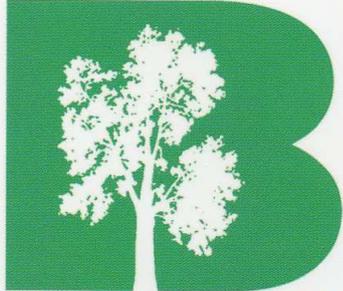
For the Kay and Harry Robinson Children's Book Fund

☆Barbara and Joel Levitt good health to Glen Lebetkin and Shalom Lampell; in memory of Amos Turk

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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