

120 Years • 1897 - 2017

Kayruv



קירוב

Celebrating the past, Welcoming our future!

February 2018

Shevat/Adar 5778

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

As I write this I am pulled in two directions.

One is of happiness, gratefulness and joy, as our Mentor in Residence weekend left those who attended energized. With Rabbi David Golinkin we learned new

songs and melodies, we learned about new ways of thinking about prayer and about Israel and Jewish education. Our community and I are deeply thankful to every single person who made this possible.

The Markind and Kruzansky families were incredibly generous and made this possible. Thank you also to those who donated their time and energy to provide our Shabbat dinner, lunch and third meal (*seudah shelishit*), and Sunday morning refreshments. We also want to thank the Cahn family for providing the guitar which Rabbi Golinkin used for the Saturday night Carlebach concert. We are indeed blessed.

The other direction is not one of gratefulness, but of dismay. For those who have followed the saga of Yehudah Kimani, our friend in Kenya, has suffered another sad development: his new visa to study in Israel, for which he applied, was denied. I want to remind you that, at first, he applied as a tourist, and that his entry was denied on the basis of the fact that he was going to study at the Conservative Yeshiva, so he needed a student visa. However, he cannot, according to the Ministry of Interior,

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***Kayruv* means "Welcoming."**



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apply to be a student at the Conservative Yeshiva because he is not considered by the “relevant authorities” to be Jewish¹. So, the Ministry of Interior wants him to apply for a tourist visa. All Kafka readers have seen this before.

And the reactions to this story are predictable: there are those who see this and decry the existence of Israel in total, and there are those who see this and don’t think there is anything wrong. But one unpredictable thing happened: a doctor in the US decided to support the education of two girls of Yehudah’s community in high school and university. Rachel will finish her degree in nursing, and Yehudit will, *b’ezrat Hashem*, with God’s help, be a teacher after she finishes high school.

Meanwhile, in Poland, a bill is waiting to be signed by its president. The bill would outlaw suggesting that Poland was complicit in the Holocaust – because reminding people that half of the victims of the Holocaust were killed in Poland is, of course, a crime². And yet our soon-to-be-70 little state has its problems, too – not with the Holocaust but with other matters, too many to count here³.

All these feelings reminded me of a teaching of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, z”l, which I learned regarding the Psalm we sing before *birkat hamazon*, the grace after meals. The Psalm is the 126th, the line is the 5th, and the text is *Hazor'im b'dimah b'rinah yiktzoru*, which translates as “Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.” But the Hebrew actually reads “those who sow in tears, in joy will reap.” Now Rebbe Shlomo had a beautiful teaching – if you change the comma, you get real life. The text, according to him, should be read “those who sow in tears in joy, will reap.” Meaning, one

only reaps when one sows both in tears and in joy.

Because that mixture is, actually, life. It is, to use a much beaten word, complicated.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

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.

NEW ADULT ED COURSE

Wrestling with God: The Holocaust and Jewish Self-understanding

A participatory course in which we will explore the challenges to traditional Jewish thought posed by the Holocaust, as well as the responses of contemporary Jewish thinkers.

When

Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. and Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. two sessions, same content

The course begins **February 27th** and **March 1st**.

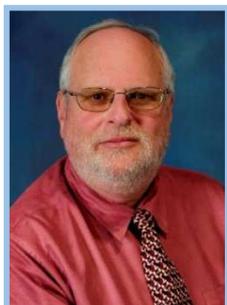
All are welcome!

¹ <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israel-shuts-door-on-jewish-convert-from-africa-for-second-time-1.5791603>

² <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-poland/israeli-minister-honored-to-be-barred-from-poland-over-holocaust-bill-idUSKBN1FP2R2>

³ <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/nazi-party-of-israel/>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

For those of you who actually read this column, thank you. As you know, last month I deviated from the normal article for some personal reflection. To all of you who provided comments, thank you. Those comments were greatly appreciated.

Now back to the norm. I have written many times about community and specifically the Congregation B'nai Israel community and family. I remind you that the shul exists to assist you, our members. We cannot be everything to all. I get very frustrated when people tell me they are not pleased with this, and not pleased with that. They want perfection; but whose perfection are they looking for? Each of us comes to CBI looking for something different. I recently read the President's column from a small synagogue in upstate New York. He wrote "... I often hear reasons for people not being temple members, such as 'I went to services and I was disappointed by X' or 'The temple is too X for me' or 'As long as Rabbi X is the rabbi, I will not belong'". Unfortunately, I have heard similar comments from past and current CBI members.

We are a small synagogue run by volunteers. If you remember my *Kol Nidre* address, and October Kayruv article, we only have 1.5 employees. I would be remiss if I did not indicate that those 1.5 operate as if they were 5 people. I will return to that volunteer theme later in this article. I love cliffhangers.

In recognition of CBI's 120th Anniversary, we began this month with a fantastic "Mentor-in-Residence" program, underwritten by the Kruzansky-Markind families. Rabbi David Golinkin led a discussion during Friday night's *Kabbalat Shabbat* service and continuing during Saturday's Shabbat services on

"Rediscovering the Art of Jewish Prayer." On Sunday, Rabbi Golinkin discussed the "State of Jewish Education in the Jewish State." My thanks to Sam Markind for coordinating the weekend and to Henry Tritter, Kennis Koldewyn, Glen Lebetkin, yours truly and the dudettes for making Friday night's Peter Ohring Food-by-Dudes event a tasty success. Saturday's special kiddush was created by Pam Lampell, Dina Markind and Susan Tritter. Even Sunday's program had food with thanks to Isabel Kaplan, Dina Markind and Harriet Lebetkin. It is important to remember that everyone was a volunteer – giving of their time, energy and resources to make the weekend a success.

Along with the mentor program, CBI conducted its successful Super Bowl fundraiser, coordinated by Henry Tritter. Thanks to your support, we raised over \$2,710.00 after payouts to the two winners. While your favorite team might have won or lost, CBI was a winner.

Additional 120th Anniversary programs are planned, including a trip to Fascia's Chocolate in Waterbury. All candies are certified Kosher and Dairy by the *Vaad haKashrus* of Fairfield County and of Connecticut. This is a great family program. Pizza and drinks will be available. Keep an eye on your email for more details. Thank you to Nada Adler for coordinating this program.

A number of names were listed in this article. It would be easy to add your name to the list. Everyone has a stake in what we are and how we perform. Membership is not a spectator sport. To use another analogy, how many of us who need exercise watched people who do not need exercise play in the Super Bowl? Every time the ball was run, I thought about getting off my chair and running. The operative word in that sentence was *thought*. It is so much easier to be a passive observer than a participant. Unlike the Super Bowl where you need skill to participate, for CBI you just need a desire. We will help you develop the skill.

Many of the names listed above are in their sixties and seventies. (Please forgive me Kennis for lumping you in this group.) They have served their time. Their love for CBI and what they do is contagious. But in the words of President John F. Kennedy spoken during his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, "Let the word go forth from this time and place... that the torch has been passed to a new generation..." It is time for the next generation to stand up. People like Kennis and Asya Takken cannot do it alone. They need your assistance. B'nai Israel needs the dedicated participation and leadership of our younger members, both singles and families, to maintain our diverse programs, from Hebrew School through lifetime support. We need you.

In March and April we will be looking for members to step up and join the board as a director or officer. No experience is necessary; I and other board members are here to assist and train you. All that is needed is a desire and commitment to YOUR synagogue. Please think about it; talk to me or another board member. The intangible rewards are many, the friendships are great and the feeling of doing something for someone else is amazing.

Thank you,
Paul M Simon

Donations for CBI's Year Long Food Drive



Our ongoing food donation program continues to be a success. Don't stop now! There are people in our Danbury community that need our help. This is a monthly donation program. Please bring a little something whenever you can.

SUPER BOWL UPDATE

We had 32 people participate in this year's Super Bowl fundraiser. Thanks to all of you who helped make it a success with a net contribution to the synagogue of \$2,710.00

Congratulations to our winners, Joe Golden who matched the final score numbers and Susan and Ken Osnoss who matched the half-time score.

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

FEBRUARY EVENTS



IT WAS
120 YEARS
AGO...



A blast from the past: Verily a 120 year old Purim shpiel!
Participatory Megillah reading!
Pizza and salad dinner!
Costumes, quizzes, prizes!



Wednesday, 2/28 at 5:30 PM
193 Clapboard Ridge rd

Brought to you by The 120 anniversary committee
and CBI's Hebrew School

All are welcome!

120 Years • 1897-2017
Celebrating
The Fast,
Welcoming
Our Future!
www.kiryatsef.org





Mishloach Manot Purim Goody Treats!

One of the important *mitzvot* of Purim is sending gifts of food and good wishes to loved ones, friends, and our fellow congregants. Through this we bring joy and friendship to each other, strengthening *Ahavat Israel*, one of the themes of the holiday.

How does it work? Each household you choose will receive a variety of delicious treats with a greeting card listing the names of their friends who have joined together to send them.

Please fill in below and send with your payment by February 26, 2018 to:
Congregation B'nai Israel
193 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811

My/Our name will appear as _____

_____ on the greeting card enclosed in the **Mishloach Manot** package.

NOTE: Gluten Free Hamantaschen for those with gluten free/sugar free dietary needs. PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS OPTION!

IMPORTANT!

Please indicate your preference for receiving your Purim Goody packages.

IMPORTANT!

Please indicate your preference for receiving your Purim Goody packages:

[] I will pick my Purim package(s) up on Purim.

[] I will pick my Purim package(s) up at the synagogue.

[] I will call the office at (203) 792-6161 if I need my Purim package(s) delivered to me. (Danbury area only.)

Please choose one or more options:

\$60.00 - Purim Goody Packages are given to all synagogue members.

\$10.00 per package - One package of treats will be given to each of the following members.

Please print name(s) clearly. Total \$ _____

\$10.00 per package - Please prepare _____ (please specify number) Purim Goody Packages for my friends and family. I will pick them up. Total \$ _____

\$18.00 per household*. Please send by mail to the non-members I have listed on the next page. Total \$ _____
(***\$10.00 per package plus \$8.00 postage each package**)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

If you want us to send a package to a non-member, please fill out the name, address, and zip code for each recipient. The cost is **\$18.00** per household. (**\$10.00 per package plus \$8.00 postage for each.**)

My/Our name will appear as _____

_____ on the greeting card enclosed in the **Purim Goody Package**.

To: _____

If you would like us to send more than one, please write additional information on separate paper.

THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

We're engaged! Well, not in a romantic way, more like a participatory way. B'nai Israel is one of about two dozen members of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to actively participate in the movement's Family Engagement Network. Spearheaded by Rabbi Cara Rosenthal of Long Island, daughter of Evelyn and Michael Weinstein and niece of Natalie Slavin, longtime CBI members, we know we are in good hands.



The Family Engagement Network is described as, "a coalition of synagogue professionals and lay leaders dedicated to advancing the work of engaging families with young children in Jewish life and community."

Rabbi Cara Rosenthal

Effectively employing social media, Rabbi Rosenthal has set up a series of webinars (it's a hybrid word, like cockapoos and cronuts) that blends live discussion between participating congregational leaders and sage advice from the Rabbi and other synagogue professionals. In the first, held for 90 minutes on a wintry afternoon, Rabbi Altenburger and I chatted with representatives of over a dozen synagogues, large and small from across the country. Whatever our sizes, we all have the same goals, which include trying to bring our membership up and our average age down. Not an easy task, as everyone involved in institutional Jewish life (and institutional life, in general) knows.

Still, no whining was permitted. (Well, a little. After all this is a Jewish group.) We talked about what programs have been effective. (CBI offered our recent *Chanukah* Magic Dreidel play with music, as a program that brought a large group of all ages together.) Ideas from other synagogues included "*Havdallah* Under the Stars" (We'll wait till at least Spring to consider that.) and offering parallel adult education classes, where what children in religious school learn is also explored by their parents and others at an adult level. Rabbi Rosenthal has also set up a Facebook page where we can exchange ideas between webinars.

At B'nai Israel, we recently were awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut to create an event that will engage families with young children. We're in the planning stage, so anyone with ideas to reach those families are welcome to join the committee. Please contact me at brooklyn2danbury@yahoo.com.

We look forward to working with congregational colleagues in sharing what works (and even what hasn't worked) as we try to reach a common goal. The future is ours!

Joel Levitt

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

Todah Raba (thank you!) to the Markind/Kruzansky families for generously sponsoring an extraordinary Mentor-in-Residence weekend on the first Shabbat in February.

Never mind that the groundhog had not seen his shadow that morning - by *Erev Shabbat* at B'nai Israel winter was totally dissipated.

Worshippers were greeted by a spring-like atmosphere infused with daffodils and a delicious aroma emanating from a festive variety of foods created by CBI's own Food by Dudes chefs Sam Markind, Paul Simon, Kennis Koldewyn, Glen Lebetkin and Henry Tritter.

The *ruach* (energy) was palpable during a spirited Shabbat service led by Sam Markind who underwent a miraculous transformation from the role of chef to spiritual leader.

Following the service, Sam introduced our Mentor-in-Residence, Rabbi David Golinkin of Israel who gave a lively and thought provoking talk entitled, *Why Pray?* Rabbi Golinkin focused on a variety of reasons to pray, ranging from the pragmatic to the spiritual.

Saturday's Shabbat service initiated a full day of prayer, study, music, and, of course a delicious gourmet Kiddush. Johanna Markind's (sister of Sam) lovely voice and fluid reading of Torah added a beautiful dimension to the service. Rabbi Golinkin gave a stimulating commentary entitled *Improve/Reconnect to Our Prayer*. A motif of his talk was the use of innovative melodies to enliven the prayer service i.e., moving away from a rote service.

A five star Kiddush created by CBI's famed innovative chefs, Pam Lampell, Susan Tritter, Dina Markind, Harriet Lebetkin and Isabel Kaplan was savoured by all. Later, following *Ma'ariv* services the traditional Shabbat Third Meal was enhanced by Rabbi Golinkin's delightful *z'mirot* (Shabbat table songs) from around the world. Following a *Havdalah* service, Rabbi Golinkin, a gifted musician, gave a rousing guitar concert featuring the music of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach whom he lauded as a revitalizer of the prayer service with his innovative music.

The weekend ended on Sunday morning with a (Am I getting redundant?) delicious brunch followed by Rabbi Golinkin's final lecture on *The State of Jewish Education in the Jewish State*. In his talk, the rabbi discussed his work with the Solomon Schechter Institute in Israel and their focus on creating a meaningful public school curriculum that will help students reconnect with their Jewish tradition after years of being taught their historical but not their spiritual roots.

In his concluding remarks, Rabbi Golinkin, amazingly energized after a demanding weekend, graciously thanked the Markinds and the congregation for hosting him. One of the highlights of the weekend was the amazing food, he added. "On a scale of one to ten I would give the cuisine an eleven!" All who attended agreed that the entire weekend was nurturing and all were enriched and inspired by the rabbi's commitment, knowledge and creative approach to prayer.

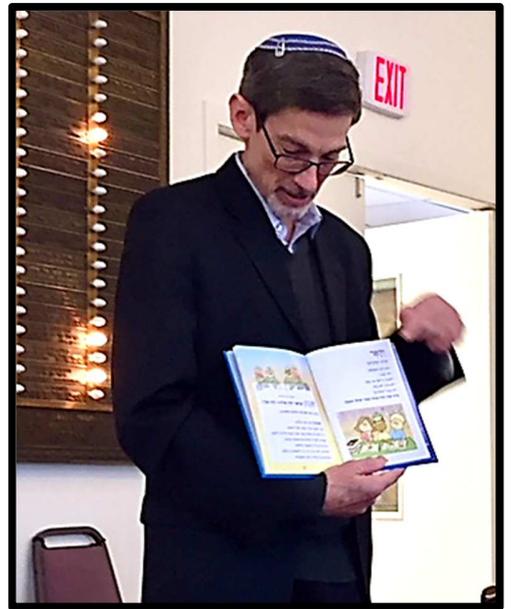
Sam and Dina Markind want to give special thanks to Rabbi Altenburger for helping to make the weekend such a success. And, of course, their thanks and admiration to the "Dudes" for the delectable Shabbat dinner and the "over the top" CBI chefs who prepared the Kiddush and Sunday Brunch.

And we are grateful to you, Sam and Dina for your generosity and inspired leadership!

Pat Goldman







SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 25 Shevat, February 10, Mishpatim:** Sealing the Sinai Covenant and receiving the Code of Civil Law. *Haftarah:* 2 Kings 12:1-17

☆ **Shabbat, 2 Adar, February 17, 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, 9 Adar, February 24, Tetzaveh:** Moshe and Aaron are instructed about the intricate designs of the priestly vestments.

Haftarah: I Sam. 15:2-34

☆ **Shabbat, 16 Adar, March 3, Ki tissa** Moshe is gone too long and the people of Israel build a golden calf. *Haftarah:* 1 Kings 18:1-39

☆ **Shabbat, 23 Adar, March 10, Vayakhel-Pekudei:** The portable sanctuary is built by the Israelites. *Haftarah:* Ezekiel 36:16-38

CANDLE LIGHTING

February 9, 2018:	5:02 PM
February 16, 2018:	5:11 PM
February 23, 2018:	5:20 PM
March 2, 2018:	5:28 PM
March 9, 2018:	5:36 PM

Yahrzeits

27 Shevat, February 12, 2018

Sara Kruzansky (Dina Markind)

30 Shevat, February 15, 2018

Meir Rabinovich (Eliezer Rabinovich)

Steven Schorr (Heather K. Mazarakos)

1 Adar, February 16, 2018

Esther Breeman (Barbie Steinberg)

9 Adar, February 24, 2018

Beatrice Hermann (Patricia Weiner)

14 Adar, March 1, 2018

Fred Stein (Michael Stein)

15 Adar, March 2, 2018

Bobbie Sommer (Lorie Mael)

19 Adar, March 6, 2018

Helen Maser (David Maser)

24 Adar, March 11, 2018

Sarah Slavin (Natalie Slavin & Evelyn Weinstein)

25 Adar, March 12, 2018

Adele Small (Pam Lampell)

Hilda Hirsch (Peter Hirsch)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

☆ Roz Friedman in memory of her husband Mel

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in honor of Roz Friedman, Lois Stein, Marilyn Stanley and Doris Anderson, thank you so much for your help.

☆ Joyce and Martin Shenker *refuah shlema* to Henry Tritter

☆ Pat and Alvin Goldman *refuah shlema* to Henry Tritter

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ The Takkens

☆ The Goldmans

☆ The Lebetkins

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**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.

*moments pass
memories fade
photographs live on*

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rlwoods@winair.com
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IN THE COMMUNITY



Great Performances Line Up at Lunch!

(SOUTHURY) The popular Love & Knishes Lunch Program promises to please at our lively luncheon! Come out to socialize with your friends. The public is invited to enjoy good cheer, live music and delicious food on Wednesday, February 21, February 28 and March 7 at the Jewish Federation of Western CT at [444 Main St. North](#) in Southbury. Lunch is served at 12 noon, followed by entertainment at 1:00 PM.

On Wednesday, February 21, Dave & Jade Stoltz will perform! We will be featuring *Americana Duo*. Acclaimed artist Dave Stoltz is an eclectic player fluent in Rock, Country, Latin, Experimental, Jazz, Blues and R&B on both Bass and Guitar. A meeting with Jaimoe in 1990 led to Dave joining Dickey Betts touring band and then to auditions for the Allman Brothers Band in 1997. Dave is currently a member of Jaimoe's Jasssz Band and has also performed with Ellen McIlwaine, members of the Byrds, Eddie Henderson, Houston Person and Grayson Hugh. Music informs Dave's soul and vice versa.

On Wednesday, February 28, Helen Flacone is back! Helen Flacone is a mezzo-soprano versed in a variety of musical forms, ranging from opera to contemporary. She is very active musically in the area, and is a performing artist of the Hillhouse Opera Company of New Haven. She is also a pianist and an accomplished percussionist.

On Wednesday, March 7, Willie and Jan Nininger return to Federation! Willie and Jan Nininger are versatile entertainers who perform a wide variety of music including Country, Folk and Rock 'n Roll that will bring back fond memories.

Lunch reservations should be made by Monday for that week's program. All programs are open to the public, and there is a suggested lunch donation of \$7.50 for adults age 60 and better. To RSVP, call [203-267-3177](tel:203-267-3177), x 340.



For the Love of Shakespeare

Sponsored by:
The JCC in Sherman

**Saturday, February 17th at 7:30 PM | Sunday,
February 18th at 2:00 PM**
Cost: \$15 Members | \$20 Non Members
BYOB

This Valentines Day themed performance will be scenes, songs, and monologues centered around the love themes that are embedded in some of Shakespeare's plays. The scenes and monologues are from the following plays *As You Like It*, *Much to do About Nothing*, *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Twelfth Night*. The songs will be a myriad of Renaissance and Old English Love Songs.

Actors include Stacy Lee Frome, Steve Manzano, Kimberly Marcus, Jared Emanuel, Rufus DeRam, Jessica Gleason, Paige Gray, Sherri Bresson Fitzpatrick, Miles Everett, Katherine Almquist, Steve Stott, Alex Desjardins, Suzy Abrams, The music will be performed by Beth Bonnebeau and Missy Hanlon and the performance is directed by Robin Frome of the Sherman Playhouse.

The refreshments are BYOB picnic style for general seating at provided tables.

Please buy your tickets online by Monday, February 12th. For more information please visit our website site www.jccinsherman.org. For any questions please call or email us at 860-355-8050 or info@jccinsherman.org.