

120 Years • 1897 - 2017

Kayruv



קירוב

Celebrating our past, welcoming our future!

September 2018

Elul/Tishrei 5779

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

With the season of repentance right around the corner, there is a beautiful text from the Rambam¹ that is a good start for thinking about *teshuvah*, repentance.

In his book Mishneh Torah² he writes the following:

“Each and every human has virtues and vices. One whose virtues exceed one’s vices is a just person, and one whose vices exceed one’s virtues is an evil person; if both are evenly balanced, that person is middling. This is also true regarding a country. If the virtues of all of its inhabitants exceed their vices, it is, indeed, a just country; but if their vices exceed, it is, indeed, a wicked country. And so is the standard for the whole world.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rabbi’s Message	Pg. 1
President’s Message	Pg. 3
September Events	
- High Holiday Schedule	Pg. 5
Looking Ahead	
- Brazilian Sukkot	
- Introduction to Hebrew	Pg. 6
High Holiday Poems by Sarah Namer	Pg. 7
Schedule of Services	Pg. 8

Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

It is fascinating to notice that even though these words were written in Egypt, during the 12th Century, they are equally applicable to us, living in America in the 21st Century, as they were then. In what category do you think you fall? This country falls?

Those are important questions, ones that each of us holds answers to. Our answers.



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Because
Maimonides has

¹ Maimonides, who lived in Egypt in the 12th century

² Laws of Repentance 3:1

no space for anyone to consider themselves as perfect, he insists on what we would call “personal responsibility.” We are righteous as long as our virtues are more numerous than our vices but that can always change. We can always slip, as countries can always slip, too. A few paragraphs later³, he continues:

“It is, therefore, necessary for every human to behold oneself throughout the whole year in a light of being as if it were evenly balanced between innocence and guilt, and look upon the entire world as if evenly balanced between innocence and guilt; thus, if one commits one sin, s/he will overbalance oneself and the whole world to the side of guilt, and be a cause of its destruction; but if one performs one mitzvah, behold, s/he will overbalance oneself and the whole world to the side of virtue, and bring about salvation and escape for oneself and all others, since it is said: *But the righteous is an everlasting foundation* (Prov. 10. 25). “The righteous” is that person by whose righteousness s/he overbalanced the whole world to virtue and saved it.”

By seeing ourselves as actually middling all the time, we are sure to see ourselves as potential savers of the world. Here is the super power that Maimonides wants us to seize: our ordinariness. Being ordinary is to be stuck between good and evil. Having the humility of seeing our actions evenly balanced between good and bad, and then actively choosing to do good – there lies our heroic act of saving. Being righteous takes doing just one act of good above our acts of evil: it is not far away from us. We can certainly accomplish it.

Shanah tovah umetukah, may we all have a good and sweet year,

Rabbi Nelly Altenburger



Donate today, and give millions of Americans a sweet New Year - where they are not forgotten, not ignored, and certainly not hungry.

MAZON A Jewish Response To Hunger

(800) 813-0557 | mazon.org

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.

³ 3:4

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Congregation, Can You Hear Me?*

As I write my Kayruv articles, I always wonder if anyone is out there; is anyone reading; can anyone hear me?

We are about to begin the holiest season and I must ask if Congregation B'nai Israel is ready. USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) provides a High Holiday Prep Checklist. Reviewing the list, I am proud that we have accomplished most of the items. The Ritual Committee has worked throughout the summer to bring you a spiritual and meaningful service. Board member Joe Namer has worked with the Danbury Police Department and your ushers to insure everyone's safety. The sanctuary will be setup with more chairs. Physically we are ready. Now I need you. "Can You Hear Me?" Please continue to read.

I love this time of year. I have the opportunity to see friends I only see during the holidays. I get to see generations of families as they share the holiday with each other and with us. The synagogue is the common factor, the thing that brings everyone together, the glue for the community. CBI does not "just happen." There are many people working behind the scenes on your behalf. The other day I was talking to someone and I told the person I was busy Wednesday night because I had to work with others to "setup the shul." "What do you mean, 'setup'? What is there to do?" asked the person. Did that person just think the extra chairs just materialized, like a miracle? It is people who accomplish it all. "Can You Hear Me?" Please continue to read.

Everything we do is for you. I recently read this posting:

After services on Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Cohen was, as usual, standing near the synagogue exit shaking hands with congregants as they left. But then he noticed a member who rarely attended services leaving, so

Rabbi Cohen grabbed his hand, pulled him aside and said, "David, I think you need to join the Army of God!"

"But I'm already in God's army, Rabbi," protested David.

"So how come I don't see you in shul except on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*?"

David leaned in and whispered, "I'm in the secret service."

Please don't be a stranger.

Shortly, I will speak to the congregation with the annual *Kol Nidre* address. Last year, I lauded our 120 years and challenged us for the next 120. I spoke about the USCJ staffing survey and how we do so much with only 1.5 employees. You laughed, I cried. The point was clear; it is volunteers that keep CBI alive. This year I will have a special theme; one that I hope inspires you and challenges you. As I say to my students in class, I need you to be present not only physically but also mentally. "Can You Hear Me?" Please continue to read.

Will we always get along, of course not. Can CBI meet everyone's needs, of course not. In a previous article I wrote about a thermostat installed in a sanctuary where anyone could control it. People were happy, the temperature was what they wanted. The thermostat was a fake, controlling nothing, but at least the thermostat adjusters were happy. I am reminded of a Presidential Truism provided by USJC.

No action or announcement will ever be universally applauded or even close, no matter how benign or beneficial it may seem. You could announce that you've arranged for perfect weather for the next three weeks and someone would blame you for his or her lawn dying due to lack of rain. Reminds me of the famous LBJ quote: "I could walk across the surface of the Potomac River and the next day the newspaper headlines would read, "President Can't Swim."

My job is to provide members the opportunity to share their thoughts. I hear "through the grapevine" whatever that is, that not everyone is happy. Some members think the services are too long, some think there should be more English, some think... Everyone must feel that their opinion is heard and respected. I encourage members to join a committee to get their feelings known. I need to be more open to suggestions, and ask you to again share them with me and I will take them to the appropriate committee. Please we are here for you. "Can You Hear Me?" Please continue to read.

So as we enter this period of reflection I ask you to reflect on Congregation B'nai Israel and remember the words of John F. Kennedy during his inaugural address. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Substitute CBI for country.

I want to close with a comment by Ai Weiwei. "A small act is worth a million thoughts." "Can You Hear Me?"

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, we wish you and your family *L'shanah Tovah* and may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Paul

*I ask for forgiveness from Marilyn and Alan Bergman the lyricists of "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" sung by Barbara Streisand in the 1983 movie Yentil.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Rachel Ohring, daughter of Mary Ohring and the late Peter Ohring graduated from New Fairfield High School on June 23rd. Rachel is attending Western CT State University.

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.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2018



ROSH HASHANAH 5779

Sunday September 9th
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Candle lighting 6:55 PM
Evening services begin at 7:30 PM

Monday September 10th
Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Morning Services begin at 8:30 AM
Shofar sounding around 11:30 AM
Tashlich at 5:00 P.M.
Candle lighting after 7:53 PM

Tuesday September 11th
Rosh Hashanah Day 2
Morning Services begin at 8:30 AM
Shofar sounding around 11:30
Holiday ends 7:52 PM

September 15th – Shabbat Shuva
Morning Services begin at 9:30 AM
Havdalah 7:44 PM

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday September 18th
Erev Yom Kippur
Candle lighting and fast begins - 6:40 PM
Kol Nidrei Services begin at 6:30 PM

Wednesday September 19th
Yom Kippur services begin at 8:45 AM
Yizkor at around 11:00 AM
Study Session begins at 4:00 PM
Mincha and *Neilah* services
begin at 4:45 PM
Shofar sounding 7:37 PM



SUKKOT

Sunday September 23rd
Candle lighting 6:31 PM

Monday September 24th
Sukkot Day 1 services begin at 9:30 AM
Candle lighting after 7:29 PM

Tuesday September 25th
Sukkot Day 2 services begin at 9:30 AM
Holiday ends at 7:27 PM

SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday September 30th
Candle lighting at 6:19 PM

Monday October 1st
Shemini Atzeret services begin at 9:30 AM
Yizkor at around 11:00 AM
Candle lighting for *Simchat Torah* after 7:17 PM
Simchat Torah evening services begin at 7:00 PM

Tuesday October 2nd
Simchat Torah services begin at 9:30 AM
Holiday ends at 7:15 PM



Children's Services and Babysitting

Services for children 5 years old and up will be from 10:15 -11:45 AM in the big room downstairs.

Story time will be from 10:15-10:45 in the nursery.

Babysitting from 9:30 AM through end of services.

Children's services, story time and babysitting are available on Day 1 and 2 of *Rosh Hashanah* and on *Yom Kippur*.

LOOKING AHEAD



CBI presents...
A Brazilian Sukkot

**Interactive Bossa Nova Music
Storytelling!
Brazilian Food!**

**When? 9/30 from 10:30 AM - noon
Where? Congregation B'nai Israel
193 Clapboard Ridge Rd ~ Danbury**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please RSVP by 9/25, 203.792.6161 or cbiclap193@gmail.com
more information: www.DanburyShul.org

NJOP



Introduction to Hebrew

FREE Course for young adults and adults

**When? Monday, 7PM to 8:30 PM beginning on 11/12
Where? Congregation B'nai Israel
193 Clapboard Ridge Rd ~ Danbury**

Course lasts five sessions only
RSVP by 11/01 a must: 203.792.6161 or cbiclap193@gmail.com
more information: www.DanburyShul.org

FREE

NJOP



POEMS BY SARAH NAMER

FOR ROSH HASHANAH

Oh God, I've gathered near to you
To tell you how I feel.
You've helped me out so much in life.
You touch, you love, you heal.

You listen patiently to all
Who pray to you to guide.
You comfort with a quiet voice
That calls from deep inside

By acting on our thoughts and hearts,
By urging to our souls,
You send your message clear and loud
Reminding us the goal's

To help each other, one and all,
The very best we can,
To love each other as ourselves
Each woman, child and man.

Oh God, I've gathered near to you
To tell you how I feel.
I love you God. For me you're
Very personal and real.

I thank you, God, no matter what.
I thank you for my life.
I thank you for life's lessons learned
In joy, in calm, in strife.

I thank you for my very soul
In gratitude proclaim;
I thank you, God, with all of me
And blessed be thy name.

KOL NIDRE NIGHT

Kol Nidre, you call to me.
I go. I don't know why.
It's been so long since Hebrew school.
So many years passed by.

So many years since I was sure
Of how to be a Jew.
I went to synagogue each week.
Each Friday. Weekends too.

I loved the holidays. To me
Each seemed a special friend.
Imparting, each, a special feel,
A special mix, a blend.

Of sounds and smells. Of heraldry
Upon the Shofar's blast.
A kinship with my history.
A pride of present, past.

Now I work a job from nine to five,
Through Friday. Weekends too.
The weekends to do household chores
I don't have time to do.

And holidays, vague memories,
Nostalgic, aching, sweet.
I'm lucky if I know the seasons
Passing by so fleet.

And heraldry's High Holy Days.
I hear the Shofar's blast
Just once a year and Passover's
My only link with past.

Oh Kol Nidre, you call to me.
I go. I don't know why.
Perhaps because your chant's a sob.
And I am free to cry.

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 28 Elul, September 8, Nitsavim:**

Choose life! How do we do that?

Haftarah: Isa. 61:10-63:9

☆ **Shabbat, 6 Tishrei, September 15, Vayelekh:**

Moshe prepares himself and the people for his death. *Haftarah:* Hosea 14:2-10, Micah 7:18-20

☆ **Shabbat, 13 Tishrei, September 22, 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, September 29, Shabbat**

Hol Hamo'ed: *Haftarah* Ezek. 38:18-39:16

☆ **Shabbat, 27 Tishrei, October 6, Bereshit:**

The meaning of being created in the image of God.

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:10

☆ **Shabbat, 4 Heshvan, October 13, Noah:**

God destroys the world by flood and renews humanity through Noah. *Haftarah:* Isaiah 54:1-55:5

CANDLE LIGHTING

September 7, 2018: 6:59 PM

September 9, 2018:

Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:55 PM

September 10, 2018:

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 after 7:53 PM

September 14, 2018: 6:47 PM

September 18, 2018:

Erev Yom Kippur 6:40 PM

September 21, 2018: 6:35 PM

September 23, 2018:

Erev Sukkot 6:31 PM

September 24, 2018:

Sukkot Day 1 7:29 PM

September 28, 2018: 6:23 PM

October 5, 2018: 6:11 PM

October 12, 2018: 6:00 PM

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ David J. Levine

☆ Asya Takken

☆ The Namer's in honor of CBI and friends

☆ Fran and Jeff Kass

☆ Victor Namer

☆ The Goldman's

☆ The Markinds

☆ The Altenburgers

☆ Donna Goodstein

YAHARZEITS

1 Tishrei, September 10, 2018

Howard Sanford (Lois Stein)

2 Tishrei, September 11, 2018

Yadvega Rabinowitz (Rochelle Hutchings)

9 Tishrei, September 18, 2018

Gloria Shenker (Joyce and Martin Shenker)

10 Tishrei, September 19, 2018

Edythe Nackman (Joyce Shenker)

Carole Stein (Michael Stein)

14 Tishrei, September 23, 2018

Edward Hutchings (Rochelle Hutchings)

19 Tishrei, September 28, 2018

Yafa Boms Abe Boms

21 Tishrei, September 30, 2018

Louis S. Rosenberg (Alice Cahn)

23 Tishrei, October 2, 2018

Engeltje Smeer (Dina Essinger)

25 Tishrei, October 4, 2018

Rubin Maser (David Maser)

Barry Tabachnick (Rochelle Hutchings)

29 Tishrei, October 8, 2018

Rose Mendlovitz (Pat Goldman)

4 Cheshvan, October 13, 2018

Morris Mark (Paula Cook)

6 Cheshvan, October 15, 2018

Michael Frenkel (Evan Frenkel)

7 Cheshvan, October 16, 2018

Godel Gurka (Jay Gurka)

Aaron Shenker (Martin Shenker)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆ Nada Adler and family in memory of Cheryl's son Rick

For the General Fund

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in memory of Cheryl's son Rick

☆ Pat and Alvin Goldman in memory of Cheryl's son Rick and Sharilyn's father Howard Rothstein

☆ Dan and Yuki Turk for Hospitality Fund

☆ Phyllis and Gerald Steinberg in honor of Alvin Goldman's birthday and healthy year

☆ Sheila and Ed Cohen in honor of Alvin Goldman's 95th birthday