

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

November 2018

Cheshvan/Kislev 5779

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

The last week was harrowing. It brought another mass shooting, and this time, directed to our Jewish community. I have spoken and written about firearm ownership

many times now, and despite being upset, distraught and saddened, I am not surprised.

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Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

You can read my *teshuvah* on the Jewish views of guns and gun ownership in America by clicking here:

<https://tinyurl.com/JewsAndGuns>.

Despite what some people might think, antisemitism has not sprung up recently in America – it has been simmering under the surface since I came to this country in 2001. And, after Charlottesville, it has shown its face clearly. To believe that it had disappeared from the thoughts of those who marched just because we weren't hearing from them anymore is to be living in a dream. But to believe that all those who are different than us hate us is to be living in a nightmare.

Both the dream and the nightmare are not reality. In reality, Muslim groups raised money for the Tree of Life Or LeSimcha Congregation and offered help to all Jewish communities in Pittsburgh with safety. In reality, PJ Leopold from ARC called me to offer her support, as did Sister Eman Beshtawii, the head of Al Hedaya Islamic Center in Newtown. In reality, Rev. Orsella Hughes the pastor of Saint James A.M.E. Church here in Danbury sent a beautiful email that you can read in our foyer.



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In reality, on Sunday morning after the shooting, our Danbury Police stopped by our shul to ask what the high traffic times of the congregation are and to reassure us that they will be patrolling the area at those times. In reality, antisemitism exists. But in reality, we have been embraced by people of all faiths who decry antisemitism and fight bigotry, racism and xenophobia every day.

And if you ever doubted the power of words, the shooting should have definitely awakened you to that reality. Our Torah has God creating the world through the power of speech, whereas in the Babylonian myth Enuma Elish the great god Marduk creates the world by physically beating his enemy Tiamat and emerging victorious. The Jewish tradition is uncompromising in the insistent that what a person says has power both to build and to kill. Words are never nothing.

King Solomon says, "Life and death are in the hands of the tongue." (Proverbs 18:21) The Talmud¹ explains that negative speech is worse than a sword or an arrow because it kills many people even at great distance. In times of leaders who belittle tragedies, who refuse to condemn violence and bigotry, words continue to show us that they have a lot of power.

For our side, in our community, we need to remember the words from one of the rabbis in Pittsburgh, Rabbi Jonathan Perlman: "It will not ruin us. We will continue to thrive and sing and worship and learn together." The moment we are afraid of being Jewish and behaving Jewishly, the shooter and all his supporters and enablers, own another fight: the fight for our own souls.

We can't be defined by fear. We are surrounded by people who love and respect us, and with whom we walk in this city and this country. May we continue in our paths of Torah study and the practice of *mitzvot* and good deeds, and may our actions speak for compassion, may our words bring light and healing to this world so much in need of light and healing.

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.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

If you or anyone you know is ill or in need of support, please call our ***Bikur Cholim*** (Caring) **Committee** at 203-792-6161.

¹ Arachin 15a-b

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I am writing this month's article on the 1st of November. I have two different but interrelated thoughts going through my mind, the tragedy at the *Tree of Life Synagogue* in

Pittsburgh and the upcoming midterm elections. I can no longer remain silent on issues that I feel and know are very important to our CBI family. If I offend any members, I am sorry; but I will use this month's article to express my feelings.

Gun violence is an issue that effects all of us. We can no longer sit on the sidelines. Sandy Hook brought that issue home. It is not an issue that only affects others, it is now in our own backyard. Gun violence does not affect only others; it also affects fellow Jews, Jews worshipping in their synagogue as we do. When will our nation's leaders stand up to the NRA and take a stand against one of the most important and divisive issues in our land.

Depending on when you read this, you will be going to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, or went to the polls or sat out the election. Let me make it clear, if you "sat out the election", you are part of the problem. You cannot be apathetic. The issues facing our community, our state and our nation are too important.

I went to the NRA Political Victory Fund website for its ratings of the candidates. According to the organization's web

The NRA Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF) is NRA's political action committee. The NRA-PVF ranks political candidates - irrespective of party affiliation - based on voting records, public statements and their responses to an NRA-PVF questionnaire.

NRA relies on a very simple premise: when provided with the facts, the nation's elected officials will recognize that "gun control" schemes are an infringement on the Second Amendment and a proven failure in fighting crime. The importance of this premise lies in the knowledge that, as one U.S. Congressman put it: "The gun lobby is people."

Based on this premise do I want these political leaders leading my state and nation? This is what the ratings mean (I only listed those scores that were assigned to candidates in my district.)

- A+** A legislator with not only an excellent voting record on all critical NRA issues, but who has also made a vigorous effort to promote and defend the Second Amendment.
- A** Solidly pro-gun candidate. A candidate who has supported NRA positions on key votes in elective office or a candidate with a demonstrated record of support on Second Amendment issues.
- AQ** A pro-gun candidate whose rating is based solely on the candidate's responses to the NRA-PVF Candidate Questionnaire and who does not have a voting record on Second Amendment issues.
- B** A generally pro-gun candidate. However, a "B" candidate may have opposed some pro-gun reform or supported some restrictive legislation in the past.
- F** True enemy of gun owners' rights. A consistent anti-gun candidate who always opposes gun owners' rights and/or actively leads anti-gun legislative efforts, or sponsors anti-gun legislation.
- ?** Refused to answer the NRA-PVF candidate questionnaire or a candidate who has made contradictory statements or taken positions that are inconsistent with the candidate's answers to the NRA-PVF

candidate questionnaire or previous record.

A rating of "?" often indicates indifference, if not outright hostility, to gun owners' and sportsmen's rights.

Here is the ranking:

Governor	Bob Stefanowski – AQ and NRA Endorsed Edward Lamont – F
Lt. Governor	Susan Hatfield – ? William Tong – F
Secretary of State	Susan Chapman ? Denise Merrill – F
Treasurer	Thaddeus Gray – AQ Shawn Wooden – F
US Senate	Matthew Corey – AQ Chris Murphy – F
US House (5 th)	Manny Santos – AQ Jahana Hayes – F
Governor (NY)	Marcus Molinaro – A and NRA Endorsed Andrew Cuomo – F

Normally I am not a one-issue voter. I look at the overall record of the candidates on various issues and decide. I am not a registered Democrat or Republican. I evaluate each person and decide. I have crossed party lines many times.

I am not telling anyone how to vote. I am asking you to think about the issues that are most important to you. Gun violence is too important to me and has become the overriding issue in this election.

Thank you,
Paul

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.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Thanksgiving Meals for Families in Need

As we have done for many years, CBI will once again be providing Thanksgiving meals for families in need in the Danbury area. 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 BELOW. All items must be at the synagogue by **Sunday, November 18TH between 9:00 and Noon.**

Email the office (cbi193clap@gmail.com) with what and how many items you will be bringing. You can start bringing items to the synagogue and leave them in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M., Tuesdays 10:00 to noon and 4:00 – 6:00 P.M., Sundays from 9:00 – Noon..

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

**Root vegetables, fresh fruits and pies that will keep for several days are also appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Monday
November 19th from 7:00-8:00 PM



ARC's 27th Annual **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

Theme:

“Imagining Civility!”

Music

**Jazz Band, Danbury Music Center
Chamber Singers, Connecticut Choral Society**

Sermon

“Can We Talk?”

Rev. John Selders
Pastor, Amistad America & Director Moral Mondays

Please bring
canned goods
for “Comida”
(ARC's Food
Pantry)

Mon/November **19** 7:00pm – 8:00
Danbury United Methodist Church
(5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury)

This month at CBI's Hebrew School...

Our month of November began with an exploration of the relationship between the moon and the Jewish calendar and Shabbat. We continue with our Hebrew Through Movement program: the Kisa'ot Yivriot (Hebrew chairs) with simple commands (jump, skip, march, twirl) and more complex ones (jump like a frog, jump on one foot and twirl). The biggest add-on is "Od me'at" in which the Shabbat table is put together as a communal effort.

Our Shabbat unit is going at full speed. We are reinforcing the idea that the two candles are a symbol of the two different descriptions of Shabbat in the two versions of the Ten Commandments: remember and guard. The students came home with wooden candlesticks that they put together and decorated, and those who requested received candles to light on Friday night. During this process we also learned the story of the two angels of Shabbat. Those in the advanced Hebrew class learned it using the Hebrew text found in the Talmud, slightly facilitated.

From candles and candlesticks we are moving on to challah and the challah cover, learning the blessings and the reasons behind the two loaves and the action of "taking the challah".

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger
David Levine



NEW words for Hebrew Through Movement:

Magen David

Lehatzbiah

Challah (Challot)

Mapah (Mapot)

Ner (Nerot)

Shulchan

Kos Kiddush

Birchon (Birchonim)

Shemesh

Yareach

Kochav (Kochavim)

Likfotz

Litz'od

Yom

Laila

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 2 Kislev, November 10, Toledot:** The wrestling twins Jacob and Esau are born.

Haftarah Mal. 1:1-2:7

☆ **Shabbat, 9 Kislev, November 17, Vayetze:**

Jacob leaves home to make his own life.

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

☆ **Shabbat, 16 Kislev, November 24, Vayishlah:**

Jacob reunites with his brother Esau.

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

☆ **Shabbat, 23 Kislev, December 1, Vayeshev:**

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

☆ **Shabbat, 30 Kislev, December 8, Miketz:**

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

☆ **Shabbat, 7 Tevet, December 15, Vayigash:**

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and reunites with his father. *Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28*

CANDLE LIGHTING

November 9, 2018: 4:24 PM

November 16, 2018: 4:18 PM

November 23, 2018: 4:14 PM

November 30, 2018: 4:11 PM

December 7, 2018: 4:10 PM

December 14, 2018: 4:11 PM

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ David Maser in memory of his father Rubin Maser

☆ Melanie, Evan and Barbara Frenkel in memory of Michael (husband, father, father-in-law)

☆ Julie Leventon

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆ The Wise family in memory of Douglas Wise

For the General Fund

☆ The Wise family in honor of Paul Tritter

☆ Daniel Block in honor of Jessica Block

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in memory of Arlene Markind

☆ Norman and Jo Stern in memory of Doug Wise

For the CBI Shiva Fund

☆ The Wise family with deep appreciation

YAHARZEITS

10 Kislev, November 18, 2018

Golde Rochma Kerstein (Michael Kerstein)

12 Kislev, November 20, 2018

Gloria Mark (Paula Cook)

13 Kislev, November 21, 2018

Barbara Salm (Joyce Shenker)

16 Kislev, November 24, 2018

Max Klein (Christine Gambino)

17 Kislev, November 25, 2018

Joseph Kaufman (Heather K. Mazarakos)

18 Kislev, November 26, 2018

Shlomo Boms (Abe Boms)

21 Kislev, November 29, 201

Robert Reynolds (Joyce and Martin Shenker)

28 Kislev, December 6, 2018

Pearl Wexler Bass (Gail Boms)

3 Tevet, December 11, 2018

Pearl Winkelstein (Susan Tritter)

6 Tevet, December 14, 2018

Simon Markind (Sam Markind)

IN THE COMMUNITY



invites you to attend:

Gender Imbalances and Surprises in American Jewish Life



Presented by Dr. Silvia Barack Fishman

Prolific author, Jewish Academic Emerita Brandeis University
and honored Jewish Scholar

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 6:00-8:00 PM

**Harry & Jeanette Weinberg
Community Function Hall**

444 Main Street North, Southbury, CT 06488

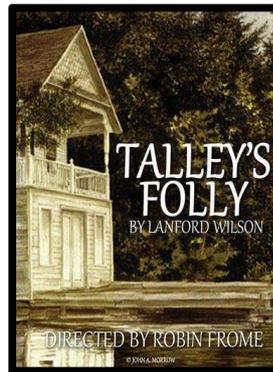
Signature drink & appetizers. Couvert: \$18

Over the past 50 years, there has been a transformation for
American Jewish women throughout all aspects of their lives.

We will be discussing what changed, how it effects Jewish
women and men, and what it means for the American Jewish
Community now and in the future.

EVENT CHAIR: Marian Dar

Reserve your spot by November 1, 2018
by calling 203-267-3177, x340.



The JCC in Sherman
860-355-8050
P.O. Box 282
9 Route 39 South,
Sherman, CT 06784
info@jccinsherman.org

JCC Fall Dinner Theater

Saturday, November 10th at 6:00 PM
Tickets are \$40 per person and include a 3-
course meal.

Starring Stacy-Lee Frome and Michael Wright.
Talley's Folly is the story of one night in the lives
of two unlikely sweethearts, Matt Friedman and
Sally Talley. The one-act play takes place in a
dilapidated boathouse on the Talley farm in
Missouri. It is the Fourth of July in 1944.

Please buy your tickets online by Wednesday
November 7th as we need to plan for food. We
also cannot guarantee that we will have enough
spots for walk-ins.

Kristallnacht Memorial Service with Holocaust Survivor & Sherman Resident Susi Leiter Friday, November 9th 6:30PM at Temple Sholom in New Milford

Susi Leiter, long time Sherman resident and JCC in Sherman member will be speaking at Temple Sholom in New Milford Friday, November 9th on her memories as a child in Berlin in 1938. Experience through her words the beginning of the Holocaust as the Nazis smashed, looted, and burned Jewish Shops and Temples. This horrendous coordinated event across Europe is known as Kristallnacht and this November marks the 80th anniversary. Please join us as Susi shares her memories as a 12 year-old child and how they have helped shape her into the strong woman she is today. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP if you plan on attending by calling 860-354-0273 or email at admin@tsholom.org. Temple Sholom is located at 122 Kent Road, New Milford, CT 06776.