

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

March 2019

Adar II 5779

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

There are a few *midrashim*¹ about the Hebrew letters that form the words “truth” and “lie” in that language.

For starters, here are two pictures:

Truth, *EMET*, is written alef – mem – tav.

אמת

Lie, *SHEKER*, is written shin – kuf – resh.

שקר

Truth, *EMET*², is made up of three letters that are spread equally through the Hebrew alphabet: alef is the first, mem the middle and tav, the last letter. This teaches us that truth has a beginning, a middle and an end. The letters are in the correct order of appearance in the alphabet. Moreover, all the three letters have two “legs”: all of them have two contact points with the line. This shows that it is hard to topple over truth, truth stands on its own. But it is hard to find: one needs to run through the whole alphabet.

The word *SHEKER*, or lie, is almost the complete opposite. All the letters come from the end of the alphabet, which ends with “kuf, resh, shin.” So, when telling a lie, the person is only preoccupied with the end result. And looking at the order, we notice that the order of the alphabet is wrong. And all the letters sit on the line standing on only one “leg,” meaning with only one point of contact. This shows that it is easy to topple a lie. And it is easy to find: you only need the end of the alphabet.

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Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

¹ Shabbat 104a, Otzar Midrashim Mei Hashiloach 1

² In Yiddish it is pronounced “emes,” and used with emphasis in “the *emesdickeh* truth.”

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www.danburyshul.org

These *midrashim* were running through my mind as I was watching a certain lawyer give a deposition in Congress. I have no idea if he knows these *midrashim*. But I was also taken by his willingness to go through such a public hearing, and admit his errors, and affirm his shame for his past actions. "I am ashamed of my actions," he said a few times.

And as if it were a scene from the Twilight Zone, he was called "liar" over and over again, and actually admitted that he had lied over and over again. In an interesting reversal, he did affirm that truth.

Incidentally, another *midrash*³ reminds us that "truth" is one of the names of the Holy One of Blessing – as well as God's throne and God's pathways. And I'd say that just as it is hard sometimes to feel the presence of the Holy One, sometimes it is also hard to find truth. But we have to keep trying.

It is my hope that we will remember that truth exists, even when hidden and elusive, and that we must strive to find it.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS

Rabbi Altenburger invites you to meet with her and will be available any day except Thursday and Shabbat. Please feel free to call or stop by.

³ Alpha Beta deRabi Akiva, 1

MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

[Read this after the seder's Four Questions]



Why is this time of life different from all other times of life?

Hunger among Americans 60 and older is a growing crisis. One in seven seniors lives in poverty, and 4.9 million seniors struggle with hunger.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a lifeline for seniors, but many older Americans are not receiving this vital assistance. Three out of five seniors who are eligible for SNAP do not participate, meaning millions of seniors are missing out due to shame, stigma, and difficulty accessing services.

Why is it so hard to be older in America? Why are so many seniors aging into poverty?

Why is it that when we talk about aging in America, we never talk about hunger? Why is this time of life different from all other times of life?

On this night, we honor our elders, our ancestors, and those who came before us. On all other nights, how is it that we allow seniors to go hungry? How can we fail to respond when our elders are suffering?

Tonight, we ask how we can change the reality for the 4.9 million seniors who are struggling with hunger.



YOU CAN HELP HUNGRY SENIORS

Barbara, a senior from New York City, said "No way did I ever think I'd be in this position. I did everything right in my life." Too many seniors like Barbara are aging into poverty, isolation, and hunger.

You can help by talking about this issue at your Seder table, and by reaching out to the seniors in your life. And, through MAZON, you can take action by advocating to protect and strengthen critical nutrition assistance programs like SNAP and supporting legislation like the Older Americans Act, which will be reauthorized in 2019. To learn more, visit mazon.org/seniors.

Together, we can transform how it is, into how it should be.

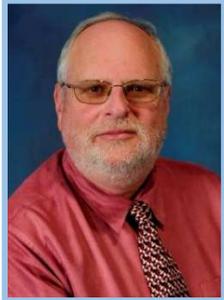
MAZON | A Jewish Response To Hunger | 10850 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90024 | (800) 813-0557 | mazon.org

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

What is leadership?

What qualities define Great Leadership?

According to MindTools.com, "Leaders help themselves and others to do the right thing.

They set direction, build an inspiring vision, and create something new."

An article in Forbes.com listed eight of the most essential qualities that make a great leader.

- Sincere enthusiasm
- Integrity
- Great communication skills
- Loyalty
- Decisiveness
- Managerial competence
- Empowerment, and
- Charisma

Think about current and past leaders; who do you believe possessed the best qualities to lead? Did that person show all eight qualities or fewer? Is it necessary to have all eight all the time? I believe it is not.

Leadership style must adjust to the situation and to those being led. Paul Hersey and Ken Blanchard developed their model of Situation Leadership in 1970. Their theory, in my words, indicated that the leader, those being led and the situation interact and require the leader to adapt. One style is not enough; the leader must be flexible and adjust as warranted.

As we finish reading the Book of Exodus, I believe Hershey and Blanchard might have had Moses in mind when they developed their model. Moses was faced with a mix of followers, sometimes willing and sometimes not. He was a follower when speaking to G-d who also, I believe, changed style as situations developed; think parting of the Red Sea and think of the Golden Calf. Two very different scenarios.

I believe that each of us has the ability to be a good leader. I believe that each of us has at least four of the qualities listed above and therefore can lead. To those eight qualities I add a ninth -- a good leader must be a good follower. A leader must understand when to step back and let others take the gauntlet and lead. A leader must understand and trust. A leader must be ready to aid and assist when called upon.

So why am I bringing this up now? Soon the nominating committee will reach out to the membership to join the Board. It is not a major commitment in time; and unlike many not-for-profit boards we do not ask for monetary donations, just your time. After serving on the Board for almost 10 years, I can tell you it is actually FUN. Since I know some of you want to help but just aren't sure where you fit in, just ask. We together will evaluate your skills and interests and find the perfect area in which you can excel.

On a different note, I have written many times about our education program, both our Hebrew school and adult education programs. In February our children led Shabbat services. While not a parent myself, I could not have been more proud of the quality and knowledge these students possess. Soon they will be showing their talents by presenting our annual Purim play.

Our adult education program just began a new series of classes on Bio-Ethics. The first class focused on the issue of life support and when is it proper to remove it when patients have not let their feelings be known through a Living Will or DNR. After reviewing two contemporary cases, the Rabbi led the class in a discussion of Jewish thought through the writing of our sages which fostered powerful discussion among the class participants.

Congregation B'nai Israel is multifaceted and multi-dimensional. Yes, we offer Shabbat and Festival services; but there is so much more.

Take advantage. If there is anything that I or CBI can do for you, please let me know.

Thank you.
Paul

MARCH EVENTS

MARCH 20TH AT 6:30 P.M. JOIN US FOR
CBI'S PURIM PARTY



CBI'S PURIM PARTY



When: March 20th at 6:30 PM

Dinner: Pizza Bagels & salad

followed by our

Hebrew School students'

1980's Purim Shpiel!

and the Megillah reading



**Come in costume and drown
out the name of Haman!**



Haman





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.

OUR PURIM GOODY BAGS ARE PREPARED AND DECORATED BY OUR HEBREW SCHOOL STUDENTS!

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 **March 18, 2019** 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.

Please choose one or more of these 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. If you want us to **send** a package to a non-member, please fill out the name, address, and zip code for each recipient on a separate piece of paper. The cost is **\$18.00 per household. (\$10.00 per package plus \$8.00 postage for each.)**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Gluten Free Hamantaschen, sugar free/nut free for those with gluten free, diabetic/nut dietary needs. PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP IF YOU WOULD LIKE THESE OPTIONS!

IMPORTANT!

Please indicate your preference for receiving your Purim Goody package(s). Choices are listed below.

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.)

We look forward to providing you with delightful treats for Purim! As always, **THANK YOU** for participating in our annual *Mishloach Manot* fundraiser.

IN THE COMMUNITY

THE JCC IN SHERMAN
P.O. BOX 282, 9 ROUTE 39 SOUTH,
SHERMAN, CT 06784
 860-355-8050
info@jccinsherman.org

The Danbury Brass Band Comes to Play at the JCC in Sherman! **Saturday, March 16th at 8:00PM**

The JCC in Sherman is proud to present the Danbury Brass Band! The local band is coming to perform at the JCCS on Saturday March 16th at 8PM.

The Danbury Brass Band is in its 36th year. The Band has performed many times at the New York City Brass Conference, at the North American Brass Band Association in the Atlantic City in the New Jersey area, at West Point, Norwalk, New Britain, New York State and Massachusetts. They have also traveled to Bermuda four times, Australia twice, Ireland and New Zealand. The Danbury Brass Band is represented on YouTube with live-performance videos. For the past twenty years the Danbury Brass Band has taken to playing its own special repertoire almost exclusively. That is to say music written and/or arranged expressly for the band. To date, there are over 600 of these pieces in their library and there are always more on the way. Danbury Brass Band members include Alan Raph, Anthony Nunes, Jed Orosz, Ivan Hunter, Joseph Stamboni, Martin Goldbaum, Aaron Plude, Nancy Sudik, Reed Corbo, John Beers, Michael Fitzgerald, David Booth, Ernie Adams, Margaret Fitzgerald, Robert Scillitoe and Scott King.

Tickets for this event are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Pre-paid registration required by Thursday, March 14th. Please reserve online at jccinsherman.org or call/email us at 860.355.8050 or info@jccinsherman.org. If there is snow, the show will be postponed to the following Saturday, March 23rd at 8PM.

CAMP RAMAH IN NEW ENGLAND PRESENTS
VIRTUAL PARLOR MEETING

HEAR ABOUT THE MAGIC OF CAMP RAMAH, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND DISCUSS OUR PROGRAM WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JOSH EDELGLASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH @7PM
 RSVP: JOSHE@CAMPRAMAHNE.ORG

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Join us for a **RAMAH-STYLE SHABBAT!** which will include singing, interactive learning, and a variety of innovative, engaging t'filah experiences!

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For more information, contact
Simon Luxemburg at:
SimonL@camprahamne.org.



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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 2 Adar II, March 9, Pekudei:** The *Mishkan* is completed and assembled to close the Book of Exodus. *Haftarah:* 1 Kings 7:51-8:21

☆ **Shabbat, 9 Adar II, March 16, Vayikra:** We begin the third book of the Torah which deals with the sacrificial rites of the Priesthood (the Kohanim). *Haftarah:* I Sam. 15:2-34

☆ **Shabbat, 16 Adar II, March 23, Tsav:** The sons of Aaron prepare for the dedication of the sanctuary. *Haftarah:* Jer. 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23

☆ **Shabbat, 23 Adar II, March 30, Shemini:** The dedication of the sanctuary and the death of Aaron's sons. *Haftarah:* Ezek. 36:16-38

☆ **Shabbat, 1 Nisan, April 6, Tazria:** The laws of ritual purity. *Haftarah:* Ezek. 45:16-46:18

☆ **Shabbat, 8 Nisan, April 13, Metsora:** Continuation of laws of ritual purity. *Haftarah:* Mal. 3:4-24, 23

CANDLE LIGHTING

March 8, 2019	5:37 PM
March 15, 2019	6:44 PM
March 22, 2019	6:52 PM
March 29, 2019	6:59 PM
April 5, 2019	7:07 PM
April 12, 2019	7:14 PM

Yahrzeits

10 Adar II, March 17, 2019

Edythe Kiner (Nada Adler)

26 Adar II, April 2, 2019

Betje Smeer (Dina Essinger)

4 Nisan, April 9, 2019

Pearl Silverstein (Roslyn Friedman)

5 Nisan, April 10, 2019

Max Kruzansky (Dina Markind)

Sylvia Simon (Paul Simon)

7 Nisan, April 12, 2019

Nathan Smeer (Dina Essinger)

9 Nisan, April 14, 2019

Phyllis Kaplan (Barry Kaplan)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆ Susan and Henry Tritter

☆ Nada Adler in honor of Susan Tritter's 70th birthday

For the General Fund

☆ Patricia Weiner in memory of her mother Beatrice

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ Dina Markind in memory of her mother Sara Kruzansky

☆ Susan Tritter, Sharilyn Kochman, Rachel Koldewyn in honor of guest speaker Sara Eifler and her discussion of Judaism and Animals

☆ Gesya and Eliezer Rabinovich in memory of their parents

☆ David Maser in memory of his mother Helen Maser (Chudya bat Kalman v Rifka)