

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

September 2019

Elul/Tishrei 5780

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

Baruch Dayan HaEmet –
Blessed be the true Judge.
Naflah Ateret Rosheinu – the
diadem of our heads has
fallen.

It is with sadness and deep
sense of loss that the
Conservative Movement mourns the passing of
Rabbi Professor Reuven Hammer, z”l, whose
name you probably know as connected to the Sim
Shalom prayer book.

His greatest piece of writing, however, is the
commentary he published to the Sim Shalom
prayer book, Or Hadash. Or Hadash is fabulous in
many ways, one of which is to give a different
commentary to the same prayer, even as the
prayer or psalm appears multiple times.



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Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

As someone who learned from him in the year we
lived in Jerusalem, I want to share that Rabbi
Hammer was a delightful person, soft spoken yet
firm, whose quest to bring a spiritual connection to
our prayer experience as Jews continues in us.
One of his memorable teachings was: “We need to
know when to study Hebrew prayers and when to
pray. Prayer time is not a Hebrew lesson. Prayer
time is a time for connection.”

As we approach the High Holidays, a time when we
will be in prayer-mode, those are important words
to remember and quite literally take to heart.

May his memory bring us blessings. Below is an excerpt of a Jerusalem Post article. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Beacon-of-Masorti-Judaism-Rabbi-Reuven-Hammer-dies-at-86-598409>

“... Rabbi Reuven Hammer was a major leader of the Masorti Movement for over 40 years. He will be sorely missed by all who care about Jewish pluralism in the State of Israel,” said Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institutes and longtime colleague and friend of Hammer’s. “He was a pioneer in the training of Masorti rabbis, in non-Orthodox conversions, and in many other areas related to the growth of the Masorti Movement in Israel.”

A native of Syracuse, New York, Hammer received his rabbinic ordination and doctorate in theology from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a PhD from the School of Speech of Northwestern University.

After making *aliyah* from the US with his wife Rahel in the 1970s, Hammer was one of the founders of Kehilat Moreshet Avraham in Jerusalem’s East Talpiot neighborhood, considered the flagship synagogue of the Masorti Movement.

He and his wife also raised five children together during this time.

From October 2005 to July 2007, Hammer was the interim rabbi at the New London Synagogue in Loding, Britain.

His Torah scholarship stressed faith over knowledge, stating, “It is belief and not reason that will determine what one thinks.”

Following the announcement of Hammer’s death, students and friends took to social media to eulogize him.

His son, Dov Hammer, wrote in a statement on Facebook, “Friends, I am very sad to announce that my dear father, Rabbi Professor Reuven Hammer has passed away. He lived a long, healthy and happy life, was a great teacher, a wonderful family man and an inspiration to many people. May his memory be a blessing.”

The Masorti Movement in Israel eulogized Hammer in a short statement, referring to him as a

“learned torah scholar. A man of spirit and book. The founding director of the Beit Midrash for Jewish Studies – Schechter Institute. Established the bar/bat mitzvah ceremonies program for children with special needs. Israel’s first president of the Rabbinical Assembly and builder of the world Masorti Movement in Israel.”

“We bow our heads with the Hammer family and Kehilat Moreshet Avraham in Jerusalem,” the movement added.

Richard S. Moline, a student of the renowned rabbi, wrote in a Facebook post that Hammer was his synagogue’s rabbi “during my high school years, Rabbi Hammer was a major influence in my life, and the many other teens at Beth Hillel.”

“Every Shabbat afternoon for years, he had a group of five or six of us over to his home to study Talmud (It was my first serious exposure to Talmud study),” Moline wrote. “On the second day of Yom Tov, he opened his home for lunch to the teenagers in the congregation where we socialized, played games and studied. It was also a clever way of keeping us home from school.”

Moline said that Hammer had “never turned down a request to do something with USY [United Synagogue Youth]...” and spent several weeks at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin where he served as a teacher and mentor to campers and staff.

He pointed out that even after Hammer and his family made *aliyah*, “he maintained relationships with those whose lives he impacted so forcefully.”

A close friend and student of Hammer’s, Charlie Kalech, took to Facebook to share the impact the Masorti leader had on him.

“Besides being a *gadol hador* [Torah giant of the generation], Reuven was a leader in combining human compassion with *halacha*,” he said. “He and his family were my adopted family when I was in Israel for a semester in high school.”

“The warmth with which he and Rahel, his wife, opened their home to me will never be forgotten,” Kalech added.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It's me again, speaking to you again. It's our time to chat. Since I gave the secret code last month to let me know if you read my article, I will reveal later how many gave me that code!

First, a few things to talk about.

Very recently I attended a funeral for the wife of a World War II Veteran. I was introduced to an almost forgotten word, RESPECT! The wife was buried in a military cemetery alongside her husband. As we drove into the cemetery, lawn workers were cutting the grass, some riding mowers, and some working with tools on the ground. When the funeral procession entered the cemetery, all the workers stopped what they were doing, stood still, and placed their right hand over their heart. I was moved to tears. RESPECT PERSONIFIED!

Speaking of RESPECT, THAT BRINGS TO MIND KENNIS. KENNIS KOLDWEYN! I would call him the MENSCHIEST OF MENSCHES! The Best of the Best! Kennis is the ultimate role model. He is everything you would want in a best friend, a leader, or a neighbor. He is the definition of thoughtfulness, kindness, consideration, and caring. He is a great listener, making you feel as if you are the most important person in the world. Kennis can seemingly speak about any subject and is a veritable encyclopedia of knowledge. But he shows interest in what you would like to talk about, showing his care for you.

His example is unmatched. If he knows something needs to be done, he does it; *Haftorah*, leading a service, leading High Holy Day Services, attending a *shiva* service, cleaning up after *Kiddush*, returning phone calls, offering a ride, in short anything to be a help!

He shows how one person can do so much for so many. He "asks not, what can I do for my synagogue, rather what can I do for my synagogue." And you can substitute "what can I do for my community, or what can I do to help you?"

Kennis represents what is good in this world and exemplifies how to make it good. We wish you well and will miss you here at B'nai Israel.

On to another subject. Our second schmooze and booze night was a time of friendship and fellowship. Many of us shared personal stories and we continue to learn more about each other, and deepen friendships.

Our next Schmooze and Booze will feature our own Joel Levitt who will talk about families, genealogy, and the book he authored. It will be on September 10, from 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Don't miss it!

Speaking of events not to miss, coming soon, OUR FIRST LINE DANCE! Fun for all ages! Invite friends, family, and neighbors if you wish. (They don't have to be Jewish or from our synagogue.) This is for seniors, soon to be seniors, not so "seniorish", teenagers, and school-aged children also. MAKE THIS A SPECIAL EVENT BY BEING THERE!

O.K., DRUMROLL PUH LEEZE! I had six people give me last month's codeword, "peanuts."

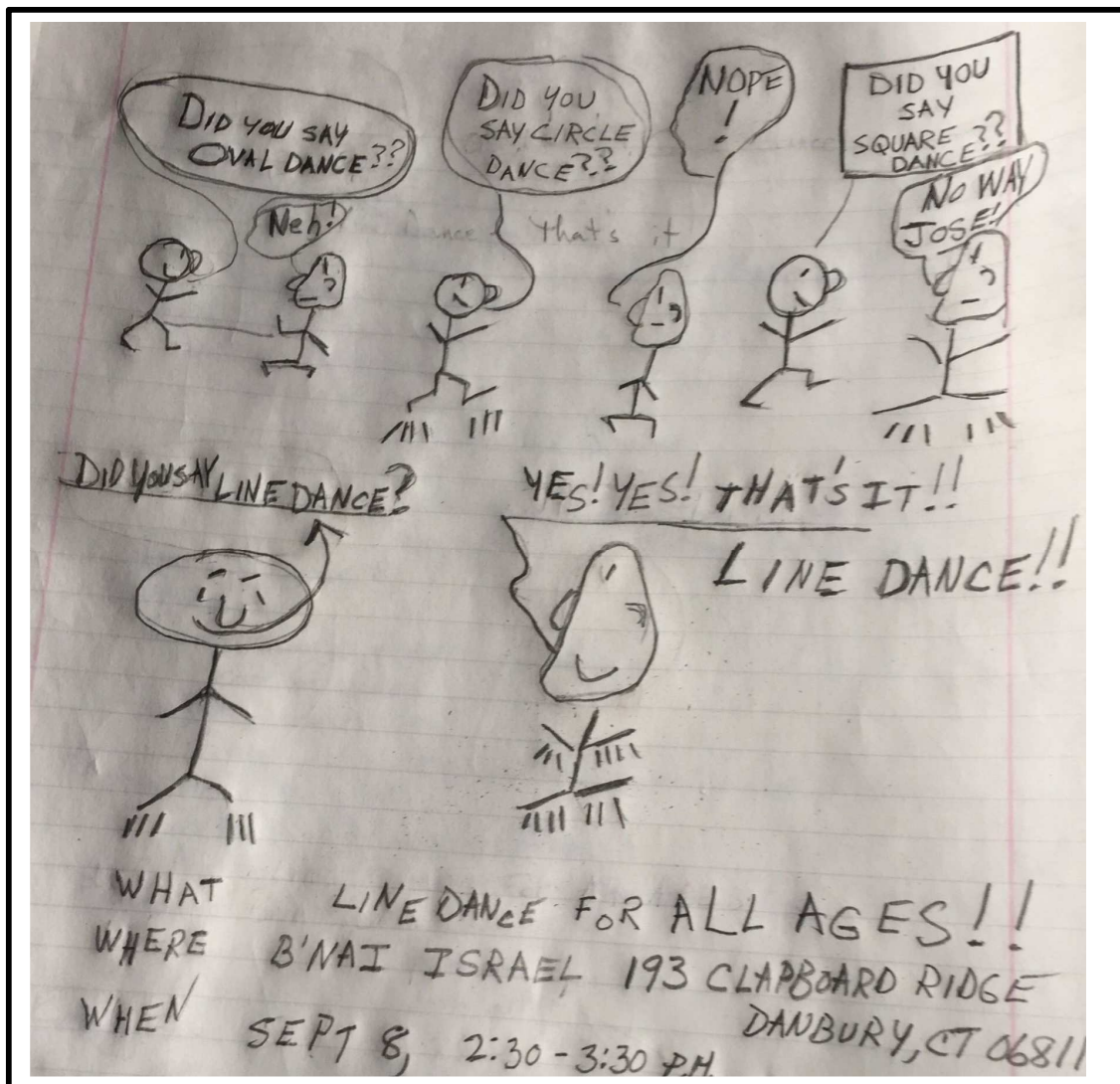
This month if you read this, tell me the code word "balloon" and I will let you know next time how that goes.

TILL NEXT TIME!
Glen Lebetkin

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, September 8th from 2:30 – 3:30 P.M.
CBI's First Line Dance Event!

Join us Sunday for an afternoon of line dancing and fun!



Dear Friends,

The High Holidays are fast approaching, and we need our wonderful volunteers to help handle the food prep/set up and clean up for "Break the Fast."

Please contact Sarah Namer either on her cell phone 203-470-7023 or her home phone 203-744-5284 and let her know that you can help. The more the merrier!

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2019



ROSH HASHANAH 5780

Sunday, September 29

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Candle lighting: 6:22 PM

Evening services begin at 7:00 PM

Monday, September 30

Morning Services begin at 8:30

**Babysitting available from
9:30 AM onward**

Children services begin at 10:30 AM

Storah time at 11:00 AM

Shofar sounding around 11:30 AM

Tashlich at 5:00 PM

Candle lighting after 7:19 PM

Tuesday, October 1st

Morning Services begin at 8:30 AM

**Babysitting available from
9:30 AM onwards**

Children services begin at 10:30 AM

Storah time at 11:00 AM

Shofar sounding around 11:30 AM

Havdalah after 7:17 PM

October 5th, Shabbat Shuva

Morning Services begin at 9:30 AM

Havdalah 7:10 PM

YOM KIPPUR



Tuesday, October 8th

Kol Nidrei Services begin at 5:45 PM

Candle lighting and fast begins - 6:07 PM

Wednesday, October 9th

Yom Kippur services begin at 8:30 AM

**Babysitting available from
9:30 AM onwards**

Children services begin at 10:30 AM

Yizkor at around 11:00 AM

Storah time at 11:30 AM

Study Session begins at 4:00 PM

Mincha and *Neilah* services begin
at 4:40 PM ~ *Shofar* 7:04 PM



SUKKOT

Sunday, October 13th

Candle lighting – 5:58 PM

Monday, October 14th

Sukkot Day 1 services begin at 9:30 AM

Candle lighting after 6:56 PM

Tuesday, October 15th

Sukkot Day 2 services begin at 9:30 AM

SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHAT TORAH



Sunday, October 20th

Candle lighting 6:46 PM

Monday, October 21st

Shemini Atzeret services begin at 9:30 AM

Yizkor at around 11:00 AM

Candle lighting for *Simchat Torah*
after 6:46 PM

Simchat Torah evening services begin
at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, October 22nd

Simchat Torah services begin at 9:30 AM

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

Food Drive at Stop & Shop

We would like to thank everyone who joined us at Stop & Shop on Sunday, July 28th to solicit grocery contributions for Danbury's Daily Food Pantry and the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. It was a HUGE success. Our "haul" came to **1500 POUNDS OF GROCERIES AND TOILETRIES AND \$300 IN CASH**. The generosity of our neighbors in the Greater Danbury community was overwhelming.

Photos courtesy of Nadja Raver



CBI SAFETY COMMITTEE

CBI Forms the Safety Committee

By Peter Hirsch, Committee Chair

Your safety is Congregation B'nai Israel's greatest concern, and so, toward the end of 2018, the CBI Board formed the Safety Committee. This was in reaction to growing news of violence against soft targets around the world, including religious organizations and people with a common belief. The Committee consists of members who have a passion for helping the CBI community, and many of us had prior experience with safety training. Thank you to the members of the Safety Committee for being there to help push this initiative forward.

Our Committee's directive was to evaluate current safety deterrents and assess improvement opportunities. We were mindful all the time of balancing security with the open, caring and friendly community that defines our synagogue.

In assessing the risk of violence, we considered Danbury's diverse culture and recent incidents of hate groups and people committing hate crimes. Happily, there have been few incidents in the city; however, those groups apparently "feel a lot more confident that now is the time to act¹." There were incidents of swastikas found on Northern Fairfield homes (including in Danbury), white supremacist flyers in Wilton and Norwalk, and more recently, the shooting of a white supremacist that attacked Danbury Police with a knife.

In its inaugural year, the Safety Committee met first with local law enforcement and conducted a walk-through of the facility, obtaining recommendations on increasing security around the building. Having a greeter on Shabbat, a CBI tradition, was highlighted as a positive deterrent to violent people entering the building during services. Then we met with a local religious group of similar size as CBI and examined their security procedures. Armed with this knowledge we developed an Emergency Operating Procedure (EOP) and Security Improvement Recommendation Plan. The EOP was approved this spring by the CBI Board.

¹ Friedland, Andy, Associate Director of the Anti-Defamation League; Danbury Shooting Put Spotlight on Intolerance, White Supremacy", Danbury NewsTimes, January 17, 2019

Out of concern for the children, the Committee moved to enhance security protocol for the Hebrew School by establishing a secured front door policy that, similar to the Danbury Board of Education policy, requires looked doors when school is in session, prior notice when parents need to access the school after doors are looked, and lock-down procedures in case of an active intruder situation.

Recognizing the best plans are only as good as the people performing them when a situation happens. (How many people know "Stop, Drop and Roll" while thankfully never having to use it?) The Committee is planning how best to conduct situational training. We could really use your help in this next crucial phase. Planning how best to train our congregants and participating in training programs will help ensure the safety of our community. If interested in learning more or to forward suggestions on this and future safety initiatives, please contact me at peter_hirsch@ymail.com.

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.

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 7 Elul, September 7, *Shoftim*:** Moshe instructs us to set up just courts to rule our society. "Justice justice shall you pursue."

Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12

☆ **Shabbat, 14 Elul, September 14 *Ki Tetze*:** An array of civil and domestic laws for the Israelites to follow upon coming into their land.

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10 +54:11-55:5

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

☆ **Shabbat, 28 Elul, September 28, *Nitzavim*:** Choose life! How do we do that?

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

☆ **Shabbat, 6 Tishrei, October 5, *Vayelekh*:** Moshe prepares himself and the people for his death. *Haftarah* Hosea 14:2-10, (Micah 7:18-20)

☆ **Shabbat, 13 Tishrei, October 12, *Ha'azinu*:** Come and listen to one of the most beautiful poems in all *Tanakh* (Bible). *Haftarah:* 2 Sam. 22:1-51

CANDLE LIGHTING

Sept. 6, 2019:	7:01 PM
Sept. 13, 2019:	6:50 PM
Sept. 20, 2019:	6:38 PM
Sept. 27, 2019:	6:26 PM
Sept. 29, 2019: <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	6:22 PM
Sept. 30, 2019: Candle lighting after	7:19 PM
Oct. 8, 2019: <i>Erev Yom Kippur</i>	6:07 PM

YAHARZEITS

1 Tishrei, September 30, 2019

Howard Sanford (Lois Stein)

2 Tishrei, October 1, 2019

Yadvega Rabinowitz (Rochelle Hutchings)

9 Tishrei, October 8, 2019

Gloria Shenker (Joyce and Martin Shenker)

10 Tishrei, October 9, 2019

Edythe Nackman (Joyce Shenker)

Carole Stein (Michael Stein)

14 Tishrei, October 13, 2019

Edward Hutchings (Rochelle Hutchings)

Douglas Wise (Marian Wise)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

☆ Bonnie and Robert Chernikoff in memory of Pam Lampell

☆ Susan and Henry Tritter *mazel tov* to Glen and Harriet on the birth of their grandson

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

☆ Joyce and Martin Shenker *refuah shlema* to Alvin Goldman

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in memory of Mary Ohring's father

For Their Generous Kiddush

☆ Donna Goodstein

☆ Fran and Jeff Kass in honor of Fran's birthday

☆ Joyce and Martin Shenker

☆ Harriett and Glen Lebetkin in honor of the birth of their grandson and in honor of Alvin Goldman's 96th birthday

☆ Fran and Jeff Kass in honor of their 50th anniversary

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.