

# Kayruv



# קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

July 2020

Tammuz/Av 5780

## FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

It was a beautiful day when a rabbi and a soap maker decided to go out for a stroll. They were both enjoying the warm weather when the soap maker abruptly turned to the rabbi and asked, “What good is religion? Religion teaches all these highfalutin morals and all these lofty values and ethics yet look at this world!” Without giving the rabbi a chance to respond, the soap maker continued his rant: “The world is corrupt. It’s filled with pain and evil and

wickedness. So I ask you, Rabbi, what good is religion?”

Before the rabbi could answer, out of nowhere a large rubber ball came flying through the air, headed right toward him. Fortunately, the rabbi had quick reflexes. He caught the ball before it smacked him in the face! The rabbi returned the ball to the apologetic young boy who had come after it. As the boy ran off to join his friends, the rabbi said, “Just look at that young child. He’s absolutely filthy! And you are a soap maker, so I ask you, what good is soap? There is all this soap in the world, and that young boy is still dirty!”

The soap maker protested. “How can you say that about soap? You’re a learned man, Rabbi, so surely you understand that soap is good only if it is used.”

“Aha,” said the rabbi, with a slight grin. “And so it is with religion. We can teach it, and people can say they’ve learned it, but until they’ve used it and truly understand the meaning of its lessons and the power of its teachings, then and only then, can religion make a positive difference in the world.”

Are you using your Judaism? We may be in a new normal with social distancing and Zoom services and the like but our Jewish values have no new normal. They remain the same. We must always

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**Kayruv means “Welcoming.”**



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strive for *Tikkun Olam*, making the world a better place, our personal world, our community world and our global world. How have you used your Judaism today? Please share with me and CBI your deeds and ideas of *Tikkun Olam* so we can take pride in what you have accomplished and/or help get an idea off the ground. We may have to think out of the box but the tools are all ready and waiting.

*B'Shalom,*  
 Rabbi Rhonda Nebel



## UPDATE FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee, with the assistance of Ken Golub who spearheaded the project, have accomplished the replacement of our cemetery fence which was irreparably damaged by an automobile accident. Ken is the son of one-time CBI president Abe Golub and his wife Bea. The old iron fence has been replaced with a masonry wall and the cemetery gate has been repaired and repainted.



## REPORT FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE

House Committee Chair Joe Namer and Paul M Simon have installed two Handicapped Parking signs in designated Handicapped Parking spots. As well as "Entrance" and "Exit" signs in the parking lot. The lobby restrooms are now gender neutral.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

This month I am sharing my look back at the past year as we start our second year together.

We got busy quickly. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Schmooze and Booze. Over 20 people gathered to share stories of the person who influenced their life the most. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Food Drive at Stop & Shop on Mill Plain Road. We stood outside the store and asked shoppers to contribute needed food items for both the Food Pantry and Dorothy Day, our local soup kitchen. We had a great response, collecting over 1500 pounds of food and \$300.00 in cash. In August, we had our second Schmooze and Booze, and also had a wonderful turnout. We shared more stories of how we met people who were very important to us. In September, we gathered on a Sunday afternoon and line danced the afternoon away. We even did Israeli dances!

We also had, in September, a wonderful Schmooze featuring our own Joel Levitt who introduced us to his book, and shared stories from his family's history! Before we knew it, the High Holidays were here. Who knew what changes would be blowing in the wind! I had to give my first *Kol Nidre* address to the Congregation. Maybe, if I run out of words, you will hear it again this year!

Do you remember the crater in our parking lot? Well, that got repaired last year.

In November we celebrated Veterans Day and our own CBI veterans were joined by guest veterans in sharing their stories. At another November Schmooze, we heard Dina and Sam Markind regale us with stories about their trip to a Jewish Community in Africa. Rabbi Altenburger started her adult education class about Jewish Ethics, War and Peace.

It was around this time CBI had to deal with our sick Samsung Printer. We had leased a printer for many years. The printer, which had a repair contract, broke but parts were no longer

available. The lease company was not able to lend us a machine. So, no machine, but we still had to pay monthly! I know, I know. Whoever said life is fair?! So, after much fuss, energy and discussion, we let the lease expire along with the machine, and purchased our own printer.

Our restrooms became unisex bathrooms this year, and a comfort height was added for those who would benefit from that!

Let's not forget our successful Super Bowl fundraiser in January. I don't remember who won, but CBI was a big winner!

This was followed by our Talent Show! Some of the participants were Isaac Ohring, Jay Kaplan, Shari Lynn Kochman, Barbara Kessler, Nadja Raver and Charlie Cahn. It was a lot of fun! At this time, we learned that Rabbi Altenburger was going forward in her adventure of life. We formed our Rabbi Search Committee.

In February we celebrated Shabbat Across America. Paul M Simon and Isabel Kaplan led this effort and it was a great reminder that Judaism and food seem to be closely linked! In April we celebrated Passover and sang the real *Dayenu!*

Everyone knows what happened in April! It was the visit of the COVID-19! Our planned Schmooze with a Holocaust survivor and former member of our synagogue, Mel Eisen, was put on hold. We did feel a need to keep in close contact during this pandemic, so we started our Daily Kayruv. Great thanks go out to our secretary Cheryl Vanak for helping to make this happen daily and so beautifully.

Also in April we were scheduled to have our all-weekend celebration dedicating our sanctuary at B'nai Israel in memory of Peter and Jean Ohring! We were going to have a Friday Food For Dudes, an event originally started by Peter, followed by services. Saturday was going to be a special day with services, a guest speaker, and again followed by a special luncheon. To top it off, Sunday was scheduled for a brunch, followed by guest speakers, and the dedication of The Jean Ohring and Peter Ohring sanctuary dedicated in memory of Peter and his mother. This is still on hold until we can celebrate together!

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our first Zoom *Bar Mitzvah* with Pierce Graber and family, and, on July 11<sup>th</sup> Hannah Mandell celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah*.

We are about to have a string of *B'nai Mitzvahs*. Alex and Daniel Mazarakos on July 25<sup>th</sup>, then on August 29<sup>th</sup>, David Hirsch, and we end our *B'nai Mitzvah* frenzy on October 31<sup>st</sup>, with Rachel Frenkel's celebration!

Now going forward, we are very busy keeping up with the latest news concerning COVID-19 and our High Holiday Situation!

I am delighted to tell you that our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Rhonda Nebel, joined our CBI family on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

I want to express my great thanks for each of you who has so generously given of self and pocketbook when it was possible. I have had the pleasure of getting to know you through phone calls, and will continue to call each member of our congregation.

Don't hesitate to call me at any time. I am pleased when you pick up the phone to share an idea you have.

Several years ago our B'nai Israel Cemetery Fence was attacked by an automotive machine on a snowy winter's afternoon. Kenneth Golub, whose father helped build our synagogue building and whose parents are buried in the cemetery, has lead renovations on the fence. We are replacing the metal fence with a stone masonry wall and two very lovely trees.

We will do our best to meet these challenges. Our new board, meeting in concert with our new rabbi, will work together to make our way through these challenges as we get to know and love each other.

Finally, we send each member of the Altenburger family great love, admiration, and thanks for sharing fourteen wonderful years with us.

It is my hope that the G-d blesses each of you and our wonderful country with health and happiness.

Until next month,  
Glen

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Hats off to Ronni and Tim Allen's daughter Emily who graduated from college with a Nursing degree and son Douglas who graduated last year from high school and just finished his first year at University of Rochester.



## JULY EVENTS

### July 25 Daniel And Alex Mazaraskas Celebrate becoming *B'nai Mitzvah*

Join us in wishing a hearty *Mazel Tov* to Heather and sons Daniel and Alex as they become CBI's newest *B'nai Mitzvah*.



## MEET DANIEL AND ALEX

Daniel has been having fun this year while learning from home. He stays in touch with his friends in group messengers like Discord. He loves video games, playing them and creating them. I asked if he would like to pursue game design as a career but Daniel says games are more of a fun hobby. Daniel wants to follow his love of science and become a quantum physicist. He's looking forward to getting through his *Bar Mitzvah* and graduating from Hebrew school.

Alex is an accomplished artist and enjoys painting and traditional art forms. His favorite artistic style is pop art and pop culture. Alex also enjoys many genres of music and would love to see Melanie Martinez live in concert.

When asked about his *Bar Mitzvah*, Alex says it's an important right of passage in the Jewish community and he wants to make his supporters proud of him. He's looking forward to reading the Torah portion he's worked so hard on. Staying home has not been as much fun for Alex but he's stayed in touch with his friends via text and has gotten to see Hannah. He's excited to see his friends from Keshet at his *Bar Mitzvah*.

Nadja Raver

## MEET OUR NEW RABBI

For those of you who have not yet had the chance to meet our new Rabbi, Rhonda Nebel, Glen has interviewed her to help us all get to know her better. The interview will appear in Kayruv in installments. Following is the first part of the interview.

**Glen.** If you want, you can ask yourself your own questions. However, I'm not saying you'll get paid more.

**Rabbi.** Ask away, this will be fun.

**Glen.** It will either be fun or funny. Either way, they're both related, as they have the same root, or something like that. Tell me where you were hatched, I mean born.

**Rabbi.** I was born in Massachusetts, in Brookline hospital. I lived in Mattapan until I was ten. Then moved to Stoughton, Massachusetts. I graduated and went on to Boston University. From there I took a year in between before starting graduate school. I went to the Jewish Theological Seminary where I went into the Masters program, and two years later the Rabbinical school was accepting women, which was my original intent. We got married in April 1982, and, in August moved to New York where I began JTS Graduate School in 1984.

**Glen:** So did you leave your heart in Massachusetts?

**Rabbi.** I am a diehard Red Sox fan, to the core. All the Boston sports teams. I'm not really a basketball fan, but baseball, that's really my heart and soul.

**Glen.** Do you think this might represent a little problem coming into Connecticut?

**Rabbi.** When I was in New London, I didn't have a problem, because I was closer to Massachusetts. Now we're closer to New York and I am a Mets fan, if that helps.

**Glen.** Are we talking about the opera Mets?

**Rabbi;** No, actually I don't like opera! But, don't tell anybody that!

**Glen.** If you hate opera, that is a missed operatunity!

**Glen:**Tell me a little bit about your parents.

**Rabbi.** My mom is first generation. My Zaydie brought my Bubbie from the old country, Russian shtetl. Their kids were born here.

**Glen.** Where were your parents born?

**Rabbi.** Both in the Boston area. In fact, everyone on my mom's side lived on the same street. They lived in a three-story tenement. In fact, my Zaydie owned one. Everyone was close and it's still a very close family. My mother is now going to be 89. She had two brothers and three sisters. All that she has

left is a sister, and she's the baby. Growing up, everyone lived within walking distance. I have lots of cousins, I have lots of aunts and uncles, and my mother's side is big. On my father's side, my grandfather was a famous boxer from around 1918-1919. He's in a Hall of Fame. His real name was Meir "Mike" Goodman but he boxed under the name of Charlie Parker. His big fight was against Charley Dundee. If you're into boxing these names ring a bell. That's my father's father.

**Glen.** Since he was into boxing does that mean everyone in your family has to wear boxer shorts?

**Rabbi.** (Groan) On my dad's side, his father was born here, but my Nana, my Papa's wife was born in Russia. My father is second generation. My father grew up in South Boston, a rough-and-tumble, guy growing up in a rough-and-tumble neighborhood. My mom and dad have been married 61 years, I am the oldest of three. I have a brother and a sister. We're all very close. My dad's going to be 90, and my mom's going to be 89. I go as often as I can to see them in Stoughton, MA. Now with this pandemic I haven't seen them since December. It's killing us not seeing them now.

**Glen.** What did your parents do?

**Rabbi.** He had his own business, Stanley Home Outfitters. It was the kind of business that people would buy from you and you would go collect "on the route". It was warehouse and catalog sales. Dad was also an auxiliary cop who trained police. My father had two younger brothers, one passed away. We are all really tight. This is the kind of family where every Sunday we were at one of the relatives. If a relative didn't live nearby we would take a trip to see them.

**Glen.** Was your mom a stay at home mom?

**Rabbi.** Until my sister, the youngest went into kindergarten. Then she worked for many years, until she retired. She was a bookkeeper at Blue Hills Country Club.

**Glen.** What were some of your earliest childhood memories?

**Rabbi.** My Jewish memories of Hebrew school. My mother started me at the same time as my brother. I was in fourth grade, he was in third grade, and we both ended up in the same class. It was called Beth Hillel. We went every day, Sunday through Thursday, after school. The only day off was Friday.

**Glen.** Was this instead of public school?

**Rabbi.** No, after public school we had two hours of Hebrew school every day and then two hours on Sunday and Jr. Congregation every Saturday. I loved it. On my first day I learned two words *Eema*

and *Abba*, (Hebrew for mother and father) and came home saying those words! I used to go to synagogue with my grandparents. My Zaydie (mom's dad) lived with us when we moved to Stoughton. He would go on Saturdays, and I would go with him. On holidays in Mattapan Zaydie would take me to the synagogue on *Simchas Torah*, and other special events. My father's parents didn't really go to shul, except for the holidays like *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. My Nana and Papa lived in Revere, and we used to go there for the Passover holiday as well as most Sundays in the summer for the beach.

**Glen.** Was everyone around you Jewish?

**Rabbi.** In Mattapan it was a working class Jewish enclave. Then the whole suburban thing happened. We were at the very tail end of that. We moved out in 1969 and I believe my husband's family moved out in 1970. We were the last to move, so I grew up in a changing neighborhood.

**Glen.** How many siblings do you have?

**Rabbi.** I have a brother Eric, and a sister Alison.

**Glen.** Are they older or younger?

**Rabbi.** My brother is a year younger. My sister is six years younger than I am.

**Glen.** Because you were the oldest, were your parents stricter with you?

**Rabbi.** Whenever I thought my parents didn't know what I did, it turns out that they really did know. They picked their battles, apparently. I had a healthy upbringing. When people in the past have asked me who my heroes are, I say my parents. They really were and are still wonderful parents. Just the right amount of everything. The right amount of discipline, the right amount of freedom, the right amount of letting me make my own mistakes. My father wished I had become a lawyer. He felt that is where my strengths were. I probably would've ended up like Al Pacino, in the movie, "And Justice For All," where Al Pacino gets up and shouts "You are all out of order!" My sense of justice would've made that happen. I would have become too frustrated with the system. I stand by what's right to do, not what's expeditious. Of my parents, I can't complain. Not a lot of people can say that. It sounds like a line, but it's really true.

**Glen.** Did your parents live through the depression and tell you stories?

**Rabbi.** Interesting question. The after effects. My parents were both young. At the movies my mother would share a Skybar between the four sisters. Growing up, we didn't have a lot monetarily. However, I never wanted for anything. I would have to wait for a sale for clothes, and I loved clothes.

It's not a materialistic family, and I'm not a materialistic person.

**Glen.** Let's go to your Bubbie and Zaydie on your mom's side.

**Rabbi.** My Bubbie died when I was two. I don't have a good memory of her. I only have one memory of her taking me out of the crib when I was crying due to the garbageman. After my Bubbie died, eventually we moved to Stoughton. My Zaydie moved in with us. Up the street were my aunt and uncle, and my other aunt and uncle. Across town was the rest of the family. When everyone moved in 1969, we took Zaydie with us. My father's parents, lived in Revere. Summer Sundays were always spent at the beach, and ALL of the family on dad's side was at the beach.

**Glen.** Were your grandparents born in the United States?

**Rabbi.** My Bubbie and Zaydie were born somewhere in Poland or Russia. They came over in the big wave around 1910. My Zaydie was a tailor. He came first and sent for Bubbie later, and they had all their kids here.

**Glen.** I think we're related, because my grandfather was also a tailor from Russia.

**Rabbi.** Who wasn't?

**Glen.** You might say your grandparents were tailor-made for you!

**Rabbi.** Oh no, Glen!

**Glen.** We'll sew it up with that! What did your grandparents do?

**Rabbi.** My Zaydie was a tailor, and my grandma died from an aneurysm in her sleep. My Papa was a boxer. He worked for the Boston Globe after that. My Nana was actually a very bright business woman. She had her own dry goods store, Ethel's Dry Goods. But Papa wanted his wife to be at home. Whatever fortune she might have made, we will never know.

**Glen.** Were your brothers and sisters the first to go to college in your family?

**Rabbi.** Yes. My father started out at Northeastern University but didn't finish. All three of us have Masters degrees.

**Glen.** What do your brother and sister do?

**Rabbi.** My sister is a physical therapist in Massachusetts. My brother is in I.T. and does the network and firewall stuff. I know very little about computers. He is on Long Island.

**Glen.** I want him to be our new I.T. person.

**Rabbi.** He's got to get here first.

Watch for our next installment in the August *Kayruv!*

## SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 26 Tammuz, July 18, Mattot-Mas'ei:**

The final portions of Bamidbar, the route of our wandering is recounted. *Haftarah:* Jer. 2:4-28; 3:4

☆ **Shabbat, 4 Av, July 25, Devarim:** Ready to enter the land of Milk and Honey, Moshe addresses the Israelites and reviews their history with them as warning. *Haftarah:* Isa. 1:1-27

☆ **Shabbat, 11 Av, August 1, Va'et hannan:** Still addressing the Israelites, Moshe regrets that he will not be entering the land with them. In this *parsha* Moshe repeats the Ten Commandments, as well as addressing us with the words of the *Sh'ma*. *Haftarah:* Isa. 40:1-26

☆ **Shabbat, 18 Av, August 8, Ekev:** Moshe enjoins the Israelites to remember that their future depends on their actions. *Haftarah:* Isa.49:14-51:3

## CANDLE LIGHTING

July 17, 2020	8:06 PM
July 24, 2020	8:01 PM
July 31, 2020	7:54 PM
August 7, 2020	7:45 PM

### A Note About CBI's Food Drive



Although our food donation program cannot continue during this period. As soon as we are able to come together at the synagogue, we will resume this program.

## YAHARZEITS

**21 Tammuz, July 13, 2020**

Kay Robinson (Barbara Levitt)

**23 Tammuz, July 15, 2020**

Etta W. Tritter (Henry Tritter)

**24 Tammuz, July 16, 2020**

Jerome Zimmerman (Shoshannah Zimmerman)

**26 Tammuz, July 18, 2020**

Celia Schorr (Heather K. Mazarakos)

**4 Av, July 25, 2020**

Sally Rudick (Grace Rudick)

**8 Av, July 29, 2020**

Bernard Breeman (Barbie Steinberg)

**9 Av, July 30, 2020**

Nathan Weiner (Marlene Gittlitz)

**21 Av, August 11, 2020**

Bessie Bank (Alex Bank)

Alfred P. Poll (Susan Osness)

**23 Av, August 13, 2020**

Aryeh Leib Kerstein (Michael Kerstein)

Howard Rothstein (Shari Lynn Kochman)

## THANKS! THANKS!

**For the General Fund**

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in honor of Paul Simon, Glen and Harriet Lebetkin, Mark Takken, Charlie and Alice Cahn, Sarah and Joe Namer, Chris Kimball, and Victor Namer

**For the Cemetery Fund**

☆ Ken Golub

☆ Michael Marcus

☆ Marian and Leslie Hart