

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

November 2020

Cheshvan/Kislev 5781

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

Does G-d Care About Politics?

There is an old saying that one should not discuss politics, religion or money in polite company. On the other hand, politics does matter; and when we mix politics and religion we get, as the saying goes, “strange bedfellows”. Yet, if we have learned anything over the past several years, it is that it is hard to avoid this mixture.

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Kayruv means “Welcoming.”

Religion is a powerful force in the public arena. Religion addresses the big life questions of purpose, meaning and morality. Religion speaks to the world and challenges it. Religion wages war against evil, apathy and human suffering. If religion has any meaning it must shake us to our core in its call for social transformation and change. Judaism is lived by such sacred words as “You shall not be indifferent,” “You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Sometimes we may lose our way. We are so anxious about the needs of the Jewish community and the welfare of our congregation that we may forget that we live in a larger world in which G-d is asking for our help. The choice is not an either/or one. Judaism calls on us to live in our own community but be part of the world as well. According to my colleague Rabbi Mark Greenspan there are three ways in which we may do this:

- **We must ask ourselves questions.** What does Judaism have to say about the world and our moral responsibilities to others. How can we negotiate personal, communal and civic responsibilities? Judaism has never been afraid to address matters of the world-business ethics, social welfare, government and, yes, politics too!



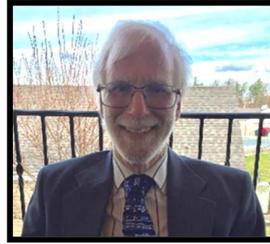
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- **We must look at the world.** We have pandemics, terrorism, human trafficking, the greenhouse effect, sexual and domestic violence to name just a few of our world problems. The Sages describe our social responsibility as a series of concentric circles beginning with ourselves and our family, then to our community, then to our country, America and to Eretz Yisrael and finally to the larger world. The Sages could not have imagined a world so connected and thus so small as ours. We cannot pretend that what happens across the globe does not affect us.
- **We must begin with ourselves.** My concern for justice begins with my personal behavior. I cannot fight the world's battles unless I am prepared to live justly myself and treat the people around me with kindness. Social justice begins with my social interactions.

Politics is not a dirty word. And religion should not be “verboten” to the realm of politics. While American society must continue to uphold the separation of church and state, religious values should inform our discussions and our actions. While it is true that we are all not going to agree about matters of religion and morality, we need to have the humility to recognize that no one has the final word, or, in the words of the Talmud “both these and these are the words of the living G-d”, even when they are at odds with each other. That is something we as Jews can teach the world. We have a great tradition of pluralism and mutual respect for different points of view. We can disagree without threatening one another. Only when we embrace the world as a place of godliness can we strive for goodness. Then we can truly go out in the world to do justice, to love kindness and to walk in humility with G-d.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Rhonda Nebel

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I'm back again. It seems like this was a month that never ended. It seems incredible that when we meet again, our election will be history, unless it is still being decided. Last month I was long-winded sharing my *Kol Nidre* talk, so my goal is brevity this month. However, you must do what is best for you and decide whether to read this or not! I used to have a codeword, and people could tell me the codeword to let me know that they had read the article. When we stopped meeting in person, I had no contact with people to get this feedback. When we published the Daily Kayruv, we never really knew how many readers actually read it. Therefore, we didn't really know if anyone missed the Daily. I don't know if we ever explained why the Daily stopped being Daily. Cheryl, our secretary extraordinaire, is now attending school every day, full time, with her granddaughter! She is getting quite an education! Getting back to my point (not that I can remember my point any longer), someone did read last month's Kayruv and was kind enough to send apples to our B'nai Israel Orchard!

This brings me to the focus of this month. I am extremely grateful for the support and response to our need for “apples.” I am truly grateful to be part of such a caring community. I had intended on *Kol Nidre* to thank people for all they do on behalf of B'nai Israel, but that literally would have added 15 minutes. Here are some of the things I am grateful for. I have decided not to use names, to emphasize the importance of the contributions people make, not who does them.

1. Our B'nai Israel family supplies basic needs such as food, rides to doctors, someone to talk to, someone to listen.
2. We have volunteers who collect food, distribute food and deliver food.
3. We have members who organize the prayers and services we experience each week and on holidays.
4. We have volunteers who distribute honors and *aliyahs*.

5. We have volunteers who oversee the maintenance of our building.
6. We have volunteers who repaired, painted, and cleaned the rabbi's house so she could move in.
7. We have volunteers who donated money to help the rabbi move in. (Many congregations are able to pay moving expenses for the rabbi.)
8. We have volunteers who helped with our cemetery repairs.
9. We have a volunteer who helped organize the cemetery plot plan.
10. We have a volunteer to operate our Zoom services.
11. We have volunteers to organize socially distanced seating for our *B'nai Mitzvahs*.
12. We have volunteers to contribute to the success of laundry love.
13. We have volunteers to make *Shalach Manos* packages.
14. We have volunteers to make caring phone calls to congregants.
15. We have volunteers to help fund raisers like Super Bowl Sunday.
16. We have volunteers to bring prayer books to congregants, and to sit at the synagogue to distribute books at Holidays.
17. We have volunteers to iron *talit*, polish silver, etc.
18. We have volunteers to change the kitchen from dairy to meat when needed.
19. We have volunteers who serve on the committees such as: website, membership, Board, cemetery, ritual, and Rabbi search committees, House Committee, Safety Committee, Caring Committee, and others.
20. We have a volunteer to light up the yahrzeit memorial boards, and to maintain the lights on the boards.
21. We have a volunteer to replace light bulbs.
22. I am also very appreciative we found a caring Rabbi who is both compassionate and knowledgeable.

I could continue, but long ago I promised brevity! One side note, even though we have volunteers to do these activities, often it is a few who do many of these. These people are often overtaxed to do so much and could use some help. Please consider joining the volunteers in some of these activities.

If you remember one thing from this month, it is that I am very grateful to be part of such a caring community. I am thankful and appreciative to each of you. And yes, it is never too late to contribute "apples," and that will always be appreciated!

As always,
Glen Lebetkin

Thanksgiving Meals for Families in Need

As we have done for many years, CBI will once again be providing Thanksgiving fixings for families in need in the Danbury area. The program is sponsored by the Interfaith AIDS Ministry.

Again this year, the items needed most are listed below. We will keep a black container outside the front door during the day so that you can drop your items in the container. You can begin this Sunday November 8th, continue Monday through Friday, and the following Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 7:00 PM (please drop items on Friday by 4:00) The container will be brought in at night. Please bring as many of these items that you can. Interfaith AIDS Ministry will be picking the food up the week before Thanksgiving.

Note: All food items must be non-perishable. If you have other ideas, as long as they're non-perishable, please feel free to include.

Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated.

- 4 or more boxes of mashed potatoes
- 4 or more bottles of apple or other fruit juice
- 4 or more bags of dinner rolls
- 4 or more canned vegetables
- 4 or more cans of gravy
- 4 or more large cans of yams
- 4 or more cans of cranberry sauce
- 4 or more boxes of stuffing

NOVEMBER EVENTS

ADULT ED COURSE WITH RABBI NEBEL BEGINNING NOVEMBER 9th

Join us for our Adult Ed class **Mondays** at **10:30 A.M.** and **6:30 P.M.** We are going to study *Pirke Avot*, the ethical teachings of our Sages. It is such a powerful classic providing guidance for all humankind that it is found in every siddur/prayerbook.

If you want to join the class you can use Lev Shalem p.235ff, Sim Shalom p.602ff, or any siddur you might have. You can also request an email attachment. Each class is an individual unit so you can come to as many as you are able.

Watch for the Zoom link.

Our first class is **November 9th**. Full schedule below.

Schedule

November 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

December 7th, 14th and 21st

Winter schedule TBA

SCHOLARSTREAM

AN INITIATIVE OF THE RA, USCJ, JTS, AND ZIEGLER

Just a reminder to sign up for the first session of **ScholarStream**. The deadline to sign up will be 11:00 AM on the morning of each session. The links to join the session will be sent the morning of the program and are for those individuals who signed up. **Please do not share the link broadly, if people access the link without having registered individually, they may not have enough space for everyone to attend.**

All sessions are at 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Tuesday, November 10: Dr. David Fishman The Tevye Syndrome: How Religious Were East European Jews?

Jews in Eastern Europe in the period before the Holocaust are often imagined as having been traditionally observant—bearded pious men, and women with their heads covered. In this class we will explore Eastern European stories of modern, secular trends in Jewish life, and why they have been forgotten in popular memory.

The links for individuals to register are below.

Our Code is: **DanburyFall20**

[JTS Registration Link](#)

[Ziegler Registration Link](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DINNER WITH RABBI NEBEL ON ZOOM



Join Rabbi Nebel on Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 PM. Bring your dinner to Zoomland. While we eat, please share your favorite Thanksgiving anything: A recipe, a memory, artwork, photograph. You decide!!



LATKE SWAP!



Join us on Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 PM. for our Zoomland dinner and **Latke Swap!** Bring your favorite, wackiest, or most delicious latke recipe to share. And bring them to eat too!!



CBI's *Hanukkah* Sing-in Sing-out Event Sunday, December 13th at 4:00 PM

Join us in CBI's parking lot where we will have an outdoor *Hanukkiah* lighting with goody bags, hot chocolate and an old fashioned sing-along in your car. If you choose to leave your car, you must wear a mask and stay socially distanced.



SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 27 Cheshvan, November 14 Hayei**

Sarah: Sarah dies and Isaac is paired with Rebecca. *Haftarah:* I Kings 1:1-31

☆ **Shabbat, 5 Kislev, November 21, Toledot:** The wrestling twins Jacob and Esau are born.

Haftarah Mal. 1:1-2:7

☆ **Shabbat, 12 Kislev, November 28, Vayetze:**

Jacob leaves home to make his own life.

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

☆ **Shabbat, 19 Kislev, December 5, Vayishlah:**

Jacob reunites with his brother Esau.

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

☆ **Shabbat, 26 Kislev, December 12, Vayeshev:**

Joseph, the favorite son, is sold by his brothers and sent down to Egypt. *Haftarah:* Zech. 2:14-4:7

CANDLE LIGHTING

November 6, 2020	4:29PM
November 13, 2020	4:23 PM
November 20, 2020	4:17 PM
November 27, 2020	4:14 PM
December 4, 2020	4:12 PM
December 11, 2020	4:12 PM

YAHARZEITS

5 Kislev, November 21, 2020

Jerry Simon (Paul Simon)

6 Kislev, November 22, 2020

Peter Ohring (Mary Ohring, Isaac and Rachel Ohring)

7 Kislev, November 23, 2020

Martin Schorr (Heather K. Mazarakos)

10 Kislev, November 26, 2020

Golde Rochma Kerstein (Michael Kerstein)

12 Kislev, November 28, 2020

Gloria Mark (Paula Cook)

17 Kislev, December 3, 2020

Joseph Kaufman (Heather K. Mazarakos)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

☆ Julie Leventon in honor of Rabbi Nebel and her family joining our community.

For the General Fund

☆ Lynn Taborsak in memory of Alvin Goldman

☆ Barbara Weisblatt in memory of Rochelle Schneider, Dina Essinger, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Harriet Blum

☆ Michael and Evelyn Weinstein and Natalie Slavin in memory of Claire Cahn, Alvin Goldman, Charlene Carstens, and Rochelle Schneider