

Excerpts from the monthly

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

April 2021

Nisan/Iyar 5781

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

The most fundamental declaration of the Jewish faith is the Sh'ma: Hear O Israel, the Lord our G-d, the Lord is one. This affirmation of the core principle of Judaism, the uniqueness and oneness of G-d, became the final prayer of Jews upon

passing from life to death.

Also, because of our bitter history of persecution and martyrdom, it became the symbol of Jewish tenacity and commitment to survival. Torah is intellect and a way of life, commandments, ritual and custom. It is the stuff of this world and its complexities, challenges and disappointments. Faith, as transmitted in the 6 words of the Sh'ma, is the stuff of eternity, striving for a transcendent relationship with the Creator of us all in helping to make this world a better place.

As Jews we are bidden to recite the Sh'ma twice daily with fervor and concentration, to actually think about the words as we are saying them. Reciting the Sh'ma carefully and lovingly serves to re-emphasize G-d's

presence in our lives and in our world. It can also serve to remind us that we are not necessarily the free agents in life we think we are. It focuses our hearts and minds on the good and noble that lies within each of us to achieve and accomplish. And, just as importantly, it serves to unite us with all of the past generations of Jews, as far back as the bible itself.

The words of the Sh'ma were on the lips of the many Jews of WWII who met their ends by evil's design. Perhaps some comfort can be found in the idea that these words reflect the bonds of Jewish life over all the centuries throughout our history.

We remember the ties that bind us on April 8th as we join with the Jewish Community of Western Connecticut through our Federation's Yom HaShoah Memorial program at 5:00 PM on YouTube. As the child of a survivor, my husband, Robert, will be lighting a candle. I will be participating in the leading of the Mourners' Kaddish. Please check your email and Kayruv bulletin for details. This program is free of charge and open to all!

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Rhonda Nebel



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends

I've got a lot to say, so hang on or escape immediately!

It's been my great honor to be President of B'nai Israel the last two years. I have been

in a position to see how so many people contribute so much to our community. I have also seen how a few contribute way more than can be imagined!

Project Pam: Project Pride

Don't we recognize *yahrzeits* every week to link our present to our past? Isn't what we do today a reflection of those who loved and influenced us? Those of us who have been at B'nai Israel over the years know how Pam and Shalom Lampell contributed so much of themselves to us. Their dreams and hopes were matched by their efforts and generosity.

I would very much like to highlight what makes me most proud to be Jewish: we are obligated to do good things in this world for

others. Why not cherish our links to the past by honoring those that have meant so much to us.

Here is what I very much would like to do. I would like everyone in our congregation to dedicate some effort they are proud of for a period of two to four weeks to either the Lampells or someone they love and wish to honor in a most special way. This will recognize how their love and influence on you has been so important and special that you are going to dedicate some *mitzvah* effort to them!

It may very well be that you are already doing something for B'nai Israel or your community. So many congregants are participating in weekly services. That could be it. It might be that you are doing something you are proud of for your community, a friend, or a relative. That could be it!

Just decide whom you would like to honor, and what effort you will give. If each of us can write three to four sentences or three to four paragraphs of whom you are honoring, how they influenced us, and why they are "special to us". We will combine all of this into a special **Project Pam: Project Pride** booklet. Every *Yizkor* we come together and think these thoughts about our loved ones, so special to us. Let us share these thoughts as a congregation. It will represent collective pride!

Furthermore, in my last few months I want to heighten our sense of family by sharing more schmoozes, social time with a variety of topics and guests.

I also would like to have another talent show, probably through Zoom; so dust off your talents.

One of these schmoozes would be to hear your thoughts on returning to "in person *shul*." We will not forfeit the silver linings this pandemic has offered us, the ability to attend services in your home and even from out of state. This has helped us thrive and maintain contacts as well as make new contacts.

Now I will never know if anyone who started reading this article has actually finished it. Ignorance is bliss!

Until next time!
Glen Lebetkin

RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS

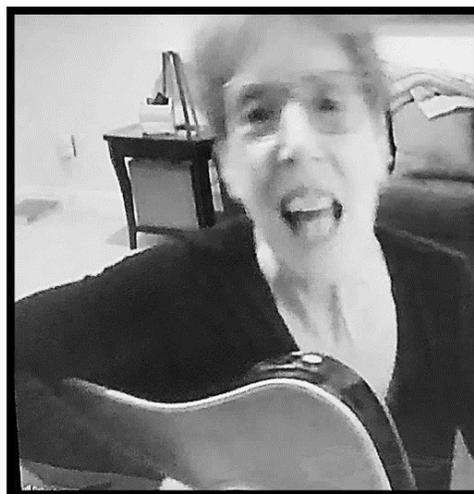
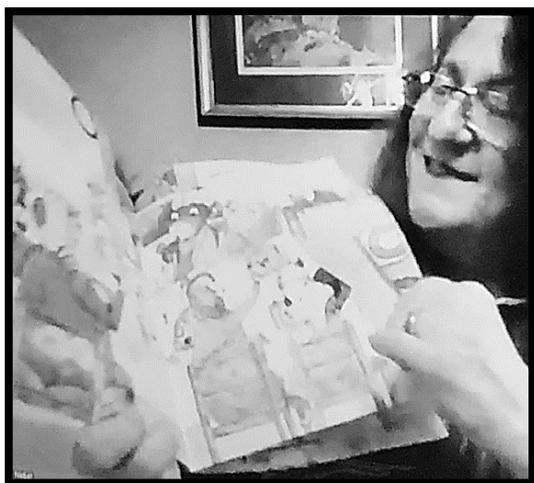
Rabbi Nebel invites you to meet with her and will be available any day except Wednesday and Shabbat. To schedule a meeting please contact her at cbi193clap@gmail.com

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED

Pre Passover Pajama Party

CBI hosted, in conjunction with PJ Library, Pre Passover Pajama Party.

Rabbi Nebel read the book *Afikomen Mambo* to all the “guests”, and there was singing and crafts. Everyone who took part had a wonderful evening



APRIL EVENTS

April 15th, a *Yom Ha'atsma'ut* Dinner with Rabbi Nebel at 6:00 PM via Zoom

It's *Yom Ha'atsma'ut*



Join Rabbi Nebel on ZOOM **April 15th** at **6:00 PM** for dinner to celebrate *Yom Ha'atsma'ut*-Israel Independence day!

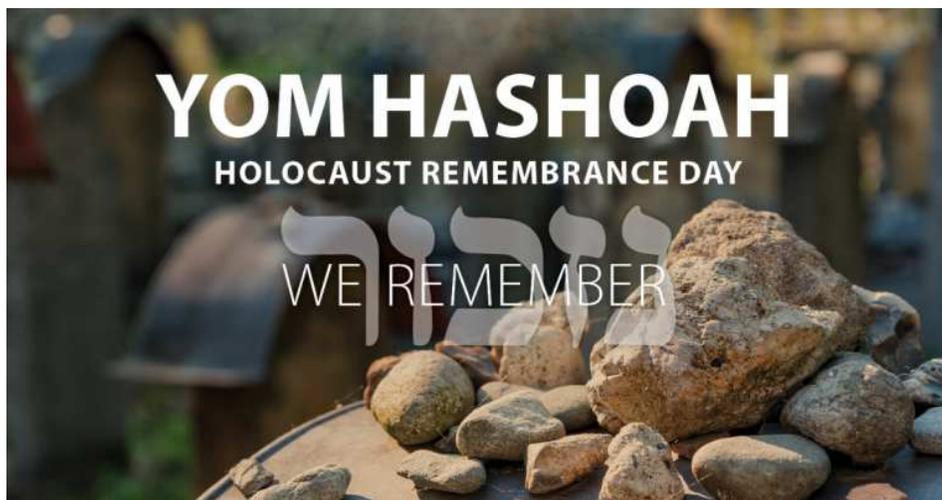
Bring your stories, pictures, anything to share if you'd like.
Maybe your dinner will be an Israel meal!



EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH
FROM 5:00-5:45 PM YOM HASHOAH
VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION

Please join us for this community-wide *Yom HaShoah* commemoration. The link to the live-stream is: [Yom HaShoah – The Federation](#)



Please join us on Thursday, April 8th from 5:00-5:45 PM for a live-stream, virtual Yom HaShoah Commemoration. Clergy and congregants from over seven of our area synagogues in Danbury, Washington, Cheshire, Southbury, New Milford, and Waterbury have participated in candle lighting and prayers.

Our deep appreciation to the Fay & Max Katz Yom HaShoah Memorial Fund for making our program possible.

Sunday, April 11th
from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Israel's Memorial Day (*Yom Ha'Zikaron*)

ZOOM CONFERENCE:
SUNDAY, APRIL 11 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

AMMUNITION HILL
"DADDY, NOW I KNOW"

Join us as we prepare to observe Israel's Memorial Day (YOM HA'ZIKARON - Apr. 15) and to celebrate Israel's Independence Day (YOM HA'ATZMAUT - Apr. 15)

SPEAKERS-
HADAR LUBIN, CHAIR OF B'NAI ISRAEL'S ISRAEL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:
SIGNIFICANCE OF YOM HA'ZIKARON
RABBI ERIC POLOKOFF, B'NAI ISRAEL: FORMATION OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL
DAR NADLER, JEWISH NATIONAL FUND-USA ISRAEL EMISSARY TO NEW ENGLAND:
HOW SUSTAINING ISRAEL IS THE "NEW ZIONISM"
ALON WALD, HEAD OF OPERATIONS, AMMUNITION HILL NATIONAL HERITAGE CENTER: MAINTAINING AND RESTORING ISRAEL'S NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES

This program is presented by
B'nai Israel Southbury, The
Jewish Federation of Western
Connecticut & JNF-USA

To participate and reserve your space, please email Valerie Beckwith,
Temple administrator: office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org
- after April 9 rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org
Subject Line: Israel program

On *Pesach* we rejoice in our liberation from slavery. Each Spring, we also rejoice in anniversary of the creation of the modern State of Israel. Israel's Independence Day (*YOM HA'ATZMAUT*) is a joyful celebration of fulfillment of the promise of freedom, realized after "the Hope of 2000 Years". Israel's Memorial Day (*YOM HA'ZIKARON*) is the national remembrance day observed in Israel for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. The commemoration has been extended to civilian victims of terrorism.

Yom HaZikaron comes right before Independence Day to remind people of the price paid for sustaining Israel's security in the face of constant hostility. Unlike our Memorial Day, it is universally observed for 24 hours in a solemn fashion.

Join us as we prepare to observe Israel's Memorial Day (*YOM HA'ZIKARON*) and to celebrate Israel's Independence Day (*YOM HA'ATZMAUT*) with a presentation by ALON WALD, Head of Operations at Ammunition Hill, the site of one of the pivotal battles of the 1967 Six-Day War, paving the way to the Old City and the reunification of Jerusalem.

His talk is titled: "Daddy, Now I Know" and reflects on the courage of his father and fellow soldiers in the Six-Day War of 1967. He will also describe the ongoing efforts, supported by the Jewish National Fund-USA, to preserve and improve Israel's modern historical sites.

The Israel Advocacy Committee of B'nai Israel and The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut encourage you to join this presentation and thereby to share in the recognition of the miracle of the creation of the State of Israel that occurred in our time, of the cost in lives to bring that about, and in the constant vigilance that has sustained it. Please see the attached poster for more details.



**GREATER WASHINGTON
COALITION
FOR JEWISH LIFE**

**SPECIAL SPEAKER SERIES
PRESENTATION
THURSDAY, APRIL 29 – 4:00 PM**

**“WHEN SOUTHBURY SAID NO TO THE
NAZIS!” – TWO SHORT FILMS AND A
PANEL DISCUSSION.**

The premier of these films in Southbury was so overwhelmingly popular that the venue had to be moved to the High School Auditorium, which holds 900 and many were still turned away.

In light of recent events in our country, this presentation is more relevant than ever before.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Western CT, Temple B'nai Israel Southbury and The Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, these two short films that honor the 75th Anniversary of when Southbury said no to the Nazis will be shown, followed by a panel discussion.

In 2012, a group of Southbury town leaders, including Ed Edelson (First Selectman from 2011 to 2014), Rabbi Eric Polokoff, Temple B'nai Israel Southbury and Reverend Shannon Wall, South Britain Congregational Church, Southbury, commissioned a documentary on this very important moment in Connecticut history. The documentary includes two short films, “*Home of the Brave*” and “*Honoring the Brave.*” The introduction of the films will be given by Rabbi Polokoff and Rev. Wall (producer).

Following the films, a panel discussion will include Rabbi Polokoff, Reverend Wall, Mr. Edelson, Rabbi James Greene, Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life and Gary Jones, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut.

Home of the Brave: This film was produced to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the people of Southbury peacefully mobilizing to stop the German-American Bund (a Nazi-inspired organization) from building its largest youth training camp just south of what is now Exit 15 on Interstate 84. Combining original source documents and oral history, the film recites an inspiring story of how the events unfolded, the bravery of the town’s leaders and the commitment of this small farming community to say (in today’s language) “Hate has no home here!”

Honoring the Brave: This documentary has additional oral history as well as the emotional response of the community.

As a result of the documentary, the story came to the attention of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and is included in the major exhibit, “**Americans and the Holocaust,**” that opened in April 2018. When asked about the story, Museum Curator Rebecca Erbelding said, that in all their research, Southbury was the only town to stand up against the German-American Bund.

This event is virtual and free. To pre-register and get the Zoom link, email jewishlifect@gmail.com or call Sally Talarico at 860-868-2434.

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 28 Nisan, April 10, Shemini:** The dedication of the sanctuary and the death of Aaron's sons. *Haftarah:* II Sam. 6:1-7:17

☆ **Shabbat, 5 Iyar, April 17, Tazria-Metzora:** The laws and boundaries regarding ritual purity of the human body. *Haftarah:* II Kings 7:3-20

☆ **Shabbat, 12 Iyar, April 24, Aharey-Kedoshim:** The establishment of the annual atonement ritual for the People of Israel (*Yom Kippur*) and the ethical laws that govern Jewish society in the Holiness Code.

Haftarah: Amos 9:7—9:15

☆ **Shabbat, 19 Iyar, May 1, Emor:** We read of the holiness among the priestly class followed by description of holiness in time: The Jewish Holy Days. *Haftarah:* Ezekiel 44:15-31

☆ **Shabbat, 26 Iyar, May 8, Behar-Behukotai:** The blessings and the curses "If you walk in My ways or not." *Haftarah:* Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

☆ **Shabbat, 4 Sivan, May 15, Bamidbar:** The camp of Israel organizes itself in the desert.

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 9, 2021	7:11 PM
April 16, 2021	7:19 PM
April 23, 2021	7:26 PM
April 30, 2021	7:33 PM
May 7, 2021	7:41 PM
May 14, 2021	7:48 PM