March - April 2019 Adar I - Adar II - Nisan 5779

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CBI Bulletin

Congregation Beth Israel
West Hartford, Connecticut

Sunday, March 17th at 10:30am

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Congregation Beth Israel's *Bulletin* is published six times per year at Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119. Subscription is $36 per year; free to members of Congregation Beth Israel. The material in this *Bulletin* may not be reproduced without permission. On occasion, dates, times, and details of services and events published in this *Bulletin* may change. Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, *Chai Lights,* for the latest information by visiting www.cbict.org or emailing bethisrael@cbict.org.

To view the *Bulletin* in full color, visit www.cbict.org/bulletin.

On Sunday, January 27th, YEP 7th graders visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York as part of their Holocaust studies class with **Scott Myers.**

Leadership

Clergy
Michael Pincus, Senior Rabbi
Andi Fliegel, Rabbi

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Karen Beyard, Learning Center Director
Cheryl Goldberg, Administrative Coordinator
Sunny Kagan, Membership Coordinator
Michelle Meyer, Operations Coordinator
Tracy Mozingo, Executive Director
Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum, Director of Lifelong Learning
Max Schwimmer, Communications Coordinator
Natasha Ulyanovsky, Music Director

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Auxiliary: Seth Kaufman (Young Families), Mari Maidman (Sisterhood), Eric Schneider (Brotherhood), Bob Wolf (SAGE)

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Feldman Hall
All members are welcome.

March 19th, April 16th, and May 21st

Annual Meeting: To Be Announced

From Our Clergy

The Wise People of Chelm

Rabbi Michael Pincus
rabbipincus@gmail.com

There is a Jewish folk tale that tells of a shoemaker in the town of Chelm. The shoemaker cheated everyone. In the end, he was brought to justice and the rabbi pronounced on him Chelm's most severe punishment: the shoemaker would be expelled from Chelm, never to return.

At once, there was an outcry. "What is the problem?" the rabbi asked. Mottel the Mayor stepped forward, "Rabbi, if the shoemaker is sent into exile, everyone in Chelm will suffer! He is our only shoemaker. Before long our shoes will wear out and we will have no one to repair them. And who will cobble new shoes for our children?"

"You are right," the rabbi said. "But justice must be served."

There was silence as the wise men of Chelm considered what to do. At last, Berel the Blacksmith spoke up. "It is true that Chelm has only one shoemaker, but it is equally true that we have two tailors."

"Excellent!" said the rabbi, "Then, this is my final judgement: Let one tailor be expelled from Chelm, never to return!"

And the wise people of Chelm all nodded their approval.

Unfortunately, it is not only in Chelm that we can get stuck and draw silly conclusions in our search for justice. Despite our best of intentions, we are too often led to do the wrong thing. This month, we celebrate the silly story of Purim and remember the dangers of the Hamans who are more concerned with their power than the world around them. Next month, as we celebrate Passover, we'll recount how Pharaoh who got caught up in the same web.

How do we balance our own needs with the needs of our neighbors? How do we work to create a world of justice and kindness and meet our daily needs? It is easy to laugh at the wise people of Chelm but harder to recognize that we are not so different.

Join our clergy…

Torah Study

Every Saturday Morning at 9:30am

Our clergy lead a one-hour spirited exploration and discussion of our tradition's sacred text. All are welcome!

Tot Shabbat

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 10:30am: March 2nd and 16th; April 6th and 20th

Tot Shabbat services precede our general Shabbat morning services at 11:00. Young children (under 6) sing along with our clergy, hear stories, and receive special blessings. Services are held in our Library Children's Room.

Jewish Women and the Long March Towards Justice

On January 19, 2019 I had the honor of speaking at the Connecticut Women's March. I was one of many featured speakers, giving voice to the passionate energy of the crowd and the complicated, multifaceted ways that sexism persists in our communities. As many of us know there have been legitimate concerns around anti-Semitism and the leaders of the national march. The organizers of our local march include Jewish women who have highlighted anti-Semitism as a present and on-going issue that our society must address, and each year they intentionally invite Jewish voices to the podium. If you'd like to see their official statement this year you can find it on the Women's March CT Facebook page. I've shared my remarks from the march below.

Rabbi Andi Fliegel

afliegel@cbict.org
Photo: Lucy Gellman

In my tradition, we're in the midst of telling the story of the Exodus, from the beginning of Hebrew enslavement in Egypt, through the signs, wonders, and plagues that enable their eventual escape. We do this incrementally so that we can try to digest each moment of suffering, inequity, fear, apathy, courage, and hope. It's weeks of anxiety until the remarkable culmination read in synagogues this morning around the entire world – the Israelites liberate themselves from their oppressors, narrowly escaping through the parted waters, and marching through that unexpected, unchartered path to freedom, to change.

It is one of the most well-known and retold stories in the Western world, and it all begins with the resistance and the heroism of five women.

Shifrah and **Puah** are two Egyptian midwives who secretly reject Pharaoh's command to kill all of the Hebrew baby boys. They put their own lives at risk because they believe a person's fate should not be determined by the body they were born with.

Yocheved is known for her fierce protectiveness of her children when she refuses to surrender her son, an infant Moses, to those who viewed him as a threat – she committed to cultivating a new kind of generation, to raise a son who recognizes injustice and partners with the oppressed. Her daring, her bravery, models for her daughter Miriam that women can demand to be actors in history – not only the subjects – or God forbid, made to be invisible.

Bat Paraoh – known to us only as daughter of Pharaoh, may be named for a man, but it is her own story and her boldness that defines her legacy. She sees Moses floating down the river and saves his life knowing full well that her own father had condemned him and all those like him.

And it was **Miriam**, hiding in the bushes to discover the fate of her family, whose creative mind knew she would have to make an ally of her supposed enemy, Bat Paraoh, because a woman of any background is a partner in the fight against inequality, persecution and sexism. They break down barriers that seemed too high to others, and nurture the movement that leads to the collapse of Israelite enslavement in Egypt.

In every system of oppression, those who desperately clutch to power rely on the Miriams and Bat Paraohs of the world to remain enemies. They keep us separate so that we will not realize that the fate of each of our liberations are bound up together, reliant on each other. We are taught to blame, fear, and compete rather than support, encourage, and join forces. This is just as true for the perpetuation of sexism, racism, Islamophobia, and all groups targeted by hate as it is for the often-dismissed yet very real and persistent anti-Semitism. Jews are dehumanized by claims of conspiracy theory level power and Jewish bodies are threatened all over the world for simply being Jewish. But each and every one of these hates lose their power and influence when we refuse to be divided, when we know who our true allies are and when we amplify the multiplicity of voices in this ocean of women and our allies here standing shoulder to shoulder, remembering the words found in my prayer book…

That wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt
That there is a better place, a promised land;
That the winding way to that promise
Passes through the wilderness.
That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together.

Congregation Beth Israel

Come Be Inspired

Clare Feldman

I came to my commitment to the Jewish community in an unusual way. I was not born Jewish and did not convert to Judaism until after I became part of the Beth Israel community where our children attended religious school and celebrated their b'nai mitzvahs and confirmations. I eventually had the honor of becoming President of Congregation Beth Israel.

One of the things that I found most compelling about Judaism was the commitment to remembering the past, to living ethically in the present, and to ensuring the future.

In a past bulletin article, I highlighted congregants Judy and Ron Schlossberg, whose passion for Jewish education led them to endow a teaching chair in our religious school. I know there are other examples of people like Judy and Ron who want to see our synagogue continue to thrive for future generations of Jews. For that reason, my husband Barry and I have done some things that we urge everyone to consider. First, we created a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation that we are contributing to now. Second, we made provisions in our wills for legacy gifts to that fund, and we have asked our children to contribute to this fund in our memory when we are gone.

And why the Jewish Community Foundation? For one thing, their sole mission is the wellbeing and future of the Jewish community in the Greater Hartford area. The Foundation also has a strong record of stewardship, from fund management to transparency in grant allocation. They know what the Greater Hartford Jewish community needs, and they carry out their mission with the highest level of integrity and effectiveness.

Each generation begins with the inherited experience of those who came before. We would be derelict in our responsibility if we failed to teach our children who the Jewish people have been, what the Torah tradition is, and what obligations derive from the Covenant of Sinai. But this only tells them what has been. They will have to experience for themselves what the future might be. The job of each generation is not to substitute their experience for that of their children; it is to create opportunities for their children to have Jewish experiences.

- Rabbi Richard Hirsch, Congregation M'Kor Shalom in Cherry Hill

What legacy do you want to leave to a community that has been so meaningful in your life? I invite you to join us and many others standing on the shoulders of those who came before us. Let's commit to the future of our community together.

View a full list of our endowment funds on page 21. To find out more about how you can be a part of our endowment campaign, please contact Executive Director **Tracy Mozingo** at **tmozingo@cbict.org**.

A strong endowment will allow us to sustain and expand our efforts to create...

A community of Jewish learning, activism, and social justice.

- A resource for the community to learn about and experience Judaism and our values
- A superior religious education program recognized for excellence
- A comprehensive and interdisciplinary adult education program
- A focus on social justice and community engagement from a Jewish perspective

A welcoming community for all.

- A home with no barriers to entry
- A culture of connectivity and caring
- A place for spiritual self-discovery and fulfillment
- A sanctuary for those seeking comfort and acceptance

A structure modernized to meet the needs of our community.

- A welcoming building with drop-in social space where friends old and new can gather
- Prayer spaces allowing for varying types of services
- Increased use of technology and a stronger online presence

Youth Engagement Program Update

Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum

hrosenbaum@cbict.org | 860-233-8215 ext. 2330

The months of December and January featured several special programs for our YEP students in grades 3 through 6.

On December 9th, the Social Justice Committee sponsored the first of two Mitzvah Day programs this year. Students made fleece blankets and assembled care packages for local cancer patients. They derived much satisfaction from knowing that they were helping others.

On Wednesday, January 2nd, students participated in a scavenger hunt in the Abraham J. Feldman Museum, located on the upper level of the Learning Center, where they discovered a trove of knowledge. Did you know that…

- Jeffrey Hoffman was the first Jewish astronaut to go into space and he took four *mezzuzot* with him?
- Frederick Opper, an officer of CBI, was a friend of Mark Twain?
- Amulets were used in Jewish tradition to protect against sickness and ward off evil?

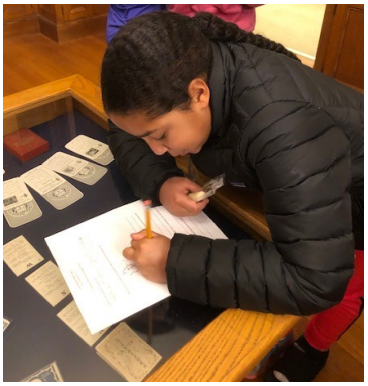
If you have never visited the museum, I encourage you to check it out: it is full of many very interesting objects!

On Wednesday, January 23rd, we celebrated Tu Bishvat with a seder, featuring fruits that are found in the Land of Israel and discussing the importance of trees in our lives. The concept of a Tu Bishvat seder was created by Rabbi Isaac Luria in Safed in the 16th century. Similar in structure to the Passover seder, it celebrates the Tree of Life, the Kabbalistic map of the Sephirot. Participants in our seder drank four cups of grape juice - ranging from light to dark to represent the different seasons - and ate many types of fruit. Students had the opportunity to taste dried carob (also known as *bokser*) for the first time and also ate carob chips (which many thought were chocolate chips!).

On Sunday, January 27th, our 7th graders and their parents, led by teacher **Scott Myers**, traveled to New York City where they visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park in conjunction with their study of the Holocaust.

Family participation programs, led by **Rabbi Pincus** for students and their parents, took place for the 3rd grade (Meaning of Light), 2nd grade (Torah Gami), 6th grade (Meaning of Bar/Bat Mitzvah), and 1st grade (Welcoming Strangers).

Before we know it, the holiday of Purim with all its festivities will be upon us. We look forward to welcoming everyone for our Purim Celebration, featuring the annual Shpiel and Carnival on **Sunday, March 17th** (more on page 11). We hope that you will invite your friends in the community to join us to get a special taste of CBI on this most fun of holidays!



Left/middle: Mitzvah Day program; **right:** Feldman Museum scavenger hunt.

Yasher koach!

JTConnect high school students **Will McPherson** and **Zach Haimes's** photograph, "Zach in the Library", was featured in a digital display as part of the Jewish Lens photo exhibit at The Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv, Israel. Will and Zach took the photo as part of the JTConnect photography class "Through a Jewish Lens" taught by **Max Schwimmer** at CBI.

Jewish youth from 20 different countries have participated in the Jewish Lens exhibition at Beit Hatfutsot. Participating countries included Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Spain, Panama, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Brazil, Columbia, Peru, USA, Australia, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Italy, Germany and Israel. The opening reception for The Jewish Lens Exhibition took place at the museum on Monday, February 11th.

Chai Notes

Individuals share what Congregation Beth Israel means to them.

To the Sanctuary of Congregation Beth Israel
by Emily B. Forman

You were the Dome
to which I came home.
In You, I learned to Pray
in the Jewish Way
all over again.

In You I learned the Hebrew Prayers
in earnest, and in coming home
the prayers of my heart deepened,
and deepen still.

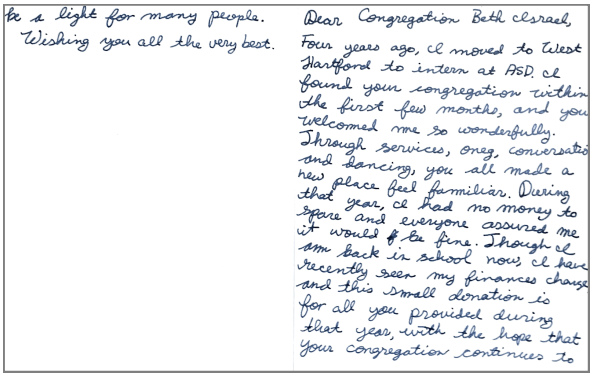
In You, I was called to the Torah
for the first time as a Bat Mitzvah,
at the age of 27,
though, perhaps it will turn out
not to be the last.

In You, I raised my voice farther up
in song, as I joined
with my spiritual and perhaps
literal kin,
and both blended in and stood out,
as I believe I was meant to do.

In You I began to heal,
a lifelong process I know,
both from the burdens of my
people,
and my own personal wounds.

In You I found a new set of spiritual leaders,
who are leading me
not just toward healing,
but toward growth and adventure.

Beth Israel Sanctuary,
You are my spiritual present—
and I hope part of my future.
You are forever my sacred space.
And you are one of the sources of
the sacred spaces within me.



be a light for many people.
Wishing you all the very best.

Dear Congregation Beth Israel,
Four years ago, I moved to West Hartford to intern at ASD. I found your congregation within the first few months, and you welcomed me so wonderfully. Through services, oneg, conversation and dancing, you all made a new place feel familiar. During that year, I had no money to spare and everyone assured me it would be fine. Though I am back in school now, I have recently seen my finances change and this small donation is for all you provided during that year, with the hope that your congregation continues to

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Wishing you all the very best,
Rachel from Arizona

Welcome, New Members!

Alex Golden and **Elizabeth Lee,** children **Lucia (12)** and **Andre (5)**

Claudia Martin-Nungaray and child **Andres (Andy) Schwartz**

Lisa Knicos

Brenda Auerbach

Maxanne Kass

Bekah Perlin and **Robert Stein**

Madelaine and **Richard White**

Scott Goldman and child **Lilli (12)**

B'nai Mitzvah

Talia Brynn Leshem
Saturday, March 23rd

We Mourn the Loss זיכרון לברכה

Samuel Kanell, father of Gail Mangs (David), Joe Kanell (Rochelle), brother of Jack, grandfather and great-grandfather

Samuel Blumenthal, husband of Frances, brother of Joan Harris, father of Betsy (Jonathan Root), Edward (Carolyn McKenna) and Laurence (Vered), and grandfather

David Kramer, husband of Deanna "Dyan", father of Todd and his fianceé, Ivona Drury

Mildred Finkelstein, sister of Shirley Benowitz and aunt of Ruth Van Winkle (Ron)

Nathalie Rosin, mother of Pamela and Mitchell (Nadine) and grandmother

Lois Silberman, widow of Mortimer Herskovits and Samuel "Buddy" Silberman, mother of Allen (Leslie) and Jayne, and grandmother

Morris Kustoff, father of Ruth Kustoff (Shaun Powell), and grandfather of Renee and Kory Powell

Warren Novick, husband of Carol, father of Louis and David, and grandfather

Sylvia Carol, widow of Roy Carol, mother of Lynn Blau (Jeffrey), Sherry Blick (James) and Jill Halen, grandmother of Elizabeth and Alexandra Blau, Ashley Sternberg and Joshua Blick, and great-grandmother

Gertrude Horowitz, sister of Rosalind Hoffman

Harvey Hoberman, widower of Joan Solomkin z'l, father of Julie Hoberman, Anna Lowrey (Greg), brother of Edwin (Lisa), uncle of Jennifer Rosenfeld (Joel), Matthew Hoberman (Dena) and Max Hoberman, son-in-law of Ruth Solomkin, partner of Penny Parker, and grandfather of Jonah & Elias Lowrey

Aleksandra Barskaya, mother of Sofia Peskina

George Farber, father of Gary (Beth), Craig (Joyce) and Janice Michel (William), and grandfather

Jerry Cohen, husband of Libbian Cohen, father of Adam (Cindy) and Sharon (David Hessney), brother of Milton, grandfather and great-grandfather

Celebrate Shabbat

March 1st

Kol Shabbat and Girl Scout Shabbat Service 6:00pm

Join us in recognizing our Girl Scouts, and enjoy their famous cookies at the Oneg Shabbat following. Our YEP 3rd- and 4th-graders will help lead the service.

Community Shabbat Dinner 7:00pm

Enjoy dinner after services; $10 for adults / $5 for children under 13. Menu includes chicken noodle soup and vegetable soup, salad, and mac and cheese. Register by **Tuesday, February 26th**.

Meditative Service 8:00pm

March 8th

Sisterhood Shabbat Service 7:30pm

Members of our Sisterhood lead a special service celebrating the important role of Sisterhood in our congregation. **Rosanne Selfon**, Past President of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), will speak. There will be an *oneg* prepared by Sisterhood following the service.

March 15th

Simcha Shabbat Service 7:30pm

March 22nd

Shabbat Service 7:30pm

March 29th

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30pm

April 5th

Shabbat Service 6:30pm

Please note: there will be no Kol Shabbat Community Dinner or Meditative Shabbat service in April.

April 12th

Simcha Shabbat Service 7:30pm

April 19th

Lay-Led Shabbat Service 5:30pm

First Night Community Seder 6:00pm

See back cover for details.

April 26th

Boomer Shabbat Service 6:30pm

(Details below).

Sign up for Shabbat dinners at **www.cbict.org**.

Boomer Shabbat Service

Friday, April 26th at 6:30pm

Get ready to feel groovy at CBI's fourth annual Boomer Shabbat Service as we set our Friday evening liturgy to the popular and folk music of the '60s and '70s. True Boomers will undoubtedly sing along, but people of all ages will enjoy this groovy Shabbat experience. The live band is comprised of **Laura and Bob Deutsch**, **Chet Zaslow**, and **Bruce Badner**.

Join **Laura Deutsch** for Boomer Shabbat.

Engage

Jr. WHTY Baking and Movie

Sunday, March 10th at 11:30am

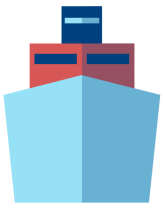
Students in grades 6-8 will meet in the kitchen to bake some delicious treats and then enjoy a movie. Look for details from **Eli Kessing, whtyadvisor@cbict.org**.

Shabbark Shalom

Saturdays, March 16th from 3:00 - 4:00pm and April 27th from 4:00 - 5:00pm
MDC Reservoir, Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

Join Rabbi Fliegel for a walk in the park and short Havdalah service. This activity is open to all; dogs are not required for participation. Please note the time change for April!

Seal Watching Trip



Saturday, March 30th from 1:00 - 3:30pm
UConn Avery Point, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton

Take the Project Oceanology Boat from UCONN Avery Point to Fisher Island Sound and observe harbor seals in their winter habitat. Cost of $35/adult; $20/child over six. Seats are limited to 40; reserve by **March 15th** at **www.cbict.org**. Children must be 6 years or over, and there is no handicap access to the boat. Children may be required to wear a life preserver and will need to be monitored by parents at all time. May be cancelled day of in event of inclement weather. Dress warmly and please note travel time of about 75 minutes from West Hartford. Questions? Contact **Sunny Kagan, skagan@cbict.org, 860-233-8215 ext. 2240.**

The Tribe's Game Night

Saturday, March 30th at 7:00pm

CBI's group for young professionals and grad students will enjoy board games and party games galore! We'll also provide snacks and drinks. Feel free to bring your own dinner, or wait until you get here and we'll order delivery together. RSVP to **afliegel@cbict.org**.

Micro WHTY Tot Seder

Sunday, April 14th at 3:30pm

Children under 5 and parents are invited to celebrate Passover together.

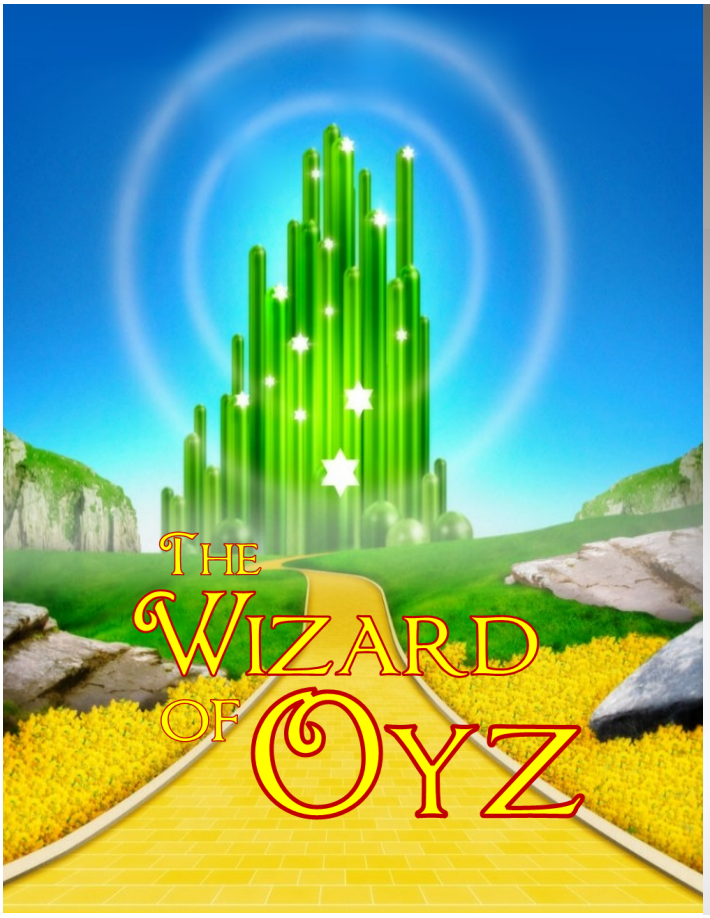
The Tribe's *Passover's-Finally-Over* Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 26th at 7:00pm

You've eaten the bread of affliction, you've remembered your people were slaves...now it's time to enjoy all those delicious bready treats you've been missing! Join us for a special Shabbat dinner to break Passover at Charlotte's house in WeHa (address given with RSVP)! There will be pizza; there will be real desserts (none of those jelly rings). RSVP to **afliegel@cbict.org**.

Jr. WHTY Game Night

Sunday, April 28th, time TBA
Enjoy puzzles, riddles, and trivia. Look for details from **Eli Kessing, whtyadvisor@cbict.org**.



Annual Purim Shpiel and Carnival

Sunday, March 17th
starting at 10:30 am
Open to the public!

Featuring

Megillah Reading
Shpiel
Carnival
Live Entertainment
...and more!

New this year:
VR Experience in
Vashti's Getaway!

Don't miss our Purim Carnival live entertainment:
Eric Girardi,
Bending Gravity

Josh Nelson Concert

Featured Concert on Saturday, May 11th at 7:30pm; tickets go on sale Friday, March 15th

Josh Nelson is one of the most popular performers in modern Jewish music, appealing to people of all ages. A gifted multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, Josh's work is celebrated and integrated into the repertoire of congregations, camps, and communities around the world.

Josh will perform a featured concert on **Saturday, May 11th at 7:30pm**. Tickets will go on sale on **Friday, March 15th**. The concert is open to the public, and tickets will go fast! Cost of $25/person in advance; $36 at the door; $18 for age 18-25. Visit **www.cbict.org** for tickets.

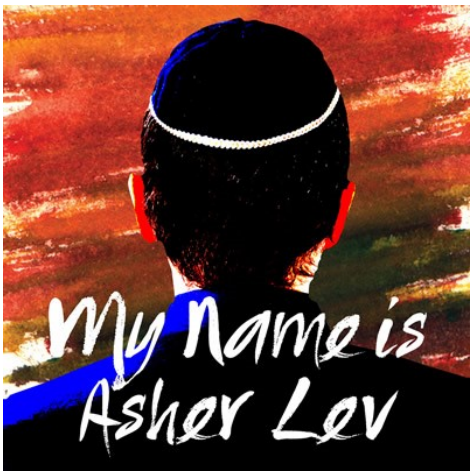
The concert is the centerpiece of a weekend residency which will include a Friday evening Shabbat service in which Josh will lead services with our clergy, and a visit to YEP on Sunday. To find out how you can become a sponsor for this weekend of Jewish music, visit **www.cbict.org**. All sponsors will be invited to a pre-concert cocktail hour and meet-and-greet with Josh.

Study and Learn למד

A Playhouse on Park Outing

My Name is Asher Lev

Sunday, April 28th at 2:00pm; pre-show lunch and discussion at CBI at 12:00pm



Following the success of last year's outing to *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Playhouse on Park, we reserved ninety tickets for this play about Jewish identity in the twenty-first century. Based on the novel by Chaim Potok and adapted by Aaron Posner, *My Name Is Asher Lev* tells the story of a Jewish boy growing up in a Hasidic New York community, where his artistic aspirations come into conflict with his family's strict adherence to tradition.

Cost of $20 per person includes pre-show lunch and discussion at CBI, a ticket to the show, and a copy of the book for your family by request. Reserve by **April 20th** at **www.cbict.org**. Transportation provided by request if reserved by April 20th. Open to members only.

Thank you to our generous anonymous congregant donors, and Friends of the Library for making this program possible. Additional sponsorships are available: visit **www.cbict.org**.

Book Group

All are welcome to join us in the Learning Center for our monthly discussion of books from a Jewish perspective. For more information, contact **Libby Pearl, pearl823@aol.com**

Tuesday the Rabbi Saw Red by Harry Kemelman

Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00pm

Sunny Zelman will lead us in a discussion of this entertaining murder mystery. This is the fifth book in the Rabbi Small series. David Small is enmeshed in the murder of a fellow teacher, and everyone is under suspicion. This short mystery includes some interesting observations about Jewish customs. We'd love to hear your take on it!

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok

Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00pm

Edee Tenser will lead a congregation-wide discussion of My Name is Asher Lev in conjunction with our community's planned trip to see the play at the Playhouse on Park**.** All are welcome to join in the discussion!

Understanding and Combating Contemporary Anti-Semitism

with Dr. Charles Small

Thursday, April 4th at 7:00pm at the Mandell JCC

Dr. Small is the founding Director and President of the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy. This program is free and open to the public. To RSVP, please e-mail **leslie@jewishledger.com**. For information, call **(860) 231-2424**. This program is presented in cooperation with the *Jewish Ledger.*

In the Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Community Learning Center

"Study leads to all of the commandments." Mishnah Peah 1:1

Learning Center Director **Karen Beyard** and her husband **Don Ellis** will be in Israel again this year during March and April. While Karen is "working from home" in the center of Jerusalem, the library will be in the excellent hands of volunteers **Mara Whitman**, **Geanie Smith, Brenda Auerbach**, **Maxanne Kass**, **Alyce Stoner**, and **Jane Zande,** and Karen's grant-funded assistant **Bobbi Buckner.**

You can see posts about Karen's adventures on Facebook and in Chai Lights, and you can contact her directly about your library needs or anything else by emailing **kbeyard@cbict.org.** Friends of the Library and anyone else who would enjoy talking with Karen are invited to join with SAGE in live video call discussions from Jerusalem on **Tuesdays, March 5th and April 2nd at 11:15am** (see page 15 for more information). Karen will also be on video call "live from the Kotel" on **March 10th** to talk about praying at the Western Wall with our fifth and sixth graders. And she plans to meet up with members our on congregational trip in Jerusalem **March 29th-April 2nd.** If you plan to be in Israel too, please let her know.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Israel for Armchair Travelers
Includes our collection of books for children and their families.

Israel: Land of Beauty
March and April

The Not-So-Scenic Political Landscape of Israel
March and April

Since elections have been called for Tuesday, April 9th, spring promises to bring new excitement to the Israeli political scene.

Purim is Not Just for Kids: *Shpiels*, Heroines, and Villains Old and New
March 13th - 27th

A Taste of Passover: *Haggadot*, Cookbooks, and Traditions
April 10th - 28th

Find something new – or old – for your Passover celebration.

Family Reading for Yom HaShoah
April 29th - May 5th

For Holocaust Remembrance Day, find age-appropriate books and films for children, young people, parents, and grandparents.

Friends of the Library

Renewals

Arnold and Hermia Aronson
Beth Berinstein
Rob and Lisa Berman
Jack and Barbara Blechner
Beth Borden
Harry and Diane Davidson
Sheldon Dolinger
Judith Eisenberg
Clare Feldman
Carol Fine
Marcia Fine
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Claudia Teitelbaum
Marlene Wenograd
Lorrie Wexler
Edith Whitman
Mara Whitman
Jane Zande and Jeff Smith

New Members

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Lillian Donner-Jacobson
Maya and Alex Dobrynin
Debra Eyges in honor of Jane
Zande's services
Jeffrey Rudikoff
Laurie Salzberg & Mike
Kopelman
Barb and Bill Lavine
Ronald and Judi Schlossberg
Roberta Tansman
Pamela Weltman
Chet and Gwen Zaslow
Diane Zucker

Repair תיקון עולם

Update: MLK Day at Foodshare

In honor of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 21st, congregants volunteered at Foodshare, an organization dedicated to ending hunger in Greater Hartford. Thanks to **Andy Katz** for organizing!

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Loaves and Fishes

Mondays, March 25th and April 22nd at 10:00am
Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford

Prepare and serve food to those in need on the fourth Monday of each month. For more information, contact **Willa Rosenworcel** at **860-604-0515**.

Foodshare Truck

Fridays, March 15th and April 12th at 1:00pm

Help hand out food from Foodshare's mobile truck monthly at CBI. Foodshare works to eliminate hunger in our community. For more information, contact **Mari Maidman** at **maidman3@att.net**.

Caring Team

Over the winter we had fun making homemade soup and sharing it with some of our congregants. Thanks to **Leslie Kei-Rahn** and **Jordan Kei-Rahn** for making soup in our temple kitchen, and to **Claudia Teitelbaum**, **Paul DeLeeuw**, and **Katie Pilver** for bringing in homemade soup to distribute!

In March we'll be collaborating with the Youth Engagement Program and Sisterhood to make and distribute *mishloach manot*, our annual Purim gifts. If you have a warm heart and some time to help us, please reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you.

Lorrie Wexler and **Jane Zande**
caring@cbict.org

S.A.G.E.

Seniors for Arts, Growth and Education
Supported by the Dr. Robert A. Kramer Fund

Join S.A.G.E. on Tuesdays!
11:15am Discussion
12:15pm Lunch ($9)
1:00pm Program

RSVP for lunch by 3:00pm on the Sunday before:
Jan Glass, 860-675-9105, janiceglass@att.net
or **Nancy Kramer, 860-243-8558.**

March 5th
Discussion: **Karen Beyard** (video call from Jerusalem)
Program: **Rabbi's Forum**

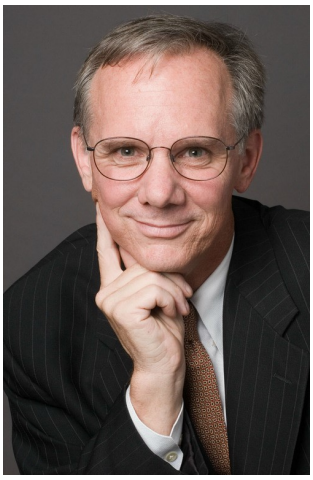
March 12th
Discussion: **Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum**
Program: **Rabbi Barbara Aiello and *The Secret Jews of Calabria***
Rabbi Aiello will present her documentary film highlighting the little-known history of southern Italy's Jewish community.

March 19th
Discussion: **Max Schwimmer**
Program: **Nancy Johnson**
Nancy Johnson is a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives She served Connecticut's Fifth District from 1983-2007.

March 26th
Discussion: **Roberta Tansman**
Program: **Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz**

April 2nd
Discussion: **Karen Beyard** (video call from Jerusalem)
Program: **Rabbi's Forum**

April 9th
Discussion: **Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum**
Program: **Patty O'Brian: "Memory"**
Patty is a dementia specialist at Hartford Health Care Center. She will lead a discussion about memory.



Left: Former US Rep. Nancy Johnson (March 19th)
Right: Historian Bill Hosley (April 30th)

April 16th
Discussion: **Rabbi Andi Fliegel**
Program: **Sara DeBeer: "Jewish Tales of Wisdom"**
Sara is an experienced storyteller with a specialty in international folk tales.

April 23rd
Discussion: **Max Schwimmer**
Program: **Natasha Ulyanovsky and Patrick Buckley, baritone: "Jewish Broadway"**

April 30th
Discussion: **Roberta Tansman**
Program: **Bill Hosley: "Building Hartford, An Architectural History"**
Bill is an author, photographer, and historian.

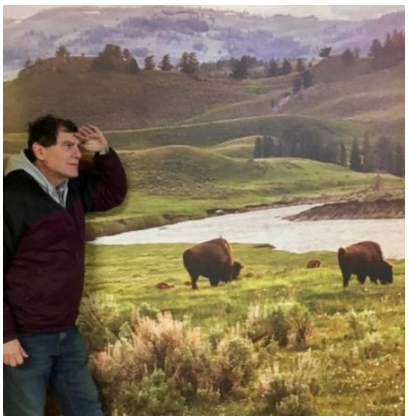
Brotherhood President's Message

Eric Schneider

860-970-7580
doeguy@sbcglobal.net

From Jeff Smith:

> *On January 17th, Beth Israel's Brotherhood went for a night of skills "honing" and friendly competition at the Montana Nights facility in Newington where members of the Brotherhood received training in the fine art of axe-throwing (at targets!). The axe-shun was fast and furious, but when the dust settled, some of our guys proved themselves to be more axe-pert at it than others. Just so you know, all members returned home with axe-actly the number of digits they came in with.*



More social events being considered include karaoke, a Monday night at Arch Street Tavern, bowling, mini golf, card game night, and an outdoor gathering this coming summer. Let me know if you have an interest in participating and helping us to organize any of these events.

Stay tuned to Chai Lights and messages for information on upcoming Sunday-morning breakfast programs. Make sure you are on Eric's e-mail list!

If you have not yet signed up to help with the Purim Carnival, please contact Eric Schneider. Monetary donations to The Brotherhood-Congregation Beth Israel are appreciated to cover carnival expenses. Stay tuned for Yellow Candle distribution in April, and Tour de Shuls on **Sunday, June 2nd**.

Share your thoughts and interests with Eric! Our Brotherhood Planning meetings are on the **first Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm** in Feldman Hall. Snacks are provided, and we welcome all Beth Israel men to join in comradery, planning of events, and song.

Sisterhood President's Message

Sandy Berinstein

860-223-0136
sberinstein@yahoo.com

How quickly this year is going by. At our last meeting our nominating chair, **Sandy Gersten,** presented our new slate of officers for 2019-2020:

President: **Gayle Wintjen**
Vice President: **Mari Maidman**
Vice President: **Leslie Traubert**
Vice President and Recording Secretary: **Barbara Honor**
Treasurer: **Sue DeMartino**
Corresponding Secretary: **Elissa Donn**
Membership Secretary: **Michelle Meyer**
Board of Trustee Representative: **Carmen Holzman**

Directors 2019-2021:
Rona Gelber
Norma Green
Carmen Holzman
Linda Jacobson
Sunny Kagan
Sharon Lessne

I would like to thank the other members of our nominating committee: **Sandy Gersten** (Chair), **Barbara Honor, Michelle Meyer,** and **Ruth Van Winkle**.

Please note that **March 8th** will be our Sisterhood Shabbat. **Rosanne Selfon**, Past President of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) will be our guest speaker. **May 15th** will be our annual meeting - time and place to be announced.

Wishing everyone a Happy Purim.

In the spirit of Sisterhood,
Sandy

Rosanne Selfon will speak at Sisterhood Shabbat on **March 8th at 7:30pm**
(more on page 9).

CBI Judaica Shop Closing Sale

Almost everything is 50% off
Open Sundays when YEP is in session

The community's many years of patronage has helped CBI Sisterhood support the youth of our congregation. Proceeds from our sales have supported purchasing Hebrew Bibles for our confirmands, kiddush cups for our b'nai mitzvah students, and many other special programs and supplies for our YEP religious school.

Sisterhood thanks you and especially the generations of women who volunteered and made the shop an important part of Sunday mornings.

In Memory of Lois Silberman

by Jane Zande

We mourn the loss of congregant Lois Voltter Silberman who died at the age of 97 in January in New York City. Lois and her husband Samuel were visionary philanthropists. They supported professional social work education, training, and research, including the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Lois's philanthropy also touched Congregation Beth Israel. She managed the Silberman Family's legacy of financially supporting the upkeep of our Silberman Chapel.

The Silberman legacy began with Lois's mother-in-law, Dorothy Silberman. Dorothy and Alfred came to Hartford as a young married couple, joining Beth Israel in 1926. They raised two sons, Marvin and Samuel (Buddy). After becoming wealthy in the tobacco business, the Silbermans became philanthropists, instrumental in establishing the new Mt. Sinai Hospital, for example. Their hopes of sharing old age together took an unexpected turn when Alfred died in 1948 at the age of 58, leaving Dorothy a heartbroken widow.

Dorothy knew that Rabbi Abraham Feldman had a dream of creating a chapel within the synagogue building of Congregation Beth Israel, but he had not yet found a benefactor. Dorothy, still in mourning for her husband, saw an opportunity to creating a "living" memorial - an intimate, sacred space where our community could share Shabbat services and our most precious lifecycle events.

With Dorothy's support, plans for the Alfred M. Silberman Memorial Chapel soon began. The new space was to include a chapel, a narthex (the entrance area), and an outside facade. The Feldman/Silberman team was an extraordinary force. Our archive records document the meticulous attention to detail as the two worked together to select and approve every design and symbol. For example, Alfred had found meaning in the message of the prophet Micah, and so the two conceived of a way to inscribe Micah's words above the outside doors: "Love thy God. Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly. Love Thy Neighbor." Jewish symbols adorn the space, including on the unique Ark, a gift from Dorothy's sons.

Sadly, Dorothy did not live to see the fulfillment of her gift. She died in February, 1951, five months before the scheduled dedication of the chapel. Her descendants, particularly her son Buddy and his wife Lois, vowed to maintain Dorothy's dream. Congregation Beth Israel updated and rededicated the chapel in 1987, and then again in 2000, following the death of Buddy. Now with the death of Lois, Dorothy's granddaughter, Jayne, continues the legacy.

Above: The inscription above the outside doors of the chapel
Below: Dorothy Silberman helping to lay the cornerstone for the chapel

At the cornerstone ceremony for the Silberman Memorial Chapel, Dorothy expressed in remarks that along with grief for her husband, she felt gratitude "for the good earth of Connecticut which has been good to her and her family." As we honor the story of the Silberman Chapel, we appreciate not only the physical symbols of our heritage so thoughtfully placed throughout the space, but also the family's values of gratitude, generosity, love, and honoring family memory.

We are deeply indebted to the Silbermans for so lovingly maintaining this legacy from generation to generation.

You can still purchase a leaf on our Tree of Life! Complete and mail in this form , or donate at www.cbict.org.

Your Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

❑ I have enclosed a check made payable to **Congregation Beth Israel .**

❑ Please charge my credit card: ❑AMEX ❑Discover ❑Mastercard ❑Visa

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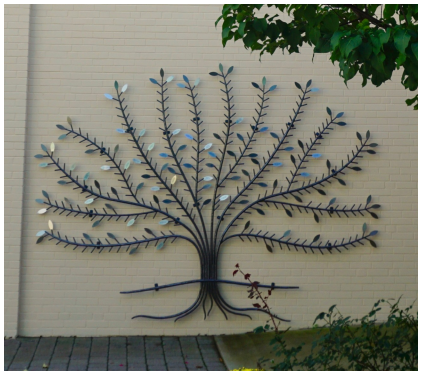
I wish to donate ____ leaf/leaves at $360 per leaf for a total contribution of: $_____

I would like to make a contribution toward the Tree of Life in the amount of: $_____

Each leaf includes a two-line inscription of a maximum of twenty characters per line, including spaces. Your inscription may include: "In honor of", "Dedicated to", "Donated by", etc. We will automatically center any line of under twenty characters. Please provide inscription for each leaf you wish to donate.



I would like my inscription to read:

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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March 2019 Adar I - Adar II 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Annual Purim Shpiel and Carnival March 17th at 10:30am					**1** 6:00pm Kol Shabbat and Girl Scout Shabbat Service with YEP Grades 3-4 7:00pm Community Dinner 8:00pm Meditative Shabbat Service	**2** 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Tot Shabbat 11:00am Shabbat Service
3 9:00am YEP 11:30am Purim Shpiel Rehearsal	**4** 5:30pm Minyan	**5** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington 7:15pm Sisterhood Meeting 7:15pm Brotherhood Meeting	**6** 4:30pm YEP 6:00pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 7:00pm Book Group 7:00pm Intro to Judaism (offsite) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**7** 5:30pm Minyan	**8** 7:30pm Sisterhood Shabbat Service	**9** 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Service
10 9:00am YEP 9:30am Brotherhood Breakfast: Jackson Lab 11:30am Jr. WHTY Baking and Movie	**11** 5:30pm Minyan	**12** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington	**13** In the Learning Center: *Purim is Not Just For Kids* (exhibit through the 27th) 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Intro to Judaism (offsite) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**14** 5:30pm Minyan	**15** **Josh Nelson Concert Tickets Go On Sale** 1:00pm Foodshare Truck 7:30pm Simcha Shabbat Service	**16** 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Tot Shabbat 11:00am Shabbat Service 3:00pm Shabbark Shalom (offsite)
17 9:00am YEP 10:30am Purim Shpiel and Carnival	**18** 5:30pm Minyan	**19** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington 7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting	**20** **Purim Begins** 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Intro to Judaism (offsite) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**21** **Purim** 5:30pm Minyan	**22** 7:30pm Shabbat Service	**23** 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Service Bat mitzvah of Talia Leshem
24 CBI Israel Trip (through April 3rd) 9:00am YEP 10:00am Sisterhood Knitting Group **31** 9:00am YEP	**25** 10:00am Social Justice Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes (offsite) 5:30pm Minyan	**26** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington	**27** 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Intro to Judaism (offsite) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**28** 5:30pm Minyan	**29** 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	**30** 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Service 1:00pm Seal Watching Trip (offsite) 7:00pm The Tribe's Game Night

April 2019 Adar II - Nisan 5779

-Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30pm Minyan	**2** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington 7:15pm Sisterhood Meeting 7:15pm Brotherhood Meeting	**3** 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Final Intro to Judaism at CBI 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**4** 5:30pm Minyan 7:00pm Adult Learning: Contemporary Anti-Semitism	**5** 6:30pm Shabbat Service	**6** 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Tot Shabbat 11:00am Shabbat Service
7 **No YEP**	**8** 5:30pm Minyan	**9** **No YEP** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington	**10** **No YEP** In the Learning Center: *A Taste of Passover* (exhibit through the 28th) 7:00pm Book Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**11** 5:30pm Minyan	**12** 1:00pm Foodshare Truck 7:30pm Simcha Shabbat Service	**13** 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Service
14 **No YEP** 3:30pm Micro WHTY Tot Seder	**15** 5:30pm Minyan	**16** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington 7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting	**17** 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**18** 5:30pm Minyan	**19** **Erev Passover** **Office closed at 1:00pm** 5:30pm Lay-Led Shabbat Service 6:00pm First Night Community Seder	**20** 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Tot Shabbat 11:00am Shabbat Service
21 **No YEP**	**22** 10:00am Social Justice Volunteers at Loaves and Fishes (offsite) 5:30pm Minyan	**23** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program	**24** 4:30pm YEP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	**25** 5:30pm Minyan	**26** **Building Closed (Passover)** 11:00am Passover Festival and Yizkor Service 6:30pm Boomer Shabbat Service 7:00pm The Tribe's Passover's -Finally-Over Shabbat Dinner (offsite)	**27** 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Service 4:00pm Shabbark Shalom (offsite)
28 9:00am YEP 10:00am Sisterhood Knitting Group 12:00pm Lunch and *My Name is Asher Lev* at Playhouse on Park Jr. WHTY Game Night - time TBA	**29** In the Learning Center: *Family Reading for Yom HaShoah* (exhibit through May 5th) 5:30pm Minyan	**30** 11:15am SAGE Discussion 1:00pm SAGE Program 5:00pm YEP in Farmington				

Save these dates!

Yom HaShoah Program

Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00pm

Our commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day will include a talk with a Holocaust survivor. This program is courtesy of The Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach (HERO) Center, a joint initiative between Voices of Hope and the Maurice Greenberg Center at the University of Hartford.

"The History of the Israel-American Relationship" with Avinoam Patt

Sunday, May 5th at 9:30am

University of Hartford Professor Avinoam Patt examines the history of the "special relationship" between the US and Israel. A light breakfast will be served; suggested donation of $10 per person.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

701 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, Connecticut 06119
860-233-8215 | bethisrael@cbict.org
www.cbict.org

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A Reform Congregation founded in 1843 and affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism since 1877. The Synagogue Bulletin is published with the kind cooperation of the Solomon and Katie Wohl Foundation.

Our mission is to serve the lifelong spiritual and educational needs of our congregants, within a welcoming and caring contemporary Reform Jewish Community.

First Night Community Passover Seder

Friday, April 19th at 6:00pm

Celebrate Passover with friends and neighbors and enjoy dinner catered by The Crown. $36 per adult, $25 college students and children ages 7-18, children 6 and under are free.

Reservations are required by **April 13th**; space is not guaranteed after. We are unable to take registrations at the door.

Would you like to participate or lead part of the seder? Contact **Michelle Meyer** at **860-920-5383** or **mmeyer@cbict.org**.

Questions? Call the office at **860-233-8215**.

Register at www.cbict.org.