

Early Fall 2017 / 5777-5778

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

BULLETIN



HOLIDAYS!

Rosh Hashanah I September 20-22, 2017 Yom Kippur I September 29-30, 2017
See inside for more information and service times.

CELEBRATE

Rosh Hashanah

With Teshuvah,
Tekiah, and
Tito's

Evening Services Begin at 5:45 p.m. Immediately Followed by Dinner!

Pre-Rosh Hashanah Dinner
Friday, September 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

2385 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1499

203-334-0159, Fax 203-334-1411

www.rodephsholom.com,  [rodephsholombridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/rodephsholombridgeport)

Rabbi
Hazzan
Executive Director
President
Gabbaim
Rabbi Emeritus

David Barnett, D.D.
Niema Hirsch
Mark Block, FSA
Cheryl G. Green
Sy Wiesenfeld, Irwin Schildkraut
Israel C. Stein, D.D.

IN MEMORIUM

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

Members:

Ellen Bedford (May 11, 2017 / 16 Iyar 5777)
Rose Friedman (May 31, 2017 / 6 Sivan 5777)
Leon Spivack (June 3, 2017 / 10 Sivan 5777)
Bernice Goldbloom (June 6, 2017 / 12 Sivan 5777)

Member Relatives:

Natalie Gurman (June 18, 2017 / 24 Sivan 5777)
Sister of Sy Wiesenfeld
Marshall Lewis (June 26, 2017 / 2 Tammuz 5777)
Father of Lance Lewis

WEBSITE

www.rodephsholom.com

On the synagogue's website, www.rodephsholom.com, you'll find up-to-date information on programs, activities and services going on throughout the week at Rodeph Sholom. Visit www.rodephsholom.com often to see what's going on, and browse through the special links to Shabbat, holidays and festivals uploaded regularly.

MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is dedicated to two guiding principles:

To serve as a vibrant center for the practice and teaching of Conservative Judaism.

To create a spiritual and social atmosphere in which congregants feel part of a larger synagogue family.

DAILY SERVICES

Bufferd/Vogel Chapel unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Weekdays	7:10 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Rosh Hodesh	7:00 a.m.
Friday evening	6:00 p.m.
Shabbat Morning	9:00 a.m.
Shabbat Mincha	Sundown, See website

For any changes and up-to-date service times, check out our weekly email blast or visit www.rodephsholom.com.

SIMCHAS

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Michael and Carol (Spivack) Weinshel on their son Matthew Weinshel's promotion to Colonel in the United States Army.

Mazal Tov to Cheryl and Sam Green on the engagement of their son Matthew to Lindsay Raber, daughter of Bill and Rose Raber of East Windsor, CT. Matthew is also the grandson of Visselle and Irving Glazer, and the late Minnie and Abraham L. Green z"l.

Email Mark Block at mblock@rodephsholom.com, or call the office at 203-334-0159 with your family simchas.

Note: Rabbi Barnett deeply cares about all of our congregants, and wishes to be informed directly in case of any emergencies by calling the synagogue office at 203-334-0159. You may leave a voice mail message at his extension, as hospitals will not release any personal information in case of illness or crises.

Rabbi's Message

Rabbi David S. Barnett, D.D.

Renewal Old and New

Inasmuch as this is my very first article for our congregation bulletin, let me first express my dual feelings of great joy and honor that I feel as being your new rabbi of this very distinguished and historic congregation, Congregation Rodeph Sholom. As I shared in the letter sent out to our membership, I am looking forward to a wonderful, dynamic, and creative year ahead as we work together as a strong, united, and wonderful team to unite and build our community in new and fresh ways while maintaining a resonance with the best and strongest elements of our tradition. In the process, it is my strong hope that we will collectively experience community joy and continued healing where needed, accompanied by new realities of renewal, growth, inspiration, and perceptions of greater relevance and benefits of synagogue membership within the context of Jewish living.

So allow me then without further introduction to delve into a key theme we collectively and individually engage in during this upcoming extremely intensive period of our upcoming High Holy Days and (it always seems) near immediate and continued first pilgrimage festival of Sukkot, namely that of renewal. As a first note along the way, if you had to choose only two major themes of this period, in my view now, they would be Teshuvah, return to God and the "path", and renewal.

In so many ways, the message in the following paragraphs is tailored specifically to my impressions of the particular needs and experience of this specific community, yet, as I have reflected upon this over the last number of days, I would dare assert that there can be universal import of these thoughts as well. For my first

article here then, I know that's a huge claim! I therefore encourage you to put it to the real test, and let me know the results over the next week, month, year, three years, decade (God willing), and beyond! What is the test? The test involves the degree to which these thoughts resonate with you on your deepest levels to encourage you to become more of who you want to be – to live more fully consonant with your dreams, your visions, your hopes, and your inner compass. It involves your own perceptions as to whether these words and subsequent messages will succeed in catalyzing the disparate parts of ourselves into a fuller framework of action and greater meaning so that we can care on a deeper level, be more of who we want to be, and embrace the best visions of our potentials within the overall context of our lives, individually, and as a community.

Going back to our theme, renewal, indeed, when we say the blessing over apples and honey at the very onset of the Rosh Hashanah festival, we express the hope of renewal addressing God directly and rather boldly – "Sh't'chadesh aleinu shanah tovah u'm'tukah" – "That You, (speaking directly in the second person to God) should renew us (for) a good and sweet year." What boldness, bordering on even a little bit of Chutzpah! How can we claim true merit to such an expression and mixture of hope and its simultaneous plea/order to God?

Indeed, the noun in modern Hebrew for renewal is "Hitshadshut", which uses the reflexive construction to produce the nominative "renewal". This implies a continuous process of inner renewal and re-creation of ourselves as we encounter the world. Indeed, it

resonates with the parallel in nature that is expressed in the daily liturgy:

"Ha m'chadesh b'tuvo tamid ma'asei

b'reisheit", "(God), who, in his goodness, daily renews the miracles of creation." Thus, first and foremost, we recognize God as the source of renewal in both the physical and spiritual worlds and dimensions. This celebrates the new, the regenerated, the previously unborn now coming to fruition, in a continual and unending process of birth, renewal, growth, and even death hopefully leading to new life.

However, elsewhere in our liturgy, specifically when we weekly engage in the Torah services, upon returning the Torah scroll(s) to the ark, we say, "Chadesh Yameinu K'Kedem", "Renew our days as of old". Does this imply that we are asking for a return to only the old, the past, sometimes stale only "tried and true" of what has been, rather than what can still be born anew and organically evolve into something truly not seen before and unique in its newfound creativity and immediate relevance? Is there therefore an inner contradiction between the two mandates, perspectives, requests, hopes and sets of prayers?

I would suggest the answer to be no. Rather than experiencing an inner



(continued on page 4)

Rabbi's Message (Cont'd.)

contradiction, I would suggest a “paradigm shift”, namely, of experiencing what could be misconstrued as two opposing platforms as rather two poles of polarity, which exhibit and manifest a dynamic tension always existing between the polarities. In that way, I would suggest simply that a new perspective can emerge which can resolve any apparent contradiction. Just as God, while always existing, does not manifest stasis but rather eternal becoming and renewal, so also we, as humans can pray for the spirit, the essential process, of renewal itself just as “of old”. Hence we are not praying for what was the exact past, since we can never retrieve or recreate exactly those conditions as they once existed; we pray for the ability itself to revive and become revived, to renew and become renewed, and as such, to both individually and collectively experience true “renewal”!

May we share many moments of joy together in the upcoming days, weeks, months, and years in the process!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Barnett

More About Our New Rabbi: David S. Barnett, D.D.

Originally from Seattle, Washington, Rabbi David Barnett was raised in the Reform movement, at Temple de Hirsch, and then at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation. While a student at the University of Washington, he developed a relationship with Rabbi Moshe Pomerantz of Herzl-Ner Tamid, which led to an interest in more traditional Judaism.

After earning his BA, Rabbi Barnett spent six months on Kibbutz Netzer Sereni and at an ulpan, attaining basic fluency in Hebrew. He then decided to pursue the rabbinate, and was in the first class of students at the Midreshet Jerusalem program at Neve Schechter, under the auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). While there, Rabbi Barnett applied to the JTS rabbinical program. He spent his first two years in Los Angeles at the University of Judaism (now American Jewish University), where he earned a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters. He also studied under Allan Michelson z”l, a preeminent West Coast cantor, and then completed his rabbinic studies at JTS in New York. Rabbi Barnett was ordained in 1986.

Rabbi Barnett served for two years as assistant rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania, before relocating to southern California in 1988. Over the next 25 years, he worked at numerous Jewish congregations and officiated at funerals in conjunction with several prominent Jewish mortuaries. The Rabbi said, “Through that work, I found tremendous meaning in helping people transition from the shock of immediate loss to the process of honoring their loved ones who had passed and finding meaning throughout the process”.

In 2011, Rabbi Barnett was offered an interim rabbinical position in Virginia Beach, VA, which led to two more interim positions – at Temple Beth-El in Poughkeepsie, NY, and at the Huntington Jewish Center, NY.

Rabbi Barnett is an accomplished musician who studied both violin and classical guitar for many years. Rabbi Barnett says, “I look forward to sharing my passions and skills with the Rodeph Sholom community, and taking a sincere interest in everyone’s life journey”.

Installation of Rabbi Barnett Saturday, September 16, 2017



Please join us as we formally install Rabbi Barnett as our permanent, full-time Rabbi during Shabbat morning services, Saturday, September 16, 2017.

As Rabbi Barnett is installed while on the bima on Shabbat morning, we look forward to the High Holidays beginning the following week. We are excited that Rabbi Barnett will be leading us in prayer and reflection throughout the holidays as he has been doing during daily and Shabbat services since earlier this summer.

A delicious kiddush in the Rabbi's honor will take place immediately following morning services.

Notes from Niema

Hazzan Niema Hirsch

“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.” --Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, reminds us that love and hate are not that far apart. Because with both love and hate you acknowledge the existence of other people. You see the others and feel their presence. Only when showing complete indifference to other people do they cease to exist. I would expand this quote to encompass our relationship with God. You can be angry at God, or you can chant the Shema prayer and V’ahavta and love God with all your might and all your soul. But for God’s sake, please do not be indifferent.

This is a time of transition in the Jewish calendar from year 5777 to year 5778. We see the transition in nature as the weather will soon change from summer to fall. Any transition, be it the fall season, or changing an occupation, or possibly moving to a new home or a new marital status can be a welcome change or it can be daunting. Or both. For me, coming to Rodeph Sholom and welcoming Rabbi Barnett was a

fabulous change. After more than a decade at Beth El as a cantor/educator, I found the pulpit at Rodeph Sholom heart-warming. I love meeting new people and enjoy learning about the lives and history of each one. It is an awesome experience to find my voice in this gorgeous sanctuary that has known so many amazing voices over the years.

We learn from the Chassidic master that in the month before Rosh Hashanah, “the king is in the field”. In this month of Elul God is more accessible than ever. He is waiting for us to greet him, he is there for us in the “field” of our everyday lives. We add Psalm 27 to the daily prayer. The Psalm opens with “God is my light and my salvation” and the whole mood of the Psalm is one of yearning to come closer to God. Strengthening our faith that God can and will remove obstacles to approaching Him if we are coming to pray with sincerity. Thus, the Psalmist is preparing us to pray with kavanah

(intention) during the Days of Awe, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

I pray that God will continue to bless this holy

congregation. I pray that you will accept me as your Hazzan and that our voices join together with the traditional melodies of the holidays. I pray that God will accept our deepest wishes for good life, for health, happiness and success. I pray that we direct our hearts towards God and request with great humility that the new year will be, indeed, a sweet one.

Shannah Tovah u’Metukah,

Niema Hirsch



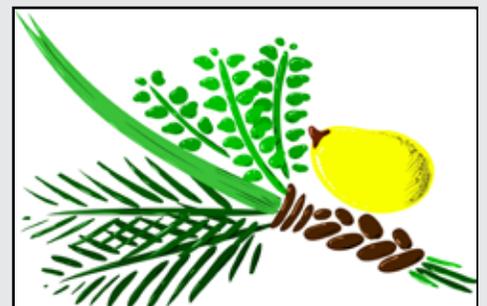
Lulavim and Etrogim Order Your Set Today!

Once again, you may purchase high quality lulav and etrog sets from Rodeph Sholom. We will ensure our members may celebrate the joyous festival of Sukkot with the traditional ritual objects. We will also have sets of Hoshanot – willow branches, which are used during services on Hoshana Rabbah. To be certain to get a lulav and etrog this year, please return this form with your check for \$60 to the synagogue no later than September 25. Please call the synagogue office at 203-334-0159 for pick-up information. Thank you.

Name

Number of Sets

Amount Enclosed



President's Message

Cheryl G. Green

You've Got Mail - cgreen@rodephsholom.com

August 31 6:00 a.m. Rise, take a walk or workout for an hour to clear my head so I can face what is sure to be an interesting day.

One hour later, now that I'm energized, grab a cup of coffee and head off to my computer to check my synagogue email.

7:20 a.m. 37 new messages since yesterday, not bad. Oh wait, it's still loading. Make that 52, must be a slow day for the congregation. Let's see, 12 are junk, so that makes my work a little easier, 18 are from other congregational presidents requesting feedback, advice or checking in with each other to assess how everyone is holding up and the final 22 are from congregants.

August 30 9:22 p.m. Sent from cardigancarrie. Cheryl, I was in services and it was freezing. Please do something. I like to sit in the second-row middle.

August 30 9:23 p.m. Sent from shvitzinglikecrazy. Isn't the air conditioning working? During services the room was so hot. Look into it!

August 30 9:27 p.m. Sent from couponcutter. I just received my new dues bill and want to thank you for not raising my dues. How did you do it?

August 31 Response from cgreen@rodephsholom.com. Thank you couponcutter for noticing dues were not increased. Your V.P. of Finance, Allan Alper, along with Mark Block, our Executive Director and the budget and finance committee worked diligently this past year to reduce expenses to avoid a dues increase. However, dues alone are not enough to meet the financial needs of our synagogue. We count on donations to the shul in the form of the High Holiday Appeal,

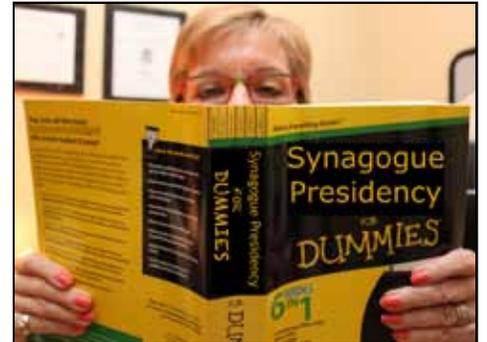
yahrzeit remembrance, bequests from estates, endowments and general contributions to make up the shortfall in what the income from dues will not cover. So, for all that life brings, I ask our congregants to remember Rodeph Sholom with a contribution whether it be for a celebration or in memory of a loved one.

August 30 9:34 p.m. Sent from whyisitsowindy. Cheryl darling, I was sitting in my usual spot in the front during services, you know where I always sit on the right and the air was blowing something awful. Just thought you should know.

10:01p.m. Sent from dustbowl. You're the new president, right? When did that happen? Anyway, left rear side of the room is like the Sahara Desert. You'll need to put a water fountain in if you expect people to sit back there for services.

August 30 10:10 p.m. Sent from feelthespirit. I thought you should know that services were wonderful. So happy we have a permanent Rabbi and he is so knowledgeable. Looking forward to the High Holidays with our new Rabbi and Hazzan Niema Hirsch.

August 31 Response from cgreen@rodephsholom.com. Good morning feelthespirit and thank you for your kind words. We are very excited that Rabbi Barnett has joined our congregation as our new rabbinic leader. He brings a wealth of Judaic knowledge, spiritual guidance and warmth that fills the void we all experienced this past year. Together with Hazzan Hirsch's contagious enthusiasm, we are confident our clergy will find a balance between the traditions we wish to honor, while incorporating changes for



us today that will serve to inspire us during the High Holiday services and through the year to come.

August 31 1:17 a.m. Sent from caffeinefiend. I read in your letter that came with my dues we are having the Pre-Holiday dinner again. I threw out the letter and forgot to mark my calendar. Please let me know when it is taking place and any other information I may need. Do you need any help for the event? Thank you so much.

(Doesn't anyone sleep??)

August 31 Response from cgreen@rodephsholom.com. Hi caffeinefiend. I am so glad you read my letter. Our 2nd annual Pre-Holiday dinner is taking place on Friday, September 15th. Services will begin at 5:45 p.m. followed by a wonderful Shabbat meal shared with Rabbi Barnett, Hazzan Hirsch and your extended Rodeph Sholom family. This year we are encouraging our members to invite unaffiliated friends or family they would enjoy spending Shabbat with and at the same time they will get a taste of what Rodeph Sholom has to offer. There is no cost to the evening, but reservations are a must and need to be made by September 8th.

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President's Message (Cont'd.) You've Got Mail

Thank you caffinefiend for asking such a great question about needing help. Yes, we always welcome congregants who want to be involved in whatever manner they choose. This is one of the most enjoyable events to be a volunteer. I will pass your email along to the chair people.

August 31 Group message to: cardigancarrie, shvitzinglikecrazy, whyisitsowindy, dustbowl. I received your emails regarding the level of physical comfort during services and I think I have a solution that will work for everyone. Cardigancarrie, switch seats with shvitzinglikecrazy and shvitzinglikecrazy, you take the seat vacated by cardigancarrie, second row in the middle.

Dustbowl, move to the front right where whyisitsowindy usually sits and whyisitsowindy, move to the left rear side of the room where dustbowl normally sits. Let me know if that is acceptable for everyone.

August 31 5:05 p.m. sent from cardigancarrie. Oh, thank you. Great idea.

August 31 7:23 p.m. sent from shvitzinglikecrazy. That will work.

August 31 7:43 p.m. sent from whyisitsowindy. I can agree to that.

August 31 9:19 p.m. sent from dustbowl. I hate sitting in the front, but if everyone else goes along with your plan, I will too.

Another catastrophe averted. Time to put my feet up, read a little and prepare for tomorrow's challenges, but alas, there goes the email again.

August 31 9:31 p.m. sent from happygolucky. Cheryl, just wanted you to know I was at services this past Shabbat and the room was so comfortable. Don't change a thing!

Wishing the entire Rodeph Sholom community, extended family and friends a very Happy and Healthy New Year in a world at peace.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Cheryl Green

Cemetery Visitation

The tradition of visiting the graves of the ancestors and praying for both the deceased and the living is very old. It is written in the Book of Numbers 13:22 about Caleb that, "And they went up into the south, and he came to Hebron." The Talmudin Tractate Sotah 34a explains that he went there to pray by the graves of the Patriarchs. Visiting graves is an important demonstration of respect and remembrance.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

10:00 a.m. Memorial Park,
Kings' Highway, Fairfield

10:30 a.m. Old Cemetery,
Shepard Street, Fairfield

(Minyan needed at the both
cemetaries.)

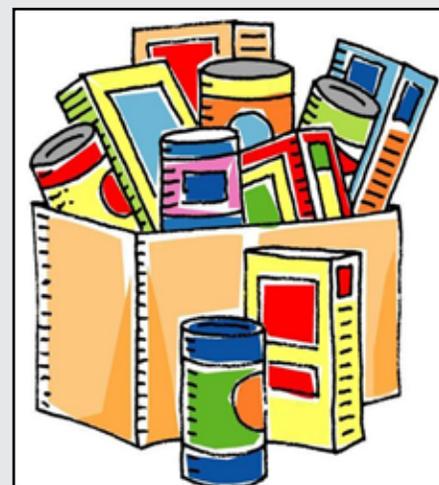


Operation Isaiah 5778

Kol Nidre "Fast" Food Drive

Synagogues all across the country will be participating in Kol Nidre Food Drives again this' year. Please fill a bag with nonperishable, packaged food items. Some of the items needed include: Cans of fruit, peanut butter, small (11 oz.) boxes of cereal, canned soups, vegetarian baked beans, cans of tuna fish, two pound boxes of rice, small jars of mayonnaise, cans of sardines.

Please bring your bag with you when you come for Kol Nidre services on Friday, September 29, or you may bring your bag to the synagogue office any time between now and Kol Nidre evening. Thank you.



Being Relevant

Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA

An Approach That's Open, Inclusive, Relevant and Creative

As we fast approach the High Holidays and the start of a New Year, we find ourselves preparing to take stock of our place in the world and how we can work to be better human beings in the months ahead.

At the same time, as the secular calendar year progresses we are giving serious thought and having conversations on the approach to four critical areas for Rodeph Sholom.

The synagogue leadership is asking some of the tough and necessary questions that will help to lead us toward developing a synagogue community and congregational culture that is different from the Rodeph Sholom many long-time members, and those of us who grew up here, recall. To be relevant in today's world of Conservative Jewish observance and activity we must look at the future in ways that would not have been thought of in the past:

1. Let's make our Jewish faith one in which we express a contemporary form of Conservative Judaism that accommodates our American individualism while enhancing Jewish continuity and community.
2. When we hear from a congregant or prospect who says I'm spiritual, but not religious, let's enhance our services and programs in a way that bridges spirituality and religion in an embracing way.
3. If we need to carve out time from a busy schedule in order to pursue spiritual practice, let's be sure we do so in a meaningful and understanding way. The times have changed my friends and we need to not just recognize that change, we need to embrace it.

4. As Jews, we are primarily and ultimately accountable to our various secular and religious communities. Let's not abrogate our responsibility to make it engaging for ourselves and the generation to follow. If we do, we will have done a disservice from which we will see a continued downward trend in self-identification.

When we talk about a renaissance in our Conservative beliefs, it has become a common theme that it must be one of spirituality coupled with tradition – the past, present and future as an integrated focus on community, observance and acceptance. It is no longer just words on a page or a report to the congregation on being open, inclusive, relevant and creative. These all must be cornerstones through which we build a truly contemporary congregation – one that speaks to us all. The time for action is upon us. To ensure our survival and enhance our opportunity for growth, our ability to embrace those of diverse religious practice and spiritual observance should focus on belonging, believing, and participating. There are so many ways this can occur, and as our Board of Trustees goes through a true visioning process under the direction and moderation of USCJ we can take our best practices and incorporate them into a contemporary and relevant form of approach to our faith.

When we talk about spirituality we have to understand there are many ways to be spiritual. Like any form of religious observance, there is not a one size fits all approach. Our spirituality can come through our values, study, culture, tikkun olam and more. There is generally a quieter and more inward and actively searching component that takes

place as the focus is on something much different than rote prayer, belief and behavior.

The active spiritualist seeks a space where there are no judgments' made on the individual, and the approach to Judaism is an active one for which focus in the contemporary world is sought.

As we look to be more relevant and construct a model, as individuals we are constantly seeking to locate the spirit within ourselves and a modern view of "soul," along with the need to develop a personal journey toward a vision and imagination we see in our mind's eye throughout life. Not unlike physical exercise, if we don't work at keeping in shape spiritually, in our home, at work, socially and at synagogue we will find ourselves "lost" in an America that focuses more on the material, and less on the spiritual. We should not deprive ourselves of that which we work hard to attain, after all that is what American Jews sought from the earliest days of immigration. What we should do is maintain a level of self-discipline and a commitment to intention, consciousness and awareness of our faith and how it can help in guiding us through the maze of American life.

In the next issue of our bulletin I will continue my thoughts on spirituality through community and observance. I'll tie both articles together for ourselves

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Being Relevant (Cont'd.)

and our synagogue. Through open minds and hearts we can build and prosper. When we look forward we don't ignore or forget our past, but I believe we see the view in front of us to be an exciting opportunity to make changes that will enhance our personal and institutional practice of Conservative Judaism that is just as meaningful as that which we see in the rearview mirror.

Ann and I wish you both peaceful and spiritually personal holidays. As we reflect on this past year let's look ahead to a New Year that is the foundation for days that are meaningful and purposeful for ourselves and our congregation.

L'shana tova tikatanuh.

Mark Bloek



Casting Away Our Sins

Tashlich 5778 - Thursday, September 21

“Tashlich” is the Hebrew for “cast away” (referring to the commandment to cast away our sins). In the afternoon of Thursday, September 21, the first day of Rosh Hashanah, we will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the aqueduct on the corner of Brooklawn and Laurel Avenues for the traditional Tashlich ritual. We visit a body of moving water to recite the brief Tashlich prayer in which we “cast away” our sins, often symbolized by bread. As fish depend on water, so do we depend on God’s providence. Also, as the eyes of a fish never close, so too is God’s watchfulness over us unceasing. We welcome you to join us for this beautiful tradition.

Torah Fund

Women Ensuring Conservative / Masorti Jewish Education

2017/2018 – 5778 TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

As we begin our Torah Fund Campaign for the year 2017/2018, 5778, we again thank the following women who raised \$4,280 last year.

Guardians

Julie Rappoport
Lisa Rappoport
Marilyn Rappoport
Svetlana Weisman

Benefactors

Deborah Baer
Carol Battin
Beattie Bernstein
Gertrude Broder
Tamara Bush
Toby Folman

Benefactors

Beth Gold*
Cheryl Green
Edith Katzen
Iris Krawitz
Marion Richer
Susan Spivack

Benefactors

Barbara Srebnick
Roz Stein
Lisa Stein
Judy Weiss
Judy Zeisler
*new benefactor!



We know they will continue their support because they have done so for many years past. We hope that this year we will add a number of new Guardians (an annual gift of \$300) and Benefactors (\$180). Call Lisa at 203-372-8203 or Roz at 203-336-1360 to let us know you wish to be counted as a Torah fund supporter.

L'shanah Tova,

Lisa and Roz

High Holy Days 5778

Service Schedule

ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Evening Service, Erev Rosh HaShanah	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:34 p.m.

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Rosh HaShanah (Day I) Services Begin	8:30 a.m.
Torah Service	9:45 a.m.
Child Care	9:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Musaf	11:15 a.m.
Tashlich	5:00 p.m.
Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:34 p.m.

Friday, September 22, 2017

Rosh HaShanah (Day II) Services Begin	8:30 a.m.
Torah Service	9:45 a.m.
Child Care	9:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Musaf	11:15 a.m.
Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	7:40 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 29, 2017

Erev Yom Kippur Mincha	1:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting/Fast Begins	6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Yom Kippur Services Begin	9:00 a.m.
Child Care	10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
Torah Service	10:15 a.m.
Sermon/Yizkor	11:15 a.m.
Musaf	12:15 p.m.
Mincha	4:15 p.m.
Neilah	5:45 p.m.
Ma'ariv	6:45 p.m.
Havdala/Final Shofar/Fast Ends	7:17 p.m.

Holidays and Festivals 5778

Service Schedule

SUKKOT

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	7:11 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:11 p.m.

HOL HAMO'ED

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Havdalah	7:08 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Shacharit	8:30 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.

Monday, October 9, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	5:45 p.m.

HOSHANA RABBAH

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv	5:45 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:03 p.m.

SHEMINI ATZERET

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
(Yizkor and Dedication of Memorial Plaques)	
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
(Simchat Torah Evening Celebration with Dancing and Singing)	
Candle Lighting	7:00 p.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday, October 13, 2017

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Ma'ariv	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	6:00 p.m.



2017 Shem Tov Award Recipient

Joseph Schwartz

Joe Schwartz, a native of Bridgeport, is the only child of Natalie and the late Jim Schwartz z”l. He became formally associated with Rodeph Sholom, almost 60 years ago when he entered Talmud Torah, in the third grade, in September, 1958. But, his family’s association began with Rodeph Sholom more than 20 years before when his maternal grandparents Norman and Henrietta Postol joined the congregation.

Joe celebrated his bar mitzvah at Rodeph Sholom on Saturday, November 30, 1963, in the last year of Rabbi Harry Nelson’ tenure. It was also the day after his cousin Linda Golden’s Friday night bat mitzvah. Following his bar mitzvah and Talmud Torah graduation, he was a member of Cantor David Leon’s Sherut Group, tutored bar mitzvah students and was a member of United Synagogue Youth. He attended and graduated from Rodeph Sholom’s Hebrew High School and its Jewish Theological Seminary supported Leaders’ Training Fellowship.

Following graduation from Joel Barlow High School in Redding, Joe attended Union College in Schenectady, NY, receiving his BA degree in economics in 1973. At Union, he was active in Hillel and served two years as president. In 1980 he was awarded an MBA degree from the University of Connecticut.

Always interested in politics, in 1974 Joe was elected State Senator from CT’s 28th district representing Fairfield, Easton, Newtown and Bethel. At the time of his election, he was, at 23, the youngest person elected state senator, in CT’s history. Following his term in the Senate, Joe served Easton for four years as Selectman, five years as alternate member of the Board of Finance and fourteen years on the Board of Education, including more than four years as Board Chair.

Professionally, Joe spent ten years in banking, culminating as Sr. Vice President of Valley Bank. A career in Mortgage Banking was next, including fifteen years running his own company Allied Mortgage Bankers, followed by a seven-year stint as Executive Mortgage Banker at William Raveis Mortgage. After five years as a life insurance and long-term care insurance agent, Joe joined Webster Bank, where he works in retail banking at the Ansonia Banking Center.



A regular Shabbat attendee of Rodeph Sholom services for almost 35 years, Joe has also been a regular at the daily minyan for almost 20 years. He can often be found serving as prayer leader of Shabbat, Yom Tov and daily services. He has also been a regular Shabbat usher. Joe has been a longtime member of Rodeph Sholom’s Ritual Committee, which he also chaired, and he has served the Congregation as Treasurer and VP of Finance, as well as many terms as trustee.

Joe and his late wife Ronda were married in Rodeph Sholom in 1981. Their children Stephanie and Michael celebrated their bat/bar mitzvah here and graduated from our Talmud Torah and community Merkaz. In 1995 Ronda celebrated her bat mitzvah, here, as an adult.

Just last year, Joe and Diana Rich married after a long courtship. Between them, they share five children, including Diana’s three, Ezra, Jon and Chana, as well as Stephanie’s husband

David, Ezra’s wife, Rabbi Sara, Chana’s fiancé, Kevin, and a growing list of grandchildren including Ezra’s and Sara’s Miriam and Sivan.

Joe would like to recognize the immeasurable impact that his almost 45-year association with Rabbi Israel Stein has meant to him. “There is so much of my Jewish life that I learned from Rabbi Stein, formally from his sermons, divrai Torah and classes and informally, by just being available to answer my questions. Without Rodeph Sholom and Rabbi Stein in my life, today, I would be a very different Jew.”

This year’s Shem Tov presentation will be made on Shabbat Hol Hamo’ed Sukkot, Saturday, October 7 during Shabbat morning services. A special kiddush will immediately follow services.



Hatan Torah - Larry Sax

Simchat Torah Last Aliyah - Friday, October 13

In 1951, Larry moved to the Bridgeport area from Baltimore, Maryland attending NYU from which he graduated. During the Korean conflict, Larry served in the army and upon his return from service, resumed working in the accounting field as a CPA eventually opening his own practice in 1957. Today, Larry is a partner with Beers, Hamerman, Cohen and Burger P.C. in Fairfield.

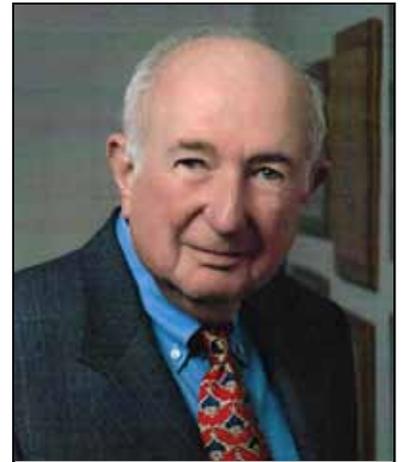
As an active member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, Larry has shown his leadership skills by chairing numerous committees, including the Trust, Estate and Gift Tax Committee, and has served on the Board of Governors of the Society.

When not busy with his professional organizations, Larry found time to serve as President of Abraham Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Masonic Lodge as Master of Temple Lodge and as District Deputy for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Larry has the distinction of holding the title "Director for Life" of the Men's Club of the Jewish Home for the Elderly.

Congregation Rodeph Sholom has been home for Larry since 1962 where he currently sits on the Board of Trustees and the Budget and Investment Committees of the synagogue.

Not only has Larry lent his considerable talents and expertise to the synagogue, but his late wife Gloria was a teacher in the Rodeph Sholom Sunday school for nearly twenty years.

When asked a most memorable highlight of his Rodeph Sholom experiences, Larry readily relays the story of his daughter Sharon recreating her entire Bat Mitzvah service on the thirtieth anniversary of that special occasion. "Rodeph Sholom has been home to me for many years and I am proud and thankful to be a congregant. I look forward to lending my hand to further the well-being of the synagogue. I am truly honored and I thank you for being selected as the Hatan Torah."



Kallah Bereshit - Iris Krawitz

Simchat Torah First Aliyah - Friday, October 13

My Beloved Jerry z"l and I were living in Fairfield in 1975 when we first became members of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. In 1986, we moved to Wilton, where we continued to raise our three loving children, Joel, Jaime, and Cole. All three are graduates of Rodeph Sholom Nursery School, Talmud Torah, and Merkaz. Joel and Sheila blessed our family with our two loving grandchildren, Zachary and Sophie.

In the past I've been an elementary school teacher. I did volunteer work for Meals on Wheels in Bridgeport and I've been a volunteer aide for the Bridgeport School System. Presently, I am a substitute teacher for the elementary schools in Wilton, Weston, and Darien.

I'm a Life member of Hadassah and the Ladies Auxiliary of the JSS. I'm a member of the Women of Rodeph Sholom (Sisterhood). I had the honor and privilege of being a co-president of Sisterhood from 1993-95.

My greatest enjoyment is being with my family. I love to partake in any activity involving my grandchildren. I also derive pleasure and enjoyment in spending time together with my extended family and friends.

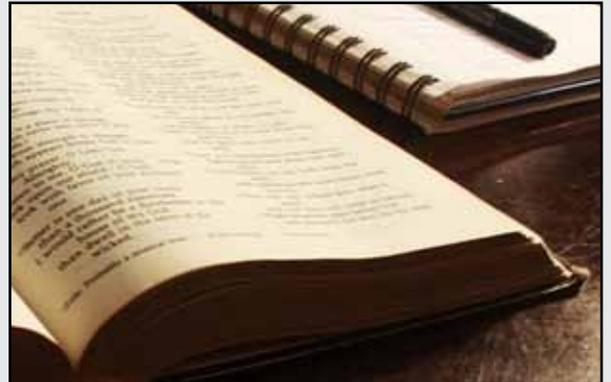
I wish to thank you for the kind and generous honor that has been bestowed upon me as the Kallah Bereshit. Rodeph Sholom has and continues to be an integral part of my family. It is a special place that has helped to create many endearing and fond memories for us. I look forward to sharing times together in conversation and prayer as we, the congregants strive for a bright, diverse, and vibrant future for Rodeph Sholom. My best wishes to all of you for a Happy, Healthy and Sweet L'Shana Tovah.



Adult Education with Rabbi Barnett

"Pathways through the Bible with Respect to Haftorah Selections and Liturgical Change"

Based on a paper submitted by Rabbi Avi Reisner and accepted by the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, this class will examine the traditions and development of Haftorah selection from the perspective of Rabbi Reisner's suggestion to implement a new and innovative triennial approach to the selection of Haftorot chanted during our services. Through this creative approach, we may find that there is more flexibility in Haftorah selection than previously thought, both in terms of passages selected, their relevance to our nearly universal adoption of the triennial cycle of Torah readings, and the respective length of passages selected. This will be a wonderful opportunity to familiarize ourselves with passages and stories from the Bible traditionally not always included in our traditional Haftorah selections, while at the same time engaging in the creative liturgical adaptive process which is actually part and parcel of the Jewish tradition as we experience it now.



This is initially planned as a six week course, scheduled to be held on consecutive weeks beginning October 24, 2017 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wedding Anniversaries

We congratulate the following couples on their anniversaries both past and upcoming!

AUGUST 2017

David and Harriet Stone	51
Bruce and Malvene Ravage	49
Michael and Carol Weinschel	48
David and Carol Hochberg	46
Jeffrey and Rhoda Munk	45
Bernard and Deborah Baer	43
Benjamin and Svetlana Weisman	43
Howard and Pam Burros	42
Zvi Goldman and Deborah Weiss	41
Ilan Kinori and Laurel Lobovits	41
Gerald and Lynn Mendelbaum	40
Lazaro and Rosalyn Pomeranic	39
John and Honey Blank	38
David and Marcie Slepian	37
Jeff and Renee Conecoff	32
Michael and Ellen Goldman	32
Mark and Ann Block	29
Harold and Deborah Goodman	24
David and Deborah Halperin	21
Jason and Melissa Held	21

Robert and Judy Zeisler	20
Stanley and Marcia Gershman	15

SEPTEMBER 2017

Arthur and Rosalind Friedman	61
Robert and Judith Jacobson	53
Allan and Helaine Alper	47
Michael and Norma Passo	47
Michael and Judith Fleischer	36
William and Barbara Markowitz	33
Cary and Laura Friedman	33
Morris and Cynthia Allinson	33
Ben Schultz and Chyai Mulberg	32
Gene and Beth Gold	30

OCTOBER 2017

Ethel and Ernest Tischler	64
William and Diane Serlin	53
Ronald and Deborah Sheiman	46
Milton and Ann Armm	26

NOVEMBER 2017

Raymond and Helen Lobovitz	71
J. Robert and Barbara Friend	62
Martin and Hinda Wolf	61
Arnold and Erica Cohen	46
Israel and Paula Hersh	36
William and Lisa Rappoport	33
Donald and Jody Kramer	26
Austin and Ellen Wolf	17



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Claire and Stanley Block on their 60th
anniversary
Ann and Mark Block
Matthew Green and Lindsay Rayber on
their engagement
Cheryl and Sam Green
Mark Herman's 50th Bar Mitzvah
anniversary
Mark Herman
Miriam Madwed on her 90th Birthday
Judith and Robert Jacobson
Sue and Marc Forman
Rabbi Israel Stein; Always in Our
Thoughts
Cheryl and Sam Green

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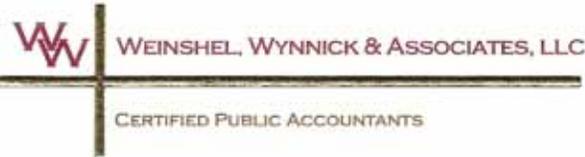
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Rodeph Sholom Celebrates Sukkot on Tuesday, October 10!

SUKKOT BBQ

Evening Services @ 5:45 pm. BBQ @ 6:30 pm

\$10 per person RSVP Required

See Enclosed Flyer for All Information and RSVP!