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A VERY SPECIAL EVENING - RABBI ADLER'S ORDINATION

If you were one of the more than 150 who attended the ordination of Rabbi Ethan Adler on September 28, 2014, you were fortunate enough to be part of a very special evening. For on that Sunday evening, our spiritual leader Ethan Adler became our very own Rabbi Ethan Adler.

Surrounded by his family, we all listened and watched on as Ethan's brother, Rabbi Elan Adler (who came all the way from Israel), and close friend and Temple Am David's Rabbi Richard Perlman, presided over the *semicha*, or ordination. *Semicha*

literally means "laying of the hands" and comes from when Moses placed his hands upon Joshua at his ordination. It was, therefore, quite a moving moment when Rabbi Perlman placed his hands on Ethan, who was covered in his tallit, and ordained him Rabbi Adler.

The word "rabbi" literally means "my teacher," and Rabbi Adler has been our teacher for almost 30 years. During that period he has led the Congregation Beth David community, and the Jewish community-at-large in prayer, life-long learning and, for many, through life events. He

has even found time to throw in a few good jokes and one-liners! We look forward to Rabbi Adler being "our" Rabbi for many years to come.

The entire CBD community extends a resounding *Mazel Tov* to Rabbi Adler, Rebbetzin Lori Adler, and the entire Adler family.

We also extend our thanks to the members of the ordination committee: Gladys Jacober, Stan Barnett, Lori Adler, and Nancy Chorney, whose efforts made the evening a memorable one.



Over 150 people attended Rabbi Adler's ordination

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI ETHAN ADLER

The Hebrew words, Shalom Bayit, שלום בית, typically refer to embracing the value of 'tranquility in the home.' Nowadays, it also brings to mind the notion of getting along with others, looking beyond other's faults and working to achieve peaceful relations with significant others. The Torah underscores several instances where Shalom Bayit was a driving value. In one narrative, we are told that even though Abraham and his nephew Lot lived in the same land area, in time "quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's". (Gen 13:7) Now, Abraham was far

wealthier, more powerful and way more famous than Lot, and he could have easily just ordered him to move to another place. Yet, Abraham, in his zeal for Shalom Bayit, treated Lot as his equal, and as a matter of fact, went above and beyond the call of 'peace with your neighbors.' We read the following: "So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go
(continued on page 3)



Rabbi Richard Perlman presents the Rabbinic certificate to Rabbi Ethan Adler

CBD HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES - A RETROSPECTIVE



"This year was my first experience with the full High Holiday schedule. The entire experience was inspiring! Cantor Berkovits was wonderful. Rabbi Adler was exceptional – as he is always."

This year CBD observed Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with a "new" rabbi, a new cantor, at a new venue, and with musical accompaniment. The CBD Board of Directors designed and disseminated a survey to learn if these arrangements met your spiritual and religious needs. We extend our thanks to the 59 respondents. This is what they told us: Overall, both the services and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Building (UUC) were excellent. Everyone would like to see Cantor Berkovits return. While the majority enjoyed the prelude to Kol Nidre, most do not want musical accompaniment for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The length of the services was just right, as was the 6:15 pm start time for evening services. Members who required accommodations said the accommodations provided met their needs.

Our thanks to Nancy

Chorney and Gary Engelson, co-chairs of the High Holiday committee, Rabbi Ethan Adler for his leadership, and Stan Barnett for organizing and choreographing all the service participants.

Additional thanks to Denise Rubin and Sally Chorney for providing the beautiful flower arrangements, to the Torah and Haftarah readers, and to everyone who helped pack, schlep, tote, carry, and set up at UUC and CBD.

TWO SUCCESSFUL APPEALS!

Thank you to those members listed below who made this year's **general financial appeal** a success. To date, their generous donations total \$8,200, surpassing our \$8,000 target. The monies raised from the appeal will be used to offer exciting and creative programs and new service options, including programs for inter-faith families, Shabbat service music, and guest speakers.

If you have not yet donated, it is not too late to respond. Please mail your donation to CBD at PO Box 3299, Narragansett, RI 02882.



Lisa Ahava
Harris and Sally Chorney
Nancy Chorney
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Curhan
Gary & Vicki Dorfman
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Joel & Hope Rittner
Neal & Arlene Rogol
Steven & Mary Roth
Deborah Rudman
Ron Salavon
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sherman
Gayle & Phil Sock

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Two Successful Appeals, (continued from previous page)

Additionally, we extend our many thanks to those members listed below who responded to the **CBD High Holiday volunteer appeal**. Their willingness to give of their time will help build upon what CBD is today.

Bernice Brandies
Drew Kaplan
Liz Karp
Susan Kirschenbaum
Sara Little
Marilyn Moskol

Frank Prosnitz
Carole Robrish
Bev Rudman
Ron Salavon
Hillary Salk
Beverly Schneider

If you have not yet donated to the volunteer appeal – it is not too late. We recognize that your time is precious and that you are involved in many activities. But, even more than money, the gift of our time helps build our community. Please try to make even a little time to volunteer for one of the committees or activities at CBD.

Learn about the various committees and download the volunteer pledge form from the CBD website at <http://www.cbdri.org/committee.html>.

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI ETHAN ADLER (continued from page 1)

to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." (GEN 13:8, 9) Now, that's Shalom Bayit!

We are familiar with how Jacob maneuvered himself to receive the birthright blessings instead of his older brother Esau. In fear of Esau's wrath, Jacob needed to leave his home almost immediately and live with his uncle Laban for a while. After 20 years with his Uncle, Jacob decided it was time to go home, even though he was not sure of Esau's response to his return. The following emotional description captures the scene. "He (Jacob) himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept." (GEN 33:3-5). Now, that's Shalom Bayit!

As a third example, we know how Joseph was hated by his brothers, who were instrumental in selling him as a slave in Egypt. In time, and

after some interesting ordeals, Joseph became a Viceroy in Egypt, overlooking the dispersion of food to those who traveled to Egypt during the 7 years of famine. When Joseph's family arrived in Egypt, he recognized them, but they did not recognize him. When he finally announced to them, "I am Joseph!" his brothers became fearful that he would seek revenge upon them. However, he calmed them by stating, "Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." (GEN 45: 305) Now, that's Shalom Bayit!

The lessons to all of us are clear – we must seek a way to look for common ground, to understand that sometimes things will not go 'our way' and that we should be encouraged to embrace each others' strengths. Shalom Bayit required all of us to continue to strive towards a community of

caring, so that everyone benefits.

CBD has undergone several changes in the past year – some changes occurred as a result of needing to meet various challenges; other changes reflected a keen desire and vision for improving the status quo; and yet other changes were consequences of financial realities. Yet, through it all, we have maintained ourselves as a vibrant, embracing and wonderful congregation that aspires to become the best it can be. Whether we gather to help someone observe a Yahrzeit; whether we gather to examine long-range plans; whether we gather to pray, to study, to discuss a book – the point is that we do, in fact gather. Now, that's Shalom Bayit!

SPOTLIGHT ON CBD HEBREW SCHOOL

BY STEPHANIE MALINOW, SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

*“Teach your child and you teach your child’s child.”
(from the Talmud)*



This fall, Congregation Beth David tackled the challenge of educating all our children in the newly adapted space at the back of the synagogue...our one-room schoolhouse.

We have tables and chairs, a bulletin board, cubbies for the kids, and three new laptops. We also have a new Head Teacher, Miriam Calore, who is both creative and deeply committed to reaching each child and meeting the needs of our diverse families.

On a recent visit, I was delighted by a display of all the children’s names, written by them, in Hebrew! How easy to learn the alphabet, when it is used to spell something you really care about.

Visiting again on a Wednesday afternoon, I was privileged to listen to students, ages 7 to 12, who were sitting around the table discussing the concept of compassion, as illustrated in the Bible story of Eliezer and Rebecca at the well.

Using a new series entitled Manga Midrash, with an engaging cartoon

format, the children were taking turns imagining how each of the biblical characters would respond to a given question:

“Servant of Abraham, why do you seek a woman who would offer water not only to you but also to your camels?”

“Rebecca, why did you offer to water the camels?”

“Camel, what would you ask or say to Rebecca if you could speak?”

Finally, the lesson was summarized...

“Caring about others often requires that we put ourselves in their place - for example, by imagining what it might be like to be hungry or lonely, shy or ill...Consider the many actions you can take to become a more compassionate person.”

Even the very little ones are learning about kindness and compassion.

Every month PJ Library Story Hour includes a book from traditional sources, which emphasizes values we all

hope to instill in our children. *The Littlest Pair*, by Sylvia Rouss, is just such a book. There isn’t one animal happy to see a pair of termites join them on Noah’s Ark, but they eventually learn...

“It’s important to accept each other’s ways, Cause we’ll be together for at least forty days! So let’s put an end to anymore hurtful chatter, We’re all God’s creatures and to God, we all matter.”

With experiences like these, as well as making shofars with Rabbi Yossi Laufer, building a sukkah with board member Gary Engelson and Hebrew School parents, and having child-centered conversations with Gilor Meshulam, the Israeli shaliach (emissary) to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the year is off to a wonderful start.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR MANY DONORS (as of November 01, 2014)

To the Wendy Adler Scholarship Fund in Honor of Rabbi Ethan Adler

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In Memory of Lazar LaBush brother, Allan Feller

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In Memory of Lucille Malise

Joanne Malise

In Memory of Bessie Talas

Gladys Jacober

In Memory of Karen Markin's Mother

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In Memory of Henry Pressman

Sara Nelson

In Memory of Herbert Talan

Gladys Jacober

In Honor of Gladys Jacober

Fannie Shore

In Honor of the wedding of Gladys Jacober's Granddaughter

Shelley and Larry Parness

In Honor of Marilyn and Bob Moskol's 50th Anniversary

Nancy Chorney

In Honor of Neal and Arlene Rogol's Anniversary

Harris and Sally Chorney

In Honor of the Marriage of Robin and Richard Polish

Arlene Rogol

In Memory of Gladys Jacober's sister Evelyn Zimberg

Joel and Hope Rittner
Leona Spika
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Phyliss and Robin Homonoff
Pauline and Barry Cohen
Nancy Chorney
Steven and Beth Jacober
Neal and Arlene Rogol
Allen and Judy Kronick
Hope Zawatsky

In Memory of Son Benjamin

Harris and Sally Chorney

Congratulations to Vicki and Bernie Gould on birth of their Grandson

Harris and Sally Chorney
Neal and Arlene Rogol

In Memory of Gary Dorfman's mother

Joel and Hope Rittner
Harris and Sally Chorney

In Memory of Sanford Chorney

Nancy Chorney
Harris and Sally Chorney

In Memory of father

Ann Grossman

In Memory of mother Ruth

Ann and Edward Grossman

In Memory of Frances Chorney and Ben and Hannah Rabinowitz

Esta Avedisian

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND....

Congregation Beth David has a Facebook page. We use this form of social media to share reminders of upcoming services, publicize special events, kvell over our Hebrew School students (great photos!) and spread the news about news that's fit to print but didn't make it into our weekly Constant Contact e-mails.

Please join our virtual community; "friend" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Congregation.Beth.David>.

What – you aren't on our list to receive our weekly e-mails via Constant Contact? E-mail Beth at bdworetzky@gmail.com.

Note: We do not share this contact list with others. It is used exclusively to share CBD, Hebrew School and PJ Library news.

Congregation Beth David

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PHONE:
(401) 789-3437

We're on the Web!
WWW.CBDRI.ORG

SERVICES AT CONGREGATION BETH DAVID

You may have noticed that there is a lot more going on at CBD. Part of the increased activity is due to a change in the weekly service schedule for the non-summer months of September through June.

Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services occur every Friday **except** the first Friday of each month. Generally, services begin at 8 pm, unless otherwise notified via Constant Contact and on the website.

Saturday morning services occur the first Saturday of each month, beginning at 9:30 am.

Occasionally, there is an additional Saturday morning services for a special event, such as a baby naming or a bar or bat mitzvah.

Again, you will be notified of changes via the weekly Constant Contact e-mail and the change will be noted on the website.

The service schedule is posted on the bottom left hand corner of the website at www.cbdri.org. There is a full calendar of events linked to the website at <http://www.cbdri.org/calendar.html>.

CBD
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Narragansett, RI 02882

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