



## Congregation Beth David Narragansett, Rhode Island

### *CBD NEWS ... Winter 2017*

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## Livingston Taylor coming to CBD July 9

Popular singer/songwriter Livingston Taylor will headline this year's CBD summer fundraiser on Sunday, July 9 at Aqua Blue.

We're currently finalizing plans for the event, which will include silent and live auctions. Watch our weekly constant contact newsletter and mailings for more details.

Livingston picked up his first guitar at the age of 13, beginning a 50-year career that has encompassed performance, song-writing and teaching. Born in Boston and raised in North Carolina, Livingston is the fourth child in a very musical family that includes Alex, James, Kate and Hugh. Livingston recorded his first record at the age of 18 and has continued to create well crafted, introspective, and original songs that have earned him listeners worldwide.



*(Continued ... page 4)*

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## Celebrating Passover with some Special Traditions



Soon we'll gather around the Passover Seder table, and read what we've read for years, the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt, a story of freedom.

Every day the story is re-told in real time, as people across the globe are oppressed, even in our own country, seeking freedom and the hope it brings for their own future, and future generations.

At our Seder Table we incorporate stories of freedom. In past years, it has been as simple as reading Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream Speech," with each person reading a line or paragraph. It is very powerful.

And around the world, Passover has inspired some traditions we might consider unusual. Here are a few, compiled from a number of sources:

- In Yemen, Jews from Aden, the Adenic community, eat eggs of many styles as the main course during the Seder. Today, the Adenim have a more substantial main meal, while some families still continue the traditions of their ancestors.
- Try this one. In Gibraltar, where Jews have lived for 650 years, they incorporate the dust of bricks, ground up and mixed in their charoset recipe.

*(Continued ... page 3)*

# Exploring our customs and rituals

FROM RABBI ADLER ...

The Hebrew word for Hope – Tikvah - has had a challenging time the last few months, and especially the last few weeks. Many folks throughout the world are losing hope – issues with political leadership, troubling terrorist events across the globe, crisis de jour of this or that, the dangers posed by a rise in racist and anti-religious activities and sentiments – these are certainly not easy times. And, it is easy to feel Tikvah-less.



The dictionary defines hope as a “feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen; an optimistic attitude of mind based on expectations of positive outcomes.” Jewish sources present positive perspectives that help us on the path towards hope. Rabbi Hillel, who was a great sage about 200 years ago, offers us the following: “Even if I knew that I would die tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today.” Written on a wall during the holocaust, we find an inspiring philosophy: “I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God even when He is silent.”

Anne Frank, who certainly had plenty of reasons to remain despondent and depressed, stirred our souls with her words: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of all the beauty that still remains.” Ellie Wiesel moved us with his belief that: “Hope is like peace. It is not a gift from G-d. It is a gift we can only give each other.” Even after two-thousand years of living without an official state, the words of the Israeli national Anthem – The Hatikvah, The Hope – enjoins us to remain steadfast in our hopes for a better world, living in freedom, independently, in our homeland.

Two Jewish holidays are coming up – Purim and Passover. Purim celebrates our overcoming of a political tyrant in Persia (Iran), named Haman, who wanted to destroy the Jewish population in his city, for no other reason than someone, Mordechai, defied his ruling that all must bow to him. (Hmmm). Passover commemorates our escape from hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt, around 3500 years ago, brought about by a racist named Pharaoh who wanted to destroy the Jews simply because he was ‘told’ that should enemies attack Egypt, the Hebrews would join the enemy. (Double hmmm).

Yet, we survived, we endured, we carried on, we continued – and we outlived our enemies. Why? Because we did not give up hope – our sense of Tikvah kept us going, looking towards a better tomorrow, working hard to ensure a better world for our children, and their children.

Many of you will be celebrating a Passover Seder in a few weeks. This year, perhaps more than ever, we should consider letting ‘hope’ play a central role in our table discussions – obviously geared towards the age and interest of those sitting around the table.

Here are some suggested quotes that may spark conversation and dialogue about Tikvah.

- Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness - Desmond Tutu (South African leader opposed to apartheid)
- We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Civil rights activist)
- Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for. Joseph Addison (essayist, 1600’s)
- There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something tomorrow. Orison Swett Marden (writer, 1800’s)
- Hope is the little voice you hear, that whispers ‘maybe’, when the entire world is shouting ‘no! (Anon.)

Let us all continue to embrace a sense of optimism and anticipation, as we aspire for a time when we can state truly and without hesitation the words of Psalm 118 – “Zeh Hayom Asa Adonai, Nagila Venismecha Bo” – “This is the day the Lord has made, let us celebrate and rejoice in it.”

Hopefully!  
Rabbi Ethan Adler

## The Cup of Miriam

"Miriam, with her brothers, Moses and Aaron, led the Israelites on their desert journey. According to rabbinic tradition, Miriam's ability to locate sources of fresh water preserved spirits and lives. When she died, the people were afraid that they, too, would perish. But when their period of mourning was over, they discovered fresh springs that revived them. Miriam's Well accompanied our people on our forty-year journey through the wilderness." -- from The Open Door, a Passover Hagadah

*Fill kos Miryam with spring water.*

זאת כוס מרים, כוס מים חיים. זֶכֶר לִיצִיאת מִצְרָיִם.

*Zot kos Miryam, kos mayim chayim. Zeicher litziat Mitzrayim.*

This is the cup of Miriam, the cup of living waters,  
a reminder of the Exodus from Egypt.

Throughout their desert wanderings,  
The Israelites were refreshed by miraculous springs  
that bubbled out of deep crevices  
in the rocky landscape.

When Miriam died, the waters dried up.  
The people mourned the slave child who waited by a river,  
the woman who danced across a sea,  
the leader who sang a nation to freedom.

When the springs flowed once more,  
they named them Miriam's Well.

When fear blocks our path, when our travels deplete us,  
we seek sources of healing and wells of hope.  
May our questions and our stories nourish us  
as Miriam's Well renewed our people's spirits.

*Pour water from kos Miryam into every guest's cup.*

### *Passover traditions from page 1*

- In the Polish town of Gora Kalwara, on the seventh day of Passover, they re-enact the crossing of the Red Sea by pouring water on the floor, and naming the towns that they would cross in their region of Poland, raising a glass at each town.
- In a custom that began in Spain in the fourteenth century, and adopted by many Moroccan, Turkish, and Tunisian Jews, the Seder leader walks around the table three times with the Seder Plate, tapping it on the head of each guest.
- Hungarian Jews had a tradition of putting their gold and silver jewelry on the Seder Table, apparently in recognition of the passages in Exodus that the Israelites received gold and silver from the Egyptians.



*Livingston Taylor from page 1*

From top-40 hits “I Will Be in Love with You” and “I’ll Come Running,” to “I Can Dream of You” and “Boatman,” both recorded by his brother James, Livingston’s creative output has continued unabated. His musical knowledge has inspired a varied repertoire, and he is equally at home with a range of musical genres—folk, pop, gospel, jazz—and from upbeat storytelling to touching ballads.

Livingston has never stopped performing since those early coffeehouse days, touring with major artists such as Linda Ronstadt, Jimmy Buffett and Jethro Tull, and he maintains a busy concert schedule of over 80 shows a year. He is a natural performer, peppering his shows with personal stories, anecdotes and ineffable warmth that connect him to his fans. His relaxed on-stage presence belies the depth of his musical knowledge, and fans might just as often be treated to a classic Gershwin or something from the best of Broadway.

Livingston is a full professor at Berklee College of Music, where he has taught a Stage Performance course since 1989.



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## Passover Wine Tasting - March 25



Join us for a Passover Wine Tasting evening, Saturday, **March 25 at 7 p.m.** at CBD, where you’ll be able to discover exceptional Kosher for Passover wines, some with 90 plus ratings. These wines come from around the globe, and are not only suitable for Passover, but are wines you’ll be pleased to serve year round. You’ll be able to order your favorites in plenty of time for Passover. Admission: A desire to make this Passover something special.

So we can plan accordingly, please RSVP to Frank Prosnitz at [frank.prosnitz@gmail.com](mailto:frank.prosnitz@gmail.com) or [401-935-9890](tel:401-935-9890).

## Our Hebrew School



**PJ Library:** Scott Kushner, Ayla Kushner, Maya Kaufman, Aviva Fishman



**PJ Library:** Madeline Neri and Eve Sosnowski



From left to right: Phaedra DeLeo, Jakob Jemal, Nehven Carvalho, Rabbi Sol Goodman, Sophie Ahava



**PJ Library:** Clockwise from lower left corner - Rosie Sosnowski, Abby Kaufman, Maya Kaufman, Aviva Fishman, Eve Sosnowski, Ilya Fishman, Matthew Kushner, Scott Kushner, Jaime Palter, Ayla Kushner, Elliott Stevens, Amanda Stevens, Jen Fishman, Michelle Neri, Madeline Neri

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## Good Deeds Day - April 2



In connection with the Jewish Alliance and synagogues from around the state, Congregation Beth David is participating in a Good Deeds Day by helping to clean Narragansett Town Beach.

Join fellow members, friends and neighbors to do a "mitzvah" by keeping our beautiful environment clean, on **April 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.**

We'll meet at the South Parking lot of Narragansett Town Beach at 2 p.m. We will supply trash bags and gloves. Afterwards, join us at CBD for refreshments. For further information, contact Liz Karp, chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee, at [lizkarp1@gmail.com](mailto:lizkarp1@gmail.com).



# Oy Vey

For Sam Zerin and his family, Yiddish is a living language, one they are passing on to their son. Sam brought his passion for Yiddish to several members of CBD, who joined him at Bagelz for our first Sunday morning program.

The Sunday morning programs will give us a chance to explore various topics with experts, raising our awareness and knowledge.

The next in the series will be April 30 – “We are not the Enemy” with Gene Emery, former Providence Journal reporter and bureau manager and a Politifact Correspondent during the 2016 presidential election.

It was President Trump who declared that the media was the “enemy of the American people,” in sharp contrast to the feelings of our founding fathers. Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1787 that “were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.”



Sam Zerin discusses his passion for keeping Yiddish alive.

## High Holiday Survey

*By Harris Chorney*

We thank the 58 respondents, 52 of whom are members and six of whom were guests of members, who responded to our survey to get feedback on last year's High Holiday services. This is what they told us:

- An overwhelming majority (83%) said services were excellent, and 98 percent liked the Aqua Blue facility.
- An overwhelming majority (87%) liked the morning services start time of 9 a.m.
- For Kol Nidre, 58% liked the start time and 40% said they would prefer a later start.
- Without regard for the service start time, 61% said the length of the service was just right, while 39 percent said the service was too long.
- Cantor Goldstein was rated excellent by 49% and good by 43%. An overwhelming 93% said they would like to see Cantor Goldstein return for next year's High Holydays.
- The chanting of all traditional melodies was preferred by 37% of responders, while 55% said that the balance between traditional and contemporary melodies chanted during the services was just right. The playing of the Kol Nidre music piece just before the beginning of the service was enjoyed by 85% of respondents.

Based on the feedback we have already secured the Aqua Blue facility and Cantor Goldstein's services for the upcoming High Holidays. The ritual committee has reviewed the other responses, including specific comments. With input from Rabbi Adler, the committee will recommend appropriate changes to the Board for this year's High Holiday services.

For last year, we remain grateful to the the Ritual and Membership committees, Rabbi Ethan Adler, Laurie Kaufman and Jason Krumholz for leading our children's service, Stan Barnett for organizing and choreographing all the service participants, the Torah and Haftorah readers, Sally Chorney for providing the beautiful flower arrangements, and to everyone who helped pack, schlep, tote, carry, and set up at the Aqua Blue and CBD

## Donations, December 2016 - February 2017

### General Fund

#### **In Honor of Lori Adler's Bat Mitzvah**

Joan and Steve Garfunkel

#### **In Honor of Lori Adler's Bat Mitzvah and Special Birthday**

Judy and Allen Kronick

#### **In Honor of the baby naming of Robert and Jo Ann Babat's Grandson**

Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg

#### **In Memory of Mary Karp**

Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg

#### **In Memory of Father, Reynold Katzanek**

Robin Katzanek

#### **In Memory of husband, Marcus Rand**

Eleanor Rand

#### **In Memory of Father, Harvey Malise**

Joanne Malise

#### **In Memory of Allan Schwartzman**

Linda Nevins

#### **In Memory of Bertha Jacober**

Gladys Jacober

#### **In Memory of Henry Jacober**

Gladys Jacober

#### **In Memory of Wife, Jeannine Light**

Gary Light

#### **In Memory of Mother, Pauline Poulten**

Howard Poulten

#### **In Memory of Father, Albert Engel**

Jeffrey Engel

#### **In Honor of Stephanie Malinow's Leadership and best wishes on her next adventure**

Sara and Art Little

#### **In Memory of Lillian Stenning**

Marion Myers

#### **In Memory of Anne Gordon**

Beverly Schneider

#### **In Honor of Ben Avedisian's Bar Mitzvah, grandson of Esta and Paul Avedisian**

Rosalie and Myron Guttin

#### **In Honor of Rabbi Ethan Adler in appreciation for his warmth and humor included in the Bar Mitzvah service of Great Grandson, Ben Avedisian**

Shirley Zeldis

#### **In Memory of Martin Dittleman, Father of Lori Gibson**

Nancy Chorney

#### **Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Paul Avedisian**

Nancy Chorney

Anita Chorney

#### **In Honor of Ben Avedisian's Bar Mitzvah**

Nancy Chorney

#### **In Memory of Dennis Rogan, Son of Betty Rogan**

Anita Chorney

#### **In Memory of Hyman Parness**

Shelley Parness

#### **In Memory of Mother, Sally Portman Chorney**

Nancy Chorney

Harris Chorney

#### **In Memory of Father, Sidney Babat**

Robert Babat

### **Oneg Sponsor**

#### **In Honor of Grandson Ben Avedisian**

Esta and Paul Avedisian

### **General Donation**

Jane and Arnold Bromberg

**Congregation Beth David**  
102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

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## Planning Ahead

*CBD is extremely active, not only with religious services and school programs, but with events that enrich our membership through social, cultural and educational gatherings. Watch your What's Happening at CBD emails for more details.*

PJ Library Story Time - Sunday, March 19, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. at CBD

Passover Wine Tasting - Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at CBD

Annual "Bracha LeZichronam" service April 1 at 9 a.m. at CBD

Good Deeds Day - Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m. at Narragansett Town Beach

Second Passover Night, Tuesday, April 11 (Time to be determined) at CBD

Yom Hashoah – April 23

Spring Fling – May 21