Those who read the New Wave calendar and CSH weekly email updates know that every Thursday afternoon, from 12:30 pm-4:00 pm, there is a friendly poker game at Shirat Hayam. Few know how and why the game was started. In this issue, Diana Caplan and Men's Poker Club lead organizer, Lew Weinstein, fill us in.

For years after he retired, Ed played poker at the Swampscott Senior Center three times a week. One day in May 2017, out of the blue, the director called Diana. “She said Ed was not to come back after the next game. She had heard he had Alzheimer’s, and told me explicitly that the Senior Center was not a day care,” Diana said. At that point in time, Ed was capable of playing, enjoyed playing, and was devastated. His neurologist at Brigham also felt that Ed was capable of continuing with poker and that the ruling unjust. But the Senior Center wouldn’t budge.

A few months later, Diana was in Rabbi Michael’s office, and happened to tell him about Ed’s predicament. “She said Ed was not to come back after the next game. She had heard he had Alzheimer’s, and told me explicitly that the Senior Center was not a day care,” Diana said. At that point in time, Ed was capable of playing, enjoyed playing, and was devastated. His neurologist at Brigham also felt that Ed was capable of continuing with poker and that the ruling unjust. But the Senior Center wouldn’t budge.

Friends responded and picked Thursday afternoon for the games. Lew Weinstein, Harry Epstein, Herb Goldberg and Ed were the founding members, with Lew serving as chairman. “We felt that it was important for Ed to continue to play the game that he enjoyed so much,” Lew said.

They played every Thursday, hoping to attract more players as time went on. Harry and Lew sat on either side of Ed and, as Ed’s abilities declined, guided him through the play. “Many times this past year I questioned whether Ed should continue, and I was adamantly told that he enjoyed it, that the group really enjoyed playing with him, and that they especially enjoyed Ed’s delight when he won,” Diana shared.

As Ed’s world closed in on him, the poker game at the temple continued to be a source of immeasurable pleasure for him. Of even greater value than the playing was being part of the Men’s Poker Club. The club not only provided a social outlet for Ed, but also for his friends and family. As Ed’s health declined, the club remained a constant source of support and comfort for all involved.
I recall, as a child, sitting with my younger brother on the rug while our mother read the Hanukkah story to us. I was awed by the courage of little Judah Maccabee, who led a band of out-supplied and out-numbered Jews to victory over the Syrian-Greeks and their mighty war elephants. I glowed with pride, delighting in the strength of my people.

In addition to lighting candles, exchanging gifts, and eating latkes, this book was part of my childhood Hanukkah practice. At Kol Nidre, I spoke about the importance of defining our Jewish lives by what we DO, rather than measuring ourselves against a mythical observant Jew and defining ourselves by what we DON'T do. I suggested that the concept of spiritual practices — regular, purposeful actions we do in order to transform our lives — offers a powerful framework for describing what we do.

Whatever our practice, we should strive to do it practice with excellence. How will you celebrate Hanukkah?

With young children, the right Hanukkah story is critical. For me, the images were most powerful. “The First Book of Chanukah” by Robert Sol is my childhood favorite, but, admittedly, my children weren’t into it. For young readers, I like “Hanukkah at Valley Forge” by Stephen Krensky.

After lighting Hanukkah candles, it’s traditional to sing Maoz Tzur. However, the Hebrew can pose a challenge. I do sing the first stanza of Maoz Tzur, but that doesn’t capture the family’s attention. However, a YouTube video of a contemporary Hanukkah song streamed next to the menorah has engaged the kids. See http://bit.ly/hanukkah-playlist for my suggestions.

When it comes to food, donuts (sufganiyot) are a traditional fried food, like latkes. For a memorable donut eating experience at a Hanukkah party, try a “Donuts on a String” eating contest.

Lastly, as an adult, I’ve enjoyed learning about the origins and development of Hanukkah. For a brief article, I recommend https://www.thetorah.com/article/uncovering-the-truth-about-chanukah. For a more in-depth analysis, Yitz Greenberg’s “The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays” is excellent.

Whatever you do, I encourage you to own your Hanukkah practice. Do it with excellence and make it transformative.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10
5:30 pm Holy Happy Hour Minyan with Temple Emanu-El members invited

SATURDAY, JAN. 11
Shabbat Synaplex with CJE
5:30-6:30 pm JFamily: Shabbat is Family, Friends and Holy Time at Salem Beerworks

MONDAY, JAN. 13
7:30 pm Becky’s Book Club The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15
10:00 am & 7:30 pm Adult Ed: Book of Samuel with Rabbi Michael

FRIDAY, JAN. 17
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Cantor’s News

Thanksgiving for Hanukkah

With the celebration of Thanksgiving still fresh in our memories and possibly our waistlines, we morph into Hanukkah - just a stone’s throw away. Thanksgiving and Hanukkah are festivals of survival against overwhelming odds. We welcome these messages of hope.

Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. That same Civil War inspired a 14-year-old Jewish girl to start writing poetry. Emma Lazarus was a native New Yorker and true American. Her father was Sephardic, her mother Ashkenazic of German descent, with ancestry in New York on both sides of her family dating back to the American Revolution. In 1903, her best-known work, “The New Colossus,” was engraved in bronze and mounted on the Statue of Liberty’s pedestal.

Most of us are familiar with the final five lines of the poem.

“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

As much as the United States had opened its golden door to the Jewish people, Lazarus was well aware of the anti-Semitism that existed in American society and the plight of the Jewish people elsewhere throughout the world. In that context, her poem, “Feast of Lights,” conveys to us a different, more militant meaning of Hanukkah than we are accustomed to. Some excerpted lines:

“Clash Israel, the cymbals, touch the lyre… Judas the Lion-Prince, the avenging rod… Towered in warrior-beauty, uncrowned king… Armed with the breastplate and sword of God… Where is our Judas? Where our five-branched palm? Where are the lion-warriors of the Lord?....

With the State of Israel now 71 years old, it’s easy to forget the longing for a homeland that the Jewish people felt before 1948. Hanukkah today might be an occasion to consider what Israel’s independence means to us, especially in this troubled moment of our history.

We American Jews give thanks for the safe harbor we’ve enjoyed here in the United States. We pray that the recent ripples of hate that have touched us subside. We dream we’ll be able to see the continued fruits of a more truthful and just society — for all. In doing so, we can recall the meaning of Hanukkah as a Festival of Light, and a celebration of survival — and hope.

Pass the latkes,
Cantor Alty

Upcoming Nosh & Drash

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<td>Janis Knight on Kingship and Leadership in the Torah</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 7</td>
<td>Dr. Harvey Zarren (topic TBA)</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 14</td>
<td>Tally Amir* on Asylum, Immigration and Deportation in Israel</td>
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<td>JANUARY 4</td>
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<td>Lila Caplan on Save a Child’s Heart**</td>
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*Israel Institute fellowship recipient at Harvard U. Sociology Dept.
**Israel-based non-profit dedicated to improving pediatric cardiac care worldwide
Shir Chesed

Shir Chesed Celebrates Its First Birthday

By Bethany Roditi and Karen Madorsky

What a great turnout! Members of Shir Chesed, Shirat’s caring community, met on Sunday, November 3, to celebrate our first year in existence and to plan for the future. It is hard to believe that we began building Shir Chesed only one year ago, and that 62 Shir Chesed members have assisted 43 Shir Hayam families who have suffered losses this year, helped 8 congregants who returned home from the hospital or rehabilitation, and welcomed two babies. The group also delivered over 50 quarts of homemade chicken soup accompanied by challah and Shabbat candles. Before the holidays, we wished all of the people who were recipients of our service a sweet new year by giving them a gift bag filled with honey and challah.

In addition, we started a knitting group to make hats for babies and shawls for members who are celebrating milestone birthdays. Please join us as we continue to build Shir Chesed, our caring community.

Contact: Bethany – bethanyroditi@gmail.com or Karen – karen.madorsky@gmail.com

Jerry Kreitzer, a Shir Chesed coordinator, facilitated a discussion asking for PJs (pride and joys) and concerns.

CEE/CJE

Simchat Torah budding rockers

Team CJE Fundraises in the Rain

Too small to dance with Torah but they could sing! A trio of pre-schoolers enjoyed the Simchat Torah at Shirat.

CJE Team raised $609 at My Brother’s Table Walk. Shown are the Oringer/Kleeman and Jefferies/Mazur families. Not shown are the Mahler, Ragozin, Sidman families.

Cover Story

Men’s Club

Continued from page 1

of a caring community. Week after week, he looked forward to being with the group and being part of the friendly game.

Two years later, the game is thriving with as many as nine players, including another member turned away from the Senior Center because of Alzheimer’s and two newly retired people who were happy to learn to play poker in this welcoming and inclusive environment. “It’s a fun afternoon for anyone to play poker for low stakes ($5) and have a lot of laughs. Women are invited too!” Herb Goldberg said.

Ed passed away on October 11, 2019, but the game continues and keeps his memory alive. The poker players recently paid Ed the great honor of naming their weekly activity, “The Ed Caplan Memorial Poker Game”.

“As Ed’s caretaker and wife of fifty-five years, I will forever be grateful to Rabbi Michael for the support he showed Ed by his very kind offer to have a poker game meet at Shirat Hayam. Secondly, I owe a debt of gratitude to the members of our congregation who made Ed’s life so much brighter with their participation. His close friends and his deepening friendships with others made it all possible,” Diana said.

The group is always looking for new players and welcomes women. Anyone who is interested can contact Lew at 781-631-7706 or Herb at 781-631-7529 for more information. The game is held at Shirat Hayam on Thursday afternoons from 12:30-4:00pm. The cost to play is $5.00, and the money collected each week is given out as prizes for coming in first, second, or third. Since poker is mainly luck, even an inexperienced player can win!
# Ongoing Programs

There’s no shortage of great programming at Shirat Hayam! Here are just a few ideas...

### Save the Date Highlights

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>TUESDAY, DEC. 3 AT 7:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>Atlantic Ave. Limmud (The Talmud of Relationships) at CSH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY, DEC. 16:</strong></td>
<td>7:00pm: Men’s Club North Shore Poker (all welcome); 7:30 pm, Becky’s Book Club at CSH (The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway. Drop ins always welcome)</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY, DEC. 19 AT 7:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh Group for Women</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25:</strong></td>
<td>GLSS Food Delivery. Do a family mitzvah and help deliver meals to seniors. Contact Max Sontz at <a href="mailto:maxsontz61@aol.com">maxsontz61@aol.com</a> for more info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY, JAN. 7 AT 7:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>Atlantic Ave. Limmud (The Talmud of Relationships) at Temple Emanu-El</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, JAN. 10 AT 5:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>Happy Holy Hour Minyan with Temple Emanu-El members invited to CSH</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY, JAN. 11 AT 5:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>JFamily: Shabbat is Family, Friends and Holy Time at Salem Beerworks</td>
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<td>10am and 7:30pm: Adult Ed: Book of Samuel with Rabbi Michael</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 7:30PM:</strong></td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh Group for Women</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY, JAN. 24 AT 5PM:</strong></td>
<td>Young Families Shabbat at CSH</td>
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### Disability & Inclusion Awareness

February is Jewish Disability Awareness Month and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) - sponsored by Shir Lanu.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**
Swampscott resident Jo Ann Simons, CEO of Northeast Arc, will speak at Nosh & Drash on “Jewish Life and Disability-Through My Eyes.” Jo Ann has more than 35 years of experience in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Her progressive initiatives have included closing several sheltered workshops, innovative school to work programs, inclusive community living and currently a large movement from community residences to shared living models.
CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

NON-MEMBERS:

Bertha Miller
10/16/2019
Grandmother of Jeff Schwartz

Kay Kleinman
10/17/2019
Mother of Geoff Kleinman

Phyllis Glanz
10/19/2019
Sister of Ruth Kahn

Sandy Weiner
10/27/2019
Sister of Rachelle Rosenbaum

In memory of

Father, Louis Grossman
by Carol Ablow

Father-in-law, Louis Alexander
by Jane Alexander

Mother, Mary Bornstein
Wife, Blossom Bornstein
Mother-in-law, Molly Safer
Father, Harry Bornstein
by Gerald Bornstein

Father, Abraham Breitborde
by Betsy Breitborde

Mother, Merle Cohen
by Barry Cohen and Michael Cohen

Brother-in-law, Jack Samuelson
by Harold Cohen

Nephew, Phillip Kagan
by Robin Cooper

Father, Leonard Cooper
by Bob Cooper

Father, Barry Schwartz
by Helene Fink

Father, Sidney Frisch
by Howard Frisch

Brother, Joel Noe
by Stacey Gordon

Mother, Helen Gulko
by Paul Gulko

Mother, Bertha Leidner
by Charles Leidner

Mother, Bertha Yanofsky
Father, Philip Yanofsky
by Barbara Levine

Father, Herbert Kerr
by Judith Marder

Father, Dr. Edward Flanzbaum
by Barbara Meyer

Mother, Ida Goldberg
by Karen Meyer

Grandfather, Mark Meyer
by Mark Meyer

Husband, Kenneth Miller
by Lois Miller

Father, Louis Ravich
by Robert Ravich

Great-grandmother,
Esther Calish
by Karen Rosenberg

Mother, June Salinsky
by Richard Salinsky

Sister, Louise Klein
by Melvin Shapiro

Uncle, Sam Patt
by Beverly Shapiro

Sister, Elaine Epstein
by Robert Soltz

Sister, Marcia Wolinski
by Edith Spector

Mother, Sarah Spector
Son, Joel Spector
by Ben Spector

Father, Henry Kabatchnick
by Muriel Talkov

In memory of Kay Kleinman,
mother of Geoff Kleinman
by Jason and Renee Sidman

In memory of

Sister, Ruth Katz
by Lois Sargent

In memory of Ed Caplan
by Stefanie, Bob, Jordan and Gladstone; Jeff and Beth Kasten

In memory of

Sister, Joyce Shepard
Mother, Miriam Shain
by Ruth Rood

Mother, Dora Shafer
by Shea Rood

In memory of

Sister, Joyce Shepard
Mother, Miriam Shain
by Ruth Rood

Mother, Dora Shafer
by Shea Rood

In memory of

Father, Sidney Feffer
Grandmother, Sara Zoll
by Larry Feffer

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Ed Caplan
by Diane, Scott and Clark Caplan; Roz Caplan; John Cohen; Arlene Germain
and Ellery Schempp; Sandra Goldstein; Constance Lewis; Michael and Susan Steinberg
In honor of the marriage of Donna and Spencer Kagan’s daughter, Shari Robbins, to Jude Capachietti
by Paul and Myra Gulko

In honor of Alyssa Cashman’s marriage to Adam Frank
by Risa, Larry and Beverly Kahn

In memory of Gloria Cohen, sister of Ruth Kahn
by Frances Mendelsohn and Alvah Parker

In memory of Helen Bloom, mother of Ken Bloom
by Stuart and Sandra Osattin

In appreciation of

The honor of reading Haftarah during the High Holy Days
by Daniel Goldberg

In honor of

Myrna Grossman and Lori Kreevoy being called to the bimah on the High Holy Days
by Harry Grossman

In memory of

Brother, Mitchell Blake
by Michael Blake

Father, Kenneth Miller
by Robin Blake

Mother, Estelle Feinstein
by Joyce Bornstein

Father, Leon Glosband
by Daniel Glosband

Mother, Florence Kaplan
by Howard Kaplan

Father, Dr. Leon A. Weiss
by Randall and Marjorie Patkin

Mother, Florence Dolinsky
by Marilyn Segall

Parents, Efim and Hava Zemel
by Boris Zemel

Father, Zakhary Polyak
by Svetlana Zemel
In memory of
Father, Abraham Kazis by Izzi Abrams
Mother, Rebecca Bailes by Jack Bailes
Aunt, Mary Smith
Father-in-law, Jack Safer
Aunt, Annie Smith by Gerald Bornstein

Mother-in-law, Betty Gorfinke
Father-in-law, Meyer Gorfinke
Father, Alex Diamond
Mother, Rose Diamond
Brother-in-law, Michael Gorfinke
Wife, Harriet Diamond by Alan Diamond

Grandmother, Henrietta Lillian
Grandfather, Max Seltzer by Marsha Feffer

Husband, George Forman by Dorothy Forman

Father-in-law, Jacob Gibbs by Thelma Gibbs
Father, Sidney Gerber by Valerie Gilbert
Father, Gerald Slosser by Jill Goodman

Great uncle, Bennie Gartz by Karen Hirsch

Aunt, Edith Mishkin
Father-in-law, Jerry Ogan
Brother, Michael Interess
Mother, Leola Interess by Leslie Ogan

Father, Louis Ravich by Richard Ravich

Grandfather, Louis Pekin by Joan Rich

Father, Samuel Silverstein by Marsha Rubin

Brother, Philip Goldman
Mother, Sara Goldman
Brother, Paul Goldman by Gloria Sax

Mother, Ethel Rosenberg by Martin Schneider

Mother, Mildred Shanker by Ruth Shanker
Brother, Bertram Shuman by Arnie Shuman

Mother, Sophie Waldman by Michael Waldman

Mother, Betty Walker by Bob Walker

Father, Sam Kantor by Fran Walker

MERKEN TALLIT FUND

In memory of
Mother-in-law, Annie Merken
Friend, Stanley Berenson by Elaine Merken

POLONSKY BUILDING FUND

In memory of
Father, Nathan Polonsky by Sherman and Norma Freedman

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of
Father, Barnett Cohen by Sheldon Cohen

Father, Sidney Strome
Father, Sam Gerber by Marsha Gerber

Mother, Rebecca Kreitzer by Jerry Kreitzer

In honor of the marriage of
David Sarnowitz, grandson of
Jerry and Barbara Rodman, to
Kristin Bozzi by Muriel Follick

In appreciation of Rabbi Michael
by James Yaffe

In memory of
Mother, Ilene Tatelman by Richard Tatelman

SHIR CHESED FUND

In memory of Bea Strome
In memory of Janice Cohen
In memory of Charlie Madson Weber, grand-daughter of
Herald Cohen by Jill Bloom

In memory of Gloria Cohen, sister of
Sheldon and Brenda Cohen

In honor of the birth of Ron
and Shari Pressman’s grand-daughter
by Michael and Wendy Dubinsky

In memory of Sandy Weiner, sister of Rachelle Rosenbaum
by Marsha Gerber; Carla Greenberg; Margie Shapiro

Wishing a speedy recovery to
Barbara Gorfinke by Margie Shapiro

In memory of Ed Caplan
by Sheldon and Brenda Cohen;
Michael and Wendy Dubinsky;
Daniel and Bette Shoreman; Leeta Sinrich

TORAH FUND

In memory of Gloria Cohen, sister of Ruth Kahn by Marion Garfinkel and Family

TREE PLANTED IN ISRAEL

In loving memory of Cantor Emil
by the B’nai Mitzvah
Sisters: Ellen Alexander, Devorah Feinblum,
Dara Fruchter, Sandra Hirshberg, Nancy
Klayman, Diane Levin, Elaine Merken, Mimi
Nelson Oliver, Gloria Sax, Bette Shoreman, Michelle
Tamar, Natalie White

In memory of Ed Caplan
by Marion Garfinkel and family; Robert and Roberta
Soltz

In memory of Gnesya Khayter, mother of Larisa
Katsman by Alan and Judi Wulf

In memory of
My husband, Larry Sargent by Lois Sargent

How to Make a Donation

To make a donation, please visit
shirathayam.org/Donate or mail your donation with a
check made out to
CSH or Congregation Shirat Hayam.
Please specify the
fund to which your donation should be
allocated.

Donations, continued
Every issue, The New Wave spotlights a congregant as a way to help us get to know each other better by putting a face with a name. This month, Chilean native Pablo Schapiro shares thoughts on his life, from growing up in Santiago to moving to Marblehead in 2009.

**Where did you grow up? What was it like?**

I was born in Santiago, Chile in 1937. My father was a Hebrew teacher, trained in Lithuania. He trained with the early Zionists in Poland and Lithuania and brought the Zionist idea to South America. My mother was a housewife. I have two younger siblings (my sister now lives in Israel and my brother is in Montreal) and our basic education was at a day school in Santiago.

Growing up in Chile, I never felt true discrimination, Chile being a very democratic and tolerant country. I had many non-Jewish friends and being Jewish was never an issue. At age 18, I went to Israel for 2 months to attend a winter program especially created for diaspora Jews.

I lived in Chile until I got married to my Chilean wife Susana in 1961. I entered medical school and completed a seven-year program. I became a pediatrician when I moved to the US and moved to Brooklyn for my residency at Maimonides Hospital. While in Chile, I was active in the Zionist Youth Movement and always dreamed of living in Israel.

I completed my residency and Susy and I immediately moved to Israel for two years, where I practiced medicine and polished my Hebrew. Those were very special years, before the Six Day War. Life was not easy, but we managed very well.

I returned to Morristown, NJ and Schenectady, NY. In the interim we had 3 children, one born in Brooklyn, one in Israel and one in Schenectady. We lived there for 35 years. I practiced medicine and Susy had a successful kosher Jewish catering business. I never felt any discrimination while living there, either. Not having any family nearby, my friends became my family by choice, celebrating all the Jewish holidays and life events together.

I never truly retired. I still volunteer at the Caridad Clinic in Boynton Beach, where I am a member of a 50-physician clinic that treats over 22,000 people a year. I honestly feel that I receive more than I give.

I have four grandchildren, two from my son, Baruch, and twins from my daughter, Dr. Fannie Shapiro Krill.

**What is your history with Shirat Hayam?**

I retired in 1999 and became a snowbird, spending 8 winters in Sarasota and then in Del Ray Beach. I moved to Marblehead, where my son lives, during the summer of 2009. Immediately joined Shirat Hayam, shortly after the death of our daughter Deborah, who had just passed away from ALS at age 40. We were received very warmly by then Rabbi HaLevi, who officiated at her funeral. It was a very difficult period.

**What do you enjoy most about Shirat Hayam?**

I enjoy the camaraderie that CSH offers. We have made many good friends here and we really feel like we belong. It’s hard thing to explain, but it’s as if I’ve found my spiritual home. I come to minyan and Shabbat services regularly and I sing in the choir for the High Holy Days.