High Holy Days 5780 End on a High Note

With over 120 new member households since the voluntary dues model was rolled out, Shirat Hayam was abuzz with prayer, people and music from Erev Rosh Hashanah to N'eilah services.

“The sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah was fuller than in any of my prior years,” Rabbi Michael Ragozin said. In addition, 95 children participated in Camp Rosh Hashanah led by CJE Director, Janis Knight.

Security on the holidays went very well. Most significantly, the congregation embraced the new ticket requirement. People arrived with their tickets out, ready to show greeters. CSH volunteers coordinated their security efforts with the Swampscott police.

“I thought the process went very smoothly. Many were very appreciative of the added steps taken for security and the volunteers’ smiles added warmth and made congregants and their families and guests feel welcomed,” Anna Hathaway, CSH Business Manager, added.

What moved Rabbi Michael most was the congregation’s participation in the services. “It can be challenging to take time off from work. There are other synagogues and other ways that people could spend their High Holy Days. To see adult children coming back to Shirat Hayam, rather than attending a new, urban service, to see so many babies and little children. As my husband and I start thinking of a family, I look forward to the day I bring my little ones to services as well,” she said.

On a more serious note, Rabbi Michael’s sermons touched a variety of important topics. On Rosh Hashanah, he looked outward and spoke about the problems of anti-Semitism and climate change. On Yom Kippur, he wanted to turn inward. He spoke about the importance of seeing our Jewish lives comprised of a set of spiritual practices and celebrating the practices we’ve adopted, rather than feeling guilty about the mitzvot we haven’t adopted. Additionally, he spoke about shame and his hope that Shirat Hayam can be a place of healing.

Mark Messenger, CSH President, wants to

One such returning young adult is new member, Jessica Nimkar, who grew up attending Temple Israel. “What I love most about the High Holy Day services is the sense of community. It’s great seeing a completely packed room with so many new and familiar faces, and to see so many babies and little children. As my husband and I start thinking of a family, I look forward to the day I bring my little ones to services as well,” she said.

Continued on page 2
Instead of the Rabbi and Cantor’s columns this issue, we have reprinted this important letter sent from Rabbi David Meyer of Temple Emanu-El, Marblehead, inviting the North Shore community to participate in a new opportunity to perform an act of lovingkindness.

The Greatest Mitzvah

Throughout Jewish history and wherever Jews have lived, among the highest expressions of our spiritual, moral, and religious ideals has been the hevra kaddisha, the Jewish Burial Society or “sacred gathering”. Always, the first task when a new Jewish community might be established has been the organization of caring men and women to tend to the needs of the deceased, preparing for the respectful and loving burial of our dear ones. Members of the hevra kaddisha attend to the practice of taharah – the ritual washing of the body prior to burial – as well as the cloaking of the departed in the traditional burial garments, tachrichim, and the placing of the departed in the simple casket. These rites are considered to be acts of unblemished kindness, for which no repayment can ever be made, and no such favor ever returned. There is no greater mitzvah in Jewish life than being part of a hevra kaddisha.

Sadly, here in our North Shore community, the availability of a hevra kaddisha has become a problem, especially for those families who do not identify as Orthodox in practice. Partly due to the more “corporate” evolution of family-owned mortuaries and the geographical limitations of the North Shore, families who desire for their dear ones the traditional rites (including taharah) must transport their loved ones into Brookline or other locations before the body can truly be allowed to “rest in peace.” Adherence to our traditional rites means sacrificing the principal of “k’vod ha-met”— respect for the departed.

Recently, our North Shore Rabbinical and Cantorial Association and local Jewish funeral directors in our area met to jointly address the need for a local hevra kaddisha. Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) and the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston have joined the discussion to help resolve our need. The Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston (CHK) is an independent, non-denominational organization of individuals, synagogues and other Jewish institutions committed to making the full range of burial rituals accessible and available to the entire Jewish community. It is a model that we are looking to emulate here on the North Shore. (See www.hevrakadisha.org for more information.)

So, this is where YOU come in, for creating and participating as a hevra kaddisha is a voluntary expression of lovingkindness. If you are interested in learning about (and perhaps then being trained in) the various rituals and procedures that have been part of Jewish life and death for millennia, our community will gather for an informational session on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th at 7:30pm at Temple B’nai Abraham in Beverly. Rabbis, funeral directors, and representatives of the CHK will be on hand to help guide the discussion and move forward to creating our own consortium of volunteers ready and willing to share in this highest of all mitzvot.

We hope to see you there.
CEE NEWS

Shana Tova from the CEE!

The Outdoor Classroom is officially open! The families of the CEE have been working hard to create an outdoor space for our children to explore. The outdoor classroom comes fully equipped with a mud kitchen, imaginary camping area, fairy garden, meeting space, wind chimes, and even a row boat! Although the final stages of this project are still in the planning stages, CEE Director, Andrea Bernard reminds everyone that it’s not too late to participate. If you would like to lend a hand or make a donation to the Outdoor Classroom fund, please contact Andrea@shirathayam.org. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Calendar (continued from page 1)

THURSDAY, NOV. 21
7:30 pm Rosh Hodesh Group for Women

FRIDAY, NOV. 22
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, NOV. 23
Shabbat Synaplex with CJE

THURSDAY, NOV. 28
9:00 am Minyan at CSH
No evening minyan

FRIDAY, NOV. 29
CSH Office Closed
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, NOV. 30
Shabbat Synaplex (No CJE)

Upcoming Nosh & Drash

NOVEMBER 2
Noam Sender

NOVEMBER 9
Dan Eshet, program director, Salem State University’s Center for Genocide & Holocaust Studies, Kristallnacht: Lessons of Hate

NOVEMBER 16
Barbara Vinick, Under One Canopy: Remote Jewish Communities Around the Globe sponsored by Kulanu Across the Globe.

NOVEMBER 23
Noam Sender

NOVEMBER 30
Janis Knight

CEE News

The Center for Early Education made Apple Prints for Rosh Hashanah.

(Left and Top)
CEE students learn by doing in our outdoor classroom.
A NEW BEGINNING: Shir Nefesh launches Mental Health Inclusion Initiative at CSH

By Michele Tamaren, Shir Nefesh co-chair

In 5780 Shir Lanu, Congregation Shirat Hayam’s highly successful Inclusion Program, will expand its mission to embrace a new Mental Health Initiative: Shir Nefesh, Song of the Soul. Shir Nefesh will serve to help remove the obstacles from the road of our people faced with emotional challenges.

In the U.S., one in five individuals struggle with mental health issues each year. Depression, anxiety, trauma, grief, and so much more can lead to isolation, loneliness, disconnection, and shame. Of course, each family member who supports loved ones with these challenges is affected as well.

Mental Health is a deeply Jewish Issue. Torah repeatedly commands us to Love our neighbor as ourselves, to welcome the stranger, the widow, the orphan. The truth is, those in emotional distress often feel like the stranger, even to themselves.

Shir Nefesh will provide a variety of offerings including education about mental illness and mental wellness, a resource directory of professional services, and above all a compassionate, loving community. While not therapy, a genuine Culture of Caring is healing.

Thankfully, we have a powerful partner in this sacred endeavor, the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Foundation, under the auspices of CJP. With their guidance and support, and our members’ sincere empathy, we will together fulfill the Torah’s commandment to “build up a highway, clear the road, and remove all obstacles” for those of us longing for connection and compassion in community. And isn’t that all of us?

There will be more on Shir Nefesh in the coming months. Please reach out to co-chairs Amanda Clayman (AClayman@katzstefani.com) or to me (micheletamaren@earthlink.net) or anyone on the Inclusion Committee with your thoughts. Join us as we honor the Song in each of our souls.

ANOTHER MINYANNAIRES MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Arlene Leventhal celebrated her 80th birthday with her fellow morning minyannaires with a beautiful cake lovingly handcrafted by the inimitable Doris Villa.

MEMORIAM

“He Was a Blessing to Us All”

On October 23, over 150 gathered to share a special minyan led by Ann Segal followed by a congregational memorial to honor Cantor Emeritus Emil Berkovits z”l, beloved friend, teacher and cantor at Temple Israel and Shirat Hayam from 2003-2014. Cantor Emil passed away July 24.

Eleven people spoke, highlighting the many different facets that comprised the gem who was “our Emil.” All extolled his endless virtues: Friend, mentor, mensche. Inspiration, teacher, selfless and compassionate. Dependable, generous, passionate. “Everyone was as special to him as he was to them,” Mark Friedman said. “This is who he was. These are the footprints he left for us to follow.”

After a slide show and song by Marcy Yellin, all were invited to a scotch toast (the CSH tradition Cantor Emil originated) and a buffet of some of his favorite sweet things.
CJE NEWS

CJE is expanding the possibilities for Jewish education at Shirat Hayam and in our larger community. One of our newest offerings is our Ulpan Adventure class – conversational Hebrew for students who have advanced past decoding due to prior studies. Students are encouraged to speak, read, and listen to everyday Hebrew taught by an Israeli-born staff member. They anticipate translating a popular children’s book from Hebrew to English, performing skits, watching some of Israel’s most popular music videos, and more.

Another new program coming next month is the JFamily Exploration program – offered in partnership with CJP, Lappin, the JCCNS, and private support – to help families of any constellation who are raising a Jewish child and want to build or strengthen their own family’s Jewish knowledge and identity. The program has been developed in response to interfaith families asking for Jewish family educational experiences especially once they have left a Jewish preschool. The programs are designed to give families tools, experiences and information whether they belong to any congregation or other Jewish institution.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

MEMBERS:

Beatrice Strome 8/31/2019  
Mother of Marsha Gerber  
Aunt of Cheryl Dipesa

Jerald Borne 8/16/2019  
Husband of Barbara

Larry Perlman 9/11/2019  
Husband of Roberta

Fay Castleman 10/1/2019  
Wife of Lloyd z”l

Edward Caplan 10/11/2019  
Husband of Diana  
Father of Andrew

NON-MEMBERS:

Rosalyn Goldstein 9/5/2019  
Sister of Bunny Lieberson

Dr. Irving Garber 9/9/2019  
Father of Cindy Krowiak

Ganya Drzymala 10/1/2019  
Mother of Marla Ariella Parisi

Alvin Nashman 10/6/2019  
Father of Jessica Chmara

Gloria Cohen 10/12/2019  
Sister of Ruth Kahn

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.

Celebrations

Shirat Rocked on Simchat Torah

The CJE 7th grade class made Rosh Hashanah honey cakes with Rabbi Michael.
In memory of

Bea and Bernie Hershberg
Laurie Hershberg
by Judy Hershberg and Paul Hershberg
Dr. Henry Rosen
Annie Lema Rosen
Barbara “Bobbi” Rosen
Warren K. Rosen
Constance Rosen Wook
Marsha Lasker Nell
Howard I. Rosen
by J. Myron Rosen and Family

Father, Merle Eakins
Sister, Susan Eakins
by Kate Botten
Father, Raymond Orloff
by Jayne Carey
Mother, Minnie Cohen
by Harold Cohen
Aunt, Barbara Collier
by Deborah Collier-Comins
Grandmother, Rose Zimmerman
Aunt, Anne Mintz
by Robin Cooper
Father, Jacob Dubinsky
by Michael Dubinsky
Aunt, Jenny Goldstein
by Marsha Feffer
Husband, Henry Gibbs
by Thelma Gibbs
Father, Barney Glazer
by Myles Glazer
Mother-in-law, Zelda Kalkoff
by Herb Goldberg
Mother, Marilyn Levy
by Rosanne Jepsy
Father, Norm Jepsy
by Robert Jepsy
Father, Jerald Kaufler
by Ron Kaufler
Father, Max Kahan
by Eric Kahan
Father, Israel Finkle
by Paula Kesen
Mother, Frances Leventhal
by Herb Leventhal
Brother, Carl Tichell
by Arlene Leventhal
Wife, Marilyn Levy
by David Levy
Grandmother, Lena Lewis
Husband, Marvin Goldstein
by Constance Lewis
Father-in-law, Benjamin Linsky
by Audrey Linsky
Father, Benjamin Lipsky
by Philip Lipsky
Great uncle, Nathan Kramer
Great aunt, Evelyn Chadis
Great-grandmother, Bessie Steinberg
by Deborah McWade
Husband, David Messenger
by Barbara Messenger
Father, Samuel Gold
by Beverly Nathan
Father, Abraham Interess
by Leslie Ogan
Father, Ida Oslon
Father, Benjamin Oslon
by Arthur Oslon
Mother, Anna Karmin
by Millie Oslon
Father, Harry Reiner
Mother and Grandmother,
Edythe Barr Reiner
by Cynthia Foster and Family
Mother-in-law, Annie Revman
Father, Aaron Fingerman
by Sylvia Revman
Mother, Lena Rosenbaum
by Michael Rosenbaum
Mother, Shirley Tishler
by Jackie Rosenfeld
Fiancé, David Davis
by Miriam Rosenthal
Father, Benjamin Miltstein
by Ann Segal
Mother, Bertha Siegel
by Herbert Siegel
Brother, Joseph Katz
Husband, Edward Spatz
by Carole Spatz
Wife, Doris Spector
by Ben Spector
Father-in-law, Oscar Spector
by Sandra L. Spector
Father, Harry Weinstein
by Daniel Surette
Father, Hyman Talkow
by Eli Talkow
Aunt, Evelyn Heller
Grandfather, Jacob Greenbaum
by Dorothy Tatelman
Grandfather, Harry Stoller
by Natalie White

In memory of

Father, Albert Rich
by Stanley Rich
Mother, Rita Weiner
by Larry Weiner

In memory of

Father, Sidney Feffer
by Judith Feffer

In appreciation of

Illye Barkan
In appreciation of Cantor Ahy’s assistance in preparing Ezra for his Bar Mitzvah
by David and Michelle Myerson

In memory of

Father, Rabbi Ahy’s father

In memory of Bea Strome
by Gloria Sax

CENTER FOR EARLY EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Bea Strome
by Skip and Cheryl Dipesa;
Larry and Lori Groipen
In memory of Debbie Leibowitz
and her many years of love and nurturing at CEE
In memory of Rhonda Jackson’s father
In honor of the opening of the
Arthur J. Epstein Wing of Salem Hospital
In honor of Jared Kaplowitch becoming a Bar Mitzvah
In memory of William Schapiro,
uncle of Brian London
In memory of Sue Fox’s brother
by Larry and Lori Groipen

CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Bea Strome
by Larry and Marsha Feffer;
Beverly Kahn and Family;
Pablo and Susanna Schapiro
In memory of Paul Oris Greenberg
by Herb Goldberg
In memory of Dr. Irving H. Garber,
MD
by Beverly Siskind Kahn and family
In memory of Rosalyn Goldstein
by Beverly Kahn
In appreciation of Andrea Katz’s assistance in preparing Ezra for his Bar Mitzvah
by David and Michelle Myerson
In honor of Lois Ogan’s new great-granddaughter,
Gwendolyn
In loving memory of Otto Greenberg
by Bob and Leslie Ogan

FEFFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of

Father, Herman Talcow
by Jane Alexander
Grandfather, Howard Wentworth
Grandmother, Ruth Spencer
by Daniel Glovband
Mother, Rose Cohen
by Bunny Gorfinke
Mother, Patricia Frank
by Lee Henson
Father, Gerson Levy
by Sanford Levy
Mother, Frances Levy
by Ruth Lunder
Grandfather, George Berkow
by Claudia Rodenstein
Father, Nathan Baserman
by Deborah Sudenfield
Father, Daniel Turkanis
by Barry Turkanis

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Bea Strome
by Arnold Bergman and Rand Foreman-Bergman;
Arye and Desiree Gil and Family;
Sandra Goldstein; Jeff and Sandy Hirshberg; Harryette Katzen; Lois Ogan;
David and Rhonda Pressman; Ronald and Shari Pressman; Murry and Joan Rich;
Bob and Bery Sanford; Lew and Reggie Weinstein; Susan Weiss
In memory of Frances Mendelsohn’s birthday
by Archie and Donna Cohan
In honor of the birth of Lois Ogan’s great-granddaughter, Gwendolyn
In honor of the birth of Margie Shapiro’s granddaughter, Gwendolyn
by Harvey and Helaine Cotton
In honor of the marriage of David and Rhonda Preman’s son, Zachary, to Jennifer
by Donald and Charlotte Fine
In loving memory of Cantor Emil for his friendship and wisdom. May his memory be a blessing to us all and give us strength.
by Arye and Desiree Gil and extended family
In memory of Philip Goldman by Irene Gilberg, Charles and Alice Leidner
In memory of Rosalyn Goldstein by Ronald and Barbara Gilefsky; Harriette Katzen
In memory of Cantor Emil Berkovits by Richard and Nancy Klayman
In honor of Randy and Marjorie Patkin’s daughter Brooke’s marriage to Joshua Kay
In honor of Barbara Vinick’s new home
In honor of Arlene Leventhal’s special birthday
by Lewis and Reggie Weinstein

In memory of
Brother, Philip Bender
Mother, Betty Bender
Brother, Morris Babbitt by Abe Babbitt
Mother, Florence Blake by Michael Blake
Father, Ira Siegel by Jessica Gelb
Sister, Elaine Grover by Thelma Gibbs
Mother, Helene Goldstein by Sandra Goldstein
Father, George Gross by Pearl Greenbaum
Husband, Harvey Greif
Mother, Edith Alpert by Ronna Greif
Mother, Hannahore Hander by Helyne Hamelburg
Great grandmother, Kate Stern by Karen Hirsch
Father, Jacob Hurwitz by Myles Hurwitz
Father, Jacob Levy
Mother, Ruth Levy by Fran Levy-Freiman
Mother, Lillian Konson by Mark Konson
Brother, Nathan Lieberson
Mother, Mollie Lieberson by Leonard Lieberson
Mother, Ada Myerson by Bob Myerson
Daughter, Stephanie Nathan Soler by Beverly Nathan
Mother, Edith Pressman by Ron Pressman
Father, Abraham Rich by Mrry Rich
Grandmother, Gassie Leamon by Joan Rich
Father, Israel Rosen
Mother, Marie Rosen by Jerry Rosen

Mother, Rebecca Weiner by Rachelle Rosenbaum
Father, Mac Rubin by Ronald Rubin
Brother, Alan Dillon by Nonnie Rubin
Mother, Eve Silverstein by Marsha Rubin
Sister, Gail Salinsky by Richard Salinsky
Stepmother, Ida Goldman by Gloria Sax
Father, Charles Alford by Bette Shoreman
Father, Paul Shoreman by Daniel Shoreman
Brother, Melvin Shuman by Arnie Shuman
Father, Edward Sudenfield by Paul Sudenfield
Mother, Sylvia Robinson by Reggie Weinstein
Brother-in-law, Myr Weisman
Mother-in-law, Sarah Weisman by Bette Ann Weisman
Father, George Berlow by Bette Ann Weisman
Mother, Anna Zaiger by Florence Wigetman

LEV FUND
In memory of Bea Strome by Philip and Marla Gay

LEV INITIATIVE
In memory of Ruth Schultz by Larry and Susan Goldberg
In honor of the engagement of our son, Jeffrey, to Crystal Webster by Herbert and Nancy Miller

In memory of
Grandmother, Ida Sevinor by David and Rhonda Preman and Family

MERKEN TALLIT FUND
In memory of Cantor Emil Berkovits by Elaine Merken

In memory of
Father-in-law, Harry Merken by Elaine Merken

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In honor of Rabbi Ragozin’s leadership by Mark and Judith Arnold
In memory of Bea Strome by The Baker Family: Mort, Rhoda, Julie, Matt, Jeryl, Kenneth and Louise Freibowitz
In appreciation by Ilse Barkan
In memory of Sandy Cutler-Cohen by Sol & Linda Feldman
In memory of my loved ones by Muriel Fellick
With thanks by Marsha Gerber
Aunt, Dorothy Levey
Father, Sidney Kaplan by Ethel Harris
Father, Edward Harris by Stephen Harris
Wishing good health for Ellen Gordon by Sanford and Roz Levy
In appreciation of the Rabbi’s kindness and compassion at a difficult time by Bunny Lieberson
In memory of Rosalyn Goldstein by Bob, Janet, Sarah and Matthew Lieberson
In honor of Frances Mendelsohn’s 106th birthday by Lenore Mowton
In appreciation of Rabbi Michael’s assistance in preparing Ezra for his Bar Mitzvah by David & Michelle Myerson
In appreciation of Rabbi’s assistance in preparing for my mother’s unveiling by Stanley and Sheila Rich
In memory of Larry Pearlman by Lois Sargent

In memory of
Grandmother, Eleanor Roos by Karen Rosenberg
Father, William Shube by George Shube
Mother, Louise Epstein by Ellen Zirin

SHIR CHESED FUND
In memory of Rosalyn Goldstein by Carla Greenberg

In memory of Bea Strome by Arye and Desiree Gil
In memory of Mimi Nelson Olivier’s special birthday
In honor of Karen and Jerry Madorsky’s anniversary
In memory of Dr. Irving Garber by Moche and Bethany Roditi
In appreciation and thanks for Renee Sidman’s great job as president of CSH
In honor of Carol and Sam Denbo’s 50th wedding anniversary by Daniel and Bette Shoreman
In memory of Cantor Emil Berkovits by Doris Villa
In appreciation of the support given by the Shir Chesed Committee by Larry and Susan Weiner

SHIR LANU FUND
In memory of Cantor Emil Berkovits by Charles and Alice Leidner

TORAH FUND
In honor of the 85th birthday of our brother-in-law, Donald Fine by Ed z”l and Diana Caplan
In memory of Bea Strome by Donald and Charlotte Fine

TREE PLANTED IN ISRAEL
In memory of Cantor Emil Berkovits by Arye and Desiree Gil; Daniel and Bette Shoreman; Arnie and Sandi Shuman
In honor of the birth of my great granddaughter, Gwendolyn Vieira Farnsworth by Lois Ogan
In honor of Muriel Talkov’s 90th birthday by Elaine Samuels
In memory of Bea Strome by Arye and Desiree Gil

Beautiful outdoor flowers purchased and planted by Helaine Hazlett
The Interview

Congregational Spotlight
Meet Jessica and Sean Nimkar

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, Swampscott native Jessica Nimkar shares thoughts on growing up attending Temple Israel and what led her to join Shirat Hayam as an adult.

What part did religious life play in your childhood/young adulthood?

Growing up, my family (parents Robin and Michael Blake and brother Daniel) were members of Temple Israel. Both my parents attended Hebrew School, celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and were married at Temple Israel. My brother and I attended the Pre-School and Hebrew School and had our Bar & Bat Mitzvahs there. One of my strongest connections to Jewish life was attending Camp Pembroke and traveling to Israel with fellow campers through the Lappin Foundation. I really built and connected with my Jewish identity through that experience.

What made you decide to join CSH?

My family, including my grandparents, have always had a connection to the Temple, particularly during the High Holy Days. When I returned from college years ago, I always attended High Holy Day services or events under my family’s membership and enjoyed the continuity of Jewish traditions. I married my high-school sweetheart, Sean Nimkar, in June 2018, and we recently bought a house in Danvers. When we started discussing our future and I learned about the new structure for membership, I knew it was time for me to become a member on my own.

My husband and I are an interfaith couple. Sean was raised Catholic, but the Rabbi and members have been incredibly inviting and welcoming to not only me but to Sean as well. That really means a lot. We have had the opportunity to meet with Rabbi Michael a number of times, including Shabbat dinner at his home and discussion groups at CSH. I truly appreciate how inclusive and open Shirat Hayam is.

Do you work? Could you tell us a little about it?

Yes! I work for Salem Glass Company, a glass and glazing subcontractor that focuses on both exterior envelope construction and interior fit-out projects. It’s my family’s business, started by my great-grandparents in 1929. We celebrated our 90th anniversary this August. I am very proud of all the hard work and success my family has built and it’s a blessing to be a part of the 4th generation of family to work there. I get to work with my grandmother, Lois Miller, my uncles, my Dad and my brother – everyday!

How has this area changed since you were growing up here?

Actually, I find that it really hasn’t changed that much. Swampscott has always been a place of comfort and belonging for me.