CSH Board of Directors Welcomes Its New Members and President

The last year brought many unexpected challenges to every level of everyone’s lives, including at Shirat Hayam. Luckily, local physician Dr. Mark Messenger was at the helm as President, navigating the congregation through unchartered pandemic waters.

As he ends his two-year tenure, Messenger reflected on the past year. “The world certainly has changed. I am proud that I was able to lead and guide CSH through the pandemic. I had to make decisions based on the latest medical data which, as a physician, I had the ability to understand and analyze. I also had to admit when I was wrong, as when I told the congregation not to worry and then closed the building five days later,” he said.

Rabbi Michael applauds Messenger’s handling of recent difficult times. “Mark has shown extraordinary leadership, shepherding Shirat Hayam through the pandemic, keeping staff, congregants and the Center for Early Education safe, while maximizing participation in congregational life and the CEE,” he said.

Messenger passes the baton to incoming President Ruth Estrich. “I know Ruth will be very successful. She is intelligent, a hard worker and understands CSH,” he added.

Estrich, whose family has been a part of the congregation and community for generations, complimented Messenger on his service. “I don’t know how he managed to juggle the needs of the congregation with those of his patients,” she said.

Estrich grew up attending Temple Israel, and both she and her son celebrated their B’nei Mitzvah there. She was a member of the board of directors at Temple Israel in the 1990’s before moving to Philadelphia, returning three years ago after retiring as the Chief Marketing and Chief Strategy Officer of a billion-dollar healthcare company. She was appointed to the board of Shirat Hayam, where she has participated on the Strategic Planning, Finance and Trumot HaLev Committees and, most recently, chaired the Cantor Search Committee.

“As we look forward to the next two years, I know the congregation joins me in a newfound appreciation for everything we have missed and for the promise of what lies ahead. I look forward to building upon what we’ve learned and to creating a new level of connection and community for our families, friends, neighbors and the generations to come,” she said.

The 2021-2023 Board includes five new members: Brian Cohen, Maria Samiljan and Margery Shapiro will begin 2-terms; I.R. Young and Keiko Zoll will each serve for one year.

Brian Cohen was born and bred in Swampscott and now resides in Marblehead, where he raised his three children with his wife, Michele. His connection to the Shirat community runs deep. He was a life-long (3rd generation) member of Temple Israel and joined CSH at its inception. The three Cohen children attended preschool and became B’nei Mitzvah at Shirat Hayam. He chaired the Brotherhood for over five years and previously served three terms.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dr. Mark Messenger

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SILVER LININGS

Did you have an unexpected positive experience due to Covid-19 restrictions? Care to share it with your CSH family? Send your thoughts to sackett.shelley@gmail.com and put “Silver Linings” in the memo.
Life of the Congregation

RABBI’S CORNER

How Far We’ve Come

As part of an online course in community organizing, a lay leader from a suburban Conservative (Judaism, not politics) synagogue lamented the scope of work facing her congregation. “We need to attract the next generation,” she said. Then, she went on to say that to attract millennials, her congregation needed to be visibly aligned with their values: LGBTQ friendly, inclusive of people with disabilities, welcoming of interfaith families, pursuing racial justice, etc.

With each group that she mentioned, my heart swelled with pride. While there’s still work to do, Shirat Hayam has made strides in so many of these areas, thanks in large part to the work of Shir Lanu.

Now, since the High Holy Days in September 2020, we’ve added another pillar to Jewish life at Shirat Hayam. Tzedek LaKol (Justice for All) is our team focused on achieving racial and social justice within our congregation and community.

While this work is important in and of itself, it also fills a critical pathway into the Jewish experience. Our vision calls for Shirat Hayam to offer the most fulfilling spiritual experience. While this often connotes our prayer services, different people are attuned to the spiritual in different spheres of life.

Within the synagogue, there are three basic spheres of Jewish activity: the self, the congregation, and the broader community.

• The self primarily consists of prayer services, but also includes Torah study.
• The congregation consists of caring for our people, whether the work of Shir Lanu and Shir Chessed (our caring committee) or our work to combat antisemitism and support Israel.
• The community consists of our care and concern for those outside of CSH.

With the launch of Tzedek LaKol, Shirat Hayam has added this third critical pillar of Jewish life—a concern for those outside our immediate congregation.

We now, I believe, offer a full set of Jewish practices. Each of us, and prospective members, can choose the pathway or practice that most closely aligns with our soul. We can find our way into Jewish life and community, whether we pursue practices that focus on the self (prayer and study), the congregation (inclusion and caring), or the broader community (social justice). It is my hope that as we deepen our practice within any one sphere, we feel a greater affinity with those who have a similar commitment within another sphere.

We can certainly do more. However, let us not take for granted how far we’ve come, nor how important it is that Tzedek LaKol completes the three spheres of congregational life. With robust offerings in these areas, along with our Center for Jewish Education, we are well positioned to attract the millennials that have eluded the congregation mentioned at the outset.

May we continue from strength to strength.

Message from the President

Welcome to the beginning: of summer, of my time as president of the congregation, of our reemergence from the devastation of the pandemic, of the gradual reopening of the synagogue. Recent studies have taught us about stress and trauma. Much is now known about the impact of post-traumatic stress and, no doubt, much will be said in the future about the impact of post-pandemic stress across the globe. How lucky are we to be part of this world-wide opportunity to learn from what has just transpired and to turn this post-traumatic pain into post-traumatic growth and wisdom? We have the incredible opportunity to transform our future standing upon the richness of all that we have learned in the past year—as Jews, as parents, as children, as spouses and friends, as neighbors and as citizens of the North Shore and the world. Let us mine the gold that is strewn before us. Let us work together with incredible gratitude—not just to return to our pre-pandemic past, but to create a future of new and exciting possibilities!

Warmly,
Ruth Estrich
Dear Friends,

I’m very grateful for the privilege to have been your cantor.
I will cherish these memories.
I wish you and your loved ones good health and good times.

B’shalom,
Cantor Alty

Becky’s Book Club

Join Becky’s Book Club facilitator and leader, Amy Cohn, for CSH monthly discussions. Named in memory of Becky Shepard z”l, who started the CSH congregational book club and passed away in 2014, the meetings take place on Zoom and are open to the community. The group will discuss The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell on June 21 (a can’t-look-away suspense tale of three entangled families living in a house with the darkest of secrets). The group will take a summer break and come back in September with a fresh roster of 2021-2022 selections. All meetings start at 7:30 pm. after minyan. Live Zoom link is available at shirathayam.org. Go to the Get Involved tab, click Affinity Groups and then click Becky’s Book Club.

by Arnie Glick

SHMOOZIN

"Kitty acts as though Shabbat is her day of rest. Of course, Kitty acts as though every day is her day of rest."

Center for Early Education preschoolers certainly have a green thumb this year! It has been amazing to watch their indoor garden sprout from seed. Potatoes, peas, mint and marigolds fill the classroom windowsill.

For all Zoom links go to www.shirathayam.org and click blue Guide to Virtual Services at top of home page (or shirathayam.org/guide-to-virtual-services/)
Welcome
Continued from page 1

The Samiljan family have been members of CSH since the merger. Before that, they were members of Temple Israel, which Maria’s parents joined in the 1950s. “Shirat Hayam is warm and welcoming. Whether in person or on Zoom, I always feel part of a community where people are happy to see me. At Shirat, I feel comfortable participating at my own pace and in whatever type of service or experience I choose in the moment. It’s a wonderful caring community,” she said.

Samiljan felt honored to be asked to serve on the board. “I believe there is an abundance of opportunity waiting for us to embrace at Shirat Hayam and in the Conservative movement in general. It is an exciting time to be able to give back through board service, to share my experience and to be part of Shirat’s journey,” she said.

Margery Shapiro

Margery Shapiro is a lifelong member of Temple Israel and now CSH. “I went through a very difficult time when my husband died suddenly in 2013. Joining the community of the Renewal service helped me heal and reconnect with my own spirituality. I appreciate the genuine connections I’ve made through being a minyan captain and serving on Shir Chessed,” she said.

Shapiro was quite active in Temple Israel as a former Board member and Sisterhood President and has been anxious to get more involved at CSH. “I’m looking forward to sharing the perspective of my generation while meeting and getting to know some of the newer/younger members. Plus, I’m definitely looking forward to when things start to resume in person and we can say hello in person,” she said.

The Youngs: Eliana (13), J.R., Audrey, and Dermott (11).

J.R. Young, wife Audrey and children Eliana and Dermott have been members of Shirat for approximately five years. He was raised Catholic and converted to Judaism in 2006. The Youngs lived in Newton until 2012 and were unaffiliated, spending all of the Jewish holidays with Audrey’s family at their synagogue in Connecticut. When the children got a little older, they decided it was time to join a synagogue and began “Shul Shopping.” “The word ‘shopping’ is used loosely, as Shirat Hayam was our only visit,” Young said. “We had been residents of Swampscott for a few years and it seemed like we knew everyone at Shirat. It was such a warm and inviting congregation, and we immediately felt at home.”

To come into Shirat and see how alive and vibrant the community was really inspired the Youngs. “The live music, the participation by the congregants and the best Kiddush lunches we’d ever seen, hooked us. Also, the way the children were taken care of by Shirat’s knowledgeable, kind and patient Hebrew School teachers really made a huge impression,” he added.

Young chose to serve on the board because helping out is “kind of in my blood. I’ve served on the Planning Board in Swampscott, the town soccer board for seven years, the Swampscott Club for six years and counting, and I coach my children’s sports teams just about every season,” he said.

Young also helped Shirat during the pandemic by managing the Zoom ceremonies for B’nei Mitzvah. “I just enjoy being involved and helping out when I am able. I may not have been a Jew for very long, but after seeing the once vibrant synagogue in Connecticut close, I know how important it is to maintain an active and engaged congregation by having a broad appeal and providing what the people want and need. I hope to bring fresh ideas and perhaps a view from different eyes to the board to keep Shirat Hayam strong and vibrant,” he said.

Keiko Zoll is Director of Communications for Boston Schools Fund, and Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of TourGuide Games, a tabletop role-playing game industry startup launched in 2020. For more than a decade, she has worked as a communications and marketing professional, writer, and editor across sectors, from higher education institutions and non-profits to social impact and consumer startups, and for global consumer brands and digital publications. She holds a B.A. in Communication Studies from The College of New Jersey.

In June 2020, Keiko helped organize March Like a Mother for Black Lives Boston, an event centered on the experiences of Black motherhood. She is also a founding member of the Swampscott Antiracism Caucus, volunteers on the PTO Board at Stanley Elementary School, and has proudly represented Swampscott’s 6th Precinct at Town Meeting since 2019. An alumna of New Leaders Council Boston, EMERGE Massachusetts, and the Commonwealth Seminar, Keiko’s work is anchored at the intersection of constituent engagement, technology, and storytelling for social good, racial justice, human rights, and public service.

She lives in Swampscott with her son Judah and husband Larry and joined Shirat in 2019. “Our family has lived on the North Shore for a decade, yet we only recently found our spiritual home at Shirat Hayam after we moved from Salem to Swampscott in 2018. We were drawn to its warm, welcoming community — led by Rabbi Michael — and Cantor Alty’s beautiful musicianship. I still fondly remember Barri Stein warmly greeting our family as we walked into our first High Holy Day services here. Our son Judah, a second grader, has begun his Jewish education here, and we can’t wait to watch him grow up in our temple community,” she said.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, Zoll has deeply appreciated the efforts to ensure CSH remains as accessible as possible to maintain spiritual, social, and educational connections for the community when physical gathering isn’t possible and is thrilled to join the board. “The pandemic has afforded us a unique opportunity to examine how we might innovate to stay accessible as a congregation when the pandemic is a long-gone memory rather than our present reality. I’m deeply driven by the racial justice work of our Tzedek LaKol committee and seek to bring these values to the work of temple leadership. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and diving in — and can’t wait until we may all gather again in person!” she said.
CJE NEWS

Janis Knight, CJE Director, sends the following year-end wrap up:

As CJE finishes this year, I wish to express my gratitude to our amazing staff and madrichim. They have adapted, learned new skills, polished older skills, maintained cheerful aspects, shared ideas and reached out to one another in need and in support. The parents of our students have been incredibly supportive and expressed such gratitude for our efforts.

I have to be frank—it has been hard. Really hard. To work in Jewish education is inherently to want to connect on a personal level, to share and interact around material that is important and special to us. Zoom has been a blessing in many ways but is simply not equal to the task of giving students and teachers (and Directors of CJE) the wonderful energy of being together in a room and singing, praying, telling jokes, celebrating, or discussing Torah.

During these last few weeks, we have been able to return to the building, although not in our usual classrooms due to COVID restrictions. We have had the opportunity to pray together again with our Rabbi. Teachers have been able to work with students directly on important class projects, like hand-made tallitot, maps of Israel, and some beautiful home blessings given as Mother’s Day gifts.

Our final Shabbat was under tents and the open sky, but the invisible walls of our community, our sense of being part of Shirat Hayam, and our affection for one another has held us together just as much as the walls and halls of our building have.


CEE NEWS

Spring Is Still Springing!

Fine motor fun with our toddler group! We use popsicle sticks and small containers to refine the muscles in our hands. This will prepare us to hold writing utensils and scissors.

Chalk angels are at CEE this spring! It’s amazing what can happen with two pieces of chalk and a beautiful mind.

Who said you need a paint brush to paint?! We enjoy bringing physical science into our everyday art. Ramps, balls, tires, paper and paint can teach us about physics. Gravity, force, and velocity are explored in preschool!

Outdoor Classroom Clean-up! We are hard at work preparing out outdoor spaces for summer. Our preschoolers lend a helping hand with rakes and shovels to fill in the mulch.

Welcome to the CEE Scratch Kitchen! We are experimenting with nature’s spring recipe as we make concoctions and mudpies. This year we added mortar and pestles to the mix.

Our infant room is booming! The CEE is the place to be this Spring.
CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

MEMBERS:

Donald Fine
4/5/2021
Husband of Charlotte Fine
Father of Sheri Schapiro

Arlene Goodstein
4/23/2021
 Wife of Mike Goodstein
Mother of Shari Munro

NON-MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Brown
4/5/2021
Sister of Harold Levin

Herbert Rubin
4/12/2021
Uncle of Rhonda Preman

Dr. Leo Corben
4/19/2021
Father of Terry Berenson
Grandfather of Carrie Rosenman

Father, Bernard Forbush, Sr.
from Bernard Forbush

Grandfather, George Kramer
from Deborah McWade

Father, Harold Greenbaum
from Dorothy Tatelman

Wife, Muriel Talkov
Brother-in-law, Samuel Kabachnik
from Eli Talkov

Mother, Mary Frisch
from Howard Frisch

Mother, Jeanne Goldberg
from Ina Hoffman

Father-in-law, Joseph Dunn
from Linda Dunn

Father, Marvin Meyer
from Mark Meyer

Father, George Rosenbaum
from Michael Rosenbaum

Father, Philip Waldman
from Michael Waldman

Father, Jack Nee
from Stacey Gordon

Husband, Gerald Perlow
from Carolyn Perlow

Grandmother, Rebecca Lieberman
from Enid Gold

Husband, Henry Barbanel
from Frances Barbanel

Husband, Lawrence G. Alexander
from Jane Alexander

Father, James Simon
from Sandra Spector

Mother-in-law, Dorothy Sloane
from Toby Sloane

Grandfather, Philip Lewis
from Constance Lewis

Mother, Ann Kaplan
from Sandra Gold Shalit

Husband and father, Eugene Poster
Brother-in-law, Irving Poster
from The Poster Family

BURT & BECKY SHEPARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of
Mother, Marilyn Fink
Father, Jacob Fink
from David Fink

CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

In appreciation of Janis Knight
from Rachelle and Jonathan Dubow

In memory of Donald Fine
from Loryl and Steven Forman;
Beverly Kahn; Pablo and Susana Schapiro;
Beverly and Melvin Shapiro

In memory of Elizabeth Brown,
sister of Harold Levin
from Beverly and Melvin Shapiro

In memory of
Grandmother, Rose Levin
from Diane Levin

EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND

In honor of Mark Messenger being
honored for his services at Care Dimensions
In memory of Donald Fine
from Gloria Sax

GENERAL FUND

Get well wishes for Louise Chudnofsky
from Arlene and David Addis

In appreciation of Julie Tapper’s kindness
from Diana Lerman

In appreciation of Karen and Jerry
Madersky
from Howard Gorney

In honor of the birth of Aria
Rose Schwartz, daughter of Mark
Schwartz and Hallie Spierings,
and granddaughter of Cheryl and Arthur Schwartz
from Lois and Bob Kaplan;
Marjorie and Randall Patkin; Renee and Jason Sidman; Doris Villa

In honor of the birth of our grandson,
Jacquen Riley Ferguson
from Beth and Marc Andler

In memory of Arlene Goodstein
from Terry and Mark Berenson;
Susan and Larry Goldberg;
Lois and Bob Kaplan;
Marilyn Stoll

In memory of Elizabeth Brown,
sister of Harold Levin
from Roberta Cohen; Toby Karlyn; Alice and Charles Leidner; Lisa Schneider; Judy White

In memory of Donald Fine
from Arlene and David Addis;
Cheryl and Arthur Schwartz
Melissa and Jonathan Gershon;
Andrea Kline; Diane Levin
and Stephen Hicks; Lois Ogan;
Doris Villa

In memory of Leo Corben,
father of Terry Berenson
from Carol and Sam Denbo;
Phyllis Sagan

In memory of
Niece, Dena Lehman
from Bunny Gorfinkle

Mother, Janet Kessin
from Elizabeth Berman

Bertha Yanofsky
from John Cohen

Mother, Bess Goldstein
from Judith White

Mother, Bessie Kraft
Brother, Sumner Kraft
Brother, Leon Kraft
from Frances Pearlman

Husband, Arnold Tarlow
Father, Aaron Weitzner
from Judith White

Mother, Elaine Garron
Father, Albert Levine
from Joel Levine

KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Alex Levine, son of
Mikaela and Jason Levine,
grandson of Ellen and Dan Levine,
becoming a Bar Mitzvah
from Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In honor of Eric and Ruth Kahn’s
60th anniversary
In honor of the birth of Aria
Rose Schwartz, granddaughter of
Cheryl and Arthur Schwartz
from Joa and Murr Rich

In memory of Donald Fine
from Arlene Germain; Gail and Jerry Gerson;
Myra and Paul Guilo; Herb Goldberg; Roz and Marty Goldberg;
 Judy and Harold Kramer; Janice Levine;
Alvah Parker; Joan and Murr Rich; Phyllis Sagan;
Barbara Vinick; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In memory of Arlene Goodstein
from Gail and Jerry Gerson;
Gloria Sax

In memory of Elizabeth Brown,
sister of Harold Levin
from Phyllis Sagan

In memory of
Father, Morris Siegel
from Alan Siegel

Father, Hyman Epstein
from Arthur Epstein

Mother, Ida Pekin
Aunt, Rose Pekin
Uncle, Jacob Leamon
from Joan Rich

Great Grandfather, Chaim Stern
from Karen Hirsch

Mother, Ann Bekritsky
from Linda Siegel

Aunt, Bessie Goldberg
from Michael Waldman

All our loved ones
from Jerry and Bob Sanford
In memory of Leo Corben, father from Carolyn Perlow
daughter, Emma Madeline Perlow
In honor of the birth of my granddaughter, Eve Rubin from Eli Talkov
an “Honorable Mensch” in In honor of Rabbi Michael being from Diane and Robert Freedman
POLONSKY BUILDING FUND
In memory of Donald Fine from Norma and Sherman Freedman
In memory of Janice and Harold Cohen from The Cohen Family
RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In appreciation of Rabbi Michael from Diane and Robert Hart
In honor of Rabbi Michael being an “Honorable Mensch” in the Jewish Journal from Eli Talkov
In honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Eve Rubin from Marsha and Sheldon Rubin
In honor of the birth of my granddaughter, Emma Madeline Perlow from Carolyn Perlow
In memory of Leo Corben, father of Terry Berenson from Beth and Marc Andler; Cynthia Talkov Boyd

In memory of Donald Fine from Barbara and Ron Glikfsky; Rhonda and David Preman; Barbara and Michael Schaefer; Judy Tarlow
In memory of Elizabeth Brown, sister of Harold Levin from Brenda and Sheldon Cohen
In memory of Arnold Goldberg, brother of Ina Hoffman from Ethel and Stephen Harris

In memory of
Sister, Shirley Hansbury from Harold Epstein
Father Samuel Woogmaster from Barbara Glikfsky
Mother, Sally Holmes from Richard Holmes
Mother, Celia Cherry from Ruthann Cohn
Husband, Stanley Patkin from Myri Patkin
Grandmother, Rhoda Cashman
Grandfather, Samuel Newman from Robert Cashman

In memory of
Mother, Evelyn Weinberg White from Joan Waldman
Mother, Sylvia Revman
Uncles, Michael Markis, Abe Revman, Richard Goldberg
Grandmother, Ross Fingerman from Donna Revman
Aunt, Rose Goldstein from Myra Gulko

In memory of
Grandfather, Arthur Germain from Marion Garfinkel and Family

TREE PLANTED IN ISRAEL
In memory of Dr. Allen Josephs, father of Mitchell Josephs from Gloria Sax
TZEDEK LAKOL - RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE
In appreciation of Barbara and Alan Sidman and the Tzedeck LaKol group’s inaugural discussion of Race in America with former Governor Deval Patrick from Arnold Bergman and Rand Foreman-Bergman
In memory of Donald Fine from Martha and Aril Swiller
In memory of Arlene Goodstein from Marla and Philip Gay

In memory of
Mother, Bertha Barkan Levy from Sanford Levy

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.
Every issue, The New Wave spotlights a congregant as a way to help us get to know each other by putting a face with a name. This month, Amy Cohn shares her thoughts on Shirat Hayam and its special, personal meaning for her and her family.

Where did you grow up? What role did religion and synagogue life play in your childhood and young adulthood?

I grew up in Whitestone, NY (in Queens, near Flushing), and my family joined the Reform Free Synagogue of Flushing when my brother was in fourth grade and I was in second. The synagogue was exceptionally beautiful — a domed building with a large sanctuary featuring stained glass and traditional wooden pews modeled on a Manhattan temple. Our rabbi was a former actor, and he brought a sense of theatricality to services. It was the ‘60s and ‘70s, and the place was stuffed with kids. I went to Sunday school through confirmation, but I was a Hebrew School drop-out. I loved the synagogue and the friends I had there. I was an active member of our youth group — part of LIFTY, the Long Island Federation of Temple Youth — and became the group’s president when I was a high school junior.

My parents weren’t particularly observant, but celebrating the holidays at home was a big part of our family life — Chanukah and Passover, especially.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I am married, with two children in their 20s. My husband, Seth Berman, is an engineer and Rosie (short for Susanna Rose), our daughter, is almost 27. She’s wrapping up a Master’s degree in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Some long-time CSH members may remember her as the young girl who sang at the High Holy Days with Cantor Emil. Our son, Axi (short for Alexander), is almost 26 and holds two business degrees, one from the University of Richmond and the other from Endicott College.

I began my professional life in children’s literature, starting at Scholastic’s Lucky Book Club right after college. I earned a Master’s degree in the field at Simmons and then enjoyed ten or more years in various positions at the Horn Book Magazine and William Morrow, primarily, wrote a couple of books, appeared on television and radio as a commentator, reviewed for the New York Times, lectured all over the country, etc., etc. It was quite a ride.

After kids, I pivoted to higher education, starting at Endicott College as a very part-time professional writing tutor. I now head up our College’s Center for Academic Coaching, a program that seeks to support students determined to maximize their education through partnering with a professional academic success coach. It’s terrifically dynamic and rewarding work.

I’m not a big hobby person, but in my free time, I like to be with people — visiting, walking, talking — or supporting the adventures of friends and family at performances and games. Oh, I do like to sit on the beach and read!

What first brought you to CSH?

Our family had not affiliated with a local synagogue, and our children were approaching Bar and Bat Mitzvah age. My husband grew up in Workmen’s Circle and I had been an active participant in a Reform synagogue, so it wasn’t clear which direction to go. Then, Rabbi B came to CSH. The Synaplex and the big tent philosophy in the form of radical hospitality that he brought to the synagogue experience appealed to us strongly. And you can’t discount the appeal of the warm and joyful Cantor Emil! It was love at first sight between our family and Emil. We all miss him.

What keeps you at CSH? What’s special to you?

I believe in synagogues. People are less invested in institutions than they once were, but especially as one grows older, a new appreciation grows for the contribution

Continued on page 7