



THE CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL

Rabbi Herbert N. Brockman, Ph.D., D.D.
Assistant Rabbi/Educator Alison Adler
Cantor Arthur Giglio
Jennifer Levin-Tavares, Administrator
Rebecca Luty, Nursery School Director

WELCOME TO THE CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL

The Congregation Mishkan Israel is a progressive Reform synagogue with a rich history that dates back to 1840. As such, it is the oldest continuously operating synagogue in New England. CMI is known for its commitment to Jewish spiritual and religious growth, as well as to tikkun olam, social justice, and community action. Above all, CMI is known for the warm welcome its staff and members extend to those who call or come through our doors.

We offer many opportunities for study, spiritual growth and community involvement. In addition to a religious school for students from pre-school age to confirmation, we also offer a variety of adult education classes.

From toddlers to seniors, there is something for everyone at The Congregation Mishkan Israel. Come see why our congregational family is so special.

MISSION

Congregation Mishkan Israel is an organization of individuals and families whose purpose is to sustain a belief in God and the Torah.

By observing and practicing the principles of Reform Judaism, we strive to insure the continuity and commitment of our Jewish culture and heritage. We do this by providing a caring and welcoming environment for worship, study, inspiration, support and assembly.

We act together with the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in the Greater New Haven area in order to improve our local and global society, thus advancing Tikkun Olam (the repair and healing of the world).

785 Ridge Road
Hamden, CT 06517
(203) 288-3877
(203) 248-2148 [FAX]
<http://cmi.urj.net>

The Congregation Mishkan Israel is affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ), the Reform movement's national organization.

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WHO'S WHO AT MISHKAN ISRAEL

Rabbi Herbert N. Brockman

Herbert N. Brockman is a seventh-generation rabbi. Raised in a richly Orthodox home, he chose the liberal tradition of Reform Judaism. After graduating from Ohio University, Rabbi Brockman attended Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati where he received both a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Hebrew Letters. He received his Ph.D. from the Ecumenical Institute of St. Mary's Seminary and University of Baltimore. Upon completion of 25 years in the rabbinate, Rabbi Brockman was awarded the Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College. He also is certified in divorce mediation.

Rabbi Brockman teaches and engages in community projects, particularly those involving interfaith and interracial activities. He was chosen as a Coffin-Forsberg Fellow at the Yale Divinity School. He describes the synagogue as being a spiritual home as well as a place where individuals can learn about and gain an appreciation of other peoples, cultures and traditions. Rabbi Brockman views involvement in the community as central to the synagogue's mission. "A synagogue exists to serve its members, first of all, but it should be a light to the community as well."

Assistant Rabbi/Educator Alison Adler

Rabbi Alison Adler received her BA in Psychology from Kenyon College, an MA in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University and an MA in Jewish Studies from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She was ordained at Hebrew College in May 2008. Rabbi Adler strives to empower people of all ages to engage in Jewish study, to be moved to work for social justice and to experience prayer and life-cycle rituals that are vibrant and meaningful. Her background as a therapist has influenced a particular interest in teaching adolescents, college students and adults about Jewish understandings of body image and food. Rabbi Adler's work and life have been shaped by involvement in the havurah movement.

Cantor Arthur Giglio

Cantor Arthur Giglio is a graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) with a Master of Sacred Music and Diploma of Hazzan. He also holds a Bachelor in Voice and a Master in Music Education from Manhattan School of Music. Prior to coming to CMI, Cantor Giglio served as Interim Cantor at the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue, High Holiday Hazzan at Heichal Baoranim in Flagstaff, AZ and Temple Beth Israel at Plattsburgh, NY, and Assistant Cantor/Cantorial Soloist at Congregation Emanu-el of the City of New York.

Administrator, Jennifer Levin-Tavares

Jennifer Levin-Tavares grew up in Tennessee in a background of conservative Judaism. After receiving a Bachelors degree in Psychology at Indiana University, Jennifer attained her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law. Prior to joining the staff at Mishkan Israel, she held management posts at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. and at Yale University's School of Medicine. In addition to overseeing the synagogue's operations, Jennifer serves as a resource to facilitate members' integration into synagogue life.

Nursery School Director, Rebecca Luty

Rebecca Luty earned a BS in Education from SUNY Potsdam, and did post-graduate work at NYU Graduate School of Education and Southern Connecticut Graduate School of Education. She taught at Elizabeth Blackwell Junior High for 4 years before turning her attention to younger children, teaching at Gan Haya'eled for 10 years and writing and teaching curriculum for the Little Scientists Program. Ms. Luty has won numerous teaching awards including the coveted national Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education in 2003. In addition to being a seasoned educator, Ms. Luty is a well-known story-teller.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Have you ever wondered how to get more involved in the congregation or the greater New Haven Community? Or how to learn to read Hebrew? Or what all the holidays mean? Or maybe just how to meet other people? Besides services and special events, our synagogue offers a vast array of educational and social activities and committees that are open to everyone. Here are the ones that are ongoing:

Adult Education Committee -- This committee reviews opportunities for adult study and suggests and plans educational courses and individual programs as well as social activities geared towards adult members of the congregation. In conjunction with other committees, they plan educational and social functions aimed at families.

Art Committee -- The group evaluates the art needs of the synagogue, recommends and oversees the acquisition of new pieces, and reviews proposed gifts of art in order to determine appropriateness and placement.

Book Discussion Group -- The group meets approximately every 6 weeks to discuss a selected novel or non-fiction book with Jewish content.

Brotherhood of Men & Women -- This group supports the activities of the synagogue through programming and financial contributions; they sponsor a Sunday morning coffee shop during religious school as well as outside speakers on public interest issues.

Building & Grounds Committee -- This committee oversees renovations and upkeep of the physical structure and maintenance of the building (including the cemetery chapel) and grounds, and makes recommendations about maintenance and improvement of both. They are charged with building security.

Caring Community -- This committee plans and coordinates activities that assist other members of the synagogue. Typical activities include: providing rides to doctors' appointments and to services, making friendly visits and calls, cooking meals or doing grocery shopping, and leading shiva or other services.

Cemetery Committee -- This committee recommends and oversees the implementation of policies regarding the cemetery. In conjunction with the Building and Grounds Committee, it oversees the maintenance of the cemetery grounds and chapel.

Development Committee -- This committee focuses on the overall financial health of the synagogue, including both long-range financial projects, such as planned giving, and short-term projects.

Gift Shop -- Volunteers manage and staff CMI's judaica shop.

Introduction to Hebrew -- This class provides adults with the opportunity to read Hebrew. The course is taught in conjunction with Rabbi Brockman's Intro to Judaism class.

Introduction to Judaism -- Rabbi Brockman teaches the basics of Judaism in this 16 week course. The class is for adults who have not had the opportunity to learn the basics as well as community candidates for conversion.

Membership Committee -- This committee develops and implements strategies to reach out to and welcome prospective and new members. They also design mechanisms to integrate new members into synagogue life.

Music Committee -- This committee advises and makes recommendations to the Cantor regarding the synagogue's musical programming. They also plan and implement concerts and other congregational music programs.

Mysticism -- Dr. Stanley Friedman explains the Kabbalah on selected Saturdays.

Pe'ah Project -- Each Spring, congregants plant a garden, raising vegetables for themselves and for New Haven area soup kitchens and food banks. The congregants begin with study of Biblical and Rabbinic laws of "giving" and implement these over the course of the summer. This project, which has won national recognition, raises over a ton of vegetables annually for community needs.

Religious Education Committee & Religious School Parents -- Working with the Director of Education, these groups plan programs and special activities for religious school families (e.g., class dinners, open houses, special programming). The committee often works in conjunction with other committees (e.g., Adult Ed, Social Action) to encourage families to be partners in the learning process.

Ritual Committee -- This committee provides feedback and offers suggestions to the Rabbi on issues relating to ritual practice, services, and the liturgy.

Seniors -- This is an opportunity for senior members of the community to come together for music, speakers, camaraderie, and more.

Shabbat Morning Bible Study -- Rabbi Brockman leads these weekly Shabbat classes from October through June on Saturday mornings.

Social Action Committee -- This group plans and involves members in social action programs relating to activities that repair and heal the world. Ongoing programs include: clothing drive, Habitat for Humanity builds, serving at soup kitchens. The committee also collaborates with other groups to present special programs (e.g., Mitzvah Mall with Religious Education Committee, legislative breakfasts with Brotherhood, blood drive with Unitarian Society).

Soup Kitchen – Congregants volunteer to serve at area soup kitchens on the first and fifth Sunday of each month.

Usher – Our congregants help make Shabbat special by greeting people as they come to services and handing out prayer books.

Young Professionals Group – This Group is geared for those in their mid-30s and younger. The YGP provides opportunities for young adults to get together individually and as families to socialize, network and building meaningful relationships with other CMI members. Events are held at the synagogue, members' homes, and locations around town.

So get involved!! To get more information about any of these activities or if there are other ways you would like to get involved, let us know – call the synagogue office at (203) 288-3877.

YOUTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Congregation Mishkan Israel defines Jewish education as a preparation for the experience of living a Jewish life. The religious education programming is an integral part of the CMI community. Its goal is to help families ensure the continuity of and commitment to our Jewish religion, culture and heritage and identity. Our religious school seeks to nurture in its students a growing understanding of Torah, mitzvot, Hebrew, social responsibility, traditions, prayer, ethics and Israel -- all to foster comfort and pride in belonging to the Jewish community.

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbats are special celebrations of Shabbat and the major Jewish holidays that are geared towards families with young children and are open to all families in the larger community. Each celebration begins with a short service to mark Shabbat, and includes storytelling and songs centered on the particular Jewish holiday. A short reception concludes the evening. Unaffiliated and interfaith families are especially invited. Tot Shabbats generally run from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on select Fridays.

Nursery School

The Mishkan Israel Nursery School offers classes for Parents and Toddlers as well as for two, three and four year old children. Teacher-Director Bec Luty and her professional, experienced staff guide young children in hands-on, experiential learning activities that includes an introduction to Jewish themes and holidays. Enrollment is non-sectarian.

Part day and full day options are available for 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week. Early morning coverage also can be arranged through the Director.

For part day, children can stay for lunch-bunch from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. There also are optional enrichment programs offered each day 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., including music, science, Spanish, karate and cooking.

Class	Day	Part-Day	Full-Day
Parents/Toddlers	Wednesdays	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	
2 year olds	Monday - Friday	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
3 and 4 year olds	Monday - Friday	9:00 - 12:00 noon	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Kindergarten Readiness	Monday - Friday	9:00 - 12:00 noon	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Religious School

Children from Pre-K through seventh grade meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Preschool through third grade students participate in storytelling, art and music activities as well as mitzvah projects which familiarize them with their Jewish heritage, the Jewish holiday cycle, Bible stories, the Hebrew alphabet, Hebrew numbers, and the Hebrew prayer curriculum.

Fourth through seventh graders attend School on Tuesdays from 4 - 5:30 p.m. as well as Sundays. They participate in a more rigorous Hebrew program which prepares them to lead the congregation on the occasion of their becoming b'nei mitzvah. Additionally, the fourth and fifth grade curricula include specific study of texts from the Torah, Israel, and lifecycle. Sixth graders study Jewish values and heroes. Seventh graders follow Jewish history from the Middle Ages through the Holocaust to modern day Israel and American Jewry.

Attending services is an important aspect of the religious development of young people, and we particularly encourage students and their families to join us for the monthly Family Shabbat Service. Each month, students from a particular grade participate on the bimah during the Shabbat Family Service.

B'nai Mitzvah

B'nai mitzvah students are trained to read their Torah portion, to read their Haftarah portion either in Hebrew or English, to deliver a d'var torah or sermonette, and to conduct portions of the service. Each child is required to pick a mitzvah project, to carry it out before the day of the bar/bat mitzvah, and to write up the experience. The nature of this project will be discussed and formulated at the beginning of the student's 7th grade year.

Post B'nai Mitzvah

Madrikhim

We encourage our post b'nai mitzvah students to give back to the community and transmit their Jewish education by assisting younger students in the Religious School as madrikhim.

CMI High

Education doesn't stop at bar mitzvah. Eighth through twelfth graders can enroll in CMI High, an enrichment program that addresses the needs and interests of these teens. This program is designed to establish a greater connection between our younger generation of congregants and temple life at CMI.

Confirmation

Our tenth graders study with the Rabbi and Cantor for Confirmation. In the first semester, the class shares in the opportunity to talk with their peers and with Rabbi about Jewish ideas and values in the new millennium. Second semester, the class will develop a special theme for their confirmation and prepare a Shavuot service that reflects their thinking about that theme. It will express their sense of Judaism at this point in their lives.

Youth Groups

There are three youth groups at CMI.

MITYOR is a group of Reform Jewish youth in Grades 9-12 who are interested in learning and socializing with others of the same age throughout New England and parts of New York State. It is affiliated with NFTY-NE (North American Federation of Temple Youth-Northeast). JYMI is the junior youth group at CMI for 7th and 8th graders and MIFS is our youth group for 5th & 6th graders. These groups are an important means of meeting and staying in touch with Jewish peers.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL

785 Ridge Road
Hamden, CT 06517

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP REQUESTED

FAMILY SINGLE
 UNDER 35 SINGLE PARENT
with children under 25

We/I hereby apply for membership in The Congregation Mishkan Israel, a congregation dedicated to the principles of Reform Judaism. CMI's primary goals are the enhancement of our members' religious experience, their continuing education, and that of their children, and a commitment to Tikkun Olam (the repair and healing of the world).

MAILING NAME & ADDRESS

(as you wish it to appear on a label)

Name _____ **Second Address** (if applicable): _____
Street _____
City _____, State ____ Zip _____ City _____, State ____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____ Telephone (____) _____
Dates mail to be sent here _____

Marital Status

Single (never married) Married (Date of Marriage) ____/____/____ Divorced
 Widowed -- Name of Deceased: _____ Date of Death ____/____/____

MEMBER A

MEMBER B (SPOUSE OR PARTNER)

Name (First, Middle & Last): _____
Birth Last Name (if different) _____
Hebrew Name (if applicable) _____
Date of Birth ____/____/____ ____/____/____
Occupation _____
Business Name _____
Business Address _____
Business City, State, Zip _____
Business Telephone (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____
Facsimile Telephone (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____
Cell Telephone (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____
E-mail address _____

Put on distribution list for electronic newsletter? Yes/No (circle one)

Religious Background:

Reform Conservative Orthodox Reform Conservative Orthodox
 Other Convert to Judaism (year) _____ Other Convert to Judaism (year) _____
Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah ____/____/____ Confirmation ____ Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah ____/____/____ Confirmation ____

Previous Community and Congregational Affiliation(s):

If previously at CMI, approximate dates:

I/We would like to be involved in the following: (check all applicable):

	<u>Member A</u>	<u>Member B</u>		<u>Member A</u>	<u>Member B</u>
Adult Study	_____	_____	Membership	_____	_____
Art Committee	_____	_____	Music/Choir	_____	_____
Book Discussion	_____	_____	Peah	_____	_____
Brotherhood	_____	_____	Religious School	_____	_____
Building & Grounds	_____	_____	Ritual Committee	_____	_____
Caring Community	_____	_____	Seniors	_____	_____
Cemetery Committee	_____	_____	Social Action	_____	_____
Development Committee	_____	_____	Usher	_____	_____
Gift Shop	_____	_____	Young Adult	_____	_____
Other	_____				

Talents, Hobbies (e.g., photography, crafts, baking, computers):

School-Aged Children

Full Name	Hebrew Name (if any)	Birth Date	Religious School (present grade)
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Adult Children

Full Name	Address	Phone #	Spouse's Name
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Other Persons in Household (Please indicate Name & Relationship)

Memorials

Yahrzeits are observed and announced at the Shabbat service immediately following the anniversary date of death. To add your loved ones' names to our yahrzeit registry, please call the synagogue office at (203) 288-3877.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

All financial obligations apply to the fiscal year that begins July 1. Anyone joining the Congregation after the first day of July but prior to Yom Kippur shall be assessed and required to pay the full amount of annual dues. Anyone joining thereafter shall have his or her dues pro-rated by quarters. At least one quarterly dues payment must accompany this application in order to activate your membership. The Building Fund obligation begins the second year of membership and is payable over 6 years; up to \$500 will be credited if such a pledge was paid at another institution provided that synagogue provides verification of the pledge.

I/We promise to pay to Congregation Mishkan Israel the Annual Dues for the category of membership selected above, and to pay a building fund pledge of \$_____, beginning on _____. I/we understand that termination of membership does not result in abatement of this pledge, unless I/we move out of the area generally served by The Congregation Mishkan Israel.

Signature A _____
Date: _____

Signature B _____
Date: _____

Include your information in CMI Membership Directory: Yes/No (circle one)