

**CSH Community Shabbat Dinner
Friday, June 25**

**Sponsored by
Marilyn Mishaan and Sheila Pack**

In memory of
Marilyn's grandmother, Esther Labaton's Yartzeit
and Sheila's dad, Abe Kawer.

following Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30pm
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach
258 Redwood Road (directions below)

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Friday June 25, 2010      **Candle Lighting 8:08pm**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30pm**  
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road (directions below)

**Shabbat Morning 9:30**  
Old Whalers Church  
Union Street, Sag Harbor

**This week's Torah reading: Balak**  
Annual (Num. 22:2-25:9): Etz Hayim p. 894  
Triennial (Num. 23:27-25:9): Etz Hayim p. 903  
Haftarah (Micah 5:6-6:8): Etz Hayim p. 915

**Musings on Balak ... Ma tovu ohalecha Ya'akov, Mish'k'no'techa Yisrael.**

**How fair are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel!** (Numbers 24:1-3, 5)  
The rest of the *Mah Tovv* prayer is composed of a number of verses from Psalms: Psalms 5:8, 26:8, and 69:14.

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V'ani t'filati l'cha...

The climax of the [ma tovu] prayer] is the penultimate line. Although the plain meaning of the Hebrew is clearly, "As for me, may my prayer [come] to You," it has long been read poetically with midrashic hyper-literalism: *V'ani t'filati l'cha*, "I am my prayer to You." This is how I always understand this passage. I yearn for the I-Thou of prayer in which I lose my self-consciousness and self-criticism, and can allow the prayers to flow through me. And I pray to internalize my prayers so that when I leave the sanctuary, I have taken in, and can fully embody by who I am and how I live what has become so vividly true for me in the sacred place and time. *Mah tovu ohalecha Ya'akov*.

Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn is the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, California.
http://urj.org/learning/torah/archives/numbers/?syspage=article&item_id=43640

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Rabbi Kahn's preferred interpretation of the phrase *V'ani t'filati l'cha*, from the realm of what he calls midrashic hyperliteralism, "I am my prayer to You," is quite beautiful. This particular homiletic interpretation from our tradition is furnished to us from what Rabbi Kahn describes as the creativity of *chazal*, "our Sages of blessed memory."

Just as beautiful an interpretation of this phrase, *V'ani t'filati l'cha*, comes when we consider the next three words that together with the first three words make the more grammatically natural phrase, *V'ani t'filati l'cha Adonai et ratzon*, "As for me, may my prayer to You *Adonai* be at an opportune time." This particular rendering of the six-worded phrase is taken up by *chazal* in the Talmud, and made meaningful there as well. According to the Babylonian Talmud, *B'rachot* 8a, *et ratzon*, "an opportune time," is understood as the time of public worship. In other words, when in particular is our prayer to God best expressed? According to our tradition, it is when the community gathers together.

This interpretation in fact couples nicely with Rabbi Kahn's interpretation. This is to say that we can internalize our own prayers *in concert* with our fellow worshipers. *Chazal* said that when ten individuals study together the Divine Presence dwells among them.\* Study is a type of prayer and thus the Divine Presence surely dwells among the community that prays together. Our Sages were not suggesting that God exists more in certain places, but rather that God's Presence is more keenly felt in a community, where mitzvot are fulfilled writ large--be it study, worship, or acts of loving kindness.

Balaam is not the only one who is to bless *mishk'notecha Yisrael*, "the dwelling places of Israel." We bless our dwelling places, and thus our God, by participating in community.

\**Pirke Avot* 3:7, see *Pirke Avot: A Modern Commentary on Jewish Ethics*, trans. Leonard Kravitz and Kerry M. Olitzky (New York: UAHC Press, 1993), p. 40

<http://blogs.rj.org/reform/2010/06/davar-acher-parashat-balak-mis.html>

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Friday Evening, July 9

CSH Shabbat Community Dinner – sponsored by Bonnie Oglensky and Ira Schwarz
Jim Cardone, former pastor at The Old Whaler's Church, and his family will join us to talk about Jim's recent 3 month trip to Israel.

August 13th -14th

Zvi Gitelman returns to CSH. Maybe he'll talk about the "Litvak-Galitsianer Wars" and/ or "the history of the Jews in Russia."

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**Kiddush Sponsorships are still available for the summer. Please check for available dates.**

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Yom Huledet Sameach

Ava Erlitz on turning five

Mazel Tov

Harry Redlitz on completing the Immigration Law Studies Program at CUNY School of Professional Studies

Quote of the Week

Once you have started seeing the beauty of life,
ugliness starts disappearing.
If you start looking at life with joy,
sadness starts disappearing.
You cannot have heaven and hell together,
you can have only one.
It is your choice. Osho

Shabbat shalom.

Stacy

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Directions to
Home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach
258 Redwood Road

From East Hampton and points east (via Route 114)

Take Route 114 north to Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street (there is a restaurant on the near left corner called Cilantro's). Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

From Sagaponack or Wainscott (via Sagg-Main)

Take either Sag Harbor Tpke or Sagg-Main Street into Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street. Take the first left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

From Bridghampton (via Bridge-Sagg Pike)

Take the Sag Harbor Tpke into Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

From Watermill (via Scuttle Hole Road)

From 27, turn left onto Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, then turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road to Noyack Road – turn right onto Noyack Road, following the signs to Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Long Beach Hwy. Turn right onto South Ferry Road at the traffic circle (sign will say Route 114 South). Cross the bridge into Sag Harbor. Turn right onto Main Street (opposite the windmill and the wharf). Go straight along Main Street past the stores. Toward the end of the stores there is a fork in the road (at the monument and Allen Schneider realty); bear right to stay on Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west - Alternate

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road for a very short distance, and make a right onto North Sea Mecox Road. Take that to the end, then turn left on Seven Ponds Road. At the end of Seven Ponds there is a stop sign, and fork in the road. Take the middle path (always a good idea anyway), onto Lower Seven Ponds Road. Make a left at the end of the road onto Head of the Pond Road, and bear right at the next fork, staying on Head of the Pond. Stay on Head of the Pond Road until the end (it will curve and turn a fair amount, then take a left turn on Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, and turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

PARKING

You may park in the driveway, or on the street, but please be particularly careful of the neighbors' driveways. There is also a small public parking area on the right side of Redwood Road, just past the marina and directly opposite the left turn onto Cove Road. It is then a very short walk to the house.