

## WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026



**From Woody:** . I had a nice visit on Friday with Francis Love at the Veteran's Home in Tilton. He had a picture of the Chapel at Middlebury College in his room. He went to school there. It made me think of a high school friend, Peter Lebenbaum, who went to college there. I asked Francis about him and he had just seen him a few years ago at a reunion. Francis is a couple of years older than Pete and Pete had very nice things to say about him.

I decided to try to contact Pete, who is a retired psychologist and see if he would give Francis a call. I called Pete and left a message and he called me back immediately. And even though I hadn't talked to him since our high school graduation, we had a wonderful conversation. We played on the tennis team together and he was a very good tennis player. The amazing thing I learned on the phone was that Pete is Jewish. I never knew that, but he told me that because his family was Jewish, his Dad was not allowed to become a member of the Cherry Valley Country Club, where he wanted to play golf. I have previously told in sermons how Floyd Patterson and Jackie Robinson had looked at houses in Garden City but the houses they were interested in were bought up by the Garden City Property Owners Association.

At the time we didn't know who or what that was. I only learned at a reunion a few years ago that it was a group that didn't want black people moving into town. They adhered to the prejudice of the day that it would drive down everyone's property values. Apparently antisemitism was present as well. It was many years after our graduation when Pete's Dad was allowed to join the local golf club.

Racism and prejudice against Judaism were present in our town when I was growing up. Sadly, they are still alive in the world today. They are a cancer in our world and still need to be ended. It was great to talk to Pete, who always beat me at tennis but was otherwise a good friend. I know Francis will be happy to get a call from him. I hope to talk to him again soon as well.

**Session meets on Tuesday, January 6 at 7pm.**



**Monthly Rally:** Tuesday is the January 6 Immigration Rally. People wishing to carpool can meet in the Town Hall parking lot at 8-8:10am.



Our **Martin Luther King Day Service** is on January 18. We are pleased and honored that Rep. Maggie Goodlander will be joining us at that service.



Our **Annual Meeting** is after worship on January 25.



**Peace Quote:** For in the final analysis, our most common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal....*President John F. Kennedy*



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