



Community News

February 2017

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Volume 68, Number 6

TU B'SHEVAT 2017

“There are three ways in which we may relate ourselves to the world - we may exploit it, we may enjoy it, we may accept it in awe.”

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



What's inside this month?

(look for the tree for special Tu B'Shevat content)

*Recipes to celebrate the Seven Species
pages 2 & 9*

Rabbi Frankel is back! page 4

*Information on the Tu B'Shevat Seder
page 6*

*The story and significance of Tu B'Shevat
pages 6 & 8*

The magic of trees in the ECC page 9

Community Synagogue of Rye is a caring Jewish community that seeks to add meaning and purpose to your life.

Inspired by Jewish teachings and traditions, we seek to be a center for spiritual transformation; to foster the creation of sacred relationships; and to give people the tools and resources to be God's partner in healing the world.

This vision is guided by our commitment to the Jewish values of Worship (*T'filah*), Lifelong Learning (*Talmud Torah*), Community (*Kehilah*), Loving Kindness (*Hesed*), Repairing the World (*Tikkun Olam*) and Love of Israel (*Ahavat Yisrael*).

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Tu B'Shevat's 7 Fruits and Grains

These 7 Fruits and Grains, known in Hebrew as the *Shivat Minim* (Seven Species) became a basis for the food to eat on Tu B'Shevat, as they, along with almonds, Etrog(im) and carobs, were considered to be the "fruits of Israel."

Rick Abrams' Seven Biblical Species Muffins

(adapted from Tory Avey.com)

Ingredients

3/4 cup golden raisins
 1/2 cup dates
 1/2 cup dried figs
 1 cup unsweetened almond milk
 1/4 cup applesauce (from baby food aisle – I used Apple & Pear)
 1/4 cup pomegranate juice
 1 tsp cinnamon
 2 eggs
 1/4 cup olive oil
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 1 1/2 tsp vanilla
 1 1/2 cup all purpose (wheat) flour
 1/2 cup barley flour (I used Country Grain Bread flour – which contains some barley flour)
 2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 1/4 tsp salt
 Paper muffin tin liners & muffin tray

Topping

2 tbsp granulated sugar
 1/4 tsp cinnamon

Method

- Cover the raisins with water and bring to a boil. As soon as the water boils, turn off the heat and leave for 10 minutes to plump. Drain and pat dry with a paper towel.
- Preheat oven to 400 F. If your figs have tough stems on them, remove them and discard. Roughly chop dates and figs. Set aside.
- Use a blender or food processor to blend together raisins, dates, figs, almond milk, applesauce, pomegranate juice, and cinnamon until smooth. Set mixture aside.
- In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, olive oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.
- In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, barley flour (or a flour you can find with barley in it), baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, and salt.
- Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients (I used a cup/glass). Pour mixture from the blender into the well. Then add the egg mixture to the bowl.
- Fold the dry mixture into the wet ingredients until the dry ingredients are just moistened and a lumpy batter forms. Do not over mix.
- Mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl using a fork. Sprinkle about a 1/2 tsp of cinnamon sugar mixture evenly across the surface of each muffin.
- Place muffins in the oven and immediately turn heat down to 375 F. Bake for 25 minutes until the tops of the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin and cooling on a rack.
- Serve warm.

FEBRUARY 2017 CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1

4:00 pm CJL Grades K-6

Thursday, February 2

10:00 am Daytime *Torah* Study with Rabbi Gropper

11:30 am SAJE

Friday, February 3

7:00 am First Friday *Torah* Study

5:15 pm Sharing *Shabbat* & Hot Shot *Shabbat*

6:30 pm *Shabbat* Service with *Koleinu*, Junior Choir

Saturday, February 4

8:45 am *Torah* Study Service

CJL Grades 3-6

J-Life 3rd Grade *Shabbaton*

10:30 am Board *Shabbaton*

4:00 pm PJ Library Event—Pizza in my PJs

Sunday, February 5

9:30 am Jewish Yoga

Monday, February 6

11:30 am SAJE

6:15 pm CJL 7th Grade and CSR Teens (8-10)

8:00 pm Ritual Committee Meeting

Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 7

9:00 am ECC Parent Association Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

4:00 pm CJL Grades K-6

8:00 pm Band Rehearsal

Thursday, February 9

10:00 am Hidden Influence in Our Bible with Rabbi Rothman

11:30 am SAJE

7:15 pm ATID

Friday, February 10

9:10 am ECC *Shabbat*

7:45 pm *Shabbat* Service with the *T'filah* Band

Saturday, February 11

8:45 am *Torah* Study Service

CJL Grades 3-6

J-Life 3rd Grade *Shabbaton*

11:15 am Caroline Mayer, *bat mitzvah*

6:00 pm *Tu B'Shevat Seder*

Sunday, February 12

11:00 am Teen Social Action Sunday

Monday, February 13

6:15 pm CJL 7th Grade and CSR Teens

8:15 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 15

10:00 am WATE Meeting

11:30 am SAJE

4:00 pm CJL Grades K-6

Thursday, February 16

10:00 am Daytime *Torah* Study with Rabbi Gropper

11:30 am SAJE

Friday, February 17

9:10 am ECC *Shabbat*

6:30 pm *Shabbat* Service

Saturday, February 18 - CJL Closed

8:45 am *Torah* Study Service

Monday, February 20—Mid-Winter Break

CJL Closed, ECC Closed All Week

Presidents' Day—Office Closed

Thursday, February 23

9:00 am Israel Vacation Camp

10:00 am Hidden Influence in our Bible with Rabbi Rothman

11:30 am SAJE

7:00 pm *Mah Jongg*

Friday, February 24

9:00 am Israel Vacation Camp

6:30 pm *Shabbat* Service

Saturday, February 25

8:45 am *Torah* Study Service

Monday, February 27

11:30 am SAJE

6:15 pm CJL 7th Grade and CSR Teens (8-10)

8:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

CJL ISRAEL VACATION CAMP FOR GRADES K-6



FEBRUARY 23-24, 2017

Give your child a taste of Israel and two fun-filled vacation days without leaving New York!

Experience Israeli cooking, crafts, sports and more at Community Synagogue of Rye. Grades 9-12:

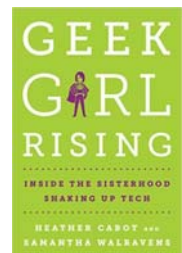
Apply to be a Jr. Counselor and receive a stipend.

To register online email Abby at rs@comsymrye.org or call the main office.

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to Marianne & Richard Goldstein on the marriage of their son, Michael, to his bride Charley.

Congratulations to Heather Cabot on the publication of her book *Geek Girl Rising: Inside the Sisterhood Shaking Up Tech*. Check it out and read more at geekgirlrising.com.



Celebrate a New Year for the Trees



As we settle into the new secular year of 2017, I am reminded that the *Mishnah* actually speaks about four distinct New Years in Judaism. The most famous, of course, is the first of *Tishrei*, or *Rosh Hashanah* (“head of the year”), which marked the beginning of the civil calendar and cycle of the seasons. Lesser known is the first day of the previous month, *Elul*, which

designated the New Year for the tithing of cattle. A third New Year, though in fact the first mentioned biblically, was the first of *Nissan*, the spring month in which we celebrate Passover. In fact the very first commandment that the Israelites are given upon their Exodus from Egypt is to “mark the new moon,” beginning in *Nissan*; in a sense their first act of independence from Pharaoh’s rule is to become the keepers of their own calendar.

Finally, the *Mishnah* specifies that on the 15th of the Hebrew month of *Shevat*, we are to celebrate a New Year for the trees (allowing farmers to begin counting when fruit tithes and other ritual laws would be observed). In Hebrew the numerical equivalent of fifteen is the letter *tet* combined with the letter *vav*, hence this holiday came to be colloquially called “*Tu B’Shevat*” or the 15th of *Shevat*. Although here in America the ground is usually still frozen when we celebrate the Jewish Arbor Day, in Israel the rainy season is beginning to wane and the first buds of the almond trees blossom right on cue.

The significance of *Tu B’Shevat* has evolved over time. Back in biblical times, people took portions of the fruit they had grown and brought them to the Temple in Jerusalem. Once the Temple was destroyed, however, *Tu B’Shevat* began to transform into a broader celebration of the earth and its bounty, one that could be celebrated in the Diaspora as well. In the 16th century, the Kabbalists or Medieval Jewish mystics, reclaimed *Tu B’Shevat* yet again, creating a ritual meal similar to the Passover Seder with which to celebrate the holiday. They connected four cups of wine to the four seasons and cycles of the earth, and introduced a custom of eating the biblical seven species (barley, dates, figs, grapes, olives, pomegranates, and wheat). Here at the synagogue we adapt this custom at our own annual *Tu B’Shevat* Seder (see details on page 6). Most recently, *Tu B’Shevat* has been connected to the rebirth of the Land of Israel and Jews around the world take this opportunity to help plant trees there either in person or virtually through donations to JNF.

While it may seem like “going green” is a contemporary trend, the truth is that Jewish environmentalism is as old as the *Torah* itself. Many *mitzvot*—both ethical and ritual ones—seem to have ecological underpinnings if not explicit commands to protect the earth. Ancient Israelite farmers understood that the soil required a sabbatical year to replenish its nutrients and that it was best to wait a few years before harvesting the fruit of a new sapling. Notable in Deuteronomy’s ethics of warfare is a prohibition about cutting down trees when conquering new territory. Trees have always been seen as so precious in Jewish tradition that we literally call the *Torah* an *Etz Chaim* or “tree of life.”

Tu B’Shevat is a yearly reminder not only to celebrate the trees and other wonders of nature as they exist today, but also to recommit ourselves to their future preservation. There is a beautiful *midrash* (rabbinic legend) in which the rabbis imagined God leading Adam around the Garden of Eden after Creation was complete. Showing Adam the diverse plants and animals, God charged Adam: “Look at My works. See how beautiful they are, how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil or destroy My world—for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you” (Ecclesiastes *Rabbah* 7:13). In a year when climate change deniers are suddenly making national headlines again, we especially need this spiritual charge to renew and replenish the environment for ourselves and future generations.

As you will notice flipping through the pages ahead, we are trying a new topical format for our monthly bulletin. Much of its content will connect to this month’s theme of the environment and offer you opportunities to learn, reflect, and take action accordingly. We hope that the teachings, recipes, and other “food for thought” that follows will enrich your celebration of *Tu B’Shevat* and help you to fulfill our CSR mission of being’s God’s partner in truly healing the world.

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Leora Frankel

THE WOMEN’S SEDER
with Rabbi Leora Frankel and
Cantor Melanie Cooperman
April 2, 2017
5:30 - 8:30 pm



For more information,
contact Jon Rekedal at
clergyassist@comsynrye.org.

INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

Laurie Frolich, President • president@comsynrye.org

Of Presidents and Perseverance



As any school age child knows, February is Presidents' Month. It is the time for a long weekend, possibly even a week of school break, and certainly as any parent knows, a great opportunity to stock up on those final closeouts and white sales. But it wasn't always this way. I can remember in grade school knowing that each President had his own special day. February 12th was the birth date of Abraham Lincoln. In

class we learned about the hard life that this 16th President experienced. He grew up in a log cabin on the western plains, walked miles to school each day, and then endured one of the most challenging presidencies of any man—declaring first an end to slavery and then attempting to reunite the country after the Civil War. His life was cut short in service to this great nation.

George Washington had his own day as well, February 22nd. On that date we learned about the founding father who was a fearless general, leading a cold and staggering army across the Delaware River to almost certain defeat and then gaining a surprise victory. He went from one challenge to the next, eventually becoming the very first President of the United States of America, with wisdom and humility—and those never to be forgotten wooden teeth. Somewhere along the way, it was decided by a higher authority that these two great men should share the same “birthday weekend” although recognizing neither's actual date of birth, so that more women can save a few dollars on cotton sheets.

Ask any student today heading home for the long weekend what the actual birth dates of these two great men were and you will likely draw a blank look. But what is also remembered, birth date or not, is the perseverance and dedication that made the legacy of both of these leaders so long-lasting. They had goals they were trying to achieve. They had objectives that had to be met. And they had a limited time frame in which to accomplish their mission. Welcome to the world of the President! As I watched President Obama give his valedictory address in Chicago last month, and then President-elect Trump hold his first news conference the next day, one could see two very different men and styles of leadership on display. One summed up the arc of his presidency and all that he had accomplished. The other set out to establish his own, unique agenda. As we begin a new administration we wish both of these leaders, presidents of our time, good luck, good health and the wisdom to lead and be an inspiration to others.

As President of a synagogue, one does not (thankfully) experience the awesome power of being a national leader, but one does take on a great deal of responsibility and make a

major commitment of time, energy and personal resources. Just ask any of our past presidents or their families. But what I am seeing most often in the first nine months of my tenure is the real need for perseverance. Even the simplest ideas, that seem so good at their outset, take on a life of their own and have a frustrating habit of taking many more hours to complete than one could possibly imagine. So I learned early on to take the long view, keep the end goal in sight, continually plug away to achieve these goals and hopefully find that I cross the finish line along with some of the important projects we have underway.

By way of example here are a few projects that have been in the works since the summer that are now coming to fruition:

- **Finding Alternative Worship Space** for *b'nei mitzvah* families during the period of construction. After examining many viable spaces, we narrowed our options to our neighboring synagogues: KTI in Rye Brook and Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester. Due to our wonderful clergy relations with their clergy, and the dedicated outreach of our Executive Director, Executive Vice-President, and myself, contracts have been signed for KTI to accommodate 19 of our *b'nei mitzvah* families while Temple Emanuel can host 11. From visits that began last July, we now have a tangible and much needed outcome.
- We are also in the final stages of securing a very suitable and accessible local house of worship to handle our weekly needs for Friday night *Shabbat* and Saturday morning *Torah* study during this same time frame. Again, a relationship that began with visits and phone calls last July is now bearing fruit.
- We are also investigating the idea of returning some or all of our High Holiday worship back to 200 Forest Avenue once our renovation is complete. A special task force met with the Board to report on the extensive research they did to give us the tools to make an informed and meaningful decision at the appropriate time. We will be sharing a summary of their findings in the weeks to come on our synagogue website.

So as a reminder to myself, and all others in positions of leadership, take heart when the road seems long, persevere, and at some point that “to do list” will seem a lot shorter! And check back to this space as more long-range plans become short-term realities.

Laurie Frolich

INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

Cantor Melanie Cooperman • mcooperman@comsynrye.org

Celebrate the Earth



Two men were fighting over a piece of land. Each shouted that the land was his. Finally, to settle their differences, they called for their teacher and agreed to abide by whatever decision she gave them. The teacher listened carefully to the first man, and then to the other. She announced the question she was about to solve: “To whom does the land belong?” The men agreed, “That is the question!”

“Since the question concerns the land,” the teacher said, “Let’s hear what the land has to say.” The two men walked the teacher to the disputed land. To the men’s surprise, the teacher put her ear to the ground and listened. Nodding her head thoughtfully, she said: “I have listened to the land, and it says it belongs to neither of you.”

“What!?!?” shouted the men in unison. “The land says that you belong to it,” the teacher told them.

Tu B’Shevat is a holiday that is connected to the agricultural cycle in the land of Israel. Falling on the 15th of the month of *Shevat*, we celebrate the holiday by planting trees in Israel, eating from the seven species (wheat, barley, grape, fig, pomegranates, olives, and dates) and taking part in a seder modeled after our Passover Seder with 4 cups of wine. For the past several years, the Green Team at CSR has hosted our *Tu B’Shevat* Seder with the theme of environmental awareness. At the seder we discuss ways to green our environment and our homes.



We read in the book of *Kohelet*, “One generation goes, another generation comes. The Earth remains forever.” Let’s come together on *Tu B’Shevat*, celebrate the Earth and find more ways to protect it.



Happy Tu B'Shevat

**Join the Green Team for the Annual *Tu B’Shevat* Seder
Saturday, February 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

Tu B’Shevat, the “New Year for the Trees,” marks the beginning of spring in Israel. Literally the 15th of the Hebrew month of *Shevat*, *Tu B’ Shevat* was originally an agricultural festival, but today has become a tree-planting festival in Israel. Both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend.* It is also a way for Jews (outside of Israel) to symbolically bind themselves to Israel by eating foods grown there.

The custom of holding a *Tu B’Shevat* Seder dates back to the Kabbalists who lived in Israel in the 17th century. In keeping with this tradition, we will gather together to eat, drink, sing, rejoice in the miracle of the tree, and, by examining a variety of fruits and nuts, maybe learn something about ourselves.

Our *Tu B’Shevat* Seder is hosted by the Green Team and will be modeled on the Passover Seder. It will include four cups of wine, with varying combinations of red and white, representing the shifting of yearly seasons. We will share a pot-luck meal with traditional dishes featuring fruits and vegetables mentioned in the *Torah*.

From CSR Green Team

The Seder will incorporate readings about trees and fruit from a range of Jewish literature.

Join us as we celebrate and rejoice in the bounty of the trees. To participate in this joyous and fun event, please **RSVP by February 4** to Marc Turk at mthurk64@msn.com or Bill DeLynn at wdelynn@optonline.net. We will respond with information to coordinate “who brings what.” If you can help with planning or setup please let us know.

*You can plant a tree in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one through the Jewish National Fund at www.jnf.org.

Green Team News and Tips

The Green Team held its first meeting of the year and our focus this year is on plastics. We are concerned about the ways discarded plastic items adversely affect the environment and we are studying ways we can reduce our use of plastic. We will be sharing news about plastic and suggestions for avoiding plastic in future bulletins.



CONTRIBUTIONS

BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Jayne & Harris Maslansky in memory of Geraldine Gevertz

CANTOR COOPERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ENRICHMENT FUND

Pamela & Scott Barnett in memory of Klaus Van Dijkum

GRAYER TEEN INITIATIVE FUND

The Ratner Family in honor of Sydney Brookman's
bat mitzvah

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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Theresa & Andrew Stevens

Frances Ginsberg

Shari & Amos Balaish

Fern & Howard Bindelglass

Froma & Andrew Benerofe

Pamela & Michael Kerlan

Micah & Aaron Cohen in honor of their *Saftah* Susan Rudolph
at their Chanukah *Tzedakah* night

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Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Sarah Cohen

Marlena & Roy Schaeffer

Carol Bennett in honor of Rabbi Gropper

MARILYN ZELMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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and Ruth Bindelglass

PJ LIBRARY FUND

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND

Abby Pisaniello in memory of her father, Irving Green

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND

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In memory of Dena Lavinsky

Iris & David Sampliner

Susan & Norman Cicelsky

Shelly & Chuck Shotland

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Leighton/Slone Family for the CSR Reads Program

Shari Cohen & Rob Greenwald in memory of Milton Cohen

SYNAGOGUE FUND

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Harold Kellman

The Piacente Family in memory of Mitchel Saed

Michele & Todd Gershwin in memory of Allan Schneider

Lisa & Michel Delafontaine in memory of Didier Delafontaine

Cindy Valk-Danish & Leslie Danish in memory of Nathan
Danish

Condolences

When cherished ties are broken, our burden of sadness is
made lighter by the sympathy and comfort of friends.

Our congregation mourns the death of:

Jerome Weil, uncle of George Weltman

Dena Lavinsky, long-time congregant

David Sackey, step-father of Jon Harris

Robert Wells, father of George Wells

Laurie Landes, Education Director • llandes@comsynrye.org

Roots



My aunt and uncle celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. I thought that a family tree with their children and grandchildren featured would be a special gift for this occasion. In my search, I came across an artist-designed tree that designated the roots for the names of the grandchildren. It struck me as odd because in my mind I envisioned my aunt and uncle as the roots. I started to think about it and of course it made

good sense that our children are the roots that perpetuate new life. This year when I handed out JNF (Jewish National Fund) tree planting envelopes, I was reminded of this family tree. It gave me pause to think about our children as the roots that continue the greening of Israel. We as parents need to nurture those roots, not only as a way to support Israel, but also as a way to grow a connection to Israel. By doing a *mitzvah* like this with our children, their identities as Jews will become deeper and richer. We grow by doing. Over 250 million trees have been planted in Israel by JNF. Please take a few minutes to talk about Israel with your children, then together, plant a tree or a forest through JNF. The trees will grow and so will you and your children.

Happy Tu B'Shevat.

CJL AND J-LIFE IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 4 J-Life 3rd Grade *Shabbaton*
PJ Library *Havdalah* 4-5:30 pm
- Feb 11 J-Life 4th Grade, *Tu B'Shevat*
- Feb 18-25 No School Mid-Winter Break**
- Feb 23-24 Israel Vacation Camp

ECC IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 3 Sharing *Shabbat* hosted by
the Fun Loving Fish
- Feb 20 -24 ECC Closed for Presidents'
Week/Mid-Winter Break

OUR B'NEI MITZVAH OF FEBRUARY

Caroline Mayer



My name is Caroline Mayer. On February 11, I will be called to the *Torah* as a *bat mitzvah*. I am the daughter of Jennifer Mayer and have a younger brother, Ben, who is in sixth grade. I am a seventh grader at Rye Middle School. My *Torah* portion is *Beshalach* from the Book of Exodus. My *Torah* portion is about Moses separating the sea and the time the Israelites

spent in the desert. This teaches us that there is hope in everyday life. For my *mitzvah* project, I volunteered my time at Port Chester Head Start, assisting in a 4-year-old classroom with children who come from economically disadvantaged families. This fulfilled the *mitzvah* of *LoTiteyn Michshol*—not placing a stumbling block, which is found in Leviticus 19:14. As a result of the experience, I realize how fortunate I am. I plan on continuing to volunteer as part of my eighth grade community service project.



Join us in congratulating our *b'nei mitzvah* students each month on Facebook!



DONATE SPRING and SUMMER CLOTHING TO THE SHARING SHELF

Look for our dedicated bins in the lobby! The Sharing Shelf seeks donations of spring and summer clothing, for infants, children and teens.

Please bag items and place them in the marked bins. All sizes, from newborn through XXL accepted but sizes 3T-8 as well as casual clothing for teen boys are critically needed. Donations of new socks & new underwear are greatly appreciated but we do not accept used ones. The Sharing Shelf does not collect clothing formerly worn by adults.

If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Nagel at carrienagel1203@gmail.com.



CJL weather-related school closing news will be emailed, posted on the CSR website, Facebook and on News12 (news12.com).

Dale Oberlander, ECC Director • doberlander@comsynrye.org

The Magic of Trees



Did you know that just outside the *Oneg Shabbat* room is a magical little place? It all started over the summer. While we were developing the outdoor classroom, we noticed a grouping of four redwood trees. What first interested us was, collectively, they formed a square. Perhaps we could hang a hammock or two, we thought.

But as we looked closer, we noticed a pattern of little holes in the bark that were perfectly aligned with one another. No doubt the handiwork of woodpeckers. What else could we find in these trees? We discovered lots of little nooks, holes and passages that inspired the creation of what is now referred to as our "Fairy Garden."



ECC teachers Jenn Rubin and, Lauren O'Brien took on the project. Lauren, who happens to be a very talented artist, created the beautiful hand-painted doorways pictured here. They hung little mirrors and added other embellishments to create a lovely, quiet area for the children to discover.

When the children were introduced to the Fairy Garden, we observed that they were fully engaged in a wonderful pretend play experience. We heard them asking questions, making colorful comments and stretching their imaginations. We have also noticed that the children have begun paying attention to all the other trees in the playground hoping to find something special.



There is one more magical tree space that the ECC really loves. It's underneath the beech tree that sits out in front of the building. The leaves and branches form a canopy, which creates a beautiful, cozy space to sit. It is especially magical when the sun shines between the leaves creating beams of light through the shadows.

This *Tu B'Shevat* we are thankful for the many positive ways trees impact our lives.

Marcy Danish Mitzvah Award

Mazal Tov to Jonah Gorevic for being this year's recipient of the Marcy Danish *Mitzvah* Award! Jonah was presented his award at our Social Action Service on January 13, 2017.



Marcy Danish was an active member of Community Synagogue of Rye, serving our community in many different ways. A supporter of Jewish learning, Marcy served for a number of years at the Center for Jewish Learning and on the CJL Committee.

In her memory, the Marcy Danish *Mitzvah* Award was established. This award goes to one eighth grade student who has completed their *bar/bat mitzvah* project in a way that demonstrates depth of commitment, active involvement, personal interaction with the population served, originality and a successful outcome. The recipient receives a \$100 award plus a matching \$100 gift to the charity of their choice.

Rick Abrams Recommends Rice with Dates, Almonds and Raisins for *Tu B'Shevat*

(adapted from Michael Brown, *The Jewish Gardening Book*, Jewish Lights Publishing, VT 1998)

Ingredients:

- 2 cups rice
- ¼ cup of butter or margarine
- 1 cup of blanched, sliced almonds
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup chopped pitted dates
- ½ cup water
- ½ t salt

Method:

- Prepare rice with salt, until "almost done." Drain water.
- In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add the almonds and toast, stirring occasionally until golden.
- Add the raisins and dates to the skillet, and stir into the almonds for 2 minutes
- Add about ½ cup of water and cook the mixture on a low heat, 10-15 minutes. The dates will be soft and the water will have been absorbed.
- Grease a large heavy pot. Spread ½ the rice, then the fruit/nut mixture, and then the other half of the rice.
- Cover tightly and cook over a low heat for 30 minutes.

Please join us on Sunday, March 5 at 2:15 for a guided tour of the exhibit *The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World* (<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/first-jewish-americans-freedom-and-culture-new-world>) at the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77 St.

Cost \$23 (\$20 senior rate) per person. Checks payable to Community Synagogue of Rye (on memo line indicate NY Historical Society tour). Bring or mail your check to the synagogue and include your contact information (email and phone number). Space is limited to 25 people.

On Stage Saturday Night

On Saturday evening, March 11, award-winning composer of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, pianist and entertainer Jimmy Roberts will be at CSR sharing his wonderful musical talents with us. Tickets \$36 each. Make checks payable to Community Synagogue of Rye with "On Stage" in the memo or visit www.comsynrye.org/community to pay online. See flyer on back page.

DINNER AT NOON

On March 18, May 6 and June 24 volunteers from Community Synagogue of Rye will gather at the Carver Center to prepare and serve delicious, multi-course meals to Port Chester residents. Many of our guests come regularly and it's a pleasure to greet them in the dining room. Our guests range in age from mothers with children to the elderly.

All of the food we serve is donated. We need fruits and baked goods for each gathering. Bags of clementines, bundles of grapes and bananas, as well as cupcakes and brownies would be appreciated. To donate, contact Marlena Schaeffer, CSR Dinner at Noon leader, at marschaeffer@aol.com. This program is organized by the Helping Hands Organization. Four local churches and our synagogue alternate serving delicious meals on Saturdays throughout the school year.



Pictured above, Marlena Schaeffer and Abbe Kimmel serving fruit at Dinner at Noon last Saturday.



WRJ/Sisterhood is proud to support Community Synagogue of Rye in its nurturing of Judaism. Please review the projects and programs that Sisterhood supports and help us in our work by contributing financially or volunteering some of your time.

For the past few years, we have taken on the fundraiser of *Mishloach Manot* (Purim Bags). This is a great way for members of CSR to honor their families, friends and staff during the festive time of *Purim*. This year the eve of *Purim* is March 11. Bags are filled the week before and then delivered prior to the holiday and vacation. This is a huge undertaking and well worth the effort. But we need many hands and "wheels" to make it all happen.

More information will be in the March Community News as well as emails from the *Mishloach Manot* committee. Please contact Janet Meyers (Janet@SHMeyers.com) if you are interested in helping.

Many thanks,
 Brianne Goldstein (939-3213), Carol Meyers (921-2006),
 Janet Meyers (967-0447)—WRJ/Sisterhood Co-Presidents

WRJ/Sisterhood programs and projects:

- Judaica Shop
- Jewish Camp Scholarships and Camp Building Projects
- Women's Seder
- *Mishloach Manot* (Purim Bags)
- *Rosh Chodesh* Program with Rabbi Frankel & Cantor Cooperman
- Flowers on the High Holy Days
- Coffee and Tea for *Onegs* and assorted programs
- Gifts for all *B'nai Mitzvot* and Confirmants
- *Tikkun Olam* opportunities such as Backpacks for Helping Hands for the Homeless & Hungry
- Social Action opportunities
- Educational programs
- Support of the YES Fund (Youth, Education, Special Projects). This fund supports NFTY, KESHER, RAC, scholarships to rabbis, cantors and temple administrators. It also provides services to Individual WRJ/Sisterhoods
- Sponsor of the Rye Women's Interfaith Committee



Players of all levels and beginners welcome. RSVP (including level) to Janet Meyers: Janet@SHMeyers.com Save these dates: Thursdays: February 23, March 30, April 27, May 18, June 29, 2017.

The cost to attend is \$5 for members/nonmembers, and \$10 for anyone who would like a lesson, both of which support Sisterhood initiatives.

ADULT LEARNING

SAJE (SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT)

Sarah Weiss-Poland • SAJE@comsynrye.org



SAJE is designed to provide social and educational opportunities to active seniors in our community. The group meets every Monday and Thursday between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm and includes lunch after the program.

You are always welcome to bring a friend.

Please contact the SAJE coordinator at saje@comsynrye.org with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Thursday February 2

Shannon Wong, Director of the Westchester Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union will speak about the School to Prison Pipeline., a nationwide system of local, state, and federal education and public safety policies that directly and indirectly pushes students out of school and into the criminal justice system. This system disproportionately targets youth of color and youth with disabilities.

Monday, February 6

Nationally board certified acupuncturist **Tracy Kalson** will speak to SAJE about different acupuncture styles and their particular benefits. Tracy received her Master of Science degree in Acupuncture from the Tri-State College of Acupuncture (TSCA) in New York City. Her techniques include Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM): The root of all acupuncture styles, Acupuncture Physical Medicine (APM), Cupping, Gua Sha and Auriculotherapy or “ear acupuncture.”

Thursday February 9

Dine Around—Pasquale Restaurant-12:00 pm
2 West Putnam Avenue, Port Chester, NY
Join us for a traditional Italian meal featuring appetizer, main dish, dessert and coffee/tea for \$24.00. Please sign up with Iris Sampliner at ikstravel@aol.com

Monday February 13

Join **Rick Abrams** once again for an engaging *Tu B'Shevat* seder. Learn the mystical relationship of this holiday to the original meaning in ancient Israel, taste the foods, and fill your senses.

Thursday, February 16

Bryan Covert serves as an Investment Consultant at Gary Goldberg Financial Services, working with the Strategic Investment Committee and dedicated to customizing portfolios in order to help people reach their financial goals. Mr. Covert earned a B.A. in Economics from Binghamton University and holds his Series 6, 7, 63 and 65 securities registrations. He also holds his Health Life and Accident license, as well as his Property and Casualty license.

Monday February 20

No SAJE

Thursday, February 23

SAJE welcomes **Miriam Rothman** who recently returned from a trip to Israel. She will speak to the group about her in-depth discussions with family and friends about their lives living in the Holy Land.

Monday February 27

Join **Amy Zabin**, a renowned music therapist with more than 30 years of experience, as she educates the SAJE community about the benefits of this relaxation method. Amy works with patients at Stamford and Greenwich Hospitals to provide emotional coping tools that help decrease fears, pain and feelings of isolation for people who are hospitalized or receiving treatment. The music of her guitar, the sound of her voice, and the use of singing bowls gradually lead participants into deeper states of relaxation.



Thanks to Debbie Friedman for organizing a group from CSR to participate in the Women's March in NYC on January 21.

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I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.

ON STAGE SATURDAY NIGHT

March 11, 2017 @ Community Synagogue of Rye

7 pm cocktails & small plates
8:30 pm performance
9:30 pm sweets & hamantashen

More details inside
on page 10

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Community Synagogue of Rye has a variety of funds which are used to enrich our congregation.

You may wish to make a contribution in honor or in memory of someone or to celebrate a joyous occasion (birth, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, Confirmation, wedding, anniversary). The funds are listed on the right.

I (We) wish to make a special contribution of \$ _____
to the _____ Fund.

In Honor of _____
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Please send an acknowledgement note to:

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Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please mail and make checks payable to Community Synagogue of Rye.

Endowment Funds

David & Iris Sampliner Youth Leadership Development Fund
Etz Ha Dorot Endowment Fund
Goodkind Scholar-in-Residence Fund
The Obrasky Fund
Pond & Beyond Fund
Reform Jewish Commitment (RJC) Fund
Victor & Marjorie Wolder Fund in memory of Herbert Millman
Victor & Marjorie Wolder Joy of Living Fund

Restricted Funds

Adult Education (Cecele Fraenkel Memorial) Fund
Beautification Fund
Cantor Cooperman's Discretionary Fund
Early Childhood Center Enrichment Fund
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Israel Action Fund
Israel Trip Fund for Teens
Kol Nashim (Women's Programming) Fund
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Religious School Enrichment Fund
Religious School Special Education Fund
SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment) Fund
Social Action Fund
Steven Harry Klein Membership Fund
Synagogue Fund
Yahrzeit Fund

Learn more about these funds at comsynrye.org/csr-funds