GOODKIND SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND WITH RABBI DANIEL FREELANDER

“THE ONCE AND FUTURE SYNAGOGUE”

Friday, April 1 service at 6:30 pm
Dinner at 7:30 pm
“Anti-Semitism in Europe Today: What does the future have in store for the Jews of that continent?”
The cost for dinner, which follows Shabbat service, is $20. Checks should be made payable to Community Synagogue of Rye and reservations may be made at http://tinyurl.com/ht6gbzc.

Saturday, April 2 at 8:45 am
Torah study on Parashah Shemini

Saturday, April 2 at 10:30 am Brunch and Learn
“How the synagogue and its physical space can serve as a portal to greater Jewish involvement.”

THE WOMEN’S SEDER
WITH RABBI LEORA FRANKEL AND CANTOR MELANIE COOPERMAN

April 10, 2016
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The Women’s Seder is an inter-generational celebration for women of all ages and is hosted by Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood. Women and young ladies (age 8-18) are invited to experience music and food and to share in the joy of being part of our community.

Please RSVP by April 1. To make your reservations go to http://tinyurl.com/h3535ue or send in a check made payable to CSR WRJ/Sisterhood.

Yom Hashoah - Community Holocaust Commemoration
Wednesday, May 4 at 7:15 pm
at Community Synagogue of Rye

Speaker David Horovitz, AIPAC
Wednesday, May 18 at 8:00 pm
following the Annual Meeting

See page 5 for more information
See page 11 for more information on both articles
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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Rabbi..................................Leora Frankel
Cantor.................................Melanie Cooperman
Rabbi Emeritus......................Robert A. Rothman
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CJL Education Director.........Laurie Landes
Family Life Director.............Rick Abrams
ECC Director.........................Dale Oberlander
SAJE Coordinator...............Sarah Poland

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MAZAL TOV
To Michael Foreman on the release of his new album,
About Time

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 pm
Yom Hashoah - Community Holocaust Commemoration

Friday, May 6, 6:30 pm
Shabbat Services with speaker, Julie Kohner of Voices of
the Generations in memory of Sel Hubert

Friday, May 13, 7:45 pm
Shabbat Services with T’fillah band honoring our Adult b’nei mitzvah

Sunday, May 15, 9:00 am
Annual Blood Drive at KTI

Wednesday, May 18, 6:45 pm
Annual Meeting & Chai Awards
followed by Speaker David Horovitz from AIPAC

Friday, May 20, 7:45 pm
Shabbat Services - 7th Grade moving up and 12th Grade Graduation

Happy Passover!
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<td><strong>First Friday Torah Study</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ECC Shabbat</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sharing Shabbat, Hot Shot Shabbat</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 2</strong></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study Service, Leviticus 9:1-11:47</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CJL 3-6 and I-Select</strong></td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
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<td><strong>Brunch &amp; Learn with Rabbi Freelander</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Joshua Richard, bar mitzvah</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, April 3</strong></td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Jewish Yoga</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Book Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jewish Life Team Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, April 6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Toddler Time</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CJL K-6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adult b’nei mitzvah class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>How to Read Jewish Music</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, April 7</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SAJE (off-site)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sisterhood Membership Supper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spiritual Parenting—Session 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adult b’nei mitzvah Shabbat dinner</strong></td>
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<td>8:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study Service, Leviticus 12:1-13:59</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CJL 3-6</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<td><strong>4th grade JLife and Chavurah Information Session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jack Roath, bar mitzvah</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, April 10</strong></td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Women’s Seder</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Board of Trustees Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, April 12</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ECC Parent Association Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Toddler Time</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
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<td><strong>Whole Foods Pesach Display (off-site)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adult b’nei mitzvah class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Westchester Jewish Film Festival (off-site)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Westchester Synagogue Executive Directors</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Whole Foods Pesach Display (off-site)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SAJE</strong></td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Mah Jongg</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mussar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ECC Shabbat</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Torah Study Service, Leviticus 14:1-15:33</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sam Lazar, bar mitzvah</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Social Action Sunday with Teens (off-site)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adult b’nei mitzvah class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday, April 22 (ECC Closed) Passover - First Seder</strong></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Passover Shabbat Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 23 (CJL Closed) Passover</strong></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study Service, Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-10</strong></td>
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<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>9:15 am</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, April 28 - Passover</strong></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>ECC Council Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>SAJE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday, April 29 (Office &amp; ECC Closed) Passover</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Passover Yizkor Service and Lunch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 30</strong></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study Service, Leviticus 16:1-17:16</strong></td>
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Kindly submit Community News articles and Mazal Tovs to cs@comsynrye.org by the 10th of each month.

www.comsynrye.org
Scene 1: In the first light of a Thursday morning, along the southern portion of Jerusalem’s Western Wall, 150 Reform Rabbis gather on a temporary platform. It is here that in late January the Israeli government promised to build a new prayer site, one equal in stature (if not in size) to the current Western Wall Plaza. This new site will be egalitarian, a site where men and women can, if they want, pray together and where mothers will not have to stand on flimsy plastic chairs to watch their sons read Torah as b’nei mitzvah. On this day, as the Torah is read by a female colleague dressed in Tallit and Tefphilin, tears come to my eyes. I realize that the platform on which we stand spans the actual stones cast down by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago when The Temple was destroyed. We stand over the Herodian road, the oldest road in Jerusalem. While we are a long, long way from the permanent egalitarian plaza being built (and it will be a challenge to get there), I feel that in that moment that we are bringing a degree of healing to a place that symbolized brokenness, despair and defeat.

Scene 2: The AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. is packed with 14,000 pro-Israel Americans, 2,300 college students, two-thirds of the members of Congress, my son Elijah and me. I chose to go because I wanted to bear witness. With all the anti-Israel rhetoric being spouted on college campuses as part of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanction) movement, I wanted to reinforce the idea that a strong and vibrant Israel leads to a strong sense of Jewish identity here in the U.S. Through demonstrations of groundbreaking Israeli innovations, keynote speeches by American and Israeli leaders, inspiring moments on stage, and intimate educational sessions, Elijah and I really experienced the full scale of pro-Israel activism in three powerful days. I always believed AIPAC was to be so right wing that I avoided it. I was wrong. It isn’t nor is AIPAC partisan. It’s just that the current make-up of the Israeli government currently skews right and AIPAC supports Israel. I came away understanding that AIPAC is pro-Israel in all its complexity, and we should be too. This is why I am so excited that AIPAC is sponsoring David Horovitz, editor-in-chief of The Times of Israel, who will be here on Wednesday, May 18 as part of our congregational meeting.

Our 2017 Congregational Mission to Israel goes from Feb. 16-26. Contact me for more information, or look for details on page 7 or on our website.

In a few weeks we will gather around our seder tables. Passover challenges us to see ourselves as though we had personally come out of Egypt. It asks us to imagine what slavery would have felt like. It invites us to empathize with the powerless and the downtrodden. It should prompt questions that deal with poverty, immigration, economic imbalance, even diversity. Sadly, this election season seems to be giving rise to fewer Moses’s and more Pharaohs who would rather demean and subjugate others than to help them feel liberated. Freedom from slavery in Egypt was not meant to turn us into slave masters—one who feel free to demean others, to spew hatred, or to act on our base instincts. Yet some are unleashing the worst in our society. Their demagoguery is freeing people to label others in negative and dangerous ways. Passover reminds us that we are to give bigotry no sanction.

Our freedom from slavery was intended to give us a path to become a holy people. A system of mitzvot, starting with the premise that each person is worthy of being treated with dignity, is our path toward holiness. Our prophets, the ones who implored us to seek justice and to pursue it, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God, implored us to live according to that core value.

Israel may be far from perfect. Internal and external challenges remain very real. Still, as she wrestles with these challenges; Israel does not demean the humanity of another; Israel, in work and in deed, constantly strives to be a light to the nations, even if she occasionally missteps.

May your statement of “Next Year in Jerusalem,” truly be a statement for your own neshamah (soul) that you become more elevated in your spirituality and may it be a statement for the earthly Jerusalem, that those who love her may be secure. And may there be peace within her walls.

Please make plans to join me next February, next year in Jerusalem.

Tamara joins me in wishing you and your family a very happy Passover.
DIGNITY, RESPECT, TOLERANCE

Gerald Cohen, President • jerrycohen@comsynrye.org

My wife Carol told me, after I shared with her what I wanted to write this month, “Jerry, don’t be an idiot—leave politics alone—don’t go near that topic.” I told her this isn’t about political preference, it’s about dignity and what our kids are learning while being exposed to our national political scene.

So with Carol in mind (she still thinks I’m an idiot), please don’t take these words as indicating a preference of one political party over another, or one presidential candidate over another. For the record, I am a registered independent, and frequently cross party lines at a local and national level.

But I have to ask, “are we going mad in our own country?” When did it become acceptable to say whatever comes to mind, no matter how far from the truth these statements may be, no matter how disrespectful they may be not only to the person at whom they are directed, but also to millions of people hearing the same across all forms of media? Showing a lack of tolerance for another’s perspective has become de rigueur. Is it any wonder that too often what our children articulate is not what we might hope they’d be thinking and saying? Aren’t they being exposed to behavior by our national politicians that lacks respect for and tolerance of others and a lack of dignity for those with whom they disagree?

Try as we might as parents to teach our kids the values expressed in CSR’s mission and vision statements, we need to constantly remind them of what is and is not acceptable in daily discourse with their peers and those in positions of authority. How can we convince them that what they hear in the national media expressed as normal dialogue is not acceptable? How do we inculcate the core principle of allowing others to speak and feel as they are entitled without a disruption of the other’s dignity? How do we teach that tolerance of others’ ideas is what is required by a society such as ours that treasures freedom? And how do we convey the concept that respect for another’s feelings and thoughts is a basic value that differentiates us from all other species?

The synagogue, our synagogue, is the perfect partner for the family; to teach all of us to seek peace and harmony and to avoid antagonism and one-upmanship at the cost of another’s dignity. In our ECC and CJL classrooms, in programs taught by our clergy (e.g., “Spiritual Parenting, Not an Oxymoron”), in Friday night Shabbat and Saturday morning Torah study services, we are continually learning how it is our responsibility to repair and improve the world, not to destroy it and our people through disrespect and intolerance. For a homework assignment, my eight-year-old granddaughter wrote to President Obama thanking him for our wonderful world. Think what you might of President Obama, and my granddaughter has not yet declared for the GOP or the Democrats, her statement has not yet been poisoned by the rhetoric and examples of disrespect and intolerance aired by our politicians every day and night in this pre-presidential election time frame.

It remains for us and our families to learn the way of Torah, to counter the bombardment of irreverent noise imposed on us every day. What better way for us to experience a haven of spirituality, loving our neighbors and promoting Tikkun Olam, than by connecting with our synagogue and all it teaches. In these time of bitterness and negativity spewing from our politicians, what better way of seeking and learning a life of goodwill toward all than through the practices of dignity, tolerance and respect that permeate every aspect of the halls of our Community Synagogue of Rye.

GOODKIND SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND WITH RABBI DANIEL FREELANDER

“The Once and Future Synagogue”
April 1 & 2

In keeping with this year’s theme of “The Once and Future Synagogue,” we welcome Rabbi Daniel Freelander as our Spring Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Freelander is the President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). Rabbi Freelander previously served the North American Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), beginning his career in 1975 and rising to Senior Vice President. His responsibilities have changed from national to international in scope, and from the Reform movement in particular to the larger Progressive Jewish world. Rabbi Freelander is a native of Worcester, MA and holds degrees from Trinity College, Hartford, and the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York. He serves on the boards of the Zamir Choral Foundation and Odyssey Networks, an interfaith media group.
At many Passover seder tables, we will gather and sing “Go Down, Moses” to remember our time as slaves in Egypt. The song, however, was originally written as a Negro spiritual and eventually became an anthem for the anti-slavery movement in the mid-late 1800s. Aside from the more sorrowful versions of the song (think Cameron in “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”), there have been more upbeat interpretations of the song. In fact, Louis Armstrong recorded an almost mid-tempo swing version in 1958 that you can find on YouTube. Even today, in Israel, one can hear a Hebrew translation of the song. I find that incredible. A seemingly Jewish song recounting the Exodus was actually written about slavery in America and that song has now been translated and exported to Israel. That’s the power of music to unify people across oceans, cultures and even places in history.

I’ll be offering a mini-class this spring entitled: “How to Read (Jewish) Music.” We’ll start with the basics—the essentials of how to read a piece of music. From there, we’ll begin exploring the interplay between music and text within Jewish music both liturgical and popular. We’ll also be discussing the historical and cultural significance of Jewish composers and their compositions. I’d like to stress this is not simply a class for choir members and musicians, it’s a class for anyone who appreciates music and would like to learn more about how it works. We’ll hope to answer: Why does traditional Jewish liturgical music almost always sound minor? When do some pieces shift into major and what does it mean? Is there a connection between musical shifts and texts? What does minor even mean?!

Our first class will be April 6 at 7:30 pm, will continue on May 19, and we’ll conclude on June 8. However, if the interest is strong, I’d be more than glad to continue meeting throughout the summer. Other topics could include a discussion of the influence of the secular Jewish sound on religious music as well as a High Holiday music primer.
INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING
Community Synagogue of Rye provides live video streaming for Friday evening and holiday services. To access the live video stream visit www.comsynrye.org/live-video-streaming.
It’s Finally Time to Wake Up the Garden

Dale Oberlander, ECC Director • doberlander@comsynrye.org

Spring is always an exciting time in the ECC. Many of the classrooms are busy starting seeds and learning about how plants grow. This year we are hoping to grow potatoes, garlic and carrots under the ground. Above ground, we will be planting a variety of tomatoes, zucchinis and cucumbers, as well as a wide variety of herbs. Our pre-K class is particularly excited, because with the help and expertise of Rick Abrams, they have been given the job of being the compost leaders in the ECC. What is a compost leader you ask? Their job is to collect the fruit and vegetable scraps that are generated within the ECC on a daily basis. At the end of every week, the children deposit their bounty into the composter that sits just outside the vegetable garden. The time is almost here to open the bottom of the composter and find all the vitamin rich soil that we will turn over into our planting beds.

Our butterfly chrysalis will be arriving soon in the mail and we will once again be ordering a praying mantis egg just for the fun of it. Last year I took a praying mantis egg around the school and asked if anyone could guess what it was. All were stumped with the exception of one teacher (Mrs. Padgett) who promised to keep her knowledge a secret. The egg sat on my desk for several weeks, jiggling occasionally while students would pop by the office offering suggestions of what was inside, or to simply see if it had hatched yet. When it finally did hatch, we were thrilled to discover what appeared to be hundreds of tiny, perfectly formed, praying mantis “babies” emerge. We let them mature a little, placed them in our garden and wished them luck. When we returned to school last September, the children were thrilled to find one of the praying mantises all grown up.

Composting with Rick and Mrs. Newman

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<th>ECC Important Dates</th>
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<td>Friday, April 1</td>
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ECC Celebrates Purim
Throughout your child’s Jewish journey at the CJL we strive to make Jewish teachings relevant to our world today. We hope that our children will feel connected to the Jewish community and that they will be able to apply Jewish wisdom to daily life choices. As we plan learning, we are guided by the voices of our parents. Last December we organized two community conversations to talk about what our parents’ Jewish hopes and dreams are for their children. We were fortunate to have Tamara Gropper and Shelly Simon as facilitators of the conversations and we were uplifted by the participation of 20 parents who were open to sharing and reflecting. This thoughtful process has yielded valuable insights that will help guide us as we plan Jewish learning moving forward. We would like to share with you some core themes that emerged from our conversations.

We are hoping and dreaming our children:
- will have a strong sense of self
- be proud of who they are and develop a resilient Jewish identity
- continue to value connection to family and friends in the larger Jewish community
- engage in and appreciate traditions and rituals
- will continue to find connection and give back to the world through tikkun olam

We are interested in having more of these conversations to add more voices. We would love to hear from you. Would you be interested in being a part of parent conversations in the future? Would you be interested in leading a conversation like this? Please let us know, or consider participating next time a conversation is planned. Your voice is important and we are here to listen.

**FREE Jewish Books for Children**
Support PJ Library® at CSR By making a contribution at http://tinyurl.com/zgqkkbm

**HOPES AND DREAMS**
Laurie Landes, Education Director • llandes@comsynrye.org

A few years ago I reminded you of a short but very powerful section of the Passover haggadah called the Ha-Lachmah Anya. We see it towards the beginning of the seder, after lighting the candles, drinking the first glass of wine, and blessing the parsley and produce from the ground. The text follows here:

This is the bread of affliction, which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all of those who are hungry come and eat with us. Let all who are in need of a seder come and have the opportunity here.

Another way of translating “bread of affliction” is “bread of poverty.”

We are free, but there are those living not so far away who are much less free. What are we doing at this time of year to help “all who are hungry” to have a good meal? This is one reason that I, as the Morah Derech / Instructor for one of our 6th grade and our 7th grade Chavurah groups, like to take kids to volunteer in the Carver Center’s kitchen this time of year.

This Ha Lachmah Anya prayer in our haggadah reminds me that the spring cleaning we do every year isn’t only for our homes. It’s not simply to get the chometz/leavening out of our houses. We need to take the leavening out of ourselves, remember those who are less fortunate then we are, and act on it to continue the work of repairing the world.

Chag Sameach!

Sixth graders spent two Wednesdays in March at the Carver Center helping prepare food for distribution to one of the many locations the Carver Center serves.

If you have a 4th grader and think you may be interested in learning about the Chavurah program, please come to one of two Chavurah 2016-2017 information sessions: Saturday, April 9 (after your J-Life program) Or Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm
OUR B’NEI MITZVAH OF APRIL

Joshua Richard
My name is Josh Richard and I am going to be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on April 2. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I am the son of Michael and Tish Richard and have an older brother, Ethan, who is 15 and a younger sister, Olivia, who is 10. My Torah portion is Shemini, from the Book of Leviticus. In this chapter, two of Aaron’s sons, Abihu and Nadav, make an offering to God before they can become Priests. This is commanded by God. After they make the offering, everybody goes into the Tabernacle or meeting place. Abihu and Nadav decide to make a second offering, not commanded by God, and end up getting killed because of it, by God. For my mitzvah project, I went to the Don Bosco Center to help kids do their homework and play with them. I found this very fulfilling and will continue to volunteer there after my bar mitzvah.

Samuel Lazar
My name is Sam Lazar and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on April 16. My parents are Mirel and Carol Lazar. I have an older sister, Isabella and a dog named Remy. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I enjoy snowboarding, waterskiing, soccer and traveling. My Torah portion is M’tzora from the Book of Leviticus. The section I am reading tells the story of how a home can become tainted and how it can be cleansed to become pure again. For my mitzvah project, I went on a humanitarian mission to Cuba. I found it meaningful to deliver badly needed supplies, to share Shabbat and to interact with both young and elderly Cuban Jews. As a second mitzvah, I ask you to join with me in remembering Tamas Lazar, a young boy who perished in the Holocaust before he could become a bar mitzvah.

Jack Roath
My name is Jack Roath and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on April 9. I am the son of Meryl and David Roath, and I have an older sister, Melissa, and an older brother, Alex. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I enjoy baseball, tennis, and football. My Torah portion is Tazria from the Book of Leviticus. It is the story of how the Jewish community dealt with leprosy, and how if someone had leprosy than they must be isolated for seven days and how they would handle it. For my mitzvah project I chose to volunteer at the Westchester Humane Society where I helped with the animals. I chose to volunteer there because I love animals and I have a dog of my own.

Mazal Tov to our CJL “On-Time” Winner!

February Winner: Alex Berk
To honor our on-time award recipients, the CJL makes a donation to a Jewish cause. Alex chose the FIDF-Friends of the Israel Defense Forces for his donation. Friends of the Israel Defense Forces is an organization established in 1981 dedicated to the men and women serving in the Israel Defense Forces, wounded veterans, and the families of fallen soldiers.

Study and learning are important Jewish values. Coming to class on time demonstrates a commitment to Jewish learning. Alex is a wonderful role model for our school.

Great job Alex!

Center for Jewish Learning
Parents: If you need to pick your child up early from religious school, you MUST sign them out in the CJL office (Room 213). Your child’s safety is our main priority.

First Friday Torah Study at 7 AM
Led by Rabbi Gropper, the monthly Torah study sessions are designed to allow working members of the synagogue to squeeze in some Torah study before the start of the workday. They are held on the first Friday morning of the month and last roughly an hour. Bagels & beverages are kindly provided by the Men’s Club. Torah texts are also available for use.

We hope you can join us (no RSVP required, just come.)
YOM HASHOAH
Community Holocaust Commemoration

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7:15 pm at Community Synagogue of Rye
Memorial candle lighting to be held promptly at 7:30 pm.

Together as one community, let us gather to remember our six million martyrs in a brief program of readings, music and prayer.

Please join members and youth groups from each of the participating congregations. Jointly sponsored by Community Synagogue of Rye, Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, Congregation KTI, and JCC of Harrison.

MISHLOACH MANOT FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS
WRJ/Sisterhood wishes to thank all members of the Synagogue community who participated in the Mishloach Manot Purim bag fundraiser. This event was a huge success due to the generosity of those who placed orders for Purim bags sent to fellow members, ECC families, clergy, staff and teachers. Thanks also for the many contributions and for the Mitzvah Manot bags sent anonymously.

Proceeds from the fundraiser exceeded last year’s totals by 45%. The fundraiser will support such projects as camp scholarships, gifts for all b’nei mitzvot and confirmands, sponsorship of the Rye Women’s Interfaith Committee, co-sponsorship of the Women’s Seder and educational programs.

Thanks also to those who volunteered to help with shopping for the goodies, packing the bags and delivering them to the homes of the recipients. Special thanks to those Synagogue members, staff and, in particular, religious school students who baked some of the hamantaschen.

Janet Meyers, Chair
Brianna Goldstein, Susan Kauder, Carol Meyers, Steve Meyers
Mishloach Manot Committee

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Mishloach Manot Committee

www.comsynrye.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GUEST SPEAKER
DAVID HOROVITZ
May 18, 2016 at 8:00 pm

David Horovitz is the founding editor of The Times of Israel, the Jerusalem-based current affairs website that launched in February 2012. The Times of Israel, which provides independent coverage of Israel, the region and the Jewish world, is drawing a rapidly growing readership and has been welcomed for its engaging, fair-minded journalism, innovative blend of content, and elegant website design.

In 2011, Horovitz stepped down as editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post, Israel’s English-language daily. In his almost seven years as editor, Horovitz moved The Jerusalem Post to the heart of the Israeli-diaspora discourse, and helped build www.jpost.com into the world’s most-read English-language Jewish news website. He used his weekly “Editor’s Notes” column to promote intra-Jewish tolerance and to repeatedly urge the Israeli leadership to devote more attention to the struggle for Israeli legitimacy on “the second battlefield”—in the media, the legal arena and diplomatic forums.

Horovitz was previously editor and publisher of the award-winning newsmagazine The Jerusalem Report, and has written from Israel for newspapers around the world, including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Irish Times and (London) Independent. He is a frequent interviewee on CNN, the BBC, Sky, Fox News, NPR and other TV and radio stations.

Horovitz lectures widely in Israel, the United States and Europe on Israeli current affairs, regularly giving the introductory briefing on Israel to Congressional delegations brought to Israel under the aegis of AIPAC.

EMPTY NEST-FULL LIFE TEAM

Thanks so much to Rabbi Frankel who devoted her Thursday evenings in March teaching us Israeli Folk Dancing. A great time was had by all.

The Westchester Film Festival at the Jacob Burns Film Center is March 30—April 20. On April 13, the movie The Gruninger File will be shown. This is largely an unknown story about a Swiss police captain who risked everything to save those fleeing the Nazi onslaught. To purchase tickets send a check made payable to Community Synagogue of Rye to 200 Forest Avenue Rye, NY 10580—Attn: Amy Kashchy

Please join us for our next Empty Nest-Full Life Team meeting at CSR on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 pm. We welcome new members and your ideas for future programming.
INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

CSR CELEBRATES PURIM 2016
Imagine you are running for your life. Your survival depends on the mercy of strangers. Your home is in ruins and your neighbors have fled. There is no turning back. When you reach the crowded camp, you join thousands who ache for a life they will never know again. Exhausted aid workers explain that you’ll need to wait. You close your eyes and pray, day after day after day.

For millions of refugees, this is reality.

But refugees are nameless and faceless, aren’t they? Far away from our lives…

Do we turn and look the other way?

As we previously reported, Temple Sholom, a congregation in Canada, chose a different path. Hearing a call to action, this congregation decided to privately sponsor two families from Syria seeking to resettle and rebuild their lives in Canada.

Private sponsorship, a practice available in Canada’s immigration and citizenship system, allows groups of faith or five or more citizens to come together and sponsor refugees through the long immigration process and resettlement into Canada. Those who resettle ultimately have an opportunity to become Canadian citizens.

Temple Sholom, with support of the local Anglican Diocese and a Vancouver based agency called MOSIAC (Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities), is helping Bawar and Shinhat (a recently married couple) and a family of four; Hasan, his wife Mafa and their children Hedar, age five and Jotres, age three. Both have some relatives in Canada.

The families are from Al-Qamishli, a predominantly Kurdish city in Northeastern Syria, now a zone of terror exploding with violence. As Kurds, these families descend from a people who faced generations of oppression. They left their homes years ago, spending time in a refugee camp in Kurdistan, a region that borders Turkey and Syria.

In most ways Bawar, Shinhat, Hasan and Mafa are just like us, wanting to better themselves and provide for their families. Newlyweds Bawar and Shinhat are university educated (Bawar works as an accountant, Shinhat studied agriculture) with hopes to someday raise children of their own in safety and peace. Hasan and Mafa are parents working to provide for their little boys, spending their days in the refugee camp. Hasan works as a physician with Doctors without Borders and Mafa teaches, able to keep little Hedar and Jotres near her side. Hedar and Jotres are too young to understand the complex world, although they are old enough to see fear in faces around them.

Temple Sholom’s commitment to sponsor these refugee families includes providing financial assistance, if needed, for a year after their arrival to Vancouver. However, sponsorship involves so much more. Temple Sholom’s congregants will be meeting them at the airport, helping them find homes, find employment, learn the language and assimilate to a new culture. Sponsorship means getting to know these refugees as people and helping them rebuild their lives, forging bonds that will last a lifetime.

We are presented with a unique opportunity we should not pass up. Let’s put ourselves out there and form those bonds as well. Whether you can lend financial support, moral support, expertise, or correspondence to Bawar, Shinhat, Hasan and Mafa and little Hedar and Jotres, all of it matters.

Stay tuned for a skype session we are looking to arrange with them so we can speak with them live! In the meantime, there are ways to help:

- If you wish to send words of kindness and encouragement to these families, send them to Karen Wallace Lipson c/o Jewish Justice League at Community Synagogue of Rye or e mail her at wallaceshaine55@aol.com. Let them know you are thinking of them.

- If you wish to donate money to help Temple Sholom sponsor these families, send a check made out to Community Synagogue of Rye with “Temple Sholom Syrian Refugees” on the memo line. US tax deductible charitable donation.

Imagine running for your life, your survival dependent on the mercy of strangers. Now imagine being the ones to say “Here I am!” (hineni shalacheni), knowing your kindness will make a difference.

Here the Call. Be the Call.
How to use this supplement:

We have designed this supplement to be used in part or in total during your Passover seder. Our vision is that during the section of the seder known as *Yahatz* — יָחַצ, the breaking of the middle matzah, the leader will insert these readings before or after the poem *Halachma Anya*. This is the bread of affliction. This poem speaks of our eternal connection to having once been refugees ourselves and the commonality we therefore share with all who are hungry and yearning for freedom in our own day as our ancestors did in their time of vulnerability.

A Prayer:

If there is a moment in the seder that should leave us feeling self-conscious, it is now. This year we are slaves, next year the liberated ones. This year we are slaves, next year the liberated ones? Aren’t we, who sit around these tables overflowing with food and drink, the liberated ones while many of the 60 million refugees worldwide, torn from their homes due to civil war, famine, or persecution are truly the bent, the ones in need?

*Eloheinu V’Elohei Avoteinu v’Imoteinu*—Our God and God of our fathers and mothers, help those who flee persecution as our ancestors did some 3000 years ago. Show *chesed*, compassion to those hemmed in by misery and captivity, to those who take to the open ocean seeking freedom and liberty. Rescue and recover them—delivering them from gorge to meadow, from darkness to light. Inspire us to act on behalf of those we don’t know, on behalf of those we may never meet because we know the heart of the stranger. We too ate the bread of affliction whose taste still lingers. And so, dear God, inspire us to be *rodfei tzedek*, pursuers of righteousness for those who seek the same freedoms we enjoy tonight. Do it speedily and in our days, and let us all say, Amen.

A Ritual: The Banana on the Seder Plate

The world was awakened and shattered by the images of a little boy who’s body lay lifeless amidst the gentle surf of a Turkish beach this past summer. Another nameless victim amongst thousands in the Syrian Refugee Crisis, the greatest humanitarian crisis since WWII. But this little boy, like every little boy had a name. His name was Aylan Kurdi (3), he drowned along with his older brother Galip (5) and their mother Rihan on their own exodus to freedom’s distant shore.

Aylan and Galip’s father Abdullah survived the harrowing journey—though how does a parent survive the death of their children? In teaching the world about his sons, he shared that they both loved bananas, a luxury in their native war torn Syria. Every day after work Abdullah, like mothers and fathers everywhere, would bring home a banana for his sons to share, a sweet little treat, a sign of his enduring love for them.

Tonight we place a banana on our seder table and tell this story to remind us of Aylan, Galip and children everywhere who are caught up in this modern day exodus. May they be guarded and protected along their journey to safety, shielded by the love of their parents, watched over by God full of mercy and compassion.
INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

REFUGEE SUPPLEMENT FOR PASSOVER SEDER 5776

Created by Rabbi Daniel Gropper, Community Synagogue of Rye NY
Cantor Aviva Marer, Temple Emanu-El Edison, NJ
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz, Temple Sholom, Vancouver BC Canada

He Wore The Same Shoes As My Benny
by Cantor Aviva Marer

He wore the same shoes as my Benny, blue velcro,
brown stitching, rubber-soled.
“Mama, I want to wear shorts!” he yelled.
She wondered what the future would hold.
This is the bread of affliction...

He packed a small bag with “essentials,”
A tiny brown bear and his book,
“Shhh,” brother said in the quiet of night
The last journey that they ever took.
This is the night of affliction...

And so they arrived and got ready to board,
With “life vests” and people all over.
Daddy was trying to calm mommy’s fears, Although it
was freedom that drove her.
This is the fear of affliction...

Not five minutes into the harrowing ride
The nightmare began, they were all terrified. There was
no escape from the cruelty of war
The rude awakening; so close yet so far.
Water was rising, gasping for air
Panicking, struggling, are you still there?
This is the water of affliction...

Early the next morning,
Though sadly too late,
The world took notice of this family’s fate.

And though it is easy to turn a blind eye,
We ought to be mindful;
This was once You and I.
For we too were slaves who fought for redemption.
We cannot turn away. There is no exemption.
This is the history of affliction...

This year as we sit at our Passover seder,
We all take a moment to pause.
There are millions enslaved in our world to this day,
We must stand up and fight for this cause.
This is the fight of affliction...

He wore the same shoes as my Benny,
The similarities do not end there.
Each child has hope for a much better world,
The burden is on us to care.
This is the bread of affliction...

DINNER AT NOON: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS GREAT MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY

On assigned Saturdays from October through May, volunteers from Community Synagogue of Rye gather at the Carver Center to prepare and serve dinner to Port Chester residents. At noon, we serve a nourishing meal to guests gathered in the dining room. Many of the guests come regularly and it is a pleasure to see everyone and reconnect. The guests range in age from young families with children to the elderly. We encourage you to join us.

In 2016, we will gather on April 9 and May 28 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Please email Marlena Schaeffer, CSR Dinner at Noon co-coordinator, at marschaeffer@aol.com to volunteer or ask questions.
This past weekend my fellow peers (Reanna Rosenfeld, Lily Taub, Noah Zeitlin, Maytal Balaish, Jared Olbrys, Jason Rosenfield), and I, accompanied by Noah Wolf-Prusan and Rabbi Frankel, traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the L’taken Social Justice Seminar. The four-day educational seminar was sponsored by the Religious Action Center (RAC), the Reform movement’s political wing in Washington. The RAC works in partnership with representatives from diverse communities to fight the structural racism that is embedded in our society and to advance justice for all people. The RAC holds several seminars throughout the year, in which they host teens from all around the country to participate in a jam-packed weekend, finished off by lobbying Congress.

Jewish summer camp attendees are accustomed to attending services with hundreds of other teens, but I never attended camp so this experience was breathtaking. It fascinates me how so many strangers can be so unified. Although there were people from the East to West coast, we were all able to sing along to the prayers. Our congregation even leaned a new version of a prayer we adore, we affectionately called it the “Hashkiveinu Remix.”

We attended several seminars to prepare us to lobby, beginning Friday night after services and dinner. A speaker educated us on the homeless population in our country, and what it was like to go through homelessness firsthand. She described heart-wrenching stories, one of which particularly stuck with me. She described her worst night, sleeping on an abandoned bus stop bench and the horrifying thoughts she had. She also told us about her road to recovery and her best day; meeting the Obamas, not once, but twice.

All the teens were required to choose two topical breakout programs they wanted to attend to learn more about. Saturday I choose to attend a seminar pertaining to a more just war on terror. We explored questions such as, “Is it moral to hold a suspected terrorist without a trial?” This seminar was extremely thought-provoking and made us really consider the effect our actions have upon another human, and made us put things in perspective. Sunday I attended the mass incarceration and criminal justice system reform seminar. We learned the moral and practical challenges with how our criminal justice system is currently run, and discussed how mandatory minimums seem to unfairly target the African American community. I picked this topic to lobby about, as I feel very passionate about this issue.

In between seminars, we also did some sightseeing. Visiting the MLK Jr. Memorial etched with the quote, “Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope,” was extremely fitting. This weekend was about making a difference in this country and MLK Jr. is someone we can all look up to as he was extremely proactive in making change.

The Holocaust Museum was the most upsetting place I have ever been. I have heard countless Holocaust speakers tell their stories, learned about World War II in school, read books and watched movies on this subject, but being in a museum where people’s actual destroyed and abandoned relics were, was heartbreaking. Although it was sad, I am very glad I got to experience this. I always knew the horrific things that occurred during the Holocaust, but I think that I am now able to understand it on a deeper level. I am glad that places such as the museum exist so that the world may never forget and never let this tragedy happen again.

Havdalah at the Jefferson Memorial was beautiful. The night was warm, and hundreds of teens piled out of buses with candles. Sitting on the steps of the memorial everyone helped each other light their candles. Our congregation sat with a congregation from Miami, FL and we all sang the prayers together. This moment was even more powerful than Shabbat services because the lights were beautiful, we were more united as we squished together on the steps, and we were able to share our Jewish identity with all those tourists who passed by as they listened to the prayers.

For the culmination of our weekend, I lobbied on Capitol Hill for the issue of Criminal Justice Reform. Reanna and I spent the better part of Sunday night writing our speech. We strategically asked to lobby Nita Lowey because she was the only one out of our Senators and Representatives who has not yet co-sponsored the Sentencing Reform Act of 2015. The most memorable moment lobbying was how Mrs. Lowey’s staff member got emotional during our speech. He teared up a little when Reanna told her moving personal story relating to why we need to abolish mandatory minimum sentencing. Lobbying is empowering and gives the common citizen a say in the laws they are expected to abide by. Lobbying is an effective way to voice your opinions and make change. I am very thankful I was able to experience this program for I now have a new way of looking at situations and realize how much of an impact my actions can make on another’s life.

Rachel Rubin, 10th Grade Confirmation Student & COSY Board Member

Thank you to the RJC Fund for supporting our student’s participation in this program.
SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment)

Sarah Weiss-Poland • SAJE@comsynrye.org

We would like to welcome Sarah Weiss-Poland as our new SAJE coordinator. Sarah is a Master Jewish Educator with vast experience as a Hebrew School director, experiential programmer and teacher. She has been teaching in our own award winning Chavurah program since its inception and is committed to lifelong learning. Sarah is a graduate of the joint program of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University and holds two Bachelor degrees and a Masters in Jewish Education. She grew up in New York City and now lives in Stamford CT with her three sweet children.

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!

Monday, April 4
Andrew Erbelding will present various bus tours available from The Upper Class, LLC, a family business spanning three generations. It provides bus trips and tours for active adults, seniors and boomers in Westchester County leaving from several convenient departure points including Mamaroneck, White Plains, and Yonkers. The tours extend from just one day to several days, and many will be of great interest to SAJE members.

Thursday, April 7
The monthly Dine Around will be a Prix Fixe 3-course lunch at Dubrovnik Restaurant in New Rochelle, where we will discover delicious Croatian cooking. For more information and to sign up, call Iris Sampliner at 914-939-0349.

Monday, April 11
Join Westchester elder law attorney, Sara Meyers as she takes an in-depth look at the growing problem of elder abuse. Learn how to identify signs of diminished mental capacity, changes in patterns of financial behavior and signs of possible physical abuse. Appropriate reporting methods will also be covered. Ms. Meyers practices exclusively in elder law and has spent the past two decades protecting the rights of seniors and the disabled. She is a partner at Enea, Scanlan and Sirignano, LLP in White Plains, NY.

Thursday, April 14
Heidi Weiss and Ellen Weisberg from the Westchester Jewish Community Services will cover a great range of topics that affect senior citizens in a presentation entitled “Navigating Changes in Senior Years.” Here’s a quote from our speaker, “The process of growing older can make us feel less familiar with our bodies, as though aging takes us by surprise sometimes.” The program will include an interactive discussion with participants.

Monday, April 18
Rabbi Philip Schechter, a member of CSR and a Chaplain in the US Army, will detail his career and experiences as a pastoral figure in the Armed Services. The Jewish Chaplaincy is a branch of the Services we rarely hear about, but we remind you that our own Rabbi Rothman had quite a career as a Navy Padre on Okinawa.

Thursday, April 21
Carol Lazar, a member of CSR, has recently returned with her family from Cuba and she will be presenting photos of her trip and stories of her experiences on that island, which few of us have experienced.

Monday, April 25
Dr. Albert Lowenfels will be presenting facts and many of his experiences as a physician. As a Professor of Surgery and of Community and Preventive Medicine, he has held many positions. His research has produced over 200 publications focusing on lifestyle disease and their relation to a variety of cancers, with special emphasis on pancreatic cancer.

Thursday, April 28
Marilyn Gottlieb presents the provocative lecture on “Life With An Accent.” “Life With An Accent,” by Marilyn Gottlieb is a touching story about her husband, Frank and how he escaped from Germany as a young boy with his family, traveled to Palestine and endured many hardships, and lastly, became a successful businessman in America. It is an inspirational story for all!

CSR Book Club

Monday, April 4 at 8:00 pm

The Marriage of Opposites
by Alice Hoffman

For more information contact Rabbi Frankel, at lfrankel@comsynrye.org
CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Howard & Esther Blumstein in appreciation of Community Synagogue of Rye
Lee Ehrman in honor of Rabbi Robert Rothman and in memory of her mother, Lillian Adler Rothschild
Sue Ellen & Peter Goldman in memory of Bernard J. Cohn
Debbie Baden Howard in memory of Florence Kimball
Nadine & Charles Sabel in memory of Jerome Sabel

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ENRICHMENT FUND
Debra & Stephen Sherman in memory of Irving E. and Bunnie Gordon

ISRAEL ACTION FUND
Fern & Steven Kaplan in memory of Irma Bennett

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Monique & Burton Haimes in memory of Anna Hirscher
Vivian & John Linder

PJ LIBRARY FUND
In honor of Rabbi Rothman
Sandra & Kenneth Weissberg
Rochelle & Charles Shotland
Myra Lehman & Allan Kuller
Susan Kraus

RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Julie & Glen Schuster in memory of Michael Cook
Howard & Esther Blumstein in appreciation of Community Synagogue of Rye
Stacey & Peter Reichman in memory of Jules Frankel
Sandra Mager in memory of Arthur Mager
Nadine & Charles Sabel in memory of Jerome Sabel

RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Howard & Esther Blumstein in appreciation of Community Synagogue of Rye
Steven Steinberg in memory of Al Steinberg
Nadine & Charles Sabel in memory of Jerome Sabel
Howard & Fern Bindelglass Joy Bindelglass Klein

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND
Marilyn & Herbert Cheskis in memory of Samuel B. Cheskis
Mavis & Charles Worman in honor of Rabbi Rothman
Arthur Stampleman
Elaine Frey in memory of Leo Tepper
Herb Blecker in memory of his wife, Gloria Blecker and his mother, Mary Blecker

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Dorothy Wolf in memory of David H. Wolf, Norma & Joseph Weinstein

SYNAGOGUE FUND
Debbie & Michael Gerstein in memory of Jerome Sabel, father of Charles Sabel
Anonymous in honor of Kenneth Weissberg

YAHRIZEIT FUND
Esther Stender in memory of Henry Stender
Barbara & Joe Latwin in memory of Henry Stender
Cindy Valk-Danish & Leslie Danish in memory of Nathan Danish & Howard August, brother of Leonard August
Margot & Richard De Sevo in memory of Alphonse De Sevo

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 Sabel, father of Charles Sabel
Walter May, brother of Thomas May

SHARON GARDENS CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE
At Community Synagogue of Rye, we embrace the values of community and loving kindness and support our congregants in times of joy and sorrow. In keeping with these values, we make available for purchase to synagogue members a limited number of cemetery plots at Sharon Gardens in Valhalla, NY (www.sharongardens.org).

Plots are sold in groups of four and the price is $8,800. You may want to plan ahead to minimize decision making during an emotionally stressful time. For more information, please contact Irene Lustgarten, Executive Director at ilustgarten@comsynrye.org.
“There are a few moments in one’s life when a person knows that he or she is standing at a turning point. That is why the success of the Kadima Campaign, a watershed in the life of Community Synagogue of Rye, is of particular importance to me.” - Jerry Cohen, President
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 _____________________________
Occasion ________________________________

☐ In Memory of ___________________________
Relationship _____________________________
Donor’s Name (s) _________________________

Donor’s Address __________________________
Donor’s Phone ___________________________
Donor’s Email ___________________________

Please send an acknowledgement note to:
Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________

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

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

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
Grayer Teen Initiative Fund
Hesed Fund
Israel Action Fund
Israel Trip Fund for Teens
Kol Nashim (Women’s Programming) Fund
Marilyn Zelman Early Childhood Center Scholarship Fund
Michael Ginsberg Memorial Library Fund
PJ Library® Fund
Prayer Book Fund
Rabbi Frankel’s Discretionary Fund
Rabbi Gropper’s Discretionary Fund
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