**THE SEL HUBERT HUMANITARIAN SPEAKER SERIES**

April 21, 2017

*Shabbat Services at 6:30 pm followed by the screening of the award-winning film, Besa: The Promise.*

A documentary film by JWM Productions, LLC Directed by Rachel Goslins Produced by Jason Williams, William Morgan, Rachel Goslins and Christine S. Romero, Music by Philip Glass

*BESA: The Promise* is the never-before-told story of Albania—a small European country which opened its borders to shelter Jewish refugees, even as it endured a brutal Nazi occupation. It’s witnessed through the prism of two men joined together in a remarkable and unexpected quest: Norman H. Gershman, a renowned Jewish-American photographer determined to record the bravery and compassion of the Albanians; and Rexhep Hoxha, a Muslim-Albanian toy shop owner who sets out to return three precious books to the last surviving member of the Jewish family his father sheltered sixty years before. Watch the official movie trailer at www.youtube.com/besathepromise. Please RSVP to Jon Rekedal at clergyassistant@comsynrye.org to register for this free event.
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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Rabbi ................................... Leora Frankel
Cantor .................................. Melanie Cooperman
Rabbi Emeritus ...................... Robert A. Rothman
Executive Director ............... Irene Lustgarten
CJL Education Director ........ Laurie Landes
Family Life Director ............. Rick Abrams
ECC Director ...................... Dale Oberlander
SAJE Coordinator ............... Sarah Poland

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COSY President
Rachel Rubin

COMMUNITY NEWS STAFF
Co-Editors ......................... Jackie Christal
........................................ Joanne Steinhart
........................................ Ruth Harmon
Layout and Design ........... Abby Pisaniello

CONTACT US
Main 914-967-6262
ECC 914-967-7698
CJL 914-967-7598
Fax 914-967-0065
www.comsynrye.org
info@comsynrye.org

This month’s Community News revolves around the theme of:
“Sharing Our Stories,”
built upon the foundation of the Haggadah which means “to tell.”
Please enjoy.

YOM HASHOAH
Holocaust Remembrance Day

Sunday, April 23, 2017
7:30-9:00 pm
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, Rye, NY

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

This year’s commemoration will focus on the life and work of Eli Wiesel
# April 2017 Calendar

## Saturday, April 1
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  CJL Grades 3-6
- 11:15 am  Abigail Wang, bat mitzvah
  Morgan Delizia, bat mitzvah (off-site)

## Sunday, April 2
- 5:30 pm  Women’s Seder

## Monday, April 3
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 6:15 pm  CJL 7th Grade/CSR Teens Grade 8-10
- 8:15 pm  Board of Trustees

## Wednesday, April 5
- 4:00 pm  CJL Grades K-6
- 6:00 pm  CJL Teacher In-Service
- 8:00 pm  Empty Nester Meeting

## Thursday, April 6
- 10:00 am  The Hidden Influence in Our Bible
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 8:00 pm  Ritual Committee Meeting
  Green Team Meeting

## Friday, April 7
- 7:00 am  First Friday Torah Study
- 11:00 am  ECC 3’s Passover Experience
- 9:10 am  ECC Shabbat
- 6:30 pm  Family Shabbat Services

## Saturday, April 8
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  CJL Grades 3-6
- 11:15 am  Joshua Steiner, bar mitzvah

## Monday, April 10 (ECC & CJL closed), no SAJE, First Passover Seder

## Tuesday, April 11 ECC closed

## Wednesday, April 12 (ECC & CJL closed)
Charlotte Levine, bat mitzvah (off-site)

## Thursday, April 13 (ECC closed)
- 10:00 am  Daytime Torah Study
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 6:00 pm  Dinner/A Different Lens: Network, 8 pm Discussion

## Friday, April 14 (ECC closed)
- 6:30 pm  Shabbat Services

## Saturday, April 15 (CJL closed)
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service

## Monday, April 17 (ECC, SAJE, CJL and office closed)
- 10:00 am  Passover Yizkor Service and luncheon

## Wednesday, April 19
- 9:00 am  ECC PA Meeting
- 4:00 pm  CJL Grades K-6

## Thursday, April 20
- 11:00 am  SAJE at the Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT
- 7:15 pm  ATID

## Friday, April 21
- 9:10 am  ECC Shabbat
- 6:30 pm  Shabbat Services with Sel Hubert Memorial Program, film immediately following services

## Saturday, April 22
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  CJL Grades 3-6
- 10:00 am  Service & Brunch honoring Laurie Landes

## Sunday, April 23
- 9:00 am  Mysticism & Religion, Rye Presbyterian Church
- 9:30 am  Jewish Yoga
- 7:30 pm  Yom Hashoah Service at Congregation Emanu-el

## Monday, April 24
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 6:15 pm  CJL 7th Grade/CSR Teens Grade 8-10
- 8:00 pm  Executive Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, April 26
- 4:00 pm  CJL Grades K-6 with Israel Mitzvah Marketplace
- 5:30 pm  Torah in a NY Minute with Rabbi Gropper
- 7:30 pm  How to Read Jewish Music

## Thursday, April 27
- 10:00 am  Daytime Torah Study
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 7:00 pm  Mah Jongg
- 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, April 28
- 9:10 am  ECC Shabbat
- 7:45 pm  Shabbat Services

## Saturday, April 29
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  CJL Grades 3-6
  J-Life: 4th Grade
- 11:15 am  Zachary Schutzer, bar mitzvah
- 3:00 pm  COSY Jr. Closing Event

## Sunday, April 30
- 9:00 am  Mysticism & Religion, Rye Presbyterian Church

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### Passover Yizkor Memorial Service

**Monday, April 17 at 10 am**

We gather as individuals and as a community to remember our loved ones. We will include the traditional Yizkor portion in the Passover Memorial Service.

At that time, we will read the names of all associated with Community Synagogue of Rye who have passed away since Passover, 2016.

Please join us after the service for a festive luncheon, sponsored by the Ritual Committee.
TEACHING OUR CHILDREN: ON PASSOVER AND ALL YEAR ROUND

From as far back as I can remember, Passover was always my favorite holiday. Our family seders were epic, multi-hour musical affairs for which my father basically rewrote the entire Haggadah to sing through every step. He’d spread out percussion instruments collected from around the world and we were all encouraged to play something in what became a joyous cacophony. My dad always made a point to open more seats at our seder table to those who needed a place to celebrate; “Kol Dichfin Yeitev…” he would say, quoting the Haggadah—let all who were spiritually hungry join us. Of course, he would also lovingly warn our guests they’d need to sing for their supper!

Still today, now as a rabbi and mother, I think of Passover as the paramount Jewish holiday. While a week without bread may have our stomach grumbling, the festival’s rituals have all the right ingredients to leave us feeling full of meaning: symbolic foods of every possible flavor, intergenerational discussion and storytelling, songs that transport us in time, and a call for freedom as urgent today as it was for our biblical ancestors. As our recent scholar-in-resident, Noam Zion, reminded us, Passover is a unique opportunity for families to “cook up” new and creative customs that add to our rich history of homemade Judaism. (If you missed his workshops or are looking for some fresh ideas to spice up your family’s seder, please reach out to me and I’m happy to share appropriate resources for all ages.)

In addition to being the most widely observed Jewish festival, Passover is also the ultimate pedagogic holiday. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks aptly observes: “Freedom begins with what we teach our children. That is why Jews became a people whose passion is education, whose heroes are teachers and whose citadels are schools. Nowhere is this more evident than on Passover, when the entire ritual of handing on our story to the next generation is set in motion by the questions asked by a child.” Nearly every element of the seder was designed by the early rabbis to pique the curiosity of the kids and naturally evoke questions that would then give adults a starting point to tell the story of the Israelites’ journey out of Egyptian bondage. In fact, the famous Four Questions, or Mah Nishtana, was never intended to be a set script, but rather examples of the types of questions children would organically ask if the seder table was properly set.

Throughout the Torah, there are four distinct mentions of parents’ responsibility to teach their children the story of the Exodus in future generations. Each time the command is phrased slightly differently, and based on these four biblical excerpts, the rabbis created a midrash about four sons to whom the seder’s symbolism must be explained. Most Haggadot characterize them as the wise son, the wicked son, the simple son, and the son who does not know how to ask, or in some more egalitarian versions refer simply to these four times as children, including daughters. And though each of us surely knows individuals who fit these descriptions—or have had moments when we ourselves have played these four different roles—I must admit this text has always challenged me.

Rabbi Miriam T. Spitzer captures some of my discomfort about these stereotypes. She observes, “Imagine that a parent declared: ‘I have four children: This one is the brain, this one the troublemaker, this one the dope and this one the silent.’ Would we let such a statement pass? Would we let a teacher get away with saying, ‘I have four students, the brilliant one, the idiot, the loudmouth, and the one who never says a word?’ What is the Haggadah getting at?” Clearly we are not to take this text too literally.

Perhaps what this text is hinting at is that inevitably at every seder are guests who span a variety of ages, levels of interest and knowledge, capacities for learning, and even dispositions. Therefore, the Haggadah itself reminds us, we must find different ways to tailor the teachings of Passover to each person around the table. This is the challenge not only of the seder leader, but also of all Jewish educators seeking to enrich and shape the identities of diverse students. It is fitting then, that as we prepare to celebrate Passover this spring and read about the Four Sons, that we are also preparing for some changes in our education team at CSR which is dedicated to this sacred work.

As was recently explained in a letter you should have received from Rabbi Gropper and Laurie Frolich, this spring we will be celebrating the retirement of our longtime Education Director, Laurie Landes, and honoring our Director of Family Education, Rick Abrams, at the end of his tenure. With these departures also come new beginnings and an opportunity to re-envision how our professional staff is organized to best meet our congregation’s evolving needs. To this end, my portfolio will be shifting to incorporate both ongoing pulpit and pastoral responsibilities as well as the new role of Director of Congregational Learning.

In this capacity, I am thrilled to be leading our new education team, including two recent hires: Amy Rosenbaum, our incoming CJL Principal, and Yael Farber, our first-ever full-time Director of Youth Engagement and Informal Learning. (See page 15 for a headshot of each of them and look forward to fuller bios to be shared in our next bulletin.)

Together with the rest of our professional staff, I am confident that this new team of educators will help Community Synagogue of Rye continue to engage and inspire our diverse array of learners, from toddlers through teens and beyond. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them to our community this summer.

On behalf of our clergy, staff, and my own family, I wish you a Zissen Pesach—a sweet, story-filled, and meaningful Passover.

Rabbi Leora Frankel
WORSHIPPING IN PEACE AND SECURITY

As we all know, there is nothing more disturbing than the thought of entering a place of peace and tranquility, such as our own synagogue, and the sanctuary therein, to pray and gather strength and solace, only to feel a sense of insecurity or unease because of the spate of hateful anti-Semitism that seems to be sweeping our country. The unprecedented number of threats to Jewish places of worship or JCCs nationwide, as well as the appalling desecration of Jewish cemeteries has led to a heightened sense of discomfort, and even fear, when going about our daily activities within a Jewish setting.

While we cannot completely erase these feelings, even as our political leaders have thankfully stepped up to condemn all acts of hate and bias against Jews, we do want to share with you some of the many safety features that we have implemented in the past few years, and upgraded recently, so that all of us may be free to worship in peace and security at Community Synagogue of Rye.

In 2012 we received a grant of $75,000 from the Office of Homeland Security, thanks to the efforts of our House Committee who completed and submitted the federal grant application. The grant permitted the installation of hardware and we installed new cameras and monitors, new front doors, and panic bars on the outside doors.

In early 2014, following the school tragedy in Newtown, we installed new locks on the inside of all classrooms and offices (where needed) to be used in the event of a lockdown. In 2015, a Security Task Force was created by our Executive Director, Irene Lustgarten, and congregants with experience in security-related fields were invited to participate. In December 2015, the Board of Trustees approved the task force’s recommendations as follows:

- Blast proof film has been installed on the windows on the first floor of the school building where our youngest children’s classes are housed
- A six-foot high security fence was built and installed around our exposed oil tank
- A fire-safety door was closed during school hours to permit only authorized adults in the school building when classes are in session
- New security cameras were installed in the elevator and stairwells and are visible from the front office
- A security guard was hired to be at his post (a desk inside the school entrance) at all times when classes are in session. This also allows him visual access to the cameras that monitor activity both inside and outside of the building

As a result of these security measures, we have now implemented the closure of the front door entrance to the synagogue when school is in session, so that all guests may enter at the school entrance. If you see “orange cones” directing you to our side entrance, please do not be offended—it is for the benefit and safety of all our congregants. In fact, we have also engaged our security guard for Friday evening services over the next few months to provide an added measure of safety.

With the recent uptick in real and threatened acts of vandalism, we have actively reviewed all of our safety measures and reinforced all of our procedures with our in-house staff and clergy. Additional security measures have been put into place regarding entrance to our ECC during school hours. The Rye Police Department has been in touch with our Executive Director on a regular schedule and sends patrol cars to monitor our premises on an hourly basis. We have also reviewed our cyber security in an effort to ensure that our confidential data is protected and have taken out a Cyber Security Liability policy to provide additional protections against loss or theft.

Obviously this is not the Passover message that I had hoped to send out to our congregation, yet it is a timely one. I think it contains important information that needs to be conveyed as many of you have inquired about the safety and preparedness of our synagogue during these challenging times.

I hope that this security update provides you with some comfort and assurance that your safety is of paramount concern to your clergy, staff and lay leadership team and that you are welcome to worship and learn here in a safe and protected environment.

Wishing all of you a healthy, happy and Zissen Pesach,

Laurie Frolich
THE PASSOVER SEDER: “A RADICAL ACT OF EMPATHY”

In the April 14, 1949 edition of The New York Times, there was the headline: “300 REFUGEES ATTEND FIRST SEDER IN YEARS.” Many of those refugees had survived the concentration camps at Dachau and Auschwitz and hadn’t celebrated Passover in more than a decade. The oldest attendee was Ita Ziarno of Poland, who hadn’t sat at a seder table in 40 years. The youngest—and the asker of the 4 questions—was Jacob Schwartzberg. He was 13. The seder—their first in the United States for those in attendance—was held at the Marseilles Hotel in New York and coordinated by the United Service of New Americans.

In the forward to “New American Haggadah,” Jonathan Safran Foer wrote: “The seder is a protest against despair.” One can only imagine the mixture of emotions around that seder table in 1949, how truly difficult it must have been to fight against an overwhelming sense of despair. But Passover asks us to remember both the bitter and the sweet we remember our shared history. Safran Foer continues: “The Haggadah is our book of living memory. We are not merely telling a story here. We are being called to a radical act of empathy. Here we are, embarking on an ancient, perennial attempt to give human life—our lives—dignity.”

We begin to give our lives dignity by remembering the joy of freedom and the misery of slavery; by remembering we were once the strangers in so many different lands and by remembering how well (or not) we were treated. To be clear: Remembering is not wallowing and it’s not self-congratulatory and it’s not an obligation. It is, instead, a possibility to imagine a better future. But that better future is only possible by remembering the past. That’s how we give our lives dignity today. The seder concludes with the wistfully optimistic “Next year in Jerusalem” a wish for an age of messianic perfection—to our modern ears, a desire for completion— as much as a physical location.

So, this year, I ask you to imagine yourself as Ita Ziarno or Jacob Schwartzberg. I ask you to imagine that mixture of profound sorrow and unlikely hope felt by them as you celebrate with your family. I ask you to imagine: what if your family wasn’t there? How would that feel? In fact, I’m sure someone reading this has a connection to one of those 300 people at that seder of 1949. The questions we ask of ourselves today—as Jews, as Americans, as people—aren’t so different than the ones asked so many years ago. The only meaningful difference is: Will our answers be any better?

Looking to Spice Up Your Seder?
Family Haggadah Sale!

Last month we had the privilege of learning in person with our scholar-in-residence, Noam Zion, editor of A Different Night. This family-friendly Haggadah is guaranteed to add new ideas and energy to your Seder with creative readings, activity guides and more.

We have a limited number of copies for sale in the synagogue office; $11/one, $7/two or more. Contact clergy assistant, Jon Rekedal, to purchase.

WHEN-YOU-GET-TIRED-OF-EATING-MATZAH PESACH ROLLS

These are a fun way to make a “sandwich” that’s not between two pieces of matzah during Passover. Once sliced, you can fill them with peanut butter and jelly, cream cheese, or anything you might eat for lunch. (Makes 6 rolls)

**Ingredients**
- 2 cups matzah meal
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs

**Directions:** Preheat oven to 375.
- In a large bowl, combine matzah meal and salt. Set aside.
- In a medium saucepan, bring the water and oil to a boil.
- Pour in the matzah meal and stir until blended well
- Transfer MIXTURE to a large bowl. With an electric mixer, beat in ONE EGG at a time. Make sure that each egg is blended before the next one is added.
- Let mixture rest for 10 minutes.
- With well-oiled hands, shape the dough into 3-inch balls or ovals and place 2 inches apart on a parchment paper covered baking sheet.
- Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until golden brown.
- Transfer to racks to cool.
- Split and fill with your favorite mixture.
Tell A Story—Plant A Seed

Whenever I think back on my childhood, what I remember most are the stories my father told me. My dad (Bert Seiffer) was an old-school physician and a true New Yorker. He was the kind of doctor who still made house calls (black leather bag in tow) and believed in spending quality time with all of his patients. The people he came in contact with each day represented a full spectrum of personalities and lifestyles. I can remember rock stars, pilots, butchers, restaurant owners, writers and artists. All of these “characters” made for some great storytelling.

Dad would come home from the office, be handed a scotch and soda, take off his shoes and proceed to tell us about the patients who came in that day. I remember hearing the crazy coincidence when Mr. Flood, Mr. Waters and Mr. Sprinkler all came in right after each other one afternoon. How a loyal patient of some 25 years never returned again upon seeing dad and a young woman on the floor of his office; his socked foot in her armpit, lab coat removed. Dad explained that it was the best known procedure for correcting a dislocated shoulder (told you he was old school). Then there was the patient who walked in with his dog’s tail in a napkin asking if dad could sew it back on (the dog had gotten into a fight).

Some of the best were the WWII stories. There was “Julius” the pet monkey who served as an exotic fruit “taster” (dad was a flight surgeon in New Guinea) and moths, the size of birds, that would completely cover the projector screen when they tried to watch news reels.

My point of telling you all this is to inspire you to tell stories to your children because there are many benefits beyond simple entertainment. Storytelling connects children with their history, families, and each other. As young children listen to a storyteller, they’re hearing inflections in speech and words presented in a compelling and fascinating way.

Storytelling also presents certain literary devices. Children will see and hear the building of plot, characterization, climax, conflict, conclusion, etc. Without books or illustrations, children have to remember key points of the plot and character names. This is an excellent exercise in memorization skills and it also may help guide children when they wish to write a story of their own.

Most importantly, storytelling opens children’s minds to other cultures and life philosophies; it develops the inner world of imagination and creative thinking. Children tap into their imaginative minds and provide their own imagery. Storytelling is also a way to bring history alive and inspire further exploration of historical events.

My children never had the opportunity to know their grandfather in person. Over the years I have woven these stories into them. I believe they are strengthened and grounded knowing that they have a connection to him in some way. They also have meaningful appreciation of how the world has changed and what life was like back then. If I have done my job right, they will, hopefully, tell stories about me some day.


give the gift of Kindergarten to your child!

Engaging, interactive Jewish experiences for children entering Kindergarten in September, 2017

K-2 Open House
Wednesday, May 3 at 4:00 pm

Kindergarten children love the richness of Judaism that they experience through music, stories, food, drama, art, rituals and family learning.

K-2 Religious School classes meet September-May, Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:45 pm.

Join Laurie Landes, Education Director and Rabbi Leora Frankel to learn about our Kindergarten no-cost program, as well as our first and second grade Religious School programs. We will have fun activities for you and your child, and refreshments.

We look forward to meeting you and your child! Bring a friend and enjoy refreshments and activities.

ECC Important Dates

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Please Note: There is no Sharing Shabbat this April
J-BALL AT CSR

Mazal Tov to all those who represented Community Synagogue of Rye in the Westchester Jewish Basketball League’s (aka: J-Ball) 2016-2017 season. What a great memory and opportunity to bring Jewish values of teamwork, caring for others, menshelekeit and kavod (honor) for others to the court.

A special thanks of appreciation to the coaches from CSR (Mike Kerlan, Marc Zimmerman, Michael Minick, Gary Karetsky, Adam Goldstein, Jamie Schutzer, Larry Solow, Maurice Poplausky, Michael Richard, David Morrisey, Larry Sunshine, Carey Liebmann and Ken Frankel) who gave their time and energy to this important athletic and social part of our synagogue community.

Among Community Synagogue’s seven teams, the sixth grade team won the championship in their age bracket.


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.
**OUR B’NEI MITZVAH OF APRIL**

**Abigail Wang**

My name is Abby Wang and I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on April 1. I am the daughter of Michael and Jessica Wang and I have a younger sister Sydney. I am a middle school student at LMK in Harrison. My Torah portion is Vayikra from the Book of Leviticus. The section I will be focusing on is about how the Israelites made sacrifices to please God by sacrificing their most valuable possessions like their animals and crops. For my mitzvah project, I donated both time and clothing to help The Sharing Shelf. My mom and I helped set up the November 2016 Teen Boutique. We organized the clothes and hung them up on racks to make it comfortable and easy for the girls to see the selections. As I continue to volunteer in the program, I will be collecting clothing donations from friends as well as donations of money to purchase new underwear for the April 2017 Teen Boutique. My hope is that the girls who come to the boutique get clothes that make them feel happy and good about themselves.

**Charlotte Levine**

My name is Charlotte Levine and I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on April 12. I am the daughter of Aly and Mike Levine and I have two younger brothers, Jack and Max. I am a seventh grader at Rye Middle School. My Torah portion is Emor from the Book of Leviticus. In this part of the Torah, God is telling Moses about the sacred occasions at certain times of the year. Some holidays that are mentioned are Shabbat, Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. For my mitzvah project, through an organization called Soul Ryeders, I knit hats and scarves for women with breast cancer. Many of these women will lose their hair during chemotherapy and I hope that the hat and scarves will keep them warm and comfortable.

**Morgan Delizia**

My name is Morgan Delizia and I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on April 1. I am the daughter of Liz and Craig Delizia and I have a younger sister Aerin. I’m a seventh grader at Rye Middle School. I enjoy tennis, soccer, learning languages, and spending time with family and friends. My Torah portion is Vayikra from the Book of Leviticus. It is the story of how Jews had to make sacrifices to God, such as animals and crops, to show gratitude and appreciation. For my mitzvah project, I have chosen to volunteer at Community Synagogue of Rye and share my love of languages with the third grade classes. I have been teaching the students the basics of American Sign Language as well as how to sign the four questions in preparation for Passover. Sign language has changed my life and I know in the future I will help people who are deaf in whatever career I pursue. This mitzvah project has not only been incredibly fun for me, but I also hope to inspire the children I am working with at the synagogue.

**Zachary Schutzer**

My name is Zachary Schutzer and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on April 29. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I am the son of Wendy and Jamie Schutzer and I have two brothers, Jeremy and Daniel. My Torah portion is Tzav from the Book of Leviticus. It discusses the priest’s role in identifying conditions that are considered ritually impure and prescribing rituals for purification. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered at Atria Senior Living in Rye Brook, where I played bingo and organized a Veterans Day party for the residents. My insight and perspective into the lives of the residents was a meaningful experience for me.

**Joshua Steiner**

My name is Joshua Steiner and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on April 8. I am a seventh grader in Blind Brook Middle School in Rye Brook. My parents are Jonathan and Viktorya Steiner, my sister is eight and her name is Sasha Steiner. My parsha is Tzav from the book of Leviticus. My Torah portion talks about sacrifice. For my mitzvah project, I am volunteering at the Don Bosco center in the soup kitchen to help make and give out food for people that are in need in the community.

Be sure to LIKE and follow our page to see our b’nei mitzvah every Friday.

Children ages 6 months-8 years old can receive FREE books or music! Register your family at: pjlibrary.org/ny/comsynrye.

This is our Gift to You! Please sign up today!
WANDERING

In the summer of 1962 my parents were on a journey to the Promised Land. In this case California, where fresh fruits and vegetables were available year round (they were vegetarians before it was cool) and the possibility of the kind of new lifestyle that they were seeking. My dad bought an old dark green ambulance with gleaming wood floors and outfitted it so that we could sleep in it as we ventured out on our journey from New York to Escondido. I was ten-years-old along with my sister who was seven and my brother who was two. My 15-year-old sister refused to go and remained behind with my grandparents. At the time, this adventure was so unusual that the newspapers carried the story. In addition to the ambulance, our baby blue Cadillac was hitched to a repurposed hot dog truck that held our worldly goods. I remember stopping at public pools during the day where we could swim and shower. I remember struggling over the mountains in Colorado with the ambulance pushing the loaded down hot dog trailer and my father yelling instructions to my mother. I remember listening to “All I Have to Do Is Dream” by the Everly Brothers over and over again on the radio, dreaming that I was home. It turned out that this wasn’t the Promised Land that my parents were hoping for. The other members of the “ashram” did a lot of meditation, but no one earned any money, with the exception of my father. By the next summer we were headed back to New York. My parents continued to wander to Florida, Mexico, Central America and finally back to California where they remained for 40 years. At the time, I just wanted to be a regular family like the Cleavers in the TV show “Leave it to Beaver.”

But the journey and experiences, much like the 40-year journey in the desert of our ancestors, shaped and strengthened me in ways that helped me to look at life through a different and better lens.

Wishing you a sweet Passover!

CJL AND J-LIFE IMPORTANT DATES

| April 10-17 | NO SCHOOL-Passover Break |
| April 22 | J-Life: 3rd Grade |
| Special Service honoring Laurie Landes on her Retirement, 10 am |
| April 26 | Israel Mitzvah Marketplace, K-6 |
| K-2 Parents: Torah in a NY Minute with Rabbi Gropper, 5:30 pm |
| April 29 | J-Life: 4th Grade |
| May 3 | K-2 Open House, 4 pm |

A PASSOVER FAMILY STORY

Sometimes it’s the family you grow up with, and sometimes it’s the family you marry into that shape your traditions.

Growing up in the 60’s and 70’s, my family belonged to a “classical Reform” temple in South Jersey. We didn’t keep kosher—it wasn’t even on our “radar,” but we went to services most Friday nights.

We didn’t keep kosher…except, we “kept” Passover. We ate a whole lot of matzah: there was no bread, no cookies, and my mother made sponge cakes as good as Iris Sampiner’s! I would routinely get ridiculed by bringing a matzah sandwich to school, with lettuce, mayonnaise cheese and roast beef. But that was our level of kashrut. We didn’t really like matzah, but with no sandwich alternative, we ate it throughout the whole week.

Years later, after I got married, I learned a recipe from my wife’s family; Passover rolls—a breakthrough! Since then, I make these Passover rolls every year. We’ve taken them to friends for a Passover picnic; we’ve even taken them to the bottom of the Grand Canyon on a hike during the holiday.

And now I share the recipe for these rolls with you. Enjoy! (see page 6 for the recipe)

I hope that you can create some stories of your own around Passover!
PURIM CELEBRATIONS AT THE CJL

We had a fabulous Purim weekend at CSR, from our “Spoofy Shabbat” on Friday night to the Saturday evening concert with Jimmy Roberts and the Megillah Reading and COSY Safari-Jungle-themed Carnival on Sunday! (See adjacent photo of our clergy in costume.) Thank you to all of our CJL students who sang and danced in the Purim Music video (featured below) and a special shout-out to Aaron Cohen and Sasha Spitz for their starring roles. If you missed the video debut, you can find it at https://youtu.be/LWheqixJr98
CSR was the place to be Saturday evening, March 11. Over 80 people gathered to hear award winning composer Jimmy Roberts share his wonderful musical talents. The evening began with a delicious Middle Eastern dinner catered by Hash-O Nash in Mamaroneck. After the concert, there were sweet delights, including hamantashen. Special thanks to Cantor Cooperman for adding her beautiful voice to Jimmy’s music. Also to Paul Levinson, a childhood friend of Jimmy Roberts, who suggested this event and to the whole committee who organized this fantastic evening.

On Thursday, April 13, join us at 6:00 pm for a light dinner and the movie Network. This will be followed by a lively discussion at 8:00 pm led by Cantor Cooperman and her husband, Allan Staples. Please RSVP to the synagogue office.

We welcome your participation and suggestions for other activities. Please join us for our next Empty Nesters meeting at CSR on Wednesday, April 5 at 8:00 pm. You can contact us at csremptynesters@gmail.com.

WRJ/Sisterhood thanks 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, teachers and madrichim. Thanks also for the many contributions and for the Mitzvah Manot bags sent anonymously.

The fundraiser supports such projects as camp scholarships, gifts for all B’nai Mitzvot/Confirmands, sponsorship of the Rye Women’s Interfaith Committee, co-sponsorship of the Women’s Seder, Sushi Under the Stars and social action programs.

Much appreciation to those who volunteered to help pack the bags and deliver them to the homes of the recipients. Your time and effort made this project possible and successful.

Janet Meyers, Co-President WRJ/Sisterhood

Players of all levels are welcome, including beginners. The cost to attend is $5 for members/non-members, which support Sisterhood initiatives. A lesson is $10. RSVP with your level of play to Janet Meyers at Janet@SHMeyers.com. Save these dates: Thursdays: May 18, June 29, July 27 & August 31, 2017. Canasta players are most welcome!
Mysticism & Religion
Sundays, 9:00 – 9:45 am, Westminster Room
Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Road, Rye

April 23 – Eastern Mysticism

Our own Victor Kiarsis will lead one session on Eastern Mysticism. Questions to be addressed: What is Eastern mysticism exactly? What does Lao Tzu, and the old Hindi Vedas say? What do our current day scientists say about it? What do Buddhism, mindfulness and enlightenment tell us about finding the mystic?

April 30 and May 7 – Jewish Mysticism

Longtime friend of our congregation, Rabbi Daniel Gropper, of Community Synagogue of Rye, will lead two sessions exploring Mysticism within the Jewish tradition. This will include an introduction to Kabbalah, one of the better known traditions within Jewish mysticism, along with other mystic traditions and practices within Judaism. Ordained in 1998 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Rabbi Gropper has served congregations in California and Massachusetts. He holds a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and one in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School of Jewish Education.

May 14 and 21 – Christian Mysticism

Our life is a faint tracing on the surface of mystery.
— Annie Dillard in Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

The Rev. Leslie Mott will lead two sessions on Christian Mysticism. Is it possible to be a mystic in the 21st century? These sessions will introduce you to a long tradition of people who have sought conscious contact with God in a direct and transformative way. We will explore some of the history, traditions, and the lives of some famous and not-so famous mystics. We’ll also explore what this belief and practice can mean for us today.

Leslie Mott, M. Div., RYT, received her Masters from Princeton Theological Seminary and has served as teacher, chaplain, counselor, retreat leader, pastor and spiritual director. Having recently ended 12 years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring, NY, Leslie now ministers in the area of clergy care and nurture.
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!

Monday, April 3
Amusements historian and restorer Bob Yorburg has devoted his life to the world of entertainment. As a world-renowned wood carver, he brings back the historic beauty of amusement parks, including the golden age of Coney Island where it all began. Much of this history has been preserved in postcards, where from its earliest days visitors shared their experiences on the backs of magnificent photos. Bob’s “History of Coney Island” talk uses these images to take us back in time so we can enjoy its richness once again.

Thursday, April 6
Dine Around—12:00 pm
Please sign up through Iris Sampliner at ikstravel@aol.com

Monday, April 10
NO SAJE

Thursday April 13
Rabbi Leora Frankel will be coming to SAJE during the holiday of Passover to share stories and childhood experiences from personal Passover seders. Come to listen, share and enjoy various rituals and traditions.

Monday, April 17
NO SAJE

Thursday April 20
Bruce Museum, 11:00 am
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT
Alfred Sisley (1839-1899): Impressionist Master
The Bruce Museum and the Hôtel de Caumont Centre d’Art in Aix-en-Provence, France, are mounting a major monographic exhibition of the art of the French Impressionist Alfred Sisley (1839—1899). The first retrospective in the United States in over twenty years of this purest of all the major Impressionists, the show is comprised of about 50 of Sisley’s paintings from private collections and major museums in Europe and North America. The Bruce Museum will premiere the exhibition and be the only venue in the United States (per the Bruce Museum). Guided tour by Arthur Stampleman.

Monday, April 24
On Holocaust Remembrance Day, SAJE will view the documentary “Paper Clips.” Searching for an effective way to teach their students about the scale of the Holocaust, school officials in Whitwell, Tennessee devised a unique class project involving paper clips. The middle school students in a rural, heavily Christian community begin collecting paper clips to represent the Jews who perished in concentration camps in World War II. After millions of paper clips are collected, the last step is to place them inside a German rail car, a poignant echo of the Final Solution.

Thursday, April 27
David Sampliner will discuss “The Angels of Broadway,” a “minor” career that has occupied Iris’ and his life for more than 50 years. Without halos they have been “Angels” (a code word for investors of Broadway shows) involved in close to 100 musicals and straight shows that lighted the lights and the lives of theater goers. The thrills and chills of backing so many hits (and misses) will be described in details that will virtually bring you backstage into a number of productions and the people who make them so exciting. From comedies and musicals that broke every Broadway record, to “clunkers” that sometimes had very short lives, you will be part of the glamour and despair that you ordinarily never see.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Here are the Green Team’s monthly tips for reducing plastic usage. The tips are courtesy of the Green Education Foundation.

1. Use a reusable bottle or mug for your beverages even when ordering from a to-go shop.
2. Bring your own container for take-out or for your restaurant doggy bag since many restaurants use Styrofoam packaging.
3. Re-use containers for storing leftovers or shopping in bulk.
4. For more green suggestions, or to share your ideas, please come to our next Green Team meeting on April 6.
Mazel Tov

To Laurie Landes on her retirement.
Thank you for three decades of dedication to the CJL

To Betty Knoop on being honored at the Westchester Jewish Center’s 22nd Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony on March 15

To Debra Nanus on the birth of her grandson, Seth Mayer Matulich, son of former ECC teacher Jessica Nanus and her husband Dan Matulich

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the Winter Food Drive. The food pantry is so grateful for the support and because of you, we helped feed many hungry families in our community.

Food donations are accepted year-round and the pantry is still in desperate need, so any donations are very much appreciated!

Thank you,
The Social Action Committee

Welcoming our New CJL Educators

We are thrilled to have hired two outstanding Jewish educators to join our full-time staff this summer:

Amy Rosenbaum
CJL Principal

Yael Farber
Director of Youth Engagement and Informal Education

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:

Kenneth Chazen, father of Sara Leand
Alan Paul Rolle, father of Rabbi Liz Rolle

Contributions

Camp Scholarship Fund
Rabbi Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter in memory of Margie Greene May

Cantor Cooperman’s Discretionary Fund
Sue Ellen & Peter Goldman in memory of Bernard J. Cohn
Alyson & Michael Levine in appreciation for the guidance Cantor Cooperman offered Charlotte as she prepared for her Bat Mitzvah

Israel Action Fund
Dorothy Wolf in memory of David Work, Norma Weinstein and Joseph Weinstein

Kadima Campaign
Joan and Paul Feinstein in memory of Ann Espanizy, mother of Barry Fishkind

Michael Ginsberg Memorial Library Fund
Fern & Howard Bindelglass in memory of Joy Bindelglass Klein

Rabbi Frankel’s Discretionary Fund
Community Foundation for Jewish Education

Rabbi Gropper’s Discretionary Fund
Gale Dinces in appreciation for the funeral service for Stephen Dinces

Religious School Enrichment Fund
Barbara & Howard Chumsky in memory of Irma Bennett, grandmother of Barbara Chumsky

Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment (SAJE) Fund
Rhoda & Steven Steinberg in memory of Al Steinberg
Herbert Blecker in memory of Norman Blecker
Elaine Frey & Amy Kaschchy, in memory of their father and grandfather, Leo Tepper

Social Action Fund
Leah & Larry Baker in memory of Anne Baker

Synagogue Fund
Laurie & John Frolich in memory of Kenneth Foreman

Yahrzeit Fund
Debra & Stephen Sherman in memory of Irving and Bunnie Gordon
Esther Stender in memory of Henry Stender
Barbara & Joe Latwin in memory of Henry Stender
Monique & Burton Haines in memory of Anna Hirscher
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 (Ceecele 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