The Chanukah Challenge is Here

What: An opportunity to light Chanukah candles with a member of your clergy team.

When: Any evening of Chanukah (December 12—20 except Friday, December 15).

Where: Your home.

How: Invite four other Community Synagogue households to join you for lighting the Chanukiyah in your home. You need to have a menorah, candles and whatever refreshments you choose to offer. A member of the clergy will join you to help lead in the candle-lighting and Chanukah songs.

Why: What a better way to create community than to celebrate Chanukah with other congregants.

To arrange one of the clergy to join your Chanukah gathering, email clergyassistant@comsynrye.org
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 (’Tfilah), 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
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CJL Director .........................Amy Rosenbaum
Director of Youth Engagement And Informal Learning…….Yael Farber
ECC Director .......................Dale Oberlander
SAJE Coordinator..............Sarah Poland

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Mazal Tov
To Josh Cohn on being elected Mayor of Rye, New York!
To Irene and Jonathan Metz on the engagement of their son Josh to his fiancée Lauren Lipton.

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

Our congregation mourns the passing of:
Irene Berns, mother of Mitchell Berns
Ken Hirsch, husband of Bonnie Hirsch
William Parker, father of David Parker
Sheila Green, mother of Abbey Pisaniello
Massimo Borghini, father of Alice Borghini
Micheline Hahn, founding member of Community Synagogue of Rye

First Friday Torah Study at 7 AM
Next Session: December 1
At Le Pain Quotidien
30 Purchase St, Rye

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. Torah texts are also available for use.

We hope you can join us (no RSVP required, just come).
**December 2017 Calendar**

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<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>CJL 3rd Grade Shabbat Dinner—Offsite</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, December 2</strong></td>
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<td>Torah Study Service—Offsite</td>
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FROM THE RABBI’S DESK: JEWISH PRIDE, FOR OURSELVES & OUR CHILDREN

Rabbi Leora Frankel • lfrankel@comsynrye.org

In 1875, a brilliant student entered Harvard Law School at the age of 18. From his earliest days there, the young man was constantly told that he could end up on the Supreme Court one day, if only he would adopt Christianity and abandon his Judaism. By his final year of law school, he became the first Jew ever invited to join the Harvard Honor Society. A story is told of that induction ceremony: the young man dramatically walked to the podium and announced “I am sorry that I was born a Jew.” The room erupted in applause and cheers, as his teachers and classmates felt that their efforts had finally borne fruit. As the noise died down, the student continued, “I am sorry that I was born a Jew, but only because I wish I had the privilege of choosing Judaism on my own.” The young law student, of course, was Louis Brandeis. In that famous moment of Jewish pride, Brandeis seemed to be channeling the spirit of the Maccabees, those young men who dared to assert their Judaism in the face of Hellenist assimilation and oppression.

Even more than the oil lasting eight days or the Maccabees’ victory over the Greeks, Chanukah celebrates the miracles of Jewish survival and religious freedom, then and now. During a season when it seems like the whole world is aglow with Christmas lights, we are challenged to be like Brandeis, secure in our different identity. In fact, the Talmudic Sages emphasized that it is not enough just to light the menorah in one’s house; once lit, we must display it so as to “publicize the miracle.” The rabbis taught: “It is incumbent to place the Chanukah menorah by the door of one’s house on the outside. If one dwells in an upper chamber, he places it at the window nearest the street. But in times of danger it is sufficient to place it on the table” (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b).

As we prepare to celebrate Chanukah this month, it is not without awareness that many Jews around the country feel especially vulnerable these days. For some communities, this feels like a throwback to one of those “times of danger” for which the rabbis made that final provision. The ADL reports a 67% increase in anti-Semitic acts in 2017 over the previous year, including incidents right here in Westchester. While we are certainly not the only minority to experience a spike in vandalism and violence this year, the recent rise of anti-Semitic sentiment makes the original messages of Chanukah even more urgent: Don’t let anyone make you ashamed or afraid to be Jewish. However unique or even unpopular among some, stand tall and be proud of your heritage.

It is fitting that as a lead-up to Chanukah this year, I have the privilege of attending the upcoming URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Biennial conference, taking place in Boston from December 6-10. Though I have been hearing about Biennial for years, this is my first time attending, together with our youth director, Yael Farber, and a delegation of a dozen of our lay leaders. Even having seen pictures and live-streamed past Biennial services, I can scarcely imagine the thrill of sharing Shabbat with 5,000 other Reform Jews from around the world. This special gathering every two years marks the largest convention of liberal Jews (almost of any denomination, even rivaling Chabad’s annual kinus) in the world. It will most certainly be an experience of deep Jewish pride, transformative learning, and inspiration for our Community Synagogue attendees.

Chanukah is also a time we rejoice in religious freedom, and our dedication to instilling Jewish pride in the next generation. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks teaches, “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.” Together with our new CJL Director, Amy Rosenbaum, much of my time is now spent thinking about how to instill Jewish pride in the next generation. From our successful first Sukkahfest and reimagined J-life family learning sessions, to a new spirited weekly Saturday service for our students and their parents, we are working each week to ensure that the children of CSR grow up with a joyous Judaism that they can be proud of.

You read in a recent letter from our clergy team that it has come to our attention that a surprising number of families in our own community find it increasingly difficult to fund Jewish education for their children. Our synagogue has never turned away a child due to a family’s financial limitations, but we need your help in replenishing our scholarship fund to ensure that we never have to. As you consider a host of worthy causes for your end of year contributions, I hope that you will count our CJL Scholarship among those that express and uphold your values. What greater Chanukah present could you give than the gift of Jewish education for our next generation?

On behalf of our clergy, staff, and my own family, wishing you a Chag Urim Sameach—A Happy Chanukah filled with light and hope.

Rabbi Leora Frankel

PS: Don’t forget to sign up for our CSR Chanukah challenge to have a member of our clergy join you for candle lighting with friends!

www.comsynrye.org
Is it really possible that we are now in December? Entering the holiday season full-blast and seeing the end of the secular year on the horizon. At this time of shorter days, and colder nights, it is wonderful to kindle the lights of Chanukah and be reminded of all the things for which we are grateful and happy to be celebrating.

But light has many aspects to it and each person brings a different perspective to their understanding of it. For some, light is a beacon of hope that shines brightly and lets us see where we can expand the freedoms and justice that we enjoy to those who are deprived of them. For others it is the small beam that allows us to see a path out of a narrow space, the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel that signals the end of a dark time. And for still others it is the bright light of joy and affection with which we name those near and dear to us, the light of our lives. But for too many, it is the sad feeling when the light of love and life is snuffed out and we perceive the absence of light in the empty space that is left behind.

How can we as a community focus on the light that is a gift this holiday season? How can we ensure that the lights don’t go out in this corner of Rye where a special place exists in all of our hearts?

When we consider the many opportunities that our synagogue offers to spread light all around us, here are just a few reminders of how even small groups of committed volunteers can make a big difference in the lives of others.

- A group of congregants from CSR, as well as Rye Presbyterian Church, was able to work with HIAS to sponsor and resettle a family of refugees from a war-torn region of the world. Work is ongoing to help this family find meaningful employment and adjust to their new environment.
- The CSR Team walked in Making Strides at Manhattanville College and raised more than $4000 to provide research, support, and services for those diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Dinner at Noon provides a delicious and healthful meal prepared with fresh and tasty ingredients and served with dignity and respect to those in need.
- Our teen and youth groups regularly find avenues to volunteer their time and resources whether it be sorting clothes at The Sharing Shelf, engaging in Social Action, or assisting as Madrachim and mentors to our younger CJL students.
- And last but not least we see the many helping hands from Hesed, and our entire synagogue community, who regularly show up at shiva minyans to offer support, words of comfort, and acts of loving kindness. I have seen firsthand how meaningful this participation is and how often friends and families from other communities take note of this unique experience.

All of these acts of tikkun olam, whether performed individually, as part of a larger group, or quietly and anonymously move the needle forward and bring light and hope to others.

So, as we close out this year and think about ways to contribute or pay our blessings forward, I would like to take a moment and remind all of those in our community of one last challenge that we face, and that is seeing that our renovation is completed in the coming year and funded as widely as possible by our membership. To date, more than 250 families have generously contributed to our Kadima campaign. To those of you who have made this commitment I offer thanks and appreciation on behalf of myself and our leadership team. We are still reaching out to 170 families who have yet to contribute. To those of you whose gift is still pending, please talk to our Kadima team when they call, and let us see how a community that stands together will ensure that the spirit of giving has a new home on Forest Avenue.

If we can remember the words of Martin Luther King, Jr at this often-challenging time, then perhaps all of our worlds will be a bit brighter: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Let us hope that this season of light is one of hope, peace, comfort and rest for each and every one of us.

With all best wishes for the holiday season,

Laurie Frolich
What’s in Your Gym?

Yoel Magid, Interim Executive Director • Ymagid@comsynrye.org

A synagogue is like a Jewish gym.

- Warm up by stretching your spiritual muscles.
- Stretch out to the larger world for tikkun olam.
- Build endurance for a marathon Jewish journey of continuity.
- Relax your muscles for silent meditation.
- Increase brain blood flow through Jewish education, books and study.
- Sink a three pointer by studying Torah with two friends.
- Join in song for community coordination.

- Jump the tongue-twisting hurdles of learning Hebrew.
- Lift some weighty topics in clergy conversations.
- Toss off the daily routine and lower your heart rate on Shabbat.
- God-wrestling is part of the Jewish tradition; ask Jacob.
- But most of all, remember that God is a Verb (the name of another Jewish book) and that you are too.
- Being Jewish is doing Jewish, so don’t sweat too much as you find your own Jewish exercise routine in the many-faceted gym of Community Synagogue of Rye.

I know I just said hello this September and am now saying good-bye in December, but I look forward to visiting next year for the opening of your new Kadima exercise space and seeing all those new Jewish muscles filling a beautiful new space with energy and personal growth. And, by the way, have you made your Kadima pledge yet?

Yoel Magid
Interim Executive Director
Soon-to-be retired for the third time walking along the Bronx River

End of Year Tzedakah

We hope all of you received the personal letter from Rabbis Gropper and Frankel and Cantor Cooperman about our end-of-the-year initiative to provide needed CJL scholarships to about 15 of our families. Whatever you can contribute will be used solely for this scholarship fund and enable CSR to continue to provide Jewish education for all interested families. There are so many good causes that need help, but we hope you do remember the ones close to home as well as those far away!

Also, please remember that stock donations of long-term appreciated securities to Kadima, or one of our CSR funds, enjoy generous tax benefits—the donor doesn’t pay taxes on the current selling price of the security and enjoys a full charitable allowance for the donated value. Please check with your broker first and then contact Michelle at execassistant@comsynrye.org to get the name of the CSR broker who should receive the transfer. It’s also important to let Michelle know which securities are being donated and which account you would like credited since, without these details, your donation might reside in a financial limbo until we get the details.

Given the incredibly high values of the stock market, you might even want to consider locking in some profits by pre-paying future Kadima pledges or even all or some of next year’s dues.
TZEDEK COUNCIL CORNER

The Tzedek team is committed to making an impact in our world. Here are some of the highlights showcasing our efforts this year.

- CSR Reads program, led by Jim DeWinter and Rhoda Steinberg has been meeting at Park Ave School in Port Chester. This important group of volunteers has been teaching children to read and gain comprehension skills for many years.

- Refugee Project is led by Laura Leach and includes a team of volunteers who are helping a family from Afghanistan adjust to life in White Plains. This family of four has received help with education, employment, healthcare, housing and community connections.

- Dinner at Noon, under the leadership of Marlena Schaeffer continues to feed the hungry in Westchester. Some of our religious school children, teens and b’nai mitzvah have contributed to this project by preparing food to donate.

- Our Hesed committee, led by Shelley Simon continues to reach out to those in our community who are struggling with illness, injury or loss. If you are interested in joining her efforts, we are always looking for volunteers to offer rides, a meal, or even a phone call.

- A team from CSR participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on October 15 and raised over $4000 toward research, education, and supporting those affected by breast cancer.

- Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to support hurricane victims in Houston with gift cards. From our Sushi in the Sukkah event we raised $607 toward hurricane relief. We donated those funds to IsraAID, who is focused on helping those affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

UPCOMING TZEDEK COUNCIL EVENTS

DINNER AT NOON

Volunteers from Community Synagogue of Rye gather at the Carver Center on six Saturdays during the school year to prepare and serve a delicious, multi-course meal to Port Chester residents in need. Many of the guests come regularly and we enjoy seeing them and reconnecting at each meal. The guests range in age from mothers with young children to the elderly.

All the food we serve is donated. We need fresh fruits and baked goods for each gathering. We also need side dishes and vegetable dishes for some gatherings. If you would like to donate, or to learn more, please contact Marlena Schaeffer, Dinner at Noon Leader, at marschaeffer@aol.com. The remaining dates are February 10, March 24, May 5, and June 16.

A MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

The Social action committee of Community Synagogue of Rye, along with the Bronx Jewish Community Council and the UJA, will once again be participating in a project to reach out on Christmas Day to the Jewish elderly homebound.

Please join us in the spirit of Abraham by participating in this wonderful mitzvah of M’aakhil R’evim, feeding the hungry on December 25.

We have volunteered to prepare and deliver 30 meals to 30 individuals in need. At 9:30 am at Community Synagogue, we will be preparing food and delivering the meals in the Bronx on Christmas morning and we need your help.

Please contact Robin Blum on how you can get involved or with any questions at rblum@sqad.com or at 914 623-3764.

GREEN TEAM

Green Team is hosting a Tu B’shevat seder on January 28 and looking for volunteers to organize/prepare food/set up.

Contact Bill DeLynn wdelynn@optonline.net
Chanukah Blessings

How we light the Chanukiah (Chanukah menorah):

Candles are added to the Chanukiah each night starting from the right side and filling in towards the left, but are kindled in the opposite direction (from left to right) so that we always light the newest candle first. We begin by lighting the shamash or helper candle, and then use it to kindle the rest of the lights, saying or singing together:

**First Blessing over Candles:**

ברוך אתה עלי אדוני מלך העולם אשר קדשך מציון מצוותיו ונתן למלכים...

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amen)

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

**Second Blessing over Candles:**

ברוך אתה עלי אדוני על תורת מלכות העולם בעשיה ניסים ל祖先ינו...

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam, she'asa nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem, baz'man hazeh. (Amen)

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

**Third Blessing over Candles:**

ברוך אתה ער לעיני מלכות העולם, אשר חלה פנים לציון...

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

For Chanukah songs please turn to page 15...
THE IMPORTANCE OF SENSORY RICH EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Dale Oberlander, ECC Director • doberlander@comsynrye.org

Young children are not shy about expressing their delight or displeasure when it comes to sensory experiences. I’m sure you have seen a child squealing with delight when given a wiggly worm to hold or the opportunity to splash in a muddy puddle. You may have also seen a child stubbornly fold their arms and clamp their mouths shut when asked to try a piece of broccoli.

There is something important to notice here. These are all examples of things a preschooler might do, not what she/he might say. The reason for this is that many preschoolers (particularly 2 and 3 year olds) are still developing language skills. An amazing benefit of sensory play is its ability to improve language skills by helping young children build new ways to talk about their world.

Perhaps more importantly, children learn to voice their opinions about what they are feeling, seeing, touching and smelling. Some children, for example, love to play with slime while others avoid it. Some children love to eat avocados while others prefer to eat foods that crunch. Sensory play teaches children the right vocabulary to describe their feelings, their wants, and needs. Although tablets and screens offer stimulating, clean entertainment, it is important that young children receive a rich diet of sensory experiences each day. The accompanying pictures offer a few examples of how we are doing just that in the ECC.

The ECC is accepting enrollment for the fall of 2018.
Lighting Sparks
Amy Rosenbaum Ph.D, CJL Director • Arosenbaum@comsynrye.org

Chanukah is especially welcome at the darkest time of the year. What better time to huddle inside with our families to light candles, sing songs, and celebrate?

The Hebrew root of the word Chanukah is *chinuch*, which means education. The theme of light is a powerful connector between Chanukah—the festival of light—and great education. Ask any teacher and they will tell you they live for those “lightbulb moments,” when something clicks for their learners and they gain a real understanding of what is being taught. Someone sheds light on a subject and we are able to understand it. When we gain spiritual or intellectual wisdom, we are enlightened.

Our goal as Jewish educators is to light a spark in our learners—to ignite in them a passion and love for Jewish learning and living. We want to go beyond conveying information and to inspire within each child a sense of who they can be and what Judaism can mean to them. In the CJL, we are eager to light this spark within our learners and to share our passion and love of Judaism with them. This year, we celebrate the lights of Chanukah and learning at our CJL Chanukah Zimriyah, a school-wide concert, and we hope families will join us as each grade will have their moment to shine when they perform a different Chanukah song.

Choosing to Welcome the Light
Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Learning • Yfarber@comsynrye.org

Recently, we changed our clocks back an hour for daylight savings. For many of us, this has meant that it is darker when we leave work at the end of the day than we expect it to be and it throws us off as we adjust to the time change. In a similar way, I recently put up new curtains in my apartment. Initially, I thought “finally the sun won’t wake me up before my alarm!” Instead, I’ve found darkness that I didn’t expect. Rather than automatically having natural light, I have to look for it. I have to get up, pull the curtains aside, and welcome the natural light into my space.

As we approach the celebration of Chanukah, we do not automatically get to see the light of the Chanukah candles. We have to gather together, prepare our *Chanukiyot*, and light the candles. Instead of the sunlight waking us up before we are ready, we have to pull the curtains aside and choose to light the candles. This opportunity to welcome in the light is a powerful one, allowing all of us to embrace the light.

For me, I appreciate that our lives do not stop for the entire celebration of Chanukah. Instead, we choose to pause at the end of our busy days and welcome in the light. I look forward to pausing at the end of each day throughout Chanukah to welcome in the light with our CSR family!

COSY & CSR Teens Upcoming Events
December 17 • COSY Chanukah Social Action Sunday 5:30 pm—7:00 pm • RSVP to Yael at COSY@comsynrye.org.
Our B’nei Mitzvah

Tyler Winderman

My name is Tyler Winderman and I will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 2. I am the son of Kerri and Michael Winderman. I’m a seventh grader at Rye Middle School, and I enjoy baseball, tennis, and basketball. My Torah portion is Vayeishev from the Book of Genesis. It tells the story of Joseph and his brothers. It describes how Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob and how, as a result, his brothers came to resent him. It teaches lessons about favoritism, jealousy, and arrogance. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered after school teaching baseball to preschoolers. I also collected baseball equipment for an organization called Let’s Play It Forward. I enjoyed sharing my love of baseball and helping those who are less fortunate.

Abby Zahl

My name is Abby Zahl and I will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 16. I am the daughter of Cindy and Adam Zahl and I have an older sister, Olivia. I am in seventh grade at Blind Brook Middle School. I enjoy playing basketball, soccer, and being with my friends and family. I go to Camp Chipinaw which is a sleepaway camp in the Catskill Mountains. My Torah portion is Mikeitz from the Book of Genesis. This portion of the Torah is about how Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams. He figures out that his dreams mean seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. For my mitzvah project, my sister and I, and our friend Zoe Richman, created Ribbons Around Rye Brook. We tied pink ribbons around trees in Rye Brook and asked people to donate money to an organization called FORCE. FORCE stands for Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered. This organization helps to try to find a cure for ovarian and breast cancer. This is the story where Joseph’s brothers are sent to Egypt for food in order to get through the famine. The brothers approach the Egyptian leader, but do not recognize him as Joseph, their brother. Yet even though they do not recognize him, Joseph recognizes them. For my mitzvah project, we raised money for an organization called FORCE, which stands for Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered. Between last year and this year, we raised over $15,000! We plan on continuing this mitzvah in the years to come.

Julia Sammon

My name is Julia Sammon and I am the daughter of Barbara Waldman and Robert Sammon. I have a younger brother Jake. I will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 27 in Jerusalem, Israel. I am a seventh grader at Rye Middle School. My Torah portion is Vayechi from the Book of Genesis. My portion is about when Jacob blesses each of his twelve sons on his death bed. His last words to them are both blessings and criticism. For my mitzvah project I wanted to combine my love of dance with my desire to teach kids with disabilities. I am volunteering at New York Performing Arts Center in Harrison, assisting in a class for children with Down Syndrome. I always look forward to Saturday mornings with these hardworking children. I love helping them experience dance, and find the hugs after class very rewarding. I will continue volunteering at NYPAC after my Bat Mitzvah. Connecting with these special kids has been very rewarding.
**Single Shot Judaism**

**Providing a Quick Jewish (Soulful) Boost!**

Single Shot Judaism is an informal and casual forum to ask, challenge, and engage in unedited conversation over a shot or two of espresso or whatever drink you enjoy (Chai tea too!)

All it takes is bringing together 10 friends (a minyan, of course) who are open to passionate conversation about an array of issues. Once you have a group together, then Rabbi Gropper, Cantor Cooperman or Rabbi Frankel will set a date to meet at your home, local coffee house, local dive, or diner.

To set up a single shot of Judaism, contact us at singleshot@comsynrye.org

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**Meditation. Mindfulness. Balance.**

**Re-soul for Shabbat.**

Using meditation practices, mindfulness skills and some simple Mussar texts, we will sit, mostly in silence and contemplation to wind down from the week and lift us into Shabbat. Please join Rabbi Gropper from 6 to 6:20 p.m. on Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13 and May 18 to welcome in the spirit of Shabbat. You are then invited to remain for regular Shabbat worship at 6:30 pm.

**The topic for December is Nedivut—Generosity.**

Re-soul for Shabbat will take place at the Chapel at Rye Presbyterian Church, the same location for Friday night services. 882 Boston Post Rd, Rye, NY 10580.

If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please email clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.

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**Talmud with Training Wheels**

The Talmud is one of the foundational texts of Judaism. However, many of us may not feel like experts when it comes to this vital canon. In fact, it can be said that more than we are biblical Jews, we are rabbinic Jews following the laws and guidelines set out in the Talmud. Together we will explore the history and structure of the Talmud and rabbinic thought as well as the rabbis’ profound insights into human nature. No prior experience required!

**Talmud with Training Wheels Dates**

- 10—11:30 am at CSR:
  - Dec 14, 2017—Jan 4, 2018—Jan 25, 2018
  - Feb 8, 2018—Mar 1, 2018—Mar 15, 2018

Interested in attending? Please email clergy assistant Jon Rekedal at clergyassistant@comsynrye.org. Jon will let you know where the class is being held. During our construction project, at times when the ECC is in session, the state licensing authority asks staff members to escort all adults through the school building. Thank you for your understanding.
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 11:15 am and 1:15 pm and includes lunch after the program. You are always welcome to bring a friend.

Monday, December 4
Publisher of WAG Magazine Dee Delbello will speak to SAJE about the magazine, its formation and interests. WAG magazine is the hottest lifestyle magazine to hit the New York state and Connecticut metro area. It delivers the unexpected in exciting people profiles, food, fashion, beauty, art, travel, entertainment and more. With its irresistible glimpse into high-end living, it has become a must read among the discerning population. WAG features firsthand content that is always ahead of its time. The publication is always building fresh content, driven by local movers and shakers who create and influence culture; some even worldwide.

Thursday, December 7
Dine Around—Argana Restaurant and Bar at 12:00 pm
325 North Main Street in Port Chester
$24.00 per person—Check made out to Iris Sampliner
RSVP to Sarah Poland

Monday, December 11
SAJE welcomes back Miriam Rothman who will share some reflections about her personal experiences with Shoah survivors with whom she associated as a child. This follows the presentation made by Paul Elliot when he was honored by the organization called “Children of Holocaust Survivors.”

Thursday, December 14 @ The Atria
Celebrate Chanukah with Rabbi Leora Frankel at the Atria. Rabbi Frankel will teach stories of Chanukah that you don’t often hear and sing holiday songs as a group. Eat Latkes and enjoy!

Monday, December 18
Dr. Ling Zhang will be joining us from the Cinema Studies Department at Purchase College. Ling Zhang received her PhD from the Department of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago. She specializes in film sound theory, Chinese-language cinema and opera, cinema and travel/mobility, ruins in cinema, and film and urbanism. Formerly a documentary filmmaker, Zhang is also an established Chinese film critic with a published collection of reviews and essays in Chinese (2011).

Thursday, December 21
Dr. Duane Tananbaum has taught United States History at Lehman College since 1986. He received his BA in History and Government from Cornell University and his PhD from Columbia University. In 1980-1981, he was an American Historical Association Congressional Fellow, working for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Professor Tananbaum served as chair of the History Department and he has held many leadership positions in the Lehman College Senate and the Lehman College chapter of the Professional Staff Congress (the faculty union). He teaches survey, upper-level, and graduate courses in U.S. History, and he was recognized as Lehman’s Teacher of the Year in 2017. Dr. Tananbaum will be bringing copies of his book, “Herbert H. Lehman: A Political Biography” for purchase.

Monday, December 25 & Thursday, December 28
NO SAJE

**Directions to Atria Rye Brook: 1200 King Street, Rye Brook NY
VIA 287 West:
Take 287 West to Exit 9N (Hutchinson River Pkwy)
Take Hutchinson River Pkwy North to exit 30S (120A)
Turn left onto 120A/N. King Street
VIA 120A:
Head north on Forest Ave toward Boulder Rd
Turn right onto Grace Church St
Continue onto S Main St
Use the middle lane to turn slightly left onto King St
Turn left onto Willett Ave
Continue straight onto NY-120A N/King St

* The SAJE program at Community Synagogue of Rye is self-sustaining and relies on generous donations. Thank you to all of those who support SAJE through monetary donations, time and energy, creativity and love!*
SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TEMPLE YOUTH

Once again this year the Sampliner Youth Leadership Development Fund is making camp scholarships available to young people who are planning to attend either the Eisner Camp or the Crane Lake Camp in Massachusetts, Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY. or the NFTY Summer Program in Israel. These programs are run by the Union for Reform Judaism, the umbrella organization of all reform congregations in the United States and Canada. These scholarships are not based on need. Since the scholarship funds are limited, and were originally intended to support attendance at URJ Camps, priority will be given for attendance at those Camps. All applications are due by February 10; if there are funds still available for other Jewish Camps, they will be honored.

The Eisner Camp and the Crane Lake Camp offer programs for children seven to seventeen years of age. Each day includes sports, recreation, swimming, theater, crafts, and programs designed to foster a solid Jewish living experience.

Every summer, teens from all over North America become leaders at the NFTY Leadership Academy at Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY. Teens come to join this college campus style community, selecting experiences in theater, song leading, visual arts, Jewish studies, social action, youth group leadership programming, and more.

Thousands of Reform high school and college youth have enjoyed summers in Israel. NFTY combines travel, learning, and Jewish identity building in Israel while ensuring the highest standards of health, safety and security.

The Scholarships come in denominations of $250.00 or $500.00. Application should be made to the Fund c/o Iris & David Sampliner.

For further information call the Sampliners at 914-939-0349.

The experience of a summer immersed in Judaism cannot be too highly praised. Youngsters who have been to any of the three programs have come back enthusiastic, involved, and furnish us with an outstanding corps of young leaders for our synagogue.
**Chanukah Songs**

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**Ma’oz Tzur**

Ma’oz tsur yeshu’ati
Lecha na’eh lesha be’eh’yach
Tikon beit te-fi-la-ti
Ve sham toda neza’beh’eh’yach
Leh et tachin mat be-yach,
Mi tsar ham’na be-eh-eh-ehyach
Az egmor beshir mizmor
Chanukat hamizbe’eh’yach
(x2)

**Rock of Ages**

Rock of Ages let our song
Praise thy saving power
Thou amidst the raging foes
Was our sheltering tower.
Furious, they assailed us,
But thine arm availed us.
And thy word broke their sword
When our own strength failed us.
(x2)

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**I Have a Little Dreidel**

I have a little dreidel,
I made it out of clay,
And when it’s dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Now dreidel I shall play

---

**O Chanukah, O Chanukah**

O Chanukah O Chanukah, Come light the menorah
Let’s have a party, we’ll all dance the hora

Gather round the table, we’ll give you a treat
Sivivons to play with and latkes to eat

And while we are playing,
the candles are burning low

One for each night, they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago (2x)
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.

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