Tzedek is the Hebrew word for “righteousness.” The Tzedek Council is a new initiative at CSR aimed at bringing together all areas of Social Action under one umbrella. The committees involved include: Social Action, Green Team, Jewish Justice League, Literacy, Israel Action and Hesed (Caring). Creating the Tzedek Council will allow us to meaningfully communicate and coordinate our efforts both within the congregation and the community. See examples of opportunities on pages 8, 10, 11 and 12.

As we focus on how we can best become God’s partner in repairing the world, the Tzedek Council is a place for dreaming and visioning as well as more pragmatic problem solving. In the words of Theodor Herzl, “If you will it, it is no dream.”

Congregants who are interested in participating in this exciting new initiative, or would like more information, can contact Cantor Cooperman at mcooperman@comsynrye.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT GUEST SPEAKER - HEAR THE CALL BE THE CALL

RABBI JENNIE ROSENN  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016 AT 7:45 PM  
Syria and Beyond: A Jewish Response to Today’s Refugees

Join Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Vice President of Community Engagement at HIAS (the international Jewish refugee organization) to learn more about the current refugee crisis and to explore how Jewish texts, values and history call us to respond.

Rabbi Rosenn’s responsibilities include mobilizing the Jewish community to advance the rights and lives of refugees in the United States and around the world.

Rabbi Rosenn has also served as a campus rabbi at Columbia University and Barnard College Hillel. A founding board member of AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps and Repair the World, Rabbi Rosenn has twice been named one of the Forward’s 50 Jews in America.

Rabbi Rosenn was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She lives in New York City with her husband, Rabbi David Rosenn, and their two sons.
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 ............ Rebecca Sigman

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Brianna Goldstein, Carol Meyers and Janet Meyers
Men’s Club Leadership...... Stephen Gaines

COMMUNITY NEWS STAFF

Co-Editors ................. Jackie Christal
............................. Joanne Steinhart
Layout and Design ............. Rebecca Axelrad

CONTACT US

Main 914-967-6262
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CJL 914-967-7598
Fax 914-967-0065
www.comsynrye.org
info@comsynrye.org

Welcome New Members

Ms. Jodi Press
Clyde, Tucker & Scarlett
Rye, NY

Ms. Sharon Gellman
Shelby
Mamaroneck, NY

Mazel Tov

To Danielle Tagger-Epstein on her inauguration as Council Member for the City of Rye.
To Gary Zuckerman on his inauguration as Supervisor for the Town of Rye.

Come hear from inspiring educators at Jerusalem’s Ein Yael Living Museum! After helping run our Israel Vacation camp, they will be joining us at services on Friday night, February 19 and sharing about their unique way of bringing Jewish history to life.

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.

Shabbat Services for 5776!

On the First Friday of each month and on holiday weekends, services will begin at 6:30 pm. All other Friday evening services will begin at 7:45 pm.
### FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, February 1</th>
<th>Wednesday, February 3</th>
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<td>SAJE</td>
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<td>URJ Sci-Tech Camp Demonstration</td>
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<td>Adult b’nei mitzvah class</td>
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<td>Torah Study Service, Exodus 21:1-24:18</td>
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<td>Adult Learning with Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman</td>
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<td>Colin Rozowsky, bar mitzvah</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 6</td>
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<td>Spiritual Parenting</td>
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<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adult b’nei mitzvah class</td>
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<td>Empty Nesters Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 11</td>
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<td>Massar Class</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Dinner for families, children and adults</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services with speaker, Rabbi Jennie Rosenn of HIAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 13 (C JL Closed - Winter Break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study Service, Exodus 25:1-27:19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 15 (Office/ECC/C JL Closed)</td>
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<td>Presidents’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday, February 17 (C JL Closed)</th>
<th>Thursday, February 18 (ECC Closed)</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Israeli Vacation Camp for Grades K-6</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>SAJE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 19 (ECC Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Israeli Vacation Camp for Grades K-6</td>
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<td>7:45 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Services with guest speakers, from Ein Yael, Jerusalem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 20 (C JL Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study Service, Exodus 27:20-30:10</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Dinner at Noon (off-site)</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Adult Learning with Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman</td>
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<td>Empty Nesters Meeting</td>
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<td>Spiritual Parenting - Session 2</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECC Shabbat</td>
<td>Torah Study Service, Exodus 30:11-34:35</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>CJL K-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shabbat Dinner for families, children and adults</td>
<td>I-Select -5th Grade &amp; 5/6th Grade Chavurah</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services with speaker, Rabbi Jennie Rosenn of HIAS</td>
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<td>Aidan Tuch, bar mitzvah</td>
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**YOU’RE INVITED TO A SHABBAT DINNER AT CSR!**

**PLAN TO JOIN US FOR AN ENJOYABLE SHABBAT DINNER AND WONDERFUL COMPANY**

**Friday, February 12, 2016 from 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm**

Families, children and adults are welcome  
Dinner will be followed by a *Shabbat* Service  
$15 per adult / $10 per child

Checks should be made payable to Community Synagogue of Rye or reservations may be made online at [http://tinyurl.com/hyptxjq](http://tinyurl.com/hyptxjq)  
or call 914-967-6262. Your payment is your reservation.

Deadline for reservations is February 9, 2016.

www.comsymrye.org
A REWARD WITHOUT MEASURE

By Rabbi Daniel Gropper • dgropper@comsynrye.org

How do you begin your day? A cup of coffee? Exercise? A read through the newspaper or last night’s emails? Or does your morning look like a frenzy, getting yourself and your kids out of the house to work and/or school on time? Believe it or not, adding 5 to 10 minutes of prayer or meditation to your morning might make a calmer and more rewarding start to your day.

Positive psychologists say that the simple act of taking 5-10 minutes each morning to create your “to do” list can have real positive benefits. Not only does it give you a sense of control over your life, the act of crossing out or checking off completed items releases dopamine that reinforces our progress by making us feel good.

Of course, there are always unexpected events that occur each day—events we cannot control or predict—but our daily “to-do lists” give us a sense of purpose and direction.

Jewish tradition has its own daily “to-do list.” We are commanded to pray three times a day at specific times. On Friday, Shabbat candles are to be lit at sundown (check out hebcal.com for our specific area). We might not follow those rules, but knowing they exist reminds us that our religious tradition creates discipline in our lives.

Our siddur (prayerbook) contains a “to-do list” that I personally find to be a great meditation. Adapted from Mishna Peah 1:1, a section of the Oral Torah dealing with agricultural regulations and in particular, the rules of tzedakah, it lays out the things Jews should do each day.

If you have attended a bar or bat mitzvah at Community Synagogue of Rye in the past decade, you might recognize this adaptation of Mishna Peah 1:1 as the recitation we often ask someone from the congregation to read aloud. This list reminds us that our lives are not merely a series of errands to be run but a series of obligations that bring holiness and wholeness to us, and by extension, to the world. Mishna Peah begins, “These are things that have no measure…” In other words, there is no predetermined legal measure for how much a person is to do. Rather, each person decides how much of each of these acts he or she will do. They are:

• To honor father and mother
• To engage in deeds of compassion
• To arrive early for study, morning and evening
• To welcome the stranger
• To visit the sick
• To provide for the wedding couple
• To console the bereaved
• To be devoted in prayer
• To make peace among people
• But the study of Torah encompasses them all

As it says, these things have no measure. Is there a limit to our compassion, our hospitality, our peacemaking, our honoring our parents?

I love this list. Years ago I had it commissioned as an art piece. It sits outside Rabbi Frankel’s and my studies as a visible reminder of our tasks as rabbis, our roles as human beings and our purpose as a caring Reform Jewish community. We are here to provide more than just functions or services, we are here to do the things that make the world a better place, to create a home where God would be pleased to dwell.

I realize I can only do some of these items with regularity. Weddings do not occur on a weekly basis and thankfully, neither do funerals. At the same time, I have recently made it part of my spiritual practice to ask myself each Shabbat, in the words of Ed Koch (z”l), “How am I doing?” Did I learn something new this week? Did I reach out to someone who is living with an illness or who is still grieving the loss of a loved one? Did I do something kind for another? Did I call my mother, my father?

Including this ancient Jewish “to-do list” in your ongoing spiritual practice doesn’t require you to come to services (although we always love to see you) but it does ask you to do what Jewish prayer is intended to do, l’hitpalel, to sit in self-judgment for a few moments each week and ask, “How am I doing?” It can make us more thoughtful, reflective, compassionate and caring. There is an additional benefit. When we do these things and work towards becoming the kind of people God intended us to be, we strengthen connections. And one more thing: When we undertake many of the items on this to-do list, our bodies release oxytocin into our system, which has a calming effect. Isn’t that reward enough?

These things, enumerated by the Rabbis some 2000 years ago, offer a reward without measure. Enjoy adding this short meditation to your spiritual practice.

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Daniel Gropper
HERE WE GO AGAIN: NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

Gerald Cohen, President • jerrycohen@comsynrye.org

We are just a bit past New Year 2016. No matter how much scorn is tossed at the tradition of making resolutions, I remain steadfast in planning for them, writing them down, and finally laughing at myself for once again succumbing to the tradition—of both making resolutions and soon thereafter giving them up. Lose the ten pounds I gained this year. Absolutely—until I ate extra pastry and croissants sitting at the New Year’s brunch table. Going to the gym, sure, once I catch up on my work so I can get there first thing in the morning before going to the office. And on it goes.

But when it comes to CSR, resolutions can and should be made and kept, because no one individual is responsible for acts that require collaboration and cooperation. Teams of lay leaders, professionals, and clergy join together to make good things happen here. So what are the resolutions we can make and achieve during 2016?

1. An organized and connected Tzedek Council that pulls together all our social action initiatives with a coordinated and connected model for achieving Tikkum Olam.
2. A development team that puts into action several long-term capital initiatives: legacy gifting, annual appeals, fundraisers, and capital campaigns.
3. A successful conclusion of the Kadima Campaign.
4. The generation of drawings and plans of the synagogue renovation.
5. The second in our gala/celebration model, which calls for a high energy fundraising event (last year’s Vegas Night), followed by a year of a community building event that honors or celebrates a person(s) or an event (this year’s honoring of Rabbi Robert Rothman’s 50 years with Community Synagogue of Rye.)
6. A continuation of our open dialogue among lay and clergy leaders and education professionals to maximize the CJL experience for all our children.
7. The first in a series of lectures dedicated to the values and morality exhibited by our past president and Holocaust survivor Sel Hubert.
8. A demographic study to help us better understand population movements in our constituent communities, which may affect the sizes of our ECC, CJL, b’nei mitzvah and confirmation classes, as well as our congregation size on the whole.

In truth, I am writing this on December 31. While I must concede that any 2015 resolutions that haven’t already been negated, and are still standing, just aren’t going to be fulfilled. But just as I started 2015 with enthusiasm and excitement, I start 2016 knowing that a number of 2015 hopes and wishes were accomplished. I pledge that in 2016, I and the Board will remain committed to addressing existing resolutions as well as new ones, and be guided by our vision statement: to be a center for spiritual growth and transformation; to foster the creation of sacred relationships; and to give our congregants the tools and resources to be God’s partner in healing the world.

A Happy, Healthy and Meaningful New Year

As a community let us come together for a night of CELEBRATION

Featuring live music with NYC jazz vocalist, Hilary Gardner and amazing food prepared by Matt Miller of Culinary Productions

March 12, 2016
7:00 pm—10:00 pm

RSVP by February 12 at http://tinyurl.com/h66rebk
To make a donation in honor of Rabbi Rothman visit: http://tinyurl.com/zgqkkbm
Last month, Allan and I traveled to Rome for a mid-winter vacation. The food was outstanding, the people friendly and the weather decent for this time of year. One thing that we do on vacation, as I know many of you do as well, is to try to incorporate some Judaism into our vacation. We’ve visited synagogues in Paris, Amsterdam and even the Virgin Islands. The full extent of the word “diaspora” is felt when you find so many synagogues tucked away in all corners of the globe.

I’m sure many of you who have been to Rome have also been to the Great Synagogue. For those of you who haven’t, the Great Synagogue sits on the banks of the Tiber River in the area once and still known as the Jewish Ghetto. The Jewish Ghetto was created when Jews were given citizenship following the 1492 expulsion from Spain. This is one of the two main tracts of Jews in Italy; the other being the Jews who came to Italy as slaves following the destruction of the Second Temple. As with so many other countries, the Jewish experience in Rome is a mixture of progress, setbacks, hope and disappointment.

Our tour guide was an older woman with a fairly heavy Italian accent who had spent her entire life attending this particular synagogue. I felt an instant connection with her. Perhaps because it was only my husband and I on the tour, but I think it was more than that. I noticed that the shape of her eyes was similar to my own. I noticed how she said, with just a slight twinge of sadness, that there was no Reform or Conservative presence in Italy. The women were still praying behind gates.

As we moved into the Great Synagogue, I was struck by the beauty of it. In a city that houses the Vatican, I found myself, however embarrassing, proud that this beautiful structure was a synagogue. Our tour guide then told us how the Nazis shut down the synagogue during the war until a Jewish American soldier reopened the synagogue to pray on June 5, 1944. Since then, there have been good moments (Pope John Paul II visiting the synagogue in 1986) and horrible moments (a grenade attack on the synagogue left a child dead in 1982). As our tour neared its conclusion, I was surprised by the fact our tour guide seemed somewhat emotional. She must give this same tour many times a week. I asked her if her family attended synagogue here. She said they had for many, many years. In some ways, for our tour guide, there hasn’t been a diaspora. Her family has remained firmly rooted in the Jewish Ghetto of Rome for generations past.

Later that evening we went on a food tour in the same neighborhood, Trastevere. As we entered Spirito Di Vino (a local restaurant), the tour guide pointed above the doorway, “this used to be a synagogue,” she said. I looked above and saw faded Hebrew letters in the darkness. Spirito Di Vino’s wine cellar, where we gathered, dated back to 80 BCE. We sat marveling at the musty wine cellar, drinking the wine and eating while discussing Italian food and wine. Layers of time are built upon each other in Rome, a modern culture juxtaposed against ancient roots. Those ancient roots include Jewish ones that date back all the way to the second century BCE.

CJL ISRAEL VACATION CAMP FOR GRADES K-6
Thursday, February 18 & Friday, February 19, 2016
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Give your child a taste of Israel and two fun-filled vacation days without leaving New York! Experience Israeli cooking, crafts, sports and more at Community Synagogue of Rye.

CSR Members: $100/ 1 day, $150/ both days
Non-Members: $125/ 1 day, $175/ both days
(Includes lunch and 2 snacks)

Grades 9-12: Apply to be a Jr. Counselor and receive a stipend.

Space is limited; registration is first-come, first served!

To register visit https://comsynrye.wufoo.com/forms/csr-vacation-camp-registration/

Questions? Contact Laurie Landes at llandes@comsynrye.org or (914) 967-7598
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS. WE ARE AT 64% OF GOAL!

The Kadima Capital Campaign thanks all CSR congregants who have (to date) made generous pledges and contributions. We are most grateful for your participation.

Our plan is to spend quality time with all of our CSR congregants answering questions and sharing why the Kadima project is so important. That’s something we can’t rush, so please be patient. However, if you’ve already thought about how you will participate in the Campaign, please contact the synagogue office (914-967-6262) and let us know you would like to meet with a member of our Kadima team.

We look forward to talking with you about supporting this exciting project that will transform our synagogue for the 21st century. By the way, Kadima is a Hebrew word meaning Forward, and it is with great enthusiasm and optimism that we continue to move in that direction!

Kadima Capital Campaign Team
Susan Rudolph and Karen Cherney Zaltz, Co-Chairs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herb Blecker</th>
<th>Rabbi Daniel Gropper</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Cohen</td>
<td>Jon Jachman</td>
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<td>Cindy Valk Danish</td>
<td>Abby Katz Fishkind</td>
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KADIMA PLEDGES AND DONATIONS

Richard & Lori Abrams
Michael & Laura Beber
Andrew & Froma Benerofe
Eric & Fredda Berger
Warren & Joanne Bender
Herbert Blecker
Bernard & Lisa Chen
Gerald & Carol Cohen
Cantor Melanie Cooperman & Allan Staples
Morton & Carol Corwin
CSR/CJL 6th Grade Class:
(Ms. Emily Robin & Ms. Shanna Sudderth)
Les Danish & Cindy Valk-Danish
James & Jennifer de Winter
Howard & Ellen Deixler
William & Donna DeLynn
Martin Edelman
Jason Fishkind & Abby Katz
Cabot Khemlani Family
Michael & Lauren Foreman
Francis Fraenkel
Rabbi Leora Frankel & Andrew Sage
Neil & Michele Fredman
Robert & Barbara Friedman
John & Laurie Frolich
Darren & Jill Gerstenblatt
Frances Ginsberg
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Mark & Andrea Kramer
John & Laurie Landes
David & Marjorie Lawrence
Michael & Alyson Levine
Mitchell & Leslie Levy
Irene Lustgarten
Arthur & Sandra Mager
Lloyd & Marnie Mallah
Harris & Jayne Maslansky
Tom & Helen May
Sas & Kimberly Mehrara
Susan L. Merrill
Jonathan & Irene Metz
William & Carol Meyers
Marilyn Miller & Family
Dale Oberlander
Mortimer & Maxine Patchen
Robert & Sula Pearlman
Steven & Ali Pearlman
Peter & Stacey Reichman & Family
Seth & Shoshana Rosenfield
Trevor & Kahleen Rozowsky
Jeff & Clara Rubin
Susan Rudolph
Peter & Gwen Rukeyser

Alberta Salkin
Glen & Julie Schuster
Jamie & Wendy Schutzer
Jay & Jacqueline Schwab
John & Emily Sharko
Alan & Jean Shepard
Charles & Rochelle Shotland
Michael & Susie Siegel
Mark & Maria Singer
Mark & Stephanie Slotnick
Gloria Sosin
Antony & Grace Spring
Andrew & Theresa Stevens
Michael & Karen Stolzar
Gary & Susan Taplin
Daniel & Jacey Taub
Karen Unger
Gregory & Erica Wagner
Mildred Weissman
James & Susan Winter
Karen Cherney Zaltz
Andrew & Susan Zeitlin

Anonymous: 2

Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.
IT’S NOT THAT COLD!

Dale Oberlander, ECC Director • doberlander@comsynrye.org

Within the early childhood community, a trend had been growing steadily over the past few years supporting a return to open-ended, outdoor play. Early childhood educators are pushing back against standardized testing and the growing concern that young children are spending too much time on touch-screen devices. A recent New York Times article entitled “Preschool Without Walls,” reported on a growing number of preschools who are bringing their classrooms outside; supporting the idea that children should spend as much time as possible exploring the outdoors and interacting with natural materials.

Providing children with the experiences they need to succeed in school before starting kindergarten is very important. But what should those experiences be? We believe that during these crucial developmental years children need (and want) to have rich sensory encounters. They need to test ideas on their own, solve problems and get a little dirty.

The ECC and our Parents Association have been discussing how we could implement our own outdoor classroom. Our vision is to embellish the existing playground space to include a building area, nature art area, music area, sensory and vegetable garden, a gathering area for telling stories and reading books, dirt digging area and, ideally, a rain barrel for water play. The outdoor classroom would also provide an abundance of learning opportunities for Jewish holidays, traditions and celebrations.

The ECC teachers have embraced this idea and have been terrific about getting the children outside. This often requires preparation and the support of parents to make sure the children are clothed properly (boots, hat and gloves each day). The pictures here are of The Happy Hedgehogs (one of our 4’s classes) happily playing with ice. The children were overjoyed to discover a variety of different sized ice blocks. They declared themselves ice-hunters and used the ice in a multitude of different play scenarios. It was amazing to watch their creative and original play.

We will keep you informed of how this project is moving forward.

ECC IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Feb. 5
Sharing Shabbat hosted by the Happy Hedgehogs
Week of Feb. 15-19
ECC Closed for Presidents Week

This is our Gift to You!
FREE JEWISH BOOKS OR MUSIC FOR CHILDREN UP TO 8-YEARS-OLD
Register your family at: 
pjlibrary.org/ny/comsynrye

Please make a donation to support this wonderful organization
http://tinyurl.com/zgqkkbm

CSR READS BEGINS OUR 7th YEAR

CSR Reads, our volunteer-based reading program, will once again be working with students at the Park Avenue elementary school in Port Chester. Our group meets once a week to provide one-on-one support to 2nd and 3rd grade students needing additional assistance building skills and confidence in their reading. We meet at the school on Tuesdays from 1 to 1:45 pm.

If you like to learn more about this most rewarding program, please contact: Jim de Winter jhdewinter@aol.com or Rhoda Steinberg rhosteve@optonline.net
HELP TO CREATE SACRED FAMILY TIME

Laurie Landes, Education Director • llandes@comsynrye.org

As busy parents, how do we find the time to reflect on everyday shared moments with our children? If we paused to think about interactions with our children, we would find that there are many moments to be grateful for. One of those sacred, Godlike experiences is when parents read to their children at bedtime. Think about it. It is quiet time. Two of you lying next to each other. Your child is listening intently to you as you read and engage in the story together. What a perfect time to also share Jewish values and culture. PJ Library, an initiative launched with the support of the Grinspoon Foundation, “is an award-winning program that engages families in their Jewish journey by giving free Jewish books and music to children throughout North America.”

We at CSR are so proud to have been partners with PJ Library over the past four years. This year, with the help of the Grinspoon Foundation, a grant from the URJ and private donations from our CSR community, we are enriching the lives of 144 local Jewish children with delightful, age appropriate Jewish-content books. I can tell you that my grandson not only looks forward to getting his new book each month, but insists that it be read to him often enough that he memorizes most of the dialogue.

We need your help to continue to provide this kind of Jewish enrichment for our families. Our financial commitment is approximately $30.00 per child. We are seeking funds from our CSR community to ensure that we can continue to participate in this special program.

Please consider making a donation to the PJ Library Fund at Community Synagogue of Rye. Your contribution will help us to continue to provide Jewish books that help to strengthen sacred family learning.

To learn more about PJ Library, or to register for free Jewish books for your children or grandchildren, go to www.pjlibrary.org.

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

CJL AND J-LIFE IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 3</td>
<td>URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Camp Demonstration 4:00 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb. 5</td>
<td>Hot Shot Shabbat 5:15 pm, for Grades K-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 6</td>
<td>J-Life 3rd grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Feb. 13-20</td>
<td>No School–Winter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday/Friday, Feb. 18-19</td>
<td>Israel Camp Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 24</td>
<td>7th Gr. Sharing Shelf Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 27</td>
<td>Last Wednesday class for 7th grade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>J-Life 1-Select 1 Grade 5 / CJL 5th/6th Chavurah</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HAVING THE BEST TIME AT URJ SUMMER CAMPS

Rick Abrams, Director of Jewish Family Life • rabrams@comsynrye.org

Attending a Jewish summer camp offers a wide range of experiences. Last summer, URJ Crane Lake Camp had a counselor who was an Israeli soldier, which gave the campers a unique opportunity to learn firsthand about life in Israel. The chance to meet and get to know an Israeli soldier is just one of the many benefits of going to a Jewish summer camp.

This letter (abridged here) was posted on the URJ Crane Lake Camp blog. It relays the story of an Israeli counselor who wanted to contact her campers after she recently finished her IDF (“Tzahal”–Israel’s Army) service.

Shalom to the lovely girls of Garden View West!!

Today is a VERY special day for me since today I was released from my army service. As you might remember, I spent the last 3 years as a soldier and an officer in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force). I am keeping my promise! Last summer, I told you about the army ID card all soldiers have. I also said that when soldiers are released, they cut their ID card as a symbol to the end of their service. This moment is one of many exciting moments Israelis have, and it’s shared with great happiness between family and friends. I told you that I will send you a picture of me when I cut my army ID card the day I will be released, and here I am!

I hope you are having a great 5th grade! And also great time with family and friends in the holidays! I had the BEST time with you all in the summer! And I hope you will have the best 2016! Keep being the greatest as I know you!

I was touched and moved by reading this blog post. It reminds me of the “warm fuzzies” I have felt, and continue to feel every summer I’m at camp. On February 3, a representative of URJ 6-Points Sci-Tech Camp will once again come to our CJL, sharing fascinating experiments and describing experiences about all of the URJ North East camps, including Eisner and Crane Lake. Please make it a point to come early and meet with Assistant Director Robbie Berg when you pick up your child that day.
OUR B’NEI MİTZVAH OF FEBRUARY

Colin Rozowsky

My name is Colin Rozowsky and on February 6, I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. I am the son of Kahleen and Trevor Rozowsky and I have two younger brothers, Baron and Julian. I am a seventh grader attending Rye Middle School. My Torah portion is Mishpatim from the Book of Exodus. The portion I will be reading describes how we should treat other people, specifically strangers and those less fortunate. It says we should show kindness and compassion. For my mitzvah project, I helped the AFYA Foundation sort medical supplies to give to the needy around the world. This includes Syrian refugee camps in Lesvos, Greece and the poor in Haiti recovering from natural disasters.

Aidan Tuch

My name is Aidan Tuch and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on February 27. I am a seventh grader at Rye Middle School. I am the son of Robin and Steven Tuch. I have a brother, Sam, and a sister, Emery. My Torah portion is Ki Tisa from the Book of Exodus, which is the story of Moses’ trip up Mt. Sinai to meet God. It focuses on the actions of the followers left behind at the bottom of the mountain. They lost faith in Moses and God and turned to the worshipping of a false idol. For my mitzvah project, I raised over $2500 for Juvenile Diabetes by participating in the JDRF One Walk. Three of my cousins have been diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, one of whom traveled down to New York to participate in the walk with me. I hope the money helps JDRF find a cure for the disease so that more kids don’t have to spend their lives managing such an all-consuming disease.

Join us in congratulating our b’nei mitzvah students each month on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/comsynrye.

SHARING SHELF

Community Synagogue of Rye is proud to announce our new ongoing partnership with The Sharing Shelf.

The Sharing Shelf’s mission is to partner with the community to collect children’s clothing, shoes, basic infant equipment and new school supplies and then provide those items to children in need throughout Westchester County at no cost to the families.

They collect new and gently used children’s clothing in sizes from newborn through XXL, for infants, youth and teens from birth through 19. Volunteers meet in their Port Chester warehouse where donations are screened then sorted by size, season and gender. Social workers, therapists, teachers, attorneys and others working with low-income families in our community submit requests for their clients. Our volunteers then create packages filled with a week’s worth of seasonally appropriate clothing matched into outfits according to a child’s sizing needs.

To kick off our partnership, we are doing a winter drive this February. Community Synagogue now has a dedicated bin in our lobby where you can drop off your GENTLY used items. Please bag items and place them in the marked bins.

Large deliveries can be brought directly to the Sharing Shelf, 47 Purdy Avenue, Port Chester.

Hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

http://www.fsw.org/our-programs/the-sharing-shelf

If you would like to help or learn more information about our partnership with the Sharing Shelf contact Carrie Nagel at carrienagel1203@gmail.com.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR CJL “ON-TIME” WINNER!

December Winner: Noa Gropper

To honor our “on-time” award recipients, the CJL makes a donation to a Jewish cause.

Noa has chosen IsraAID, which is an Israeli-based humanitarian aid agency that responds to emergency crises and engages in international development around the world.

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

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.)
WRJ/Sisterhood is quite proud of its support of Community Synagogue of Rye and its role in perpetuating Judaism. We urge you to review all the projects and programs that Sisterhood supports and ask you to help us in our work by contributing financially as members and volunteering with some of your time.

For the past few years, WRJ/Sisterhood has taken on the fundraiser of Mishloach Manot (Purim Bags). This is a great way for members to honor their families, friends and staff during the festive time of Purim. This year the eve of Purim is March 22. We will be filling the bags the week before and then delivering them prior to the holiday and vacation. This is a huge undertaking and well worth the effort. But we need many hands and “wheels” to make it all happen.

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

Brianne Goldstein, Carol Meyers, Janet Meyers WRJ/Sisterhood Co-Presidents

WRJ/Sisterhood programs and projects:

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

In case you haven’t noticed, the Green Team has a shelf in the synagogue library. Our books are on the third shelf from the bottom, against the right wall as you enter. Look for the label “Environmental Books.” Among the many topical and important books on the shelf are: Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Pulitzer Prize winner and Mamaroneck native Elizabeth Kolbert, Into Thick Air: Biking to the Bellybutton of Six Continents by Jim Malusa and A Naturalist and Other Beasts by George B. Schaller. We are always adding books.

Be sure to check the shelf while you’re at one of our meetings in the library. We always have interesting ideas and plans.

Spiritual Parenting: Not an Oxymoron!

Join Rabbi Frankel for a new Adult Education series exploring how we can add a spiritual dimension to the joys and challenges of parenting. We’ll combine ancient Jewish wisdom with tips and tools from modern parenting mavens like Wendy Mogul and Ron Lieber. You’ll leave each session with fresh perspectives, a spiritual boost, and new strategies for your family to try. Whether you have toddlers, teens, or grandchildren, join us!

Thursday nights from 7:30-9:00 pm

February 25 Shalom in the Home
March 17 Teaching $ Skills & Generosity
April 7 Our Spiritual Kids, Our Spiritual Selves

Please RSVP to Rabbi Frankel at lfrankel@comsynrye.org

Players of all levels are welcome, including beginners. The cost to attend is $5 for members/nonmembers, which supports Sisterhood initiatives. RSVP with your level of play to Janet Meyers at Janet@SHMeyers.com.

Save these dates: Thursdays: February 25, March 24, April 14, May 26, June 23, 2016.

Israeli Folk Dance Lessons with Rabbi Frankel

Thursdays, March 3, 10, 24 & 31, 2016 from 7:30-9:00 pm at Community Synagogue of Rye. FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Co-sponsored by Israel Action and Empty Nester Full Life Team. For more information and to register please call 914-967-6262.

www.comsynrye.org
**INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE**

**SOCIAL ACTION AT CSR**

“It felt great to know that we were doing so much to help people while at the same time having fun because we were doing it with our friends.” - Allison Hufford, 10th Grade COSY board

“It was amazing making food for the soup kitchen. I had a blast bonding with new people while also doing something good for the community. I really hope they enjoyed the food!” - Julia Serin, COSY immediate past president.

“I love to cook and I wanted to help people who can’t get around to make food for themselves. Also, I wanted to be part of the community and help out.” - Madeline Simon, daughter of Michelle Simon, CSR Executive Assistant.

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**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 February 20, 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.
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 Rebecca at saje@comsynrye.org with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Monday February 1
Join us for an informative presentation from Tiffany Fletchman, Case Manager with the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services. You’ll learn about a variety of Long Term Care Supportive Services that are available in Westchester County to keep older adults as independent as possible and active in their community.

Thursday, February 4
Please join our Dine Around program for a Chinese lunch at 12:30 pm at Panda Pavilion in Greenwich. The restaurant is located at 420 W Putnam Ave, Greenwich, CT. Contact Iris Sampliner 914 939-0349 or email her at ikstravel@aol.com if you would like to participate.

Monday February 8
“More Mishpacha and Mishegos” with Shari Cohen, JD LMFT. Families can be a source of comfort and love, but can also be fraught with challenges. One of those challenges may occur when a family member marries a partner who is not what we would have wished or hoped for. When that happens, we have choices about how we handle that situation, and those choices can be helpful and productive or they can, sadly, make a situation worse and negatively affect our relationship with our loved one. We will talk about this topic as well as related issues and how we can handle these difficult situations with grace, while respecting our own concerns as well as those of others.

Thursday February 11
Join Andi Hessekiel for our 2nd session of personal essay writing. If you’ve ever thought about putting into writing the stories of your life, this session will help you get started. By using simple prompts, Andi encourages us to write and “publish” our work by sharing it with one another. Andi’s warm feedback will help you get reacquainted with the writer that lives inside you—and the stories shared by others become a great way to stimulate conversation among all of us. No previous experience is necessary. You can be a writer or a listener, but writers are welcome! There are two prompts for this session: “I always thought that my sister/brother was…” or “A story told over and over in my family was the one about….”

Monday February 15
President’s Day—NO SAJE

Thursday February 18
Elizabeth Briand, Esq., will present “How to take Charge of Planning in Advance for your Health Care.” She will provide a basic overview of the advanced directives that every person should have: Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, Living Wills and HIPAA releases. The presentation will include information on the importance of each document and crucial provisions that are necessary for proper estate and Medicaid planning and health care decision making. Ms. Briand is an Associate Attorney in the Elder Law and Trusts and Estates Practice Groups at Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP in White Plains.

Monday February 22
Join Hasan T. Arslan, Ph.D for a presentation on “Religion, Violence and Terrorism.” Dr. Arslan will discuss that throughout history religious texts have been hijacked. Today Islam is being used as a shield to conspire evil acts for certain ideology. Possible solutions to the challenge will be offered from the Muslim perspective, tackling violent extremism in all its dimensions: political, economic, social and religious. Dr. Arslan is a Professor of Criminal Justice and Security at Dyson College of Arts and Science at Pace University.

Thursday February 25
From Om to Shalom: Chair Yoga with Naomi Norman. Certified yoga instructor, Naomi Norman, will discuss “What is Jewish Yoga?” and then lead us through a gentle chair yoga practice, ending with a short meditation. No experience necessary!

Monday February 29
Join Dr. Nora Glickman, a professor at Queens College. A playwright, scholar, and educator, she was born in Argentina and has written extensively about contemporary Latin American literature. She is the author of two collections of short stories and the plays Suburban News, A Day in New York, and Liturgies. Among her scholarly writings, she has edited Modern Jewish Studies: Critical Essays on Argentine Writers and Argentine Jewish Fiction, has co-authored Tradition and Innovation: Reflections on Latin American Jewish Writings and A Critical Anthology of Argentine Drama. She recently published The Jewish White Slave Trade.
CONTRIBUTIONS

BEAUTIFICATION FUND
Jayne & Harris Maslansky in memory of Geraldine Gevertz
and Stephen Tarshis

CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Michele and Neil Fredman in memory of Irving Rothman,
brother of Rabbi Rothman
Jennifer, Jeffrey, Joseph and Jack Kohn in honor of
Joe’s bar mitzvah
Kelly and Danny Lieberman in honor of
Michael Lieberman’s bar mitzvah
Marlene & Michael Star in memory of Stanley Givant

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Susan & Norman Cicelsky in memory of Stephen Tarshis,
son of Suzette Tarshis

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF SIDNEY MILLER
Marilyn Miller in honor of Daveed Shalom Obadia and
Jack Adler Rubenstein

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ENRICHMENT FUND
Susan & Jim Winter in memory of Shirley Wiesen

ISRAEL TRIP FUND FOR TEENS
Pariser Family in honor of Amanda Winton’s bar mitzvah

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Shari Cohen & Robert Greenwald in memory of
Sadie & Milton Cohen
Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Sarah Cohen
Gloria Sosin

RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Jack & Liz Priven in memory of Rose Priven
George, Debbie & Rachel Weltman in memory of
Janet Weltman
Kelly and Danny Lieberman in honor of
Michael Lieberman’s bar mitzvah

RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Ira Nordlicht & Helen Scott in appreciation of
Community Synagogue of Rye
Jack & Liz Priven in memory of Rose Priven
Dr. Susan Adler in memory of Sidney Shiller
Jennifer, Jeffrey, Joseph and Jack Kohn in honor of
Joe’s bar mitzvah
The Gottlieb family in memory of I. Joseph Michaud and
Martin Bennett
Kelly and Danny Lieberman in honor of
Michael Lieberman’s bar mitzvah

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND
Abby & Steve Pisaniello in memory of
Abby’s father, Irving Green

DONATIONS FOR SECURITY
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT
(SAJE) FUND
Erna Kahan
Marilyn & Herbert Cheskis
Edith Halpern
Helene & Martin Krauss

SYNAGOGUE FUND
In honor of Rabbi Rothman
Arnold Nurick
Jacqueline & Steven Kabot
Peter Bauer
Susan & Herbert Adler
Stacie Glick in memory of Jerry Glick

YAHRZEIT FUND
Stefanie & David Buckley in memory of June Buckley
Michele & Todd Gershwin in memory of Allan Schneider

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:
Steve Tarshis, son of Suzette Tarshis
Didier Delafontaine, brother of Michel Delafontaine
Arnold Miller, father of Sharon Parker
Charles Gorevic, grandfather of Jason Gorevic
Arthur Mager, husband of Sandra Mager

“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

Transforming our Synagogue for the 21st Century
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.

Kindly submit Community News articles and Mazal Tovs to cs@comsynrye.org by the 10th of each month.
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
- PJ Library 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
- 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/csrfunds