TU B’SHEVAT 2017

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

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

What’s inside this month?
(look for the tree for special Tu B’Shevat content)

Recipes to celebrate the Seven Species
pages 2 & 9

Rabbi Frankel is back! page 4

Information on the Tu B’Shevat Seder
page 6

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

The magic of trees in the ECC page 9
Tu B’Shevat’s 7 Fruits and Grains

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

Rick Abrams’ Seven Biblical Species Muffins
(adapted from Tory Avey.com)

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

Topping
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon

Method
- Cover the raisins with water and bring to a boil. As soon as the water boils, turn off the heat and leave for 10 minutes to plump. Drain and pat dry with a paper towel.
- Preheat oven to 400 F. If your figs have tough stems on them, remove them and discard. Roughly chop dates and figs. Set aside.
- Use a blender or food processor to blend together raisins, dates, figs, almond milk, applesauce, pomegranate juice, and cinnamon until smooth. Set mixture aside.
- In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, olive oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.
- In a large mixing bowl, sift together eggs, olive oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.
- In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, barley flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, and salt.
- Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients (I used a cup/glass). Pour mixture from the blender into the well. Then add the egg mixture to the bowl.
- Fold the dry mixture into the wet ingredients until the dry ingredients are just moistened and a lumpy batter forms. Do not over mix.
- Mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl using a fork. Sprinkle about a 1/2 tsp of cinnamon sugar mixture evenly across the surface of each muffin.
- Place muffins in the oven and immediately turn heat down to 375 F. Bake for 25 minutes until the tops of the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin and cooling on a rack.
- Serve warm.
### February 2017 Calendar

**Wednesday, February 1**
- 4:00 pm  CJL Grades K-6

**Thursday, February 2**
- 10:00 am  Daytime Torah Study with Rabbi Gropper
- 11:30 am  SAJE

**Friday, February 3**
- 7:00 am  First Friday Torah Study
- 5:15 pm  Sharing Shabbat & Hot Shot Shabbat
- 6:30 pm  Shabbat Service with Koleina, Junior Choir

**Saturday, February 4**
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  - CJL Grades 3-6
  - J-Life 3rd Grade Shabbaton
- 10:30 am  Board Shabbaton
- 4:00 pm  PJ Library Event—Pizza in my PJs

**Sunday, February 5**
- 9:30 am  Jewish Yoga

**Monday, February 6**
- 11:30 am  SAJE
- 6:15 pm  CJL 7th Grade and CSR Teens (8-10)
- 8:00 pm  Ritual Committee Meeting
  - Green Team Meeting

**Tuesday, February 7**
- 9:00 am  ECC Parent Association Meeting

**Wednesday, February 8**
- 4:00 pm  CJL Grades K-6

**Thursday, February 9**
- 10:00 am  Hidden Influence in Our Bible with Rabbi Rothman
- 11:30 am  SAJE

**Friday, February 10**
- 9:10 am  ECC Shabbat
- 6:30 pm  Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 11**
- 8:45 am  Torah Study Service
  - CJL Grades 3-6
  - J-Life 3rd Grade Shabbaton
- 10:15 am  Caroline Mayer, bat mitzvah
- 6:00 pm  Tu B'Shevat Seder

**Sunday, February 12**
- 11:00 am  Teen Social Action Sunday

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### CJL Israel Vacation Camp  
**FOR GRADES K-6**

**FEBRUARY 23-24, 2017**

Give your child a taste of Israel and two fun-filled vacation days without leaving New York! Experience Israeli cooking, crafts, sports and more at Community Synagogue of Rye. Grades 9-12: Apply to be a Jr. Counselor and receive a stipend.

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

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### MAZAL TOV

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

**Congratulations to Heather Cabot on the publication of her book Geek Girl Rising: Inside the Sisterhood Shaking Up Tech. Check it out and read more at geekgirlrising.com.**
As we settle into the new secular year of 2017, I am reminded that the Mishnah actually speaks about four distinct New Years in Judaism. The most famous, of course, is the first of Tishrei, or Rosh Hashanah (“head of the year”), which marked the beginning of the civil calendar and cycle of the seasons. Lesser known is the first day of the previous month, Elul, which designated the New Year for the tithing of cattle. A third New Year, though in fact the first mentioned biblically, was the first of Nissan, the spring month in which we celebrate Passover. In fact the very first commandment that the Israelites are given upon their Exodus from Egypt is to “mark the new moon,” beginning in Nissan; in a sense their first act of independence from Pharaoh’s rule is to become the keepers of their own calendar.

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

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

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

Tu B’Shevat is a yearly reminder not only to celebrate the trees and other wonders of nature as they exist today, but also to recommit ourselves to their future preservation. There is a beautiful midrash (rabbinic legend) in which the rabbis imagined God leading Adam around the Garden of Eden after Creation was complete. Showing Adam the diverse plants and animals, God charged Adam: “Look at My works. See how beautiful they are, how excellent! For your sake I created them beautiful. For your sake I created them.”

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

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Leora Frankel

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The Women’s Seder with Rabbi Leora Frankel and Cantor Melanie Cooperman

April 2, 2017
5:30 - 8:30 pm

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

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Of Presidents and Perseverance

As any school age child knows, February is Presidents’ Month. It is the time for a long weekend, possibly even a week of school break, and certainly as any parent knows, a great opportunity to stock up on those final closeouts and white sales. But it wasn’t always this way. I can remember in grade school knowing that each President had his own special day. February 12th was the birth date of Abraham Lincoln. In class we learned about the hard life that this 16th President experienced. He grew up in a log cabin on the western plains, walked miles to school each day, and then endured one of the most challenging presidencies of any man—declaring first an end to slavery and then attempting to reunite the country after the Civil War. His life was cut short in service to this great nation.

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

Ask any student today heading home for the long weekend what the actual birth dates of these two great men were and you will likely draw a blank look. But what is also remembered, birth date or not, is the perseverance and dedication that made the legacy of both of these leaders so long-lasting. They had goals they were trying to achieve. They had objectives that had to be met. And they had a limited time frame in which to accomplish their mission.

Welcome to the world of the President! As I watched President Obama give his valedictory address in Chicago last month, and then President-elect Trump hold his first news conference the next day, one could see two very different men and styles of leadership on display. One summed up the arc of his presidency and all that he had accomplished. The other set out to establish his own, unique agenda. As we begin a new administration we wish both of these leaders, presidents of our time, good luck, good health and the wisdom to lead and be an inspiration to others.

As President of a synagogue, one does not (thankfully) experience the awesome power of being a national leader, but one does take on a great deal of responsibility and make a major commitment of time, energy and personal resources. Just ask any of our past presidents or their families. But what I am seeing most often in the first nine months of my tenure is the real need for perseverance. Even the simplest ideas, that seem so good at their outset, take on a life of their own and have a frustrating habit of taking many more hours to complete than one could possibly imagine. So I learned early on to take the long view, keep the end goal in sight, continually plug away to achieve these goals and hopefully find that I cross the finish line along with some of the important projects we have underway.

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

- **Finding Alternative Worship Space for b’nei mitzvah** families during the period of construction. After examining many viable spaces, we narrowed our options to our neighboring synagogues: KTI in Rye Brook and Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester. Due to our wonderful clergy relations with their clergy, and the dedicated outreach of our Executive Director, Executive Vice-President, and myself, contracts have been signed for KTI to accommodate 19 of our b’nei mitzvah families while Temple Emanuel can host 11. From visits that began last July, we now have a tangible and much needed outcome.

- We are also in the final stages of securing a very suitable and accessible local house of worship to handle our weekly needs for Friday night Shabbat and Saturday morning Torah study during this same time frame. Again, a relationship that began with visits and phone calls last July is now bearing fruit.

- We are also investigating the idea of returning some or all of our High Holiday worship back to 200 Forest Avenue once our renovation is complete. A special task force met with the Board to report on the extensive research they did to give us the tools to make an informed and meaningful decision at the appropriate time. We will be sharing a summary of their findings in the weeks to come on our synagogue website.

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

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INSIDE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

Cantor Melanie Cooperman • mcooperman@comsynrye.org

Celebrate the Earth

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

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

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

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

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

Happy Tu B’Shevat

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

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

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

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

From CSR Green Team

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

Join us as we celebrate and rejoice in the bounty of the trees. To participate in this joyous and fun event, please RSVP by February 4 to Marc Turk at mturk64@msn.com or Bill DeLynn at wdelynn@optonline.net. We will respond with information to coordinate “who brings what.” If you can help with planning or setup please let us know.

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

Green Team News and Tips

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

**BEAUTIFICATION FUND**
Jayne & Harris Maslansky in memory of Geraldine Gevertz

**CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
With sincere gratitude and thanks from Arnold Handwerger
Bonnie & Robert Manheimer in memory of Florence & Irving Paley
Helen & Ira Nordlicht for musical instruction at CSR
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell
Leslie & Michael Goldschmid in memory of Belle Bennett
Rabbi Liz Rolle & Rabbi Philip Schechter in appreciation to Cantor Cooperman
Shari Cohen & Rob Greenwald in memory of Sadie Cohen

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ENRICHMENT FUND**
Pamela & Scott Barnett in memory of Klaus Van Dijkum

**GRAYER TEEN INITIATIVE FUND**
The Ratner Family in honor of Sydney Brookman’s bat mitzvah

**KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**
Leighton/Slone Family
Stephanie Hascoe Slotnick & Mark Slotnick
Theresa & Andrew Stevens
Frances Ginsberg
Shari & Amos Balaish
Fern & Howard Bindelglass
Froma & Andrew Benerofe
Pamela & Michael Kerlan
Micah & Aaron Cohen in honor of their Saftah Susan Rudolph at their Chanukah Tzedakah night
Jane & Benjamin Rosenstadt
Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Sarah Cohen
Marlena & Roy Schaeffer
Carol Bennett in honor of Rabbi Gropper

**MARILYN ZELMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
Stefanie & David Buckley in memory of June Buckley

**MICHAEL GINSBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND**
Fern & Howard Bindelglass in memory of Regina Kristeller and Ruth Bindelglass

**PJ LIBRARY FUND**
In memory of Joan Handwerger
Dominic Petito
Laurie & John Landes
CJL Staff
Dorothy & Howard Katz
Kalman Kessler
Susan & Lee Krochmal
Lorraine & Joel Hecker

**RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
With sincere gratitude and thanks from Arnold Handwerger
Bonnie & Robert Manheimer in memory of Florence & Irving Paley
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell
Rabbi Liz Rolle and Rabbi Philip Schechter in appreciation to Rabbi Frankel
Lauren Nauser in memory of Elizabeth Nadel
Shari Cohen & Rob Greenwald in memory of Abe Machson

**RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
With sincere gratitude and thanks from Arnold Handwerger
Bonnie & Robert Manheimer in memory of Florence & Irving Paley
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell
Helen & Ira Nordlicht to assist new and returning members at Community Synagogue of Rye
Kimberly & Mitchell Berns
Rabbi Liz Rolle & Rabbi Philip Schechter in appreciation to Rabbi Gropper
Marianne & Richard Goldstein in appreciation for officiating at the wedding of their son Michael to his bride Charley
Roberta & Peter Gottlieb in memory of I. Joseph Michaud and Martin Bennett
Shari Cohen & Rob Greenwald in memory of Anne Machson

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND**
Abby Pisaniello in memory of her father, Irving Green

**SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND**
Joan Furman in honor of Rhoda Fidler’s birthday
In memory of Dena Lavinsky
Iris & David Sampliner
Susan & Norman Cicelsky
Shelly & Chuck Shotland
Elaine Lerner

**SOCIAL ACTION FUND**
Leighton/Slone Family for the CSR Reads Program
Shari Cohen & Rob Greenwald in memory of Milton Cohen

**SYNAGOGUE FUND**
Dena Klein & Jonathan Harris

**YAHRZEIT FUND**
Margot & Richard De Sevo in memory of Eleanor G. Rauscher
Karen & Michael Stolzar in memory of Marjorie Stolzar
Leslie Phillip-Kellman & Michael Kellman in memory of Harold Kellman
The Piacente Family in memory of Mitchel Saed
Michele & Todd Gershwin in memory of Allan Schneider
Lisa & Michel Delafontaine in memory of Didier Delafontaine
Cindy Valk-Danish & Leslie Danish in memory of Nathan Danish

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**Condolences**

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

Our congregation mourns the death of:

- **Jerome Weil**, uncle of George Weltman
- **Dena Lavinsky**, long-time congregant
- **David Sackey**, step-father of Jon Harris
- **Robert Wells**, father of George Wells

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Roots

My aunt and uncle celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. I thought that a family tree with their children and grandchildren featured would be a special gift for this occasion. In my search, I came across an artist-designed tree that designated the roots for the names of the grandchildren. It struck me as odd because in my mind I envisioned my aunt and uncle as the roots. I started to think about it and of course it made good sense that our children are the roots that perpetuate new life. This year when I handed out JNF (Jewish National Fund) tree planting envelopes, I was reminded of this family tree. It gave me pause to think about our children as the roots that continue the greening of Israel. We as parents need to nurture those roots, not only as a way to support Israel, but also as a way to grow a connection to Israel. By doing a mitzvah like this with our children, their identities as Jews will become deeper and richer. We grow by doing. Over 250 million trees have been planted in Israel by JNF. Please take a few minutes to talk about Israel with your children, then together, plant a tree or a forest through JNF. The trees will grow and so will you and your children.

Happy Tu B’Shevat.

CJL and J-Life Important Dates

- Feb 4: J-Life 3rd Grade Shabbaton, PJ Library Havdalah 4:50 pm
- Feb 11: J-Life 4th Grade, Tu B’Shevat
- Feb 18-25: No School Mid-Winter Break
- Feb 23-24: Israel Vacation Camp

ECC Important Dates

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

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

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

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

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

The Magic of Trees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Method:
- Prepare rice with salt, until “almost done.” Drain water.
- In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add the almonds and toast, stirring occasionally until golden.
- Add the raisins and dates to the skillet, and stir into the almonds for 2 minutes
- Add about ½ cup of water and cook the mixture on a low heat, 10-15 minutes. The dates will be soft and the water will have been absorbed.
- Grease a large heavy pot. Spread ¼ the rice, then the fruit/nut mixture, and then the other half of the rice.
- Cover tightly and cook over a low heat for 30 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The cost to attend is $5 for members/nonmembers, and $10 for anyone who would like a lesson, both of which support Sisterhood initiatives.
SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment)
Sarah Weiss-Poland• SAJE@comsynrye.org

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

You are always welcome to bring a friend.

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

Thursday February 2
Shannon Wong, Director of the Westchester Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union will speak about the School to Prison Pipeline, a nationwide system of local, state, and federal education and public safety policies that directly and indirectly pushes students out of school and into the criminal justice system. This system disproportionately targets youth of color and youth with disabilities.

Monday, February 6
Nationally board certified acupuncturist Tracy Kalson will speak to SAJE about different acupuncture styles and their particular benefits. Tracy received her Master of Science degree in Acupuncture from the Tri-State College of Acupuncture (TSCA) in New York City. Her techniques include Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM): The root of all acupuncture styles, Acupuncture Physical Medicine (APM), Cupping, Gua Sha and Auriculotherapy or “ear acupuncture.”

Thursday February 9
Dine Around—Pasquale Restaurant-12:00 pm
2 West Putnam Avenue, Port Chester, NY
Join us for a traditional Italian meal featuring appetizer, main dish, dessert and coffee/tea for $24.00. Please sign up with Iris Sampliner at ikstravel@aol.com

Monday February 13
Join Rick Abrams once again for an engaging Tu B’Shevat seder. Learn the mystical relationship of this holiday to the original meaning in ancient Israel, taste the foods, and fill your senses.

Thursday, February 16
Bryan Covert serves as an Investment Consultant at Gary Goldberg Financial Services, working with the Strategic Investment Committee and dedicated to customizing portfolios in order to help people reach their financial goals. Mr. Covert earned a B.A. in Economics from Binghamton University and holds his Series 6, 7, 63 and 65 securities registrations. He also holds his Health Life and Accident license, as well as his Property and Casualty license.

Monday February 20
No SAJE

Thursday, February 23
SAJE welcomes Miriam Rothman who recently returned from a trip to Israel. She will speak to the group about her in-depth discussions with family and friends about their lives living in the Holy Land.

Monday February 27
Join Amy Zabin, a renowned music therapist with more than 30 years of experience, as she educates the SAJE community about the benefits of this relaxation method. Amy works with patients at Stamford and Greenwich Hospitals to provide emotional coping tools that help decrease fears, pain and feelings of isolation for people who are hospitalized or receiving treatment. The music of her guitar, the sound of her voice, and the use of singing bowls gradually lead participants into deeper states of relaxation.

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