The Megillah Monologues: A Pre-Purim Celebration of Female Strength & Subversion
Sunday, February 25, 7:00 pm

CJL’s Got Talent
Wednesday, February 28, 4:20 pm - (Erev Purim)

Purim Feast!
Wednesday, February 28, 6:00 pm - (Erev Purim)

For more information turn to page 7
Community Synagogue of Rye

Community Synagogue of Rye is a caring Jewish community that seeks to add meaning and purpose to your life.

Inspired by Jewish teachings and traditions, we seek to be a center for spiritual transformation; to foster the creation of sacred relationships; and to give people the tools and resources to be God’s partner in healing the world.

This vision is guided by our commitment to the Jewish values of Worship (T’filah), Lifelong Learning (Talmud Torah), Community (Kehilah), Loving Kindness (Hesed), Repairing the World (Tikkun Olam) and Love of Israel (Ahavat Yisrael).

CLERGY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Rabbi .................................................. Daniel B. Gropper
Rabbi .................................................. Leora Frankel
Cantor .................................................. Melanie Cooperman
Rabbi Emeritus ...................... Robert A. Rothman
Executive Director .............. Glynnis Conyer
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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Mazel Tov
To Binh-Minh and Ed Sobol on the birth of their baby girl, Vivienne Quynh Sobol
To Crista and Carlo Trotto on the birth of their baby boy, Gino Trotto

First Friday Torah Study at 7 am

Next session: February 2
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).

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:

Steven Caley, husband of Bonnie Caley
Elsie Danish, mother of Leslie Danish
Rudolph de Winter, father of Jim de Winter
Rupert Belkin, father of David Belkin
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 1</td>
<td>11:15 pm - SAJE — Offsite, Atria</td>
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<td>Friday, February 2</td>
<td>7:00 am - First Friday Torah Study — Offsite, La Pain Quotidien</td>
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<td>Sunday, February 4</td>
<td>5:00 pm - Teen Band Rehearsal with Koby Hayon</td>
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<td>Monday, February 5</td>
<td>9:30 am - The Nature of Things</td>
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<td>2:30 pm - SAJE</td>
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<td>1:45 pm - Havdalah Service for ECC families</td>
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<td>6:15 pm - 7th Grade and CSR Teens</td>
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<td>11th &amp; 12th Grade — Jews in the News</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 7</td>
<td>4:00 pm - CJL, Grades K-6</td>
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<td>8:00 pm - T’fillah Band Rehearsal — Offsite</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 8</td>
<td>10:00 am - Talmud with Training Wheels</td>
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<td>11:15 am - SAJE — Offsite, Atria</td>
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<td>6:00 pm - Film Class — Offsite, The Ambassador</td>
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<td>7:30 pm - Goy’s Night Out — Offsite, Rye Grill and Bar</td>
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<td>Friday, February 9</td>
<td>9:20 am - ECC Shabbat</td>
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<td>5:45 pm - CJL 4th Shabbat Dinner*</td>
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<td>6:00 pm - Re-Soul for Shabbat*</td>
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<td>Kabbalat ha Sidur* — 4th Grade Service</td>
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<td>Monday, February 12</td>
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<td>8:15 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 13</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 15</td>
<td>11:15 pm - SAJE — Offsite, Atria</td>
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<td>Friday, February 16</td>
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<td>6:30 pm - Shabbat Services*</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 17</td>
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<td>8:45 am - Torah Study Service*</td>
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* = Offsite — Chapel at Rye Presbyterian Church

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**The Four Mitzvot of Purim:**

1. **Mishloach Manot** - Sending small gift baskets of *Hamantashen* and other treats to friends & family to help increase their joy during *Purim*.

2. **Matanot L’Evyonim** - Sending gifts of food to the poor (or giving *tzedakah* that will fund meals and help others eat). In Judaism, whenever we rejoice in our own good fortune, we always take the time to think of those less fortunate.

3. **Listening to the Megillah** - Hearing the Scroll of Esther chanted, recounting the story of *Purim* while drowning out the name of the villain, Haman. The most preferred way of fulfilling the *Mitzvah* is to hear the *Megillah* read publicly in a synagogue or other communal setting.

4. **Seudat Purim** - Participating in a *Purim* feast or celebration. This is Judaism’s version of “Eat, Drink, and Be Merry!” The *Purim* feast is especially significant in that it elevates the soul as it provides pleasure to the body.

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www.comsynrye.org
CELEBRATING PURIM: JOY, JUSTICE, AND A GOOD DOSE OF FEMINISM

Rabbi Leora Frankel • lfrankel@comsynrye.org

There is a famous Talmudic adage about this Hebrew month that reads, “From the beginning of Adar, we must increase in joy” (Taanit 29a). The rabbis took this idea from a passage toward the end of the Megillah in which Mordechai sends a letter throughout the land instructing Jews “to observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and the fifteenth day, every year—the days on which the Jews obtained rest from their enemies and the month which for them was turned from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday” (Esther 9: 21-22). Two thousand years later, this month and the holiday of Purim mark a period of merriment in our Jewish calendar.

Some suggest that the giddy practices of Purim—throwing raucous feasts and bacchanals, comedic theatrical performances—were our ancestors’ version of “Spring Fever.” After being cooped up all winter with darker, shorter days, we begin to grow restless, our energy all bottled up. When Adar arrives, with those first hints that spring is right around the corner, we are revitalized. Not only do we strip off our heavy coats and hats to be replaced with masks and silly costumes, but spiritually we are also to strip down our more serious, polished veneer for a day of indulgence and amusement.

While many associate this Purim fun exclusively with children’s carnivals and costumes, the truth is Purim may be among our most adult holidays when it comes to its scriptural context and core messages. Yes, on the surface the Megillah does read much like a classic fairytale: Esther, a poor young maiden is unexpectedly chosen to become Ahasverosh’s new queen. She hides her identity as a Jew until the evil villain plots to annihilate her people, irate when the queen’s uncle refuses to bow down to him. In a dramatic moment Esther reveals her secret to the king just in time to avert the evil decree. The story ends with joy, feasting, light and gladness for the Jews, but also—far less G-rated—Haman and his henchman hanging on the very gallows they’d built for our people. This last detail hints at the many ironies sewn throughout the Purim story as well as the satire’s more serious undertones of xenophobia and misogyny.

This year as we approach Purim, on the heels of the second Women’s March and #metoo movement, they especially reverberate. Vashti, Ahasverosh’s first queen, is asked to display her beauty before his drunken friends but she refuses. Esther, her replacement, ultimately defies the conventional role of queen as well, cleverly and courageously risking her own life to fight for justice. As Rabbi Arthur Waskow articulates, “[Megillat] Esther is woven around not one but two jokes of that same classic form: The king, who begins the whole action by insisting he and all the men will never take orders from women, ends by doing exactly what Esther tells him to. Anti-Semitism and anti-feminism go hand in hand in the story. Queen Vashti had the courage to resist male chauvinism; Queen Esther had the courage to resist both aspects of tyrannical power.”

In the spirit of Vashti and Esther, Steinem and Friedan, Cantor Cooperman and I want to invite the women of our congregation (21 and up!) to The Megillah Monologues: A Pre-Purim Women’s Celebration on Sunday night, February 25 from 7:00 pm—9:00 pm at Westchester Burger in Rye Brook. (See p. 7 for details). It will be a night of feminist revelry and meaningful connection, not to mention good food and drinks.

Of course, there is plenty of fun to go around on Purim eve itself! On Wednesday, February 28 at 4:20 pm we’ll be hosting our first ever “CJL’s Got Talent” show featuring our students and teen band, followed by a family Megillah reading from 5:00 pm—5:30 pm. All are welcome to join. Then from 6:00 pm—7:00 pm, the clergy will be hosting a Seudah (festive meal or feast) for adults; dinner is on us, but please RSVP at Clergyassistant@comsynrye.org

One final thought, for those feeling naturally frivolous: Purim is not meant to be just a temporary escape from the challenges of reality but an intentional, spiritual response to it. As we look around our country, Israel, and the world, there are many legitimate reasons to feel forlorn or frustrated. Yet, the ancient wisdom of Purim urges us that despite life’s trials and travails, and precisely because of them, we must seize every opportunity to celebrate and connect with one another through story, music, and breaking bread. Purim teaches that if we can laugh at our villains (be they literal or figurative), we reduce their power. This is the therapeutic joy that Purim offers.

I hope you’ll take advantage of these opportunities to share that joy as a CSR community.

Chag Purim Sameach—Wishing you a happy Purim,

Rabbi Leora Frankel
When the calendar turns to February, we can’t help but feel that love is in the air. Whether we acknowledge or celebrate the secular holiday known as Valentine’s Day, there is no mistaking the heart-shaped candy boxes, rose-filled floral displays, and poetic sentiments that Hallmark® and other stationers distill into expressions of love for sweethearts, spouses, parents, grandparents, children, siblings, friends, teachers and even pets—any recipient with whom we wish to share our feelings of admiration and affection.

But what exactly is the power of love? And how does it work within our Jewish community to inform and instruct our pathways into this world? The old song from Huey Lewis and the News opened with this verse:

The power of love is a curious thing
Make one man weep, make another man sing
Change a hawk to a little white dove
More than a feeling, that's the power of love.

In our little corner of the world, I see the power of love at work every day in simple yet profound ways. Allow me to share a most recent example that exemplifies this point. As everyone in our congregation (hopefully) knows by now, we are diligently working to raise the last $750,000 to fulfill our initial goal of $6.2 million dollars toward our Kadima Capital Campaign. Volunteer champions have called many of our congregants, made home visits to speak one on one with donors, and spent countless hours thinking of creative and inspirational opportunities to encourage folks to contribute.

On December 15, the Friday Shabbat service between Hanukkah and Christmas, Daniel H. Love, co-pastor of Rye Presbyterian Church, handed Rabbi Daniel Gropper a letter addressed to both of us. In it were these words, which I was given permission to share with all of you:

“In honor of our partnership in many endeavors over the years, the shared friendships we have, and recognizing Community Synagogue as a source of light and goodness in this community, the Session last night voted to make a contribution of $15,000 to your capital campaign.

It is our hope that even as we share space now, that this gift toward your new worship space would be an encouragement and a blessing to you as you continue to be faithful to the calling God has put upon you.

Wishing you light, joy and hope for this day and in many days to come…”

The beauty of these words, the generosity of spirit that they reflect, and the significant contribution to our Kadima campaign from RPC cannot be overstated. I shared this letter with our Executive Committee, our Board of Trustees, and now with you.

We sent a letter of appreciation to RPC on all of our behalves, and included these words as well:

“Our generosity has touched us deeply and many of us were moved to tears when we learned of your heartfelt contribution. We have been honored to share worship space with you since this past summer and your extraordinary welcome to all those in our congregation would have been gift enough.

Both of our houses of worship provide a beacon of light and hope to our wider community and this gesture of support speaks volumes about the sacred partnerships that can develop when people of good faith work together.”

Each Friday evening when we gather in their space to express our faith, in our own voices, with our own prayer books and Torah scrolls, I am reminded that love can manifest itself in many ways. The moment at the beginning of services when we turn to one another and offer a Shabbat Shalom in greeting to members and guests, when we take a moment during the Mi Shebeirach to acknowledge and pray for those in our community in need of healing, and when at the conclusion of services, we rise in solidarity with those who mourn to say Kaddish and offer support to those who grieve.

We can never take these expressions of love for granted as so many times congregants have shared with me that these acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have carried them forward from a dark place to one of light.

As our prayers teach us, love is not meant to be parcelled out in small doses, nor held close for a rainy day, but rather love is best served when it is shared widely and freely. When we open our hearts and minds to the need that we see in others, then truly we will experience the power of love.

With best wishes to you all,

Laurie Frolich
I recently visited my family in Australia. My parents were in the midst of a massive spring cleaning and so we spent some time going through old photos and slides, sharing laughter and memories. Perhaps one of my favorite pictures was of me at around ten or eleven dressed up as a “flower girl.” I was not a part of a bridal party. It wasn’t even Halloween (which, growing up in South Africa, was nonexistent). For us, the time to be most creative was Purim. My three siblings and I were always competitive as to who could come up with the most original costume. Just imagine, I was covered from head to toe in homemade pink crepe flowers, carefully attached to my shorts and t-shirt and resourcefully fastened to my hair. I think I won the coveted “best costume” award that year.

That was just one of our many reminiscences that day and what I realized as we scrutinized the photos was that so many were connected to our Temple, Jewish summer camp and Jewish holidays and celebrations. Some of the faces were of people still present in our lives; others required that we reach into the deep recesses of our memories. Some had just touched a moment. Many, however, were instrumental in shaping my life and catapulting me on the journey that has led me to this community.

One of the stages of my application for the Executive Director position was a presentation to the search committee about my vision for CSR. I thought that I would share a few pieces of it so you can better understand who I am and why I have chosen this place. …what I learned through the years was that…it was all about building a community through relationships and mentoring. It was about a shared mission, a clear vision and trust. Maya Angelou captured the essence perfectly when she said “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said; people will forget what you did; but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

That is a skill that I have acquired over time. And it is a process. So how does it translate to this role? It involves forging meaningful relationships with the staff, board members, committee chairs, congregants and other stakeholders. It means partnering with and supporting the clergy and program directors in the financial, operational, and administrative matters relating to their roles. It means being a positive presence—and present—in the life of the congregation.

This is a congregation that has been together for 70 years. For many members, the walls of this building hold their most meaningful and significant Jewish memories. The very fabric of their lives is interwoven with the life of the synagogue. Some may just have planted the seed that they hope will take root and others are already beginning to flourish. It has its own balance and rhythm, nuances, successes and challenges. It has a rich history, which must be understood and honored.

From the outset, my overarching goal will be to translate the vision of CSR into the reality of the day-to-day operations, in a way that understands the unique culture and nature of the community; to clarify the organization’s priorities and identify gaps in organizational capacity to achieve them, while preserving the clergy to be the spiritual and educational leaders. And to do it all through the lens of Jewish values.

That means getting to know the strengths of the staff who support the daily functions, learning from them, and collaborating with them. It demands taking the time to understand how things are done and why they are done in a certain way. It involves understanding the operations of the ECC, CJL and SAJE and a review of all systems. But none of this is possible without a clear picture of shared priorities and common purpose.

This for me is not just a job. It is a marriage, a labor of love, with the full appreciation of the role. It is about bringing expertise and ensuring execution. In so many ways this is my destiny. I can’t promise you that we will not ever stumble or that we will always agree. But if we always remember that we are in this for the same reason—the sacred business of synagogue life—then anything is possible.

So please take the time to share with me what makes CSR a special place for you, so that I can be a positive force and together we can forge Jewish memories in this sacred space.

Glynis Conyer, Executive Director

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YOM HAShOAH COMING UP IN APRIL

Yom HaShoah falls on April 11, 2018. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with the service.

For more information please contact Carol Meyers at 914-921-2006 or ryemeyers@gmail.com.
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.

All the food we serve is donated. We need fresh fruit 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.

On January 20, 2018, Community Synagogue of Rye members joined 200,000 other marchers at The Women’s March on NYC to stand up for progressive policies and legislation, including equal rights for all, immigrant protection, responsible climate policies and responsible gun control legislation. If you would like to join in our efforts, please send email to Debbie Friedman at wepersist123@gmail.com.

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**Purim Event Schedule**

**The Megillah Monologues: A Pre-Purim Celebration—7:00 pm, Sunday, February 25**

On the heels of the Women’s March and against the backdrop of #metoo, Purim is the time to celebrate Vashti, Esther, and all the courageous women who inspire us! Join Rabbi Frankel and Cantor Cooperman for an evening of food, drinks, laughs, and some holiday revelry at Westchester Burger Company in Rye Brook — $36 per person, including food and unlimited wine & beer. Please make a check out to “Community Synagogue of Rye” with “Purim Women’s Event” in the memo.

**CJL’S Got Talent—4:20 pm, Wednesday, February 28**

Join us for the CJL’s Purim celebration, “CJL’s Got Talent,” featuring the amazing children of CSR. Also appearing will be CSR’s Teen Band, back by popular demand. Come enjoy some hamantashen, sing some Purim songs, and help drown out Haman’s name during the Megillah reading!

4:20 pm—4:30 pm Opening Act: Jam with the CSR Teen Band (CJL begins at 4:00 pm)
4:30 pm—5:15 pm CJL’S Got Talent!
5:15 pm—5:35 pm Megillah Reading

**PURIM Feast!—6:00 pm, Wednesday, February 28**

Right after “CJL’s Got Talent,” the clergy is hosting a dinner and Megillah discussion from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

To RSVP to an event, email Clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.
Kadmia: The Latest News on Our Renovation

Renovation Recap
In June of 2017, one of the most significant events in the history of Community Synagogue of Rye took place. Congregants said good-bye to our old surroundings, and took up temporary residence while our renovation got underway. So, what’s been going on at 200 Forest Avenue since late June?

Excitement, Anticipation, and Yes, at times, Frustration Too
Change never comes easily. Especially when, as a congregation, we’ve grown accustomed to our surroundings—even though long overdue for repair. From the first stages of demolition to the aging 1961 building, there were some congregants who felt things should be kept as they were. “Why can’t the synagogue just stay the way it is?” On the other hand many congregants felt the old space lacked aesthetics and energy. The existing structure was not only outdated and tired, but in many instances it was not even up to existing building codes.

Cognizant of the updates needing to be addressed, as well as the sentiments of the congregation, CSR hired an award-winning architectural and urban design firm to help in designing and managing our project. Changes were explored that would usher in a sense of renewal to our aging building. The plans were meant to update the infrastructure, but also add new vibrancy. Renovation ranges from basic capital upgrades to a full re-imagination of the synagogue’s communal spaces from deep and narrow to wide and open. Seating will be changed from a fixed pattern to a semi-circular format, allowing worshippers to see each other during services. The sanctuary will allow in more daylight and accommodate more people. It will improve gathering spaces and allow us to literally congregate.

Changes are being made with our more senior or physically challenged congregants in mind with the sanctuary’s bima being lowered and an accessibility ramp installed. A larger lobby space, new bathrooms, a new café and new central HVAC systems will also be part of the upgrade.

New and Welcoming Neighbors We’ve Met Along the Way
Along with the renovation, and our need to find a temporary space for worship and other activities, we met some welcoming neighbors in our extended community. In an agreement between two houses of worship, CSR has been occupying the Rye Presbyterian Church chapel for most religious services. This past June, the 450 households of Community Synagogue of Rye undertook a mini-exodus as our synagogue was closed for this major renovation project. While our temporary relocation was a must, the experience for many has turned out to be something we never expected—one that displayed the true spirit of community.

A Showing of Generosity Among our Congregants
The Kadima Campaign, which is the name of the CSR capital improvement campaign, began over a year and a half ago to raise funds for the much-needed renovations on the synagogue. Kadima is the Hebrew word for forward, representing the direction CSR is heading. Over 200 CSR families have so far contributed to the campaign, with gifts ranging anywhere from $18 to well into seven figures. This campaign has raised over $5 million toward our $6.2 million goal—$300,000 was raised in the last few weeks of 2017 alone. The Kadima matching campaign has also been a huge success and has helped to raise nearly $500,000. Each and every one of these gifts is appreciated and is getting us closer to our goal. The Kadima campaign is led by co-chairs Susan Rudolph and Karen Cherney Zaltz. Susan points out that “It’s exciting to be approaching 90% of our goal. That’s quite an achievement, but we have more work to do. We’re aiming for 100% participation, and there is still time to be counted.”

…but the Clock is Ticking
The Kadima Campaign is now entering its final phase, which is scheduled to close in mid-April of this year. So, time is running out. Many Kadima donors are spreading out their generous gifts over three to five years to lessen the financial burden. In the meantime, a construction loan is being secured so we can complete the project quickly, efficiently, and on time. Construction began over the summer and is steadily progressing. Our old sanctuary has been demolished to prepare for its reconstruction.

The project remains on schedule for returning to our sanctuary for the resumption of worship and life-cycle events by September 2018. “After a year of being out of our own sanctuary, I am especially excited for a worship space that will be more community-oriented, filled with light, and flexible,” points out Rabbi Leora Frankel. “And our CJL students can’t wait to have refreshed, inspiring spaces to learn, play, explore and create—from the social hall to the kitchen, the possibilities for engagement are endless!”

CSR and members of the Kadima Campaign are asking congregants who have not yet pledged, and even those who have already pledged, to consider participating in the campaign before it ends in mid-April. We are a community. It’s in our name. A congregation of people who worship, socialize, and celebrate together. A place we can feel proud of, inspired by, and most importantly a part of. Giving to the Kadima Campaign is an important way you can help realize this vision. As Laurie Frolich, President of CSR puts it, “With the momentum for the Kadima campaign entering the home stretch, we look forward with hope and enthusiasm to the day when we will return to our own sanctuary and spiritual home to worship as a whole community once again. The fullest participation from all of our members will make that a reality that we can all be proud of.”

Donate Now:
In addition to using cash or check, you have the option of making your pledge payment(s) using a credit card, monthly ACH electronic transfers or appreciated securities. CSR’s policy is to add a 3% convenience fee for credit card payments. Would you consider increasing your gift so that 100% of your contribution goes to Kadima?

Donations can be mailed to: Community Synagogue of Rye, 200 Forest Avenue, Rye, NY 10580—Memo Line: Kadima
The Joys of Winter

Dale Oberlander, ECC Director • doberlander@comsynrye.org

Sometimes it seems as if young children don’t feel the cold the same way adults do. I’m sure many of you have experienced the frustration of children pulling their mittens off or refusing to put their jackets on while the rest of us are shivering. The ECC children seem to love the winter weather. They are a hearty bunch who have been enjoying the frigid temperatures outside as well as celebrating snowy themes in the classroom.

ECC Important Dates

February 2 Sharing Shabbat, 5:15 pm, hosted by the Fun Loving Fish

February 19-23 ECC Closed for President’s Week (Mid-Winter Recess)
Creating Joyous Jews

Amy Rosenbaum Ph.D, CJL Director • Arosenbaum@comsynrye.org

What are the three most important Jewish holidays? It depends upon who you ask and which texts you consult, but the consensus seems to be that Shabbat, Yom Kippur, and Passover are the big three. In synagogue education, however, the holiday trifecta is Sukkot, Chanukah, and Purim. This is not to say that all the other Jewish holidays aren’t important (they are) and aren’t explored in depth by our learners (they are). But Sukkot, Chanukah, and Purim each provide special opportunities for celebration, song, and experiential learning for children of all ages.

The past few weeks have been exciting and busy for many of our CSR Teens! At the beginning of January, I had the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C. with twelve 10th graders to the Religious Action Center. The energy and excitement that the group had as they learned and got to lobby their representatives was inspirational. Many of the teens were learning about the issues for the first time and had never had the opportunity to advocate their ideas to their representatives before. The group chose and advocated on three different issues: disability rights, gun violence prevention, and reproductive rights.

On MLK Day, a group of CSR teens volunteered with almost 300 other Westchester teens through J-Teen Leadership. They packed medical supplies with The AFYA Foundation to be sent to Puerto Rico and Houston to help with the recovery efforts following the natural disasters that took place there in the fall. Our Monday night teen program has started with a new set of fun electives and our COSY Board is busy planning our upcoming Social Action events. Below you’ll find some pictures from our recent events!

COSY & CSR Teens Upcoming Events

March 4  COSY Social Action Sunday 11:00 am—1:00 pm  TBA

Teen Celebrations

Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Learning • Yfarber@comsynrye.org

Think of these multisensory holiday experiences from a child’s perspective. On Sukkot, we build little playhouse-sized structures and decorate them; we get to eat outside under the stars; we shake the lulav and hear it snap and we smell the lemony etrog. On Chanukah, we huddle close together with our families to light colorful candles; we eat crispy latkes, unwrap gold-foil covered chocolate coins, play with spinning dreidels, and open presents. On Purim, we come to the synagogue dressed up in costumes, eat delicious pastries shaped like triangles, and are encouraged to make a lot of noise. What’s not to like?

At the CJL, we celebrated Sukkot at our outdoor Sukkah-fest and had a rollicking Chanukah Zimriyah (song-fest). Traditionally, Purim festivities include a carnival, but with CSR under construction, we faced a challenge. With no space for a carnival, how could we make Purim fun and engaging for our learners and their families? We decided to give the children of the CJL a chance to shine at a talent show, and so this year we inaugurate the first “CJL’s Got Talent!” We’ll also rock out to the sounds of CSR’s Teen Band, munch on hamantaschen, sing Purim songs, and of course, drown out Haman’s name with goggers as the Megillah is read.

Each of these holidays is characterized by joy. (In fact, one of the mitzvot of Sukkot is to be joyous). Our theme for the CJL this year is joy, and our education team has focused on creating joyous Jewish learning experiences. Our Sukkah-fest, Chanukah Zimriyah, and Purim talent show are the three most visible examples, but I invite you to walk around the CJL on any Wednesday afternoon or Sunday morning. You will see lively and happy learners and hear enthusiastic chatter—the “controlled chaos” that is the mark of successful and engaging Jewish education. Our hope is that the children at the CJL will carry this joyous experience of Judaism with them throughout their lives.

Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Learning • Yfarber@comsynrye.org

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CJL PASSOVER CANDY SALE
FUNDRAISER

Miss Chocolate
Fundraising

Add some sweetness to your Passover Seder while participating in our school fundraiser!

Order packets have been sent home with CJL students. Please return your child’s envelope to the CJL office by **Wednesday, February 14**. If you need an extra order form, stop by the CJL office, Room 213, or download an order form from the Miss Chocolate website under “Brochures.” Our fundraiser is open to ALL congregants, families and friends.

You can also take advantage of online ordering:
- Visit www.misschocolate.com
- Click on “Online Store.” Select Student/Seller-DASHBOARD and create a seller ID#.
- Enter our school ID Number 701136

New this season: your customers can pay by credit card if they choose, by going to www.misschocolate.com/pay (a small processing fee will be added.) For questions, please call Abby in the CJL office at 914-967-7598 or rs@comsynrye.org.

The proceeds from this fundraiser benefit our school programming. Thank you in advance for participating.

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**CJL AND J-LIFE IMPORTANT DATES**

February 3  5th grade J-Life
February 9  4th grade Kabbalat Ha-Siddur dinner/service
February 10  6th grade B’ni Mitzvah family education
and Mitzvah Project Fair
February 17-24  CJL CLOSED for President’s week
February 28  “CJL’s Got Talent!” & Purim celebration

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**CAMP PINEBROOK**

**www.CampPinebrook.com**

Located in lower Westchester County

Full Activity Day Camp Infused with Jewish Values for Ages 4-8

Daily Swim Lessons • Door-to-Door Transportation
Towel Service • Catered Lunch
**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:
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.

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**Re-soul for Shabbat**

Using meditation practices, mindfulness skills and some simple *Musar* 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 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm on 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 February is “Love”_

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.

For more information, or to RSVP please email clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.

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**Film Class with Cantor Cooperman**

Every month, Cantor Melanie Cooperman will screen a Jewish film. Dinner and discussion included.

The next CSR Film Class will be meeting on February 8 at The Ambassador
9 Saxon Wood Rd, White Plains, NY 10605

Film - “Defending Your Life” (1991)
Director - Albert Brooks

Synopsis: “In an afterlife way station resembling a block of hotels, the lives of the recently-deceased are examined in a court-like setting.”

*Everyone is welcome!*

Interested in attending? Please RSVP to clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.

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**The next gathering of the CSR Book Club**

**MONDAY, MARCH 19th at 8:00pm**
location TBD

**BOOK: "Eternal Life" by Dana Horn**

Rabbi Frankel will facilitate interesting discussions over wine, cheese, and other creative snacks as we explore the layers of a novel while connecting them to relevant and relatable Jewish texts.

*Everyone is welcome!*

RSVP to clergyassistant@comsynrye.org

Have questions? Contact Jacey Taub at jaceyg@aol.com
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 at 2:30 pm and Thursday at 11:15 am. Thursday includes lunch after the program. You are always welcome to bring a friend.

Monday, February 5 at 2:30 pm
Judith Zinger will present her Climate Reality presentation, explaining why and how the climate is changing. Her presentation shows in graphic detail the effects of climate change on people, crops, governments, health and a myriad of other areas. She will discuss the remedies that are sought at ever-greater rates to ameliorate the problems and avoid the most serious outcomes. Judy is a graduate of the Climate Reality Project leadership training.

Thursday, February 8
SAJE Dine Around @ Westchester Dinner Theater
Lunch: 11:00 am A Chorus Line: 1:00 pm
To add some spice to our SAJE schedule, we’re planning to attend the Westchester Dinner Theater in Elmsford NY, to enjoy lunch followed by their Broadway-type production of the multi award-winning show, A Chorus Line. The cost for lunch and the performance is $58.00 per person. Please contact Iris or David Sampliner at ikstravel@aol.com for reservations.

Monday, February 12 at 2:30 pm
Michele Fredman, SAJE Board Liaison at Community Synagogue of Rye, will provide a brief update on CSR doings and collect observations, suggestions and requests. Michele is the managing member of Wertheimer Fredman, LLC, a boutique law firm with offices in White Plains and Manhattan. Michele’s expertise is in the areas of Wills, Trusts, Probate, Estate Administration and Real Estate. A CSR Board member since 2011, and now CSR’s recording secretary, Michele and her husband Neil are familiar to attendees of CSR’s Friday evening services as members of our T’fillah Band. She has co-chaired our last two cantorial search committees, and served on the search committees for our current executive director and senior rabbi. Michele represents CSR on the Rye Interfaith Housing Board and Rye Brook residents might recognize her from her prior service on the Rye Brook Zoning Board of Appeals and Rye Brook Planning Board.

Thursday, February 15 @ The Atria
Bob Giaquinto, owner of the longstanding Rye Beach Pharmacy, will present on the history of the pharmacy from its infancy to today and the current systems that surround pharmaceuticals. His parents bought the pharmacy in 1946 and Bob joined full time as a pharmacist in 1963, growing from 3 employees to over 50 part- and full-time today. Rye Beach Pharmacy offers a host of services. They have tremendous expertise in compounding using their hi-tech lab, vitamin/nutritional products, and hormones and medications. Bob will also discuss the Med Sync program and the new pricing system for prescriptions.

Monday, February 19
NO SAJE
CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Diana Tapper & Jason Gorevic in appreciation for the help with
Hannah Gorevic’s Bat Mitzvah
Piacente family in memory of Mitchel Saed
Jayne & Harris Maslansky in memory of Geraldine Gevertz

DAVID & IRIS SAMPLINER YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND
Elaine Lerner in memory of Barry Lerner

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

HESED
Bonnie Hirsch in memory of Bill Lipper

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Dena Klein & Joanathan Harris
Theresa & Andrew Stevens
Leonard August
Carrie & Eric Nagel
Rye Presbyterian Church
Robin Sheingold & Christian Schreib
Shelly & Chuck Shotland
Stephanie & Mark Slotnick
Donna & William Delynn in memory of Paul Lawrence, father of
David Lawrence
Angela Yu & Geoffrey Davids in memory of
Elsie Danish, mother of Les Danish
Michele & Neil Fredman in memory of Steven Caley, husband of
Bonnie Wess Caley and father of
Allison and Michelle Caley
Leslie & Mitchell Levy in memory of Steven Caley
Felicia & Bruce DePaola
Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Sarah Cohen
Rebecca & Adam Goldsmith
Sarah & Paul Leand
Renay & Paul Becker in honor of
Rabbi Frankel & Cantor Cooperman
Shelly & Chuck Shotland
Gary Zuckerman
Leslie Auerbach
Michele & Neil Fredman in memory of
Elsie Danish, mother of Les Danish
Cindy Valk Danish & Les Danish in memory of Nathan Danish

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

RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Robert & Peter Gottlieb in memory of
I. Joseph Michaud & Martin Bennett
George, Deborah & Rachel Weltman in memory of
Janet Weltman & Jerry Weil

RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Jackie & Ryan Orris in memory of Frank Sands and in honor of
Rabbi Gropper
Robert & Peter Gottlieb in memory of
I. Joseph Michaud & Martin Bennett
Diana Tapper & Jason Gorevic in appreciation for the help with
Hannah Gorevic’s Bat Mitzvah.
Diana Tapper & Jason Gorevic in appreciation for officiating the
unveiling of Charles Gorevic
Marcia Powers in memory of Dorothy Wechsler
Les Danish in appreciation to Rabbi Gropper for the support and
comfort in connection with the funeral of his mother Elsie Danish

REFORM JEWISH COMMITMENT (RJC) FUND
Joan & Ron Cohen in memory of
Elsie Danish, mother of Les Danish and
Rudolph de Winter, father of Jim de Winter

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND
Elaine Lerner in memory of Ada and Barry Lerner
Rhoda & Steven Steinberg in memory of their parents
Shelly & Chuck Shotland in honor of Iris and David Sampliner
for all their work on behalf of SAJE

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Addie & Ed Stein in memory of Vivian and Jack Kabcenell
Cammissa family in memory of James V. Cammisa, Jr.

SYNAGOGUE FUND
(Scholarship Fund for children’s Jewish education)
Jacey & Daniel Taub in honor of
CSR custodian Derek Fleary
Pam & Mike Kerlan
Helen & Thomas May
Randi & Mark Weingarten in memory of
Frank Sands, Father of Jackie Orris
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell in honor of
Rabbi Gropper, Rabbi Frankel and
Cantor Cooperman
Helen & Ira Nordlicht
Gloria Sosin in memory of
Edith and Isaac Donen, founders of CSR and
Gene Sosin
Idil & Ari Barkan
Beverly Cheikin in memory of Pearl Lawrence
Vicki & Howard Cabot in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Julia Sammon and Bar Mitzvah of Max Greenspan

YAHRZEIT FUND
Leslie Phillip-Kellman & Michael Kellman in memory of
Harold Kellman
Michele & Todd Gerswin in memory of Allan Scheider

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TEMPLE YOUTH
Once again 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.

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.
PURIM CARNIVAL is a joyous holiday for our children. Queen Esther has the rapped attention of her court. (Other Purim pictures are available to parents.)

Remember ...

The excitement of the Purim carnival with the whole school milling around from booth to booth, playing games, collecting prizes; the great parade and the selection of the King and Queen. How proud we all were of the children as we watched our own and yet also shared in the pleasure and pride of all.

Let us HELP you grow your business!
Come and advertise with us in our monthly bulletin!
Send inquiries to Communications@comsynrye.org

YOUNG JUDEA SPROUT WESTCHESTER
JEWISH DAY CAMP

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
FOR THE SUMMER OF 2018

OPEN TO CAMPERS ENTERING PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE
Located on 26 beautiful acres in Croton on Hudson
Free Transportation
Program includes: Swim lessons + free swim, arts, cooking, sports, adventure course, nature, STEM, dance, boating and so much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.cyjsproutlake.org/sproutwestchester or call 914-271-7563
Sproutwestchester@youngjudaea.org
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