Spring into Action

Save the Date(s):

February
February 9 - CSR Teens Midnight Run

March
March 8 - Women of the Wall Shabbat
March 31 - The Rye Women’s Interfaith Annual Conference & Reception

April
April 7 - Women’s Seder
April 12 - LGBTQ Pride Shabbat

May
May 4 - Mitzvah Day
May 19/20 - RAC: Consultation on Conscience In Washington D.C.

Top Left: Rabbi Frankel, Youth Director Yael Farber, and 10th Grade Students lobbying on the Hill.
Bottom Left: CJL learners packing bags for the Ronald McDonald House on MLK weekend.
Bottom Right: Dinner at Noon
Welcome New Members

Josh Press & Samantha Florid
Clyde, Tucker, & Scarlett
Rye, NY

Mazel Tov

To Phillis Leftin & Bill Walsh on the birth of their grandson.

May their memories be a blessing

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:

Marcia Powers, long time member, mother of Dawn Leeds and Andrew Powers ""l
Sandra Berger, mother of Eric Berger
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<tr>
<th>Friday, February 1</th>
<th>Monday, February 18</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECC Shabbat</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharing Shabbat</td>
<td>ECC Closed</td>
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<td>5:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJL 4th Grade Dinner</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings</td>
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<td>4th Grade Siyum ha Siddur Service</td>
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<td>CIL Grades 3-6</td>
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<td>Torah Study service</td>
<td>CJL Closed</td>
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<td>Happily Ever After—Death over Deli: Making Comfortable Choices</td>
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<td>Jonah Gurion, bar mitzvah</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Yoga</td>
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<td>SAJE</td>
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<td>CJL Closed</td>
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<td>ECC Havdallah</td>
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<td>7th Grade &amp; CSR Teens</td>
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<th>Tuesday, February 5</th>
<th>Friday, February 22</th>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECC Yoga</td>
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<td>10:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddler Time</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>ECC Music</td>
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<td>Koleinu</td>
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<td>CIL Grades K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIL Chavurah Cooking</td>
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<td>8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Band Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSR Film Class with Cantor Cooperman</td>
<td>ECC Havdallah</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Friday Torah Study—Offsite, Le Pain Quotidien</td>
<td>Toddler Time</td>
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<td>ECC Shabbat</td>
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<td>Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>CIL Chavurah Dinner and Service</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service with Band &amp; Chavurah Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIL Grades 3-6</td>
<td>ECC Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah Study service</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Koleinu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella Estroff-Liberti, bat mitzvah</td>
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<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>CSR Teens Midnight Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAJE</td>
<td>Talmud with Training Wheels</td>
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<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECC Havdallah</td>
<td>SAJE</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Grade &amp; CSR Teens</td>
<td>Mah Jongg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
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<td>Toddler Time</td>
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<td>ECC Music</td>
<td>ECC Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koleinu</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<th>Thursday, February 14</th>
<th>Saturday, February 16</th>
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<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talmud with Training Wheels</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<td>SAJE</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study service</td>
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**Come for Shabbat...**

**...Stay for Dinner!**

We want to increase connections between members, families, potential new members and guests, and what better way to do this than to break bread and share a relaxing dinner together to welcome in Shabbat.

**Save the dates**

March 8, 2019 | April 12, 2019 | May 31, 2019

**Cost per person:** $20/adult and $10/child (ages 12 and younger), and do indicate any food restrictions.

We invite you to bring a bottle of wine or dessert to share.

*(For more information, or to RSVP, email Communications@comsynrye.org)*

www.comsynrye.org
Justice, Justice, We Shall Pursue

Rabbi Leora Frankel • lfrankel@comsynrye.org

In one of the most quoted biblical verses, Deuteronomy 16:20 charges us, “Tzedek, Tzedek Tirddof—Justice, justice, you shall pursue!” This commandment became a favorite of commentators not only because of the phrase’s moral message but also due to its unusual grammatical repetition. The Sages held that no word, not even a single letter in our Torah, is extraneous or without discrete meaning. So why this conspicuous doubling of the word tzedek in a book that is typically quite terse?

One common explanation is simply that the double use of tzedek here adds emphasis or a sense of urgency. Of the 613 mitzvot, God wants to make sure our ancestors were clear this one was a high priority. There’s a more elaborate reading of this verse though that I love, attributed to Rabbi Bachye ben Asher, a 13th century Spanish commentator. Rabbi Bachye offers three interpretations of the double tzedek. The first is that we should pursue justice whether we ultimately win or lose; in other words, we should pursue justice even against all odds. Bachye’s second gloss is that we should pursue justice whether through words or deeds. That is, we can pursue justice both through speech and action. Finally, Rabbi Bachye understands the double tzedek to mean that we must pursue justice both for our fellow Jews and for all others in the world.

This last teaching is especially striking given Bachye’s historical context. The Crusaders devastated the Jewish community of Toledo in 1212 and by 1227, Jews across Spain were required to wear distinctive white or yellow badges on their clothing identifying them as non-Christians. (This was, of course, a precursor to the yellow star badges of Nazi Germany.) How remarkable then, at a time and place where the outside world seemed especially hostile to the Jewish community, that Rabbi Bachye affirmed our obligation to pursue justice not only for ourselves, but for everyone around us.

This imperative to pursue justice has long been a hallmark of our modern Reform movement too, so much so that the Union for Reform Judaism and Central Conference of American Rabbis founded a joint commission in 1961 dedicated to this holy work. The “RAC” or Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism is the political and legislative outreach arm of our movement in the United States, operated under the auspices of this joint commission. In the spirit of Rabbi Bachye’s teaching, the RAC has been the address—both literally and figuratively—for social justice work that spans well beyond the scope of obvious Jewish political concerns. Among other distinctions, in the 1960s, the RAC hosted several meetings at which the groundwork for the Civil Rights Acts and Voting Rights Acts were laid. Today, under the leadership of Rabbi Jonah Pesner, the RAC remains at the forefront of interfaith coalitions fighting for criminal justice reform, immigration rights, sensible gun control legislation, and so much more.

I’ve had two opportunities to personally reconnect with the RAC’s mission in recent months. In mid-December, I joined 140 other Reform rabbis from around the country for a brief but powerful Rabbinic Moral Leadership Gathering. For 36 hours holed up in a hotel outside O’Hare airport, together we sought “moral clarity in turbulent times” as the tagline so eloquently expressed. Studying not only with rabbinic colleagues but also Christian reverends and DC change-makers, we began to cultivate our own moral imaginations and develop a tool-kit for engaging our Reform congregations in grassroots advocacy work.

Then, a few weeks ago, I had the privilege of accompanying our 10th grade students, together with Youth Director Yael Farber, to the RAC’s L’Taken seminar on social justice. As always, watching our teens discover some of America’s brokenness and then use their voices to advocate for its repair was simply inspiring. Neither the government shutdown nor the blustery snowstorm could keep us from Capitol Hill! (See page 10 for more reflections from our trip from Yael and our teens.) If you are interested in experiencing a similar transformative weekend for adults, consider joining our synagogue’s delegation to the RAC’s Consultation on Conscience, May 19-21 in Washington, DC. (See details on page 6)

In the meantime, there are so many ways you can heed our Torah’s call to justice right here in our own synagogue community and across the world. Get involved with one of our CSR Tzedek circles, contribute to our winter collections for The Sharing Shelf and Midnight Run in the lobby, and be sure to join us for a Shabbat in solidarity with Israel’s Women of the Wall on March 8. See the cover for more opportunities to spring into action in the months ahead. Tzedek, Tzedek, Nirdof—Justice, justice, WE shall pursue!

Leora Frankel

Creating Community
Connecting with Fellow Congregants

Access CSR Directory Online

Our digital online directory offers an easy and secure way to connect with and contact CSR congregants. The directory can be found under the Members only section of the website. The site can ONLY be accessed by password.

Here is how to access the CSR online directory:

1. Please email us for the password at Communications@Comsynrye.org or call the office at (914) 967-6262.
2. Visit www.comsynrye.org/members-only.html and use the password to access the directory.

Visit www.comsynrye.org
Help Repair the World

Cantor Melanie Cooperman • mcooperman@comsynrye.org

You are not required to finish the task (of repairing the world) but neither are you at liberty to desist from it.

—Tarphon, Pirke Avo, 2:21

Our world is deeply in need of care and the tasks ahead can seem overwhelming and daunting. Our sacred texts express the need to be aware of and act against injustices in our world—to protect and care for vulnerable populations and to be guardians of the Earth. Tikkun Olam, to repair the world, to make the world more just, is our collective calling. Our tradition teaches that we together can initiate change and that we have an obligation to do so.

Engaging with this work, we have to move beyond a place of self and acknowledge that we can only do so much alone. We must cultivate humility in recognizing that we need others to bring about greater change. And still realize that our own actions can have an impact. Each one of us is a part of a greater whole that can make this world a better place.

If you are seeking more meaning and fulfillment in your own life, this is the path. Engage with others in meaningful work. Advocate for what you believe in. Make and deliver food to those in need. Clean up the Earth. Teach a child. I know that getting involved in one of these areas will make a difference to others and in your own life.

And, if you feel stuck and don’t know where to begin, give me a call or send an email. I’d love to talk with you and navigate options and opportunities alongside you.

Cantor Melanie Cooperman

Tikkum Olam In And Around CSR

Susan Zeitlin, President • president@comsynrye.org

Our synagogue’s vision, to be a caring Jewish community that adds meaning and purpose to our lives, appropriately includes Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, as one of its core principles. The origins of the term Tikkun Olam come from the Mishna, dating back to 200 CE, which referenced social policy legislation that provided extra protection to those potentially at a disadvantage. Ancient examples included providing just conditions for the writing of a divorce, and decrees for the freeing of slaves. Today, the term has taken on the meaning of social justice. Acts of social justice are intimately associated with our tradition and, for some, are the most meaningful aspects of being Jewish, binding us to our community and also to God.

Our synagogue’s Tzedek Council, led by Jackie Kabot and Cantor Cooperman, provides opportunities for our congregants to get involved with chesed (performing acts of loving kindness) and tzedek (justice) in many different ways. Please see the messages from Jackie Kabot and Cantor Cooperman describing some of the ways to become involved at Community Synagogue.

Our congregants are involved in our greater community in many other beautiful ways. This year, we have been using the first 15 minutes of our Board of Trustees meetings to learn about various ways our congregants participate in our community and the amazing Tikkun Olam work they are doing. I’d like to share what just a few of our congregants, who have come to speak to our board, are doing:

Kelly Grayer is involved with the Community Resource Center, which works to serve the immigrant community, and to promote the cultural, educational, and professional integration of immigrants to the larger Westchester community and advocating for those in need. The Center has also worked on the front lines of helping separated families.

Laura Leach has been leading a group from our synagogue who work with HIAS, a Jewish American nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees, to sponsor a refugee family from Afghanistan.

Sandy Samberg helped create Soul Ryeders, a volunteer-driven charitable organization that provides support and resources to those in our community who are affected by all types of cancer. The organization has grown dramatically since it was initiated in 2006 and includes programs such as a wig exchange, Soul Strong to focus on exercise, nutrition, art therapy and emotional support for cancer survivors, and Soul Cares to make meaningful hands-on projects that provide comfort and support for those undergoing treatment.

Janet Meyers is involved with Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry in Rye. Their co-presidents, Susan Salice and Brigitte Samoff, came to speak with us about the programs they lead to help those in need in our community, including Undie Fundie (which provides undergarments for adults and adolescents), Third Thursday Sandwiches at a Soup Kitchen, Dinner at Noon, Project Refresh (which provides full-sized toiletries to shelters) and Mission Backpack (which provides full backpacks for school children).

In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, our board donated underwear, socks and school supplies to the Sharing Shelf.

It is inspiring to learn about the amazing volunteer work going on in our synagogue and in our greater community. If you have something you would like to share, please contact me.

Susan Zeitlin, CSR President
CREATING A COMMUNITY OF JUSTICE

Susan Rudolph, Past President • Union for Reform Judaism North American Board of Trustees Member

“People think that to be just is a virtue, deserving honor and rewards; that in doing righteousness one confers a favor on society. No one expects to receive a reward for the habit of breathing. Justice is as much a necessity as breathing is, and a constant occupation.” - Abraham Joshua Heschel, The Prophets

For the 70 years of CSR’s existence, the pursuit of justice has enriched our congregation’s life. This is not an easy time to stand up to be counted. We are challenged by an overwhelming number of issues, each one central to the message of our faith and critical to creating the kind of society we wish to establish.

During the Union for Reform Judaism’s Biennial General Assembly, CSR delegates and those from nearly 900 other congregations consider and vote on resolutions that reflect the consensus positions of our membership. This democratic process and the commitment to speak out on issues of concern is as old as the Reform Movement itself, as evidenced by the hundreds of resolutions adopted since its inception. We engage on issues of local, national and global concern; we participate in interfaith coalitions and activities; we speak out on behalf of the vulnerable; and we seek justice for all. This is who we are.

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC), a joint agency of the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, has been the hub of Jewish social justice work. Several weeks ago, Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the RAC, sent a letter to the Members of the 116th Congress saying in part, “The Reform Jewish Movement is proud of our work with administrations, congresses, and elected officials of both parties, knowing that our success as a nation is inextricably linked to our ability to work together for the common good. Especially in this time of increased polarization, this work is more important than ever.”

Reform Jewish Movement Legislative and Policy Priorities for the 116th Congress

• A humane and just immigration system and responding to the global refugee crisis
• Racial justice, including criminal justice reform and voting rights
• Religious freedom and separation of church and state
• Resisting anti-Semitism, white supremacy, and bigotry
• Access to affordable, quality health care for all
• Preventing the scourge of gun violence
• Support for Israel
• Responding to the genocide against the Rohingya people
• Confronting climate change
• Realizing LGBTQ equality
• Pursuing economic justice
• Women’s equality and reproductive rights

The RAC will present the 2019 Consultation on Conscience in May, which will bring together Jewish congregational and communal leaders to learn and expand the skills needed for social change, to build meaningful connections, and deepen knowledge of critical issues facing our communities.

Held over three days in Washington, DC, the Consultation offers leadership training and in-depth issue education for all those interested in social justice issues. The gathering culminates in advocacy visits on Capitol Hill. I invite and encourage you to join other CSR congregants who will be attending. It’s an amazing experience. For more information or to register, see https://rac.org/consultation-conscience-2019.

When looking at the social action of our congregation, one can see work being done that is both successful and fulfilling. But we also continue to see so many injustices in our community, in our country, and in the world.

Yes, we’ve had some victories, but political wins are fragile. Is our task complete? We’re not even close, but we are obligated to continue our work.
CSR Tzedek Council Makes a Difference  
Jackie Kabot, Vice President, jskabot@aol.com

The past year brought forth a surge in anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance, jeopardizing both the safety and faith of many already marginalized communities across the globe. Though it often feels that these are uncertain times, we must always remember to look past the headlines, and to take comfort in the fact that so many continue to find ways to make big changes through small actions.

At CSR, we recognize the need of our congregants to say Hineni…here I am. Several years ago, the Tzedek Council was formed to organize and create opportunities to do just that. This umbrella assembly was developed as an effort to better organize how we coordinate our Tikkun Olam offerings.

Some of our programs include the Green Team, Hesed, Dinner at Noon, Jewish Justice, CSR Reads, Israel Action, Kulanu, and The Sharing Shelf. These existing groups address matters of the environment, assist congregants during difficult times, advocate for human rights and social justice, immigration issues, food insecurity, LGBTQ rights, and donations of clothing and other much needed items.

Cantor Cooperman and I host quarterly meetings with the Tzedek Council where we seek to generate new ideas and projects. As we live in an environment that is constantly changing, we are always looking to initiate new opportunities both to aid our Synagogue congregants and to give back to our local and larger communities.

Please feel free to contact either Cantor Cooperman or me with any questions. We would love to have you join us at our meetings or even one event that speaks to you.

Together, we CAN make a difference.

The Fund for Reform Jewish Commitment (RJC Fund)  
Ron Cohen, Past-President of Community Synagogue

In 1996, my wife Joan and I established an Endowment Fund at Community Synagogue of Rye to be used primarily to promote CSR’s participation in programs sponsored by the Reform Movement or other programs that support the State of Israel or increase knowledge concerning Israel.

In the 23 years since the establishment of the Fund, the funds have been used for a number of programs. However, the primary purpose of the Fund is to sponsor the annual trip of our Confirmation class students to attend the L’Taken Seminar of the Religious Action Center (RAC) in Washington.

As you will read on page 10, Rabbi Frankel and Yael Farber, our Director of Youth Engagement, have just returned from Washington with 12 members of this year’s Confirmation class.

At the RAC, along with delegations from other Reform Congregations around the country, they have the opportunity to hear the issues from Members of Congress and the Administration and to lobby our local Senators and Representatives on issues that they feel are important.

We have heard from some of the students, as well as many of their parents, what a great impact this program has had on them personally. It gives them a sense of empowerment and self-confidence to look at issues, and provides them with a set of skills that they can apply to their lives.

Although Joan and I started the Fund, it is not “our” Fund; it is Community Synagogue’s Fund. It is included in the endowment funds on our website and the back page of our monthly Bulletin. When making contributions in honor of a bar or bat mitzvah, wedding or other family simcha, or in memory of a loved one, please consider making a contribution to the RJC Fund.

The Religious Action Center is operated under the auspices of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, which is a joint body of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism. The center was founded nearly 60 years ago.

www.comsynrye.org
Purim is a fun-filled time in the ECC. It is when we get to put on costumes, play games, shake our groggers and make (and eat) lots of hamentashen. The sending of food gifts to friends (Mishloach Manot) is one of the four commandments connected to Purim. For the ECC this is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity towards others.

We know that our neighbors in Port Chester at the Carver Center need our help to fill up their food pantry. The food that is requested for the pantry includes, fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy and protein: the five food groups. A few years ago, we had an idea to make this into a meaningful learning opportunity for the children. First, we wanted the children to learn about why nutritious foods are important, especially to people in need. Then we wanted the children to have an experience that enabled them to feel like they were doing something important.

We set up food collection stations with a list of what is needed. During the days leading up to Purim the teachers speak with the children about the different food items they have collected and why each plays an important role in building healthy brains and bodies. On the day of the ECC Purim celebration, we set up a make-believe grocery store. Each child is given a shopping list (featuring photographs of the food categories) and is asked to shop for the Carver Center making sure they make good choices for the families who need their help. The items are put into boxes decorated by the children. Some include Happy Purim cards made by the children as well.

This year we are so excited to include a play, supermarket checkout counter donated to the ECC by the Overbay family.
The Rye Women’s Interfaith Annual Conference & Reception at CSR

Sunday, March 31, 2019
3:00 pm—Registration
3:30 pm—Program

Facing the Crisis of Global Mass Incarceration
Presented by Dr. Baz Dreisinger

Conference & Reception—$15.00/pp (Not Refundable)
RSVP by mail to Esther Blumstein
720 Milton Road, Apt #M-6, Rye, NY 10580
Please make your check payable to Rye Women’s Interfaith
Mail before Monday, March 25, 2019

Payment is also accepted at the door on the day of the conference.
For more information, please call Esther at 914-921-9121 or Jean at 914-939-8281.

Dr. Baz Dreisinger is a tenured Associate Professor at John Jay College, journalist, justice worker, film and radio producer, cultural critic and activist.

Happily Ever After: An End-of-Life Series

Life ends ‘happily ever after’ when we bring careful thought and advance planning to it. This two-part end-of-life series is both for those ready to think about these important issues and for any with older relatives they care about.

Death over Deli: Making Comfortable Choices
Saturday, February 2, 10:45 am (following Torah Study)
Heidi Weiss, LMSW, MHA, Healthcare Specialist at Westchester Jewish Community Services will talk about “How to Have Difficult Conversations,” providing guidelines for approaching difficult cross-generational topics as we consider mortality.
Dr. Donna Coletti, MD, will address the current state of end-of-life, comfort measures and palliative care options.
Bring your questions and your appetite; a bagel brunch will be served!

Death and Hors D’Oeuvres: Funerals and Jewish Mourning
Sunday, March 10, 4:00 pm
Rabbi Leora Frankel and Michael Rosenthal, director of Rosenthal Memorial Chapel, will talk about Jewish values and rituals around end-of-life, funeral observances, and beyond.
Balancing both the spiritual and logistical, they will also field any questions you have about Jewish funerals and what mourners can expect. Light refreshments will be served.

www.comsynrye.org
Social Action at the CJL

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

At the CJL, we work to instill in our learners the core Jewish value of taking care of others. When children enter the building on Wednesdays, they are greeted by two wonderful parent volunteers at our “Snack Shuk,” where each dollar the children spend purchasing a snack goes to tzedakah. Organizations like Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger benefit from the proceeds from the Snack Shuk, and we are careful to post the letters acknowledging these donations where our learners will see them. Learners are encouraged to bring tzedakah each time they come to the CJL, and individual grades have their own tzedakah projects, such as our 3rd grade’s annual donation to the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem. At the CJL end of the year BBQ celebration in June, our 6th graders sold their homemade candy and raised $225 for Pizza IDF, an organization that provides Israeli soldiers on active duty with pizza and special holiday treats.

At our MLK Mitzvah Morning over Martin Luther King weekend, CJL learners and parents participated in several social action projects. Our 3rd grade families packed over 70 grab-and-go bags for the Ronald McDonald House, with snacks, bottled water, and decks of cards for parents to take for the long hours they spend at the hospital. Each bag also had a card with a special message of encouragement from our CJL children. Other learners baked cookies for Dinner at Noon, a program that serves meals to the hungry. Because Martin Luther King Day coincided with Tu B’Shevat (the holiday celebrating the New Year for the trees), our learners participated in projects that combined MLK’s message of respect and caring for people and Tu B’Shevat’s message of respect and caring for the earth. Using bottle caps, they created recycling signs and decorated planters to use in and around the CJL.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, “Morality is taught by being lived. It is learned by doing.” These hands-on acts of kindness and care are important ways for the children at the CJL to connect Jewish learning to their lives. They are opportunities to help our learners understand and experience how Jewish texts and traditions are meant to shape who we are and how we behave in the world.

RAC Reflections

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

In January, Rabbi Frankel and I had the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C. with ten 10th graders to the Religious Action Center’s L’Taken Seminar. The energy and excitement that the group had as they learned about the issues facing our country and got to lobby their representatives was inspirational. Our teens advocated on four different issues: LGBTQ rights, criminal justice reform, climate change and reproductive rights.

“My favorite thing about this weekend would be the experience and the people. I was able to meet so many new people. Also, I learned so much more about Israel and LGBTQ issues. I also learned about myself as a writer and who I am, which was extremely meaningful.”—Ariana Victor

“I genuinely had a great time and gained important life skills in Washington. We learned how to make a difference and impact in our government while also having a good time visiting our nation’s capital. I learned a lot and had fun getting closer to my old friends and making some new friends too”—Ryan Bachmann

“I really enjoyed this experience. Although it was educational, there was also time to have fun and to hang with friends. I thought it was really cool to deliver my speech on Capitol Hill and we made lots of great memories together.”—Josh Richard

Throughout the year, our teens do amazing social justice work. The 10th grade RAC trip is one highlight of their ongoing action. On February 9, COSY is having a Midnight Run to provide food, clothing, and toiletries to members of the homeless community of New York City. In March, our 11th and 12th graders will travel to Houston, TX to do hands-on work helping to repair homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. During both of these programs, our teens will be learning about how they can continue to be advocates for the communities that they are working with long after the program has ended.

For teens who are seeking more ways to engage in social justice, there are many more opportunities throughout the school year and ways to connect during the summer. Please reach out to me (yfarber@comsynrye.org) if your teen is in search of additional social justice programming!
Isabella Estroff-Liberti
My name is Isabella Estroff-Liberti. On February 9, I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. My parents are Joseph Liberti and Rachel Estroff, and I have a brother named Samuel who is in ninth grade. I am in seventh grade at LMK Middle School in Harrison. I play soccer, softball, and basketball, and I enjoy spending time with my friends. My Torah portion is T’rumah from the Book of Exodus, which is about the Israelites escaping from Egypt. In these verses, God is telling the Israelites to build him a sanctuary for him to dwell in. God wants it to be and feel a certain way in order for people to feel safe in and around the Tabernacle. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to try to help people have the most important safe space—a home. From this work, I learned how much we take our homes for granted when there are many people who do not know where they will find shelter next.

Jonah Gurion
My name is Jonah Gurion and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on February 2. I am a seventh grader at Rye Country Day School and the son of Tal and Sharon Gurion. I am the second in a family of four boys. My brothers are Lior, Alex, and Noah. I enjoy playing soccer, basketball, and tennis. My Torah portion is Parashat T’rumah in the Book of Exodus. My portion explains how the Israelites should construct the Tabernacle or Mishkan, a mobile synagogue, so that God could dwell among them as they journeyed through the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt. The lesson of this Torah portion is that people often need a physical place to gather as a community as well as a symbol of their religious faith. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered at the UCAN sports program and helped kids with developmental disabilities play sports and have fun. This was meaningful because there are people not as fortunate as myself and it is important to realize this and give back. I also developed meaningful relationships with a few of the teenagers and I look forward to strengthening these relationships as I continue with this great program.

Think About the Warm Days of Summer
It might be cold now, but the warm days of summer are just around the corner and NOW is the time to start thinking about sending your child to Jewish summer camp or on an Israel trip!
Our regional URJ Camps, Eisner & Crane Lake, are currently accepting applications for new and returning campers! Interested in science and technology, sports or arts? The URJ 6 Points Specialty Camps provide a foundation of Jewish summer camp combined with a focus area of your choice. Reach out to Yael Farber (yfarber@comsynrye.org) for more information about all of our URJ Camp and Israel options!

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
The Sampliner Youth Leadership Development Fund is making scholarships available to young people planning to attend a URJ Camp program, or the NFTY Summer Program in Israel. 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. If there are funds still available for other Jewish Camps, they will be honored.
The Scholarships come in denominations of $250 or $500. Application should be made to the Fund c/o Iris & David Sampliner. For further information call the Sampliners at 914-922-1546.
The experience of a summer immersed in Judaism cannot be too highly praised. Youngsters who have been to any of these programs have come back enthusiastic, involved, and furnish us with an outstanding corps of young leaders for our synagogue.
The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice

From political and financial scandals to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of ethical and moral concern.

How do Jewish ethics inform our discussions and decisions about the critical questions of the day?

These sessions will be taught by Rabbi Ben Goldberg (KTI), Rabbi Leora Frankel (Community Synagogue of Rye) and Rabbis Howard Goldsmith and Jade Ross (Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester).

Is Teshuvah Possible? Rethinking Mass Incarceration
Thursday, January 31—Rabbi Howard Goldsmith
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, 2125 Westchester Avenue, Rye

Modern-Day Slavery and Our Ethical Responsibility
Thursday, February 7, 7:30 pm—Rabbi Jade Ross
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, 2125 Westchester Avenue, Rye

Disabilities and the Ethics of Inclusion
Thursday, February 28, 7:30 pm—Rabbi Leora Frankel
Community Synagogue of Rye, 200 Forest Ave, Rye

Is Lying Ever Ethical?
Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm—Rabbi Ben Goldberg
Congregation KTI, 575 King Street, Port Chester

Fee—Includes sourcebook & materials; $36 for members of Community Synagogue of Rye, Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester or Congregation KTI. $50 for all others.

For more Information Rabbi Ben Goldberg—rabbigoldberg@congkti.org | 914.939.1004 x206

All sessions begin at 7:30 pm. Registration required.

CSR Film Class

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

The Producers (1967) will be playing on February 7.
Written & Directed by Mel Brooks

Producers Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom make money by producing a sure-fire flop.

Schedule:
Dinner 6:00 pm
The Producers showing 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Discussion 8:30 pm

Everyone is welcome! Interested in attending?
Please contact clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.

First Friday Torah Study at 7 am

Next session: February 8
Offsite, Le Pain Quotidien

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).
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
Select Thursdays at 10:00 am — February 14, 28

Empty Nest-Full Life Team: Adults who Value Jewish Connection
Exodus at the Met
A Special Visit to the Met Museum of Art
The Egyptian Collection
Please join the Empty Nesters on Sunday, March 3 at 3:30 pm for a special guided tour. We will explore the world-famous Egyptian Collection, while discussing the linkages between the Egyptian Empire and our Exodus story. As our prayer book says, “…that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt.”

The cost per ticket is $25. Please bring in or mail your check made payable to Community Synagogue of Rye with MET Tour noted in the memo line. Please include your contact information (email and cell number). Space is limited, so don’t hesitate to sign-up now. Your payment is your reservation.

We will meet just inside the 81st Street and Fifth Avenue ground level entrance at 3:15 pm.

SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment)
Brenda Wilkin• SAJE@comsynrye.org

Monday, February 4
Jane Lewis will explain How to Construct a Family Genogram. Create a personal family relationship and medical history display that will go beyond a traditional family tree.

Thursday, February 7
Michael Gilitz, Executive Director Katonah Museum of Art, will bring us a special program from the Katonah Museum on its innovative exhibitions and educational programs, which promote the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts.

Monday, February 11
Ariana Calderon, Program Manager: Fair Housing Investigation & Education Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. will discuss Fair Housing, including Senior Housing, eviction prevention/utility shutoff prevention, first-time home buying and mortgage default prevention.

Thursday, February 14
Nathan Reiff will screen Hymn of the Nations. A special presentation of Arturo Toscanini’s 1944 Hymn of the Nations, with music composed by Giuseppe Verdi. This is a pitch prefect presentation.

Monday, February 18
Presidents’ Day—No Program

Thursday February 21st
Sherry Lerner Barret, the Inventor Control Mgr. of the Medical Marijuana Dispenser, in Redding, CA will present Cannabis A Non-Pharmaceutical Alternative From A Higher Perspective.

Monday, February 25
Len August will lead a program of sharing from SAJE members with the subject “This Once Happened to Me…”

Thursday, February 28
Marissa Vassari, Archivist & Educator, Rockefeller Archive Center will introduce The Rockefeller Archive Center and explain its work in the Hudson Valley and the greater New York area.

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CSR LGBTQ PRIDE CORNER

**MOSAIC**
Of Westchester

**Jewish LGBTQ Teens & Allies** in 8th-12th grade:

 Join us for discussions and activities that celebrate LGBTQ and Jewish identities!

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**Sundays 4-6pm**

**March 24** at Woodlands Community Temple in White Plains

**May 19** at Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck

**June 30** NYC Pride March

These programs are led by members of the Mosaic Advisory Council:

- **Abby Reiken**, Education Director at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
- **Jill Schreibman**, Licensed Clinical Social Worker with experience serving LGBTQ adolescents and Program Coordinator of UJA-Federation of NY’s CareerConnect program at Westchester Jewish Community Services.

*For more information and to RSVP, contact:* **Abby Reiken** at eddirector@betamshalom.org or (914) 946-8851

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**The CSI Pride Committee invites you to join us as we begin to raise awareness of the LGBTQ community.**

**Sunday, February 10** from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Complimentary event, open to the community.

Babysitting will be provided.

We welcome clinical psychologist

**Dr. Cassandra Klebanoff** who will lead us in a timely, interactive and informative workshop.

**Learn how to be an ally by creating safe spaces and exploring all kinds of visible and invisible identities.**

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*Dr. Cassandra Klebanoff* is an engaging speaker with the Westchester County Psychological Association. She is a licensed clinical psychologist who works with individuals and couples in her private practice in White Plains. Her specific focus and interests are working with people who are moving through traumatic life experiences as well as clients who identify as LGBTQ+. working on multicultural issues and identity development.

1666 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

RSVPs are appreciated, but not required. Open to all!

914-762-2700 • CSIpride18@gmail.com

**www.csibriarcliff.org**
**Contributions**

**ADULT EDUCATION FUND (CECELE FRAENKEL MEMORIAL) FUND**
In memory of Alan Kuller
Carol & Stuart Kuller
Jean & Shep Goldman
EBCG, LLC
Maureen & John Allen
Marla Perlman

**CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Sandy & Ken Weissberg in honor of the birth of their grandson Jonas Henry Weissberg & in memory of their parents
Carol Bennet Bluestein & David Bluestein in honor of Cantor Cooperman
Jayne & Harris Maslansky in memory of Geraldine Gevertz

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

**HESEDA**
Elaine Lerner in memory of Esther Stender, mother of Barbara Latwin
in memory of Andrew Powers, son of Marcia Powers
in memory of Alan Kuller

**KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**
Carol & David Bluestein in honor of Rabbi Gropper
Sharon & Tal Gurion
Leonard August
Susan & Norman Cicelsky in memory of Judith Levine
Shelly & Chuck Shotland in honor of Sue and Andy Zeitlin
Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Sarah Cohen
Susan & Herb Adler in memory of Sidney Miller

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

**RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Sandy & Ken Weissberg in honor of the birth of their grandson, Jonas Henry Weissberg and in memory of their parents

**RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Arnold Handwerger in thanks for continued kindness
Sandy & Ken Weissberg in honor of the birth of their grandson, Jonas Henry Weissberg and in memory of their parents
Helen & Ira Nordlicht to provide dues relief to those in need

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND**
Mary Gilmartin in memory of Esther Stender

**SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND**
Marcia Powers in memory of Dorothy Wechsler
Ellen & Howard Deixler in memory of Alan Kuller
Shelly & Chuck Shotland in honor of Iris and David Sampliner and Rhoda Fidler for their support of SAJE
Arthur Stamplman

**YAHIRZEIT FUND**
Jackie & Victor Piacente in memory of Mitchel Saed
Theresa & Andrew Stevens in memory of Jay Stevens
Arnold Handwerger in memory of Irving Kessler
The Handwerger family in memory of Joan Handwerger
Cindy Valk-Danish & Les Danish in memory of Elsie Danish

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**DONATE WINTER CLOTHING**

Our dedicated bins are back in the lobby!
The Sharing Shelf seeks donations of winter clothing for infants, children and teens.

Please bag items and place them in the marked bins.
All sizes, from newborn through adult XXL are accepted but sizes 3T-14 for boys and girls as well as casual clothing for teen boys is critically needed.

Donations of new socks & new underwear are greatly appreciated but we do not accept used ones.

CLOTHING SHOULD BE IN CLEAN, WEARABLE CONDITION FREE OF RIPS, STAINS AND TEARS READY FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Carrie Nagel at carrienagel1203@gmail.com

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**MIDNIGHT RUN COLLECTION**

COSY is doing a Midnight Run and needs your help!
We are collecting the following:

ADULT clothing items & toiletries:
- Pants
- Coats & jackets
- Shirts
- Sweatshirts & sweatpants
- Shoes (especially boots)
- Gloves & mittens
- Warm hats & scarves
- NEW socks & men's underwear
- Soap
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Combs

Visit MidnightRun.org to learn more

Collections will be accepted through February 8th!

Questions?
Contact Yael Farber
yfarber@comsynrye.org

Teens: join us on the Run on Saturday night, February 9th!
Email Yael Farber for more information and to sign up

www.comsynrye.org 15
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.

YOU CAN NOW MAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO CSR ONLINE
To make a donation to the synagogue or any of its fund using a credit card, please go to https://www.comsynrye.org/donate.html.

Endowment Funds
David & Iris Sampliner Youth Leadership Development Fund
Ez Ha Dorot Endowment (Special Projects) Fund
Goodkind Scholar-in-Residence Fund
The Obrasky (Elder Transportation to CSR) Fund
Pond & Beyond (Grounds Improvement) Fund
Reform Jewish Commitment (RJC) Fund
Victor & Marjorie Wolder (Annual Adult Education Program) Fund in memory of Herbert Millman
Victor & Marjorie Wolder Joy of Living (Annual Joyous Community Event) Fund

Restricted Funds
Adult Education (Cecele Fraenkel Memorial) Fund
Beautification Fund
Cantor Cooperman’s Discretionary Fund
Camp/Israel Trip Fund for Teens
Early Childhood Center Enrichment Fund
Grayer Teen Initiative Fund
Hesed (Caring Community) Fund
Israel Action Fund
Kadima Capital Campaign Fund
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