Artist-in-Residence

Noam Katz
(Friday & Saturday March 16 - 17)

Friday March 16, 6:30 pm - Spirited Musical Shabbat Services with Noam Katz (composer of Roll into Dark and other tunes we love)

March 17, 8:45 am - CJL Family Service & 4th Grade J-Life with Noam Katz
Join your children in the CSR education wing. Noam will teach some new songs and melodies, including music inspired by his time with the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda. 4th grade families will have a chance to dive a little deeper into his experience as part of their J-Life program.

March 17, 4:00 pm - FREE Family Concert and Dinner with Noam Katz in the CSR Education Wing (designed for families with kids aged 0-10)
Noam will have everyone on their feet, singing & dancing! Free and open to all. RSVPs required to ensure enough food.

RSVP to: clergyassistant@comsynrye.org

Turn to page 6 for Noam’s biography.
Community Synagogue of Rye is a caring Jewish community that seeks to add meaning and purpose to your life.

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

This vision is guided by our commitment to the Jewish values of Worship (’Tfilah), Lifelong Learning (Talmud Torah), Community (Kehilah), Loving Kindness (Hesed), Repairing the World (Tikkun Olam) and Love of Israel (Ahavat Yisrael).

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Rabbi ............................................Leora Frankel
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Welcome New Members

Daniel Adler & Karen Matthewson
Noah and Jackie
Rye, NY

Shoshana Riss & Rochelle Bitton
Rye, NY

Mazel Tov
To Myra Lehman and Alan Kuller on the bat mitzvah of Myra’s granddaughter, Miya Lehman

First Friday Torah Study at 7 am

Next session: March 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:

Simcha Balaish, mother of Amos Balaish
Joan Seguljic, mother of Jim Seguljic
Naomi Wrubel, long-time congregant
### March 2018 Calendar

**Thursday, March 1**
- All Day: Purim
- 9:00 am: ECC Purim “Funday” Carnival
- 10:00 am: *Talmud* with Training Wheels
- 11:30 am: SAJE—Offsite, Rye Library

**Friday, March 2**
- 7:00 am: First Friday *Torah* Study—Offsite, La Pain Quotidien
- 9:20 am: ECC *Shabbat*
- 3:30 pm: NFTY 678 Overnight—Offsite, URJ Camp Eisner
- 5:15 pm: Sharing *Shabbat*
- 6:30 pm: Family *Shabbat Services*

**Saturday, March 3**
- All Day: NFTY 678 Overnight—Offsite, URJ Camp Eisner
- 8:45 am: *Torah* Study Service*
- 11:15 am: CJL Grades 3-6
- CJL Youth Services

**Sunday, March 4**
- 12:00 pm: NFTY NAR Albany Advocacy Day—Offsite
- Social Action Sunday: Habitat for Humanity Westchester—Offsite
- 6:00 pm: Tribute to Parkland, Florida Victims—Offsite
- Jewish Community Center of Harrison

**Monday, March 5**
- 9:30 am: The Nature of Things
- 2:30 pm: SAJE
- 1:45 pm: *Havdalah* Service for ECC families
- 6:15 pm: 7th Grade and CSR Teens
- 11th & 12th Grade—Jews in the News
- 8:00 pm: Ritual Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, March 7**
- 4:00 pm: CJL, Grades K-6
- 8:00 pm: Band Rehearsal—Offsite

**Thursday, March 8**
- 11:15 am: SAJE—Offsite, Atria
- 5:30 pm: Film Class—Offsite, The Ambassador

**Friday, March 9**
- At Sundown: National Day of Unplugging
- 9:20 am: ECC *Shabbat*
- 6:00 pm: Re-Soul for Shabbat*
- 6:30 pm: Shabbat Services* With *T'fillah* Band

**Saturday, March 10**
- At Sundown: National Day of Unplugging
- 8:45 am: *Torah* Study Service*
- CJL Grades 3-6
- CJL Youth Services

**Sunday, March 11**
- 9:30 am: NFTY NAR Albany Advocacy Day—Offsite

**Monday, March 12**
- All Day: NFTY NAR Albany Advocacy Day—Offsite
- 1:45 pm: *Havdalah* Service for ECC families
- 2:30 pm: SAJE
- 6:15 pm: 7th Grade and CSR Teens
- 8:15 pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday, March 14**
- 4:00 pm: CJL, Grades K-6

**Thursday, March 15**
- All Day: CSR Teens 11th & 12th Grade Civil Rights
- Journey, Offsite
- 10:00 am: *Talmud* with Training Wheels
- 11:15 am: SAJE—Offsite, Atria
- 7:30 pm: *Tzedek* Council Meeting

**Thursday, March 16**
- All Day: CSR Teens 11th & 12th Grade Civil Rights
- Journey, Offsite
- 9:20 am: ECC *Shabbat*
- 6:30 pm: *Shabbat Services* with Artist-in-Residence Noam Katz

**Saturday, March 17**
- 8:45 am: *Torah Study Service*
- Natalie Steinberg, *bat mitzvah*—Offsite
- Congregation KTI
- 11:15 pm: SAJE—Offsite, Atria
- 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal—Offsite

**Friday, March 18**
- 9:20 am: ECC *Shabbat*
- 6:30 pm: Shabbat Services with Choir*

**Saturday, March 19**
- 8:45 am: *Torah* Study Service*
- CJL Grades 3-5
- CJL Youth Services
- 9:30 am: CJL 6th Grade Retreat—Offsite, Surprise Lake Camp, Cold Springs, NY
- 5:00 pm: Maya Mathisson, *bat mitzvah*—Offsite
- Congregation CEW

**Sunday, March 25**
- 4:00 pm: Jewish Yoga—Offsite, Tovami Yoga, Rye, NY
- 5:00 pm: Empty Nesters Film Screening—Offsite
- Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville, NY

**Monday, March 26**
- 1:45 pm: *Havdalah* Service for ECC families
- 2:30 pm: SAJE
- 6:15 pm: 7th Grade and CSR Teens
- 12th Grade/Parents Packing for College
- 8:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, March 28**
- 4:00 pm: CJL, Grades K-6

**Thursday, March 29**
- 11:15 am: SAJE—Offsite, Atria

**Friday, March 30**
- All Day: *Erev Pesach*—1st Seder
- ECC Closed
- 1:00 pm: Office Closes Early
- 5:00 pm: *Shabbat Services*

**Saturday, March 31**
- All Day: Passover 1st Day
- ECC Closed
- CJL Closed
- 8:45 am: *Torah Study Service*
My Zaida (Yiddish for grandpa) immigrated from Poland to Canada in 1924 when he was just 14. He and his older sister Enid arrived together—orphans adopted by cousins in Winnipeg. Thank goodness the law allowed them to enter that democratic nation, a nation that only 15 years later, as Jews were desperately trying to flee Nazi Germany, declared, “None is too many.”

My Zaida shared little of his boyhood experiences. I imagine that losing both parents at such a young age would cause unspeakable trauma. And I imagine that the anti-Semitism he experienced as a boy made him want to forget all he left behind.

One story he did tell has a degree of both humor and tragedy within it. As the family opened the door for Elijah one seder, the neighbors were waiting outside and pushed the family goat through the door! It’s a funny image—a goat coming into the house—but it is also a poignant one because my grandfather’s family knew that their neighbors didn’t like Jews living nearby.

While not part of the traditional Haggadah, this story has become part of my family’s Passover lore. And that, my friends, is what Passover is all about—sharing stories of your own family’s hardships and history.

Our tribal story begins, “We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt,” and continues from there. But the story we tell around the seder table need not end with our ancient ancestors wandering in the wilderness of Sinai. If it does, then those Israelites (and we by extension) are frozen forever in a frame. Yet life is dynamic and ever changing. Our seders should include our own family’s immigration story. Somewhere along the line—either to escape persecution or to pursue opportunity—one left one country to begin anew in another. Shouldn’t their tales be part of our people’s larger narrative?

Why tell such stories? I believe it teaches our children and grandchildren gratitude for what we have; it reminds us that we have agency to better our own lives; it makes the Jewish story of leaving Egypt into a narrative that still rings true today; and it builds empathy and compassion towards those who are immigrants to this country. An added bonus: Studies show that hearing stories of family members who overcame adversity improves the emotional well-being of young children.

As usual, what is going on in this country mirrors the teachings of our sacred texts and our own historical memory. The debate surrounding immigration—not just in the United States, but in Israel and around the world—grows in volume every day. The Israeli government is planning to deport thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese refugees just as those Israeli political leaders sit down to their own Passover seders. Our Congress vigorously debates the future of 800,000 Dreamers who have only known this soil as their country, who have contributed mightily to our nation’s growth and success, and who trusted the government, and came out of the shadows to live in the light.

Whether you think the Dreamers deserve a path to citizenship or that they deserve no consideration; whether you think we need to tighten border security or you believe border security is the least of our problems, I invite you to look at Passover as the perfect opportunity to debate these issues. We live in a country (and we are from a tradition) that values debate. The questions on immigration are part of that ongoing debate.

So, this year on Passover, why not tell the story of your own family’s journey AND open a conversation about what the future of immigration to these shores—for those already here and those yearning to be here—should look like. Your conversation may be informed by these words from Leviticus: “When an immigrant resides in your land, you shall not wrong them. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34). If you need other resources for this conversation, I am happy to provide them.

On behalf of all of us here at CSR, we wish you a Zeisen Pesach, a Passover filled with sweetness.

Rabbi Daniel Gropper
My Jewish journey started many years ago in a cozy apartment in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. There, in the kitchen of my maternal grandmother, on many Sundays and certainly on special occasions and holidays, I watched as she prepared traditional dishes such as roast chicken, matzo ball soup, noodle kugel, chopped liver and yummy desserts like apple cake and mandel bread with nuts and raisins. While my sister and I were kept busy chopping, kneading, pouring and mixing, we listened to her hum some lovely melodies that sounded both happy and sad. And so, my early memories of starting on a Jewish journey are infused with the sights and sounds of a bustling and happy home.

My foundational years also included the marking of holidays celebrated with much ritual and fanfare. Hanukkah with real oil lamps instead of wax candles, the endless Passover seder with unfamiliar readings and strange foods, Sukkot, with steaming dishes served under a fragrant and scented tabernacle constructed by my grandfather. Everything seemed both mysterious and somewhat removed from my day-to-day existence. But what did it all mean?

In those days, less so than today, not every Jewish girl was afforded an opportunity to study and learn. So while my younger brother went to Hebrew school, and became a bar mitzvah, sadly my sister and I missed out on this milestone event and the formal study and preparations that led up to it.

But the nice thing about any journey is that at some point you, the traveler, take responsibility for the road you travel and the paths you choose. When I joined Community Synagogue of Rye as a married woman with two small children just starting their Jewish educations, I thought why not restart my own? And so I did.

I signed up for an adult class in Hebrew, and not without some trepidation. But my classmates were other women with similar stories, and our instructor was our own very patient Debbie Friedman, so we all began to brush up on our aleph bets without fear of failure or the judgment of others. From there, I graduated to the Anshe Binah program offered by Rabbi Gropper, where over the course of two years a small group of congregants learned about our heritage and tradition from an adult perspective, reading and studying the Torah and ancillary materials that broadened my perspective and appreciation of our religion and culture. And we continued to study Hebrew. From that class, where we shared our stories, laughed together and cried together, I made some new and important friendships that I treasure to this day.

With my deeper commitment to Community Synagogue I began to volunteer for more events, signed on to the Religious School committee, and participated more widely in the life of our shul. Soon I was asked to join ATID, our inspirational Leadership Development program that helps to identify and train the next generation of synagogue leaders. In 2008, I was proud to be asked to become a trustee of Community Synagogue and gladly accepted that honor and responsibility. And as they say, the rest is history. Now ten years later, after serving on the Board, and in many roles on the Executive Committee, I am nearing the completion of my term as President of this wonderful congregation.

And as I anticipate stepping back and letting others come forward, I know that my Jewish journey will continue in new and even more exciting ways. Because no matter where the road takes you, it is the people you meet along the way, the relationships that you form, the friendships that you create and the experiences that you savor that make the journey worthwhile. We can never truly predict where life will lead us but we all have choices that inform our direction. Whenever I found myself at a crossroad in life, if I saw two paths and one said, “Easy Street,” and the other said, “Rough Road Ahead,” I always took the road less traveled and found that has made all the difference (to paraphrase a famous poet).

Each one of us is unique and each of our journeys reflects the individual nature that makes us special. No one can forge a path for the next person, but we can act as guides along the way. I am happy to say that Community Synagogue offers myriad roads on which to begin or explore one’s Jewish journey. I invite each of you to find your pathway in and keep traveling.

With best wishes,

Laurie Frolich

Laurie Frolich, President
**My Jewish Journey**

*Cantor Melanie Cooperman • mcooperman@comsynrye.org*

I’d like to tell you my most profound Jewish memories revolved around my Jewish education, *bat mitzvah* and confirmation. But, honestly, they weren’t. The process felt more result-driven and was geared more towards my parents than my personal spiritual development. However, the synagogue still played a vital role in shaping my spirituality as did holiday celebrations with my family. As a side note: it’s why I think continuing involvement at a synagogue is so important—you never know what will be meaningful and memorable for a young person.

I can still recall hearing Cantor Barry Abelson’s majestic voice soar through the balcony at Temple Israel in Minneapolis. For me, there was little distinction between God and music—they seemed intertwined and I wanted to be immersed in it. Growing up, I sang in many choirs, orchestras and theater productions. In addition to the performative experience, these opportunities also provided a much-needed sense of belonging. As a Cantor, it’s why I feel it’s important to have as many voices as possible rising up to create a sense of togetherness and belonging.

As an adult, my love of music and my sense of spirituality finally fused together. I had begun taking Jewish adult education classes at another synagogue. I was sitting in services and, following silent prayer, I had a calling moment which led me to the Cantorate. Was it God? Was it finally an understanding of how to combine two of the most vital aspects of who I am? I’m still looking for those answers, but that’s part of my own Jewish journey that continues on.

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**Artist-in-Residence: Rabbi Noam Katz**

Rabbi Noam Katz is one of the most exciting and influential voices in contemporary Jewish music. He has brought his high-flying energy and soulful melodies to Jewish and interfaith audiences across North America, Africa and Israel.

A longtime songleader/educator at URJ Eisner, George and Kutz Camps, Noam has performed at URJ Biennials, CAJE, BBYO International, Limmud—England, NFTY Convention, and countless summer camps and congregations. He currently serves as the Rabbi/Dean of Jewish Living at The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, Ontario.

Noam’s debut recording, RAKIA includes 12 original Hebrew and English melodies ideal for *Shabbat* and *Havdalah*. His second album, MIREMBE, SALAAM V’SHALOM, features musicians from Africa and the Middle East, and includes his Ugandan-inspired “Am Yisrael Chai.” Noam’s third release, A DRUM IN HAND, blends Jewish prayers with the live energy of a drum circle. His newest album, AFTER THE FLOOD, includes 14 new songs that focus on resilience and remembrance.

In 2003, Noam embarked on the most exciting journey of his life, volunteering with the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda. He has since shared their powerful story and music with audiences young and old, incorporating the message of Jewish unity and *tikkun olam* (healing the world) wherever he goes.

While my family wasn’t overtly “religious,” we always attended High Holiday services and observed all the holidays together. In our home, we always celebrated with large gatherings centered around food and singing. After dinner, I’d take a walk, usually with one of my sisters. Growing up in Minnesota, I spent many hours outdoors and some of my most spiritual moments have been spent connecting to God in nature.

National Day of Unplugging 2018

Join us on March 9-10, 2018 for the National Day of Unplugging, designed to help hyper-connected people of all backgrounds to embrace the *Sabbath*: The ancient ritual of a day of rest.

Sign up at http://www.sabbathmanifesto.org/unplug to be part of NDU 2018.

Hannah Gorevic, a *bat mitzvah* here at CSR, has incorporated the National Day of Unplugging into her *bat mitzvah* project.
Dinner at Noon

Volunteers from Community Synagogue of Rye gather at the Carver Center on six Saturdays during the school year to prepare and serve a delicious, multi-course meal to Port Chester residents in need.

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 March 24, May 5, and June 16.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Assemblywoman Shelly Mayer dropped by Dinner at Noon.

Yom HaShoah service volunteers needed in April

The community-wide Yom HaShoah service falls on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison.

The committee is looking for volunteers to help with the service. CSR Clergy will be participating.

For more information, please contact Carol Meyers at 914-921-2006 or ryemeyers@gmail.com.
Empty Nesters Sunday Matinee
March 25, 5:00 pm: “The Invisibles” at the Westchester Jewish Festival 2018

For our next Empty Nest-Full Life event, we are inviting everyone to join us for the 5:00 pm screening of “The Invisibles” at the Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville, NY on Sunday, March 25.

Set in February 1943 Berlin, it tells the true stories of four young Jews who survived the war there after the Nazi regime declared the Reich’s capital free of Jews. Their secret: They became invisible in plain sight.

One led an adventurous life that included buying a sailboat, dining in Berlin’s best restaurants, and becoming a passport forger (which enabled him to save the lives of dozens of other Jews). Another joined the resistance and distributed antigovernment leaflets.

One woman pretended to be a war widow and served black-market gourmet foods in the apartment of a German officer, and another dyed her hair blonde and infiltrated unsuspecting groups where a Jew would never have been accepted. Dramatic reenactments are interwoven with impressive interviews with the actual people whose lives inspired this captivating and moving feature film.

Tickets: $10 (members), $15 (nonmembers).
We are asking everyone to purchase their own tickets, please let us know if you are coming. RSVP to Alan Shepard at agshepard@gmail.com. See you there!

Kadima together campaign

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 ECC’S JEWISH JOURNEY
Dale Oberlander, ECC Director  •  doberlander@comsynrye.org

For this month’s bulletin we have been asked to share a story of our Jewish journeys. So it seems befitting that I share with you a journey that the ECC is about to begin. The ECC is very fortunate to have a population of families from all different ethnicities, faiths, sexual orientation and backgrounds.

While we are primarily a Jewish community, we are also a blend of Jewish, non-Jewish and interfaith families who have all come together for a common purpose: to provide our children with a high quality, early childhood education that supports the cognitive, social, physical and emotional growth of each individual child. In addition, as our world becomes more digitized we are committed to ensuring that our very young are learning how to be good people who are sensitive and kind to one another and conscious of the world around them.

The ECC is currently working with the clergy and the CJL to develop meaningful ways to weave Jewish tradition into the fabric of our curriculum in order to highlight universally relevant values, such as generosity, gratitude, respect for one another, respect for the environment, forgiveness, open-mindedness, and kindness. These values will be explored through day-to-day activities and honored through Jewish celebrations. Our goal is to provide lessons that are sincere, relevant and meaningful to young children so that they may carry these values with them after they have graduated from the ECC.

We are excited about this new sense of purpose. Our natural playground, butterfly garden and vegetable garden, all made possible by our diverse community, will play an important role in this journey.

ECC IMPORTANT DATES

| March 1   | Purim Fun Day |
| March 2   | Sharing Shabbat 5:15 pm hosted by the 2’s |
| March 6 & 7 | Photo Days |
| March 14  | Parent Teacher Conference—Padgett |
| March 15  | Parent Teacher Conference—McCormack |
| March 30  | ECC CLOSED—Spring Break |

ENROLL NOW

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

2018 WESTCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL AT THE JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER IN MARCH

Tickets for the 2018 Westchester Jewish Film Festival will go on sale in mid-February for the annual festival which will run from March 13—29 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY. This year’s festival will feature 38 films, a robust mix of documentaries and narratives. Many of the films will be followed by speakers, audience Q&As, and receptions. For complete information, please visit burnsfilmcenter.org. For the run of the festival, two of the Film Center’s five screens will show both matinee and evening screenings of festival films. For more information and group sales, please contact Abby Popper at apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 424.
Every year on Passover, we tell the story of the ultimate Jewish journey: the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. In keeping with this motif, I asked our CJL educators to reflect on their Jewish journeys. What was their Jewish education like? What inspired them to become Jewish educators?

To share my life-long love of Judaism and Jewish music:
Laurie Griffel’s journey to becoming a Jewish educator stemmed from the wonderful Jewish experiences in her childhood and a rich Jewish education. “I came from a Conservative Jewish family. We lit candles on Friday nights and I went to synagogue with my father and sister weekly. My father loved singing and chanting, and he was often a guest Cantor in synagogue. Jewish music was always playing in my home and we were always singing in the car and around the kitchen table. I received my Jewish education at a synagogue school and later at a yeshiva (Orthodox day school), and I began teaching religious school while I was still in high school. I led Shabbat Services and authored a children’s siddur with my sister for the services. My first full-time teaching job was teaching kindergarten at a Conservative day school, and I fell in love with Jewish education. I have been teaching ever since and at the CJL since 2011. I am a proud past winner of the Greenspoon-Steinhardt National Judaic Teaching Award in 2010. I have fallen in love with the Reform Movement and am happy to have joined the CJL family. My love for Jewish music and traditions began this journey, and I hope that I have touched the lives of my students as they always touch mine.”

To give students the sense of Jewishness that I never learned or had as a child:
In contrast to Laurie’s journey, Judy Stern’s Jewish education began when she was an adult. “I grew up in a very non-religious family. We celebrated the holidays with a quick chanting of blessings in Yiddish by my grandfather. When I married my Conservative Jewish husband Alan, the Rabbi said I would learn from him. I went to temple with him and had no idea what was going on during the service. However, when our son Adam arrived, I knew I had to do something about learning Hebrew and about Judaism. Once he started nursery school at our temple, I got a Hebrew primer from the religious school director and taught myself the Hebrew letters. Then I began taking Bible and Hebrew classes (sometimes at night), became an adult bat mitzvah, followed by Confirmation, and attended classes to become a teacher. I have taught third grade in synagogue schools ever since. My parents were very proud of my ‘Jewish’ successes. My philosophy is to give the students a sense of Jewishness that I never learned or had as a child.”

I thought I was going to teach but discovered that I was actually going to learn:
For some, becoming an educator was an important step in their own Jewish education. Itamar Shatz explains, “I became a part of the CJL team as a link in a long tradition of Israeli teachers who also happen to be musicians. I thought I was going to teach but discovered that I was actually going to learn a lot and I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to become a part of this world and grow in so many ways.”

Top 5 reasons why I teach at the CJL:
Finally, Carol Meyers summarizes the inspiration for her journey as a Jewish educator as follows:

1. I love being Jewish and I like sharing the things I love about our religion with others. I hope that something the children learn in my class will inspire them to keep our traditions for the rest of their life.
2. I love children.
3. I believe in the synagogue as an important institution.
4. I believe in the values and mission of the URJ.
5. I teach in memory of my great grandparents and the 6 million Jews that did not survive the Holocaust because they were Jewish.

The diverse experiences that mark each educator’s journey to the CJL are one of the strengths of our education team. The children at the CJL benefit from the unique strengths and expertise each of our educators has to share with them. The Jewish journeys of our educators are varied, but their stories reflect a shared love of Judaism and above all, a deep commitment to igniting their passion for Judaism in each of their learners.

When I look back on my personal Jewish journey, I immediately look at the semester I spent in Israel at URJ Heller High (formerly NFTY-EIE). As a high school sophomore, I spent four months living on a kibbutz outside Jerusalem with 44 other Reform Jewish high school students from around the United States and Canada. To this day, I am still close with many of the friends I met at EIE. This experience was transformative for me: not only did I fall in love with Israel and find best friends, but I see it as the first time I fell in love with learning about world Jewish history. My semester in Israel started out as a fun opportunity to travel and do something different during my high school career. What it became was so much more than that. It became the stepping stone for my path in high school, college, and now my career.

It’s so exciting to see many of our teens taking advantage of various different opportunities to travel to Israel on URJ programs. We’ve had teens spend a semester with URJ Heller High, spend their summers traveling with NFTY in Israel, and participating in Mitzvah Corps. Much like my own experience, our teens come back telling incredible stories and feeling a strong connection to Israel. If you are interested in learning more about any of the incredible Israel programs that NFTY and the URJ have to offer for high school students, please contact yfarber@comsynrye.org

COSY & CSR Teens Upcoming Events

March 4 COSY Social Action Sunday 12:00 pm—Habitat for Humanity, RSVP @ YFarber@comsynrye.org
OUR B’NEI MITZVAH

Hannah Gorevic

My name is Hannah Gorevic and I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on March 3. I am the daughter of Diana Tapper and Jason Gorevic and have an older brother named Jonah. I am a seventh grader at Hackley School and I enjoy acting, singing, and dancing. My Torah portion is Ki Tisa from the Book of Exodus. This is the story of the Golden Calf, when Moses climbs Mount Sinai to get the 10 commandments from God, while the Israelites get restless and start worshipping a golden calf. For my mitzvah project, I chose to organize and execute a cabaret-style performance to benefit Broadway Cares. I teamed up with StarKidz to put together this performance which is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 14 at the Playgoup Theater in White Plains at 4:30 pm. I encourage synagogue members to come and support this event. I chose to do this as my mitzvah project because it combines my love of acting and singing with helping the community. Broadway Cares is an organization that helps fight AIDS by raising money, which helps communities across the country receive vital medications, healthcare, nutritious meals, AIDS counseling, and financial assistance. I’m very grateful to everyone who helped me out in the process of this performance, and I hope you can come to see us on April 14.

Alexander Corbin

My name is Alex Corbin and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on March 17. I am the son of Wendy and Peter Corbin and I will be sharing the bimah with my twin brother Max. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I enjoy playing soccer, basketball, skiing and tennis. My Torah portion is Tzav from the Book of Leviticus. It discusses the ritual practice and appointing the original high priests in front of the Israelites. For my Mitzvah project, my brother and I are trying to raise money and awareness for a horrible children’s disease called EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa). It is the “Worst Disease You’ve Never Heard of.” One of my close family friends has EB and is constantly living in pain. We have volunteered and participated in many fundraisers for EB since we were little. Now, we know that children with EB are in pain and they need some love and inspiration. We have built a Facebook page where people can donate what they choose as long as they write an inspirational message to EB children. Money will certainly help, but we want to spread awareness more than anything else. Thank you, in advance for your contribution.

Max Corbin

My name is Max Corbin and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on March 17. I am the son of Wendy and Peter Corbin and I will be sharing the bimah with my twin brother Alex. I am a seventh grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I enjoy playing soccer, basketball, skiing and tennis. My Torah portion is Tzav from the Book of Leviticus. It discusses the importance of ceremony and sacrifice in front of witnesses. For my mitzvah project, my brother and I are trying to raise money and awareness for a horrible children’s disease called EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa). It is the “Worst Disease You’ve Never Heard of.” One of my close family friends has EB and is constantly living in pain. We have volunteered and participated in many fundraisers for EB since we were little. Now, we know that children with EB are in pain and they need some love and inspiration. We have built a Facebook page where people can donate what they choose as long as they write an inspirational message to EB children. Money will certainly help, but we want to spread awareness more than anything else. Thank you, in advance for your contribution.

Natalie Steinberg

My name is Natalie Steinberg. On March 22 I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. I live in Rye Brook with my parents Jackie and Richard and my older sister Isabel. My Torah portion is Tzav from the Book of Leviticus. This section of the Torah takes place in the portable tabernacle in the wilderness. Moses receives instructions from God for the people about how Israel can maintain a good relationship with God through offerings, sacrifice and rituals. For my mitzvah project, I have been collecting supplies for an animal shelter that needs additional assistance. I plan to visit in the weeks to come to see the animals with the items we delivered.

Maya Mathisson

My name is Maya Mathisson. I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on March 24. I am the daughter of Lena and Dan Mathisson. I have three older brothers: David, Sam, and Jonah. I am in the seventh grade at Rye Middle School, and I enjoy gymnastics and playing with my dog, Maizy. I love spending summers at URJ-Eisner camp, where this summer will be my 6th year. I have learned so much about Judaism at Eisner and I encourage everyone to send their kids there! My Torah portion is Sh’mi from the Book of Leviticus. Sh’mi is about the laws of kashrut, and explains in detail which animals we can and cannot eat. It is one of many examples where the Torah gives structure to the lives of the Jewish people, and makes it easy to know right from wrong. This parsha has had an influence way beyond eating—today, the word “kosher” has come to mean something proper that has come to mean something proper that follows the rules, even among people who are not Jewish. I am looking forward to my bat mitzvah, to living life as a Jewish adult, and to living with Jewish values in the years to 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*
10:00 am—11:30 am at CSR: Mar 1, 2018 and 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.

The next gathering of the CSR BOOK CLUB

Let's get together and read "Eternal Life" by Dana Horn!

**Monday, March 19th at 8:00pm**

**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

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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 March 8 at The Ambassador

9 Saxon Wood Rd, White Plains, NY 10605

**Thursday, March 8**

**Dinner**—5:30 pm  
**Movie**—6:15 pm  
**Discussion**—8:15 pm

**Film:** *Network*

**Synopsis:** A television network cynically exploits a deranged former anchor’s ravings and revelations about the news media for its own profit.

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

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**Re-soul for Shabbat**

Serenity. Have you ever Meditated?

Mindfulness. From beginners to experienced.

Balance.

**Friday, March 9**

**Topic:** Shmirat Ha’Ozen (Attentive Listening)  
6:00 PM  
Chapel at Rye Presbyterian Church

Using meditation practices, mindfulness skills and some simple *Mussar* texts, we will sit, mostly in silence and contemplation to wind down from the week and lift us into Shabbat. Please join Rabbi Gropper from 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm on 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 March is Shmirat Ha’Ozen - Attentive Listening**

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.
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.

Thursday, March 1 @ Rye Library - 11:30 pm
SAJE is honored to welcome back Rabbi Robert Rothman, Rabbi Emeritus of Community Synagogue of Rye. Rabbi Rothman will be presenting a lecture entitled, “The Significance of Purim” and will be sure to offer us new ways of connecting to Jewish ritual, meaning, and tradition.

Monday, March 5
Come and participate in a Current Events discussion at SAJE. Contribute your thoughts, ideas and opinions about today’s national headlines and world news.

Thursday, March 8 @ The Atria
SAJE is proud to welcome back Rye City Councilwoman and CSR member Danielle Tagger-Epstein. Danielle was raised in Brooklyn until the age of eight, then moved to London for several years before living in Israel. She is a former member of the IDF, where she was a noncommissioned officer for the International Liaison Unit based in Gaza. She returned to the United States for college, majoring in theater.

Monday, March 12
Join Andi Hessekiel for our second session of personal essay writing for this year. If you’ve ever thought about putting in writing the stories of your life, this session will help you get started. By using simple prompts, Andi encourages us to write and “publish” our work by sharing it with one another. Andi’s warm feedback will help you get reacquainted with the writer that lives inside you—and the stories shared by others become a great way to stimulate conversation among all of us. No previous experience is necessary—and you can be a writer or a listener in the session. But writers are welcome!!! The prompt for the session is: My mother always did that—now I do it too.

Thursday, March 15
Dine Around: Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
Chat 19: American Grill Prefix Menu—$28 per person
19 Chatsworth Ave, Larchmont, NY 10538
Includes appetizers, main course, and dessert with choice of coffee or tea. RSVP to Iris Sampliner—ikstravel@aol.com

Monday, March 19
SAJE welcomes new Community Synagogue of Rye Executive Director Glynis Conyer who will share her impressive path to the Synagogue. As Managing Owner of Summit Care and Travel program for kids with special needs, Glynis recruited, led and managed 180+ international staff members across a range of functional areas. Previously, she held roles such as chief operating officer of a leading provider of international staffing, director of staff development, rabbinic intern, hospice pastoral caregiver and career counselor in the United States and South Africa. A graduate of and ordained rabbi by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Glynis obtained a BA in Psychology and Communications at the University of South Africa.

Thursday, March 22 @ The Atria
SAJE welcomes Aaron Fidler who will present the work that he has done as a pre-medical fellow with the nonprofit organization Saving Mothers. Founded in 2009 by medical professionals, Saving Mothers seeks to improve health outcomes for women in the most underserved global communities. Saving Mothers brings field-tested, high-impact solutions to bear in solving these challenges. Over 343,000 women in developing nations die during childbirth each year and the vast majority of these deaths are due to lack of access to basic sexual and reproductive care. Saving Mothers currently has operations in Kenya, Guatemala, and in the Dominican Republic. Aron will give a background to the problem and the work that is being done to address it, with a focus on a recent trip to Guatemala—seeking to gauge understanding of family planning among the indigenous Mayan Tz’utujil people.

Monday, March 26
Ted Talks: Seth Godin is an entrepreneur and blogger who thinks about the marketing of ideas in the digital age. His newest interest: the tribes we lead. “Seth Godin may be the ultimate entrepreneur for the Information Age,” Mary Kuntz wrote in Business Week nearly a decade ago. “Instead of widgets or car parts, he specializes in ideas—usually, but not always, his own.” In fact, he’s as focused on spreading ideas as he is on the ideas themselves. Seth Godin presents “This is Broken” an informative and humorous Ted Talk from the 2006 Gel Conference. He gives a tour of things poorly designed, the seven reasons why they are that way, and how to fix them.

Thursday, March 29 @ The Atria
Yvonne Tropp will share her experiences as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer for the past 17 years. She will share some heart rending stories about children in foster care whom she monitors and reports on here in Westchester, in order to help judges with permanency decisions. Yvonne’s long time Supervisor, Jackie Boissonnault, Mental Health Assn. of Westchester’s Director of Children’s Advocacy Services, will participate in the presentation. Ms. Boissonnault is a Licensed Master of Social Work, and has devoted her career toward influencing child welfare and Family Court through advocacy, direct service and policy work.

**Directions to Atria Rye Brook: 1200 King Street, Rye Brook NY

VIA 287 West:
Take 287 West to Exit 9N-S (Hutchinson River Pkwy)
Take Hutchinson River Pkwy North to exit 30S (120A)
Turn left onto 120A/N. King Street

VIA 120A:
Head north on Forest Ave toward Boulder Rd
Turn right onto Grace Church St
Continue onto S Main St
Use the middle lane to turn slightly left onto King St
Turn left onto Willett Ave
Continue straight onto NY-120A/N/King St

www.comsynrye.org
CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Bonnie Wess Caley in appreciation to
Cantor Cooperman for the beautiful funeral service for
her husband Steven Caley.

DAVID & IRIS SAMPLINER YOUTH LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT FUND
Rhoda & Steven Steinberg in memory of Samuel Steinberg

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ENRICHMENT FUND
Leah & Russell Viault
Rachel & Patrick Fleming

ISRAEL ACTION FUND
Joan & Ron Cohen in memory of
Simcha Balaish, mother of Amos Balaish

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Felsen Insurance Services Inc.
Robin and Steven Tuch
Edith & Norman Flitt in memory of Beulah Sher
Carol & Gerald Cohen in memory of Gail Hoffman’s mother
Alice Borghini & Jonathan Ratner
Alexis & Jonathan London
Felicia & Bruce DePaola
Janey and Joshua Rand
Bonnie Wess Caley in honor of
Rabbi Gropper, Rabbi Frankel and Cantor Cooperman

MICHAEL GINSBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND
Fern & Howard Bindelglass in memory of
Ruth Bindelglass and Adrian Ralph Kristeller

PJ LIBRARY FUND
Fredda & Eric Berger in memory of
Rupert Belkin, father of David Belkin

RABBI FRANKEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Bonnie Wess Caley in appreciation to
Rabbi Frankel for the beautiful funeral service for her
husband Steven Caley, and for Rabbi Frankel’s
spiritual help during Steven’s final days

RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Aileen & Marvin Carlton in memory of
Alfred Landman
Marijan, Judi and Philip Hahn in appreciation to
Rabbi Gropper for the support and comfort in
connection with the funeral of their mother
Micheline Hahn
Julie Schuster in memory of her father Michael Cook

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT
(SAJE) FUND
Caryl & Gilbert Weinstein in memory of
Julia Rudner, mother of Caryl Weinstein and
Irving Weinstein, father of Gil Weinstein
Joan & Ron Cohen in honor of
Gary Taplin, with best wishes for a complete and
rapid recovery from his recent accident

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Sarah and Ralph Newitter in memory of Jacob A. Levy
Christ’s Church of Rye for the Refugee Resettlement

SYNAGOGUE FUND
For the Scholarship Fund for children’s Jewish education
Andrea & Mark Kramer in honor of
Susan Rudoph’s long service to the Temple
and our Community
Karen & Jeff Ruddy
Judy & David Belkin

YAHIRZET FUND
Nancy & Roger Matles in memory of Ann Matles
Sue Ellen & Peter Goldman in memory of
Irene and Melvin Goldman

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. 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.
Children Enjoy Model Seder

At the Model Seder, Rabbi Gordon holds matzos and explains its symbolic history. The youngsters from left to right are: Michael Enzer, Margot Kaufman, Susan Sachs, Eli Enzer, and Brenda Alenick.

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

YOUNG JUDAEAN 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@youngjudaean.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