



A Message from Cantor Melanie Cooperman

At the end of this month we will reach the holiday of *Shavuot*—the celebration of receiving *Torah* at Mount Sinai. For some of us, it will feel like we've climbed a mountain to get there.

These past few months have been difficult ones for so many in our community. Some have had illnesses and losses of those close to them. Others have experienced loneliness or been challenged by having young children at home while trying to manage work responsibilities. Others have lost their jobs.

And, yet, there is that promise of hope and healing on the horizon.

The festival of Shavuot begins the evening of May 28 and traditionally begins with staying up all night studying and discussing Torah. CSR is partnering with other local synagogues to provide multiple experiences to engage with Torah and with each other. There are many virtual programs offered and I'm sure you'll find something which appeals to you. As an extra bonus, it's traditional on Shavuot to eat dairy foods like blintzes and cheesecake to keep your energy up for all this study!

Even if you haven't engaged in study sessions, online services, and the other offerings, I invite you to join us. If you've never celebrated Shavuot previously, this year is the perfect year to change that. You don't have to leave your house or put on anything fancy. Just be with us.

The Jewish calendar has provided a real anchor in time for me, personally. Just observing Shabbat in a small way—tuning in to services, lighting candles, and eating challah, can help to acknowledge Shabbat in time. The cycle of the holidays, the prayers and rituals provide stability and grounding, especially as days seemingly blend one into the next.

Most of all, I want you to know that we are here for you. If you are in need of support physically, emotionally or spiritually, your CSR family is here for you.

May our climb up the mountain to Shavuot be one of strength, support, and courage.

Cantor Melanie Cooperman

A Message from our President

Over the past few weeks, my family has felt the support of this amazing community. Even though we couldn't gather together in person to mourn my father's passing, we felt a strong, warm embrace from our community and it has helped us manage through a difficult time. My sister, Carol Meyers, and I, and our entire family would like to extend our sincere thanks to our wonderful synagogue family. It's a time like this that we truly recognize the valuable impact of a synagogue community, especially ours.

I would also like to take a moment to express sincere gratitude to our professional staff, who are working exceptionally hard during this difficult time. Each one of them is masterfully and tirelessly working to provide opportunities and support for our congregants, learning new ways to reach our community. It's not an easy task and we appreciate all of them for their hard work and perseverance.

We also have incredible volunteers who are putting in many, many hours to make sure our community remains strong. We appreciate each one of you and all that you are doing. Thank you to our Hesed team for providing for our congregants' needs – please feel free to reach out if there is something that we can help you with. Special appreciation to our finance committee for spending an unprecedented amount of time preparing a difficult budget for next year. And thank you to our Executive Committee, which has been meeting weekly, and to our Board of Trustees for all that they are doing for our fellow congregants.

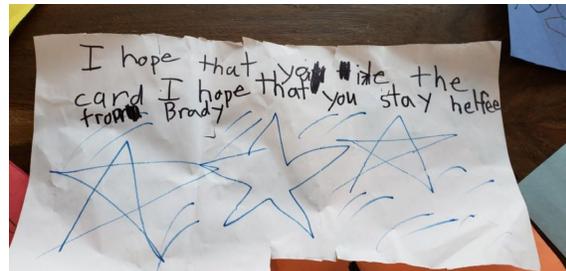
Sincere thanks to our entire community. It takes a village to get through a challenge like this one. We will get through this - things might be different when we emerge from this quarantine, but we will remain strong and here for each other.

Sue Zeitlin, President

CJL News

Amy Rosenbaum, PhD., CJL Director

The synagogue building is closed, but the Virtual CJL and Cyber Chavurah are up and running. Children practiced the Four Questions, explored the Passover story, and baked matzoh in the weeks leading up to the Passover Seders. Educators have found inventive ways to engage children in remote learning, from Passover bingo to scavenger hunts and Kahoot.



Some of the most important learning is in response to what is happening around us. CJL learners have been finding ways to make meaning and help others during the pandemic. Here are some examples:

CJL learners have become pen pals with members of SAJE, exchanging e-mails (or sending photos of pictures they've drawn in the younger grades – see above). They have shared stories about badly behaved pets, how they are keeping busy, their siblings, and the activities they can't wait to resume – dance and travel and playing bridge and sports.

The 4th grade is creating a Kids in the Quarantine Kitchen Cookbook, with recipes they have been cooking with their families.

In the 7th grade Chavurah, learners are creating virtual time capsules to document their lives during the pandemic.

Other grades are taking advantage of the proximity to parents to learn more about their family's history and create family trees.

CSR Teens

Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Learning

Despite the physical distance, I am happy to share that the teen community feels stronger than ever. Through revamped social media (follow us on Instagram @csrteens!) and Zoom meetings,

teen engagement is continuing to be strong. Over the past few weeks, different cohorts of teens have gathered via Zoom to chat, play games, and share frustrations and wins. We have continued with our weekly Monday night learning for the teens; which have consisted of games and time to talk with one another.

In honor of Yom HaShoah, we had a powerful evening of reflection and learning about Holocaust memory led by Joslyn DeLancey and myself. With Israel's birthday, challah baking, and end-of-year celebrations, I am excited for a busy end of the programming year!

As I have shared with all of our teens and parents, I am always here to support you and your families in any way that I can! Please let me know if you are interested in connecting for a FaceTime chat, a pen-pal, or anything else you may need.

Mazal Tov

To Jill and Jim Feldesman on the wedding of their son Jared, to Cheryl Tanowitz

Mazal Tov to our May B'nei Mitzvah

Emma Silberstein

My name is Emma Silberstein and I will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on May 2. I am a seventh grader at Rye Country Day School. I am the daughter of Devon and Michael Silberstein and I have a younger sister, Drew. My *Torah* portion is *Emor* from the Book of *Leviticus*. It describes priestly laws and rules of sacrifice and presents a calendar of celebrations to be observed by the Israelites in their new land. For my *mitzvah* project, I chose to raise funds for [North Shore Animal League](#) in memory of our wonderful dog, Nola. My parents rescued Nola from North Shore Animal League in the fall of 2005 shortly after Hurricane Katrina. I am proud to have raised \$2,380 for North Shore Animal League. Once social distancing ends, I plan to continue to support this great organization by volunteering my time and services.



Gavin Zislis

My name is Gavin Zislis and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on May 30. I am a 7th grader at Blind Brook Middle School. I am the son of Jan and Janice Zislis. I have one younger brother, Ben and an older sister, Julia. My *Torah* portion, *Naso*, is about the priestly blessing. For my *mitzvah* project, I am in the process of sending thank you cards to health care workers for putting their lives on the line during this difficult time. Until this pandemic cools down I plan to keep sending these cards to these health care workers.



We're here for you

CSR phones are being answered during business hours. If you need to reach us after hours or in an emergency, please call the office number and follow the prompts. **914-967-6262**

Please note that the office is closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

Condolences

As a community, we mourn the loss of our beloved Rabbi Emeritus, Robert Rothman. Rabbi Rothman served CSR for 31 years and we send condolences to his wife Miriam and his daughters Dee, Kay and Jessica

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

Richard Glazer, father of Bari Steiner

Lila Gross, mother of Sara Gross

Philip Rabin, cousin of Howard Blumstein

Hilda Hubert, long time CSR member

Ken Allen, uncle of Karen Wallace Lipson

Barbara Peshkin Ruderman, mother of Lisa Ruderman Chen

Eric Loeb, father of Susan Zeitlin and Carol Meyers

Ken Foege, husband of Norma Foege

Joel Reidenberg, brother of Bruce Reidenberg

Sandra Mager, long time CSR member



Donations

CANTOR COOPERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Julie & Jeffrey Goldstein in honor of their daughter Carly's bat mitzvah
Marlene Wertheimer in memory of Norman Wertheimer
Ellen & Howard Deixler in memory of Joel Reidenberg
Michele & Neil Fredman in memory of Joel Reidenberg
Lisa & Bernie Chen in appreciation of Cantor Cooperman

DAVID & IRIS SAMPLINER YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Shelly & Chuck Shotland in honor of David Sampliner's 90th birthday

GRAYER TEEN INITIATIVE FUND

In honor of Noa Gropper's bat mitzvah
Jill & Jimmy Feldesman
Emily & Jonathan Borell
Liz Rolle & Phil Schechter
Marilyn Cooper

HESED

Caryl & Gilbert Weinstein in honor of Carol Loeb Meyers for her help
Joan & Ron Cohen in memory of Joel Reidenberg

ISRAEL ACTION FUND

Hanna & Maurice Poplausky and family in memory of Eric Loeb

ISRAEL TRIP FUND FOR TEENS

Susan & Norman Cicelsky in memory of
Alexander Leitstein, Rabbi Rothman, Hilda Hubert and Joel Reidenberg

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Leslie & Michael Goldschmid in honor of Noa Gropper's bat mitzvah
In memory of Eric Loeb
Joan & Ron Cohen
Joanne Steinhart & Brian Kabcenell
Michele & Neil Fredman

Joan & Ron Cohen in memory of our beloved Rabbi Emeritus,
Rabbi Robert Rothman, who was our Rabbi for over 50 years

RABBI GROPPER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dale Bloom in memory of Stephen Bloom
Julie & Jeffrey Goldstein in honor of their daughter Carly's bat mitzvah
Marianne & Richard Goldstein in memory of Gladys G. Goldstein
Louise Lieblich
Jill & Jimmy Feldesman in appreciation of
officiating the wedding of Jared Feldesman to Cheryl Tanowitz
The Stevens family in honor of the bat mitzvah of Noa Gropper
Ellen & Howard Deixler in memory of Marcus Reidenberg and Eric Loeb
Kahleen & Trevor Rozowsky in memory of Leslie Rozowsky
Andrea & Mark Kramer in appreciation of
Rabbi Gropper's efforts throughout the COVID-19 crisis
Helen & Ira Nordlicht
Lisa & Bernie Chen in appreciation of Rabbi Gropper

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND

In memory of Rabbi Robert Rothman
Marilyn Cooper
Ellen & Howard Deixler
Susan & Gary Taplin in memory of Eric Loeb
Joan & Ron Cohen in memory of Ken Foege

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Amanda & Matt Witheiler in loving memory of Bruce Deifik
Sharon & Andy Holmes in honor of Judy Stern's remission from cancer
In memory of Eric Loeb
Haley, Adam, Grant and Drew Fisher
Melinda & Donald Weber

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Sherman & Rhoda Levine
Rye Brook Wine & Spirit Shop
Esther & Howard Blumstein in memory of Joel Reidenberg

In memory of Eric Loeb
Karen Pollak
Shoshana, Seth, Jason & Hallie Rosenfield
Debra Nanus
Hershaff Family
Debra, George, Andrew, and Marc Heinrich
Eric Mulkowsky
Suzy & Richard Tylman
Robert & Mark Zeitlin
Shari & Amos Balaish
Abby Pisaniello
Michelle Simon
Jeff Frumess
Jon Rekedal

In memory of Rabbi Robert Rothman
Debra Nanus
Abby Pisaniello
Michelle Simon
Jeff Frumess
Jon Rekedal

YAHREITFUND

Amanda & Matt Witheiler in loving memory of Bruce Deifik
Marilyn Cooper in memory of Eliot Reif and Norman Cooper
Lauren Nausier in memory of Rabbi Emeritus Robert Rothman
Orli Etingin in memory of Eric Loeb
Les, David, Sara & Joshua Danish in memory of Marcy Danish
Karen & Charles Dorn in memory of Eric Loeb

Thank you for your generous donations. If you have made a donation that has not been acknowledged yet, we appreciate your patience and understanding during this temporary disruption.



