



# Remember, Rejoice, Renew.

175 YEARS OF CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM



2016-17/5777

אַשְׁרֵי יוֹשְׁבֵי בֵיתָךְ עוֹד יִהְיֶה לְלוֹךְ סֵלָה:

Happy are they  
who dwell in  
Your house:  
They will  
sing Your  
praise forever.

-PSALM 84:5



Remember  
Rejoice  
Renew   
Congregation Rodeph  
Sholom at **175**

Dear Rodeph Sholom family,

This year we celebrate the remarkably close and loving relationship our members have established with our vibrant, sacred community over the past 175 years.

We REMEMBER:

- Moving from what had been the center of the city uptown to anchor the lives of our mobile community.
- Changing religious movements in Judaism as our congregants wrestled with the twin poles of tradition and modernity.

We REJOICE:

- Developing our rich, spiritual tradition, commitment to Jewish education, and passion for *tikkun olam*.
- Becoming the first Reform congregation in America to build a Jewish day school.
- Hiring an openly gay rabbi in the mid-1990's, only the second "mainstream" congregation in the country to do so.
- Pioneering special needs worship services, becoming a national model to serve this community.

We RENEW:

- Our covenant with God, our ancestors, and members, affirming our key role in the miracle of the Jewish journey and in our quest to repair the world.

The pages that follow are not only a reflection on our history, but also a snapshot of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in 2016 – it has been a truly remarkable journey. At this exciting moment for our community, we invite you to celebrate with us throughout the year and hope to see you often.

Warmly,

Rabbi Robert N. Levine

CRS CLERGY 2016, LEFT TO RIGHT: CANTOR REBECCA GARFEIN, RABBI GREG D. WEITZMAN, RABBI SARI R. LAUFER, RABBI BENJAMIN H. SPRATT, CANTOR SHAYNA R. DE LOWE, SENIOR RABBI ROBERT N. LEVINE

120TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, SPRING 1962. LEFT TO RIGHT: SIDNEY LEADER, RUBY LEADER, AVIVA LEADER, CANTOR GUNTER HIRSCHBERG, RUTH HIRSCHBERG, LUCILLE NEWMAN, RABBI LOUIS NEWMAN, JAMES AND SYLVIA FELT



# Remember.

**1842.** EIGHTY GERMAN JEWS FORMED A SYNAGOGUE. SO BEGINS THE STORY OF CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM ON 157 ATTORNEY STREET ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE.

As every synagogue is commanded, we conducted worship services, set up a religious school to educate youth, bought land for a cemetery, and provided *tzedakah* to those in need.

The congregation's journey continued as we outgrew our buildings and relocated to new neighborhoods: in 1891 to Lexington and 63rd Street and in 1930 to our present home on West 83rd Street.

The congregation was constantly adapting, moving from traditional orthodoxy towards Conservative Judaism; and finally affiliating with the Reform movement in 1901.

What has made our journey so extraordinary is the consistent and vibrant leadership that built the congregation into one of the nation's foremost Reform synagogues. Rabbi Aaron Wise, appointed in 1875, also helped found the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Rudolph Grossman, appointed in 1897, served over 30 years. Rabbi Louis I. Newman initiated Sunday morning services featuring classic choral works sung by a forty-voice adult choir led by Cantor Meltzoff, who served from 1915 until his retirement in 1952. Gunter Hirschberg became our next Cantor, was ordained as a Rabbi in 1963, and ultimately succeeded Rabbi Newman. Our treasured Cantor Ephraim Biran took over for Cantor Hirschberg and he, too, served the congregation lovingly for almost 40 years. Such longevity brought stability and vision, enabling us to launch bold new ventures, such as starting the first Reform Jewish day school in the country.

With the death of Rabbi Hirschberg, the congregation hired 38-year-old Rabbi Robert N. Levine to lead the congregation. Along with his wife, Gina, and his young family, Rabbi Levine built on the renaissance of the Upper West Side to double the size of the congregation and our schools. Innovation and vitality continued. Cantor Rebecca Garfein became our first female Senior Cantor, succeeding Cantor Biran. Now, as we enter our 175th year, we are blessed to have a strong clergy team of Associate Rabbis Sari R. Laufer and Benjamin H. Spratt, Assistant Rabbi Greg D. Weitzman, and Associate Cantor Shayna De Lowe.

This is our legacy. This is Rodeph Sholom.



In the year 1842, New York was not the great Metropolis that it is To-day, and when on September 29th of that year, the young Israelites definitely and finally brought into existence, the Congregation Rodeph Sholom, it marked an epoch in the History of American Judaism.

—Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
50th Anniversary Program, 1892

# Historical Highlights

**1842** Congregation Rodeph Sholom established by 80 German Jews at 157 Attorney Street. Cemetery land purchased at 88th and Park Avenue.

**1850** Congregation moves to 8 Clinton Street. Union Field Cemetery moved to current site in Cypress Hills, Queens.



OUR FIRST SHULE ON CLINTON ST.

**1875** Aaron Wise appointed Rabbi. Congregation followed Conservative service, using choir and organ.

**1891** Sisterhood is founded "to perform such acts of charity that will elevate the poor and destitute in NYC." In 1900, Sisterhood organizes the Junior Sisterhood for school-age boys and girls to do projects to help the disadvantaged.

**1901** Rodeph Sholom joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and thus the Reform movement.



## Community Voices

“ For almost three-quarters of a century, we Diamonds have been blessed with a second home and family: Rodeph Sholom. I walk humbly in the path my father created, both as a trustee and lover of Jewish education. My dad, Leo, helped to found our beloved day school when it was just a dream. He and I shared the honor of chairing the Adult Education Committee. Many father/son discussions of the Book of Jonah gave rise to a tradition of commentary at the afternoon Yom Kippur service. Jonah's instruction became not just an eternal connection to Dad but a tangible, powerful bond to fellow congregants.  
-Joe Diamond

“ I married into Rodeph Sholom. My husband Richard's parents were longtime members and Richard became a bar mitzvah and Confirmand. We joined a social group called the Young Marrieds Guild, and I became active in the Sisterhood and was asked to be its president. Based on interest from members who wanted a nursery school, we started one which eventually became the first Reform Jewish day school in the U.S. – Rodeph Sholom School!

I am proud of many achievements, but most thrilled to be elected the first woman president of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. I hope to stay involved as long as I am able. To me, it is a great mitzvah.  
-Janet Neuberger

“ When our beloved Rabbi Gunter Hirschberg died in 1989, I was appointed to chair a search committee. We identified ten impressive rabbis. We knew we were following the right path, but we could not coalesce with heads and hearts on a choice.  
Robert was serving as rabbi at United Jewish Center in Danbury, CT – an unusual synagogue which held Reform and Orthodox Shabbat services – with Robert officiating at both. At age 38, he was the youngest of our candidates. Using our heads and hearts – and yes, acknowledging personal chemistry – he emerged as our unanimous recommendation.

It's been 25 years. We did well. Who can tell how much was head, how much was heart, and how much was chemistry? Maybe we just got lucky.  
-Jack Levitt

“ I have spent most of my life as a member of Rodeph Sholom, having joined the congregation just before my eighth birthday in the fall of 1953, almost 63 years ago. Bar mitzvah lessons were group lessons given by Cantor Hirschberg in his study. He also told us of his childhood in Berlin and becoming a bar mitzvah at the *Oranienburger Strasse* Synagogue, the grandest synagogue in Berlin, as the Nazis marched outside. Years later, Wendy and I were in Berlin and we worshipped at Friday night services in his memory.  
-Mark Biderman

“ It was in the Marcus Lowe Auditorium, in March 1956, that I met Richard Lustig. Richard and I immediately became friends. As my parents saw the love growing between us, they reached out to Rabbi and Mrs. Newman, who were dear friends of theirs, and neighbors of Richard and his family.

Richard and his family have memories of Rabbi Newman performing weddings in the Newman apartment directly above their dining room. Every time the groom broke the glass, their dining room chandelier shook, and we all said, "Mazel Tov!"

Rabbi Newman and Cantor Hirschberg officiated at our wedding on June 12, 1960. When Richard was serving in the Army and I was a student at the University of Georgia, Rabbi Newman was instrumental in assuring that we were welcomed by the local Jewish community.  
-Barbara Umansky Lustig

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: CANTOR BIRAN WITH A BAT MITZVAH STUDENT, CIRCA LATE 1970'S/EARLY 1980'S; MIDDLE: RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS, 1935; BOTTOM: 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONFIRMANDS REUNION; THIS PAGE: RODEPH SHOLOM 100TH ANNIVERSARY, 1942



LEFT: CANTOR SHAYNA DE LOWE AND CANTOR REBECCA GARFEIN AT SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE, 2008; TOP RIGHT: RABBI ROBERT LEVINE CELEBRATES CHANUKAH, WINTER 1997; BOTTOM RIGHT: RABBI GREG WEITZMAN CELEBRATES SIMCHAT TORAH, FALL 2015



# Rejoice.

## WE REJOICE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

As we go through our busy days and lives, Rodeph Sholom is where we come to connect, reflect, celebrate Shabbat, study our scripture, and feel at home. Here we make lifelong connections, build community, and find a sense of belonging.

The first step in rejoicing is to welcome. We are proud to be an inclusive and welcoming community. We have been at the forefront of inclusion, understanding the importance of welcoming and meeting the needs of the LGBTQ community and our interfaith families. Recognizing the challenges facing those with special needs who may not be able to access traditional worship services, we created *Shireinu*. This ground-breaking program makes festival worship accessible to all and is now being built into our b'nai mitzvah program so that special needs children can study and rejoice in one of Judaism's most sacred life events.

We also rejoice in our engagement and connection with each other. We do this through baby namings and b'nai mitzvah, our adult and children's choirs, and programs that touch our hearts and stimulate our minds, such as Book Group, Sisterhood Torah Study, Lunch Together, and Adult Education programs. We engage and rejoice through small group experiences, trips to Israel, Mitzvah Weekend, the Rodeph Sholom Theater Company, Brotherhood Basketball, and much more.

We are a congregation of 1,800 households that include multi-generational families and new community members. We are an oasis in a big city, a neighborhood shule in the midst of Manhattan. Together, as a community, we are a place to celebrate and rejoice.



I am told that the words: "Congregation Rodeph Sholom" mean "The Congregation that Pursues Peace." This expresses the hope of the better days ahead for our country and all humanity, when all people...may resolve realistically to "seek peace and pursue it."

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
100th Anniversary Program, 1942

# Historical Highlights

**1930** Congregation moves to its current home on West 83rd Street; Louis I. Newman formally inducted as Rabbi.

**1932** CRS volunteers make Braille books for the blind, which continued through the 1980's with tapes for the blind.



CRS VOLUNTEERS SEW FOR THE RED CROSS DURING WWII

**1942** 100th anniversary of CRS celebrated with guest speaker, Presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie.

**1958** Nursery School founded under the direction of Gerda Miller.

**1963** Gunter Hirschberg becomes Associate Rabbi and Ephraim Biran inducted as Cantor.

**1970** Rodeph Sholom School becomes first Reform Jewish day school in the United States.



THIS PAGE, TOP: "BAKING HISTORY," SISTERHOOD ANNUAL COOKING EVENT, SPRING 2014; BOTTOM: CELEBRATING SUKKOT, FALL 2014; OPPOSITE PAGE: RABBI BENJAMIN SPRATT LEADS A SHIREINU SERVICE, 2011



## Community Voices

“Rodeph Sholom is the only synagogue where I feel comfortable.”

This statement by my adult daughter who has developmental disabilities, speaks to the power of *Shireinu*. Although awareness and inclusion are increasing, families with members who are atypical continue to face obstacles to comfortable participation in so many settings. I had the privilege to be part of an effort envisioned by Gina and Rabbi Levine to ensure that Congregation Rodeph Sholom was not one of those places. Under Rabbi Ben Spratt's thoughtful rabbinic leadership, *Shireinu* services provide my family and so many others a sacred community where we are appreciated and embraced.

-Nancy Crown

“Congregation Rodeph Sholom has been in my life longer than almost anything else.

One of the most joyful experiences from my 18 years here was when I first sang on the High Holy Days with Cantor Garfein. Because I had been an avid member of CRS's choirs for years, Cantor Garfein was (and still is!) a role model of mine. She has taught me the joy of *shiru l'Adonai*, singing unto God. Joining her to do just that on one of the holiest days of the year was awe-inspiring. I am forever grateful for such a thrilling and meaningful Jewish experience.

-Rebecca Thau

“My partner, Joan, and I were looking for a rabbi who would be willing to marry us, a gay couple. Strange as it may sound today, that was not an easy task in 1995! We found Rabbi Camille Angel, who agreed to officiate for us, and when she was hired at CRS, we followed her.

I was also seeking to convert, and joined a Basic Judaism class led by Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz. Joan and I were welcomed as a couple and I was welcomed as a prospective convert. Twenty years later we are still in love with Rodeph Sholom.

-Val Coleman

“Happiness is the first thought that comes to my head and my heart when I think about my 10 years spent as a member of the Rodeph Sholom Theater Company. I never would have imagined when I auditioned for my first production on a snowy night in December 2005, that my life would be forever changed. Because of RSTC, I now have my closest friends forever and a job that has made my life fulfilled - working as a Pre-K teacher for the last seven years at RSS. I met my husband, Joshua Moshen, there and now I have my new favorite role: being a mom to our son, Harrison, born October 2015. The best part about CRS is that no matter what happens in life, you can always come back home and there will always be someone to greet you with open arms.

-Samantha Moshen

“Mah tovu ohalecha, Yaakov.” This beautiful prayer resounds in our minds and hearts when we think about our clergy, educators, and congregation at Rodeph Sholom - the heart and soul of the Jewish community for our family.

We rejoice that our daughters, Daisy and Sashie, feel that Rodeph Sholom is their home and that our schools and our congregation have celebrated our family since we first stepped through the door with our girls.

We rejoice that our rabbis and cantors have celebrated our *simchas* and buoyed and supported us through loss. We learn from them and rejoice in our relationships with them.

-Donna Cephas

“Congregation Rodeph Sholom has been a part of the Schafler family DNA for three generations. Rabbi Newman presided over my bar mitzvah, Rabbi Hirschberg performed our marriage ceremony, and Rabbi Levine conducted the b'nai mitzvah of both of our sons and instructed our beloved daughter-in-law in her conversion to Judaism. My father and mother were dedicated to the congregation in both word and deed and their commitment continues to inspire us. In a world where technology and new business thrives on the concept of disruption, Rodeph Sholom has been a haven of continuity for our family and so many others.

-Scott Schafler



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MITZVAH DAY 2015; NOLA 8TH GRADE CRS/RSS TRIP 2014; CONGREGATIONAL ISRAEL TRIP 2006; SEUSSICAL™, RODEPH SHOLOM THEATER COMPANY'S 2016 PRODUCTION; RABBI ROBERT AND GINA LEVINE AT THE RABBI ROBERT N. LEVINE PORTRAIT UNVEILING, SPRING 2016.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SEW AND SO, 2016; CRS PAST PRESIDENT KAREN BERMAN WITH SONS ASHER AND SIMON; RSS GRADUATION 2016; CRS 175TH STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS: ROBIN KRANICH, ROB STEINMAN AND JERILYN PERMAN

TOP LEFT: MARTIN FLUMENBAUM, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SPRING 2016; TOP RIGHT: RABBI SARI LAUFER TEACHING, 2011;  
BOTTOM: RODEPH SHOLOM AT THE CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE, 2011



# Renew.

AS WE REMEMBER AND REJOICE OVER OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY, WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO A FULFILLING JEWISH LIFE.

Our experience embraces our covenant and heritage through joyous and transformative **worshipping** together; **learning** the tenets of our faith together; and acting together to **repair the world** (*tikkun olam*).

**WORSHIP** through word and music anchors our lives at Shabbat, holidays, and lifecycle celebrations. Song and participation fill Shabbat experiences for adults and children of all ages. As many as five different Shabbat morning services occur each Saturday, including the Chapel service which allows congregants to share their thoughts and learning with others and heighten their worship experience.

**EDUCATION** for all ages is paramount at the Congregation. In our 175th year, we are proud of what we have created: the Rodeph Sholom School educating over 550 children from Nursery through Grade 8, graduating students who go on to attend the most highly respected public and private schools in New York City.

Our Religious School flourishes, nurturing 450 students, grades K through 12, through study and socializing each week. Increased *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* opportunities for families and youth make learning more experiential and communal. A renewed commitment to keep post-b'nai mitzvah young people involved in informal and formal educational opportunities inspired a new curriculum for Confirmation. A year of learning about their Jewish heritage and connection culminated with a class of 28 traveling to Berlin, the birthplace of Reform Judaism.

**PURSUE PEACE.** Our congregation's name commands us to be seekers of peace, and we also seek justice. Our signature social action programs and many other efforts reflect our commitment to act. The CRS Homeless Shelter, operating for 33 years, is staffed entirely by volunteers. Our Food Drive, started in 1981, helps feed thousands in our community. Since 1993, Mitzvah Day weekend has engaged the whole family as volunteers. Other signature programs include the annual Freedom Seder with Memorial Baptist Church of Harlem since 1983; our Moving On Project with Women in Need providing food and kitchenware to formerly homeless women and children since 1985; and, more recently, Backpack Buddies, a new program providing food to children on weekends who might otherwise go hungry.

Through these acts and more, we renew our commitment to our community and our religion.



I am pleased to join in celebrating your 175th anniversary...As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings.

—President Barack Obama, June 1, 2016

# Historical Highlights

**1990** Janet Neuberger elected first woman President of the congregation.

**1991** Robert N. Levine inducted as Senior Rabbi following the death of Rabbi Hirschberg.

**1998** Purchase of 78th and 79th Street buildings for RSS.



THE EXPANSION ALLOWED RSS TO OFFER ELEMENTARY EDUCATION UP TO EIGHTH GRADE.

**2000** Rebecca Garfein inducted as first female Cantor.

**2010** Inaugurated first *Shireinu* special needs worship service at Rosh Hashanah; CRS now offers four *Shireinu* holiday services each year.

**2016** Sisterhood celebrates 125th anniversary.



## Community Voices

“ My husband, Steve, and I searched for a synagogue for “our family” before we even had a family. We found CRS, and not long after, our twins found us. We were honored when Rabbi Lisa officiated at Avi and Ethan’s bris; we were relieved when Rabbi Sari wasn’t fazed by their cries at their first Erev Shabbat service; we were filled with pride when they joined RSS in the twos and all smiles when Rabbi Leora texted us pictures of them playing outside of her office; we were humbled to stand as a family with our friends, Rabbi Levine, and Cantor Rebecca at High Holy Day services; we are grateful for every Rabbi Ben hug and Cantor Shayna song; and we rejoice every day knowing that RSS isn’t only our school but our shule, and that CRS isn’t only our synagogue, but our home.

–Kate Epstein Mankoff

“ Our Homeless Shelter program began on March 1, 1983, on a trial basis, housing three men, three nights per week. With incremental changes over the years, we now house eight men, Monday through Friday, October to June. The Shelter has the active support of the Board, the clergy and the congregation, with a broad cross-section of each serving as overnight volunteers. For me, directing the Shelter program was a labor of love, from which I received much more than I gave. It is a program which has meant so much – to me, to our guests, and to our congregation.

–Jay Kranis

“ It was incredibly meaningful to give our daughter, Penelope, her Hebrew name—*Ahava*—last June with Rabbi Levine at Rodeph Sholom. We stood on the same bimah where my sister and I had become a bat mitzvah many years ago, surrounded by so many of the same family and friends. And that’s what Rodeph Sholom is all about – sharing wonderful memories, love, and a sense of community from generation to generation.

–Carolyn Tisch Blodgett

“ Times of transition and life cycle events are often when we feel our deepest connection to and gratitude for Rodeph Sholom. When my family experienced a profound loss, the death of my husband, a number of years ago, our synagogue offered support, warmth, and communal embrace; access to Jewish tradition and ritual; and opportunities for spiritual exploration as we worked through our grief. Then it was my turn to give back. With Rabbi Levine’s blessing, a multi-year end-of-life initiative was introduced throughout the community, with programs, resources, and educational classes. The initiative reinforced that conversations about illness, death and loss have an integral, enduring place at Rodeph Sholom. There is indeed a time to give and a time to receive, and I have found that both are equally valued in our beloved community.

–Sally Kaplan

“ In 1981, mindful of Reform Judaism’s *tikkun olam* mandate, I approached Rabbi Gunter Hirschberg about increasing the congregation’s involvement in the community. Together we established the Community Concerns Committee which I chaired. The Food Drive, the Blood Drive, and affordable housing initiatives became our first efforts. We also inaugurated Mitzvah Day, the Freedom Seder, and a support program for those with AIDS. I rejoice in Rodeph Sholom’s continuing commitment to social action and Rabbi Levine’s enthusiastic support of and commitment to community outreach and inclusiveness. The enduring friendships our family has established through our association with Rodeph Sholom have enriched our lives, and those of our children, immeasurably over the last 40 years.

–Helen Freedman

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: RABBI LEVINE MEETS RODEPH SHOLOM YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, EARLY 2000’S; MIDDLE LEFT: CRS PRESIDENT ROGER MELTZER (CENTER) IN 2008 WITH PAST PRESIDENTS MARK BIDERMAN, JANET NEUBERGER, NANCY SOLOMON AND JACK LEVITT; MIDDLE RIGHT: RELIGIOUS SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE TORAH FAMILY PROGRAM MEETS WITH A *SOFERET*, 2012; BOTTOM: RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS, 2016; THIS PAGE: CANTOR GARFEIN LEADS THE CHILDREN’S CHOIR DURING A FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE, EARLY 2000’S

# 175th Anniversary Celebratory Events

SEPT.  
16

## KICK-OFF SHABBAT

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016, 6:00 PM**

Kick off our 175th Anniversary year with a stirring and joyful Erev Shabbat service for all generations. Join us after services for dancing to contemporary klezmer music and a delicious oneg. This is an evening devoted to the entire Rodeph Sholom family – children, teens, and adults are welcome. Meet old friends and make new ones as we laugh, dance, and celebrate together.

NOV.  
11-13

## MITZVAH WEEKEND

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11-13, 2016**

For over 20 years, our Mitzvah Weekend has helped thousands in our community. This year, we will take our commitment to the 175th degree with a weekend of service, learning, and inspiration.

**At Erev Shabbat** services we will **remember** our long history of community service. Rabbi David N. Saperstein, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, will speak on issues of social justice facing us today.

**Saturday Night Havdalah Unplugged** will be a time to **rejoice and renew** our mandate to welcome the stranger. Following Havdalah and refreshments, join us in an interfaith multi-dimensional program and mitzvah project devoted to helping refugees.

**Mitzvah Day Sunday** will be a day of **action**. Our community will come together to participate in over 25 different hands-on projects appropriate for the whole family. We will help alleviate hunger, fight illiteracy, donate blood, and provide clothes and supplies to those in need.

NOV.  
18 & 20

## HERITAGE WEEKEND

**FRIDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AND 20, 2016**

Congregation Rodeph Sholom was founded in 1842 on the Lower East Side. During this weekend we remember and honor our past.

At Erev Shabbat services, longtime members will be honored and we will learn about the historical significance of our Temple House and sanctuary, designed by renowned New York architect Charles B. Meyers. Noted architectural historian, Andrew Dolkart, Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University, will provide insights into the design of our magnificent home. A festive oneg will follow.

Our Heritage Weekend continues Sunday afternoon when we visit the Lower East Side. In 1850 our building was at 8 Clinton Street, now the home of Congregation Chasam Sopher. Join us at noon to nosh, socialize, and take a step back in time to learn about our history. A special program at 1:00 pm featuring Rabbi Levine and Annie Polland from the Lower East Side Tenement Museum will illuminate what life was like for our founding congregants. Before or after the program, you can take a fascinating walking tour of the neighborhood.

DEC.  
2 & 3

## RABBI ROBERT N. LEVINE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 2016**

Join in celebration of this joyous milestone as we honor Rabbi Levine for his inspirational leadership for 25 years. Come worship, learn, and socialize with our congregation family and with past and present CRS clergy.

Celebrations begin at the Erev Shabbat service on Friday, December 2, followed by an oneg and a chance to reconnect with clergy alumni. Return on Saturday, December 3, in the early evening to hear Rabbi Levine and his CRS rabbinic colleagues, past and present, engage in a fascinating theological conversation. A beautiful Havdalah service will conclude the festivities.

Our celebration of Rabbi Levine's contributions and legacy will continue with a compelling Speaker Series in Spring 2017.

FEB.  
7

## AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY AND COMEDY

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

Come celebrate CRS with a laugh-filled evening of comedy, storytelling, and entertainment. We've got a wonderful line-up of headliners and you won't want to miss this special event.

MAR.  
11

## PURIM FAMILY EVENT: A NIGHT AT THE SYNAGOGUE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017**

Purim is always an excuse to dress up and have fun. This year, the fun can last all night long as we host the first-ever family Purim sleepover at the shule. Before bedtime, we'll have a multitude of activities for grown-ups and kids of all ages, including the clergy's Purim *Shpiel* and a chance to explore some of the behind-the-scenes areas of the synagogue; and special activities for teens. Our home is your home – relax in pajamas with midnight snacks with your friends. Come for part of the evening or stay the whole night.

APR.  
3

## CANTORS & CO. – SINGING OUR WAY THROUGH HISTORY

**MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

Our fabulous cantors and guest performers are putting on a showcase that will delight and enlighten. Not your typical Cantor's Cabaret, this will be a musical show of songs from popular culture through the years, all linked to important moments in CRS history. Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Tony nominee and congregant, Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Addams Family*). Special guest cantors include Daniel Singer from Stephen Wise Free Synagogue and Ben Ellerin from Temple Israel of Northern Westchester. After the show, meet the cast over a dessert reception.

MAY  
19

## CHANTS OF A LIFETIME: OUR STORY IN SONG

**FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017**

This Erev Shabbat service will highlight important historical and liturgical melodies from our past, present, and future. Join your cantors, clergy, choirs, and instrumentalists as we affirm our connectedness to our beloved synagogue through our celebration of our traditions and heritage!



**Board of Trustees 2016** (pictured, from left to right) Back row: Dina Bakst, Sandy Harman, David Fleischer, David Kranich, John Gassner, Peter Ehrenberg, Karen Berman, Amy Lipin; 2nd to last row: Marilyn Mauler, Paul Arnsten, Peter Strauss, Brian Perman, Andrea Kretchmer, Rob Steinman, Marvin Lesser, Mitchell Bayer; Middle row: Sy Lesser, Helen Freedman, Nancy Solomon, Sandy Abramson, Denise Sobel, Nancy Crown, Richard Wechter, Donna Bascom; 2nd row: Mary Sue Harkavy, Paul Biddelman, Richard Lustig, Arnold Harkavy, Martin Flumenbaum, David Markus, David Resnick, Harry Frischer; Front row: Jay Kranis, Rachel Zweighaft, Barbara Lustig, Janet Levy, Stacy Kanter, Janet Neuberger, Richard Neuberger

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 Richard Neuberger  
 Jay M. Newman  
 Dr. Adela Oliver  
 Janie Roher  
 Mack Rossoff  
 Peter J. Strauss  
 Arthur Zuckerman

**175th Anniversary Steering Committee**

Robin Kranich  
 Jerilyn Perman  
 Robert Steinman

**175th Anniversary Committees and Chairs**

**KICK-OFF SHABBAT**

Dina Bakst  
 Laurie Ravetz

**MITZVAH WEEKEND**

Karen Bank  
 Carolyn Meckler

**HERITAGE WEEKEND**

Gina Levine  
 Amy Lipin  
 Suzanne Waltman

**RABBI ROBERT N. LEVINE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Karen Berman  
 Jack Levitt

**COMEDY AND COMMUNITY EVENT**

Jane Dystel  
 Abbe Haber

**PURIM FAMILY EVENT**

Matthew Gabin  
 John Gassner  
 Erica Gerson

**MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Sandra Abramson  
 Candice Braun  
 Wendy Reimer

**RABBI ROBERT N. LEVINE SPEAKER SERIES**

Sally Kaplan

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Berman  
 Nancy Solomon  
 Debra Wasserman

**VISUAL HISTORY**

Alexis Gelber  
 Lisa Timmel

**Clergy**

Robert N. Levine, D.D. Senior Rabbi  
 Sari R. Laufer, Associate Rabbi  
 Benjamin H. Spratt, Associate Rabbi  
 Greg D. Weitzman, Assistant Rabbi  
 Juliana S. Karol, Rabbinic Intern  
 Rebecca Garfein, Senior Cantor  
 Shayna R. De Lowe, Associate Cantor  
 Ephraim Biran, Cantor Emeritus  
 Julie Womack, Cantorial Intern  
 Juliana S. Karol, Rabbinic Intern

Rodeph Sholom is an extended family of people who care about each other and our community. We strive to educate and inspire children, youth and adults to participate actively in worship, Torah study and Jewish life experience, and to put Reform Jewish religious and ethical principles into action. We seek to enrich the lives of our members, to contribute to the continuance and vitality of the Jewish people, and to help repair the world.

Remember  
Rejoice  
Renew



Congregation Rodeph  
Shalom at

175

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