

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

THE SIXTH SENSE | Rabbi Ben Spratt



We knew it was growing in the darkness. An ancient scourge in modern garb. A viral racism seemingly immune to inoculation. Our texts and tables are littered with the tales of atrocity, reminders that anti-Semitism is nearly as aged as Judaism itself. We heard of the deadly attacks against Jewish targets around the world, noted the escalation of hate-speech and bigotry. Yet most of us lived in the innocence of an American Jewish life relatively unblemished by the growing darkness.

When 11 Jews were murdered amidst Shabbat prayer in the sanctity of synagogue on that fateful day in October, that innocence immediately shattered. And, for many of us, the darkness finally came into focus. For it is a familiar darkness; our spirits and cells stir with recognition of an inky evil that has infected before. Baked into the heart of Jewish identity is more than values and ideals – the bedrock of memory. In the words of Jonathan Safran Foer:

Jews have six senses. Touch, taste, sight, smell, hearing... memory... For Jews, memory is no less primary than the prick of a pin, or its silver glimmer, or the taste of the blood it pulls from the finger. The Jew is pricked by a pin and remembers other pins. It is only by tracing the pin prick back to the other pin pricks—when his mother tried to fix his sleeve while his arm was still in it... when Abraham tested the knife point to be sure Isaac would feel no pain—that the Jew is able to know why it hurts. When a Jew encounters a pin, he asks, 'What does it remember like?' Memory is the sixth sense of the Jew.

These past weeks have triggered much of our collective memory, given context to a larger pattern that map the atrocities in Squirrel Hill to many other eras and areas. For many, we feel a storm of emotions, a call to act, and a struggle to know where to begin. Perhaps, especially now, it may be helpful to return to the beginning.

The rabbis of the Talmud imagine that Adam, the primordial human, one day notices that as the winter weeks progress, the daylight hours diminish. He sees his world growing darker by the day. And he says, *"Woe is me! The world grows darker and is slowly returning to a state of chaos and void. This is what the heavens decreed upon me."* So Adam prays and fasts for eight days. He cries out wondering why the Creator of Light would allow darkness to return to the universe. And so God teaches Adam to become a creator of light as well, and gives Adam the knowledge to create fire. In Judaism, light is not a Promethean treasure stolen from the heavens, but a gift from God. In awe and gratitude, Adam recalls God's first act of creation to create light, and turns his eight days of fasting and praying into an annual eight-day

festival to celebrate God's creation of light. And this becomes Chanukah.

In the bitterness of winter, during the darkest of nights, this rabbinic frame of Chanukah reminds us of our ideal response to this world. Innocence and safety may be shattered, fear and hatred may bloom beneath the cover of night. But, like Adam, we are given the tools and knowledge with which to kindle light, to spark new hope especially in the darkest of times. On Chanukah we light our candles as a reminder that we too can be creators of light, that we too can illumine the world around us. In memory, we find purpose.

The depth of darkness may at times be great in our world, leaving us cold, isolated, and afraid. It may be burdensome to believe in possibility. It may feel a lofty yearning to pray for peace, to imagine a world without hate. But the one requirement of this holiday is that we kindle our lights of hope, and place them such that the world can see. Our one ritual responsibility is to illumine the world beyond the boundaries of our own homes. To proclaim our Jewish memory, declare our people's presence, and remind the world that ours is the mission to be a light to all peoples. And in this way, we look to make the kindling of candles inspire the igniting of change. We may start close in, from our homes and within our own neighborhoods. We may move from lighting *Chanukiyot* to handing out blankets, from savoring latkes to feeding the hungry, from eating chocolate *gelt* to giving coins to those in need. From our windows, may the world be illumined; from our actions, may hearts be lifted.

And we may take up the mantle of our Maccabean memory, as generations before us have done. Each of us from our windows, with our philanthropy, through our advocacy, and from our actions, may we choose connection over division, compassion over cynicism. And call out anti-Semitism and racism in all its mutations. From the far right and the far left in our country, and those abroad seeking the destruction of Israel and world Jewry. In the words of David Harris, *"Some, for a variety of political reasons, would rather downplay one or more of these wellsprings, but all pose a grave danger — and all need to be confronted head-on."*

As we bring generosity and gift-giving into our own homes, may this season ignite in us the urgency to extend it beyond our walls. Please help us provide hot meals during these cold days at St. Xavier's Soup Kitchen, and of course, help make CRS a home to those most in need by volunteering in our shelter. Inside this *Chronicle*, you'll find ways to bring light and hope to the world during our Festival of Light.

Micah, Ayalah, Jonah, and I wish you a meaningful Chanukah. May this season connect us to the memory of what has been, the reminder to shine in the face of the darkness that is, and the call to righteousness to create all that ought to be.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS | Barbara Zakin



Welcoming new members is truly one of my favorite things to do during the year. All of us at CRS want you to feel welcome in your new home and to guide you through all that we offer here. Each and every congregant is important to us. Perhaps you joined to worship, or learn, or observe a lifecycle event. Or perhaps you enrolled your children in RSS or Religious School. Whatever the reason, we are happy you are here and want to make your experience at Rodeph Sholom rewarding and meaningful.

It's almost time for Chanukah! Please come to our lively and fun **Chanukah Latke Party** on Friday, December 7 right after Erev Shabbat services where you can spin dreidls and get to know your new community (see all our Chanukah happenings on Page 3). Below are just a few of our exciting events this season that celebrate our Jewish heritage.

Hebrew Basics, beginning in January, is a way to master the Hebrew alphabet and learn reading and pronunciation. The 8-week morning course is geared especially for RSS parents, scheduled after drop-off, so that you may better relate to young Hebrew learners at home. There is also an evening class. Both are open to all. (See Page 7.)

Our clergy team leads **Fruits of the Vine** on Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm, with a variety of wines and non-alcoholic artisanal juices to taste while we learn their importance in our sacred texts.

Dr. Ruth Westheimer joins us on Wednesday, January 23. After light snacks at 6:30 pm, Dr. Ruth will speak at 7:00, guiding and advising us on how to raise resilient children. As a Holocaust survivor, she found her own resilience to build a meaningful life that includes helping others. (Co-sponsored with RSS PA)

Music has always played an important role in our synagogue. On Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 pm, we welcome the up-and-coming band **Bailen** to our **Winter Coffee House**. Bailen is an urban-folk band and the performers are RSS alums. (Co-sponsored with RSS Alumni Office)

For more information on fees and registering for these and many more, see Page 4. It is at such events that you can get to know the Clergy and make new friends. Our website, rodephsholom.org, is a wonderful resource to learn about what's going on. And please feel free to reach out to me at any time at bzakin@crsnyc.org.



New Members from October 26, 2017 – October 25, 2018

Wendy Aberle	Stacey and Jason Fixler	Kathryn Von Mattheissen and Ronald Kornreich	Sara Littauer and Oren Schwartz
Dana and Daniel Aminetzah	Rebecca Friedman	Emily and Seth Kramer	Allison and Justin Schwartz
Inbar Haham and Guy Atzman	Zack Friedman	Jeanne and Jonathan Kromberg	Elisabeth Barro and Yuval Segal
Alissa Michelle Auerbach	Audrey Stern and Dr. Oscar Garfein	Igor Krutov	Dr. Laura Boucai and Jason Segal
Lauren and Albert Ayzenberg	Rabbi Carole B. Balin and Michael Gertzman	Allison and Benjamin Lesch	Michal and Or Shani
Cantor Nancy Bach	Jane Gimelfarb	Jeanne and Gary Levin	Sarah Lewin and Matthew Shear
Adi and Noory Bechor	Dr. Victoria and Jeremy Goldman	Rita and Evan Linkner	Hannah Mariko and Jonathan Shofet
Dr. Sarah Wacker and Dr. Andrés Bendesky	Laurie Golub	Gregory Lipay	Kera Rennert and David Shuster
Sharon and Benjamin Blum	Aren Cohen Gustavus and Andre Gustavus	Jill Abramson Manczyk and Jacob Manczyk	Mandi and Aaron Silverman
Shara and Seth Borus	Kristin Hemric and David Gutttag	Diana and Ezra Mehlman	Cantor Inbal Sharett-Singer and Jonathan Singer
Sedef and Scott Brody	Monica Halem	Elissa and Jeffrey Miller	Chloe Benedek Cheimets and Michael Skarlinski
Jessica and Jeff Campbell	Lisa and Jeff Hall	Ria and Joshua Nova	Lucila Broide and Daniel Slatopolsky
David Capin	Debbi and Ronen Herzig	Jordana Mendelson and Anthony Ptak	Periel Aschenbrand and Guy Solomon
Sara Lipton and Neil Carty	James Petherbridge and Avi Horwitz	Alexa Jervis and Gregory Racz	Alexis and Todd Stracci
Dr. Frederica Schoenfeld-Carver and Dr. Alan Carver	Stefanie Lob losovich and Zinovy losovich	Jessica Eliasi-Rakowitz and Robert Rakowitz	Meryl and James Sullivan
Marjorie Aaron and Adam Chazan	Jessica Jordan	Benis and Robert Reffkin	Tamar and Ron Teicher
Judith Cohen	Sarah Eisenman and Carl Joseph	Rebecca Lewin and Morgan Resta-Flarer	Shari Verschell
Maura and Andrew Dansker	Jessica and Alon Kalay	Iris and Ira Rimerman	Dr. Alissa Kahn and Joshua Vizer
Kaila J. De Maria and Nikolaos B. De Maria	Isis Kanevsky	Phoebe Azran-Rosen and Jonathan David Rubenstein	Rebecca and Craig Waldman
Emma Dubin	Suzanne and Kevin Kaplan	Lisa Cooper Satlin and Dr. Andrew Satlin	Sara and Joshua Wechter
Adi and Shir Dvir	Lauren Weissbrod and Chase Kennedy	Simone Brin and Noel Sayers	Jill and Michael Wolfeld
Elizabeth and Adam Edelstein	Nisim Cohen Mator and Doron Kless	Katherine Stroud and Jonathan Meadow Schectman	Lisa Schweitzer and Maxim Yutsis
Noa Greenberg and Kfir Eliaz	Dr. Melissa Klosk	Lisa and David Schiff	Arlene Zimmerman
Joyce Erony	Rena and Steven Klosk		
Samantha Wolofsky Feinberg and Evan Feinberg	Jamie and Shaun Kolnick		
Michele and Gary Felsher			
Juliet Fixel			

CHANUKAH HAPPENINGS

LIGHT THE 1ST CANDLE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Friday, December 7

4:30 pm **Sholom Sprouts Shabbat Dinner and Chanukah Celebration**

6:00 pm **Shir Chadash Erev Shabbat Chanukah Service** With ASL.

7:00 pm **Chanukah Latke Party**

Following the joyous Shir Chadash service celebrating the Festival of Lights, join us for the Congregational Oneg Shabbat Latke Party. There will be candlelighting, dreidl spinning, and delicious latkes! Sponsored by Brotherhood. Bring your Chanukiah!

Saturday, December 8

11:00 am **Chanukah Shireinu Service and Celebration**

There will be prayer, Torah, music, and dreidl spinning. Celebrate Chanukah in an accessible service that is sensitive to all needs and interpreted in Sign Language. Open to the entire community and all ages are welcome.

Bring Hope and Help on Chanukah

VOLUNTEER to spend a night in our Rodeph Sholom Shelter. We provide a clean, safe, and caring temporary home for homeless men. You may spend one or two nights or more each Shelter season. Sign up on VolunteerHub (crsnyc.volunteerhub.com).

FEED the hungry. Throughout the year, donations to our CRS Food Drive help our neighbors get enough to eat. The money collected is distributed to West Side, local, and city-wide organizations. Click Give on our website, then Give a Gift and select Food Drive from the drop-down menu.

SERVE a meal at St. Xavier's Soup Kitchen. Volunteer to help prepare and serve meals on Sundays, January 13, March 10, and May 12. Sign up on VolunteerHub (crsnyc.volunteerhub.com).

GIVE to the Backpack Buddies Program. You can help provide children who do not get enough food with 6 nutritious meals for the weekend. From feeding 1 child 1 weekend for \$15, to feeding 1 child 4 weekends for \$60, to feeding a class 4 weekends for \$2,100. Click Give on our website, then Give a Gift and select Backpack Buddies from the drop-down menu.

“Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.
Blessed is the flame that burns in the secret fastness of the heart.”

– Hannah Senesh

WE ARE RENOVATING OUR LOBBY!

God created the world in six days. It will take us a bit longer.



We are excited to bring our CRS family a brighter, more welcoming, and more secure lobby. Construction is scheduled to conclude in late spring 2019. During this time we are putting up temporary walls in the lobby and a lower ceiling.

We are pleased to tell you that we are preserving our beautiful historic chandeliers, terrazzo floor, and travertine walls. The Security Desk is moving to a more secure location before entering the lobby. There will be no active construction during worship times and it will have no effect on the Main Sanctuary. We have also assured that all our programming will continue.

You'll hear noise and our lobby will not be pretty... *until it's done!* We thank you for your patience and cooperation while we work to bring you the lobby that CRS deserves.

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, November 29, 2:00 – 6:30 pm and Friday, November 30, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm: RSS BOOK FAIR. In the Schaffer.

Friday, November 30, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/MEYER W. NATHANS SERVICE AWARD SERVICE. See Page 5.

Sunday, December 2: FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH. Chanukah begins! See Page 3.

Monday, December 3, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS. Next dates are Mondays, January 7 and February 4. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome to join these self-moderated discussions at the Synagogue. Next dates are Thursdays, January 3 and February 7. Would you like to join our spirited conversation? Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm: SHIR CHADASH EREV SHABBAT CHANUKAH SERVICE. With ASL. **7:00 pm: CHANUKAH LATKE PARTY.** Sponsored by Brotherhood. See Page 3.

Saturday, December 8, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED. Join us for a little nosh and schmooze, followed by the Havdalah Service. All are welcome for this musical and meditative ceremony. You'll feel energized and ready to start a new week! The next one is Saturday, February 2.

Thursday, December 13, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG. Novices and veteran players are all welcome! Cards will be available for purchase. In the Board Room. Next dates are Thursdays, January 10 and February 14. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Tuesday, December 18, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. There's great socializing and an engaging presentation, with a dairy lunch. A contribution of \$8 is suggested. Next dates are Tuesdays, January 15 and February 5. Sponsored by Sisterhood. Contact: lunchtogether@crsnyc.org.

Saturday, January 12, 10:15 am: SHABBAT MORNING BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD SERVICE. In the Eisner. **12:30 – 2:30 pm: INSPIRING WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL LUNCHEON.** Join us following the Shabbat Morning services for this very special annual event. The featured speakers, our congregants, are always inspiring! Hear these CRS women discuss their careers, lives, and Jewish journeys and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

Friday, January 18, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE COMMEMORATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. We hope you will join us for this moving and musical service honoring Dr. King's dream of hope. With ASL.

Friday, February 1, 7:30 pm: BROTHERHOOD MOVIE NIGHT. Following Erev Shabbat services.

Saturday, February 2, 12:30 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM. Following the Shabbat Morning services, join us for a concert that highlights our Jewish musical heritage. Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble. Register at rodephsholom.org/music.

Thursday, February 7, 6:30 pm: WINTER COFFEE HOUSE. Urban-folk band Bailen performs. Co-sponsored with RSS Alumni Office.

Friday, February 15, 7:30 pm: DEATH OVER DINNER – JEWISH EDITION. Following Erev Shabbat services will be an engaging and empowering discussion over dinner about our hopes and ideas about the end of life. Cost: \$18. Register at rodephsholom.org.

Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 pm: SISTERHOOD TORAH STUDY. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Aroused: The History of Hormones (And How They Control Just About Everything)

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 pm

Dr. Randi Hutter Epstein with Joanne Lipman

In a discussion to understand our hormones, Dr. Hutter Epstein explains their impact on our bodies that includes metabolism, mood swings, sleep, sex, and more. Joanne Lipman is a journalist and author of That's What She Said: What Men Need to Know (And Women Need to Tell Them) About Working Together.

Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Fridays, 12:00–1:30 pm

December 14, January 11, February 8, through June

A contemplative approach to our texts and the search for wisdom within them, prepares us for Shabbat. This lunchtime class is a personal and participatory learning experience where we explore God's presence and absence, and good and evil. New and returning students are welcome.

Shabbat Study Series: Voices of Our Matriarchs

Clergy | Following Shabbat Morning Services

December 15, February 9, and April 13

A post-worship study with lunch will cover key female figures in the TaNaKh. Bring your curiosity and come to any or all sessions!

Film Screening: Going Blind: Coming Out of the Dark About Vision Loss

Thursday, January 10, 6:30 pm

Joseph Lovett, director and Hilary Klotz Steinman, producer

In recognition of Glaucoma Awareness Month, see this inspiring documentary about losing one's vision with information about early detection, treatment, and coping. And a panel discussion and Q&A.

Images of Mortality: Death and Dying in Art, Cinema, and Literature

Mondays, January 14, February 11, and March 11, 7:00 pm

Rabbi Juliana S. Karol

*How does culture shape our conceptions of death as a part of life? And how does Jewish tradition speak to this? With one book, one movie, and works of art, we will explore death and dying. Register at whatmatters@crsnyc.org.**

Fruits of the Vine: An Experience of Taste and Text

Clergy | Tuesday, January 15, 7:00 pm

Beginning in Genesis we learn how the grape can be a divine blessing as well as a vehicle for the sacred and the profane. Join us as we sample a variety of wines and non-alcoholic artisanal juices while relating them to four sacred texts from Judaism. Cost: \$72.

Disaster and Restoration:

Rabbinic Responses When the World Falls Apart

Tuesdays, January 22, 29, and February 5, 7:00 pm

Rabbi Benjamin Spratt

This intensive course will delve into Talmudic texts to learn how rabbis respond, often radically, to disaster and difficulty. As this will take place in a congregant's home, space is limited.

To Life! Dr. Ruth on Life and Resiliency

Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 pm

Dr. Ruth Westheimer with Rabbi Erica Gerson

Come for a little nosh at 6:30 pm and stay for a conversation with Dr. Ruth about her life, tips on raising resilient kids, and being resilient yourself. Co-sponsored with RSS Parents Association.

Let's Talk About Israel

Thursday, January 24, 6:00–9:00 pm

Resetting The Table facilitators

*An intensive training workshop to help us have meaningful conversations about Israel with mutual recognition and respect. Register at rodephsholom.org/Israel.**

Go to Page 7 For Classes on Jewish and Hebrew Basics →

All registration is at rodephsholom.org/learning.
*Except where noted.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS AT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG

STARS OF HOPE | Yvette Perry

Tikkun olam is the divine imperative to perform acts of kindness that are intended to "repair the world." Now hanging in front of the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, are 45 five-pointed Stars of Hope. They were painted on our Mitzvah Day with love by our CRS children. And were delivered the next day. So colorful, each carries a message of hope, that there will be light, that this community will find strength, and that all of us are one community that will not be defeated. Something to consider when lighting our Chanukah candles.

Throughout the years *The Chronicle* has featured our own Jeff Parness who has taken *tikkun olam* as his obligation as a Jew. To thank the responders who helped us after 9/11, in 2003 he created *New York Says Thank You* which sends volunteers from NYC to help communities rebuild after disaster. And that begat *Stars of HOPE* in 2009.

Our children's Mitzvah Day stars stand as a symbol of transformation. Each one intended to help repair the Squirrel Hill community with kindness and love. Just as the tree of life symbolizes a fresh start and strength, the

Tree of Life Congregation will grow from strength to strength. During our Festival of Light, perhaps our children's Stars of Hope will help guide them through the dark nights and lead them to a world of light. *Tikkun olam* is the answer.



MEYER W. NATHANS SERVICE AWARD HONORS CLAUDIA WAGNER AND JANIE ROHER

Celebrating at the Erev Shabbat Service on November 30, Claudia Wagner and Janie Roher receive the Meyer W. Nathans Service Award for the wonderful work they've done resettling our refugee family and welcoming them into our community. The award is named in honor of Meyer "Mike" Nathans who inspired many of our leaders to devote their talents to the welfare and well-being of our Synagogue.

Claudia and her husband Don Lebowitz joined CRS in 1991. Their sons, Zev (his wife is Eliza Quanbeck) and Ezra are b'nai mitzvah and Confirmants of CRS. Claudia has been involved in the Governance

committee and is a recipient of the Gemilut Chasidim award; and Don served on the Ritual committee.

Janie and her husband Joe have been members since 1977. Their daughter Jennifer, now a Cantor, and son Jed are b'nai mitzvah and Confirmants of CRS. Jennifer and her husband Ryan Smith have two sons, Gabriel and Elijah. Jed and his wife Nora Edie have a son, Romeo. Janie is an Honorary Member on the Board of Trustees and chaired the CRS Annual Meeting. She was an active participant in our Leadership Development, Ritual, Caring Community, and Membership committees.

From Peter Ehrenberg, Board Vice President and Chair of the Social Action Committee:

When HIAS approached the New York City synagogues about volunteering as host organizations to resettle a refugee family, Congregation Rodeph Sholom (in partnership with our friends at Temple Emanu-El) was one of the first to respond affirmatively. In agreeing to resettle a family, the CRS Board and our Clergy knew that it would require a massive volunteer effort to assure that we would effectively perform our responsibility of welcoming strangers from foreign lands. The resettlement effort has required CRS to be prepared to assist in providing shelter, clothing, training, educational assistance, employment assistance, and a multitude of other services. In short, everything necessary to integrate them into the NYC community.

While this program has resonated within our Synagogue, producing a large number of volunteers, the responsibility of coordinating this entire effort has been assumed by Claudia and Janie. They have selflessly and passionately led our Synagogue and volunteer team. Their amazing organizational skills and dedication are exceeded only by their extraordinary commitment to assure that we fulfill this covenantal responsibility to welcome four young men so that they may, over time, cease to be strangers.

We are live streaming from the Main Sanctuary Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Morning services. To view: rodephsholom.org/livestream

DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

In the fall edition of the *Chronicle*, I mentioned that throughout the year I would be sharing the Rodeph Sholom stories of our congregants. This month's reflection comes to us from longtime congregant and Trustee, Eileen Kleiman and her husband Peter Lurye. When thinking about their CRS journey and what it means to be a philanthropic supporter of our community, Eileen shares the following:

"Peter and I joined Congregation Rodeph Sholom 19 years ago when our older son was accepted to RSS's nursery division. We immediately felt a sense of the 'rightness' of both the RSS and CRS communities. Neither of us had grown up in the Reform Jewish tradition. I was raised in a Conservative Jewish congregation in Michigan; Peter did not attend temple as a child, having been brought up in a completely non-observant but culturally and intellectually Jewish family on Long Island.

Despite our different backgrounds, it was easy for us both to feel quickly at home at Rodeph Sholom, which is a tribute to the passion, intelligence, and commitment to inclusion that we saw in the clergy and the congregants we met.

Both of our boys thrived educationally and socially at RSS and became b'nai mitzvah at CRS. At the same time, Peter's and my connection to both the school and shul communities grew deeper. CRS is a place where we can join with others we respect to discuss current events through a Jewish lens, whether those events are uplifting, puzzling, or upsetting — and that support system is very important to us. The community also extends beyond the walls of our synagogue building; we love the fact that as we walk around the Upper West Side, we frequently run into the close friends and clergy we've come to know through CRS.

I am proud to have become a Trustee because I am proud of everything that happens at CRS and the many communities it serves. And together, Peter and I are thrilled to be able to give back to Congregation Rodeph Sholom — our small town within New York City — with our tzedakah."

I hope that these words will inspire you to think about your own connection to our congregation and the role Rodeph Sholom plays in your life. Whether it's through educational experiences, adult programming, clergy relationships, or the everyday interactions between community members that make a big city feel smaller, your support makes these connections possible. As the calendar year comes to a close and we begin to wrap up this year's Yom Kippur Appeal, I hope you will consider including CRS in your tzedakah this year. Your gift, at any level, makes a significant impact on our shared Rodeph Sholom home.

With gratitude for your thoughtfulness and support, I wish you a 2019 filled with blessing and joy.

MAKING YOUR GIFT

If you would like your donation to **qualify for a 2018 tax credit**, please be sure to make an **online gift by midnight on December 31** or **send in a check before the end of the year**. Any mail postmarked by **December 31** will qualify. Please note that the synagogue offices will be closed from **December 24 through January 1**, so if you would like to make a gift of appreciated stock, please be sure to leave enough time for the transaction to be completed during this busy season. You can call the Development Office at 646.454.3052 for transfer instructions.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Strength to Love, 1963)

CRS HELPS CITY HARVEST FIGHT HUNGER

Yvette Perry

Your response to Rabbi Levine's impassioned plea to fill this year's City Harvest trucks to the brim on Yom Kippur morning was gratifying *beyond* measure. What we *can* measure, however, is the amount your generosity made possible: 10,100 pounds of food! And this is what your generosity accomplished: We helped City Harvest to deliver a substantial amount of food to its 500 community food programs throughout the City — feeding hungry New Yorkers each week.

Our community always answers the call to help whenever, however we can. Your commitment to fight hunger is a paradigm for goodwill. This is a tough time for many. Some find it hard to see the light. Your continued support of the **CRS Food Drive** throughout the year provides some light, some hope, and some help because hunger does not end when Yom Kippur concludes.

Please make a donation at rodephsholom.org/give/donate-now/. Select Food Drive from the Fund/Program drop-down menu.

MITZVAH DAY BLOOD DRIVE

"To save a life is to save the world."



Nine out of every 10 people will need a transfusion or a blood product during their lifetime. Giving blood gives us the opportunity to help make a difference. This year the CRS community made such a meaningful achievement again during Mitzvah Weekend, collecting 86 units that will serve 258 people. Each unit is processed and divided into three separate blood products (plasma, red blood cells, and platelets), meaning each donated unit can help three different people.

Those who donated their blood were congregants, faculty, and staff from CRS and RSS, as well as people in the neighborhood who stopped in to make contributions, too.

Our donations help give life each year to the many people who require blood transfusions. And the reason CRS hosts a blood drive on Mitzvah Days — a mitzvah that helps our community.

Religious School

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION | Kerith Braunfeld

Chanukah celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the time of the Maccabees. In Hebrew, the root word of the holiday's name is *chet, nun, chaf* which means dedication. The same root word is the basis for the Hebrew word for education – *chinuch*. Sharing this root word teaches us that we are meant to dedicate and re-dedicate ourselves to holy spaces and to the pursuit of learning.

This season especially, these messages resonate for me, my staff, and the families of the Religious School as we moved back to the 5th floor post-construction. After having been “exiled” and living in the “diaspora” of the rest of the 83rd Street building, it feels great to be back home in our new, special place.

In Judaism we dedicate spaces and declare them holy through a ceremony called a *Chanukat Habayit* – dedication of a home. *Do you recognize that Hebrew root word again?* The students and teachers are indeed dedicating this new space and imbuing it with holiness and learning.

In particular, we are dedicating ourselves to the Jewish value of *chesed*, being kind and compassionate to all those around us. The new classrooms and hallways are filled with words and statements from our students reminding all of us to be kind:

“Have a nice day. Do you need any help with anything? What’s the problem? Can I help solve it? Come sit with us. You got this. Nice job. You are amazing!”

Two other aspects of Chanukah involve expressing gratitude and the giving and receiving of gifts. To be back on our 5th floor watching our students in their new, specialized classrooms learning about prayer, God, Israel, history, and Jewish values through music, art, cooking, and movement, is a true gift and reminder that we fill this space with holiness and express gratitude for this amazing gift.




Sholom Sprouts is Rodeph Sholom’s newest initiative for young children and the grown-ups who care for them! Offered in our beautifully renovated 5th floor, we welcome you into our vibrant Jewish community through Shabbat and holiday celebrations, music, art and fun for the whole family.

Join us this spring for infant Maccabees in Motion, sign language, music, Shabbat and Play, and baby yoga for children 6 weeks to 24 months, all with a Jewish twist! Opportunities for adults include a new moms group, monthly new dads brunches, and parenthood classes taught by Rabbi Greg Weitzman.

Celebrate Shabbat at our monthly Friday evening Shabbat dinners (4:30 pm) and weekly on Saturday mornings at Singin’ Swingin’ Shabbat!

Sholom Sprouts connects you with a community.

Learn more and register at rodephsholom.org/sholomsprouts
Contact Lisa Schiff, Manager, Sholom Sprouts: lschiff@crsnyc.org



Library DROP-IN STORY TIME

For children 2 and under on Thursdays, December 6 and 13 at 11:30 am–12:15 pm. Sign up for free books at pjlibrary.org.

MORE ADULT PROGRAMMING

Jewish Basics

Clergy | Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm through May
Do you want to enrich your understanding of Jewish faith and culture? Are you interested in conversion? Learn about the Jewish holidays, foundational texts, and mitzvot; and how they create meaning in our lives. Cost: \$720.

Jewish Basics 2.0

Clergy | Thursdays, 6:30 pm through May
For those who converted within the last five years and want to deepen your understanding of Jewish life and practice. You’ll learn about Shabbat, righteous giving, prayer, kashrut, and more. Cost: \$180.

Hebrew Basics

MORNING SESSIONS:

Melissa De Lowe | Thursdays, 8:45-9:45 am, 7:00-8:30 pm
Begins January 17 through March (no class February 21)
Hebrew reading especially for parents of new Hebrew learners right after RSS drop-off. Cost: \$72.

EVENING SESSIONS:

Rabbi Juliana S. Karol | Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm
Begins January 9 through March (no classes January 23 and February 20)
For all who want to learn Hebrew. Cost: \$72.

Registration is at rodephsholom.org/learning.

RODEPH SHOLOM SCHOOL

Welcomes New Head of Middle School



Rodeph Sholom School is proud to introduce **Eve Andrias**, Head of the RSS Middle School Division, to the community. Eve grew up on the Upper West Side and joins RSS from Spence, where she served as the K-12 Director of Learning Resources. Eve is thrilled to return to a Middle School role, as her passion has always been working with adolescents. She takes pride in partnering with parents to help children navigate these complicated years while honoring the adolescence stage.

Eve has already made a wonderful transition to the community with her very hands-on approach: visiting classrooms, serving as an advisor, having pizza lunches with students, and meeting with current parents. She has been overjoyed by the sincere welcome from RSS parents, faculty, and students and looks forward to meeting the CRS community as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Barzilay, husband of Alice Barzilay

Stuart Gelfond, husband of Laura Sachar Gelfond,
father of Sophia and Lillian Sachar

Beverly Bortner, grandmother of Alyson Weiner

Ruth Weissman, aunt of Pamela Elias

Miriam Harkavy, mother of Donna Harkavy

Bernice Tomases, mother of Faith Tomases

Daniel Paul Tanzman, father of Jill Steinberg

Lorraine Abramson, mother of Jill Manczyk
and sister-in-law of Dr. David and Stephanie Abramson

Andrej Glatter, father of Charles Glatter

Stevan Bosses, father of David Bosses

Alice Saberski, mother of Lin Saberski

Elizabeth Brous Guevara, sister of Len Brous

Ethel Perry, mother of Yvette Perry

Edith Cooper, mother of Lisa Satlin

Claire Marcus, partner of the late Eric New,
widow of Fred Marcus, mother of the late Philip Marcus,
sister-in-law of Marilyn Miller

Ruth Weiss, mother of our Head of Early Childhood,
Suzie Newman

Rita Tikofsky, widow of the late Dr. Ron Tikofsky

Jacqueline S. Paulson, mother of William Paulson

“We build truth,
integrity, beauty,
and goodness
according to our
own measure.”

— Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

Community Matters



RECIPE FOR SWEET POTATO LATKES

Ingredients:	1 tsp baking powder
2 lbs sweet potatoes	1 or 2 tsps cinnamon
2 tbs matzoh meal	1/4 tsp nutmeg
or flour	1/4 tsp cloves
2 eggs	Peanut oil

Directions: Peel and grate sweet potatoes and remove excess moisture. Beat eggs and add one at a time, mix well. Add matzoh meal or flour and baking powder. Add spices and mix well. Heat oil until hot and put large spoonful for each pancake. Cook until brown and flip.

CRS FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL

Summer 2019 | August 18–29

Are you thinking about joining the family trip to Israel? There is nothing like experiencing Israel with your congregational family. You can count on enjoying good food, and laughing, singing, learning, and praying together. In a journey of discovery, you'll make meaningful memories in this most inspirational place. Led by Rabbi Greg Weitzman and Cantor Rebecca Garfein.

There is still time to join us!
Contact: rabbizeitman@crsnyc.org

RODEPH SHOLOM THEATER COMPANY

Be a part of our 2019 production of

As You Like It

A musical adaptation of Shakespeare's classic story
of chance encounters and self-discovery

AUDITIONS

Thursday, January 10 and Monday, January 14

Callbacks: Wednesday, January 16

6:30–9:30 pm

Auditions open to all 3rd graders and up
Please prepare 16 bars of any genre of music

Named one of *The New York Times'* best shows of 2017, *As You Like It* is an immersive dream-like tale of faithful friends, feuding families and lovers in disguise, with an original folk-pop score by Shaina Taub.

Performances May 8, 9, 11, and 12

For more information or to schedule an audition:
rstheater@crsnyc.org

A musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*
By Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery, music and lyrics by Shaina Taub
As You Like It is presented by arrangement with The Musical Company, LP

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HAPPY CHANUKAH

CHANUKAH GUIDE
 INSIDE

May *Love & Light*
 Fill Your
Home & Heart
 at Chanukah

ABOUT CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

Rodeph Sholom, one of New York's most distinguished Reform congregations, embodies a strong commitment to purposeful Jewish living and the pursuit of human dignity. Our congregation is a true community, excelling in meaningful worship, educational opportunity for all ages, social and tzedakah programs. We strive to be an extended family of people who care about each other and our community.

Founded in 1842 on the Lower East Side, Rodeph Sholom has always sought to blend the teachings of our Jewish heritage with the best lessons of modern culture. We are proud of our beautiful worship services, our commitment to social action, and our emphasis on Jewish education for people of all ages. Rodeph Sholom was the first Reform congregation to open a Jewish Day School. Our schools, like our congregation, are flourishing. Remaining true to our name which is Hebrew for "pursuer of peace," Rodeph Sholom takes great pride in our history and is hard at work to fulfill the promise of our future.



Congregation Rodeph Sholom
Robert N. Levine, D.D. Senior Rabbi
Benjamin H. Spratt Senior Associate Rabbi
Greg D. Weitzman Associate Rabbi
Juliana S. Karol Assistant Rabbi
Vanessa Harper Rabbinic Intern
Rebecca Garfein, D.M. Senior Cantor
Shayna De Lowe Associate Cantor
Ephraim Biran Cantor Emeritus
Tobias Glaser Cantorial Intern
Barbara Zakin Executive Director
Marc Fried Chief Financial Officer
Lyndsie Levine Director of Development
Ruth Bernstein Director of Membership Services
Rachael Evans Operations Director
Kirsten Major Communications Manager
Gail Becker Sexton
Rodeph Sholom Religious School
Kerith Braunfeld Director
Marcia Stein Senior Associate Director
Jessica Cohen Assistant Director
Dina Newman Associate Director of Youth Engagement
Dan Strauss Assistant Director of Teen Engagement
Rodeph Sholom School
Danny Karpf Head of School
Maxine Borenstein Associate Head of School
Susan Weiss Newman Head of Schnurmacher Early Childhood Division



7 West 83rd St., New York, NY 10024
 tel: 212.362.8800 | fax: 212.877.6526
 email: chronicle@crsnyc.org

Colleen Dundon Head of Hirschberg Elementary Division
Eve Andrias Head of Middle School Division
Jessica Shaviv Interim Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

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