

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

HAPPINESS 101 | Rabbi Robert N. Levine, DD, Senior Rabbi



A few months ago, *New York Magazine* published an article about the most popular college course in America. Over twelve hundred students enrolled in Professor Laurie Santos' course at Yale formally called *Psychology and The Good Life*, but popularly known as *Happiness 101*.

A class in how to get happy sounds compelling in the face of surveys showing that 52% of students reported feeling hopeless, while 39% suffered from such profound depression that they found it difficult to function at some point during the previous year. Surely, other population groups would marshal such feelings as well.

Professor Santos offered this class because she felt that her students, the rest of the world, and she personally needed this perspective. Jewish tradition would readily agree and thousands of years ago provided profound guidance about how to achieve true contentment.

We feel best, teaches Torah, not when we are pursuing self-centered goals, but when we are doing something for others. *"You shall rejoice in your festivals,"* says the Book of Deuteronomy, *"you, your children...the stranger, orphan, and widow in your community."* Feeding and housing others, making the world fairer than it is, all give us more satisfaction than when we focus only on personal gratification.

...happiness is not something we achieve, but something we manufacture.

Professor Yitz Greenberg teaches a parable from Hasidic master Rabbi Nachman of Bratslev, who struggled with his own darkness: In a room full of dancers you are standing on the sidelines because your mood is far too dark to enter the circle. Someone grabs you by the hand and brings you into the group. As you begin to move, you see your sadness, still on the sideline, looking on disapprovingly. The real task, teaches Rabbi Nachman, is to force the sadness into the circle and make it dance as well.

Where are you—in the circle or standing back looking in? Maybe on the outside feeling lonely or alienated? They are trying to pull you in. Perhaps someone at Congregation Rodeph Sholom is doing so. Don't resist so much. Come into the circle and find connection, community, maybe even find God.

You are on the inside looking out, but there is something gnawing at you. You have done something you are not proud of. You have sinned. Repentance is a gift the holy days bestow. But you resist, coating yourself in self-righteousness as if to say there is nothing to see here.

Perhaps we are estranged from our parents or siblings. Can't you try to bring them into the circle? If your kids acted towards each other in the same way, how would you feel? What would you do?

The rabbis teach us that *teshuva*, repentance, can bring healing to the

entire world and as *teshuva* begins its ascent to the heavens it stops to offer positive benefits to the penitent. Because that which torments you rents way too much space in your head and heart until you finally decide to loosen its grip.

One of the conclusions reached in Professor Santos' class is that happiness is not something we achieve, but something we manufacture. We make it happen by finding meaning in our life which is not achieved by individuated accomplishments, but when we pull others out of pain and bring them into the circle.

Feeling gratitude is also a key to happiness. One study found that in severely depressed patients, taking the time to record three things you are grateful for every day for fifteen days produces an increase in well-being in 94% of respondents.

"Thank you God" is a great way to start every day. Connecting with God as an act of gratitude does not require you to be in a recovery program. All of us can feel God's love and support and can share it with others. Words which conclude our service, the last phrase in the *Adon Olam*, *"God is with me. I have no fear,"* has spoken powerfully to centuries of our adherents.

God has given us the gift of potential growth. We are not condemned to sadness. We can repent.

We can change. We can grab hold of the outstretched hand and resolve to dance.

God has commanded us to be happy and to pass it on. Sign you up?

Gina, Judah, Ezra, Maya, Katie, and I wish you a happy and meaningful 5779.

WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY

On Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, September 9 at 6:00 PM,
the entire congregation will worship together
in our beautiful Main Sanctuary with all our clergy!

RABBI JULIANA KAROL'S INSTALLATION

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 6:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
RABBI RICK JACOBS
PRESIDENT, UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
GALA ONEG FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT | Rob Steinman



I grew up here in Congregation Rodeph Sholom. I attended our nursery school and kindergarten and went to Religious School through my bar mitzvah and Confirmation. I have never belonged to another synagogue. My parents, however, did not grow up here at CRS. Like most of our congregants, they came from different backgrounds and chose to join our Congregation.

My father belonged to an Orthodox synagogue when he met my mother. Her family attended synagogue in Brooklyn, but became less affiliated after they moved to California. When my parents married, my father assumed they would continue to belong to Sherith Israel. His sister and cousins belonged there and his brother-in-law had a four-generation tradition at this august shul. With its beautiful sanctuary and storied heritage, it is a magnificent synagogue. My mother was having none of it. While she respected my father's family, and Sherith Israel and their traditions, there was no way she was sitting in a separate women's section. For her, the Orthodox rules and traditions were archaic and out of date. As my mother loved to say, she was no second class citizen, and she wasn't sitting upstairs in the balcony.

They joined Congregation Rodeph Sholom shortly thereafter. Here my parents found their Jewish home, a community that cares about each other and a place where their three sons would learn how to live as Jews. They found likeminded Jews participating in worship, Torah study, and life experience — putting Jewish religious and ethical principles into action. Importantly, they found a community where both of them could feel like equal partners and members in the religious, educational, and social action activities of the synagogue.

I have been thinking about my parents' story while meeting with congregants and hearing their CRS stories. Like my parents, many came from backgrounds other than Modern Reform Judaism. Some came from Classical Reform backgrounds. Some, like my wife Hilary, came from Conservative synagogues; some, like my father, from Orthodox upbringings. Some had

virtually no religious education or affiliation. Some were born into Christian or other religious denominations. Some converted into Judaism; and some who haven't converted are raising their families as Jews in our schools and synagogue. The most important of all our Jewish values is to be open to the stranger, for we were once strangers in the land of Egypt. Here at Rodeph Sholom, we continue to be open and welcoming to all.

But our Congregation's stories are not just stories of diverse religious backgrounds. They are stories of diverse family backgrounds as well. Recently, I had a lovely breakfast with a congregant who shared his CRS story with me. He remembered the first time he and his wife came for High Holy Days. From the bimah, Rabbi Levine gave a sermon about our synagogue being a Congregation of families, and he listed them. Families composed of a husband and a wife and two children, families composed of a widow and three sons, families composed of an unmarried couple, families composed of two partners with an adopted daughter, and so many more. It was a sermon unlike any they had ever heard and it spoke to their desire to be part of a synagogue of diverse backgrounds. Looking around, they could see that he was describing everyone there. They have been dedicated members ever since.

This year, for the first time, we will usher in the High Holy Days on Erev Rosh Hashanah by worshipping together as one community. In the beauty of our Main Sanctuary, clergy and congregants will pray together. We hope that it will be a splendid opportunity to enhance our community and connection to each other, and to celebrate our beautiful diversity.

I am tremendously honored to have been chosen to be the new President of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. I look forward to serving our outstanding Congregation. Thank you for putting your faith in me, that I may steer us in the right direction over the next four years. I am grateful for your support; and I promise I will try my best to be worthy of your trust. I hope you will join me on this journey and share your thoughts and dreams with me. Feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts or concerns. Hilary, Lucy, and Paulina join me in wishing you a new year filled with health and happiness, love and peace.

L'DOR V'DOR: SECURING OUR FUTURE

CONTINUING OUR JEWISH LEGACY

Growing, always growing. That would be an apt description of Congregation Rodeph Sholom's journey. From 80 members in 1842 on Attorney Street, we moved to Clinton Street, then to the Upper East Side, and landed in our present home in 1930. It is a place where we continually evolve and adapt, a place that reflects a welcoming, warm, and ever-growing community. And now there is much excitement afoot as we add new state-of-the-art facilities to keep up with our wonderful advancements.

Rabbinic Office Suite *"This new space will be a gathering place for both clergy and congregant, a new sacred space intended to place relationship at the heart of what we do."* (Rabbi Ben Spratt) The third floor business office has been redesigned to create a three-office rabbinic suite which promotes collaborative opportunities for Rabbis Spratt, Weitzman, and Karol in a congenial working atmosphere. The space also provides a gracious and private seating area for congregants waiting to receive pastoral care.

The Fifth Floor *"The renovation makes room for a deeper engagement for all of our youth...to make this place a true second home."* (Kerith Braunfeld, Director of Religious Education) The fifth floor has been completely renovated to create state-of-the-art classrooms for the Religious School and for our new Sholom Sprouts program for families with very young children. The floor includes a new chapel especially designed for our youth and family services as well as specialized art, music, and cooking spaces, and a long-awaited Youth Lounge for our teens. There will also be a new multi-purpose space for *simchas* and other events. Opening after the High Holy Days, we can't wait to see it!



The Lobby *"I want everyone who enters to feel the warmth, caring, and vitality we all feel...a place they had been searching for, a true congregational home."* (Rabbi Robert Levine) We will begin construction in the lobby after the

High Holy Days to create an even more beautiful, brighter, and warmer entry into our beautiful holy space. There will be a new Community Room for friends and family to congregate and connect, as well as a new Living History exhibit that will tell the Rodeph Sholom story, both past and present. To ensure tighter safety measures, the security desk will move to the vestibule in between the entry doors, allowing us to have a beautiful open lobby space. We anticipate the lobby construction will be complete in Spring 2019.

Sharing experiences, learning and praying together, our community is as vibrant as it has ever been. With so much progress, we will be remembering our heritage, rejoicing with gratitude, and renewing our commitment to our congregation for a long time to come.

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5779

Selichot | Saturday, September 1

8:00 – 9:30 pm: Beginning with *Havdalah*, *Selichot Service* followed by refreshments.

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 9

Evening Congregational Service
6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah – First Day | Monday, September 10

*Family Service**
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Main Sanctuary (featuring the Children's Choir)

Adult Study Opportunity
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Schnurmacher Chapel

Young Families Service (ages 0-5)
9:15 – 10:00 am in the Schafler Forum

Teen Service (Grades 7-12)
9:30 – 10:45 am in the Leader Board Room

Congregational Services
11:00 am – 1:45 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel

2nd to 6th Grade High Holy Days Experience
10:30 am – 1:45 pm in the 84th St. Building

Rosh Hashanah – Second Day | Tuesday, September 11

Congregational Service
9:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Shireinu Service for Families with Special Needs
11:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Schafler Forum with a Sign Language interpreter. Let us know you're coming: specialneeds@crsny.org or 646.454.3124

2nd to 6th Grade High Holy Days Experience
9:30 am – 12:00 pm in the 84th St. Building

Tashlich
Following Congregational Services in Central Park

Kol Nidre | Tuesday, September 18

Early Service (Family Friendly)
5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Schafler Forum

or
Evening Congregational Services
7:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel

Yom Kippur Day | Wednesday, September 19

Family Service (ages 6-12)
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Main Sanctuary (featuring the Children's Choir)

Adult Study Opportunity
9:00 – 10:30 am at St. Matthew & St. Timothy's Church (26 West 84th Street)

Young Families Service (ages 0-5)
9:15 – 10:00 am in the Schafler Forum

Teen Service (Grades 7-12)
9:30 – 10:45 am in the Leader Board Room

2nd to 6th Grade High Holy Days Experience
10:45 am – 2:30 pm in the 84th St. Building

Morning Congregational Services
11:15 am – 2:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel

The Yom Kippur Service on 84th Street
11:30 am – 1:30 pm at St. Matthew & St. Timothy's Church (26 West 84th Street)

Afternoon Congregational Services
3:00 – 4:15 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Yizkor Services
4:15 – 5:15 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Neilah Services
5:30 – 6:45 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Havdalah
6:45 pm in front of the 83rd Street building or in the Schafler Forum

Erev Sukkot | Sunday, September 23

4:30 pm *Erev Sukkot/Family Sukkot Experience* in the Sukkah

Sukkot | Monday, September 24

10:15 am *Sukkot Morning Service*

Erev Simchat Torah | Sunday, September 30

5:00 pm *Erev Simchat Torah Service*: Rejoice and dance!

Simchat Torah | Monday, October 1

10:15 am *Simchat Torah Morning Service with Yizkor*

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Tickets for all services have barcodes to be scanned.

*Family Services require a separate ticket.

Please RSVP, print, and bring.

Yom Kippur Food Drive. Food Drive bags will be given out on Rosh Hashanah and your filled bags will be collected by City Harvest on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 19, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in front of the Synagogue building on West 83rd Street.

Live Streaming

New for 5779, Rodeph Sholom will begin live streaming services from the Main Sanctuary beginning September 7, including High Holy Days, and every Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Morning service. To view, go to rodephsholom.org/livestream.

DOING OUR PART TO HELP REFUGEES

Welcome the Stranger. Protect the Refugee. That is the motto of the HIAS organization (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) which has been helping refugees escape persecution and rebuild their lives in safety and dignity since 1881. Our congregation is playing an important role in their *Welcome Campaign*. We are one of the congregations across the U.S. responding to the current refugee crisis by welcoming refugees into our community. In partnership with Temple Emanu-El, our synagogue is resettling a refugee family in NYC. And now they have arrived!

Welcome Shabab and Hussain, who are cousins, and their friend, Rehan! This year we will not only make these refugees from Pakistan

feel welcome and embraced by our community, but with our assistance they will become part of the fabric of America. If you would like to make a contribution to this project, please visit our website, rodephsholom.org/give/donate-now, and select "Refugee and Immigration Support Fund" from the drop down menu.

Our Jewish values cannot let America shut its doors to refugees. Giving a family refuge in the land of the free – isn't that what we're all about?

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, October 19, 6:00 pm
Erev Shabbat/National Refugee Service

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, September 7, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Sunday, September 23, 6:30 pm: MINYAN LAUNCH. See Page 9.

Tuesday, October 2, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS. Join us on Sunday, October 28, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for a special Sisterhood Days for Girls Mitzvah Day Project. Next regular dates are Mondays, November 5 and December 3. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

Thursday, October 4, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome to join these self-moderated discussions at the Synagogue. Next dates are Thursdays, November 1 and December 6. Would you like to join our spirited conversation? Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Saturday, October 6, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED. See below.

Thursday, October 11, 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, November 8 and December 13. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Friday, October 12, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/RABBI JULIANA KAROL'S INSTALLATION. Gala oneg following the service.

Tuesday, October 16, 6:00 – 8:00 pm: RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BBQ. In the Eisner.

Friday, October 19, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE.

Friday – Sunday, October 26 – 28: MITZVAH WEEKEND. Join us for our annual weekend of social action. See Page 9.

Friday, November 2, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT FALL SHABBATON SERVICE. Featuring Elana Arian our Artist-in-Residence. See next column.

Thursday, November 8, 6:30 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM. Join us at 6:30 pm for the Reception. At 7:00 pm the Concert starts. Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble highlighting our Jewish musical heritage. Contact: chambermusic@crsnyc.org.

Friday, November 9, 6:00 pm: SHIR CHADASH EREV SHABBAT/KRISTALLNACHT AND CONSECRATION SERVICE. We commemorate the Night of Broken Glass, November 9, 1938, with candle-lighting to mark the beginning of the Holocaust.

Thursday, November 29, 2:00 – 9:00 pm and Friday, November 30, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm: RSS BOOK FAIR. In the Schafner.

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

Sunday, December 2: FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH.

HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED

Saturdays at 6:00 PM
October 6 and December 8

Start your new week with an energizing, thoughtful service that connects us to one another. Havdalah Unplugged features music and stories and a chance to kick back, reflect, and soak up positive energy.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Our **Community Engagement** booklet will be available at Yom Kippur Services and will be filled with exciting and compelling programming!

Learn about Jewish thought and culture, Torah and Hebrew, our history, and life cycle events.

Some of the inspiring courses we are offering this year:

What's Going on in That Sanctuary?

SESSION ONE:

What are the Themes of our Prayer Service?

Led by Rabbi Robert N. Levine
October 23 | Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Can I believe what we believe? What are we looking for in the prayer experience and are we getting what we are seeking?

SESSION TWO:

Our Music

Led by Cantor Rebecca Garfein
November 20 | Tuesday, 7:00 pm

This talk traces the evolution and power of the prayer that we sing. The richness of melody, the beauty of Hebrew poetry—together they weave a gorgeous mosaic.

Making Sense of the Midterms

CRS and *Tablet Magazine*

November 19 | Monday, 7:00 pm

Time *national political correspondent Molly Ball sits down with Tablet's Armin Rosen to assess where we are and envision where we go from here. This will be a fascinating, provocative post-election analysis.*

FALL SHABBATON

Friday – Saturday, November 2 – 3

On Friday at 6:00 pm, the Erev Shabbat Service features recording artist Elana Arian, our Artist-in-Residence. The Shabbaton continues **on Saturday, 10:15 am** at a musical Shabbat Morning Service with Elana leading us in prayer, and then at **6:30 pm** for a joyful Havdalah Concert.

All registration is at rodephsholom.org/learning.

MEYER W. NATHANS SERVICE AWARD

Erev Shabbat Service | Friday, November 30 | 6:00 PM

The Meyer W. Nathans Service Award is presented annually to a congregant who has made an outstanding contribution of service over many years. This award is named in honor of Meyer "Mike" Nathans who inspired many of the Congregation's leaders to devote their talents to the welfare and well-being of our Synagogue. (See website for details.)

CRS FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL | August 18–29, 2019

We hope you will join Rabbi Greg Weitzman and Cantor Rebecca Garfein on a different kind of Israeli experience. The kind with a culinary appeal. One you won't find on a solo trip. You'll discover new and tempting foods that may surprise you! Sounds delicious, right? There will be an information session in the winter. *L'Shanah Haba'ah Yerushalayim!* Contact: rabiweitzman@crsnyc.org.

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

GEMILUT CHASADIM AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 176TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION ON MAY 21.



Backpack Buddies

Karen Lantner, Beth Greenwald, Florence Freedman, Peter Ehrenberg, Steve Schwinder, Dina Bakst, Jane Dystel, Robin Biderman, Mary Sue Harkavy, Kim Chirls, Steffanie Levin, Billy Rubenstein, Ellen Lev-Minzi, Geoffrey Levin



Sisterhood

Wendy Tinkoff, Hilary Steinman, Beth Rubin, Susan Nemens, Beverly Katz, Sandy Abramson, Elisabeth Lerner

(All are pictured left to right.)



Choir Assistants

Rebecca Merber, Genevieve Beirne

Welcome New Trustees

SCOTT ALTER

Scott is a lifelong member and bar mitzvah of CRS. He and his wife, Janine, have two young daughters, Juliana and Rose, who delight in the warmth of Singin' Swingin' Shabbat on Saturday mornings. With significant experience in real estate and finance, he has been an esteemed member of the House Committee, working on the synagogue's capital budget and reviewing maintenance issues of our aging building. Scott is a member of the Development Committee, too, and participated in the 2015 Leadership Development program. He is the Co-Founder and Principal of Standard Companies, and was an investment professional at Stockbridge Real Estate Funds and an Investment Banking Analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. Scott is a Co-Founder on the board of Housing on Merit, a national non-profit that provides housing for homeless, female veterans.

CARA LOWN

Cara and her husband Mark Gertler joined CRS in 1995. Their daughter, Sarah, and son, Sam attended RSS starting in the Nursery and became CRS b'nai mitzvah and RSS graduates. A very active participant at CRS, Cara has been a member of the CRS Development committee for the last three years. She was a highly regarded participant in the 2015 Leadership Development program and compassionate member of the Social Action Committee. At the Rodeph Sholom School, she served as a Trustee on the Board as well as on the Executive Committee, and was Co-Chair of both the Development Committee and the Capital Campaign. With a PhD in Economics, Cara is a former Research Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY.



Scott Alter, Cara Lown, Rob Steinman, and Richard Barasch

RICHARD BARASCH

Richard Barasch and his family joined CRS more than 25 years ago. He and his wife, Renee, have three children, Emily, Benjamin, and Natalie, all b'nai mitzvah of CRS. Renee grew up in an Orthodox shtibl in Frankfort, Germany, the daughter of survivors. Richard is a member of the CRS Investment Committee and the Medical Insurance Taskforce. He is a Principal in RAB Ventures, LLC, consulting for growth healthcare companies. Interacting extensively with regulators and legislators from both parties on healthcare policy, he is a member of the Board of Directors of America's Health Insurance Plans, a national political advocacy and trade association, and he is on the Advisory Board of the Department of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSOLOM.ORG

DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

This year, I am doing something a little different with my quarterly *Chronicle* article, and I'm ceding my "real estate" to you, our congregants. I'm excited to be sharing the voices of our community and your reflections on what it means to be a philanthropic supporter of CRS. This month's story comes to us from Kathy Green, reflecting on her CRS journey:

"In 1984, pregnant with our first child, my husband and I were looking for a temple to join when a friend told us about Rodeph Sholom. Even though we were living on the East Side (and still are) I have never regretted our decision to become members. As our family grew, so did our involvement. All three children were named in the Sanctuary, our daughter attended the Nursery School, and all became b'nai mitzvah.

"One of the true highlights of my life was becoming an adult bat mitzvah at the age of 35 under the extremely patient tutelage of Cantor Biran. How he ever got me to chant and sing in front of an audience... that was a true miracle.

"For every lifecycle event, the exceptional clergy have been there to celebrate or sympathize, adding meaning and love to our happiest and saddest moments. Every step of our lives has been deepened by their caring. And that caring also means reminding us that we are part of a larger world, one where not everyone has the same opportunities or resources. The social action that CRS promotes is inspiring, and I am proud that my congregation is at the forefront of championing some of the greatest social justice issues of the day.

"As I enter the 35th year of membership, I look forward to taking advantage of more of the adult education programs and perhaps learn how to play Mah Jongg. There has never been a single moment when this space has let me down. I feel particularly excited to be a small part of making CRS more expansive and better able to serve its community, the neighborhood, and the next generations to come."

This year, I hope that the words of your fellow congregants will resonate with you as you consider your own Rodeph Sholom journey and how you can support our community. Your support over and above dues, and particularly for the Yom Kippur Appeal which touches everything that we do, makes each of our CRS stories possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Wishing you a sweet and meaningful new year.

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

The critical operating support provided by the YKA covers program expenses, provides for excellent clergy and staff, and underwrites dues assistance for any family in need. CRS is there for us, providing ritual service, spiritual connection, and the warmth of community at some of the most important times of our lives. Membership dues alone cannot sustain our vibrant congregation – we rely on your generosity to help us fill the gap. To make your gift you can:

- Visit rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal
- Call 646.454.3052 to add a pledge to your synagogue account
- Send in a check made payable to CRS with YKA 2018 in the memo line

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES!

What motivates you to support CRS with your *tzedakah*? We want to hear from you! Please reach out to Lyndsie Levine at llevine@crsnyc.org with your donor story and you may be featured in an upcoming edition of the *Chronicle*.

"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes a difference."

(Ethics of the Fathers 1:17)

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

To serve on the CRS Board is to offer one's particular expertise and experience so that we may achieve our goals. We appreciate you while you are actively participating on the Board. But it's when you step down that we have the opportunity to recognize your service and to thank you. **David Resnick, Janet Levy, and Donna Bascom**, you were generous with your time and ideas, and demonstrated your ardent devotion to the Congregation. With the creation of new services, meaningful programs, and jubilant celebrations, we continue to grow and evolve. Your accomplishments and influence made that possible. Our spiritual home is an even more wonderful and welcoming place due to your efforts. Thank you and *Yasher Koach!*

CRS HOMELESS SHELTER

The Rodeph Sholom Men's Shelter begins its 2018–19 season on Tuesday, October 2. Since March 1, 1983, we have provided a clean, safe, and caring temporary home for homeless men. Many congregants participate for one or two nights each Shelter season, some spend at least one night per month at the Shelter. It will remain open Monday through Friday, until June 2019. Would you like to volunteer for this meaningful congregational experience? Go to crsnyc.volunteerhub.com and click on Homeless Shelter.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Every year on Yom Kippur, we collect food on behalf of City Harvest to benefit those who are in need. Throughout the year, we help feed the hungry through our **Food Drive**. Together we can help our neighbors get enough to eat. The money collected is distributed to West Side, local, and city-wide organizations serving the Jewish community as well as the New York community-at-large. Please make a donation to the CRS Food Drive.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICE: RUTH KOBRIN, LMSW

Ruth Kobrin has been our resident social worker for more than seventeen years, helping us to deal with life's challenges, and the problems and crises we may face. She provides counseling and offers information and assistance on health care, facilities, and assisted living situations. Ruth also reaches out and visits our lonely, ill, and housebound. And it's all confidential. If you need help, contact her for an appointment: 646.454.3180 or rkobrin@crsnyc.org.

(Ruth Kobrin, LMSW is Senior Social Worker at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, part of the Partners in Caring program of UJA-Federation of New York.)

Religious School

“LOVE KINDNESS” | Kerith Braunfeld

If you ask me what the main goal is of our Religious School, you might expect to hear, so that children can learn about their heritage and develop a strong Jewish identity. While this is certainly true, in days of late it would not be the first thing I would say. First and foremost, we need to make sure that we are preparing our children and teens to succeed amidst the world within which they are growing. They need to be healthy and happy and know how to navigate this world before they can form their personal identity and recognize their purpose. They will learn that Judaism has much to say about all of this.

These are challenging times. Our children and teens are growing up in a world where they feel more tension personally and globally than any of us have experienced in a long time. They have the added pressure of living life with social media; a constant lens to the larger world, causing them to have to process information that comes in and deciding what they need to put out. The same social media that gives them access to increased knowledge and the larger world also causes a lack of interpersonal skills and recognition of boundaries; it can even lead to cyberbullying. In a day and age when words harm so deeply, when there is so much conflict and discontent, starting with our own language and actions, making sure we are kind is the only way we are going to effectuate change.

Jewish tradition has much to say about kindness. In fact, kindness, or *chesed*, is mentioned 245 times in the Bible and we even learn that when God went to create Adam and the angels argued as to whether or not God should create people, the angels answered, “*Let him be created because he will dispense acts of lovingkindness.*” (Genesis Rabbah 8:5) We learn from this midrash that we owe our very existence to the fact that we should be kind.

This year in Religious School, we are launching a **Kindness & Wellness Campaign**. This goal to increase kindness in the Religious School, in the CRS community, and in the larger community starts with each of us as individuals. First, we need to build the kindest community and model for

each other what kindness looks like. We'll do this in a variety of ways. We've created a *Brit Kehilah*, a **Community Covenant** that students and parents will sign and uphold. Lessons about kindness, self-care, mental health, and wellness will be integrated into each grade's curriculum, into *Tefillah* (prayer services) and classrooms through mindfulness moments, through a print campaign of kindness quotes and posters around the school, through our continuing teen/parent mental health series, and through a number of other ways. Our hope is that our children will internalize Jewish values and recognize their role in making this world a better place in order to cultivate a culture of kindness.

In a time when we might feel hopeless, we will respond with kindness. Our tradition mandates this and we will heed the call to, “*Do justice, love chesed (kindness), and walk humbly with your God.*” (Micah 6:8)



INTRODUCING SHOLOM SPROUTS!

Sholom Sprouts is our newest initiative for infants, toddlers, and the grown-ups who care for them. Designed to build connection and community, we offer programs on our beautifully renovated 5th floor created especially to welcome families with small children. Join us for Shabbat and holiday celebrations; Jewish-themed art, yoga, music, and storytelling classes for children 6 weeks to 24 months; and special programs for adults, including a new moms group and a monthly dads brunch. Singin' Swingin Shabbat on Saturday mornings and our monthly Friday evening Sholom Sprouts Shabbat dinners (4:30–6:00 pm) are already a hit.

Sholom Sprouts connects you with a community!

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

Rodeph Sholom School

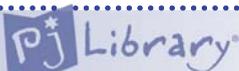
FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL | Danny Karpf

Having completed my first year as Head of Rodeph Sholom School, I have an even deeper understanding of the distinctive education we provide to our 500+ students. I know that the joy with which Lisa and my sons, Toby (1st grade) and Leo (4th grade), have embraced learning within RSS's nurturing and challenging curriculum, inspired by talented and loving educators, is not unique. Our students are known deeply by their friends and by the teachers to which they are entrusted, and we find the spark that ignites their confidence and their love of learning – from science and math to English, art, and Jewish studies. The fabric of the community is connected through relationships built over time and deepened by shared values, beginning with *B'tzelem Elohim*: at RSS, we understand that each child is sacred and deserves to be understood, to have a voice, and to be celebrated.

This past school year, beyond our day-to-day work with children, we began important work to plan for the future of RSS. We engaged in a year-long self-study in preparation for our 10-year re-accreditation visit from the New York State Association of Independent Schools this October, including a particular focus on Jewish Life and Learning. In June, we sent 42 graduates off to be leaders in top independent and public schools in the region. We

know many of our alumni will stay connected to the broader CRS community as they also impact their new communities with lessons learned here. In fact, we are making a special effort to reconnect with alumni and alumni families as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2019-20. We look forward to celebrating the rich shared history of CRS and RSS together. As we welcome over 75 new students to begin their journey at RSS this fall, please continue to spread the word about the special learning community at RSS.

Rodeph Sholom School is the only Nursery through 8th Grade Reform Jewish independent school in New York City. RSS offers a challenging academic program guided by Jewish knowledge and values. Students are encouraged to pursue their interests and become independent learners. Students at RSS grow into socially responsible leaders and choose to use their interests and passions to live meaningful and purposeful lives. All interested families should visit RSS and take a tour. **Applications for 2019-20 will be accepted from September 1 to December 1, 2018, and can be found at rodephsholom.org.** Tuition assistance is available.



Story Time Together begins Thursday, October 4, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm on the 5th floor.

IN MEMORIAM

Rabbi Aaron David Panken,
President of HUC-JIR, past Assistant Rabbi of Rodeph Sholom

Helmut Faust, father of Britta Faust-Burak

Dr. Martin Schachter, husband of Barbara Schachter,
father of Tori Bernstein

Alan Edelstein, father of David Edelstein

David Khabie, father of Fifi Simon

Herman (Denny) Farrell, partner of Barbara Klar,
father of Sophia Farrell

Peter Rabinowitz, father of Lauren Singer

Judith Miller, aunt of Brian Perman

Gary Fradin, husband of Barbara Tarmy,
father of Alexandra and Andrew Fradin

Howard Markus, father of David Markus

Claire Lafer, mother of Barry Lafer

Allen Hellman, uncle of Eric Berman

Jack Lichtenstein, husband of the late Rita Lichtenstein,
father of Betsy Lichtenstein and Mark Lichtenstein

Louise Togut, mother of Arlene Rosen,
grandmother of Seth Rosen

Dr. Sidney LaPook, father of Dr. Jonathan LaPook

Signe Riopelle, mother of Roland Riopelle

Magnhild Honsvald, mother of Gretha Honsvald

Leonard Timmell, father of Lisa Timmell

Dr. David Belgray, husband of Dr. Alice Belgray

Arlene Kearney, mother of Helen Garey

WELCOME OUR NEW RABBINIC INTERN



We are pleased to welcome Vanessa Harper, a third-year rabbinical and education student at HUC-JIR. She recently served as rabbinic intern for the CCAR Press. Before that she was Assistant Director of Education at Temple Micah in Washington DC, Lead Teacher of the Gan Shalom Cooperative Preschool in DC, and JJP B-Mitzvah and Family Program Educator at the JCC Manhattan. Vanessa graduated magna cum laude from Williams College in 2012 with a BA with honors in English, where she served as President of the Jewish Association, and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and UJA-Federation Graduate Scholar. Check her out on Instagram, @lechlechallah, where she pairs a brief teaching of weekly Torah readings with an original challah creation. We are happy to have her as part of our CRS family!

*The Rodeph Sholom School gratefully
acknowledges*

*the support received from
The Fund for Jewish Education.*

*Sponsored by Caroline & Joseph S. Gruss,
Life Monument Funds, Inc. and
UJA-Federation of New York.*

Community Matters

JOIN US FOR MINYAN LAUNCH NIGHT!

Sunday, September 23 at 6:30 PM

Creating sacred community, where each person counts. Minyan is about connection: linking members more deeply to one another, to our community, to Jewish tradition, and to God. And in this way, Rodeph Sholom will become a hub of relationship, linking members closer together with heightened belonging, becoming a home for all. **Connect:** Join 8-12 other CRS members on a regular basis. **Ignite:** Choose a Minyan that speaks to your interests and passions or one that might ignite something new. **Complement:** Minyan means to fit into your life, so it is time-limited, meeting monthly for 7-9 months, or bi-weekly for 4 months. **Flourish:** Each Minyan is geared to a different interest, involving different people at different times. All Minyanim have the same purpose: connection! Contact: minyan@crsnyc.org.

MITZVAH WEEKEND

Friday, October 26 – Sunday, October 28

Friday, October 26, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE Greg Silverman, Executive Director of West Side Campaign Against Hunger, is our featured speaker to kick-off our Mitzvah Weekend. WSCAH distributes meals to low-income families across NYC. The Food Pantry, created in 1993, was the first supermarket-style pantry in the U.S. and the model for programs across the country.

Saturday, October 27, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH Mark the conclusion of Shabbat with a food-insecurity-themed service, and begin your week with a social action project at the WSCAH food pantry (263 West 86th Street).

Sunday, October 28: MITZVAH DAY Our annual weekend of social action with advocacy and educational events culminates with a whole day dedicated to helping those in need. There are many opportunities to engage with issues and needs in our community. There's something for everyone! Join us and participate. Contact: mitzvahday@crsnyc.org.

“Let peace be our passion – chief among our prayers – every season of the year,
every hour of the day.”

– (Archibald Macleish, Mishkan HaNefesh)

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L'SHANAH TOVAH

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses
 yearning
 to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your
 teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless,
 tempest-tost to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the
 golden door!"*
 (Emma Lazarus)

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



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Eve Andrias Head of Middle School Division
Jessica Shaviv Interim Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

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