

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

THE NEVER ENDING STORY | Rabbi Sari Laufer



At the age of 24, Rabbi Joachim Prinz became the rabbi of a prominent Berlin synagogue. The year was 1926. An outspoken and early critic of the Nazis, he was expelled in 1937. In the early days of the Nazi regime, Rabbi Prinz recalled that the Jewish holidays, and their observance, took on new meanings:

No longer were they perfunctory observances of the day. They became part of the context of danger, fear, death and hope in which we lived. Passover was now the great day of hope for delivery from our own Egypt. . . The Passover slogan, 'From slavery unto freedom' became the song of our lives. If the slaves of Egypt could be delivered from their fate, so would we. . . It was not historic memory. It was not history at all. It was the reality of every day and the hope of every person.

But despite the extremism of Nazi Germany—Passover was always designed to be just that. It was never supposed to be history—it was supposed to be reality; Passover is meant to be our past, present, and future, the song of our lives then and now. Passover is the ritual by which we enact our hopes, dreams, and visions into the world. As Rabbi Yitz Greenberg teaches:

The Exodus is the most influential historical event of all time because it happened not once: it recurs whenever people open up and enter the event again. By the magic of shared values and shared story, the Exodus is not some ancient event, however influential. It is the ever-recurring redemption; it is the once and future redemption of humanity.

As I write this, the world—and our nation—seem in turmoil; many of us have taken to the streets in support of women's rights, of the rights of refugees and of immigrants, of the rights of the marginalized. On both sides of the political aisle, we as Jews are faced with the opportunity—and the challenge—of living out values that may once have seemed perfunctory: of caring for the widow and the orphan, of loving the stranger. These are values we will share publicly on Erev Shabbat, March 3, as we learn more about the refugee crisis—and what we can do (see Page 4). If you cannot join us for Erev Shabbat, there will be opportunities to get involved going forward.

As you read this, we are preparing for Purim—perhaps the paradigmatic embrace of *"They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat (and drink)"*. Purim is a holiday of escaping—of wearing costumes and masks, of telling a story and celebrating its conclusion. And we can promise that this year will be a doozy; we'll be living it up at *Night at the Temple*, our overnight festivities offering fun for all ages. We'll sing and dance, eat hamantaschen, and rejoice as a community, finding the lightness in a dark story (see Page 5).

But Purim is inextricably linked with Passover; the telling of the Purim story makes way for the living of the Passover tale. God's absence in the Purim story makes way for God's presence in the Passover narrative. And our passive role as listeners to the Purim story makes way for our active role as participants in the Passover experience. Purim is a story to tell; Passover is a story to live. The seder is meant as a prompt; as with some of the best dialogues, the action often happens between the lines.

Purim is a story to tell; Passover is a story to live.

Founded in 1921, *Kibbutz Ein Harod* was one of the first large kibbutzim in what was then Palestine. As with many kibbutzim, the founders rewrote the *Hagaddah* to tell the story of redemption they felt they were living. As the *maggid* section—the telling of the story—begins, the *Hagaddah* poses the following:

Q: On every Pesach, one must ask oneself: "When was I born? Where was I born? What is the historical memory I bear?"

A: I look at my identity card and read what is engraved in invisible script: "My parents were born as slaves in Egypt. . . I too was there with them."

Each Passover asks us deep and profound questions about who we are; the seder asks us what stories we carry with us and which ones we will tell our next generation. We are asked to imagine redemption, and then to be a part of bringing it about. Purim asks us to celebrate our identity; Passover asks us to examine it. Purim asks us to celebrate victory; Passover asks us to journey to freedom. Purim celebrates a story with an end; Passover asks us to write our own ending. In moving from one to the next, we have the opportunity to live in the space between the world as we know it and the world in which we want to live.

Purim celebrates a story with an end; Passover asks us to write our own ending.

Much feels uncertain at this moment but one thing is for sure: When the moon is full in April, our festival of freedom will begin. So, as the moon waxes and wanes in the month ahead, let us get ready to open the door to the future, to walk through with purpose and vision, and to create a redemption of which we are a part—the reality of a new everyday, and the new hope of every person.

In advance, Ben, Kobi, Orli, and I wish you *chag sameach*—a fun and happy Purim, and a joyous, meaningful, and sweet Passover.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT | Martin Flumenbaum



Since the election, numerous congregants have asked my views on how we can best preserve our progressive values during a Trump presidency. Not surprisingly, my response involves focusing on specific key issues that we can each impact and on doing so through our work at the synagogue. More than ever, we need to redouble our efforts to feed the hungry, to provide shelter to the

homeless, to provide special care to those in need, and to aid refugees in the New York area.

The synagogue is the perfect arena to enable us to help others, and in so doing, help us to provide meaning and purpose in our own lives. The values set forth in the Torah – help the stranger, feed the hungry, do good unto others – are not partisan values. They are universal values and they provide the perfect antidote to the dysfunction in Washington.

The upcoming Passover holiday reinforces our values and gives us a clear direction as to what each of us must do. Passover celebrates freedom, and reminds us that we have the power to triumph over adversity, and that although we may live in a world of evil and intolerance, freedom will ultimately triumph.

During the Passover seder, we are explicitly instructed to recount to our children the story of Passover because that story is as relevant today as it

was 3,000 years ago. It is a story about the search for freedom and of overcoming slavery; it is a story about perseverance and faith. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. relied on the Passover journey as a predicate for the civil rights movement. It is a universal story that gives each of us great strength today.

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Passover also reminds us that we were once strangers, and just as we are instructed to invite the stranger to our home for the Passover seder – we, as a congregation, must continue to provide shelter and food to those that are homeless and hungry. We must continue to speak out against our modern day injustices and intolerances. This congregation is committed to enhancing both our lives and our neighbors' lives through worship, education, social action, and meaningful relationships. Passover provides us with the opportunity to find inspiration in both new and old experiences and new and old friendships.

Ruth and I wish you a happy and healthy Passover. May your seder table be filled with family, friends, and much love.

Ways We Can Help Others at Passover

Hunger and homelessness are two things we talk about at the Passover seder. Two things we Rodeph Sholomites consider our mission throughout the year. *“Even the poorest person in Israel may not eat until he reclines, and they must not give him less than four cups of wine.”* (Babylonian Talmud). A reminder to take care of everyone in our community, including the poor and the hungry. Our forty years of wandering in the wilderness are a reminder of the issues of immigration and refugees we face today. We can relate. So we must act. How can we help?

DONATE YOUR CHAMETZ: After cleaning out the chametz in our homes, we can donate it to food pantries and soup kitchens.

SET UP FUNDS FOR MATZOH: Special Passover funds can provide kosher holiday meals to Jewish families and senior citizens.

ADD SOMETHING NEW TO YOUR SEDER PLATE: An orange represents the role of women in Jewish life. And in a show of solidarity with the LGBTQ community, the seeds are spit out, hence condemning homophobia.

ASK FOUR NEW QUESTIONS: Why on this night are some people still enslaved today? Why on this night do so many remain hungry in the world? Why on this night do we invite the hungry and lonely to share our meal? How can we eradicate hunger and homelessness tonight and every night?

CRS FOOD DRIVE: Although we help those within our community throughout the year, it is especially needed during the holidays. Please make a donation to the CRS Food Drive.

Join Our Israel Family Trip!

August 21 – 31, 2017

Congregation Rodeph Sholom will be going to Israel in August. Led by Rabbi Weitzman and Cantor Garfein, we will experience Israel like never before! Throughout our travels, we will take a jeep ride to explore the Golan Heights, experience unique cultural encounters with local Israelis and Arabs, and visit authentic culinary workshops.

We hope you will join us on this congregational family trip. It is perfect for FIRST-TIMERS and RETURNEES of all ages! We will eat, drink, laugh, and pray together. And for those who are interested, we will celebrate b'nai mitzvah and read Torah together!

There is still time to sign up for the trip!
Please join us!

PASSOVER SERVICES

Tuesday, April 4

4:30 – 6:00 pm Young Families Passover Program

Saturday, April 8

11:00 am – 1:00 pm Shireinu Shabbat and Passover/Chapel Service

Tuesday, April 11

10:15 am – 12:30 pm 1st Day Passover Service

Monday, April 17

10:15 am – 12:30 pm Concluding Passover Service
Yizkor Memorial Prayer

SHIREINU SHABBAT AND PASSOVER/CHAPEL SERVICE

Shabbat Morning, Saturday, April 8, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Share prayer, Torah, music, and nosh! All are welcome to join the Rodeph Sholom family for a warm, inviting, musical, and interactive worship experience. An accessible service that is sensitive to a variety of needs with a Sign Language interpreter. Please RSVP: shireinu@crsnyc.org or 646.454.3124.

REMEMBER THE FUTURE FROM THE EDITOR | Yvette Perry

"We must think differently, look at things in a different way. Peace requires a world of new concepts, new definitions."

Yitzhak Rabin was born on March 1, 1922 in Jerusalem. His dream was to be a water engineer. He figured that he could help a parched Middle East. He ended up helping the Middle East in a different way – and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for it. It was 1995 in Tel Aviv that he was assassinated upon leaving a mass rally for peace. The rally's slogan? *"Yes to Peace, No to Violence."*

The Jewish calendar tells us that we are in a significant period of remembrance: From Passover to Yom HaShoah to Yom Ha'Atzmaut. We survived the Exodus in Egypt. Then we survived the Holocaust. Finally we survived to see the independence of the state of Israel. An abundance of commemoration at one time – all holding great meaning for us all.

A dream for peace has been a constant in our quest of Jewish survival. It seems to me that our tenets for surviving are optimism, hope, and community. The same could be said for our Rodeph Sholom home. We can always find solace within our Rodeph Sholom family.

Reciting from our *Hagaddot*, bearing witness to the six million lost, celebrating the majesty of a hard fought fight for statehood, and our own 175 years of dedication – a most poignant time to **Remember. Rejoice. And Renew.**

The Congregational Passover Seder

Monday, April 10, 6:00 PM

Every year at this time our Rodeph Sholom family comes together at the Congregational Seder. We read from the *Hagaddah*, the story which commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. Sitting at the seder we participate in a meaningful tradition that retells our history and quest for freedom.

The seder will be led by Rabbi Ben Spratt and Cantor Shayna De Lowe. It is always a fun-filled evening of song and prayers along with a delicious, traditional dinner. We welcome you to join your friends, family, and clergy in this time-honored celebration of Jewish survival.

Make your reservation now. Members and children (five years and older): \$36. Non-members and children (five years and older): \$50. Please RSVP at passover@crsnyc.org or 646.454.3043.

“The Exodus from Egypt occurs in every human being, in every era, in every year, and in every day.”

(Rabbi Nachman of Breslov)

Image: ©Challis and Roos

John Kowal/Rev. Preston Washington 27th Annual Freedom Seder

Friday, April 21 at 7:30 PM

Following the Erev Shabbat Service

Join us for our annual joint seder in the Schafler Forum following the Erev Shabbat Service with clergy and congregants of Memorial Baptist Church sponsored by the Social Action Committee. Together we will rejoice in song and words the special relationship we have with Memorial Baptist, just as we share our stories of Exodus and freedom. To make a reservation, please contact Helen Freedman at freedomseeder@crsnyc.org or call 646.454.3043. Please send your check of \$25 per person to Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Att: Freedom Seder, 7 West 83rd Street, NY, NY 10024, payable to CRS.

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, March 2, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome. Meetings are self-moderated at the Synagogue. Next dates are Thursdays, April 6, May 4, and June 1. Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Friday, March 3, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/SPECIAL PROGRAM ON REFUGEES. After the service, join us for a discussion on the refugee crisis and to learn how we can help.

Thursday, March 9, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG. Novices and veteran players are all welcome. Cards are available for purchase. Next dates are Thursdays, April 13, May 11, and June 8. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Saturday, March 11, 5:00 pm – Sunday, March 12, 7:00 am: 175TH ANNIVERSARY PURIM FAMILY EVENT: NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE. See Page 5.

Saturday, March 18, 6:00 – 8:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED. Join us for hors d'oeuvres and conversation, followed at 6:45 pm with the Havdalah Service, a musical and meditative ceremony.

Tuesday, March 28, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. Join us for great socializing and engaging presentations with a dairy lunch. Next dates are Tuesdays, April 25, May 16, and June 13. Co-sponsored by Adult Education, Caring Community Committee, and Sisterhood. Contact: lunchtogether@crsnyc.org.

Monday, April 3, 7:30 pm: 175TH ANNIVERSARY CANTORS & CO.: SINGING OUR WAY THROUGH HISTORY. See Page 5.

Thursday, April 20, 6:30 – 9:00 pm: SISTERHOOD EVENT.

Friday, April 21, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION.

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 pm – Monday, April 24, 6:00 pm: READING OF THE NAMES: A YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION. Rabbis begin reading the names of those lost in the Holocaust at 10:00 pm at a Congregation TBD, resuming at 9:00 am on Monday at the JCC, 334 Amsterdam Ave. ending at 6:00 pm with Kaddish. More information on the CRS website. Come to witness.

Thursday, April 27, 7:30 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM. Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble in *Jazzing Up the Classics*. Join us for this special evening highlighting our Jewish musical heritage. Contact: chambermusic@crsnyc.org.

Friday, April 28, 5:00 – 6:30 pm: YOUNG FAMILIES SHABBAT DINNER.

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 – 10:00 am: HEALING SERVICE. See Page 11.

Monday, May 1, 7:00 pm: RABBI LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES: Polarity Politics: American and Israeli Relations in 2017 with Peter Beinart and Bret Stephens, moderated by Rabbi David Ellenson. See Page 5.

Friday, May 5, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE. 7:30 pm: ISRAEL DINNER. Following the service, join us for dinner and discussion with special speaker, David Harris, Chief Executive Officer of the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

Thursday, May 11, 1:30 – 3:00 pm: MIDRASH HOUR. Students from Rodeph Sholom School and Religious School sing and dance in an original musical.

Friday, May 12, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/SHIR CHADASH/CRS & RSS YOUTH SERVICE. See Page 11.

Friday, May 19, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT 175TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE/CHANTS OF A LIFETIME: OUR STORY IN SONG. A joyful music celebration to culminate our 175th year of celebrations! See Page 5.

Monday, May 22, 7:00 pm: 175TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. All congregants are welcome for election of Trustees, Officers, and other business. Refreshments are served.

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 pm: RABBI LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES: Denial, Truth, and Memory: Anti-Semitism in Today's World with Deborah Lipstadt. See Page 5.

Tuesday, May 30, 4:30 pm: YOUNG FAMILIES SHAVUOT SUNDAE PARTY.

Wednesday, May 31, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm: SHAVUOT/YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Friday, June 2, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/CONFIRMATION SERVICE. See Page 11.

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm: ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. See Page 11.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

Our Haven and Our Strength: Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Fridays, 12:00–1:30 pm
March 10, April 21, May 12, June 9

A contemplative approach to our texts and the search for wisdom within them. This lunchtime class is a personal and participatory learning experience with poetry and song. All are welcome.

(Re)Soul: The Pilgrimage Festivals

Rabbi Jonathan Slater | Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm
April 4, May 23

We will learn to create an intentional practice for and encounter with Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot. Through mindfulness, meditation, and text study, we can stop, take a breath, and reflect.

How to Raise a Mentsch

Rabbi Sari R. Laufer | Fridays

March 3 at 8:30 am (83rd Street), May 12 at 8:00 am (79th Street)

We'll discuss the challenges and opportunities on raising mentsches, in today's world. Whether raising a toddler or teenager, Jewish teachings inspire our lives and our parenting.

Shabbat Study Series:

Words on the Page, Prayers of our Hearts:

Shabbat Morning Liturgy

Saturdays, following Shabbat morning services. Lunch included.

March 18: Aleinu and Kaddish: Dr. Carl Mankowitz

May 20: Nusach, the Tunes of Prayer: Cantorial Intern Julie Womack

The ancient rabbis described prayer as avodah she-ba'lev, the service of the heart, yet our services are filled with words. We'll nosh while exploring the history, meaning, and possibilities of the Shabbat morning service and what the words meant then and what they mean for us now. Hebrew familiarity is not required, curiosity is!

Jewish Basics

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm

Open to all who want to take a closer look at how and why Jewish rituals have developed and how they create meaning in our lives.

Semester 2: Jewish Living: Big Questions and Key Text

Rabbi Greg Weitzman and Rabbinic Intern Juli Karol

March 1, 8, 15, 29, April 5, 19, 26

Hebrew Mini-Marathon

May 3, May 10

Beginning Hebrew | Sara Rosen

Mondays, 6:30 pm | March 6, 13, April 3, 24, May 1, 8, 15

Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 am | March 9, 16, April 6, 27, May 4, 11, 18

Beginning Hebrew students need to purchase a practice book for \$40 available from Sara Rosen.

Continuing Hebrew | Sara Rosen

Mondays, 7:30–8:30 pm | March 6, 13, April 3, 24, May 1, 8, 15

Prayer Book Hebrew | Sara Rosen

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm | March 7, 14, April 4, 25, May 2, 9, 16

To register for any programs listed here, go to:
rodephsholom.org/education/adult-learning

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

175TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

PURIM FAMILY EVENT: NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE

Saturday, March 11, 5:00 pm – Sunday, March 12, 7:00 am

Pajama Drive Bring new pajamas for boys (sizes 3T-16), girls (2T-7T) and women (M, L) that will be donated to West End Intergenerational Residences.

Littlest Megillah Service 5:00–5:30 pm For 0-5-years learn about the characters in the Megillah and shake your groggers! Then enjoy The Big Bash 5:30–6:00 pm before the rest of the congregation arrives.

Megillah Reading and Schpiel 5:30–6:00 pm Wear a costume and bring a box of pasta as a grogger! Boxes will be donated to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

The Big Bash 5:30–7:30 pm Enjoy dinner, popcorn, cotton candy, and hamentaschen. Then pose in a photo booth, play games, do fun mitzvah projects, and win prizes.

The Big Quiz 7:45–8:45 pm It's back to challenge adults, teens, and youngsters. Show your knowledge of trivia!

The Big Snoop 9:00–9:45 pm Go scavenger hunting in the building. Have an adventure!

The Big Schmooze 9:00–11:00 pm Hang out with your friends and have a late night snack after the Big Quiz.

The Big Snooze: Sleepover Your own start time – Sunday, 7:00 am Wear Your Costume! Unroll your sleeping bag and spend the whole night at the Temple with family, friends, and classmates and a morning nosh before you leave. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Make a reservation at rodephsholom.org/purim.

CANTORS & CO.: SINGING OUR WAY THROUGH HISTORY

Monday, April 3 | 7:30 pm

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 beloved 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. The RS Theater Company alumni are performing, too! After the show, meet the cast over a dessert reception.

EREV SHABBAT 175TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

CHANTS OF A LIFETIME: OUR STORY IN SONG

Friday, May 19 | 6:00 pm

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!

RABBI ROBERT LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES

POLARITY POLITICS: AMERICAN AND ISRAELI RELATIONS IN 2017

WITH PETER BEINART AND BRET STEPHENS
MODERATED BY RABBI DAVID ELLENSON

Monday, May 1 | 7:00 pm

Join us for a thought-provoking and lively discussion featuring different perspectives on Israel. Peter Beinart is an Associate Professor of Journalism at CUNY, and a former editor of The New Republic. A Rhodes Scholar and Yale graduate, he has published three books, including The Crisis of Zionism. Bret Stephens is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and the foreign-affairs columnist and deputy editorial page editor of The Wall Street Journal and has also been an outspoken critic of The Crisis of Zionism. Rabbi David Ellenson is Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and Visiting Professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He is the Chancellor-Emeritus of HUC-JIR, and served there as President from 2001-2013. He will moderate what promises to be a provocative and extremely interesting discussion.

DENIAL, TRUTH, AND MEMORY: ANTI-SEMITISM IN TODAY'S WORLD WITH DEBORAH LIPSTADT

Tuesday, May 23 | 7:00 pm

Holocaust scholar and writer, Deborah Lipstadt was the defendant in a British libel lawsuit brought by WWII historian and outspoken Holocaust denier, David Irving. A new 2016 film **Denial** tells the story of that trial and the debate it incited. She wrote about her experience in History On Trial: My Day In Court With A Holocaust Denier, which served as the inspiration for the film. A pioneer on the subject, her other books include Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory and the groundbreaking Beyond Belief. Currently the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, in 1994 she was appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Join us for this insightful lecture with one of our foremost experts on the Holocaust.

DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

Among the Jewish rituals and traditions of my youth, Passover was the one I enjoyed the most. I loved the custom and order of the seder, and the fact that everyone around our table participated, even the kids.

The child's role in the Passover seder is actually quite critical. The youngest of the group recites the four questions to begin the seder and it cannot be concluded until the child finds the *afikomen*. For kids, this can be an early realization that they have an important role to play in our community. For so many of the children in our congregation it is clear that this realization has been keenly felt.

The youth of Rodeph Sholom are inspiring in their embodiment of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*. I recently spent a night in our Homeless Shelter and was so impressed with the number of young people who had volunteered in the nights that preceded me. Our Backpack Buddies program – which delivers backpacks full of six complete meals to kids who don't have access to food on the weekends – has been particularly resonant with our young people who have raised funds for this cause in their own creative ways. Whether it is asking family members to make a donation in honor of their b'nai mitzvah, organizing a group of their friends to do a SoulCycle charity ride, or holding a swim-a-thon that raises money for every lap completed – it is fantastic to see our kids getting behind a worthwhile cause and supporting it in ways that make use of their own networks, interests, and talents.

In addition to contributing funds, our kids also give of their time. Every year we send a group of 8th graders to New Orleans to interact with and learn about the city's unique and historic Jewish community and to participate in *tikkun olam* projects like repairing a school that is still being renovated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and volunteering at a women and children's shelter. This year more than 40 students participated – a record-setting trip. At RSS, *tikkun olam* is baked into the curriculum with grade-level service projects and a 7th grade *Philanthropic Initiative* where students research and visit a number of non-profit organizations before deciding on which one to support with the money they receive in honor of their b'nai mitzvah. If we are looking to this next generation to be the torchbearers of our Jewish values, the experiences they have at Rodeph Sholom will undoubtedly be formative.

You may have seen the first of our CRS 175th Anniversary videos that features the small but mighty voices of our Children's Choir singing *L'dor Vador*, from generation to generation. (See it at rodephsholom.org/rodeph-sholom-celebrates.) If you're like me, this might have been the point

in the video during which you welled up with tears – *kvelling* at its utmost. It's an emotional moment, a reminder of the role our children will one day play in our Jewish community. As they promise us in song, "... *L'dor vador, We protect this chain.*" If the remarkable work our youth are doing now is any indication, this is a promise that gives me great comfort and hope.

If you know of a young person in our community who is already committed to *tikkun olam* or who wants to get involved with a *tzedakah* project, please reach out! We would love to feature their work or connect them with a meaningful project.

UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Gifts that partially or fully underwrite large projects at CRS are a wonderful way to make a tangible impact in our community. Here is one immediate opportunity:

Congregational Passover Seder: Our beautiful Congregational Seder brings together a wide spectrum of our community including young families, singles, senior citizens, members, and non-members. A gift of \$10,000 will cover the Synagogue's expenses over and above revenue from participants. A gift of \$1,000 will cover the cost of guests from a nearby senior citizen center who seek a place to celebrate Passover but are unable to pay.

Please contact Lyndsie Levine, Director of Development at 646.454.3050 or llevine@crsnyc.org to discuss how you can help.

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

Because of the generosity of many congregants who have made gifts to the 2016 Yom Kippur Appeal (see Pages 9-10, 15), we have critical funds available to offer dues assistance to families who could not otherwise access CRS membership, maintain our beautiful yet aging facilities, supplement educational offerings, and support our remarkable clergy team. Thank you for helping to make this possible! Gifts to the 2016 YKA are still being accepted and will be listed in the next *Chronicle*. Please contact Lyndsie Levine at llevine@crsnyc.org or make a contribution online at rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal.

A PURIM MITZVAH

At Purim the commandments to eat, drink, and be merry are accompanied by the mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim*. We cannot rejoice unless we make it possible for those less fortunate to join in the festivities. Please make a donation to the CRS Food Drive.

THE CARING COMMUNITY

Would you like to engage with others in a meaningful way? To feel more connected to your Rodeph Sholom community? To have support to meet life's challenges? Be a part of the Caring Community! There are programs to connect you to others in the Rodeph Sholom family, especially in times of need. Join a bereavement or support group, be a Shabbat greeter, visit homebound congregants, or reach out to mourners at the end of *shiva*.

Learn more at rodephsholom.org/community/committees/#caring or contact caringcommunity@crsnyc.org.

CRS HOMELESS SHELTER

In Isaiah 58:7, God commands us to "... share [our] bread with the hungry and bring the homeless into [our] house."

The Rodeph Sholom Shelter, open Monday through Friday until June, provides a clean, safe, and caring temporary home for homeless men. Thousands of congregants have participated for one or two nights each Shelter season, some spend at least one night per month at the Shelter. Would you like to volunteer for this meaningful congregational cause?

Contact: kbarrett@crsnyc.org.

Religious School

"I HATED RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND NOW YOU WILL, TOO."

L'DOR V'DOR: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION | Kerith Braunfeld

It never ceases to amaze me when I'm meeting with a prospective parent and they say, "Well, I hated Religious School, and now I'm sending my kid so they can hate it, too." I usually smile, chuckle, and share that this isn't the first time I've heard this. I continue by explaining that they are actually upholding a strong Jewish concept of *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation.

I'll admit, that as the Director of Religious Education, sometimes it's hard to hear these words as I am passionately dedicated to the field of Jewish education, Jewish living, and to building a program and experiences that children will enjoy. Trust me, I know that many students probably do go home and say to their parents, "I hate Religious School." I venture to say that most of that language happens during the transition time to and from Religious School. Even as adults there are times when we dread going to a certain meeting or commitment but often appreciate the experience once we are there in the thick of it. For kids, it can be daunting to travel to and from Religious School knowing that after, there are hours of homework to complete.

But I have a little secret to share with parents, in case you were feeling guilty about sending your child or wondering if you are doing the right thing. During the few hours a week that your children are with us, most of them are smiling, spending time with their good friends, hanging out with our fun youth and education staff members, enjoying the sweet treat of Hershey Kisses (yes, Kisses put a smile on everyone's face!), and feeling the success and pride that comes with advancing a packet or contract in our Hebrew program. And if they aren't, we work with each family and student to find out why and try to fix it. How else do you think that I and my team of amazing educators and assistants could come

to work every day inspired by what we do? This wouldn't be the case if we saw long faces and dreary looks in our classrooms, music sessions, and tefilah prayer services. On the contrary, we see students smiling, learning the laws of a kosher Sukkah by building it with Legos, meeting with Rabbis to process troubling world events, baking challah, assembling food for the homeless, connecting with friends, and much more.

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So please remember as you are making that sometimes difficult walk with your child to and from Religious School, you are fulfilling one of the most important mitzvot (commandments) of the Torah. That is, for parents "to teach these precepts to your children." Guess what? One day they will be doing the same, too – *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation.

**REGISTER FOR 2017–2018
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
BEFORE JUNE 30
TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD
CAN ATTEND THE 1ST DAY**

Rodeph Sholom School

RSS offers a strong Early Childhood program beginning with a warm and supportive 2s program and continues with an ongoing school through 8th Grade that focuses on academic excellence and strength of character through Jewish identity. Affordability is a priority in our community and we offer need based Financial Aid for families who qualify. CRS members are given priority in the Admissions process.

The RSS mission is clear in its commitment to social justice, and we are proud to share responsibility for ensuring students at all grade levels are learning about social issues and experiencing the value of taking active roles in their community.

In 4th Grade, RSS students focus on U.S. history, delving into how the government was created and how it functions today. In keeping with this theme and tying in with the 2016 election, 4th Grade teachers Emma Price and Molly O'Steen (an RSS alumna!) thoughtfully devised a unique way for their students to learn about the election process. They created a simulation of the voter registration process to highlight the different experiences people have while registering, including the impact of voter

ID laws on citizens without driver's licenses. Students then learned about the role that districting plays in the election process by discussing ways it would be fair and unfair to divide the 3rd Grade, for example, into districts.

Then the 4th Graders were put in charge of *registering* the 3rd Grade. Once registered, the 3rd Grade students reported to their *district* and received a voter registration card. On Election Day the 3rd Graders reported to their *polling place* to vote – signed in, guided, and checked off by the 4th Graders. After voting by paper or electronically, they even received an "I Voted" sticker! This *voting* experience was a wonderful way for students to become familiar with democracy, laws, and the three branches of government. Ms. Price says, "Our students showed impressive teamwork, responsibility and maturity in this process, which is exactly what we try to build in 4th Grade. Overall, it was a wonderful learning experience!"

To learn more and take a School tour, go to rodephsholom.org or call 646.438.8600.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG

PURIM SERVICES

Saturday, March 11 – Erev Purim

11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Shireinu Shabbat and Purim Service
A warm, inviting, musical, and interactive service accessible and sensitive to families with special needs. Open to the entire community and all ages are welcome. (ASL Interpreted)

Sunday, March 12 – Purim

10:15 am – 12:30 pm
Purim Morning Service and Megillah Reading

ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

March with our Clergy and Youth Groups to celebrate Israel's 69th birthday. This year's Parade theme is *Celebrate Israel All Together! Together, we are stronger as we celebrate our differences to find common ground.* The Parade goes up Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets, rain or shine. Go to rodephsholom.org.

Join us and show your support for Israel!

Traveling abroad?

Would you like to see Judaism up close in another country?

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) strengthens Jewish life and values by supporting and providing access to Jewish communities worldwide. There are over 1,200 Reform, Progressive, and Liberal congregations around the world. And you are welcome to attend services in the city you are visiting! Going to Australia? New Zealand? Or Asia, Latin America, South Africa? Europe or the former Soviet Union? Each country may have unique customs, but each has the same goal to carry on our rich Jewish traditions. If you would like to discover the Jewish communities and visit a local synagogue wherever you are traveling, the WUPJ will help connect you.

Feel at home no matter how far away your travels take you! wupj.org

You are cordially invited to our
CRS & RSS EREV SHABBAT SERVICE:
**CELEBRATING THE VOICES
OF OUR YOUTH AND TEENS**

Friday, May 12 at 6:00 PM | 16 Iyar 5777

Service to be led by our 2nd – 12th graders. We will honor all of our High School graduating seniors from the Religious School & RSS community and will install the incoming CRuSTY Youth Group board. A delicious dinner with activities, prizes, and games will follow the service for 2nd – 12th grade families and teens.

MAZEL TOV TO THE RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS!

Erev Shabbat Service | Friday, June 2 at 6:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate their commitment to Judaism and to Congregation Rodeph Sholom.

Honoring our Confirmands:

Lewis Arnsten	Maya Lapin
Emily Bach	Ava Leventhal
Emily Bakst	Chloe Levin
Hayley Basner	Amanda Leibmann
Eliza Berman	Samuel Lipin
Ana Berman	Eleanor Markus
Spencer Bernstein	Erin Martin
Alberto Buzali	Gabrielle
Alex Buzali	Nealon-Shapiro
Erica Coven	Joshua Parness
Annie Epstein	Sam Perman
Lena Graf	Harris Ripp
AnaBella Kalish	Julia Riska
Juliet Katz	Rachel Shaerf
Sam Katz	Emilia Silverstein
Tyler Kepecs	Ezra Stern
Jordan Kramarsky	Natalie Sternlicht
Alexandra Kramarsky	Bryley Williams
Rachel Landis	Ella Winters

A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the Service.

I N M E M O R I A M

Ethel Eisenberg, widow of Jack Eisenberg, past Executive Director of CRS
Irving Kaplan, father of Robert Kaplan
Rieva Greenwald, mother of David Greenwald
Harriet Jacobs, mother of Barbara Leader
Mary Kranis, mother of Jay Kranis
Stanley Mailman, husband of Mary Ann Mailman
Joan Strausberg, widow of Solomon Strausberg, mother of Alene and Betsey
Henry Golding, husband of Hope Golding
Jean Hentel, mother of Dr. Allyson Hentel-Koplin
Lisa Polk, longtime member of CRS
Norman Marcus, father of Michael Marcus

Stanley Metzner, father of Scott Metzner
Edwin N. London, father of Elizabeth London
Edwin Seave, father of Ava Seave
Nancy Switzky Goodman, mother of Stephen Switzky
Dr. Mark Josephson, father of Rachel Josephson
Tippy Krugman, mother of Candace Beinecke
Barry Rubin, brother of Beth Rubin
Gerald Nathel, father of Matthew Nathel
Beatrice Leeder, grandmother of Sara Leeder Bonin
Lisa Hills, sister-in-law of Barbara Zakin
Lauren Finster, wife of Victor Finster and mother of Lowell
Marc Spitz, brother of Nicole Miller

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CELEBRATE PESACH

SHARE HOLIDAY JOY
WITH OTHERS

JOIN US AT THE
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
Monday, April 10, 6:00 PM

CELEBRATE
FREEDOM
AND FAMILY

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
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 De Lowe Associate Cantor
Ephraim Biran Cantor Emeritus
Julie Womack Cantorial Intern
Barbara Zakin Executive Director
Marc Fried Chief Financial Officer
Lyndie Levine Director of Development
Ruth Bernstein Director of Membership Services
Rachael Evans Operations Director
Susan Ticker Director of Community Engagement
Kirsten Major Communications Manager
Gail Becker Sexton
Rodeph Sholom Religious School
Kerith Braunfeld Director
Marcia Stein Associate Director
Sara Spanjer Associate Director of Youth and Teen Engagement
Rodeph Sholom School
Dr. Jerrold I. Katz Head of School
Danny Karpf Head of School Elect
Susan Weiss Newman Head of Schnurmacher Early Childhood Division
Colleen Dundon Head of Hirschberg Elementary Division
Maxine Borenstein Head of Middle School Division
Leslie Silverstein Director of Admissions and Financial Aid



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The Chronicle

Yvette Perry Editor