

# THE CHRONICLE



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## CONTINUING OUR STORY | Rabbi Greg Weitzman



There is always something very exciting about the spring. The air begins to warm up, and the sights and smells of the New York City streets change. As the cold crisp northeast air makes way for the warm west winds, this city starts to come to life again. The streets are complete and alive with people walking to and from work, the restaurants and bars are full, and patrons pour out into the streets. The paths in Central Park and those along the Westside Highway burst with runners and the baseball season is just around the corner.

Life in NYC, and everywhere in the world, is set on a beautiful cycle. It is something that I have enjoyed these last 13 years living in the city. As the seasons change and the world turns, I have been comforted by the sense that no matter how dark and cold the winter months are, the spring offers a new chance to spend time in the sun.

This cycle of life is not new to us as Jews. We live our lives on such a cycle. Our weeks are marked by the holiness of Shabbat, our months are marked by the new moons. Yet it is our yearly cycle that is so inexplicably linked to who we are as an ancient people. Our year is marked by not just one New Year, but by four. There is Rosh Hashanah in the fall, Tu B'Shevat in the winter, Pesach in the spring, and Shavuot in the summer. Each of these moments allows us a chance to look back, not only at what it is that we have accomplished, but also to think about what it is that we still need to do.

In a few weeks we will sit around the seder table on Passover, retelling the story of our people's exodus from Egypt. The story is one of freedom; on one side we entered as slaves and on the other we exited as a people redeemed. This liminal moment in our people's history is crucial to understanding who we are as Jews. We often find ourselves standing at the precipice of something, yet we are unable to take that step, unable to wade into the waters. Passover reminds us that there is usually something that can be gained from jumping in. If nothing else, there is the belief that there will be a new opportunity. Perhaps that is why it says in the *Mishnah* and in our *Hagaddah* that it is incumbent on each person gathered at a seder to recite: *"B'chol dor vador chayav adam lir'ot et atzmo k'ilu hu hatza mimitzrayim."* *"In all generations it is the duty of every one of us to consider as if they had come forth from Egypt."* Retelling the story to our children and our children's children reminds them not only of where it is they came from, but that they have the opportunity and the responsibility to continue the story.

It should not come as a surprise to many of you that we are in the midst of major construction on the fifth floor of our building. This renovation project will produce a cutting edge Early Engagement Center that will function as yet another jewel of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. It may seem cliché at this point, but when we invest in our children we are investing in our future. Last

year we celebrated 175 years as a community and now I am filled with great excitement when I think of what the next years will behold. This Early Engagement Center will provide specialized Shabbat experiences for young families, classes for children and their caregivers, support groups, and so much more.

This is a new and wondrous chapter for our Congregation. As the spring begins to make its way into New York City, a new endeavor is beginning to blossom here, too. I believe we all look forward to what the future will hold for this sacred space, as I believe that the next generation of Congregation Rodeph Sholom will continue the legacy of our great and historic community. Ashley, Eden, and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful start to spring and a *zissen Pesach*.

**CANTORS IN CONCERT:  
VOICES OF A GENERATION**  
**HONORING CANTOR REBECCA GARFEIN**  
**Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 PM**

Congregation Rodeph Sholom hosts a concert on the eve of Cantor Rebecca Garfein receiving the degree of Doctor of Music from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music (DFSSM) at Hebrew Union College, having served the Cantorate with distinction for 25 years. She will be joined by her outstanding Cantorial classmates from NYC and across the country who will also receive their honorary doctorate. Dedicated in loving memory to Cantor Jenny Izenstark, Cantor Garfein's beloved classmate, best friend, and CRS master b'nai mitzvah tutor, the concert will raise money for the DFSSM in Cantor Jenny's memory. With accompaniment by Joyce L. Rosenzweig, pianist and artist-in-residence at the DFSSM, the concert features cantorial gems from the best of *Chazzanut*, Yiddish, Ladino, and Broadway favorites.

*Join us for a special Erev Shabbat Service  
on Friday, May 11, 6:00 pm to celebrate  
Rabbi Ben Spratt's and Cantor Shayna De Lowe's  
10 years at Rodeph Sholom  
featuring the uplifting and enchanting music of  
Nava Tehila, our Shabbaton artists-in-residence.*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT | Martin Flumenbaum



This is my last *Chronicle* column as president of this incredible institution. When I was first elected president four years ago, I stated that if my term were to be successful, I would have to count on each and every one of you for your wisdom, energy, dedication, and yes, financial support. This Congregation has not let me down. We have together taken Rodeph Sholom to a new high point and to a new phase in its growth as an institution.

As I announced during my Yom Kippur speech to the Congregation, we are in the early stages of a major five-year Capital Campaign that will enable us to reimagine and renovate our facilities, to invest in new programs, and to help us sustain long-term financial stability. I am pleased to report that so far, in this quiet phase of this Campaign, we have received gifts and pledges of over \$15.4 million from just 70 families in our Congregation. This is a spectacular response that ensures the success of our efforts.

As part of this Campaign, we are in the process of renovating parts of the third floor, the entire fifth floor, and the lobby – creating a new Rabbinic suite for our younger clergy, new worship space, and new 21st century classrooms for our Religious School and Early Engagement Center. We will also establish an Accessibility Fund to ensure that every family who wishes to be part of this community can join, regardless of financial circumstances. And finally, we aim to increase our endowment to secure Rodeph Sholom's future for our children and the next generations.

As it has for nearly two centuries, this synagogue remains a vital symbol of continuity for our Jewish heritage, the source of community and compassion in a city where it is much too easy to feel alienated and lonely – a place to put your faith into action.

Great things are happening here every day. Our clergy are exceptional and their hearts are as big as our sanctuary. They simply never stop urging us – through worship, education, and discussion – to fill our lives with meaning and Jewish values that elevate all of us. We operate one of the finest independent schools in the city – the only nursery through 8th grade Reform Jewish Day School in the city – that teaches over 500 kids each day

rigorous academics alongside Jewish values and knowledge. We have a first rate Religious School that educates an additional 400 children each week – not only preparing students for bar and bat mitzvah, but also providing each of them with a strong foundation for a lifetime of Jewish practices, and again Jewish values.

We have programs and services for young children, teenagers, and millennials; and we have just begun an Early Engagement Center that will focus on families with children ages 0 to 2. We will have over 100 children celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah this year. In addition, over the past two years, we have over 50 Confirmands, up from seven in my first year as president (see Page 11).

And there is so much more that we do on a daily basis. We have increased this Congregation's efforts in helping to feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, and to provide a nurturing worship environment for those with special needs. Our Shireinu services for those with special needs now serve as a model for congregations across the country. We have taken a leadership role in helping to protect the rights of immigrants and refugees, and indeed have been selected as one of the institutions that will help resettle a legally admitted refugee family in New York. These projects, and others too numerous to mention, not only make me proud, but also help to define whom we are, both as a congregation and as a people.

In closing, I want to thank the Clergy, and in particular my friend Rabbi Levine, my fellow officers and trustees, our Executive Director Barbara Zakin, and you, the Congregation, for making these past four years so rewarding and so meaningful for me.

As I have written before, I am the child of Holocaust survivors whose principal goals in coming to the United States were to create a better life for their children and to ensure the continuity and survival of their Jewish faith. We are each just one link between the generations. Our critical mission is to make this community more secure, more vibrant, more meaningful not just for us, but for the next generation. And in so doing, we will find extra meaning in our own lives. I am a much better person for having served as your president. Ruth and I, and my children, Martha, David, Anna, Judy, and grandchild Louise wish all of you a happy and healthy Passover holiday.

“... What is most important is not how you feel, what you believe, or what you promise. In Judaism, you are what you do.”

– Rabbi Robert Levine, *There Is No Messiah and You're It*

## RABBI LEVINE JOINS TWO BOARDS

*We are proud to announce that our Senior Rabbi Robert Levine has recently joined two important boards:*

### The Planned Parenthood Federation of America Clergy Advocacy Board

Voices of faith are critical in conversations about women's health. Made up of a network of clergy and faith leaders representing diverse denominations and traditions, since 1994 the Clergy Advocacy Board assists PPFA in its mission by adding multi-faith perspectives, voices, and leadership. Members speak out in support of Planned Parenthood in communities and government chambers throughout the U.S.

### The Muslim Jewish Advisory Council

The Council is an interfaith, bipartisan collaboration convened by the American Jewish Committee and the Islamic Society of North America. Comprised of 44 political, religious, and business leaders from across the U.S., since 2016 it advocates domestic policy issues of common concern to the American Jewish and American Muslim communities. Reversing the recent rise in hate crimes and promoting the place of religious minorities in American society are its top priorities.

*Your congregation appreciates all the good work you do, providing counsel and direction whenever and wherever needed.  
Yasher Koach, Rabbi!*

## PASSOVER SERVICES

### Saturday, March 24

11:00 am Shireinu Shabbat Morning and  
Passover Service

### Saturday, March 31

10:15 am First day of Passover Festival/  
Shabbat Morning Service

### Friday, April 6

10:15 am Concluding Passover Service  
With *Yizkor* Memorial Prayer

### SHIREINU SHABBAT AND PASSOVER/CHAPEL SERVICE

**Shabbat Morning, Saturday, March 24, 11:00 AM – 12:30 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](mailto:shireinu@crsnyc.org) or 646.454.3124.

### MAKE YOUR OWN MIRIAM'S CUP



We first meet Moses's sister Miriam as she is placing him into the waters of the Nile, hiding him in the reeds. From that first moment, along with the miraculous continuous well of spring water that followed her through the desert, and her victory song and dance after leading the women across the

Red Sea, Miriam has been associated with water. As a leader of the Hebrew women, she showed courage, wisdom, and ingenuity. Placing Miriam's Cup on our seder tables filled with water honors the role that women played in the Exodus from Egypt.

#### Here's what you need:

- 1 glass footed goblet
- Blue beads, all different shades (represents water)
- Small bells (represents Miriam's timbrel)
- Craft wire – about 18 inches
- Gold and silver paint pens

#### How to make it:

String and secure a bell on the end of the 18-inch piece of wire. String the beads through the wire. Twist the wire around the top bead to secure. Wrap the beaded wire around the glass stem to decorate the cup. Use the paint pens to write "Miriam's Cup" or in Hebrew "Kos Miriam" on the glass.

Place your beautiful Miriam's Cup next to Elijah's Cup on the seder table. *Pesach Sameach!*

## The Congregational Passover Seder

**Friday, March 30, 7:30 PM**

Following the Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM

The fifteenth day of Nisan is the ritual observance of Passover in which we commemorate it with a festive meal – the seder. The Congregational Seder is an opportunity for our Rodeph Sholom family to come together to remember, to ponder the questions of freedom, and to rejoice! We read from the *Hagaddah*, which tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt – our journey from slavery to freedom.

Rabbi Ben Spratt and Cantor Shayna De Lowe will be leading this fun-filled evening of song and prayers and a delicious, traditional dinner. Enjoy the warmth and camaraderie of your friends, family, and clergy – a celebration of freedom and family!

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](mailto:passover@crsnyc.org) or call Miriam Baron at 646.454.3043.

*Image: ©Challis and Roos*

### John Kowal/Rev. Preston Washington 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Seder

**Friday, April 13, 7:00 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 Community Concerns 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 RSVP at [freedom seder@crsnyc.org](mailto:freedom seder@crsnyc.org) or call Miriam Baron at 646.454.3043. If you have questions, please email [freedom seder@crsnyc.org](mailto:freedom seder@crsnyc.org). Please send your check of \$25 per person to Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Attn: Freedom Seder, 7 West 83rd Street, NY, NY 10024, payable to CRS.

“And I brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage. I sent before you Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam.” (Micah 6:4)

## SAVE THE DATES

**Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 pm: CANTORS IN CONCERT: VOICES OF A GENERATION. A CANTORIAL CONCERT HONORING CANTOR REBECCA GARFEIN.** CRS is hosting a special concert featuring Cantor Garfein performing with her fellow Cantors.

**Thursday, March 1, 7:00 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP.** All are welcome to join the self-moderated meetings in the Board Room. Next dates are Thursdays, April 5 and May 3. Contact: [bookgroup@crsnyc.org](mailto:bookgroup@crsnyc.org).

**Saturday, March 3, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED.** Join us for hors d'oeuvres and conversation, followed by the musical and meditative Havdalah service. Next services are April 28 and May 19.

**Saturday, March 3, 1:00 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM.** Following Shabbat Morning services, Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble in presenting an Israel-themed concert in honor of Israel's founding. Admission is free and you are welcome to bring guests. Register for a seat at [rodephsholom.org/chambermusic](http://rodephsholom.org/chambermusic).

**Monday, March 5, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS.** The next dates are Mondays, April 2, May 7, and June 4. Contact: [sisterhood@crsnyc.org](mailto:sisterhood@crsnyc.org).

**Thursday, March 8, 12:00 pm: MAH JONGG.** Novices and veteran players are all welcome! Cards will be available for purchase. In the Board Room. Next dates are Thursdays, April 12 and May 10. RSVP: [mahjongg@crsnyc.org](mailto:mahjongg@crsnyc.org).

**Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm: AGING SYMPOSIUM.** In the Eisner

**Tuesday, March 13, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER.** Enjoy socializing and an engaging presentation, with a dairy lunch. A contribution of \$10 is suggested. Next dates are Tuesdays, April 17 and May 15. Sponsored by Sisterhood. Contact: [lunchtogether@crsnyc.org](mailto:lunchtogether@crsnyc.org).

**Friday, March 16, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SHIREINU INTEGRATED SERVICE.** An inclusive prayer service for people with special needs intended to create comfort and belonging with sensory-sensitivity, ASL, visual aids, and quiet room.

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

**Saturday, April 7, 1:00 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM.** Led by Artistic Director Eliot Bailen. Register: [rodephsholom.org/chambermusic](http://rodephsholom.org/chambermusic).

**Tuesday, April 10, 10:00 pm – Wednesday, April 11, 6:00 pm: READING OF THE NAMES: YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION.** The Upper West Side community reads the names of those lost in the Holocaust. Rabbis begin reading at 10:00 pm at a Congregation TBD, and continue through the night, resuming at 9:00 am Wednesday at the JCC, 334 Amsterdam Ave. ending 6:00 pm with *Kaddish*. Check our website for time CRS rabbis and congregants read names. Come witness.

**Tuesday, Thursday, May 1 and 3, 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 5, 8:00 pm, and Sunday, May 6, 1:30 and 6:00 pm: RS THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS LIONEL BART'S OLIVER!**

**Thursday, May 10, 1:30 and 7:00 pm: MIDRASH HOUR.** RS and RSS students sing and dance in an original musical.

**Friday, May 11, 6:00 pm: SPRING SHABBATON EREV SHABBAT SERVICE.** With Nava Tehila and celebrating Rabbi Spratt's and Cantor De Lowe's CRS 10th anniversary. **Saturday, May 12, 10:15 am: SHABBAT MORNING CHAPEL SERVICE.** Led by Nava Tehila. **6:00 pm: HAVDALAH WITH NAVA TEHILA.** Joined by the CRS Adult Ensemble. See Page 5.

**Friday, May 18, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/CONFIRMATION SERVICE.** Followed by a celebratory Oneg.

**Sunday, May 20, 10:15 am: SHAVUOT MORNING/YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

**Monday, May 21, 7:00 pm: 176TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** All congregants are welcome for election of Trustees, Officers, and other business. Refreshments are served.

**Friday, June 1, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HS GRADUATION and YOUTH GROUP INSTALLATION SERVICE.** Followed by a festive Oneg to celebrate the Graduates.

**Sunday, June 3, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm: ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE.** Honoring Israel's 70th birthday.

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

**Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms**

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Fridays, 12:00–1:30 pm  
March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8

*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. Register: [adulted@crsnyc.org](mailto:adulted@crsnyc.org).*

**A Page A Day**

Adam Kirsch with Rabbi Robert Levine  
Monday, March 5, 7:00 pm

*The Talmud is commonly studied in what is known as the Daf Yomi (Page A Day) cycle. When read this way, the Talmud's 2,711 pages can be covered in about seven and a half years. Adam Kirsch, Tablet Magazine columnist, will discuss with Rabbi Levine what he's learned from reading the Talmud every day. Register: [rodephsholom.org/tablet](http://rodephsholom.org/tablet).*

**America and the Ten Commandments**

Jenna Weissman Joselit with Rabbi David Ellenson  
Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm

*Historian Jenna Weissman Joselit's latest book, Set in Stone, traces the story of America's embrace of the Ten Commandments. The two tablets have provoked heated discussions about national identity, inclusion, and pluralism. Joselit, Professor of Judaic Studies at The George Washington University and columnist at Tablet, will discuss the unique place the Decalogue occupies in American life with our congregant and Chancellor Emeritus of HUC-JIR, Rabbi David Ellenson. Register: [rodephsholom.org/tablet](http://rodephsholom.org/tablet).*

**Jewish Basics 2.0**

Rabbi Greg Weitzman and Rabbinic Intern Juli Karol  
Mondays, 7:00 pm

March 12, April 16, May 7, June 11

*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. \$180. Register: [rodephsholom.org/Judaism-essentials](http://rodephsholom.org/Judaism-essentials).*

**Shabbat Study Series:****How Ancient Law Grapples with Modern Questions**

CRS Clergy | Saturday, following Shabbat services. Lunch included.  
April 21

*We'll dive into responsa literature and examine how the Reform Movement determines its position on ethical and religious issues. Register: [adulted@crsnyc.org](mailto:adulted@crsnyc.org).*

**More information can be found in your Adult Programming booklet or go to [rodephsholom.org/community/adultprogramming5778](http://rodephsholom.org/community/adultprogramming5778).**

## PURIM

**Wednesday, February 28 – Erev Purim**

4:30 – 7:00 pm | Purim Service and Carnival

*Everyone is welcome to join the festivities – from the littlest children to adults! Come in costume and see the clergy dressed up and acting their hearts out in the Purim shpiel. Bring a box of pasta to use as a grogger, which will be donated to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Then it's the Carnival!*

8:00 pm | Brotherhood Purim Experience

*For the grown-ups, comedian Cory Kahaney performs. RSVP: [brotherhood@crsnyc.org](mailto:brotherhood@crsnyc.org).*

**Thursday, March 1 – Purim**

8:00 am | Purim Morning Service and Megillah Reading

*We read the Megillah, recounting the story of Esther and King Ahashueros, followed by delicious hamantaschen.*

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



## #CRSSTRONG at URJ Biennial!

Almost 6,000 Jews within the Reform movement attended the 74th URJ Biennial convention in Boston this past December. And CRS was there! In fact, we were the second largest delegation attending. Under the heading “*Reimagining Jewish Life*,” Israel and social action were explored in learning sessions and talks. Each day’s theme – innovation, action, faith, or community – featured speakers including Senator Elizabeth Warren, Israeli author David Grossman, and RAC’s Rabbi Jonah Pesner. Delegates savored praying together at Shabbat services and hearing lots of engaging and joyful music.

*“Let us allow our Torah to be a prism to view our current predicament and perhaps to help us envision a more healthy, whole and hopeful future.”*

– Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ president, at the 74th URJ Biennial convention

### MEYER W. NATHANS SERVICE AWARD HONORS SLOAN SCHICKLER



Recognizing individuals for their outstanding contribution to service over many years to our congregation, we were very pleased to present Sloan Schickler with the Meyer W. Nathans Service Award this past winter. Sloan demonstrates what it means to be an active and engaged member of our community. Sloan and her husband, Dr. Paul Riska, have two daughters, Elisabeth and Julia, both b’not mitzvah and Confirmants of CRS. A seasoned lawyer, she is presently of counsel to the NY office of Wong Fleming. Sloan was instrumental in updating the Religious School’s mission statement. It was through her tremendous work with our educators, clergy, and teen consultant that the Confirmation Capstone Berlin trip came to be. With consideration and good insight, she has been invaluable as a levelheaded participant in the Education, Religious School Youth, Sisterhood, and Communications committees. We salute you, Sloan, with appreciation for your dedication and commitment and we say *Yasher Koach!*

### SPRING SHABBATON WEEKEND WITH ISRAELI MUSIC SENSATION ~ NAVA TEHILA ~

**Friday, May 11, 6:00 PM:** Erev Shabbat Service  
**Saturday, May 12, 10:15 PM:** Shabbat Morning Chapel Service  
and **6:00 PM:** Havdalah

Musicians from the musical congregation known as Nava Tehila will be artists-in-residence for our Spring Shabbaton. Nava Tehila (Hebrew for “beautiful praise”) is an emerging Jewish Renewal prayer and study community. Since 2004 they have been creating innovative prayer experiences that are upbeat, spiritual, and meditative. Their music is rooted in Middle Eastern and Indian spiritual mantras as well as their own contemporary Israeli music, making for a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere. On guitars and vocals are Daphna Rosenberg, whose music



is influenced by folk, rock, and Klezmer, and Yoel Sykes, who is inspired by rock, too, and also blues, reggae, and flamenco, Arabic, Moroccan, and African music. We are in for a fascinating and unique musical Jewish experience!

## DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

Writing this article in the throes of a frigid January, it is hard to imagine that when this edition of *The Chronicle* hits your mailbox, the sun will be setting after 7:00 pm, our winter coats will be packed away (God willing!), and the first flower buds of spring will be poking through the dirt. At the end of a long, dark winter, spring always seems to ring in with a sense of relief, hope, and renewal. Warmer days are ahead and it feels like anything is possible!

This is certainly a time of renewal and growth for Rodeph Sholom. If you've stepped foot inside our building in the last several months, then you know that we are in the midst of some significant construction. Half of our third floor has been transformed into an office suite for our junior rabbis, a beautiful space that reflects the high regard in which we hold our clergy and provides quiet space for congregants waiting to receive pastoral care. If you haven't seen it, stop by and say *hi!*

Simultaneously, we have begun a complete renovation of our entire fifth floor. This redesign will better serve the needs of our Religious School, bringing classrooms up to speed with 21st century technology, creating a long-sought-after youth lounge for teens, and specialized art, music, and cooking spaces for younger students. During the day, the fifth floor will become the dedicated home of our ever-growing Early Engagement program, with a variety of classes and content for families with young children. Two large multi-use spaces on the floor will maximize our use of space and allow for larger groups to gather for worship and socializing.

Later this year, we will begin a restoration of our lobby that will both preserve the historic beauty of our main entrance and provide a more gracious and welcoming entry point for all who walk through our doors. The security desk will be relocated into the vestibule between the front doors and the lobby, both to enhance security and to improve the flow of traffic. We will

also open up the President's Office to create more space for gathering and community events and will install a Living History exhibit to showcase the Rodeph Sholom story both past and present. Lastly, a wheelchair accessible ramp will be installed in the courtyard, which will make our 83rd Street building fully accessible to the 84th Street RSS building.

This is just a taste of some of the most exciting projects on our horizon. As we move into spring with enthusiasm for what's in store, I look forward to sharing this season of renewal with you. May the days ahead be days of possibility for our entire community.

If you're interested in learning more about these projects, please contact me at [llevine@crsnyc.org](mailto:llevine@crsnyc.org) or 646.454.3050.

### 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 [llevine@crsnyc.org](mailto:llevine@crsnyc.org) or 646.454.3050 to discuss how you can help.

### PROJECT MOVING ON NEEDS YOUR IN-KIND DONATIONS | Joanna Kapner

For more than 30 years, working together with WIN (formerly Women In Need), Rodeph Sholom has operated Project Moving On, a program of our Social Action Committee. Project Moving On provides up to ten WIN families each month with cartons of food and other kitchen items as they move from a WIN shelter to their new homes. Tucked into the cartons are gifts of donated books, toys, and clothing for the children.

To continue to make these gifts, Project Moving On needs an ongoing supply of either new or gently used children's books and clothing. You can leave your gifts, labeled for WIN, with the security guard at the desk in the synagogue lobby at any time. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important program.

### CRS HOMELESS SHELTER

*"Hospitality is even more important than encountering the Shekhinah, God's intimate presence." (Talmud)*

As the problem of homelessness has grown, volunteering at our Shelter is a rewarding way to provide some small measure of help to some of our city's neediest. It is open Monday through Friday until June, providing a clean, safe, and caring temporary home for homeless men. Many congregants participate for one or two nights each Shelter season. Others spend at least one night per month at the Shelter.

To volunteer for this caring mitzvah, sign up at: [rodephsholom.org/social-action/opportunities-to-volunteer/](http://rodephsholom.org/social-action/opportunities-to-volunteer/)

### YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

Because of the generosity of many congregants who have made gifts to the 2017 Yom Kippur Appeal (see Pages 9-10), 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 2017 YKA are still being accepted and will be listed in the next *Chronicle*. Please contact Lyndsie Levine at [llevine@crsnyc.org](mailto:llevine@crsnyc.org) or make a contribution online at [rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal](http://rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal).

### COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICE

Ruth Kobrin, LMSW, CRS's resident social worker, helps congregants face life's challenges, problems, and crises. 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, call her – we're fortunate to have this valuable resource.

Contact Ruth for an appointment:  
646.454.3180 or [rkobrin@crsnyc.org](mailto: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

### WHAT A YEAR! AND THERE'S MORE TO GO! | Kerith Braunfeld and Marcia Stein



1

1 2nd and 6th graders learning how a Torah is written from a *soferet* (female scribe). Then they tried their hand at scribing with special calligraphy pens.

2



2 To celebrate Israel's 70th birthday, 6th graders visited with an Israeli pastry chef. She talked about growing up in Israel and moving to America for culinary school. They helped prepare delicious treats, too!

3 With *ruach* (spirited energy), students receive kippot at *Tefillah* upon completing a Hebrew Contract with prayers they mastered in reading and chanting – winding up with the *Golden Kippah*!

4 3rd graders learn values playing the *Mentsch* game. "Who demonstrates a value from *Genesis*?" "What value have you acted upon?" Studying Jewish tradition and text, they will find the answer to the question, "How can I be a *mentsch* and act on these values that I learn?"

5 During a visit from the Jewish Museum, 5th graders learn the value of *hiddur mitzvah*, beautifying the mitzvah. They viewed illuminated manuscripts and created their own illuminated masterpiece using hand-crushed pigments!



3

4



5

\*\*\*\*\*

### REGISTER FOR 2018–19 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEFORE JUNE 30

*This will ensure that your child can  
attend the First Day of School!*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Rodeph Sholom School

It is never too early to think about school for your child! Rodeph Sholom School is the only N-8 Reform Jewish Independent Day School in NYC. At RSS, students are guided by Jewish knowledge, values, and ethics to become self-confident and socially responsible leaders. We offer spring tours for families looking to apply for school year 2019-20. Space is limited so please contact our Admissions Office at 646.438.8600 to schedule a tour. No prior Hebrew language is required and need-based Financial Aid is available.

Learn more: [rodephsholomschool.org](http://rodephsholomschool.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG](http://RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG)

## MAZEL TOV TO THE RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS!

**Erev Shabbat Service | Friday, May 18, 6:00 PM**

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

### *Honoring our Confirmands:*

<i>Sophie Askanase</i>	<i>Margot Krauss</i>
<i>Andrew Bank</i>	<i>Jordyn Lichtstein</i>
<i>Amanda Bosses</i>	<i>Lindsay Ravetz</i>
<i>Jack Braun</i>	<i>Skylar Sherman</i>
<i>Sydney Cohen</i>	<i>Alexis Siegel</i>
<i>Gabriel Feldman</i>	<i>Bradley Silverman</i>
<i>Jenna Frieberg</i>	<i>Maya Singer</i>
<i>Madison Gallagher</i>	<i>Nina Sloan</i>
<i>Juliette Haas</i>	<i>Sophia Wallick</i>
<i>Max Joffe</i>	<i>Kasey Wilner</i>
<i>Rebecca Kaplan</i>	

**A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.**

## *You are cordially invited to* **CRS & RSS: A NIGHT CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH AND TEENS EREV SHABBAT SERVICE**

**Friday, June 1, 6:00 PM | 18 Sivan 5778**

We will honor all of our youth, High School graduating seniors from the Religious School and RSS community and will install the incoming CRuSTY Youth Group board. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

### *Tuesday Night Graduates:*

<i>Nathaniel Askanase</i>	<i>Sasha Izeman</i>
<i>Sarah Bank</i>	<i>Ronit Kitei</i>
<i>Matthew Friedrich</i>	<i>Penelope Lutvak</i>
<i>Isabel Hochman</i>	<i>Rachel Markowitz</i>
	<i>Olivia Schwartz</i>

### *Madrichim Teaching Assistants:*

<i>Iliana Cooper</i>	<i>Isabel Hochman</i>
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“*We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown  
and when strawberries bloom in Israel.*”

*(Golda Meir)*

## I N M E M O R I A M

**Philip Morris Kaye**, father of Lainie Kaye Kaplan  
**Richard Neuberger**, husband of Janet Neuberger  
**Eugene Sard**, father of George Sard  
**Nora Schwartz**, mother of Dr. William Schwartz  
**Ellen Linden**, mother of Jacqueline Linden  
**Gerald Berman**, father of Andrew Berman  
**Jon Alan Slater**, cousin of Sloan Schickler  
**Patricia Ann Morris**, mother of Suzanne Dickman  
**Marion Neyer**, mother of Norma Lesser  
**Paula Stein Weisburt**, mother of Hazel Manheimer,  
 grandmother of Edward Manheimer  
**Donna Dennison**, mother of Timothy Dennison  
**Mary Phelan**, mother of Peter Phelan  
**Susan Lefrak**, mother of Babs Lefrak  
**Evelyn Sklar**, mother of Amy Kremnitzer  
**Stephen Schecter**, our longtime member  
**Ruth Levy**, mother of Ellen Kozlowski  
**Estelle Levy**, mother of Jeffrey Levy  
**Robert Salberg**, brother-in-law of Zelda Eden

**Katie Sanders**, sister-in-law of Sarah Gardner  
 and Rabbi Tom Gardner  
**Julian Jadow**, husband of Dr. Judith Jadow,  
 father of Eric, Jonathan and Lindsay Jadow  
**Julia Kashner**, mother of Neil Barsky  
**Daniel Greenfield**, father of Jamie Greenfield  
**Jack Zakin**, father of Barbara Zakin, our Executive Director  
**Karren Kartell Cowl**, mother of Lisa Jacobson,  
 mother-in-law of Danny Karpf, Head of School  
**Arlene Safter**, mother of Larry Safter  
**Harold Stern**, father of Steven Stern  
**David Namias**, husband of Barbara Namias  
**Jack Greenbaum**, father of Jody Mansbach  
**Erwin Markowitz**, father of David Markowitz  
**George Wendler**, father of Michelle Canarick  
**Dorothy Glaser Blitt**, aunt of Donna Bascom  
**Shmuel Koch**, father of Tamir Koch  
**Susan Oreskes**, mother of Michael Oreskes  
**Frank Schnierow**, father of Gary Schnierow  
**Alvin Schragis**, father of Steven Schragis

## SWEETEN YOUR PASSOVER SEDER

WITH MISS CHOCOLATE BARTONS CANDY  
WHILE RAISING FUNDS FOR THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



**ON SALE ONLINE NOW!**

It's delicious, kosher for Passover, uses the finest ingredients, and makes a great seder gift or dessert. Orders need to be placed by **March 18** to be delivered in time for the 1st seder and are shipped directly to your home.

**GO TO: [misschocolate.com](http://misschocolate.com)**  
**USE OUR SPECIAL PROMO CODE: 700720**

## CRS FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL SUMMER 2019

*Have you always wanted to explore Eretz Yisrael?*

You and your family are invited to take this journey together with Rabbi Weitzman and Cantor Garfein to our Jewish homeland. Learn more about Israel while having an experience of a lifetime. You'll get a taste of history and culture, and you'll have fun traveling with your fellow congregants and clergy. It's an unforgettable trip for the whole family!

To find out more about the trip, please come to the Information Session:  
**Monday, May 21 at 6:00 PM**

If you are interested and have questions, contact:  
Rabbi Weitzman at [rabiweitzman@crsnyc.org](mailto:rabiweitzman@crsnyc.org).

## ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE: 70 and SABABA!

**Sunday, June 3, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

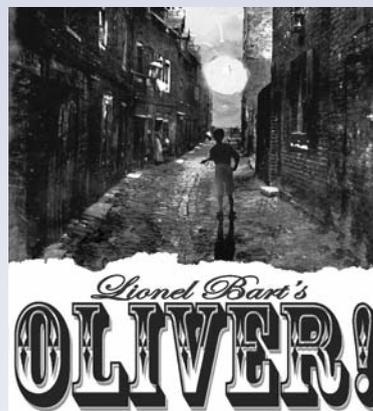
The Celebrate Israel Parade celebrates the vibrant and diverse country of Israel. Alongside the marchers are community leaders, entertainers, artists, musicians, dancers, celebrities, floats, and marching bands.

The Israel Committee invites you to march with our Clergy and Youth Groups to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday. This year's Parade theme is **70 and Sababa! 70 and Awesome!** When Israelis say something is *sababa*, they mean it's awesome. Think about it. In just 70 years, this small, arid country with few natural resources, has grown and prospered beyond all expectation. Look at all the beautiful landscapes and seascapes, the cities, the skyscrapers, and all the amazing technological, medical, and agricultural advancements – **Israel is sababa!**

The Parade will go up Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets, rain or shine. Show your support for Israel and the Reform Movement.

Details on our website: [rodephsholom.org](http://rodephsholom.org)  
Contact: [israelcommittee@crsnyc.org](mailto:israelcommittee@crsnyc.org)

## RS THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS



**E**ntering a dining room in Victorian England, half-starved orphan boys are fed gruel. One boy gathers up the courage to ask, "Please, sir, I want some more." So begins **Lionel Bart's Oliver!**, the Charles Dickens story of how Oliver Twist, who runs away from an orphanage, meets a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an old thief. We meet unforgettable characters like Fagan, the Artful Dodger, brokenhearted Nancy, and sweet young Oliver. It debuted in London in 1960 introducing the timeless songs, *Food Glorious Food, Where is Love?, Consider Yourself, and As Long As He Needs Me*. Ultimately, it's the tale of searching for a home, a family, and most importantly for love.

Performances are Tuesday and Thursday, May 1 and 3 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 5 at 8:00 pm, and Sunday, May 6 at 1:30 and 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$27 and can be purchased online at [rodephsholom.org/theater](http://rodephsholom.org/theater) or call 646.454.3108. Performances are held at CRS. Volunteers are appreciated. Contact: [rstheater@crsnyc.org](mailto:rstheater@crsnyc.org).

## Traveling Abroad?

*Find a Jewish Community with New App*

Looking to experience Shabbat or holiday services with other like-minded Reform, Progressive or Liberal Jews? The World Union for Progressive Judaism representing 1.8 million liberal Jews in over 50 countries around the world has a new app to connect you with communities worldwide.

*The app puts global Reform Judaism at your fingertips:*

- Enter your destination city to discover congregations and communities there
- Then send an inquiry to get information about Shabbat and holiday services; upcoming events; and to make arrangements for home hospitality

Go to [wupj.org/app](http://wupj.org/app)

Visit the family you never knew you had!



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SPRING 2018 | 5778

AT PASSOVER  
WE REMEMBER  
WHO WE ARE  
AND WHY WE  
ARE HERE

## CELEBRATE PESACH

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Friday, March 30 | 7:30 PM

## ABOUT CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

**R**odeph 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** 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  
**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** Associate Director  
**Jessica Cohen** Assistant Director  
**Dina Newman** Assistant Director of Youth and Teen Engagement  
**Daniel Strauss** Assistant Director of Teen Engagement  
**Rodeph Sholom School**  
**Danny Karpf** Head of School  
**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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email: [chronicle@crsny.org](mailto:chronicle@crsny.org)

### Officers

**Martin Flumenbaum** President  
**Peter Ehrenberg** Vice President  
**Harry Frischer** Vice President  
**Judith Gallent** Vice President  
**Andrea Kretchmer** Vice President  
**David Markus** Vice President  
**David Resnick** Vice President  
**Denise Sobel** Vice President  
**Robert Steinman** Treasurer  
**Stacy Kanter** Assistant Treasurer  
**Karen L. Berman** Chair of the Board  
**Jack Neuberger** Honorary President for Life

**Roger Meltzer** Past President  
**Nancy Solomon** Past President  
**Mark Biderman** Past President  
**Jack Levitt** Past President

### Auxiliaries

**Marc Landis** Brotherhood Co-President  
**Brad Zizmor** Brotherhood Co-President  
**Beth Rubin** Chair, Sisterhood Steering Committee  
**Rachel Markowitz** Sr. Youth Group President

### The Chronicle

**Yvette Perry** Editor