

THE CHRONICLE

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

WHERE MY HEART IS | Rabbi Greg Weitzman



Judah Halevi was a Jewish physician, poet, and philosopher. He was born in Toledo, Spain circa 1085 CE and died circa 1141 CE. Much of his poetry reflected his love for Israel, and kept alive the love of Zion as a part of Jewish culture rather than just as a ritual to be expressed in prayer. At the end of his life he traveled to the Holy Land to settle there and fulfill his dream – to live in the

land he loved.

“My heart is in the East, and I am at the ends of the West.” Though written a millennium ago, Halevi’s words still ring true to many of us today: Jerusalem sits nearly 5,600 miles east of us here in New York City, yet sometimes it feels as though it is right here resting within each of us, within each of our hearts. The Jewish soul yearns for Israel; it is a part of who we are as a people.

For nearly the entire Torah, we as a people find ourselves on a journey to the Promised Land – the land of Israel. That journey began with Abraham and Sarah, was continued by Moses and Aaron, pushed forward by Joshua and David, and finally is held today in our hands.

The Jewish soul yearns for Israel; it is a part of who we are as a people.

The modern state of Israel is a dream that was born out of a Western European milieu where Jewish life was under siege from anti-Semitism and nationalist ideals. However, the land of Israel and the awareness that the Jewish soul yearns for her is as ancient as our people. There is something special about her mountains, lakes, hills, cities, and beaches. When Jews find themselves in Israel, there is almost a sense of *shleimut*, a wholeness that can be felt. It is as if wherever we are going, on whatever journey we find ourselves on, we are always journeying towards Israel.

As a first year rabbinical student, I had the opportunity to live in Jerusalem for an entire year. For the first time in my life I lived on the Jewish calendar, I walked the ancient streets of my ancestors, and when I prayed for dew and rain to come I felt an even greater sense of urgency knowing that it was for Israel that I was praying. Growing up on Long Island I never quite understood the symbiotic relationship between the Jew in the diaspora and the land thousands of miles away. I never realized how much she needed me and how much I needed her. When I pray facing towards Jerusalem, the land and people are always in my thoughts. When I shake my head at policies or applaud her triumphs, Israel is never closer. It is in this covenantal

relationship with the land that I find myself ever present and ever more aware of my Jewish soul.

Today and tomorrow, Israel needs to remain within our hearts.

This summer, I look forward to the opportunity of sharing with our congregation the feeling that one can get that first time that they step off the plane in Tel Aviv and stare out at the cities and hills of our homeland. In August, Cantor Garfein and I will be taking a group of congregants there where we will once again reaffirm not only our spiritual commitment to Israel but also reclaim our presence in the land of Israel. We will strive to close the gap between the East and West, engage in story and celebration, delight in food and culture, and allow our Jewish souls to blossom within Israel’s border.

Today and tomorrow, Israel needs to remain within our hearts. The state and its people are yet one more example of the promise that God gave to Abraham and Sarah so many years ago: that we will become a prosperous people and nation, both capable of thriving within the land of Israel and outside of it, here in New York City.

Ashley, Eden, and I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in Israel and right here on 83rd Street.

We wish Rabbi Weitzman, Cantor Garfein and our fellow congregants a wonderful Israel Family Trip filled with inspired teachings, songs, and joy!
Nesiah Tovah!

SAY GOODBYE TO
RABBI SARI LAUFER

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE | FRIDAY, JUNE 9 AT 6:00 PM
SPECIAL ONEG SHABBAT FOLLOWING SERVICE

SEE PAGE 3

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FROM THE PRESIDENT | Martin Flumenbaum



As I complete my third year as president of this extraordinary congregation, I want to thank the clergy, and in particular Rabbi Levine, my fellow officers and trustees, and you the congregants, for making this past 175th Anniversary year so rewarding and so meaningful. The execution of our year long series of events – including our Evening of Community and Comedy, the expanded Purim celebration, the Cantors & Co. musical review, and the well-received Rabbi Levine Speaker Series – has been nothing short of spectacular.

Engagement throughout the entire congregation, at both worship and non-worship events, has been at an unprecedented level, and we owe our 175th Anniversary steering committee co-chairs, Robin Kranich, Jerilyn Perman, and Rob Steinman, as well as the scores of individuals who chaired and worked on each event, an enormous debt of gratitude for their efforts in strengthening and enhancing our Congregation.

From a financial perspective, the Congregation had a strong year, but as always we very much need your continued support and generosity. The Yom Kippur Appeal increased to a record \$2.12 million, the first time in our history that we have surpassed \$2 million. Although 750 of our families contributed to the Yom Kippur Appeal, we need to increase that number dramatically if we are to continue to make major investments in our education and youth programs and to lead the community in significant social action programs.

This year we continued to strengthen our Religious School and our youth programs. We hired a b'nai mitzvah administrator to improve coordination and communications, and our new programming for 4th through 7th grades dramatically increased both engagement and family satisfaction. Under Kerith Braunfeld's leadership, our Religious School continued to thrive and our post b'nai mitzvah participation reached all-time highs. This year we had 44 8th grade participants for our New Orleans trip, and 37 10th grade Confirmation students, with 32 going on our Berlin trip. We also started our much needed Early Childhood Engagement initiative. We have hired a full-time coordinator and we expect to begin new programming this coming September.

RSS, our Jewish Day School, continues to excel. Our 8th graders are

leaving RSS to go to some of the best high schools in the City, and applications to the school were up from last year. We thank Jerry Katz, who is retiring as Head of School, for all that he has done to bring such strong professional leadership to RSS, and at the same time we welcome as the new Head of School, Danny Karpf, who has impressed us all with his passion and zeal during his year as Head of School Elect.

We also continue to expand our social action projects. As I have said many times, there is no greater accomplishment than our work together in feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, and caring for those with special needs. Our Mitzvah Day participation and outreach continued to increase. Our Shireinu services continued to expand and have become a model for Reform synagogues throughout the U.S. Our Shelter continued its important work; and our Backpack Buddies program continued to have a significant impact in our community.

We are also focused on maintaining and securing our facilities and buildings. We have made several important investments this year in both of these areas and have started a community-wide discussion to address our space and facility needs for the future. This summer we expect to move our business office from the third floor to a nearby location and to start work on creating a Rabbinic Suite for all of our associate and assistant rabbis. Security for our facilities, our schools, and our families and children will always be a major priority.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention in this year-end report the excellent condition of our 50-acre Union Field Cemetery, an important part of the synagogue's history and ongoing heritage. The cemetery currently has achieved fiscal stability and will run its fifth straight modest surplus in FY 2017.

Finally, I want to give a special thanks to our Executive Director, Barbara Zakin, who has mastered every detail of this complex institution. She leads our extraordinary professional staff, all of whom are dedicated to this institution.

Ruth and I look forward to participating with each of you in our inspiring worship services, our uplifting social action activities, and our innovative educational programming. Please have a relaxing and safe summer. *From strength to strength.*

RABBI ROBERT LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES

KEEPING THE FAITH: PERSPECTIVES ON GOD, BELIEF AND RELIGION IN CHALLENGING TIMES

WITH ABIGAIL POGREBIN

Tuesday, June 6 | 7:00 pm



For this last session of his Speaker Series, Rabbi Levine will be joined by author Abigail Pogrebin. As both are authors who write about their Jewish faith, their conversation will focus on faith, spirituality, God, and theology. Abigail's most recent book, *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wandering Jew*, explores why the holidays endure and if

they are relevant today. In Rabbi Levine's latest, *What God Can Do for You Now: For Seekers Who Want to Believe*, he conveys how God can make a difference in our lives and how that leads to tikkun olam. Join us for this inspiring and insightful evening.

Abigail's two previous books are *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish* and *One and the Same: My Life as an Identical Twin* and *What I've Learned about Everyone's Struggle to be Singular*, and she co-authored "The 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America" list for Newsweek. An Emmy-nominated producer for Mike Wallace and Ed Bradley at 60 Minutes and for Charlie Rose and Bill Moyers (and more) at PBS, she moderates "What Everyone's Talking About," an interview series at the JCC-Manhattan. A keynote speaker at Federations and JCCs around the country, she is a graduate of Yale and lives in New York City with her family.



FAREWELL RABBI LAUFER AND THANK YOU

After 11 years here at CRS, Rabbi Sari Laufer is leaving to take a position as Director of Congregational Engagement at Stephen Wise Temple and Schools in Los Angeles, CA. Please join us as we honor her and wish her well at the Erev Shabbat Service, Friday, June 9.

In a conversation with Barbara Zakin, she expressed her feelings about her tenure here. She spoke of looking out at the congregation from the bimah and seeing *friends*. She sees the families and children that she named and performed brit milot. She sees those she guided in their b'nai mitzvah. She sees the families whom she has shared joys with and comforted during times of despair and sickness.

Rabbi Laufer said she was especially gratified to help re-energize Sisterhood as a venue that can provide a dynamic and multigenerational conversation for women today. Another accomplishment not only important to her but one that will leave a lasting mark here is developing a new approach to young families – creating exciting programming that is thriving and poised for growth in the future. Attracted to CRS for its reputation as a dynamic Reform synagogue, she was even more interested in it upon meeting Rabbi Levine. Here was a model of the rabbinate that she wanted to learn from and embrace.

Rabbi Laufer, we will remember your learned sermons that displayed a fine intellect yet were accessible, heartfelt, and straightforward. Your classes and valuable messages from the bimah enriched our Jewish lives intellectually and spiritually. Always exhorting positive messages of unity, you even brought the entire congregation together to watch a game show! Although you are leaving, we will always hear your voice encouraging us to take a deep breath from our busy lives to say 100 blessings a day. Your new congregation is blessed to welcome your family just as you have been a blessing as our teacher. We wish you, Ben, Kobi, and Orli *Ishalom*, a blessing that your journey should be that of peace and success.

Rabbi Laufer leaves us these wise words from her Inauguration Shabbat January 20, 2017 sermon:

"... We need not accept homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, but rather increase justice and equality in the world. We need not accept dishonesty, but rather increase truth in the world. We need not accept violence, but rather increase compassion in the world. Increase trust. Increase hope. Increase love. Increase love. Increase love."

May we take these words and keep them in our hearts. As you will, Rabbi, always be in our hearts.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Barbara Zakin



What a year! It is hard to believe that our celebratory 175th Anniversary year is coming to an end. Several years in the planning, it was led by the indomitable team of Jerilyn Perman, Rob Steinman, and Robin Kranich (in photo below). This incredibly ambitious and successful undertaking has given me treasured memories. Here are some of my favorite remembrances:

- Laughing and dancing up a storm in the Schafler with throngs of people to the music of a klezmer band at our Kick-Off Shabbat oneg. And the food display was AMAZING!
- Watching Imam Shamsi Ali, Mother Carla, and Rabbi Levine pray together at our interfaith Havdalah on Mitzvah Weekend, and then participating in a service project devoted to refugees
- Rabbi Levine's emotional reaction as the congregation applauded for minutes and minutes at the Erev Shabbat service honoring his 25 years of leadership
- I'll never look at the ark doors the same way again. On Heritage Weekend I learned from architectural historian, Andrew Dolkart, that they were fabricated by the same metal artist who also worked on the Empire State Building and Radio City Music Hall
- Traveling downtown on a blustery Sunday morning to the Lower East Side to visit our original building on Clinton Street, I expected to see a small gathering. Instead, there were more than 100 people! Together we had a fascinating time touring the neighborhood and learning about our earliest congregants from Annie Pollard of the Tenement Museum.

- Laughing in the Chapel as returning Rabbis Angel, Gewirtz, Grushcow, Panken, and Sheinberg bantered among themselves; and listening to their stories about how CRS influenced their rabbinates
- The drop-jaw look on my husband's face when I told him about the talent performing at the Evening of Community and Comedy – Richard Kind, A.J. Jacobs, Jerry Seinfeld, and Randy Zuckerberg. Wow!
- Seeing Rabbi Ben Spratt as Vashti at the Purim Shpiel looking ravishing with his long blonde tresses and being a little overwhelmed by the competitiveness and drive of our congregants (kids and adults) at The Big Quiz
- The celebratory feeling in the room at the Cantors & Co. concert and grooving to Cantor Garfein, Cantor De Lowe, and Miriam Baron's rendition of *I'm A Woman*
- The intellectual heft and sharp displays of wit by Peter Beinart, Bret Stephens, Rabbi Ellenson, and Deborah Lipstadt in their sobering and thought-provoking evenings with Rabbi Levine
- Pride in two of our congregation's gems – the adorable Children's Choir and our ASL Choir – who sang at our final Erev Shabbat event on May 19



See pictures of the AMAZING events on Page 5!

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, May 30, 4:30 – 6:00 pm: YOUNG FAMILIES SHAVUOT SUNDAE PARTY. In the Eisner.

Wednesday, May 31, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm: SHAVUOT MORNING AND YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE. In the Schnurmacher.

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome to the CRS book group. This is the last meeting until we resume again in the fall. Won't you please join us? It is self-moderated and we meet at the Synagogue. Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Friday, June 2, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/CONFIRMATION SERVICE. Mazel tov to the Rodeph Sholom Confirmation class. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm: ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. Honoring Israel's 69th birthday. See this page.

Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 pm: RABBI LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES. With Abigail Pogrebin. See Page 2.

Thursday, June 8, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG. Novices and veteran players are all welcome! Join us for our last game of the season. Cards will be available for purchase. In the Board Room. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Tuesday, June 13, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. Please join us for our last Lunch Together until the fall. There's always great socializing, an engaging presentation, and a dairy lunch will be served. A contribution of \$8 is suggested. Co-sponsored by Adult Education, the Caring Community Committee, and Sisterhood. Contact: lunchtogether@crsnyc.org.

Friday, June 16, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/RSS FAREWELL TO RETIRING TEACHERS. We honor these wonderful teachers for their committed service: Diane Bassin, Patricia Dennison, Cindy Nagel, Marge Olsen, and Adrienne Silberman. **4:45 – 5:45 pm:** Join them for a Pre-Neg before the service. RSVP by June 8: 646.438.8654 or sschimmel@rssnyc.org.

Friday, June 23, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/SHIR CHADASH/LGBTQ PRIDE SERVICE. See this page.

Monday, June 26, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm: FIRST DAY OF SUMMER CAMP.

ANNUAL LGBTQ EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, June 23 at 6:00 PM

A community celebration of diversity, inclusion, and support.

This is the 18th LGBTQ community Erev Shabbat service at Congregation Rodeph Sholom. We invite all in our community to come together and share in prayer. You will find a service that is joyous and moving, where you can meet new friends in a warm and welcoming environment.

CRS places a high priority in promoting the complete inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in all areas. A place where everyone is encouraged to become involved in the multifaceted life of the congregation – there are programs, speakers, and special events, as well as our annual Erev Shabbat service. Throughout the year we foster awareness, outreach, and support for the Jewish LGBTQ community within these walls and outside them in the neighborhood.

LGBTQ Pride is celebrated around the world each June. By making CRS an inclusive Jewish space, we continue to cultivate a community where all are welcome every month.

For more information: lgbtq@crsnyc.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Haven and Our Strength: Personal and Spiritual Pathways
Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Friday, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
June 9

Please join us for this last session of the season as we explore texts through poetry, song, and personal experience. This lunchtime class is a personal and participatory learning experience with poetry and song. All are welcome.

To register for this program, email: kbarrett@crsnyc.org.

ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Israel Committee invites all congregants to march with our Clergy and Youth Groups to celebrate Israel's 69th birthday! The Parade will go up Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets, rain or shine.

This year's Parade theme is **Celebrate Israel All Together**. Participating marching groups and floats will display their creativity with colorful banners, costumes, and props on this theme. *Together, we are stronger. We encourage and support each other; we celebrate our differences and find common ground; we increase our understanding of ourselves, each other, and the world.*

Our congregation cares deeply about the survival of Israel. We are firmly committed to the security and welfare of Israel. Now more than ever, Israel needs our vocal support. All together, we celebrate Israel! Details on the CRS website.

Join us to show your support for Israel
and the Reform Movement!

“... Israel will endure and flourish.
It is the child of hope
and the home of the brave ...
It carries the shield of democracy
and it honors the sword of freedom.”

(President John F. Kennedy)

Join the largest Jewish
gathering in North America!



Boston, MA | December 6–10, 2017

Registration opens June 15

urj.org/urj-biennial

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

KICK-OFF SHABBAT



MITZVAH WEEKEND



175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY EVENTS

HERITAGE WEEKEND



RABBI LEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



EVENING OF COMMUNITY AND COMEDY



PURIM: NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE



CANTORS & CO.



DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

Remember. Rejoice. Renew. These three words provided a powerful theme for our year of 175th Anniversary celebrations, calling us to remember our rich history, rejoice in our vibrant community, and renew our commitment to strengthening Rodeph Sholom for years to come. And what a year it has been!

From Kick-Off Shabbat, Heritage Weekend, and our Evening of Community and Comedy, to our celebration of Rabbi Levine's 25 years of service, our spectacular night of Purim festivities, and the beautiful music of Cantors & Co., this has truly been a remarkable year. This was more than just a series of celebratory events, this was a year of extraordinary engagement within our community. With thanks to our 175th Anniversary volunteers, this special year of programming brought out hundreds of families to connect with the community and each other in meaningful ways.

In my article last summer, I asked you to help us write our 175th chapter from a place of strength, particularly through contributing to the Yom Kippur Appeal. The appeal saw an outpouring of support in this milestone year, a testament to our congregation's generosity, thoughtfulness, and love of community. For this, I must say thank you! As our membership dues continue to cover just over half of our operations, your *tzedakah* remains an essential pillar of sustaining our synagogue home. If you were not able to participate in the last appeal, I hope you will consider a contribution this year. In a place like Rodeph Sholom, participation – at any level – is a profound way to say, *"This is our shared community and our shared responsibility."* When you receive your YKA solicitation in the coming weeks, I hope that you will keep this sentiment in mind.

Every gift we receive is meaningful. Each contribution is an affirmation of commitment to the Rodeph Sholom we love. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Wishing you a restful and relaxing summer.

SUMMER FOOD FUND DRIVE | Yvette Perry

"Tzedakah begins the moment we decide to think about other people besides ourselves."

(Rabbi Robert N. Levine)

Rabbi Levine tells us that as Jews, the mitzvah of *tzedakah* is an obligation to help others. We do it, not because it makes us feel generous, but because it is simply an act of justice, it is our duty, and it is just the right thing to do. Here at CRS, we welcome opportunities to help support people in need. It does not only enhance our lives, it strengthens our Jewish community.

Both the number of NYC residents receiving food stamps and those going to food pantries or soup kitchens has been increasing every year. We at CRS help to fight hunger through our Food Drives, such as the canned food pick-up on Yom Kippur, and our biannual Food Fund Drives. Every collected dollar goes directly to local organizations such as West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Dorot, Goddard Riverside, HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen, and Project Moving On.

It's easy to make a donation online. Select "Food Drive" from the fund/program tab. (While there you will also see a complete list of the charities we help.) Or call the Development Department at 646.454.3052 to set up a recurring payment.

Giving and helping has always been a very important thing we do here. Perhaps this is a gentle reminder to us all that we don't stop doing mitzvot just because it's summer. Our donations now will make a positive impact!

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 are two immediate opportunities:

Religious School Scholarships: We believe that every Jewish child is entitled to a Jewish education and our policy is to never turn away families in need. Gifts of any amount will be appreciated. A gift of \$40,000 will cover the shortfall needed for scholarships this year. A gift of \$2,100 will allow one 4th grade child to attend Religious School, including all textbooks, materials, snacks, and special family programs.

High Holy Day Childcare: We offer High Holy Day childcare for children ages 3-7, a wonderful service for our congregants that is free of charge. A gift of \$5,000 will fully underwrite this program for all High Holy Days.

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

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER THIS SUMMER

The Roll of Remembrance Book, given to worshippers on Yom Kippur, is prepared over the summer. When you receive your packet of High Holy Day information in late-June, it will include a form offering you the opportunity to list the names of loved ones you would like to remember. Be sure to return your form prior to our August 14 deadline even if you do not have any changes. For questions about the Roll of Remembrance, contact the Development Department at 646.454.3052.

You don't need to wait until the fall to make your gift to the **2017 Yom Kippur Appeal**. To make a contribution, go to rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal after July 1 or mail a check to CRS with "YKA 2017" in the memo line. If you have questions or to add a pledge to your synagogue account, please contact Lyndsie Levine at 646.454.3050 or llevine@crsnyc.org.

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! MITZVAH WEEKEND

October 27 – 29

Mark your calendar for CRS Mitzvah Day Weekend, where you can volunteer with hundreds of your fellow CRS members of all ages on any of our 25+ community service projects. This is a way for us all to support meaningful charities in our community with hands-on efforts.

If you have an idea for a meaningful project that will help a charitable organization, let us know. We'd love to explore it. Also we would like to hear from you if you want to be involved with planning the events or running one of our established projects.

Mitzvah Weekend is always filled with an inspiring and motivating Erev Shabbat service, a beautiful Havdalah celebration, and our all-day busy, fun, and deeply rewarding Mitzvah Sunday!

Contact mitzvahday@crsnyc.org.

Religious School

COUNTING UP TO THE FUTURE... | Kerith Braunfeld

We complete the counting of the *Omer* – 49 days from Passover – with the arrival of Shavuot. We look forward to counting the days until the arrival of this holiday that commemorates the Israelites receiving the Torah. This anticipation is built into our yearly Jewish holiday and life cycle.

The concept of built-in anticipation and counting up or looking forward to something has been part of our philosophy over the past few years. Built into our Religious School and teen programming are capstone experiences that younger students and families will look forward to.

Over the past few years, we've seen a large increase in popularity for our 8th grade trip to New Orleans. This year we took a record number of 44 students, drawing from both RSS and the Religious School. The teens had a fantastic time bonding during their social action projects helping the community, experiencing the culture of the city, and learning more about Jewish communities in the South. You can bet that 7th graders in both schools are looking forward to next year when it will be their turn to go on the annual *Tikkun Orleans* trip!

Another amazing more recent capstone experience is our revitalized Confirmation program for 10th graders. They spend one year learning from our clergy and then an incredible five days in Berlin learning about the birth and flourishing of Reform Judaism – the fall to its depths during the Holocaust and the strong connection between Rodeph Sholom's history and this fascinating city. We also had a record number of Confirmands this year and we're already reaching out to this year's 9th grade families to have them sign on for next year. Incidentally, we are noticing the trend that students who attend the 8th grade NOLA trip almost invariably return to be part of the 10th grade Confirmation program.

How do we inspire excitement for our younger students and their parents? One of these special moments is coming up during the Confirmation service on Friday, June 2. A beautiful new ritual began last year when we invited our 4th graders, who have received their b'nai mitzvah dates, to stand at the foot of the bimah steps in front of all of our Confirmands who offer them a blessing as they begin their journey toward becoming a bar/bat mitzvah. The 4th graders, in turn, bless the Confirmands for reaching this next Jewish lifecycle moment post-bar/bat mitzvah. The parents of the 4th graders sitting in the congregation surely watch with pride, thinking how one day their children will be old enough to go to New Orleans, to become a Confirmand and travel to Berlin, and to continue their family's commitment and connection to Judaism... **it's about counting up and seeing the future before your very eyes.**

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer. We'll be busy creating even more fun, meaningful student and family experiences!

NEW THIS YEAR:
ALL RETURNING K-7TH GRADE STUDENTS
MUST REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 6
TO BE PLACED IN A CLASS
FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

REGISTER FOR 2017-18 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
BEFORE JUNE 30 FOR TUITION DISCOUNT.

Rodeph Sholom School

RSS will begin accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year on September 1, 2017. We offer a strong Early Childhood program beginning with a warm and supportive 2s program and continuing 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 2016-17 school year was filled with positive transition and growth at RSS. We welcomed Head of School Elect Danny Karpf and his family to our school as we prepare to say goodbye to Dr. Jerry Katz and his wife, Marti, in June. We are grateful for the unique experience that Mr. Karpf had in being able to shadow Dr. Katz this school year. Here is a small reflection by Mr. Karpf on what he has learned about the RSS community thus far:

"In lively exchanges during the series of breakfasts I've been hosting with RSS parents, two themes have dominated the conversations: the extraordinary strength of our community and the deeply-held Jewish values that connect us.

Since we teach and expect our students to become thoughtful, confident, independent, and critical thinkers, it is no surprise to me that the faculty and parents I have been meeting are thoughtful, intelligent, passionate people. We share high aspirations for our children as students and as human beings; we wish to see them become people who will not only be happy and successful, but who will impact the world and make us proud.

The academic skills we build in our students on a daily basis—to read critically, to analyze data, to check sources for bias, to write precisely, to collaborate with peers, to confidently articulate a point of view using well-researched arguments—will develop their ability to lead effectively and have impact now and in their future educational and work settings. It has been a pleasure becoming part of the RSS family this year, and I look forward to the 2017-18 school year!"

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

CELEBRATE OUR INCREDIBLE TEACHERS!

Diane Bassin, Patricia Dennison, Cindy Nagel, Marge Olsen, and Adrienne Silberman

Friday, June 16 | Pre-Neg at 4:45 PM | Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM

WHAT IS KLAL YISRAEL REALLY? | Nancy Solomon

Definitions: "All of Israel. The whole Jewish community. Synonym for the Jewish people."

Typically when we think of *Klal Yisrael*, we think of Jews in Israel and the U.S. But when I think of *Klal Yisrael*, I think of *all* of World Jewry: six-plus million Jews in the U.S., six million Jews in Israel, and almost two million Jews in 50 other countries around the world!

So why is it important to care about Jews in other countries? Here in North America we feel safe, we are a part of a large Jewish population, and we have the freedom to practice as we like! Whereas Jews in other countries face harsher realities: they are a small minority, congregations need financing, Liberal Judaism is not recognized, access to trained professionals is limited, and finally (and sadly) there is rampant anti-Semitism.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) headquartered in Jerusalem, with an office in NY, works to strengthen Jewish life and values throughout the world by supporting and advancing a Progressive approach to Jewish tradition (Reform Judaism is often termed Progressive or Liberal). They train congregational leaders, rabbis, and educators, perform rabbinic placement, nurture emerging congregations, connect Progressive Jews worldwide, and identify, engage, and support the next generation through youth and young adult programs.

And just as we have learned to care about Israel and the Jews there, true *Klal Yisrael* means we must care about Jews everywhere – in Argentina, Australia, Sweden, South Africa, and even in Cambodia. Would you be surprised to learn there is a small group there who meet for Erev Shabbat services once a month in someone's home? Or that a Cambodian woman is receiving conversion lessons from a WUPJ rabbi living in Hong Kong via SKYPE? See what I mean? We are *all* connected.

If you are interested in learning more about WUPJ or congregations to visit on your next travel abroad, go to wupj.org. Here at Rodeph Sholom, we try to bring World Jewry closer to our own community. Perhaps we could provide a scholarship for a child to attend summer camp in the Former Soviet Union or create "twin b'nai mitzvah" by connecting a CRS bar/bat mitzvah with one abroad. You could help develop these ideas. Or do you have other ideas? Please call the temple office at 212.362.8800 to leave a message for me, Nancy Solomon. I look forward to continuing our *Klal Yisrael* conversation.



WELCOME TOBIAS GLASER, CANTORIAL INTERN

Toby Glaser grew up in Melbourne, Australia. He studied Music History at the University of Melbourne and studied singing in Australia and Berlin, performing with the Victorian Opera, Melbourne Lyric Opera, and Melbourne Chorale. A cantorial soloist at reform synagogues in Australia, he pursued his passion for Jewish music at Hebrew Union College first in Jerusalem, now here in NY. He sang as Cantorial Soloist at Greenwich Reform Synagogue in CT and East End Temple in Manhattan and is currently a teacher at Central Synagogue, Temple Shaaray Tefila, and the Jewish Community Project Downtown. Now a New Yorker enjoying the City's museums and concerts, Toby adds his voice and energy to our temple and we give him a warm welcome. Please stop by the Cantors' suite to introduce yourself.

MAZEL TOV TO THE RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS!

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

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

A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

I N M E M O R I A M

Lauren Finster, wife of Victor Finster, mother of Lowell, Madeleine and Reid

Maurice Kalman, grandfather of Tamara Sloan

Lois Friedman, mother of Michael Friedman

Norma Tinkoff, mother of Wendy Tinkoff

Edward Sperling, father of Ted Sperling

Dorothy Arnsten, wife of Lawrence Arnsten,

mother of Dr. Julia Arnsten and Paul Arnsten

John Paulino Jr., father of Ethan and Trey Paulino

Fred Gordy, father of Molly Gordy

Joseph Wolf, father of David Wolf

Susan Feinberg, mother of Elizabeth Scheffrin

Eileen Matis, mother of Nina Matis

Irwin Geduld, brother of Buzzy Geduld

David Solomon Sr., father of David Solomon

Kenneth Weinberg, husband of Joan Dowling Weinberg

Paul Wolfman, brother of Bonnie Glasky

Jack Wolfe, uncle of Melinda Wolfe

Jack Elias, father of Mark Elias

Dr. Mark Andrew Kamil, brother of Flo Dessen

Steven Zismor, father of Brad Zismor

Alan Goldberg, brother of Joan Strauss

Sidney Scheinfeld, father of Steven Scheinfeld

Dorothy Raich, mother of Wendy Biderman

Martha Schessel, mother of Harry Schessel

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5778

Information regarding Services, seating and activities for the 5778 High Holy Days will be mailed in late-June. If you are thinking about changing your seating location to the Main Sanctuary it is not too early to contact the membership office with your request. Please email membership@crsnyc.org or call 646.454.3055 today! Please take note of the following dates:

Saturday Evening, September 16	Selichot
Wednesday, September 20	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 21	1 st Day of Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 22	2 nd Day of Rosh Hashanah
Friday Evening, September 29	Kol Nidre
Saturday, September 30	Yom Kippur

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DRIVE
THIS SUMMER**
SEE PAGE 6

OUR EREV SHABBAT AND
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
CONTINUE THROUGHOUT
THE SUMMER.

**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE
FOR DETAILS ON EVENTS
AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS
HAPPENING THIS SUMMER!**

Go to rodephsholom.org.

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 and entering our 175th year, 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
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
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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Beth Rubin Chair, Sisterhood Steering Committee
Rachel Markowitz Sr. Youth Group President

The Chronicle

Yvette Perry Editor