

# THE CHRONICLE

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## PROMISED LANDS | Rabbi Juliana S. Karol



Buried in the footnotes of our siddur, *Mishkan Tefila*, is a reflection on the sustained cycles of redemption in our lives. “Every day, said the rabbis, we are sold into slavery; every day we are delivered; and every day we experience the miraculous as real as at the Sea.”<sup>1</sup> We all have moments when we feel shackled by schedules and obligations, and hopefully, these burdens of

responsibility are alleviated by a task accomplished, an expression of gratitude, or a sense of camaraderie with our families, colleagues, and communities. Beyond these rhythms of stress and solace, our rabbis remind us to notice a flower blooming, a child laughing, or two New Yorkers helping one another on the subway. In short, the small wonders so easily camouflaged in our wild world.

If we peer at our lives not through the lens of quotidian experience, but with an eye toward chapters and phases, the rabbis’ wisdom endures. In the summer months, we find ourselves trekking through the desert in *Bemidbar* (Numbers) and *Devarim* (Deuteronomy). The Israelites, marching toward the Promised Land, must coalesce as a people around the shared values and traditions of their emergent faith: sacrifices to God, rules for how to treat one another, directions for building and breaking down the *mishkan* (sacred tabernacle), to name a few. For five rigorous years, I have identified easily with our ancestors, striving for a dream but feeling all too often like I was nowhere close to achieving it. I worked diligently to master Hebrew and trope, explored our liturgy and law, wrestled with my own theology and others’, and fulfilled a boatload of requirements on the skill-building journey toward *smicha* (“laying of hands”).

...the minute we reach one Promised Land we find ourselves in the darkness of its untrodden territory, forced to start over once again.”

This spring, my efforts and those of so many who nurtured, counseled, and taught me culminated in the extraordinary ritual of ordination, in which I received the blessing, the mandate, and the sacred charge of “Rabbi.” From one vantage point, I had reached my Promised Land. But as the rabbis remark, every day we experience the full orbit of deliverance; the minute we reach one Promised Land we find ourselves in the darkness of its untrodden territory, forced to start over once again. Uncertainty shares in common with slavery a profound sense of vulnerability. In the beginning, *bereshit*, the unknown overwhelms us like the *tohu va’vohu*, the unformed void of what has not yet become. But being “sold into slavery” is really a rhetorical device

to capture the universal dread of being new and of being unsure. We might translate the rabbis’ words into slightly more relatable language: “Every day we are scared of what we lack; every day we discover deep reservoirs of capability; and every day we prove the miracle of human transformation.”

Congregation Rodeph Sholom has conferred upon me the blessing of serving as your rabbi. I feel in many ways that I have reached my Promised Land – a vibrant community where lay-clergy partnership produces beautiful worship, innovative programming, and devoted service to our city and beyond. I look forward to evolving into the mature thinker and pastor you expect to walk alongside you through life cycles of celebration and loss, grief, and gratitude. It is scary to be new, and to be unsure of what lies ahead. But I am certain that we will discover together how deep we can dive and how far we can strive as co-constructors of sacred community.

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This summer we will uncover latent themes in High Holy Day worship in my course on the poetry of our *machzor* (see Page 4) and in the year ahead we will tread upon new ground as we explore death and dying in our What Matters initiative. With the completion of our robust renovation project, we will sanctify our new spaces together; and through our thriving Minyanim, new social technologies will take us beyond the synagogue building.

I am honored to begin my career dreaming with you about the Promised Lands that lay ahead of us. You have guided me as an intern for three years, gently steering me toward strength as your teacher and your student. I thank you for your investment in me and enter this new chapter comforted that we will march into the unknown together, singing, breathing, and searching for the wonder that will light our way forward.

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Bronstein, *Mishkan Tefila*, p. 123.

### PROJECT MOVING ON TIKKUN OLAM IN ACTION

Project Moving On is moving on after a 32-year successful run at CRS. Beginning in 1986, as an affiliate of Women In Need, we have helped approximately 3,650 families, women and their children, begin life anew in their own apartments, with gifts of food and kitchen items, books, toys and children’s clothing. Heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers, donors, and CRS staff who made the program a success! Please do not drop off any further donations for this program.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Barbara Zakin



The year is coming to a close and summer is around the corner – a good time to consider and celebrate the many engaging events held here at CRS. Along with fresh new adult programming, social action initiatives, and shared song and prayer, there were many inspiring programs and special events. *Here is a sampling.*

### A YEAR OF FIRSTS

We launched *Minyan*, small groups connecting and creating community over similar interests and passions. Topics ranged widely from *Exploring Documentaries*; *Whiskey, Wine and Wondering*; to *Renewing Spirituality*. Over 200 congregants joined a Minyan this year, and we plan to expand this popular initiative in the fall.

*Singin' Swingin' Shabbat* debuted, a fun-filled clergy-led Saturday morning Shabbat service for our littlest members, complete with interactive Torah reading, art, and social action activities for little hands.

Through our innovative collaboration with *Tablet*, the leading Jewish online magazine, we produced events such as the *Unorthodox* podcast with food writer Mark Bittman, an evening with Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan, and Rabbi Levine talking with literary critic Adam Kirsch on what he learns from reading a page of Talmud every day.

### A YEAR OF CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

Rabbi Weitzman and Lyndsie Levine led 25 congregants on an intergenerational family trip to Israel in August, with participants from age 7 to 76. Stay tuned for our next trip in August 2019!

The Sanctuary was full to bursting last fall when Lior Raz, star and creator of *Fauda*, spoke about the Israeli television show and teased us with possible plot lines for Season 2.

Israeli wines were sampled and Israeli delicacies were indulged in (*think artisanal cheeses, award-winning chocolates, and a delicious eggplant-date-tahini appetizer*) at our Vine and Fig event.

The Brotherhood Film Festival featured two Israeli films. *Follow Me: The Yoni Natanyahu Story* focused on the Israel Defense Forces officer who led an elite commando unit during Operation Entebbe. *Live and Become*, about

*Top: Chopping veggies at the Vine and Fig Tree; Sample the Food and Wine of Israel event; Bottom: Noshing at the Brotherhood Film Festival*

an Ethiopian boy airlifted to Israel, dealt with ethnic and religious identity and the pain of exile. And there were delicious treats from 2nd Avenue Deli (of course!).

Sisterhood's *Inspiring Women of the Congregation Annual Luncheon* was devoted to Israeli women's perspectives.

The Israel Committee, through congregant donations, will be granting over \$34,000 in support of two organizations – Eshel Hanasi Regional High School in Be'er Sheva to build bomb shelters, as well as a tutoring and mentoring program overseen by Congregation YOZMA, the Reform congregation in Modi'in.

We explored the beauty of contemporary Israeli and Palestinian poetry, bringing light and warmth on a cold January evening.

Hearing the works of the Israeli composers featured at the March Chamber Music concert were a revelation to many of us.

Israeli music ensemble Nava Tahilah was our Spring Shabbaton artist-in-residence, when we celebrated Rabbi Spratt and Cantor De Lowe's 10th anniversaries at CRS.

### A YEAR OF GROWTH

Sisterhood's Days for Girls program, now in its second year of operation, blossomed into a large and nationally recognized program (see Page 5).

We had the largest CRS delegation ever at the URJ Biennial, and the second largest delegation in North America!

Our Adult B'nai Mitzvah program has been reimagined into an 18-month program featuring a Hebrew boot camp, a course on cantillation, and a year of study that began in the spring. Join us when more than 20 people become b'nai mitzvah on June 15, 2019.



*Aging Symposium clockwise: Stephanie Lasher, Shari Steinberg, Betsy Lichtenstein, Deedee Friedman, Arlene Rosen*

We expanded our Symposium on Aging which brought in more than 100 people eager to learn more about planful aging, including advance care planning, ethical wills, caring for yourself while caring for others, and planning for those without children or other family members.

Looking back, it was a wonderful year. We discovered new programs and enjoyed the comfort offered by familiar and beloved programs and annual events. Book Group, Mah Jongg, concerts, adult courses, marching together on 5th Avenue in the Israel Parade – different interests that bring congregants together to make CRS the joyous, supportive place it is. So what's next you wonder? We are busily planning many more programs for next year. In the meantime, we hope you will join us for the installation of our new Assistant Rabbi Juliana Karol on October 12. Thank you for making this a fabulous year!

## CRS WELCOMES RABBI JULIANA S. KAROL

**Installation | Friday, October 12**  
**Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM**



Join us to give a warm welcome to our new Assistant Rabbi, Juli Karol. Our Rabbinic Intern for the past three years, she was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She brings us not only her joyous spirit, but also her valuable experience working in the bedrock of our movement that includes the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Union for Reform Judaism, and HUC-JIR. Come and meet Juli, her husband Adam, and their son Joshua as we wish her *Yasher Koach!*

## Thank You, Marty!

Marty, as you end your presidency of the Congregation Rodeph Sholom Board of Trustees, a few words of appreciation that distill sentiments from clergy, Trustees, congregants, and staff.

You have been a visionary leader and our synagogue has accomplished so much under your presidency these past four years. We have rebooted our Confirmation program, including a capstone trip to Berlin; re-imagined the Family B'nai Mitzvah Program to add richness, meaning, and connection; celebrated our 175th anniversary with spectacular events; dealt with the need for increased security to include uniformed off-duty NYPD; and began executing a strategic plan to strengthen our synagogue for future generations with investments in our physical plant, programming, and endowment.

The congregation's professional staff and clergy have seen firsthand how you have been open to innovation and are a sounding board for guidance. We know that as Chairman of the Board you will not be a stranger and we look forward to your continuing our work together on behalf of CRS. Your unwavering commitment to this congregation's mission of Jewish continuity has been inspiring and will serve as a springboard to our future.

(Martin Flumenbaum served as President of the Board of Trustees from 2014 to 2018.)

## 19TH ANNUAL LGBTQIA+ PRIDE EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, June 22, 6:00 PM

A service celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community of Rodeph Sholom



"All Israelites are responsible for one another." (Talmud Sanhedrin 27b) Everyone is welcome to join us for this special Pride service celebrating diversity and inclusion. CRS's mission statement states that we are "a welcoming spiritual community." With joyous music and inspiring prayer, together we will welcome Shabbat in a warm and embracing service.

We are delighted to have Rabbi Camille Angel as guest speaker. An esteemed past CRS rabbi, she is an innovative, award-winning Jewish educator; a writer on creative liturgy, Judaism, and women; and an impassioned advocate. Rabbi Angel served as senior Rabbi at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco for 15 years.

There is awareness, outreach, and support for the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community within these walls and outside them in our neighborhood. June may be designated as Pride Month, but here at CRS we honor it throughout the year. Cynthia Ozick wrote, "To want to be what one can be is purpose in life." Indeed, something worth celebration!

"My house shall be a house of prayer for all."

(Isaiah 56:7)

## ISRAEL COMMITTEE

### ISRAEL COMMITTEE SELECTS NEW PROJECT | Arnold Bressler

Each year the Israel Committee chooses two projects in Israel to receive donations from the CRS community, one within the Reform movement in Israel and one more broadly focused. The selection process alternates each year so that, in effect, each project receives two years of support. Congregants participate primarily through the dues checkoff line in the annual bill entitled ARZA/Israel Committee Tzedakah Project. Of course, additional individual gifts are also very much appreciated.

At its March 8th meeting, the Committee chose **HaSharon Rape Crisis Center**, founded in 1984, which will use the funding to expand its support groups and text messaging hotline, which are particularly important for the younger generation and the hard of hearing community. HaSharon Rape Crisis Center is dedicated to serving survivors of sexual violence with practical and emotional support. It is the only rape crisis center in the Sharon region, which is the coastal area north of Tel Aviv and includes the city of Netanya. It provides comprehensive free services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including a 24-hour hotline, online-chat support, individual and group counseling, and legal advocacy. These services are provided to victims, their families, friends, and all those whose lives have been affected by sexual violence.

HaSharon Rape Crisis Center was chosen from among a dozen candidates following a careful review over a five month period by the Committee members. The first contribution will be sent in early spring 2019. This project

replaces the Eshel Hanasi Agricultural School and Youth Village near Gaza, which used the money to construct bomb shelters. Here is a picture of the dedication sign on one of the shelters.



We will also continue to support, for an additional year, Kehillat YOZMA's **Tutoring and Mentoring Program**. The Reform congregation of YOZMA, located in Modi'in, sponsors an after-school program for children between 1st and 12th grades from economically challenged backgrounds. With an average of 40 students per class in Israeli schools, there is a significant risk of students falling through the cracks if they do not receive supplemental one-on-one tutoring.

The Israel Committee is dedicated to strengthening our Congregation's understanding of and relationship with Israel, through Congregational trips, speakers, films, special events and participation in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade. By contributing to organizations in Israel we not only strengthen them and our relationship with them, but, more importantly, contribute to the overall strengthening of Jewish Life and, in particular, Reform Jewish life in Israel. Next fall the Israel Committee's Tzedakah subcommittee will begin the process for choosing our next recipient. We invite all congregants to participate in that process.

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

## SAVE THE DATES

**Friday, June 1, 5:00 pm: RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHUL-IN OVERNIGHT.** For 4th and 5th graders in the Schafler, Eisner, and Board Room.

**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 Religious School HS Graduates.

**Sunday, June 3, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm: ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. HONORING ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY.** See below.

**Monday, June 4, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS.** Contact: [sisterhood@crsnyc.org](mailto:sisterhood@crsnyc.org).

**Thursday, June 7, 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. Would you like to join our spirited conversation? It is self-moderated and we meet at the Synagogue. Contact: [bookgroup@crsnyc.org](mailto:bookgroup@crsnyc.org).

**Tuesday, June 12, 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. Sponsored by Sisterhood. Contact: [lunchtogether@crsnyc.org](mailto:lunchtogether@crsnyc.org).

**Thursday, June 14, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG.** Novices and veteran players are all welcome! Cards will be available for purchase. In the Board Room. Next dates: Thursdays, July 12 and August 9. RSVP: [mahjongg@crsnyc.org](mailto:mahjongg@crsnyc.org).

**Friday, June 15, 10:00 am: RSS ANNUAL 8TH GRADE GRADUATION SERVICE.** See Page 9.

**Friday, June 22, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/LGBTQIA+ PRIDE SERVICE.** See Page 3.

**Monday, June 25, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm: FIRST DAY OF SUMMER CAMP.**

**Sunday, July 22, 6:30 pm: TISHAH B'AV SERVICE.** In the Hahn. See below.

### ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

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

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!** 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)

### TISHAH B'AV SERVICE

**Sunday, July 22, 6:30 PM**

Tishah B'Av, observed on the ninth of Av, is considered to be the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. Although the holiday traditionally commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples, Reform Judaism observes the date in memory of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. And in particular to mourn the 6,000,000 Jews who perished in the Holocaust. We read the Book of Lamentations and consider how we can contribute to *tikkun olam*. That by observing Tisha B'Av it becomes a call to action, such as our support for immigration reform in honor of the Diaspora caused by exile and tragedy. In fact, early Reform Jews viewed the destruction of the Temple and the subsequent Diaspora as an opportunity to fulfill Judaism's mission of being "a light unto the nations."

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

### Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Friday, 12:00–1:30 pm | June 8

*A contemplative approach to our texts. This lunchtime class is a personal and participatory learning experience with poetry and song.*  
Register: [adulted@crsnyc.org](mailto:adulted@crsnyc.org).

### Jewish Basics 2.0

Rabbi Greg Weitzman

Monday, 7:00 pm | June 11

*For those who converted within the last five years and want to deepen your understanding of Jewish life and practice.* Register: [rodephsholom.org/Judaism-essentials](http://rodephsholom.org/Judaism-essentials).

## SUMMER ADULT PROGRAMMING

### Shema Koleinu: Poetry of the High Holy Days

Rabbi Juliana Karol | Tuesdays, 6:30 pm

July 17 and August 7

*Join our new Assistant Rabbi Juli Karol in exploring the poetry of our High Holy Day machzor Mishkan HaNefesh. Our new Reform liturgy uses contemporary and ancient verse to help us connect into the themes of our Yamim Nora'im. In two sessions we will dive into texts that enrich and deepen our worship at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.*  
Register: [adulted@crsnyc.org](mailto:adulted@crsnyc.org).

## CALLING ALL YOUNG FAMILIES!



This summer, celebrate Shabbat at two Friday evening Young Family Dinners on July 20 and August 10, 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Tell someone who is expecting about our New Moms Group that starts July 11.

**New classes this Fall include** Shabbat and Play, Mama and Baby Yoga Together, Messy Art Together, Making Jewish Music Together

and PJ Library Drop-In Story Time. These activities will be held in the newly renovated 5th floor! Learn more and register at [rodephsholom.org/youngfamilies](http://rodephsholom.org/youngfamilies).

## HIGH HOLY DAYS 5779

Information regarding Services, seating, and activities for the 5779 High Holy Days will be mailed in mid-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](mailto:membership@crsnyc.org) or call 646.454.3055 today!

**Saturday Evening, September 1**

Selichot

**Sunday, September 9**

Erev Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, September 10**

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Rosh Hashanah

**Tuesday, September 11**

2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Rosh Hashanah

**Tuesday, September 18**

Kol Nidre

**Wednesday, September 19**

Yom Kippur

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS AT [RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG](http://RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG)

## SISTERHOOD AWARDED A 2018 GOLD OR AMI “LIGHT OF MY PEOPLE” AWARD

Hilary Steinman and Beth Rubin

Established in 1973, the Women of Reform Judaism Or Ami “Light of My People” Award recognizes exemplary social justice, community service, and educational programming that serves as model for other WRJ Districts and Sisterhoods.

CRS Sisterhood was awarded the Gold Or Ami Award for our Days for Girls Volunteer Project. In addition, Hilary Steinman, our Sisterhood Steering Committee Social Action Head, was invited to speak on a “Power of Partnerships” panel at the WRJ Fried Leadership Conference in Nashville. There was a great deal of interest generated by Hilary’s discussion about our program.

CRS Sisterhood volunteers monthly with Days for Girls, a grassroots non-profit that creates reusable feminine hygiene kits for women and girls living in poverty worldwide, including New York City. Without these kits, women and girls would miss five days of work and school each month because they cannot afford feminine hygiene products. CRS congregant and Days for Girls volunteer, Wendy Tinkoff, suggested the organization as a partnering opportunity to CRS Sisterhood.

For the past three years, Days for Girls has been an ongoing monthly volunteer event for Sisterhood. Our program is typically held the first Monday of each month in partnership with The Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy. This event not only focuses on social justice and community service, but also serves to build community with our neighbors at the Church. All are welcome!



*Award presentation: Blair Marks, Beth Rubin, Rabbi Marla Feldman, Susan Bass, Hilary Steinman, Sara Charney (left to right)*



## EQUAL MEANS EQUAL | Dina Bakst and Beth Rubin

Sisterhood piloted a Women’s History Month event in March which was open to all. A documentary, *Equal Means Equal*, was screened which shows how women are treated in our country today, by highlighting women’s stories and discussing legal cases focusing on workplace harassment, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, sex trafficking, pay inequality, reproductive rights, the foster care system, healthcare and the judicial system. The film calls for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Post-film, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer spoke about the fight for women’s rights in addition to the school walkout that day, and a panel discussion followed. The panel featured leaders on the front lines of fighting for women’s reproductive rights, health and economic security. In addition to discussing these issues, the panel also spoke to the Mayor’s and the Governor’s agendas. Our moderator was Dina Bakst (Trustee and former RSS mom), Co-Founder and Co-President, A Better Balance. The panel included Lori Cohen (congregant and former RSS mom), Attorney, Sanctuary for Families (expert on sex trafficking and domestic violence); Kai Falkenberg, Attorney for Mayor’s office (spoke to Mayor de Blasio’s women’s initiatives around sexual harassment and more); Sarah Brafman, Attorney, A Better Balance (expert on reproductive justice issues/equal pay, sexual harassment, and Governor Cuomo’s women’s agenda); and

Dr. Brigitte Alexander, Head of North Central Bronx Hospital Sexual Assault Program (expert on the critical importance of emergency contraception for assault victims and the widespread nature of the problem).

Although the film highlighted many issues with respect to women’s rights, our panel of empowered women discussed initiatives that are being worked on to influence legislative change to make a difference for individual women, and all women.



*Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Sara Brafman, Kai Falkenberg, Dina Bakst, Dr. Brigitte Alexander, Lori Cohen (left to right)*

“The only thing that is going to save mankind is if enough people live their lives for something or someone other than themselves.”

– Leon Uris, QB VII

## DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

One of the things I love most about working in a synagogue is that it's a place where we can ask the big questions. One that I ask myself frequently is *"What is Rodeph Sholom's value proposition for our congregants and for the broader community?"* Put differently, *"What's so special about CRS? Why should you belong and, on top of that, why should you make it a philanthropic priority?"*

I'll assume that if you are reading this article, you've already bought into the idea of synagogue membership. Maybe it's something that your family always prioritized, maybe you're invested in giving your children a Jewish education, maybe you've experienced a transformative life cycle event here, or maybe it's one of many other explanations I've heard from our congregants. For me, it's the idea that our synagogue is uniquely positioned to address the most daunting questions and trends of modern society. Let me explain.

Someone very smart recently said to me, *"If you see a problem out in the world, don't walk away and let someone less qualified solve that problem for you, because someone inevitably will. Be the solution."*

In today's world we are constantly bombarded by choices and information, and our society has never been as advanced or well-educated. At the same time we are experiencing high rates of loneliness, disconnectedness, and lack of meaning. It's a problem, and people are seeking solutions. People want experiences and relationships that make life fulfilling and they are finding it in yoga studios, art classrooms, and community centers. But while your gym or the soup kitchen where you volunteer might offer human interaction and a feeling of belonging, they lack something special that you'll find at CRS – something *sacred*.

Our community is a vehicle for meaning, not just because of the relationships we form here, but because of the *sacred and ritual nature of those relationships*. We are bonded together not just because we live in the same neighborhood, or share the same values for social justice, or have similar interests. We are bonded together by rich tradition and by the sacred notion of a shared peoplehood. It's why you might be moved to tears by a prayer you barely understand, and it's what I believe makes us most qualified as an institution addressing the problems posed by today's rapidly changing world.

So what does this all have to do with development? It comes back to the big question I keep asking myself, the one about our value to you, our congregants, and the broader community. I believe that in an isolating and sometimes scary world, CRS is offering a **space to find the sacred**. And your support through your Yom Kippur Appeal *tzedakah* is what makes that possible. While dues cover about half of our operations, your gift provides

for programs like Minyan, which creates small group communities to make this big place feel smaller. Your gift supports our incredible clergy team who lift us up when we need it most. Your gift makes it possible for us to open our doors to any person in the community regardless of their ability to pay membership dues.

When you receive your Yom Kippur Appeal solicitation in the coming weeks, I hope you'll take this appeal to heart and contribute at a level that you find meaningful. Together we are the solution.

Wishing you a restful and meaningful summer.

### 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** 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 \$45,000 will cover the shortfall needed for scholarships this year. A gift of \$2,165 will allow one fourth grade child to attend Religious School, including all textbooks, materials, snacks, and special family programs.

**High Holy Day Childcare** This is offered 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 the High Holy Day period.

Please contact Lyndsie Levine, Director of Development, at 646.454.3050 or [llevine@crsnyc.org](mailto: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 mid-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 3 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 **2018 Yom Kippur Appeal**. To make a contribution, please visit [rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal](http://rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal) after July 1 or mail a check to CRS with "YKA 2018" 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](mailto:llevine@crsnyc.org).

### VOLUNTEER FOR MITZVAH WEEKEND IN THE FALL

Friday through Sunday, October 26–28

Mark your calendar for CRS Mitzvah Day Weekend! On Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning, we will be inspired by our clergy and special guest speakers to consider our Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, *gemilut chasadim*, and *tzedakah* – to give our time to help others. On Sunday, Mitzvah Day is a day of social action to help those in need in our local community. Along with hundreds of fellow CRS members of all ages, together we will support meaningful charities hands-on and participate in a variety of projects. These include bag lunch prep and crafts for the homeless and elderly, a morning at the Jewish Home and Hospital where we will connect with residents through song and pet visits, community garden clean up, and many more.

We can make a difference. Register!  
The Mitzvah Weekend brochure is on the website.  
Contact: 646.454.3122 or [mitzvahday@crsnyc.org](mailto:mitzvahday@crsnyc.org)

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE CRS FOOD DRIVE

Joanna Kapner

Twice a year the Social Action Committee seeks your donations to the CRS Food Drive. Despite an improved economy, the need for food assistance keeps growing while government support declines. At the Federal level, the SNAP (food stamp) program is facing cutbacks. Here in New York City, food banks and soup kitchens struggle to fill their shelves. Our CRS Food Drive supports a number of West Side programs that strive to ease the pain of hunger and poverty. But we can only succeed with your help.

Please consider sending a check to Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024, with "Food Drive" on the memo line. Or you may donate online through the CRS website.

## Religious School

### SIYUM – WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? | Religious Education & Youth Team

In Judaism we mark the end of a unit of Talmudic study, or any sacred book, with a *siyum* which means conclusion. The most important thing about a *siyum*, besides the feast (*there always needs to be a festive meal!*), is to share with others what you have learned. This year two new staff members joined us. Then there are those of us who have been at CRS upward of twelve and nineteen years. Yet we all equally faced each day amazed that

*I have learned that my staff and our community of teachers, students, and parents are resilient. That Religious School was able to run and function smoothly during the construction this year is a real testament to the dedication and commitment to Jewish education that defines the CRS community.* **Kerith Braunfeld, Director**

*An unexpected but pleasant learning for me this year was when we invited some parents to meet with teachers to share why they send their children to Religious School and what their children like about the program. The teachers were inspired by how much the parents cared, and the parents were amazed to see the number of staff and meet their child's teachers face to face.* **Marcia Stein, Senior Associate Director**

*This year was filled with growth and new experiences, and I feel that I learned so much from our Religious School community. I found immense joy watching students who may seem to be complete opposites develop friendships with one another and continue to build upon those relationships as the year went on. I hope to help foster more of these connections in the coming year.* **Jessica Cohen, Assistant Director**

*As youth professionals we learn so much in the most unexpected times and places, especially during our one-on-one interactions with our students. You know what they say, "Kids say the darndest things," but our kids say some really meaningful and wonderful things, in both serious and crazy times, words that made us think and some that made us laugh.* **Dina Newman, Associate Director of Youth Engagement**

we continue to learn and be taught anew by our co-workers, clergy, teachers, parents, and students. It reminds us of the quote from *Pirkei Avot*, "Who is wise? One who learns from all."

As our own personal version of a *siyum* to close out this year (*you'll need to stop by my office to get the feast part – Hershey kisses of course!*), we wanted to share with you reflections of some of what we learned this year.

*In my first year, I have learned the power of connection: with teens and embracing their passion for tikkun olam; with my colleagues and mentors who gave me support and confidence to succeed; and with everyone in our CRS community who welcomed me with open arms and truly made me feel at home.* **Dan Strauss, Assistant Director of Teen Engagement**

*As our Family B'nai Mitzvah Program expanded, I had the opportunity to get to know many of our families on an individual level and better understand how valuable a personal connection is in guiding our students through this sacred journey.* **Rachel Dulitz, Family B'nai Mitzvah Program Administrator**

*Thinking about the past year, I have a much deeper appreciation for our building staff. Running school during construction couldn't be possible without their help. It truly does take a village.* **Deborah Roldan, Religious Education & Youth Office Coordinator**

*I'm responsible for setting up for family programs. I learned that it's so fulfilling to see a program come alive for parents and students from the basics of a set-up and material list.* **Jordan Bland, Religious Education & Youth Administrative Assistant**

At the end of each year, we ask our teachers to reflect upon what they hope their students will take from this year into the next year with them. Now we ask you: *What have you learned this year? What will you take with you?* We can't wait to hear your answers when we're back in the fall. Have a safe and wonderful summer break!

## Rodeph Sholom School

### RSS CLASS OF 2018 HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Rodeph Sholom School is proud of our 8th graders' success in the high school placement process:

- Over 90% of students who applied to independent schools were accepted by one of their top three choices.
- Of the 14 students who applied to tested public schools, 12 received offers, including 10 who were accepted at their first choice.
- The class collectively received acceptances at 31 independent

schools, averaging three acceptances per student.

The Class of 2018 continues the reputation of RSS alumni as outstanding citizens and scholars in their new schools in the fall. We congratulate our 8th graders on their acceptances to the following independent day schools, boarding schools, and public schools:

The Abraham Joshua Heschel School  
Avenues: The World School  
Bard High School Early College  
The Beacon High School  
The Berkeley Carroll School  
The Birch Wathen Lenox School  
The Bronx High School of Science  
Brooklyn Friends School  
Brooklyn Technical High School  
The Browning School  
The Calhoun School  
Collegiate School

Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School  
The Dalton School  
Dwight School  
Dwight-Englewood School  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School  
Elisabeth Irwin High School  
Ethical Culture Fieldston School  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts  
Friends Seminary  
Grace Church School  
Hackley School  
Harvest Collegiate High School

The Hewitt School  
High School of American Studies at Lehman College  
The High School for Math, Science and Engineering at City College  
Horace Mann School  
Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts  
The Lawrenceville School  
The Loomis Chaffee School  
The Masters School  
Millennium High School  
Miss Porter's School

The New York City LAB School for Collaborative Studies  
The Nightingale-Bamford School  
The Packer Collegiate Institute  
Poly Prep Country Day School  
Professional Performing Arts School  
Riverdale Country School  
Saint Ann's School  
Stuyvesant High School  
Trevor Day School  
Trinity School  
York Preparatory School

## WE REMEMBER RABBI AARON PANKEN Z”L



*“He was a remarkable teacher of all ages...”* wrote Rabbi Levine. Rabbi Aaron Panken was Rodeph Sholom family. Serving as our Assistant Rabbi from 1991 to 1995, he was a compassionate counselor and learned mentor. And how proud and full of *naches* we were when he was elected Dean and President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. But the thing to really remember about him was his smile. It reflected all you needed to know – his warmth, his generosity, his engaging spirit. He was a true *mentsch*. A devoted supporter of Reform Judaism, Rabbi Panken has said, *“... it has always symbolized what I consider to be the best of Judaism – firmly rooted in our tradition, yet egalitarian, inclusive of patrilineal Jews and intermarried families, welcoming to the LGBT community, politically active, and respectful of other faiths and ideologies.”* We are sad for our loss, yet are grateful for his unceasing commitment to building a flourishing and enduring Jewish future. Our love goes out to his wife, Lisa Messinger, and children, Eli and Samantha.

*Above: Rabbis Camille Angel, Aaron Panken, and Lisa Grushcow honoring Rabbi Levine's 25th Anniversary at CRS, December 3, 2016.*

*“We often take for granted  
the very things that most deserve  
our gratitude.”*  
(Cynthia Ozick)

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

Irwin Jay Robinson, father of Eve Robinson  
Sarah Ravetz, mother of Jeff Ravetz  
Stanley Hirsch, father of Peter Hirsch  
Milt Cooper, father of Steve Cooper  
Frank Hess, brother of Walter Hess  
Jay Arthur Kobrin, brother of Lawrence Kobrin  
Cecilia Mirkina, mother of Sergei Nodelman  
Alan Hellman, brother of Robert Hellman  
Gary Zaslav, father of David Zaslav,  
grandfather of Jordan Zaslav  
Juliana Uzelac, mother of Nick Uzelac  
Keith L. Sachs, father of Deborah Rothman  
Andrew Unterberg, brother of Craig Unterberg  
Malcolm Chaifetz, father of Larry Chaifetz  
Rita Lichtenstein, wife of Jack Lichtenstein,  
mother of Mark Lichtenstein and Betsy Lichtenstein  
Patricia (Pat) Friedman, wife of Roger Friedman  
Jack Siegel, father of Niccole Kroll  
Stuart Jackson, father of Margot Levy  
Judith Vernikoff, sister of Steven Vernikoff  
Stuart H. Starr, father of Alexandra Starr  
Jacob Lerer, father of Justin Lerer  
Laurence Gardner, brother of Sarah Gardner  
Hilda Kirshner, sister of Arnie Harkavy  
Pearl Newman, mother of Amy Newman  
Stanley Geller, father of Alice Geller  
Millicent S. Jonas, mother of LeeAnn Stern  
Sanford (Sandy) Figdor, father of Drew Figdor  
Morton Peetluk, grandfather of Lyndsie Levine  
Philomena Pucci, mother of Camille Ehrenberg  
Joyce Schnapp, widow of the late Sidney Schnapp  
Charles (Chuck) Rubin, husband of Marcia Rubin,  
father of Gabin Rubin, grandfather of Asher Rubin  
Joseph (Joe) Garber, husband of Judy Garber  
June Frank, mother of Peter Frank  
Irwin Meltzer, father of Roger Meltzer  
Sydell Markowitz, mother of Arlene Markowitz  
Bill Brownridge, father of Larry Brownridge  
Marian Brod, mother of Abbey Rosen  
Harvey Cooper, father of Marci Rothenberg  
Jacques Slesinger, father of Andrew Slesinger

The Rodeph Sholom School and Congregation Rodeph Sholom  
*cordially invite you to attend*

### THE ANNUAL 8TH GRADE GRADUATION SERVICE

Friday, June 15 at 10:00 AM

We are very proud of our Rodeph Sholom School 2018 graduates who are wonderful examples of the legacy of an RSS education.

### Honoring our Graduates:

Adam Avnet	Julia Borodkin	Dylan Gallagher	Maya Nachman	Travis Shapiro
Sophie Barkan	Brian Bosses	Morgan Gates	Maya Nornberg	Sarah Shaw
Jared Bass	Annie Braun	Gabi Goldstein	Jared Orlov	Jayden Siegel
Jordan Benett	Isaac Braunfeld	Sacha Greenberg	Mia Penner	Ari Sussman
Sydney Benett	Natalie Carnoy	Andrew Kalish	Gabriella Richter	Mae Tigay
Brooke Bernstein	Bella De Antoni	Daniela Koplin	Ben Rosenthal	Ariana Topper-
Cole Bernstein	Joshua Feld	Ava Krauss	Daniel Russell	Kroog
Benji Binday	Ozzie Feldman	Josh Lerman	Sophia Sachar	
Daniel Bojmel	Matthew Finger	Ben May	Bradley Schessel	

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**S U M M E R**  
**AT CRS**

**Erev Shabbat and  
Shabbat Morning  
services continue  
throughout  
the summer.**

A brief Kiddush follows  
each service.

**Check out the website  
for details on events and programs.**

**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.



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

- Maxine Borenstein** Head of Middle School Division  
**Peter Ehrenberg** Vice President  
**Leslie Silverstein** Director of Admissions and Financial Aid  
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**Robert Ehrenberg** Vice President  
**Harry Frischer** Vice President  
**Andrea Kretschmer** Vice President  
**David Markus** Vice President  
**Denise Sobel** Vice President  
**Stacy Kanter** Treasurer  
**Judy Gallant** Assistant Treasurer  
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**Janet Neuberger** Honorary President for Life  
**Karen L. Berman** Past President  
**Roger Meltzer** Past President  
**Nancy Solomon** Past President  
**Mark Biderman** Past President  
**Jack Levitt** Past President  
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**Marc Landis** Brotherhood Co-President  
**Brad Zizmor** Brotherhood Co-President  
**Beth Rubin** Chair, Sisterhood Steering Committee  
**Annie Epstein** Sr. Youth Group President  
**The Chronicle**  
**Yvette Perry** Editor