1969 was the year I first arrived in New York City as a Columbia College freshman. Nothing really prepared me for the campus ferment I encountered in the aftermath of protests versus the University administration and in the face of the Vietnam war. Israel, too, was not immune from virulent attack.

In that tumultuous year baseball provided a welcome diversion. Most of you know I am a lifelong Yankees fan, but it was the 1969 Mets who captured the city’s imagination. The Chicago Cubs had been in first place for 156 days, but an eleven game win streak propelled the Mets to an amazing 100 victories and a World Series win over Baltimore. Former marine, Tug McGraw, transitioned from spot starter to relief pitcher and would become a top closer. During the 1973 season McGraw uttered words that would become the Mets’ rallying cry, “Ya Gotta Believe.”

Tug was asking his teammates to look inside in order to pull out their potential. Believe in yourself and you can go far. What an inspiration to his teammates, what an outstanding message for the upcoming High Holy Days.

Judaism provides a spectacular opportunity to rediscover the reason why you were created, to assess your potential, to grow and rebuild your relationship with God and the significant people in your life.

All this is not possible if you don’t believe you are worth it or capable of real growth. If self-regard is the issue, you have to find a way to fall back in love with yourself. Tug was right: “Ya Gotta Believe!”

Such a process probably happened to make the first Yom Kippur possible. The High Priest, Aaron, Moses’s brother, had to engage in a confessional and purification ritual to become spiritually ready to resume his sacrificial duties. The people were depending on him, but Aaron very much was in mourning. His two sons had been killed preparing for their leadership duties. His public response was silence, but he surely must have been in personal and spiritual turmoil.

The whole system of appealing to God on the holiest day of the year depended on his priestly ability. With heavy heart, but great courage, Aaron reached inside, found the belief in self that permitted him to believe in God and find the way to reenter the process of repentance for himself and the entire Jewish people.

Aaron showed the way for us on the eve of these holy days, to find the courage to become the person we yearn to be. As Tug put it so well: “Ya Gotta Believe!”

Gina, Judah, Ezra, Maya, Katie, and Eli join me in wishing you all a fulfilling and blessed 5780.
FROM THE PRESIDENT | Rob Steinman

The beginning of a new year is “a splendid opportunity to enhance our community and connection to each other…” I wrote that in my message to you last year. This congregation, this community is all about connection, especially the connection from generation to generation. Congregation Rodeph Sholom exemplifies the Jewish tradition of L’dor v’Dor: generation to generation.

L’dor v’Dor: The Chronicle was a stalwart in my house growing up. As a boy, I remember The Chronicle sitting on the kitchen counter. It announced the upcoming holidays and many programs and educational opportunities coming up at CRS. Rabbi Hirschberg provided an article full of wisdom. The pages were filled with news and happenings at the Synagogue. Flipping through, we would find the names of our family’s friends and acquaintances and share in their simchas. It is an essential facet of our community still. And now I contribute to it in a dedicated space where I write to you (sometimes from my own kitchen counter!) as your president.

L’dor v’Dor: I am a bar mitzvah and Confirm and of CRS. My mother and grandmother became adult b’n’ot mitzvah here. And through the years, The Chronicle announced them all. This June, it announced two wonderful simchas about my daughters. Lucy became a Confirm and Paulina became a bat mitzvah on our bimah. Hilary and I are proud of them as we are equally proud to add another link in the generational chain. We are grateful to our wonderful Congregation where we were surrounded by family, friends, and fellow congregants in our beautiful sanctuary. Our spectacular clergy prepared them so beautifully. Our wonderful educators taught them the meaning of our incredible traditions. All of which provided Lucy and Paulina the foundation to confidently lead their services, which they did with poise and purpose. Our congregation taught them to love Judaism.

L’dor v’Dor: CRS has survived all these years because of congregants who came before us who provided for the needs of the next generations to come. They moved the congregation to the Upper West Side; and planned and built our magnificent temple and beautiful sanctuary here on West 83rd Street. They established a religious school to provide a first class Jewish education and train the next generations of Jews. The investments of the past enable our generation to plant seeds for the next generation of proud Jews.

The L’Dor V’Dor Campaign: Now it is our turn to provide for future generations. We have started the largest capital campaign in our congregation’s history to secure our success and provide for our future. Our ambitious L’Dor V’Dor Campaign will invest in our facilities, our fiscal sustainability, and our people.

• We have built a wonderful new rabbinic suite for our junior rabbis. We renovated our entire 5th floor with incredible new classrooms, youth lounge, beautiful new chapel, and additional spaces for gathering as a community. We reimagined our lobby, making it more welcoming with a community space where we can gather and showcase our Congregation’s history. And we enhanced our security measures.
• We have created a new program. Sholom Sprouts is our new early childhood initiative to provide families with young children opportunities for learning, music, and connection.
• Through our campaign’s Accessibility Fund, we will keep our promise that Congregation Rodeph Sholom is available to all, regardless of means, and ensure that nobody is ever turned away because of affordability.
• And we will grow our endowment to sustain our congregation’s long term financial stability and leave an important legacy for the generations to come.

We must invest in our people and our future. The campaign’s success to date has been incredibly moving. During our quiet phase over the last two years, we have raised over $19 million of our initial $20 million goal. And we hope to raise much more. I am confident that we will surpass our initial campaign goal and build an even stronger future for Congregation Rodeph Sholom. I hope you will join Hilary and me and the over 250 families who have already made significant pledges. Together we will ensure the future for our next generation. My family wishes you a new year filled with health and happiness, love and peace.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS | Barbara Zakin

A warm welcome to all of our new members! And to all of our returning members, you will find that big changes have happened at Rodeph Sholom over the summer. The renovation of our lobby is complete. You will notice the soaring ceiling, brighter and warmer lighting, a relocated security station, our new community room with soft seating, and two artistic installations that reflect and underscore our core values. The hand-cut mosaic flanking the Sanctuary doors bears the inscription, “Hineh Mah Toy” (“How Good It Is, How Sweet When We Join Together in Community”). The mosaic features a pattern of individual fragments that come together to create Stars of David in colors that echo the Sanctuary – we are individuals, but when we join together, we become a community.

Rodeph Sholom: Our Stories is the new exhibit in our community room. The exhibit will rotate every 6-8 months. Our opening theme is the evolution of our congregational family, from the Lower East Side to the Upper West Side, from Orthodox to Reform, from primarily German Jews to the multicultural and diverse Jewish community we are today. The story of our congregation is ultimately the story of the Reform Jewish journey in America. This multi-media exhibit includes a timeline of our history, oral histories from our members, and photographs and artifacts that illustrate our transformation and evolution over 178 years. Please join us on Monday, September 9 for the Grand Opening of our lobby (see Cover box for details). I look forward to getting to know you. Please reach out to me at bzakin@crsnyc.org.

CRS VISITS

AUSCHWITZ: Not long ago. Not far away.
Rabbi Juliana Karol

In July, I accompanied a group of congregants to the Auschwitz exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

Among the exhibit’s painful array of artifacts was a child’s shoe with a sock tucked inside, which conveyed the heart-wrenching hope of gas-chamber-bound victims who thought they would once again get dressed.

A smaller group met subsequently to discuss their reflections. What overwhelmed so many was the fact that Auschwitz, a universe of horror unto itself, was only one piece of a vast network of destruction aimed at jews, Roma, minorities, the disabled, political prisoners, and others who did not conform to a eugenic Nazi ideal.

No one left the exhibit without noting powerful resonances, in language and tone, to our own day when the other is vilified and dehumanized. Ultimately, the exhibit reminded us of our perennial obligation to never forget and to fight every manifestation of racial and ethnic hatred with all our might.
HIGH HOLY DAYS 5780

Selichot | Saturday, September 21
8:00 pm: Havdalah and Selichot service

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 29
Evening Congregational Service
6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Rosh Hashanah – First Day | Monday, September 30
Family Service (ages 6-12)
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Main Sanctuary (featuring the Children’s Choir)

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

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

Teen Service (Grades 7-12)
9:30 – 10:45 am in the Fifth Floor Event Space

2nd to 6th Grade High Holy Day Experience
10:30 am – 1:45 pm on the Fifth Floor

Congregational Services
11:00 am – 1:45 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel
The Service on 84th Street
11:30 am – 1:30 pm at St. Matthew & St. Timothy’s Church
(26 West 84th Street)

Rosh Hashanah – Second Day | Tuesday, October 1
Congregational Service
9:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary

2nd to 6th Grade High Holy Day Experience
9:30 am – 12:00 pm on the Fifth Floor

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

Tashlich
Following Congregational Services in Central Park

Kol Nidre | Tuesday, October 8
Early Service (Family Friendly)
5:00 – 6:30 pm in the Schafler Forum
or
Evening Congregational Services
7:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel

Yom Kippur Day | Wednesday, October 9
Family Service (ages 6-12)
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Main Sanctuary (featuring the Children’s Choir)

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

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

Teen Service (Grades 7-12)
9:30 – 10:45 am in the Fifth Floor Event Space

Morning Congregational Services
11:15 am – 2:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary, Schafler Forum, and Schnurmacher Chapel
The Service on 84th Street
11:30 am – 1:30 pm at St. Matthew & St. Timothy’s Church
(26 West 84th Street)

Afternoon Congregational Services
3:00 – 4:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Yizkor Services
4:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum

Neilah Services
5:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary and Schafler Forum
Havdalah
6:45 pm in front of the 83rd Street building or in the Schafler Forum

Erev Sukkot | Sunday, October 13
4:00 pm Sholom Sprouts Sukkot for Littles
4:30 pm Sholom Sprouts Sukkah Experience

Sukkot | Monday, October 14
(Time: TBA)
Social Action Project

Erev Simchat Torah | Sunday, October 20
5:00 pm Erev Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret Service

Simchat Torah | Monday, October 21
10:15 am Simchat Torah/Yizkor Morning Service

FOR YOUR SECURITY
Tickets for all services will be scanned. Please bring photo ID.

CHANUKAH HAPPENINGS

LIGHT THE 1ST CANDLE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Friday, December 13
6:00 pm Shir Chadash Erev Shabbat and RSS Middle School Chanukah Service
Chanukah Latke Oneg
Following the joyous Shir Chadash service celebrating the Festival of Lights, join us in the Main Lobby for the Chanukah Latke Oneg. There will be dreidel spinning and delicious latkes!

Saturday, December 14
11:00 am Shireinu Chanukah Service (Schafler)
Prayer, Torah, music, and dreidel spinning! Celebrate Chanukah in an accessible service that is sensitive to all needs with ASL. Open to the entire community and all ages are welcome. In the Schafler.

Sunday, December 15
10:00 am Sholom Sprouts Chanukah Experience (Schafler)
Celebrate Chanukah together! There will be music, crafts, snacks, and most of all fun! (For children 0-5)

Monday, December 16 and Wednesday, December 18
4:00 pm Religious School Chanukah Program
(Schafler and Eisner)

Chanukah Mitzvah
Volunteer to spend a night in the Rodeph Sholom Shelter. Opening Tuesday, October 22, we offer homeless men a clean, safe, and caring temporary home. Spend one or two nights or more. Sign up on VolunteerHub (crsnyc.volunteerhub.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG
SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 5, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome to join these self-moderated discussions at the Synagogue. Our first selection is Catch-22 by Joseph Heller. Next dates are Thursdays, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Would you like to join our spirited conversation? Contact: bookgroup@crsny.org.

Monday, September 9, 6:15 pm: LOBBY GRAND OPENING. Cocktail reception. RSVP: crslobby@crsny.org. (See Cover box.)

Tuesday, September 10, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. There’s great socializing and an engaging presentation, with a dairy lunch. A contribution of $10 is suggested. Next dates are Tuesdays, October 15, November 12, and December 17. RSVP: lunchtogether@crsny.org.

Thursday, September 12, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONG. Novices and veteran players are all welcome! Cards will be available for purchase. On the 5th Floor in Room 12. Next dates: Thursdays, October 10, November 14, and December 12. RSVP: mahjongg@crsny.org.

Thursday, September 12, 6:30 – 8:15 pm: INTERPRETIVE CHALLAH SHAPING with RABBINIC INTERN VANESSA HARPER. Registration required: rodephsholom.org/challah.

Friday, September 13, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Saturday, September 14, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED FOLLOWED BY MINYAN LAUNCH NIGHT.

Friday — Sunday, October 27 – 29: MITZVAH WEEKEND. Join us for our annual weekend of social action. (See this page.)

Friday, November 1, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/CONSECRATION SERVICE.

Thursday, November 7, 1:00 pm and Friday, November 8, 8:00 am: RSS BOOK FAIR. In the Schaffer and Rosenhirsch.

Friday, November 8, 6:00 pm: SHIR CHADASH EREV SHABBAT/ KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE. We commemorate the Night of Broken Glass, November 9, 1938, with candle-lighting.

Saturday, November 23, 12:30 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM. Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble highlighting our Jewish musical heritage. Contact: chambermusic@crsny.org.

Friday, December 6, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/MEYER W. NATHANS SERVICE AWARD SERVICE. Presented annually to recognize individuals for their outstanding contribution of service to CRS and named in honor of Meyer “Mike” Nathans who inspired many leaders to devote their talents to the welfare and wellbeing of our Synagogue.

Friday, December 13, 6:00 pm: SHIR CHADASH EREV SHABBAT/RSS MIDDLE SCHOOL/CHANUKAH SERVICE. Following Services: CHANUKAH LATKE ONEG. In the Main Lobby. (See Page 3.)

Sunday, December 22: FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Our Community Engagement booklet will be available at Yom Kippur services, filled with compelling programs! Here are a few:

Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms
Rabbi Jacqueline Koch Ellenson | Fridays, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
September 27, October 25, November 15, December 20, through June
Through our continued study of Psalms, we discover resources for our life and for our Jewish journey. A perfect preparation for Shabbat, it’s a participatory learning experience with poetry and song. Seekers and learners of all levels are welcome, new and returning students alike.

Hebrew Basics
Melissa De Lowe | Thursdays, 8:45 – 9:45 am
 Begins October 17
Hebrew reading for parents of new Hebrew learners and everyone else who wants to learn! Cost: $72.

One Year After Pittsburgh: The State of Anti-Semitism in Our Country Today
Panel Discussion hosted by Rabbi Robert Levine
Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 pm
Few topics are more upsetting than the rise of anti-Semitism in our country and abroad. What do we do about this troubling situation? Can the worst happen here? What should our level of concern be? Scheduled to appear are U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism Elan Carr; congregant Mark Rowan; and Anti-Defamation League Regional Director Evan Bernstein.

The Yankees and The Mets
Ken Davidoff and Rabbi Robert Levine
Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 pm
Congregant and NY Post baseball writer Ken Davidoff and Rabbi Levine discuss our beloved NY teams. Ken gives an insider view of covering both, and he and Rabbi Levine will dwell on historical themes and future prospects with audience participation.

Modern Loss
Rebecca Soffer and Katherine Rosman
Monday, December 9, 7:00 pm
Rebecca Soffer, author of Modern Loss: Candid Conversation About Grief. Beginners Welcome., talks with NY Times features reporter and congregant, Katherine Rosman, about navigating life after a death. Based on the website founded by Rebecca and Gabrielle Birkner, two friends who experienced sudden loss, and their struggle to find resources that weren’t too clinical, patronizing, or just cheesy, to help us cry, laugh, and grieve. This program is offered under the auspices of CRS What Matters: Caring Conversations About End of Life.

To register: rodephsholom.org/get-involved

MITZVAH WEEKEND 5780
Friday–Sunday, October 25–27
Help us launch a new year of mitzvot at CRS!

• Join us for Erev Shabbat services when we will learn from passionate mitzvah-doers in our own community.

• On Shabbat morning, our youngest mitzvah-mavens are invited to join us for Singin’ Swingin’ Shabbat and Backpack Buddies, and all are invited to a mitzvah-themed Chapel service.

• Saturday evening, we will celebrate Havdalah at West Side Campaign Against Hunger and begin our week by restocking their pantry.

• On Sunday, we will gather together in the morning for a kickoff event followed by numerous mitzvah opportunities within CRS and beyond our walls.

Look for the Mitzvah Weekend pamphlet in the mail and updates in our e-blast.

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

THE CHRONICLE | FALL/WINTER 2019 | 5780

URJ BIENNIAL 2019
DECEMBER 11 - 15 • CHICAGO, IL

If you are interested in being part of our always large and lively CRS delegation, contact Scott Hertz, Engagement and Program Director, at 646.454.3011 or shertz@crsny.org.
Our entire congregation has every right to say a hearty Shehecheyanu as we prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our special needs spiritual community called Shireinu (Our Songs). A number of congregants have said that Shireinu is one of the most important reasons they are proud to be members of our congregation.

Shireinu emerged from a conversation in which Dr. Nancy Crown told Gina Levine that she has a bright, engaging daughter on the autism spectrum who has not felt comfortable coming to services. Our leadership began exploring how we might create an inviting, safe worship experience for people with disabilities. Some wondered if a survey was necessary, but Rabbi Robert Levine decided that if we build it, they would come.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah in 2009 our gifted, sensitive Rabbi Benjamin Spratt along with music maestro Louis Glaser, Rabbi Leora Kaye, sign language interpreters, and volunteers launched our Shireinu holiday services.

We were amazed at the turnout. That day we met “hidden Jews,” members of families who had not come to Rodeph Sholom before because aspects of services made them inaccessible or uncomfortable for people with disabilities. Now, all sat relaxed because Rabbi Spratt made clear that they could worship as they wished, move around at will, and just be themselves.

Through their tears, parents told us that their children had never come near the Torah before, their families never could have a Passover seder. Because of Shireinu their children could reclaim their Jewish identity. One woman wrote: “Really and truly I was blown away. Sitting in your shul gave me renewed hope that there is a place for my son in Judaism, and there is a way to get from here to there.”

For the past ten years, co-chairs Dr. Nancy Crown and Gina Levine and the Shireinu committee have nurtured this program. With Rabbi Spratt and Louie leading the worship services, we have a true Shireinu community with as many as 75-100 people attending. Close to 60 synagogues and churches have reached out to Rabbi Spratt for guidance as to how they might engage their special needs members.

Our program has blossomed. Cantor Shayna De Lowe and Dr. Nancy Crown formed an American Sign Language choir. Cantor De Lowe and Rabbi Spratt have taught our Shireinu children and officiated at seven b’nai mitzvah with two more scheduled. Reflecting on their b’nai mitzvah, Alice commented, “I felt very important and liked seeing my friends in the Sanctuary. Rabbi Ben and Cantor Shayna helped me prepare so I didn’t feel nervous.” Her twin brother James said, “I felt proud because I knew I was a man after reading from the Torah.” Everyone was incredibly moved by their accomplishment.

Two celebrations to mark our 10th year are planned. A special Shireinu Chanukah service and party for our Shireinu community on Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 am, and an Evre Shabbat Integrated Shireinu service and panel discussion for the entire congregation on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 6:00 pm. There we will reflect on how clergy, congregants, and volunteers have been inspired and transformed by their involvement.

Shireinu has permeated synagogue culture, making us more welcoming and aware. Most importantly, our community no longer has “hidden Jews.” They have emerged and found joyful connection at Rodeph Sholom.

Welcome New Trustees to the Synagogue Board

SCOTT BERNSTEIN
Lynn and Scott Bernstein joined CRS twenty years ago when their oldest son was ready for Hebrew school. All three of their children attended Religious School and became b’nai mitzvah at CRS. Scott is a regular at the Shabbat Morning Chapel service and feels a very strong connection here. He is a member of the Ritual Committee, served on the Nominating Committee, and participated in the Leadership Development Program. He is a Partner, General Counsel, and Managing Director at Caxton Associates LP, a trading and investment firm that employs global macro hedge fund strategies. And Scott is an Officer of the Kovner Foundation which helps non-profits promote the arts and education.

CANDICE BRAUN
Candice and her husband Ben joined CRS when they enrolled their children in RSS. Their two oldest graduated from RSS and became b’nai mitzvah at CRS – one is a Confirm and the other will become a Confirm and. Their youngest attends the Religious School. Candice has put her professional skills in community organizing, program development, and fundraising development to good use as a Trustee on the RSS board and as president of the Parents Association. At CRS, she served in the Social Action, Refugee Resettlement Initiative, and CRS/RSS Youth Engagement committees. Candice was a development executive at the UJA-Federation of NY where she focused on major-giving.

ANNETTE ORENSTEIN
Annette and her husband, Steven Polivy, returned to the Upper West Side from Westchester, where they raised their family and were active in their Reform synagogue. At CRS, Annette joined the Social Action committee, volunteered at St. Xavier’s soup kitchen, and was a member of the Israel Minyan. She also participated in the Leadership Development Program. Her long career in the cable TV industry, where she specialized in strategic planning, new product development, and marketing, includes HBO, Showtime, and EPIX. These skills were crucial in the Synagogue Coalition for the Refugee and Immigration Crisis, where Annette now serves as acting co-chair.

To view services live streaming from the Main Sanctuary: rodephsholom.org/livestream
Welcome back! I hope that your summer was restful and renewing as we enter another High Holy Day season at CRS. Here are some important updates from your Development Team:

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL (YKA)
The YKA is our synagogue’s most important annual fundraiser and without it, we would be missing critical funds from our operating budget. Did you know that membership dues only cover about half of our operating costs each year? This means that it is only through the generosity of our community that we can maintain our high-quality education and worship opportunities, support our remarkable clergy team, and reaffirm our commitment to providing dues assistance to any family in need. Your gift makes a difference.

To make your annual gift, visit rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal, send in a check made payable to CRS with YKA 2019 in the memo line, or call 646.454.3052 to add a pledge to your synagogue account.

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To make your annual gift, visit rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal, send in a check made payable to CRS with YKA 2019 in the memo line, or call 646.454.3052 to add a pledge to your synagogue account.

L’DOR V’DOR: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

We hope you were able to join us last May as we kicked off our L’Dor V’Dor Campaign with our special Celebrate CRS Erev Shabbat. Through this campaign, we are making significant investments in our people, our physical plant, and our synagogue’s financial sustainability to address some of the key challenges faced not only by CRS but by Jewish communities all across the country – engagement of young people, security enhancement, affordability of Jewish life, and much more. The campaign is in high gear and we need the full participation of our community to reach our goals. Learn more about the campaign on Monday, September 9 at the Grand Opening of our newly renovated lobby. Cocktail reception begins at 6:15 pm and will include an architectural explanation of key changes to the building. (See Cover box for details.)

To make a gift or multi-year pledge, visit rodephsholom.org/cap or call Lyndsie Levine at 646.454.3050.

MAKING YOUR GIFT BY YEAR-END

If you would like your donation to qualify for a 2019 tax credit, please be sure to make an online gift by midnight on December 31 or send in a check before the end of the year. Any mail postmarked by December 31 will qualify. Please note that the synagogue offices will be closed from December 24 through January 1, so staff will not be available to answer last minute questions. Please leave enough time for transactions to be completed during this busy season!

DID YOU KNOW…

… you can use appreciated stock to make a gift to CRS? By transferring shares directly to Rodeph Sholom you can avoid capital gains tax while making a philanthropic contribution or paying your membership dues. Please note that $2,500 is the minimum gift for a stock transfer. For transfer information, call 646.454.3052 or visit rodephsholom.org/give/ways-to-give and scroll to the end of the page.

… that if you are 70½ or older you can use your IRA to make a tax-free charitable gift to CRS? Once you reach age 70½, you must start withdrawing funds from your IRA – your required minimum distribution (RMD). That amount (or more, up to $100,000) can be sent directly to an organization like Congregation Rodeph Sholom tax-free. Contact your IRA custodian to learn their procedures, and make sure checks are made out directly to CRS. Call Lyndsie at 646.454.3050 with any questions.

MAZEL TOV TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GEMILUT CHASADIM AWARDS

Presented at the 177th Annual Meeting of the Congregation on May 20

Rob Steinman, Ayala Usdin, Nadine Gerber, Molly McDermot

Gabrielle Nealon-Shapiro

Welcome ELLEN CHANG, our new Director of Security for CRS and RSS. Ellen comes to us after 25 years of service in the NYPD, where she rose to the rank of Deputy Chief. As an Inspector, she was the Commanding Officer of the Community Affairs Division where she developed programs for the Immigrant Outreach Unit and LGBT Unit. She initiated and oversaw relief efforts after Superstorm Sandy and got 200 tons of relief supplies to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Among her many awards is the Asian American Bar Association’s Leadership Award. She received her Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College. Coming full circle, she began at the NYPD as a patrol officer in the 20th precinct – our precinct!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING | Yvette Perry

“Let respect for the community always be with you.”

(Talmud)

So many of our fellow congregants help to make our community as great as it is. When asked to serve on the Board, there is even more opportunity to make an impact. A Trustee’s professional skills and insights on temple life are instrumental in furthering our mission and reaching our goals. Their ideas enhance our programs and initiatives, helping us meet the needs of our growing congregation. Thank you, Susan Bram, David Kranich, and Rachel Zweighaft for helping make our community feel welcoming and inclusive. You made a difference. Yasher Koach!
DO LOVE, DO NOT HATE: LOVE YOUR FELLOW PERSON AS YOURSELF

Kerith Braunfeld

“Love your fellow person as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18) When I was first taught this verse, I recall spending a lot of time on the first part, “Love your fellow person.” We focused at that time on how we could be accepting, welcoming, and helpful to others, even if they were different from us. We still teach it this way today. However, it is important that we start paying more attention to the second part of the verse, “…as yourself.” How do we love and honor ourselves? We need to ensure our own physical and mental wellness, be mindful of our emotions and values, and practice self-compassion. It’s not easy. Most prefer to turn our focus outward, rather than facing our own innermost feelings and struggles, but it’s only when we love and honor ourselves that we will truly be able to love and honor others.

This year, to learn how to honor and love ourselves, we will continue to focus on social and emotional learning (SEL), and we will begin to talk overtly about mental health and self-compassion. In addition, we will learn how the values of loving and honoring others (Ohev Zeh et Zeh and Mechubad Zeh et Zeh) are fulfilled by doing deeds of lovingkindness, concerning ourselves with the welfare of others, appreciating the uniqueness and precious qualities of others, not hating in our heart (even those with whom we disagree), and treating all people with dignity.

There is a rabbinic midrash that says the following:

A group of people were travelling in a boat. One of them took a drill and began to drill a hole beneath himself.

His companions said to him: “Why are you doing this?”

Replied the man: “What concern is it of yours? Am I not drilling under my own place?”

Said they to him: “But you will flood the boat for us all!!”

— Midrash Rabbah, Vayikra 4:6

In layman’s terms, we’re all in this boat together. We must practice self-care and compassion first so that we will be strong and resilient enough to love and respect others and begin to right the injustices we see in our world today: to stand up to bullies, to break the stigma around mental illness, to perform the mitzvah of redeeming the captive (Pidyon Shevuyim), to learn to move from viewing the world as filled with either “friends” or “traitors,” and to ensure our children are safe when they are at school, to name a few.

We must be healthy, safe, and secure while ensuring that all those around us are as well. We can no longer remain bystanders, we must become upstanders – we are all connected.

Sholom Sprouts is Rodeph Sholom’s newest initiative for young children and the grown-ups who care for them. We welcome you into our vibrant Jewish community through Shabbat and holiday celebrations, music, art and fun for the whole family. New this fall, join in our Shabbat programming designed just for your 3 to 5-year old!

Our Shabbat and Play is now a drop-in opportunity for families with children 2 and under. You can also enroll your child in a variety of 5-week Growup and Me classes including Baby and Me Infant Yoga, Maccabees in Motion, and Learning Together, all with a Jewish twist. If you are expecting or know someone who is, help spread the word about our New Moms Group which will start in late October. All classes take place on our beautifully renovated 5th Floor.

Upcoming holiday programs include our Sukkot Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 13 and our Chanukah Family Celebration on Sunday, December 15 (see Page 3). Hope to see you there!

Sholom Sprouts connects you with a community!

Register for fall classes at rodephsholom.org/sholomsprouts.
Contact Lisa Schiff: lschiff@crsnyc.org

Rodeph Sholom School

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

For 50 years Rodeph Sholom School has been a place where children are known, valued, and nurtured.

Please join us for a Fall Open House:

Pre-K and Kindergarten: Thursday, October 3
Twos and Threes: Friday, October 4
1st – 8th Grades: Thursday, November 7

To sign up, visit our website at rodephsholomschool.org/admissions or call 646.438.8600 to schedule a tour.

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Danny Karpf

Hirschberg’s grand vision back in 1970 of opening the first Jewish day school in the nation to be founded by a Reform congregation. We remain humbled and indebted for 50 years of superb faculty and staff who have maintained this nurturing school based on Jewish values, meaningful academics, and social responsibility.

I hope you will join me to toast the Rodeph Sholom School community at our 50th Anniversary Shabbat on Friday, April 3 and Jubilee Gala on Wednesday, May 13, 2020!
In April, we welcomed **MELISSA FORSTEIN**, our new B’nai Mitzvah Experience Administrator to our team. Melissa is originally from Cherry Hill, NJ and spent the last 15 years in South Carolina before moving to New York. She is a lawyer by training, a summer camp enthusiast, and an avid theater-goer. She is excited to help you navigate the B’nai Mitzvah process and to act as a liaison between you and the departments within the Synagogue that play a role in this special life cycle event.

Welcome **SCOTT HERTZ**, Engagement and Program Director. At the URJ for 14 years, he was the Founding Director of Communications for Youth, integrating strategy, programs, communications, and fundraising. He was Director of Marketing and Communications at Jewish Community Project Downtown, creating engagement strategies to increase enrollment and implementing programs for outreach and retention. He grew up in Texas and was both a camper and a counselor at URJ Greene Family Camp.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

| Stephanie Abramson, wife of Dr. David Abramson | Jill Karpf, mother of Danny Karpf |
| Sara Burak, grandmother of Asi Burak | Paul Harris, father of Michelle Luft |
| Justine Silverman, daughter of Michael Silverman and the late Yvonne Silverman | Barry Berlin, father of Joyce Horowitz |
| Linda S. Lipay, mother of Gregory and Jeffrey Lipay | “Faye” Florence Schwinder, mother of Steven Schwinder |
| Ruth Mansbach, mother of Robert Mansbach | Lorraine Laighold, mother of Saaron Laighold |
| William Paulson | Dorothy Angerman, mother of Arnie Angerman |
| Dr. Richard A. Ellis, father of Eve Ellis | Linda Baran, mother of Sandra Moss Buzali |
| Paul Kronish, husband of Naomi Kronish, father of Ben Kronish | Rosalie Solow Wolff, mother of Jennifer Wolff |
| Alice Glen, mother of Carol Federer | Harriet Kornreich, mother of Ron Kornreich |
| Barbara Wilshin, mother of Lori Reinsberg | Miriam Schloss, cousin of Wendy Reimer |
| David Fuchs, father of Steven Fuchs | Aviva Schnur, cousin of Rabbi Juliana Karol |
| Rita Berman, mother of Fred Berman | Nava Bibi, cousin of Cantor Rebecca Garfein |
| Karen Mandelbaum, sister of Judith Darr | Edda Servi Machlin, mother of Gia Machlin |

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“**Our Torah commands us, ‘Thou shall not stand idle while thy neighbor bleeds.’**

Our neighbors are bleeding all across the country, and we cannot just stand by …

The rabbis in Pirke Avot teach that we are not expected to finish the work, to entirely solve the problem, but we are not free to desist from it.

**We must not stand by while our neighbor bleeds.**”

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– Rabbi Robert Levine on gun violence
Rodeph Sholom, one of New York’s most distinguished Reform congregations, embodies a strong commitment to purposeful Jewish living and the pursuit of human dignity. Our congregation is a true community, excelling in meaningful worship, educational opportunity for all ages, social and tzedakah programs. We strive to be an extended family of people who care about each other and our community.

Founded in 1842 on the Lower East Side, Rodeph Sholom has always sought to blend the teachings of our Jewish heritage with the best lessons of modern culture. We are proud of our beautiful worship services, our commitment to social action, and our emphasis on Jewish education for people of all ages. Rodeph Sholom was the first Reform congregation to open a Jewish Day School. Our schools, like our congregation, are flourishing. Remaining true to our name which is Hebrew for “pursuer of peace,” Rodeph Sholom takes great pride in our history and is hard at work to fulfill the promise of our future.