

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

MITZVOT FOR ALL SEASONS | Rabbi Juliana S. Karol



During Erev Shabbat services, when I am not leading worship or gazing out at the congregation from my seat, I pray as a liturgical detective. I examine our siddur trying to understand the Jewish story told by each component of *tefilah*. The acrostic poem *L'cha Dodi* envisions Shabbat as a bride who is wedded to the Jewish people.¹ *L'cha Dodi's* imagery reminds us that the Sabbath gift of rest and reconnection is a core expression of our covenant with God. But even more concrete than the metaphor of bride and groom, the very first line of *L'cha Dodi*, שָׁמֹר וְזָכֹר בְּדַבּוּר אֶחָד הִשְׁמִיעֵנוּ אֵל הַמֵּיֻחָד *"Shamor v'zachor b'dibur echad hishmi'anu el ha'meyuchad"* ("Observe and Remember the Sabbath day, the only God caused us to hear in a single utterance") invokes the language of our *brit* lifted straight from the Ten Commandments.

Did you know that the Ten Commandments appear twice in Torah? Most of us are familiar with the recitation in Exodus: that dramatic moment at smoky, trembling Mount Sinai when the newly liberated Israelites learn the foundations of their relationship with God. Fewer of us might remember that in Deuteronomy, Moses delivers a series of speeches reminding the Israelites of their obligations to God before they enter the Promised Land. One of the most prominent discrepancies in Torah exists between the commandment to observe Shabbat in Exodus and in Deuteronomy. At Mount Sinai, God tells the Israelites, "Zachor at Yom HaShabbat v'ikadsho" ("Remember the Sabbath day and sanctify it" Ex 20:8). Later, in the valley at Beth-Peor, Moses says, "Shamor at Yom HaShabbat v'ikadsho" ("Keep the Sabbath day and sanctify it" Deut 5:12).

"Remember" and "keep" are the two instructions given to the Israelites regarding Shabbat. According to *L'cha Dodi* and rabbinic tradition, the reason we have two different verbs is because God pronounced them simultaneously, a miracle beyond human capacity.² I believe there is more to the story. *Zachor* ("remember") appears in *Parashat Yitro* typically read in January or February when our hectic routines and the winter cold bear down upon us. *Shamor* ("keep") appears in *Parashat Ve'etchanan* at the height of summer in July or August when many of us relinquish our schedules and recharge by sun and sea. Shabbat is marked by withdrawal and affirmation. We press pause on our workaday habits and carve out time to connect with what matters to us. Perhaps different seasons demand different relationships to Shabbat.

In the cold months, when our lives are jampacked with obligations, God charges us to remember Shabbat — not to let busyness occlude our prerogative to rest. In the warm months, when life feels a little more like Shabbat, we must do the work of observance, making a concerted effort to engender holiness.

As we enter summer, seeking a tempo that feels a bit more rest-filled and relaxed, Torah commands us to behave assertively in search of the sacred. Yes, we should do so on Shabbat, but even more so we can deploy our extra energy and time to engage in all kinds of mitzvot.

If you change location and find yourself far away from a synagogue, look into local charities that need volunteers and build a Shabbat around service to a cause you care about. If summer is your time to be outside, find sanctuary in nature and connect with holiness by caring for our planet: planting a garden, cleaning up a park, making the extra effort to recycle, compost, and generate less waste. If summer means shorter Fridays at the office, make a regular practice of Shabbat dinner with family or friends and take time to recite blessings. Ever wonder why there are two candles? You guessed it: *shamor v'zachor*, because we observe and remember, remember and observe.

“...As we enter summer... Torah commands us to behave assertively in search of the sacred... [and] engage in all kinds of mitzvot.”

After the intensity of the High Holy Days, we will gather at CRS and around the city to launch our community into a year of mitzvah-doing. Since April, a team of devoted congregants has been hard at work envisioning new ways to refresh and strengthen Mitzvah Weekend (October 25-27) to engage congregants of all ages in mitzvot that connect us across generations and passions (see Page 6). As we gear up for October, I encourage you to find ways to reinvigorate your own commitment to mitzvah-doing. Let the proactive tone of Deuteronomy, *shamor* ("keep"), serve as an invitation to experiment with new rituals, contributions, and connections. I look forward to inaugurating another year of mitzvah-doing with you this fall, collectively remembering our covenant and partnering together to keep our mitzvot vibrant, meaningful, and essential to the rhythms of our Jewish lives.

¹ The poem spells out the name of its author, 16th century kabbalist Shlomo Halevi Alkabetz.

² Mechilta Exodus 20

JOIN US FOR
EREV SHABBAT & SHABBAT
MORNING SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

A brief Kiddush follows each service.

FOR SUMMER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS
Check the CRS website.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY | 4 SAVE THE DATES | 7 SCHOOLS |
| 2 EXECUTIVE COMMENTARY | 5 SPECIAL FEATURES | 8 SCHOOLS & TEMPLE LIFE |
| 3 FEATURES | 6 DEVELOPMENT | 9-11 CONTRIBUTIONS |

VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 4
SUMMER 2019 | 5779

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Barbara Zakin



June is a good time to take stock of the year's accomplishments, take a breath, and plunge into planning for next year. From new construction to welcoming a new rabbi to new programming initiatives, to launching our capital campaign, it has been quite a year, with much to be proud of.

A lot happened in our building

I am sure you have noticed how our building has been in various stages of construction throughout the year. In October, we opened our newly renovated and beautiful 5th floor, complete with chapel, special event space, classrooms, youth lounge, a working kitchen, and sun-drenched classrooms for our Religious School and Sholom Sprouts programming. The entire floor has turned into a hub of activity which has made us wonder, *how did we ever operate without it?*

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the lobby renovation. The end result will be a lobby that is brighter, more welcoming, and even more secure. The lobby will be completed this summer and it will become a beautiful entranceway to equal the magnificence of our Main Sanctuary.

Wow, there are a lot of strollers parked outside

Sholom Sprouts, our newest initiative for very young children, is a hit on the Upper West Side! Our first year of classes – Learning Together, Maccabees in Motion, Shabbat and Play, Baby and Me Yoga – were so popular that several sold out. All Sholom Sprouts programming is open to members and non-members (members receive priority registration and preferred pricing). On Saturday mornings the 5th floor is buzzing with Singin' Swingin' Shabbat followed by activities for little ones. And who can resist a chocolate seder at Passover or an opportunity to make your own *sufganiyot* at our annual Chanukah celebration? Fall classes are filling up fast. Register now (see Page 7).

We talked about Israel

It can be challenging to have conversations about Israel – not only with our friends in the wider community but also within our congregation. We had multiple opportunities to have robust discussions and hear differing perspectives this year. *Resetting the Table* helped many of us learn how to facilitate conversations; Ambassador Dan Shapiro spoke eloquently about a two-state solution and the Israeli elections; our clergy shared their personal relationships with Israel at our Israel Committee dinner; CRS and RSS will march together in the Israel Parade; and families will be joining Rabbi Weitzman and Cantor Garfein in August on a fascinating Israel Family Trip.

Music filled our halls

Chamber Music at Rodeph Sholom performed chamber ensemble concerts highlighting our Jewish musical heritage. Our *Winter Coffee House* series welcomed urban-folk band, *Bailen*, a trio of sibling musicians and songwriters. The always captivating Rodeph Sholom Theater Company brought us *As You Like It*, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's tale of friends, families, and lovers. And our musical year ended on a high note (!) with the concert musical, *Stars of David: Story to Song*. Based on stories of famous and notable Jews, Cantors Rebecca Garfein and Shayna De Lowe were joined by cantors from around the country.

We welcomed a new Rabbi

Rabbi Juliana Schnur Karol was installed in October, but it seems like she's been here for years. Smart, warm, approachable, and creative, she is involved with every aspect of congregational life, with special emphasis on Sisterhood, Mitzvah Weekend, Hebrew for adults, our *What Matters* initiative, and Israel programming. She is a wonderful addition to our extraordinary clergy group.

* * * *

We're already excited about new ideas and interesting programs for next year. Enjoy your summer!

SUMMER PROGRAMMING SERIES

Visit the New Auschwitz Exhibit

Join Rabbi Juli Karol on Monday, July 1, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust to view the new exhibit, *Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.* Featuring objects, photographs, and rare artifacts, we'll view the transformation of Auschwitz from a Polish town to the most significant Nazi site of the Holocaust where approximately 1 million Jews perished. Ages 13+.



Tickets are \$14.50 per adult and \$10.50 per senior.
We will meet at the museum at 10:15 am.
Details are on the website.

The Jewish Immigrant Experience: Explore Ellis Island and the Lower East Side

Join us for this two-part series on offsite excursions with your associate clergy to Ellis Island on Sunday, July 21, and to the Lower East Side on Sunday, July 28.

At Ellis Island we will learn about the journeys our ancestors took and the sacrifices they made to arrive on America's shores. On the Lower East Side we will explore the religious and cultural history of the neighborhood while tasting some traditional cuisine. Join us for one or both excursions. Ages 13+.



Registration opens June 5 and space is limited. Contact: info@crsnyc.org

To view live streaming from the Main Sanctuary
rodephsholom.org/livestream

ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

Sunday, June 2, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Israel Committee invites all congregants to march with our Clergy and Youth Groups to celebrate Israel's 71st birthday! This year's Parade theme is **Only in Israel – Rak B'Yisrael**. With colorful banners and costumes on this theme, the Parade will go up Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets, rain or shine. Let's show our support for Israel and the Reform Movement. Details on the CRS website.

*Where in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.
 Where ancient villages stand beside ultra-modern cities.
 Where a 2,000 year old language was resurrected for modern speech.
 Where exiles from the four corners of the world have come home.
 Where skill and chutzpah together make the impossible come true.
 Where barren deserts are transformed into flourishing fields.
 Where diverse cultures produce a fusion of global cuisine.
 Where pioneers build new frontiers in science and technology.
 Where water can be produced from thin air.
 Where those with incurable diseases are cured.
 Where if you will it, it is no dream.
 Only in Israel! – Rak B'Yisrael!*

*To our congregational families going on the
 CRS Family Trip to Israel this summer,
 we wish you, Rabbi Weitzman and Cantor Garfein a meaningful journey of discovery.
 Nesiah Tovah!*

Please Join Us in Celebration at the ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH SERVICE

Shabbat Morning, Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 AM
 12 Sivan 5779

To be called to the Torah:

<i>Karen Bank</i>	<i>Barrie Markowitz</i>
<i>Lisa Barro</i>	<i>Beth Rubin</i>
<i>Ruth Bernstein</i>	<i>Elizabeth Scheuer</i>
<i>Maxine Borowitz</i>	<i>Jill Schultz</i>
<i>Elissa Grayer</i>	<i>Lenny Shields</i>
<i>John Gross</i>	<i>Scot Steinberg</i>
<i>Andre Gustavus</i>	<i>Jill Steinberg</i>
<i>Lisa Imundo</i>	<i>Wendy Tinkoff</i>
<i>Andrea Kutscher</i>	<i>Jacqueline Weiss</i>

LGBTQIA+ EREV SHABBAT PRIDE SERVICE

Friday, June 21, 6:00 PM

*"A welcoming spiritual community."
 (CRS Mission Statement)*

Please join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary service that celebrates Rodeph Sholom's LGBTQIA+ community. This is a special service that honors diversity, inclusion, and support. A service in which we share joyous and meaningful prayer in a warm and embracing environment. This year we are very pleased to welcome our special guest speakers, our congregants, Barbara Keller and Jamie Greenfield.

Throughout the year, Rodeph Sholom fosters awareness and outreach for everyone including the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community through programs, speakers, and special events, as well as this annual Erev Shabbat Pride Service.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm: CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. See Page 3.

Monday, June 3, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

Thursday, June 6, 4:30 – 6:00 pm: SHOLOM SPROUTS SHAVUOT.

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. All are welcome to the last meeting until we resume again in the fall. To join our spirited and self-moderated conversation, we meet at the Synagogue. Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Friday, June 7, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/CONFIRMATION SERVICE. See Page 7.

Sunday, June 9, 10:15 am: SHAVUOT/YIZKOR SERVICE. See Page 5.

Thursday, June 13, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG. Novices and veteran players are welcome! Cards will be available for purchase. In the Board Room. Next dates: Thursdays, July 11 and August 8. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Friday, June 14, 10:00 am: RSS GRADUATION. See Page 8.

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 am: ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH SERVICE. See Page 3.

Tuesday, June 18, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. Please join us for our last Lunch Together until the fall. There'll be great socializing, an engaging presentation, and a dairy lunch. A contribution of \$10 is suggested. Contact: lunchtogether@crsnyc.org.

Friday, June 21, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT/LGBTQIA+ PRIDE SERVICE. See Page 3.

Monday, June 24, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm: FIRST DAY OF SUMMER CAMP.

TISHAH B'AV SERVICE

Sunday, August 11, 5:00 PM

Rabbi Greg Weitzman will lead us in prayer as we observe Tishah B'Av, a day of communal mourning. Considered to be the saddest day on the Jewish calendar, it serves to remind us of the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history. Although originally a day to mourn the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem, we Reform Jews also mourn the 6,000,000 Jews who perished in the Holocaust. A day of reflecting how we might contribute to *tikkun olam*, Tishah B'Av has become a call to action – an opportunity to fulfill Judaism's mission of being "a light unto the nations."

“There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are not longer among the living...”

– Hannah Sennesh

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson

Friday, June 14 | 12:00–1:30 pm

A contemplative approach to our texts and the search for wisdom within them, this lunchtime class perfectly prepares us for Shabbat. We'll explore God's presence and absence, and try to weigh good and evil.

Counting the Omer: A Mindful Journey from Passover to Shavuot

Friday, May 31 | 12:00 pm

Bernice Todres, mindfulness teacher

As we explore the Jewish spiritual practice of mindfulness, we will focus on the different mystical attributes that are in each of us. Please join us for this last session.

Registration is at rodephsholom.org/learning.

“Whoever teaches his son teaches not alone his son but also his son's son, and so on to the end of generations.”

(Hebrew Proverbs)

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5780

Look for the information packet in your email!

CRS has been making every effort to move towards a greener footprint wherever possible. This year we will email logistical and schedule information about the High Holy Days. Tickets will still be sent by regular mail and will be mailed August 30 to members in good standing. If you are not already receiving our weekly and monthly e-newsletters, please send the Membership office your current email address today! And if you are thinking about changing your seating location to the Main Sanctuary it is not too early to make a request.

To contact the Membership office:

membership@crsnyc.org

646.454.3051

Saturday Evening, September 21	Selichot
Sunday, September 29	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 30	Rosh Hashanah Day
Tuesday, October 1	Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day
Tuesday, October 8	Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 9	Yom Kippur

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

WHAT MATTERS | Sally Kaplan and Stephanie Lasher

Nationally, only 27% of people have documented their sudden-event and end-of-life healthcare preferences. In Lacrosse, WI, 96% of the residents have their preferences known, thanks to an initiative called Respecting Choices. That template has been adapted for the New York City Jewish community and renamed **What Matters**. Congregation Rodeph Sholom is one of 15 participating synagogues and organizations.

The core of What Matters is facilitated conversations, either individual or in small groups, in which participants reflect on their past experiences and their values. These reflections then help inform decisions about sudden-event or end-of-life healthcare choices and the appointment of a healthcare proxy who would speak on your behalf should an illness or accident deprive you of the ability to speak for yourself. There is great comfort from having made thoughtful, fully considered choices about healthcare treatments in those circumstances, and even greater comfort from knowing those choices have been communicated and documented, increasing the likelihood they will be honored. An equally important outcome from the process is that our family and friends, should they ever be in a position of having to make decisions on our behalf, will do so securely, confident they are honoring our wishes.

We've held four group conversations and a number of individual conversations. Some of our participants had already prepared Advance Directives, but felt the need to revisit them and thoughtfully reconsider their

choices. Others decided they could no longer put off doing something they should take care of. And still others were more or less testing the water, not yet quite ready to take the plunge.

We are delighted to talk with you, regardless of where you are on the readiness spectrum. Individual conversations can be scheduled at your convenience, and additional group conversations are planned.

If you would like more information
or would like to schedule a conversation
please reach out to us at whatmatters@crsnyc.org.

UNION FIELD CEMETERY

The summer offers a timely opportunity to visit Union Field Cemetery. Located at Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens, it is owned and operated by Congregation Rodeph Sholom. Plan a visit anytime to experience the quiet serenity of our grounds, to meditate, to remember departed family members, and to consider plans for the future.

Grounds hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sunday through Thursday (closed on Shabbat and major Jewish and secular holidays). Contact Antonio Jones, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (3:00 pm on Fridays), at 929.480.6648 or ufc@unionfieldcemetery.org. Pricing to take a tour and other information is available on our website.

“*The righteous need not accept evil, but rather increase righteousness in the world.
They need not accept rejection, but rather increase faith in the world.
They need not accept ignorance, but rather increase wisdom in the world.*”

– Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, the first chief rabbi of what would become the State of Israel

SHAVUOT SERVICE

Sunday, June 9, 10:15 AM

A celebration of Torah. Although it began as a harvest festival when the Israelites brought their first fruits to the Temple as an offering to God, on Shavuot we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. After the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelites went to Mount Sinai where Moses ascended the mountain to meet God and was given the Ten Commandments. Shavuot means “weeks” because it took 49 days, seven weeks, for them to travel from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai. “*And you shall proclaim that day (the 50th day) to be a holy convocation!*” (Leviticus 23:21).



Why eat cheesecake? On Shavuot, we stay up all night studying Torah and eat dairy foods to remind us the words of Torah are sweet. Sweet like milk and honey. It has become traditional to eat milk and cheese products as part of the celebration of Shavuot. Try this delicious

cheesecake recipe. It will make your Shavuot as sweet as the words of the Torah.

Sharon's Famous CHEESECAKE RECIPE FOR SHAVUOT

Ingredients

Crust: 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs, 1/4 tsp cinnamon, 1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted. **Filling:** 4 (8 oz.) pkgs cream cheese, softened, 1 1/4 cups sugar, 1/2 cup sour cream, 2 tsp vanilla extract, 5 large eggs. **Topping:** 1/2 cup sour cream.

How to Make It

1) Preheat oven to 475° and place a large pan filled with 1/2 inch water in oven. **2) Make crust:** Mix graham cracker crumbs and cinnamon; add butter. Press crust onto bottom and 2/3 of the way up a 9" springform pan lined with parchment. Wrap a large piece of foil around bottom of pan. Freeze until filling is prepared. **3) Make filling:** Use an electric mixer to mix cream cheese, sugar, sour cream and vanilla. Blend until smooth and creamy. Whisk eggs in a bowl; add to cream cheese mixture and blend. **4)** Take crust from freezer and pour in filling. Carefully place cheesecake into preheated water bath. Bake 12 minutes. Lower oven to 350° and bake until top of cheesecake turns golden, 50-60 minutes. Remove and cool on a wire rack. **5) Make topping:** Combine sour cream and sugar; spread over cake. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours.

DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

As summer sets in and the pace of daily life slows down, it's a good opportunity to look back on the last year and take a deep breath as we plan for the next!

The last year has been a big one for your CRS Development Department. With your help, we secured crucial funds for our Yom Kippur Appeal (YKA) and surpassed the amount we raised last year. These funds supported everything from excellent educational programs to our phenomenal clergy to scholarship and dues assistance. At the same time, we launched the L'Dor V'Dor Campaign—the largest capital campaign in our history—which is investing in our people, physical plant, and the synagogue's financial sustainability. It is a bold vision that addresses 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. Perhaps you joined us on May 3 for our special Celebrate CRS Erev Shabbat service and oneg. It was a beautiful evening that paid homage to all generations and launched us into the exciting next phase of our fundraising.

As the calendar turns to the High Holy Days and you consider how you will support CRS in the year to come, please keep the following in mind:

L'Dor V'Dor: The Campaign for Congregation Rodeph Sholom is in full swing and we need your support! We have been inspired by the community's incredibly generous response to this project and hope to reach 100% congregational participation. Please consider joining those who have already

committed to this historic campaign by making a contribution that is meaningful to your family. Join us as we build Rodeph Sholom's future together. For more information, visit crscampaign.org.

2019 Yom Kippur Appeal You don't need to wait until the fall to make your gift to our synagogue's most important annual fundraiser. To make a contribution, please visit rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal after July 1 or mail a check to CRS with "YKA 2019" in the memo line.

Please keep in mind that the YKA provides critical funds for the synagogue's daily operations and without it we could not meet our budget each year. If you are planning to make a special gift to the L'Dor V'Dor Campaign, we ask that you please also maintain your annual YKA support. Thank you in advance!

The Roll of Remembrance Book, given to worshippers on Yom Kippur, is prepared over the summer. You will receive a form in late June offering you the opportunity to list the names of loved ones you would like to remember and send in a contribution. Be sure to return your form prior to our August 22 deadline even if you do not have any changes.

With questions or to add a pledge to your synagogue account, please contact the Development Department at 646.454.3052. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Wishing you a restful summer!

HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER AND GET READY FOR FALL!

Summer is a busy time for our fabulous CRS staff. Behind the scenes they will get our shul ready for a season of enriching High Holy Days services; the Religious School will prepare another busy year of innovative classes and events; and a new exciting semester will be introduced at the Rodeph Sholom School. A new year filled with learning, praying, and doing mitzvot approaches. Until then, have a wonderful summer!

"Summer is when we dream of new programs and figure out how to make all those new dreams into reality."
(Kerith Braunstein)

SUMMER FOOD FUND DRIVE | Yvette Perry

"...we must continue to serve the cause of social justice and human betterment in the City of New York."
(Rabbi Robert N. Levine)

Here at CRS, we welcome opportunities to help support people in need in our own New York City community throughout the year. Helping others not only enhances our lives, it also strengthens our Jewish community. Our biannual Food Fund Drives support a number of West Side programs that strive to ease the pain of those who are hungry. Our donations go directly to local organizations such as West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Dorot, Goddard Riverside, HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen, and Project Moving On. Our efforts this summer can make an impact on those who need it most.

Send a check to CRS, 7 W. 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024
with "Food Drive" on the memo line
or make your donation on the CRS website
select "Food Drive" from the fund/program drop-down menu
or call the Development Office at 646.454.3052
to set up a recurring payment.

VOLUNTEER ON MITZVAH WEEKEND!

Friday through Sunday, October 25-27

Mitzvah Weekend offers our CRS family the opportunity to act upon our Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, *gemilut chasadim*, and *tzedakah*—to give our time to help others. Join us in launching a year of mitzvah-doing from Erev Shabbat Services through Havdalah on Saturday to Sunday activities throughout the synagogue building and New York City.

Congregants of all ages are invited to volunteer their hearts, hands, and talents in food preparation, a talent show, soup kitchens, arts and crafts, and so much more. Donate blood in our annual blood drive, help Days for Girls make personal hygiene kits for women around the world, and discover the many ways you can engage in mitzvot at CRS all year long. It's a busy weekend filled with fun, learning, and connection.

Together, we will make 5780 a year of exploring new and meaningful ways to make a difference!

Registration will open this fall at rodephsholom.org.
Contact: info@crsnyc.org.

Religious School

A DAY IN THE LIFE...OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | Kerith Braunfeld

So many exciting things happen each day. There are so many things we fit into two hours! On a recent typical day, walking the halls on the 5th floor you would have seen:

- A 4th/5th grade class and parents packing backpacks of food for the CRS Backpack Buddies program, providing food insecure children with non-perishable foods for the weekend
- Hearing Rabbi Juli tell a story each week in tefilah for 2nd/3rd grade
- Congregant Brad Zizmor teaching a 6th grade class about his profession, architecture, and how buildings can tell a story. Students used this knowledge to build 3D models of buildings in Israel as part of their study of Israeli history. And we thank him for teaching us about the "black spot" on Grand Central Station's ceiling.
- Children singing and dancing during tefilah (services) with Shirley and Dan, our *Shinshinim* from Israel
- The smell of brownies as 2nd/3rd graders baked Shabbat treats for their families
- Cantors Garfein and De Lowe leading 6th graders in Trope (Torah cantillation)
- A Shireinu b'nai mitzvah student in the Schnurmacher Chapel practicing with Rabbi Spratt and Cantor De Lowe
- A student high fiving me with pride in the hallway because he just passed another Hebrew Contract!
- A 6th grade class working with TIP leaders (Teen Impact Project) as part of their mitzvah work toward becoming b'nai mitzvah, cooking a meal to share with students in the Lincoln Square Neighborhood

Center afterschool program. They delivered the food during a field trip there and spent the day playing games together.

- Numerous 7th-12th graders who are part of our paid Post B'nai Mitzvah Internship and *Madrichim* (teacher assistants) programs helping the Religious School and Youth Group staff with projects and in the classrooms, helping teach Hebrew, and serving as great role models for our younger students!

At the end of the two hours, when the hallways are quiet once again and we put away all of the laptops and iPads, bring the teacher materials back to the work room, collect leftover snacks, and bring any personal items to the Lost & Found (*recently it was a missing cello!*), my team and I heave a collective sigh of relief, tired, but happy about all that was accomplished and energized to do this all over again the next day!

We welcome the rest and slower pace of summer for us and our families...and can't wait to start all of this back up again in the fall. Have a great summer!

Registration is now open and available online for the first time.
Go to: rodephsholom.org/education/religious-school/registration

REGISTER FOR 2019-20 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEFORE JUNE 30

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

MAZEL TOV TO THE RODEPH SHOLOM CONFIRMATION CLASS!

Erev Shabbat Service | Friday, June 7 at 6:00 PM

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

Honoring our Confirmands:

Lena Arnsten	Marlee Kitei
Arielle Bakst	Perri Kitei
Charlotte Beede	Michaela Kroll
Zachary Bernstein	Jonathan Lurensky
Alec Blumberg	Joseph Ripp
Alexandra Cooper	Nate Schachter
Ashley Cooper	Carly Scheffrin
Avery Dermer	Talia Sclar
Myles Edelson	Sadie Sherman
Kayla Eichmann	Dov Shore
Will Epstein	Archie Silverstein
Talia Falkenberg	Samantha Simons
Jake Freeman	Lucy Steinman
Misha Izeman	Simon Yellen

A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

Sholom Sprouts

Sholom Sprouts is the talk of the Upper West Side! Rodeph Sholom's newest initiative for young children and the grown-ups who care for them

is a hit and has already become a neighborhood gem. We welcome you into our vibrant Jewish community through Shabbat and holiday celebrations, music, art, and fun for the whole family.

New this summer, you can enroll your child in a variety of 5-week Grownup and Me classes including Shabbat and Play, 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 July.

Fall registration has begun. Get your spot in Learning Together before it's sold out. Classes take place on our beautifully renovated 5th floor. See you there!

Sholom Sprouts
connects you with
a community!



Learning Together

Register at rodephsholom.org/sholomspouts
Contact Lisa Schiff, Manager, Sholom Sprouts: lschiff@crsnyc.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG

Rodeph Sholom School

WELCOME MITCHELL DAAR



Rodeph Sholom School is thrilled to announce that Mitchell Daar will be joining us as our new **Director of Enrollment Management and Strategic Initiatives**. Mitch's intelligence, warmth, strategic thinking ability, and dedication to Jewish education is the perfect match for RSS. He graduated from the University of Michigan, where he

double-majored in Economics and Psychology, and later received an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Mitch spent 11 years at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, a N-8 Jewish Day School in Chicago, where he is an alumnus. He served in multiple roles at Bernard Zell, including math teacher, coach, and Director of Educational Operations and High School Counseling. We welcome Mitch and invite CRS families to meet him in our Enrollment suite at 84th Street or sign up for a tour by calling 646.438.8600.

I N M E M O R I A M

Max Gelfond, father-in-law of Laura Sachar Gelfond

Fanya Gonta, mother of Igor Gonta

Marietta Dugot, mother of Monica Dugot

Dr. Leon Lefer, father of Dr. Heidi Lefer

Arleen Miller, widow of Justin Miller

Harold Sidney Elice, father of Dr. Michael Elice and Rick Elice

Jonathan Epstein, brother of David Epstein

Rita Harris Gordy, mother of Molly Gordy

Paula Gorodetzer, mother of Harvey Ganot

Arline Fine, mother of Jeffrey Fine

Phyllis Messinger, mother of Donna Messinger

Candace vanStryker, wife of Dr. Ruth Burtman, mother of Nathan Burtman

Beverly Just, mother of Emily Ramsay

Seymour Berkowitz, father of Marsha Berkowitz

John Lankalis, husband of Barbara Levi, father of JB Lankalis

Marcel Meirson, father of Rita Glass

Margot Sisman, mother of Elaine Fridson

Joyce Timmel, mother of Lisa Timmel

Adam Berkson, husband of Daniella, father of Leo and Max

Sam Perelson, brother of Helen Levine

The Rodeph Sholom School and Congregation Rodeph Sholom

cordially invite you to attend

THE ANNUAL 8TH GRADE GRADUATION SERVICE

Friday, June 14 at 10:00 AM

Honoring our Graduates:

Abbe Rose Arnsten
Daniel Avital
Aden Benjamin Axel
Andrew Abram Shapiro
Bach
Jack Lion Bejarano
Charlie Berger
Ethan Tyler Brody
Ocean Sophia Carlson
Andre Dangot
Adam Eliaz
Alma Eliaz

Benjamin Lev Eskenazi
Julia Fridman
Benjamin Miles Friedland
Aidan Z. Ginor
Jade Raffaella Glatzer
Maya Kapadia
Alexandra Faye Kaplan
Daniel Boaz Keswin
Olivia Klingbaum
Eli Moses Klotz
Emma Koch

Yali Koch
Luka Jonathan Krantz
Alexandra Jordan Levy
Jacob Levy
Ryan Kalman Lidsky
Kyle Philip Lotke
Abigail Lynne Lurensky
Samuel Mark Perlman
Jason Leo Peskin
Micah Phelan
Sarah Brooke Roodin
Julian Noah Rosenberg

Sela Lucette Schamroth
Annalise Kaiser Schuster
Eleanor Semel
Adi Miriam Ruth Shore
David Boaz Simon
Zoe Ryan Singer
Drew Wander
Rosana Wharshavsky
Sydney Saeko Williams
Asher R. Yellen
Ezra Liam Zizmor

For Families with Young Children

COME CELEBRATE!

SHOLOM SPROUTS SHAVUOT

Thursday, June 6, 4:30 – 6:00 PM

rodephsholom.org/sholomsprouts

VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 4
 SUMMER 2019 | 5779

CONTRIBUTE
 TO THE
 RODEPH SHOLOM
**FOOD
 FUND
 DRIVE**

THIS SUMMER

SEE PAGE 6

ABOUT CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

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

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



7 West 83rd St., New York, NY 10024
 tel: 212.362.8800 | fax: 212.877.6526
 email: chronicle@crsny.org

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
Maxine Borenstein Associate Head of School
Susan Weiss Newman Head of Schnurmacher Early Childhood Division

Colleen Dundon Head of Hirschberg Elementary Division
Eve Andrias Head of Middle School
Jessica Shaviv Interim Director of Admissions and Tuition Assistance
Julie Sogg Seymour Director of Development
Officers
Robert Steinman President
Peter 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
Martin Flumenbaum Chair of the Board
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

Auxiliaries
Marc Landis Brotherhood Co-President
Brad Zizmor Brotherhood Co-President
Katie Elvin Watkin Chair, Sisterhood Steering Committee
The Chronicle
Yvette Perry Editor