

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? | Rabbi Greg Weitzman



Passover is truly a remarkable holiday. In contrast to Rosh Hashanah or Sukkot, the main celebration of this holiday is in our home, around the seder table. Many of us have fond memories of sitting together to enjoy a wonderful meal, visit with friends and family, discuss current issues, and sing songs. In fact, it is the most popular annual Jewish holiday in America. According to a 2013 PEW study, about 70% of all American Jews observe this ritual with family and friends, some even make revisions to incorporate their own interests. The meal, the singing, and the stories leave lasting impressions that are carried down from year to year.

The seder is an opportunity where our children can make a meaningful contribution. When they are just old enough to read, we give them a special role in the seder: the youngest child begins the telling of the Passover story by asking the traditional *Four Questions*. Many commentators have drawn attention to the influence of the number four in connection with the *Hagaddah*. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks notes, there are four fours: the four questions, the four sons, the four cups of wine, and the four expressions of redemption. And though all are important, no doubt we elevate the status of the *Four Questions* because of the Jewish passion for asking questions.

The Jewish way is not to accept blindly, but rather to think critically and ask, "why?"

The great Greek philosopher Socrates gave us the term "Socratic method" to explain a line of persistent questioning in search of clarity. Socrates was eventually put on trial for this habit, and was even accused of corrupting the young. Nothing could be less like Judaism than to level an accusation like this. In fact, to teach the young to ask questions is an essential feature not only of Jewish thought but also of Passover.

Asking questions is not only a major part of who we are as a people, but also deeply connected to our history and faith. Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, Rachel, and Sarah all asked questions of God. Questioning is at the heart of Jewish spirituality. The Jewish way is not to accept blindly, but rather to think critically and ask, "why?"

Passover is a night of questions, but there is one important question – a fifth question that we do not often ask. *Why even have the years of suffering and slavery?* Israel regained its freedom, but why did God not make it possible for Abraham and Sarah to simply inherit the land so many years earlier? If the Israelites had not gone to Egypt during Joseph's tenure, there would be no suffering through 400 years of slavery. If God is so powerful,

then why did this need to happen? Why even have a Passover to begin with?

The book of Jonah offers us an answer. Jonah, who was asked by God to convey a warning to the people of Nineveh, learns that should they repent to God they would be forgiven. For Jonah this was unjust, when people make mistakes they should suffer the consequences. So God teaches Jonah a lesson by giving him a gourd to provide him shade from the burning sun. The next day God sends a worm to destroy that same gourd, sending Jonah into a deep depression. In this moment of great grief, God teaches Jonah to care by giving him something and taking it away. Loss teaches us to value things, sometimes too late. What we have, and then lose, we cannot take for granted.

This is the key to understanding the deeper message of Passover. God could have given the Israelites their land at the very beginning. However, Israel had to lose its freedom before it could appreciate it. It is only that which we lose that we fully focus on. The people of Israel had to experience slavery so that we can know deep within our core that there is something morally and ethically wrong with being oppressed. And perhaps, most importantly, through the loss of freedom the great Jewish desire and longing for freedom inspired the birth of a nation – and a state.

This upcoming summer I look forward to leading another congregational trip to the State of Israel. It stands today as a reminder for all of us, as the 19th century Zionist Theodor Herzl wrote, *"Im Tirtzu Ein So Aggadah, If you will it, it is no dream."* For two thousand years we were a people without a land, and that loss inspired a generation to remember the promise of redemption. We must carry the message of slavery and freedom, of captivity and redemption with us forever so that we may never forget the struggle it took to get us where we are today. Israel discovered freedom when our ancient ancestors lost it. So every year when we retell the story around our seder tables, we pray that we may never allow tyrants to oppress us again.

Ashley, Eden, and I want to wish you and your families a wonderful start to the spring and, in advance, a *zissen pesach*.

**MAKE A NEW FAMILY TRADITION
FOR FIRST NIGHT SEDER**

THE CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER

Friday, April 19, 7:30 PM

*Join us for this joyous and festive Seder experience!
There will be friendly and warm family spirit
as we celebrate our passage from slavery to freedom
with songs and stories. See Page 3.*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT | Rob Steinman



Hilary's mom, Nancy, introduced a lovely Passover tradition for our family. At the beginning of the seder, she would put a whole bunch of pens on the table. Then she would ask each person to write their name in the front of their Passover Hagaddah. The first few years we wrote our names, it seemed kind of silly. Why would we want to write our names? There didn't seem to be a point. As the years have passed, however, a beautiful tradition has taken hold.

Now, as each person gathered around the table writes their name in the front of the Hagaddah, we see a list of many names. Sometimes, we see the names of people who were guests at our seder only once or twice. Perhaps they have moved out of town, or we should reconnect. Sometimes, we see the names of friends and relatives sitting around the table sharing the seder with us. Sometimes, we see the name of someone who is no longer with us.

Sadly, Nancy passed away two summers ago, and her name will not be written again in our Hagaddah this Passover. At our seder, we will see her name in the front of a few of the Hagaddot and remember her fondly. Her beautiful tradition allows us to reconnect with her at the seder, and helps us connect with each other as we tell stories and remembrances of past seders and the people who were at them. We will see Nancy's name in the front of the Hagaddah and always remember.

In Pittsburgh this Passover, there will be 11 new names not written in the front of Hagaddot. There will be 11 empty places at seders. Not six months ago, 11 Jews were murdered in a horrible act of anti-Semitism: 11 human beings murdered simply because they were Jews, 11 loved ones taken from their families and friends because of hate.

I am so proud of our congregation's response to this despicable act of anti-Semitism. Our congregants gathered that night at West Side Campaign Against Hunger and made beautiful stars of hope. They delivered them to the Tree of Life synagogue to show our support for their shattered community. 1,200 of our congregants stood together that following Shabbat – worshipping and saying Mourner's Kaddish and sharing their thoughts – together as a community, young and old, with Jews throughout the country and world. We experienced a heinous act of anti-Semitism. As Rabbi Levine taught us, *"no anti-Semite will dictate how we live — never has and never will."*

Our congregation's response is the only response: we will stand together as a proud, strong Jewish community; we will worship together; we will grieve and mourn together; we will teach our children Judaism together; we will celebrate b'nai mitzvot and simchas and holidays together; we will support Israel together; we will perform mitzvot together. We will live as proud Jews.

This Passover, as we remember our loved ones who are not at our seders, let's also remember the 11 Jews brutally taken from their loved ones in Pittsburgh this fall. Hilary, Lucy, Paulina, and I wish you a meaningful Passover.

SEDER RENEWAL

*...let us order ourselves around this table
to negotiate new covenants;
let's rewrite our tragedies;
let's renew history;
let's translate our enslavement into the
freedom of this moment.
Together we endured suffering;
now let's share a certain future:
past afflictions can be transformed
into renewed blessings;*

*let us break bread and sing praises to life;
let our Hallelujahs resonate deeply
as a tikkun nefesh.
Heal my soul. O Lord heal others so I can be healed.
Let us sing on each cup of wine that zest for life
that brings us home to this table,
to the singing of this story,
our arms about one another
Dancing into freedom.*

(Source: Canadian Jewish News)

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR LOBBY?

You may have noticed our lobby is a little bit narrower than usual—that's because there's lots going on behind the scenes! Construction to make our lobby brighter, more welcoming, and more secure than ever is in full swing, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work.

We'll keep you posted about entrance closures and other notices on our website: rodephsholom.org/lobby-construction-updates

We can't wait to show you the finished lobby, but here is a sneak preview of work on the ceiling.

Paul Arnsten, Chair of Construction Committee, hard at work.



*We are live streaming from the Main Sanctuary
Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Morning services. To view: rodephsholom.org/livestream*

PASSOVER SERVICES

Saturday, April 13

11:00 am Shireinu Shabbat Morning
Passover Service

Saturday, April 20

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

Friday, April 26

10:15 am Concluding Passover Service
Yizkor Memorial Prayer

SHIREINU SHABBAT MORNING PASSOVER SERVICE

**Shabbat Morning, Saturday, April 13,
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Share prayer, Torah, music, and nosh! All are welcome to join the Rodeph Sholom family for a warm, inviting, musical, and interactive worship experience. An accessible service that is sensitive to a variety of needs with a Sign Language interpreter.

Please RSVP: shireinu@crsnyc.org or 646.454.3124

A MAGNIFICENT SYMBOL OF ENDURANCE

On October 29, 2004, Marty Flumenbaum and Ruth Hochberger with daughter, Judy, saw #1104 for the first time at the Westminster Synagogue in London. Long ago it began life as the sacred scroll for a synagogue in Czechoslovakia. In WWII, 1,564 sacred Torah scrolls were confiscated by the Nazis. In 1964, now deteriorated, they were brought to Westminster Synagogue, where they were repaired and classified. Since then each usable scroll was given to a synagogue in need of one. Marty, Ruth, and Judy brought #1104, one of the unusable scrolls that went to synagogues as sacred memorials to the Holocaust, to rest in a place of honor in our Schnurmacher Chapel.

On February 5, 2019, Temple Emanu-El held a unique event that highlighted the history of these Torah scrolls. In partnership with Memorial Scrolls Trust of London, *Procession of the Scrolls* was the first-ever New York gathering of scrolls from Czechoslovakia that survived the Holocaust. Marty and Judy joined this moving processional of over 70 Torah scrolls from tri-state area synagogues, carrying the Czech Scroll they brought back to CRS. Our scroll #1104, along with the others, endure as witnesses to the Holocaust.



The Congregational Passover Seder

Friday, April 19, 7:30 PM

Following the Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM

Our annual Congregational Seder is an opportunity for our Rodeph Sholom family to sing, pray, and share a delicious, traditional dinner. Together we will read the *Hagaddah*, the story of the Exodus from Egypt, to remember our journey from slavery to freedom.

Rabbi Ben Spratt and Cantor Shayna De Lowe will be leading the seder. It is a fun-filled evening of warmth and camaraderie among friends, family, and clergy. A great way to observe our history and celebrate freedom and family!

Make your reservation now. Members and children (five years and older): \$36. Non-members and children (five years and older): \$50. Please RSVP at passover@crsnyc.org or call Miriam Baron at 646.454.3043.

Image: ©Challis and Roos

“Like a lightning flash in the darkness,
may our questions illumine our homes,
connecting person to person,
generation to generation.”

— Rabbi Ben Spratt

Do You Love Matzoh Brei?



Some of us think it's the best thing about Pesach! Here's how to make it:

Ingredients

2 large eggs
¼ cup milk
1 sheet matzoh
1 tbsp butter

Directions

Break matzoh into small pieces and moisten with warm water until soft, not soggy. Whisk eggs and milk in a bowl and stir in matzoh pieces. Melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Pour in mixture. Brown one side and then turn over.

Top with applesauce, sour cream, butter, sugar, cinnamon, honey, maple syrup, raspberry preserves or blackberry jam. Enjoy! It's delish.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 pm: SISTERHOOD WINTER TORAH STUDY. In partnership with Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, our study includes Muslim texts. Spring Torah Study is Tuesday, May 7. Go to rodephsholom.org/events/sisterhood-torah-study.

Thursday, February 28, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD EREV WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: PIONEERING WOMEN IN THEATER: A night with Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director of the Manhattan Theater Club. Register: rodephsholom.org/events/sisterhood-erev-womens-history-month-event.

Monday, March 4, 6:30 pm: SISTERHOOD DAYS FOR GIRLS. Next dates are: Mondays, April 1, May 6, and June 3. Contact: sisterhood@crsnyc.org.

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm: CRS BOOK GROUP. Self-moderated discussions. Next dates are Thursdays, April 4, May 2, and June 6. Contact: bookgroup@crsnyc.org.

Tuesday, March 12, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm: LUNCH TOGETHER. Socializing and an engaging presentation with a dairy lunch. A contribution of \$10 suggested. Next dates are Tuesdays, April 16, May 21, and June 18. Sponsored by Sisterhood. Contact: lunchtogether@crsnyc.org.

Thursday, March 14, 12:00 – 3:00 pm: MAH JONGG. Novices and veteran players! In the Board Room. Next dates: Thursdays, April 11 and May 9. RSVP: mahjongg@crsnyc.org.

Friday, March 15, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SHIREINU INTEGRATED SERVICE. An inclusive prayer service for people with special needs intended to create comfort and belonging for all. There is sensory sensitivity, ASL interpretation, visual aids, and a quiet room.

Saturday, March 16, 6:00 pm: HAVDALAH UNPLUGGED. Hors d'oeuvres and conversation followed at 6:45 pm with a musical and meditative Havdalah. Next service is Saturday, May 4.

Monday, March 18: COMEDY FOR PEACE. Join UJA for a side-splitting show featuring hilarious comics — Israeli, Palestinian, and American; Muslim, Christian, and Jewish — with diverse identities and backgrounds, who transcend conflict with comedy and dismantle stereotypes with satire. Check CRS website for time and ticket details.

Saturday, April 6, 12:30 pm: CHAMBER MUSIC AT RODEPH SHOLOM. Following Shabbat Morning services, Artistic Director Eliot Bailen leads the chamber ensemble. RSVP: rodephsholom.org/music.

Monday, April 8, 7:30 pm: STARS OF DAVID. A musical revue featuring Cantors Garfein and De Lowe. See Page 11.

Wednesday, May 1, 10:00 pm – Thursday, May 2, 6:00 pm: READING OF THE NAMES: YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION. The Upper West Side community will read the names of those lost in the Holocaust. The CRS website will have the location and exact time CRS rabbis and congregants will read names.

Friday, May 3, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION.

Wednesday, Thursday, May 8 and 9, 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 11, 8:00 pm, and Sunday, May 12, 1:30 and 6:00 pm: RS THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS AS YOU LIKE IT. See Page 11.

Friday, May 10, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT SERVICE/OUR ISRAEL. See Page 5.

Friday, May 17, 6:00 pm: EREV SHABBAT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL and RSS HS GRADUATION and YOUTH GROUP INSTALLATION SERVICE. See Page 7.

Monday, May 20, 7:00 pm: 177TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. All congregants are welcome for election of Trustees, Officers, and other business. Refreshments are served.

Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am: CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE. See Page 5.

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

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Personal and Spiritual Pathways Through the Psalms

Rabbi Jacqueline Ellenson | Fridays, 12:00–1:30 pm
March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 7

A contemplative approach to our texts and the search for wisdom within them, it perfectly prepares us for Shabbat. This lunchtime class is a personal and participatory learning experience where we explore God's presence and absence, and try to weigh good and evil.

Images of Mortality: Death and Dying in Art, Cinema, and Literature

Monday, March 11, 7:00 pm
Rabbi Juliana S. Karol

*How does culture shape our conceptions of death as a part of life? And how does Jewish tradition speak to this? With one book, one movie, and works of art, we explore death and dying. Register at whatmatters@crsnyc.org.**

For Parents: Supporting Our Teens

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 pm

Dr. Reina Marin, clinical psychologist

Strategies for shmirat ha-guf, self-compassion, to give teens and their families the tools to cope with challenges and to nurture resilience.

Shabbat Study Series: Voices of Our Matriarchs

Clergy | Following Shabbat Morning Services

Saturday, April 13

A post-worship study with lunch included will cover key female figures in the TaNaKh. Bring your curiosity!

Counting the Omer: A Mindful Journey from Passover to Shavuot

Saturday, May 4, 6:00 pm (with Havdalah Unplugged)

Fridays, May 10 and 17, 5:00 pm | Friday, May 31, 12:00 pm

Bernice Todres, mindfulness teacher

To explore the Jewish spiritual practice of mindfulness, we will focus on the different mystical attributes that are in each of us. Come to one or more sessions!

All registration is at rodephsholom.org/learning.
*Except where noted.

PURIM

Saturday, March 9

4:30 pm | Havdalah and Hamantaschen

A fun Sholom Sprouts Purim event. \$25 per family.

Wednesday, March 20 – Erev Purim

4:30 pm | Megillah for Littles

Join the Sholom Sprouts Megillah (0-5 years old).

5:30 pm | Purim Shpiel and Carnival

Come in costume and see the clergy dressed up and acting their hearts out in the Purim Shpiel. Bring a box of pasta to use as a grogger, which will be donated to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Then it's the Carnival!

Thursday, March 21 – Purim

10:15 am | Purim Morning Service and Megillah Reading

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

Saturday, March 23

11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Shireinu Shabbat Morning Purim Service

A warm, inviting, musical, and interactive service accessible and sensitive to families with special needs. Open to the entire community and all ages are welcome. (ASL Interpreted)

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

CELEBRATE YOM HaATZMAUT! ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, read the Declaration of Independence of Israel on May 14, 1948 – 5 Iyar 5708. Yom HaAtzmaut is the anniversary of that date.

THE STATE OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION WITH AMBASSADOR DAN SHAPIRO

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Join us for this thought-provoking discussion about possibilities and challenges of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Dan Shapiro, the former US Ambassador to Israel under President Obama, will be talking to *Tablet's* Yair Rosenberg. Purchase tickets for \$10 at rodephsholom.org/Israel.

OUR ISRAEL EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, May 10, 6:00 pm

Join us for the Erev Shabbat Service honoring Israel. Following the Service, the Israel Committee hosts a delicious dinner with Israeli foods while we hear our clergy share their personal feelings about Israel. RSVP: israelcommittee@crsnyc.org.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am

CRS and RSS will be marching together in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade. Always a fun event! The parade's theme is **Only in Israel – Rak B'Yisrael:** *"Where in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles ... Where skill and chutzpah together make the impossible come true ... Where diverse cultures produce a fusion of global cuisine ... Where if you will it, it is no dream."* Details will be at rodephsholom.org.

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

– President John F. Kennedy

TAKE PART IN THE MACCABI GAMES! | Jeff Ravetz



It was while hosting new friends, the Balkins from Australia whom we met in Israel last year, that I started to reflect on how this had played out exactly as the founders planned.

Have you heard of the **Maccabiah Games?** The third largest international sports event in the world (after the Olympics and FIFA World Cup), it is a two-week competition held in Israel. Every four years Jews from ages 15 to 80 from around the world compete. Last year, there were more than 10,000 competitors from 85 countries, in 45 sporting events that included basketball, tennis, table tennis, baseball, golf, swimming, fencing, marathon, track and field, cycling, and soccer. Find out more about the 2021 Games in Israel at maccabi.org/sport/maccabiah.

Then there are the JCC Maccabi Games® which are held three times each summer in North America in three locations each for one week. Started in 1982, these Games provide Jewish boys and girls 13 to 16 years old a place where they can have fun and that fosters their Jewish values and

identification with Israel. And it introduces them to the Maccabiah Games. My two sons, my daughter, and I have competed in 12 Maccabiah and Maccabi events in basketball and tennis, and have won three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal!

The competitions are exciting but it's the friends we make from around the world that keep us coming back. In fact, we are planning to visit the Balkins in Australia this coming holiday season! Which is precisely why the Maccabiah and Maccabi Games were created. Having thousands of Jews gather simply for the joy of sports, being together, and feeling inspired is spectacular. It is an experience like no other and one that has the opportunity to further cement our collective connection to the Jewish Diaspora.

We have competed with and shared this other “birthright” experience with many of our CRS friends. Come join us! The **2019 JCC Maccabi Games®** will be hosted by the Marcus JCC of Atlanta, GA July 28 – August 2 and the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit August 4 – 9. Learn more at jccmaccabigames.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG

DEVELOPMENT | Lyndsie Levine

This month's congregant reflection comes from our members Kim and Ivan Zinn. When thinking about the impact that CRS has had on their family and why they choose to support our synagogue home, they share the following:

"We were new parents when we became members of CRS. At the time, we were trying hard to figure out how one fulfills the responsibility of raising a decent human being while managing responsibilities to ourselves, to each other, and to our full-time professions. In 2015, we joined CRS because it provides warm and welcoming religious services and programming. We support the synagogue with our tzedakah because CRS has not only proven to be a partner in helping us manage our role as parents, it has become a major source of enrichment and inspiration. CRS not only served as our first introduction to RSS, where both of our children attend school, it has also continued to be a model of Jewish values-driven engagement that we strive to emulate in our home.

*What has resonated most for our family is the direct and consistent call to **Engage More**. Initially, we were taken aback by it. At our first High Holy Day sermon, Rabbi Levine directly engaged congregants by asking, 'Who or what is God to you?' The congregants' equally direct and raw responses, primarily expressing notions of forgiveness, were beautiful, inspiring, and comforting. Then we watched Rabbi Spratt challenge RSS students in a similar manner during the National Student Walkout for gun reform. His message to the students to Engage More challenged them to 'silence our own voice long enough to look up and see the person...around our school that is alone...and create the connection that is there whether we've seen it and serviced it or not.'*

We love that CRS does not just ask us to donate money to the homeless population, it asks us to Engage More by spending a night with homeless individuals in our shelter which we have been fortunate enough to do. We love that CRS inspires us to light the Shabbat candles every Friday night. We love that as a consequence of our participation on Mitzvah Day, we are now Sunday volunteers with Meals on Wheels, an additional attempt to make Engagement

our default mode rather than an occasional occurrence. In a culture incessantly messaging us and our children to Be More, we feel so blessed to have found in CRS what we consider to be an alternative message—to Engage More—replete with vast forms of worship, programming, and leadership that continue to guide and teach our family in specific and achievable ways."

UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Gifts that partially or fully underwrite large projects at CRS are a wonderful way to make a tangible impact in our community. Here is one immediate opportunity:

Lunch Together While many programs take place in the evening, Lunch Together is a monthly afternoon program that brings our community together for intellectually and culturally stimulating programs in an inviting social setting. A gift of \$7,500 would underwrite the series for one year.

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

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

Because of the generosity of many congregants who have made gifts to the 2018 Yom Kippur Appeal (see Pages 9–10), we have critical funds available to offer dues assistance to families who could not otherwise maintain CRS membership, maintain our beautiful yet aging facilities, supplement educational offerings, and support our remarkable clergy team. Thank you for helping to make this possible!

Gifts to the 2018 YKA are still being accepted and will be listed in the next *Chronicle*. Please contact Lyndsie Levine at llevine@crsnyc.org or make a contribution online at rodephsholom.org/yomkippurappeal.

THE POWER OF THE PURIM MITZVAH | Nancy Solomon and Yvette Perry

They are to observe these as days of feasting and gladness, and for sending delicacies to one another, and giving gifts to the poor. (Esther 9:22)

Food insecurity are two words that describe many of our fellow New Yorkers' lives. It is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The risk increases when money to buy food is limited or not available. Purim is a holiday about social justice when we recognize the need for a turning upside down of the inequalities we see. One of the unique features of Purim is the mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim* – literally to give gifts to the needy. We are commanded to make it possible for those less fortunate to join in the festivities. Here are two ways that we can help:

Backpack Buddies is targeted specifically to neighborhood children in need of food assistance. Children who rely on government-assisted programs to receive food during the school week often have nowhere to turn on the weekend. On each Friday during the school year, volunteers

help pack 70 backpacks full of food to cover six weekend meals, drive the backpacks to two neighborhood community centers and the Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy, and help unload the food deliveries when they arrive at CRS. You may also consider making a contribution – any amount helps. The cost of sponsoring one child for a year is \$300. Together we can help make a difference in a child's life. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing financially, please contact Peter Ehrenberg, chair of the Social Action Committee, at BackpackBuddies@crsnyc.org.

The **CRS Food Drive** continues to be a paragon for providing much needed help to our neighbors. Our collective efforts benefit our partners, the Westside Campaign Against Hunger, the HUC Soup Kitchen, and the Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy. Please make a donation at rodephsholom.org/give/donate-now. Select Food Drive from the Fund/Program drop-down menu.

The greatness of Purim is its promise of hope. Volunteer or make a donation to help feed our neighbors. Let's spread joy.

Religious School

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

Friday, May 17 at 6:00 PM | 12 Iyar 5779

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

Tuesday Night Graduates:

<i>Emily Bach</i>	<i>Jordan Kramarsky</i>
<i>Ana Berman</i>	<i>Rachel Landis</i>
<i>Spencer Bernstein</i>	<i>Maya Lapin</i>
<i>Annie Epstein</i>	<i>Ava Leventhal</i>
<i>Juliet Katz</i>	<i>Sam Lipin</i>
<i>Sam Katz</i>	<i>Joshua Parness</i>
<i>Tyler Kepecs</i>	<i>Harry Ripp</i>
<i>Alexandra Kramarsky</i>	<i>Emilia Silverstein</i>
<i>Natalie Sternlicht</i>	

Madrichim Teaching Assistants:

<i>Annie Epstein</i>	<i>Gabrielle Nealon-Shapiro</i>
<i>Bryley Williams</i>	

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:

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

A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

REGISTER FOR 2019–20 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEFORE JUNE 30

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

Rodeph Sholom School



**Start Your Kindergarten
 Search Now!**

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, May 16, 8:45 AM

Rodeph Sholom School is hosting a Spring Open House for families applying to Kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. There will be tours of both our Early Childhood campus and our Elementary and Middle Schools. Registration is required. CRS members qualify for early notification.

To sign up, please contact our Admissions Office:
 646.438.8600 or admissions@rssnyc.org



Sholom Sprouts welcomes you into our vibrant Jewish community through Shabbat and holiday celebrations, music, art and fun for the whole family. As we approach

Purim, look forward to a **Havdalah and Hamantaschen** event for grandparents and a special **Megillah for Littles** (see Page 4). In April, help us celebrate Passover with a **Chocolate Seder** and later in May, come along on a **Pretend Trip to Israel** in honor of Yom HaAtzmaut. Celebrate **Shabbat** at our monthly Friday evening Shabbat dinners (4:30–6:00 pm) and weekly on Saturday mornings at **Singin' Swingin' Shabbat!**

We are very excited for you to join us when all the sections of our popular classroom readiness program, **Learning Together**, will take place on our beautifully renovated 5th floor in the fall. Stay tuned for registration info this spring.

**Sholom Sprouts
 connects you with
 a community!**

Learn more and register at rodephsholom.org/sholomsprouts
 Contact Lisa Schiff,
lschiff@crsnyc.org



Learning Together Group

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT RODEPHSHOLOM.ORG



Daryl Roth presents
STARS OF DAVID: STORY TO SONG

Monday, April 8, 7:30 PM

Tickets are \$36. Purchase at:
rodephsholom.org/starsofdauid

A CONCERT MUSICAL based on stories of famous and notable Jews in pop culture and business, *Stars of David* features Cantors Rebecca Garfein and Shayna De Lowe with Cantors Daniel Mutlu (Central Synagogue), Daniel Singer (Stephen Wise Free Synagogue), and David Mintz (Congregation B'nai Jeshurun) from New York City. They will be joined by Cantors Leigh Korn (Temple Isaiah, Lafayette), Lizzie Weiss (Temple Emanuel, Beverly Hills) and Tifani Coyot (Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles) from California.

Accompanying Music Director and pianist Cantor Jonathan Comisar (NYC) are Mike Cohen (winds), John Hadfield (drums), Jonathan Russell (violin), and Eliot Bailen (cello).

Stars of David is a funny and captivating show with music by some of today's great Broadway songwriters. Based on the best-selling book by Abigail Pogrebin, this musical adaptation celebrates the Jewish identities of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Kenneth Cole, Fran Drescher, Joan Rivers, Tony Kushner, Aaron Sorkin, Gloria Steinem, and more. What connects each song and story is not fame but their personal views on what it means to be a Jew in America. A truly unique blend of thrilling singing and insightful biography!

Presented by arrangement with Daryl Roth Theatrical Licensing (DRTL)

IN MEMORIAM

Edith Honig, aunt of Dr. Paul Lutvak

Michael Kaplan, son of Linda F. Vogel Kaplan and the late Hirsch Kaplan

Harriet Mogil, mother of Dr. Laurey Mogil

Suzanne Fineman Cohen, mother of Janet Cohen

Sol Stein, father of Gary Stein

Edith Glass, mother of Cynthia Scheinfeld

Jerome Weiss, father of Francine Rothenstein

Bernice Lustig, mother of Lesley Heller

Rebecca (Rori) Shaffer, wife of Steven Shaffer, mother of Daniel and Jennifer

Lawrence (Larry) Fishman, brother-in-law of Steve Schwinder

Eva Ponce, mother of Steven Koplin

The Honorable Leonard Sachar, father of Laura Sachar Gelfond

Karen Brodsky, mother of Sascha Brodsky, Kirsten Brodsky-Kimmel and Dr. Anya Brodsky

Nelly Kurtis, mother of Sandra Schipior

Suzanne Ruth Bayer Bolin, sister of Mitchell Bayer

Benjamin Baret Kittay, cousin of Mitchell Bayer

Alfred Feinman, stepfather to Julie Seymour

Ruth Feder, wife of Arthur Feder and mother of Gwen Feder

Harry Nathan Yagoda, father of Dr. Michelle Yagoda

Irving Angerman, father of Arnie Angerman

Seymour Wolfe, father of Melinda Wolfe

Would You Like to Visit a Synagogue in Another Country?

With over 1,200 Reform, Progressive, and Liberal congregations around the world, you can feel welcome at services in the city you are visiting! The World Union for Progressive Judaism will help you find a community. Go to wupj.org/find-a-community.

CRS THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

As You Like It

A Musical Adaptation of Shakespeare's *AS YOU LIKE IT*

Adapted by Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery
 Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub

PERFORMANCES

Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 11 at 8:00 pm

Sunday, May 12 at 1:30 and 6:00 pm

There is no charge for tickets but rsvps are required!

RSVP: rodephsholom.org/theater

Or call: 646.454.3045

Performances are held at CRS.

As You Like It is presented by arrangement with The Musical Company, LP

CRS HOMELESS SHELTER

The Rodeph Sholom Men's Shelter remains open Monday through Friday until June. Would you like to volunteer for this meaningful and rewarding congregational experience? Sign up at:

rodephsholom.org/social-action/opportunities-to-volunteer

COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICE

Do you need a helping hand to cope with life's challenges? Contact Ruth Kobrin, our own resident social worker, for an appointment: 646.454.3180 or rkobrin@crsnyc.org.

(Ruth Kobrin, LMSW is Senior Social Worker at CRS, part of the Partners in Caring program of UJA-Federation of New York.)

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CELEBRATE
PASSOVER'S LESSONS:
SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND
THANKFULNESS

REACH OUT
TO OUR IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE
NEIGHBORS

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Friday, April 19 | 7:30 PM

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.



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



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email: chronicle@crsnyc.org

Colleen Dundon Head of Hirschberg Elementary Division
Eve Andrias Head of Middle School Division
Jessica Shaviv Interim Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

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The Chronicle
Yvette Perry Editor