

Congregation Sons of Israel

THE MYERS FAMILY CAMPUS

CONTINUING THE VISION — BUILDING OUR FUTURE
DECEMBER 2022

7 *Kislev* — 7 *Tevet* 5783



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Congregation Sons of Israel

1666 Pleasantville Road Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510 Phone: (914) 762-2700 Fax: (914) 941-3465 www.csibriarcliff.org info@csibriarcliff.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

(adopted 1999, revised 2007): Congregation Sons of Israel is an egalitarian, Conservative synagogue dedicated to imparting Jewish values and traditions from generation to generation in a welcoming participatory environment. We are a caring community committed to lifelong Jewish learning, the observance of mitzvot, meaningful prayer and charitable deeds. We promote spiritual, cultural and social connections within our community, to the State of Israel, and to Jews worldwide.

Rabbi Steven C. Kane
Rabbi@csibriarcliff.org
Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz
jshiovitz@gmail.com
Nursery School Director:

Naomi Elyachar naomi.elyachar@csibriarcliff.org

Interim Religious School Director: Orit Daly

RSDirector@csibriarcliff.org

Synagogue Director: Ellen Green Johnson ellen@csibriarcliff.org

OFFICERS:

Mark J. Rosenberg, President
President@csibriarcliff.org
Shane Dolch, VP
Suzanne Haber, VP
Deborah Hertz, VP
Henrik Sukonnik, VP
Jack Zinn, Treasurer
Treasurer@csibriarcliff.org

Marc Auslander, Secretary Clare Rosen, IPP





YOU ARE INVITED FOR CHANUKAH FUN AT CSI

Please join us outdoors on Tuesday, December 20th at 5:30 pm for a CSI communal candle lighting of our large menorah. We will then come

inside for latkes, applesauce, soufganiot and warm apple cider.

No charge, but registration is requested. REGISTER HERE for 12/20.

Sponsored by the Social Committee and the Men's Club.

FEATURED FUND:

Your thoughtful generosity benefits each CSI tzedakah fund to which you donate. And each fund is for a different purpose.

Please consider choosing the *KIDDUSH* FUND when you honor an occasion, celebrate a life-cycle event or remember a loved one.

Your donations will enable us to continue the long-standing custom of sharing a relaxed and delicious *kiddush* lunch as a community on *Shabbat* afternoon. Sponsors (minimum \$180) can discuss possible menu items with Ellen.

And of course, join us for services and *kiddush* whenever you can. **DONATE HERE**—Thank you!

FROM THE RABBI Steven C. Kane



How is it that Chanukah became a recognized holiday in Judaism? The story of Chanukah is told in a set of books called The Maccabees. There are four books of The Maccabees, but only the first three (and mostly the first two) contain important historical information about the revolt of the Jews against the Syrian-Greeks that led to the holiday of Chanukah. The fourth book is a rewriting of the earlier second Maccabees. Strangely, the books of the Maccabees are not found in the Bible. Instead they are found in a post-Biblical collection of books called The Apocrypha. Since it is not found in our Bible, one wonders how Chanukah became a religious holiday?

The answer can be found in the words of the blessings we say. There are two berachot we recite each night of Chanukah (there is a third, Shechechiyanu, recited only on the first night), which together teach us something about why the rabbis came to recognize Chanukah as a religious holiday. The first beracha contains the well known phrase, "asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu-who has sanctified us with God's mitzvot and commanded us to..." The word mitzvah is used many times throughout the Bible, especially in the Torah. While in Yiddish the word *mitzvah* often means "a good deed" (as in, "it would be a real mitzvah if you would call your grandmother"), in Biblical Hebrew the word mitzvah means "a commandment," often one emanating from God. While the Divine mitzvot are not numbered in the Torah, the Talmud (Makkot 23b) states that there are 613 mitzvot found throughout the Torah, 365 negative ones ("thou shalt not...") and 248 positive ones ("observe the Sabbath day..."). How could the rabbis say that one of those positive commandments is to light the Chanukah candles? Where does God command us concerning the mitzvot of Chanukah?

The explanation for this is found in the second beracha we recite. In the version we use (found later in this bulletin), we praise God "she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim ha-hem, u'vazman ha-zeh-who performed miracles for our ancestors, in those days AND in our times." This version, which is found in an early text of the Siddur, proclaims that God performed miracles for our ancestors in ancient times AND continues to do so for us today.

The rabbis thought that at any time in history, miracles could happen (the fact of our survival as a people is a miracle itself!). Once we are aware that a public miracle such as Chanukah has occurred, the rabbis felt that we were commanded by God to acknowledge it. It reminds us that our relationship to God is not one which is only found in an ancient book, (the Bible), but can also be felt throughout the unfolding of history. When we understand that we also understand how it is that Chanukah came to be recognized as a religious holiday in Judaism.

Judy and I wish everyone a *Chag Chanukah Sameach*, a wonderful Chanukah filled with a sense of the miraculous.

L'hitraot,

Rabbi@csibriarcliff.org

& C. Kan

CANTORIAL NOTES Hazzan Jeffrey Shiovitz



December 2022

The Sages of the Mishnah said about the Torah, "Turn it over, turn it around for everything can be found in it."

I firmly believe that our traditional Jewish texts, liturgy and song are living organisms that hold countless levels of meaning if one only looks at them in the right way.

And so it is with the popular hymn, *Maoz Tzur*, popularly and loosely translated in English as "Rock of Ages." After Jews around the world light the *Chanukia*, the menorah, they traditionally sing *Maoz Tzur*. Not so fast! Stop and ask yourself, what is this brief text? What is *Maoz Tzur* all about? The answer is much more interesting than you probably thought.

First, most of the six-stanza liturgical song *Maoz Tzur* (literally, "Mighty Stronghold") has nothing to do with Chanukah. In particular, the first stanza, which is by far the most familiar, is almost completely unrelated to the holiday. The translation from the ArtScroll version reads:

O mighty stronghold of my salvation.
To praise you is a delight.
Restore my House of Prayer
and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.
When You will have prepared the slaughter
for the blaspheming foe.
Then I shall complete with a song of hymn
the dedication of the Altar.

For most Jews, this stanza is all they know of *Maoz Tzur*, but it is really more of a preface to the song than it is a song itself.

Structurally, this blunt invocation, calling on God to restore the Temple worship and avenge the enemies of the Jews, serves as an introduction to the next four stanzas. These verses are the real essence of the hymn and allude to four eras of persecution and eventual redemption of the Jewish people. These are the periods of slavery under the Pharaoh in Egypt (stanza 2), the destruction of the First Temple (stanza 3), Haman's failed attempt to exterminate the Jews (stanza 4), and finally, the oppression by the Hellenistic Syrians that led to the Chanukah miracle (stanza 5). A sixth stanza of *Maoz Tzur* recapitulates and once more asks God to exact revenge on the enemies of the Jews.

So, it seems that textually, *Maoz Tzur* is as relevant to Passover or to Purim as it is to Chanukah. We don't really know why the song became permanently associated with Chanukah. We do know that it originated in 13th century Germany and was written by an otherwise unknown poet named Mordecai. The well-known melody came later; its first known use in connection with *Maoz Tzur* is found in a 1744 manuscript. Scholars think it was borrowed from 15th century church hymns.

As Hebrew poetry, *Maoz Tzur* is straightforward. Even in the full six-stanza form, it is relatively brief. It relies on both ordinary and internal rhyme and is mostly free of the obscure allusions that are present in much of the literature of medieval synagogue poetry.

Maoz Tzur contains several clear references to biblical verses. There is nothing surprising about this, as the Hebrew Bible was known to all Jews at the time and was the basis for all religious literature of the period. However, the revenge motif that is

CANTORIAL NOTES continued

explicit in *Maoz Tzur* has troubled some segments of the Jewish community for more than a century. In fact, two well-known American Reform rabbis, Marcus Jastrow and Gustav Gotthiel, composed the considerably toned down English version "Rock of Ages" in the 19th century to get the blood and slaughter out of the song and to make it more palatable to what they saw as contemporary sensibilities.

Those of us who have difficulties with the invocation of God's revenge, and who would still like to keep the hymn and strengthen its ties to Chanukah, have an easy and effective solution. They should restore the forgotten fifth stanza to prominence and sing it, using the traditional melody, in lieu of, or in addition to, the first. It's quite beautiful and appropriate for this season of the year.

Greeks gathered against me
They breached the walls of my towers
and defiled all the oils:
And from the one remnant of the flasks
a miracle was wrought for the roses.
Men of insight-eight days
Established for song and jubilation.

From my family to yours, Chanukah Sameach.

Ishiovitz@gmail.com





JEWISH MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd at 8pm via ZOOM
Music in honor of the 75th Birthday of Israel continues!
1960s through the Yom Kippur War
RSVP to Cantor Shiovitz

FROM THE PRESIDENT Mark J. Rosenberg



"Indifference, to me, is the epitome of evil. The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." (Elie Wiesel, 1986). Similarly, Leviticus 19:16 commands us to not stand idly by if someone's life is in danger.

This important commandment resonates at CSI through the work of our Resettlement Committee.

In the summer of 2021, seeing the danger to Afghans posed by the United States' hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan, two long-time CSI members, Abbe Marcus and Julie Peskoe, felt the need to "do something." Working with faith-based immigration organizations, Abbe and Julie found a way for CSI to help an Afghan family by assisting them in resettling in the Briarcliff area.

That is when the CSI community sprang into action. The Resettlement Committee was quickly formed and CSI members didn't hesitate to join.

Soon, an Afghan family was identified. The family of three (with a baby on the way), whose husband had worked for the U.S. government, had quickly escaped Afghanistan to avoid retribution from the Taliban. They were temporarily living in Newark, New Jersey, with the few possessions they were able to take with them from Afghanistan in a single suitcase.

In a matter of weeks, the Resettlement Committee, with the assistance of many CSI community members, found the K family an apartment in Briarcliff and furnished it. (In order to protect the safety of the family's relatives who remain in Afghanistan, CSI does not publish the full name of the family.)

Recognizing the mitzvah in helping persons in need, the CSI community has come together to assist this family. Assistance has come in many forms, such as negotiating the K family's lease, providing dental care, cooking meals, donating clothing, furniture and funds, teaching the adult family members English and driving the husband back and forth to his job each day. When the family needed a car seat, a potty and baby clothing, our Nursery School families quickly stepped forward. Approximately one quarter of the CSI community has contributed in one way or another.

These efforts have not only helped the K family, they have also strengthened our community. Many of the CSI members who have participated in the resettlement efforts had never before participated in a CSI project. Because so many "first-timers" are involved with this project, many new friendships have been made.

This is CSI at its best. A community that comes together when it sees a person, or in this case a family, in need. I find it interesting that even though the K family is not Jewish, their need for assistance has resonated so strongly within the CSI community. To me, and I am sure to others, Elie Wiesel's words ring loud. In the 1930s and 1940s, when something could have been done to help Europe's Jews, much of the world acted with indifference with horrific results. Today, the CSI community is making a difference and changing lives.

Amazingly, the Resettlement Committee's efforts are not limited to the K family. On December 4th, the CSI community will be welcoming a Ukrainian family to the area. This family fled from Mariupol as the Russians were laying waste to that city. They are now living in a refugee camp in Poland. Once again, the CSI community has risen to the occasion, finding the family an apartment and working to have it furnished and provisioned. Notably, Jews who are not affiliated with CSI have been so moved by the Resettlement Committee's efforts that they are also making a difference. For example, the son of a former member arranged for the donation of frequent flyer miles so that the family can travel to the U.S. for free, and a member's client made a significant financial contribution to the Resettlement Committee.

As President of CSI, I could not be more proud of how our community has come together to help these families in need. It is a true *mitzvah*.

If you would like to assist on move-in day, scheduled for December 4th, please sign up here. A list of items needed to furnish and provision the apartment can be found here.

President@csibriarcliff.org

M1.8

For the safety and security of our community, we need up-to-date **Emergency Contact Information** for every member of our synagogue and school families. Of course, when children are enrolled in school, parents list their contact information. But (and we pray that nothing like this ever happens), what if a parent has a medical emergency while at CSI, or there is an accident in the parking lot, or (God forbid) an act of violence takes place? To ensure that we can contact the right people, we need emergency contacts for every adult, too. And not just spouses giving each other's names. We need to know who else we can call if the situation requires it.

If you have not already done so, please take a minute now to log in to your ShulCloud account through the CSI Community Portal (https://www.csibriarcliff.org/) and enter or update Emergency Contact information for every adult member in your family.

Once you are logged in, navigate to My Account>My Profile>Edit Profile>Emergency Contact Info. After you have filled in your contact information, you **must** click on the *Save Changes to Person* button at the bottom-right of the page. It's quick and easy.

Thank you!



CSI invites you to be a Greeter during Services

Greeters do the following:

- Welcome people to CSI as they enter

- Provide a Shabbat handout, when there is one

- Point out where they can pick up a tallit and kippah, if needed

- Kindly ask them to silence or turn off their phones

Now that the doors are locked during services, there is an additional, very important task for Greeters, and that is to let people into the building. Andy Polay, our Security Manager, will be providing brief instructions for Greeters related to security issues.

For each service, there are two sets of Greeters: 9am - 10:30am and 10:30am - 12noon (and perhaps a bit later when services run past noon).

Please click the button below to sign up as a Greeter for specific dates and times:

Sign-up Here

Once you complete the sign-up form, you will receive a confirmation email from info@signupgenius.com, just so you know that that's not spam.

Questions? Email us by clicking here.
Thanks for your help and support!
CSI Greeters Coordinators

FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL DIRECTOR Naomi Elyachar



When December begins and winter break feels like it is just around the corner, it can start to feel like half of the school year is over. In reality, because of the many days off in the fall, November and December are when our youngest students start to internalize their school routines and when school begins to feel like a second home to them.

I love spending time in the nursery school classrooms. The children are truly a delight. Their playing excitement for learning and captivating. I often get drawn in and need to remind myself to take a step back, as I have other classrooms to visit and other work to attend to. During my last few visits, it has become apparent that there has been a recent change in the classrooms. The children work cohesively as little communities. They notice one another, play together, and take care of each other. They know their routines and daily agendas. They look forward to upcoming activities and notice when a friend is absent.

These small nuances highlight some of the most important work we do here at the nursery school. Yes, children who attend nursery school learn some of the more objective school readiness skills such as counting, patterning, sorting, name recognition, etc. However, our program stresses

the importance of many softer skills that add value well beyond the nursery school years. Our students understand their place in their communities and the larger world around them. They learn that they can find comfort and safety in a school setting and that they can be apart from their parents and caregivers while being in another place they are cared for.

Observing the students and teachers is one of the blessings of being the Nursery School Director at CSI. Since I am a bit more removed than the teachers and parents, it can sometimes be easier for me to see trends and progress for the whole group over time. It has been a pleasure to see this year's group of students become so comfortable and connected at school.

> Naomi Elyachar Nursery School Director Naomi. Elyachar@csibriarcliff.org











FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL



Please join us with your littlest learners!

XExplore, learn and play with other children

Learn the structure of a school routine in a safe, fun setting

Meet other local families





For tots under 2 with a caregiver

Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

January 12, 19, 26 February 2, 9, 16 March 2, 9



<u>Cost</u>

\$200 for non-members

\$150 for CSI members

Grown-ups and parents of children in attendance must be vaccinated against Covid-19.

In accordance with CSI Nursery School policies,
participants must be up to date on childhood immunizations.

Advance registration is required. Register here

Please email CSI Nursery School Director, Naomi Elyachar, at naomi.elyachar@csibriarcliff.org with any questions and for registration information.



Join us at CSI Nursery School as we welcome Rose from Musical Round-Up!

Friday, December 9th 10:45-11:45 a.m.

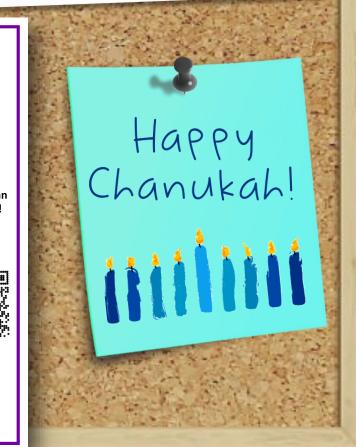
This program is FREE and open to all!

Registration can be accessed through our web calendar.

https://www.csibriarcliff.org/calendar

Please note, all children must be up to date on childhood immunizations and all grown-ups in attendance must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

Please e-mail CSI Nursery School Director, Naomi Elyachar at naomi.elyachar@csibriarcliff.org, with any questions.



NURSERY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION



The CSI Nursery School Parents Association held our annual Parents' Night Out in November. This event is our largest fundraiser each year, and this year, we were able to raise \$4,400 for the Nursery School. Thank you to all who supported the Nursery School by purchasing raffle

tickets. The evening was a huge success, from the food and drinks, to the live band, to the happy parents who were able to mingle kid free!

We hope you all were able to relax and take some time with friends and family over the Thanksgiving break.

The Parents Association is currently planning a few more events to close out 2022. We will continue to have events and activities that help strengthen this wonderful community, and as always, if you would like to become a member, please email csinspa@gmail.com.

The CSI NS Parents Association

JOIN THE CSI COMMUNITY FOR SOME PLAYGROUND FUN AT ROSELLE PARK

52 Weskora Avenue Pleasantville, NY 10570

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AT 10:30AM

Bagels & hot drinks will be available.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR Orit Daly



The Thanksgiving and Chanukah season is an excellent time to reflect on the joys and blessings of our lives, families and communities. It is a time when we celebrate together as our ancestors have for centuries and generations. It is in this vein that I would like to introduce a new initiative in the Religious School, that of community volunteerism and involvement. Educating the next generation of the Jewish community is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Continuity, history, family and community are what have held Jews together for as long as there have been Jews.

Children in our community benefit from a closer and deeper connection to those older members of our congregation whose wisdom, knowledge and love of Judaism enrich us all. We welcome community members to join us in any way that they feel comfortable: as Hebrew tutors, as substitutes, as assistant teachers and as helpers during our special programs, or even if you just want to come and sit in on a class or a school learning minyan.

The education of our young members is not just the responsibility of two or three teachers

twice a week but also of the community as a whole. We want our children to see thriving and enthusiastic lifelong learning at CSI and what that could mean to them. We invite you to join us in this initiative.

Click on the link below to fill out a form to tell us when you are able to join us and how you would like to help. (Every month we will be posting a new form.)

Volunteer opportunities in December

- Join us as a craft helper or latke maker on December 18th for our Chanukah celebration.
- Work with kids on Hebrew one-on-one.
- Teach a lesson on a Jewish topic close to your heart.
- Be a guest book reader in our K-2 class.

So many opportunities are available. JOIN US!

Orit Daly
Religious School Director
RSDirector@csibriarcliff.org

DECEMBER

		•	· ·		
	Sundays, 9-11AM RS for Kindergarten –7th grade		Tuesdays, 4-6PM RS for 3rd –7th grade		
4	School Open	6	School Open		
11	School Open	13	School Open		
18	School Open Special <i>Chanukah</i> activities during school hours	20	School Open Community <i>menorah</i> lighting at 5:40pm		



The farm has several ongoing projects that successfully integrate the farm into our local CSI community as well as the Westchester community. These programs are somewhat under the radar and for this month I would like to highlight them.

Food Donation

The first one is our terrific partnership with Kol Ami Synagogue in White Plains. Kol Ami has a very well organized food pantry that is open twice a week and is run by volunteers out of their building's gymnasium. Volunteers have been teaming up with David Levitt (CSI Farm manager) for weekly donations of our overage and seconds from our farm to fill their food pantry with fresh vegetables. I want to take a moment to thank David for his capacity to grow and harvest as well as his organization and connections with the folks at the Kol Ami food pantry. Over 1300 pounds of fresh vegetables were donated this year!

Flowers for Shabbat

The second project is our Flowers for *Shabbat* program and I want to thank Fran Fortinash and Ruth Speier for volunteering on a weekly basis to pick and arrange a fresh bouquet of flowers for the kiddush lunch table. Fran and Ruth are inspiring to watch as they pick and arrange using whatever looks good at the farm that week. *Todah rabah*! We hope they will continue next year!

Random Acts of Challah

Through the combined efforts of the Membership, Sisterhood and Farm Committees, farm-fresh bags of produce, fresh bouquets of cut flowers, candlesticks and challah have been delivered to "random" members of our CSI community. We hope to catch each and every one of our member families off guard with a delicious *Shabbat* bag and to say "hi." We are humbled and grateful to be able to share the amazing produce from our field. There is a small army of volunteers that help with this endeavor from harvesting to packing bags to delivering, and the behind the scenes sponsorship of the project. All of you are very much appreciated and a big *todah rabah*. As the colder weather will end the farm production, we will switch to other products but we will continue the effort— so keep your eyes open—you may be next on the list!

Volunteers are always welcome.

Ryna

rynalustig@gmail.com





A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FRED SCHULMAN

For your continued kindness and generosity.

You are always working
to make my job that much easier,
and for this I am incredibly
happy and grateful.

Rosa



Christmas Meal Distribution

CSI-Sponsored Christmas Meal Distribution Sunday, December 25th

For decades now, CSI has served a hearty and festive Christmas Day Dinner for our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church in Ossining. The CSI community has generously given their time, expertise, and monetary donations to ensure the success of this warm, wonderful, and necessary program.

This year we will not be hosting a sit-down celebration, but CSI members will be providing a CHRISTMAS DAY EXPERIENCE for those in need. Your support makes it happen. There are many ways you can participate!

- Shop for items we need.
- Cook and bring a turkey, stuffing, vegetables or sweet potatoes to the church on Christmas Day.
- Provide individually wrapped home-made or store-bought desserts.
- Donate new toys and games for the children.
- Donate food pantry items.
- Help set up.
- Greet our guests and help distribute meals, toys and food pantry items.
- Help clean up.
- Going away? Too busy? No problem! You can always shop for items that we need in advance.
- Monetary donations are also always welcome. We use them to help make the event more joyous for our guests by distributing supermarket gift cards.

SIGN UP GENIUS FOR FOOD AND VOLUNTEERS HERE!

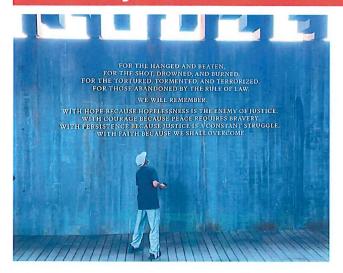
If you have any questions, please contact: Robin Ginsberg or Melissa Kogan.





A Civil Rights Journey An intergenerational immersive experience

Sunday, March 12 - Wednesday, March 15, 2023





CSI invites you to join us for an educational and extraordinary experience. Led by Abbe Marcus and Rabbi Kane, you will be taken to the amazing places and storytellers of the Civil Rights Movement!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

- The EJI Museum and Memorial created by Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative
- Day trips to Selma, Birmingham, and Atlanta
- Service and dinner at Temple Mishkan in Selma
- Tour 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park
- Visit to Stone Mountain
- Visit The Human and Civil Rights Museum in Atlanta
- Visit The King Center in Atlanta



*\$1,800 for double occupancy *\$2,100 for single occupancy

Includes:

- Round-trip airfare from NY to Atlanta
- 3 nights accommodations (Springhill) Suites/Downtown Montgomery)
- Transportation by Coach Bus
- All museum admissions and guides
- Most meals

*There is a \$200 discount for CSI Members.

A \$350 deposit (\$50 non-refundable) will be collected to secure your spot.

Full payment will be due on February 12th, 2023.

For more information please contact Abbe Marcus at abbe@journeys2change.com.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Junior Congregation
Next service:
December 3rd
10:45am - 12:00pm

3rd-7th grade students must attend THREE of these services during this school year.

USY-ANDREA BROMBERG, ADVISOR

TEEN HAPPENINGS

What?	When?	Where?
USY Winter Civil Rights Journey https://www.usy.org/civilrights	January 12-15, 2023	Atlanta, GA Selma, AL Montgomery, AL
USY Summer Travel https://www.usy.org/summer-travel	June, July, and August 2023	U.S., Canada, Israel, Europe, and the Dominican Republic

Have questions? Email Andrea HERE.

CARING COMMUNITY



Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 21st, at 7pm.
Contact <u>Judy Boehr</u> with any questions.





THE WINTER COAT/JACKET DRIVE IS ON! Once again, we are collecting winter jackets for the IFCA (Interfaith Council for Action) Thrift Shop (now located at 95 Croton Avenue in Ossining and still run by CSI member Amy Alpert.) The IFCA housing network uses the profits from the shop to purchase, renovate, and/or rent low-cost housing for the greater Ossining community.

Please bring the following items to the bins in the synagogue lobby: jackets and parkas (especially down, but anything that is WARM!), hats, gloves and mittens, and scarves.

We ask that ALL ITEMS BE CLEAN AND <u>IN GOOD CONDITION</u>. Thank you for supporting this important drive. We will bring items to IFCA as the bins fill, so keep your donations coming!

The annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive for the Star of Bethlehem Church in Ossining was a huge success. This community ALWAYS steps up to help!

THANK YOU to everyone who bought turkeys and generously donated money for turkeys.

They were distributed to local residents at the Church on the Monday before Thanksgiving. C-Town Ossining Manager, Eduardo, helped us make our money go as far as possible. This neighborhood couldn't ask for a more community-centered supermarket.

A BIG THANK YOU to our own Tom Hannan for picking up the turkeys from CSI and C-Town and delivering them to the Church.

Ellen J.



SISTERHOOD

CHANUKAH SHOPPING AT MATANAH, THE GIFT SHOP OF CSI

Chanukah starts December 18th!



Menorahs, dreidels, puzzles, games, jewelry, Judaica, serving pieces, candle sticks, kitchen accessories, Chanukah socks, candles, The Maccabee on the Mantel, Chanukah leggings, and more!

Come shop on December 4th, 11th and 18th from 9am-11:30am.

Mah Jongg: Monday nights at CSI at 7:30pm, Contact Cheryl Katz for more info.

Sisterhood Membership

Sisterhood offers complimentary membership for one year to new CSI members and to any CSI members or school families who have not previously joined Sisterhood.

Please mail your check for \$36 (\$54 for non-CSI members) to Annleah Berger, 10 Charlotte Court, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510. Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail. If you would prefer to pay by credit card, contact Robin Ginsberg and an invoice will be sent. (There is an additional charge to cover the credit card service fees.) Just contact Robin to sign up!

President: Robin Ginsberg Treasurer/ Financial Secretary: Sharon Richter Recording Secretary: Beth Levine Corresponding Secretary: Marion Jablansky Membership: Annleah Berger Ritual & Mah Jongg Chair: Cheryl Katz Gift Shop: Robin Ginsberg/ Jill Greenstein/ Marion Jablansky/ Sharon Orenstein www.wlcj.org

MEN'S CLUB



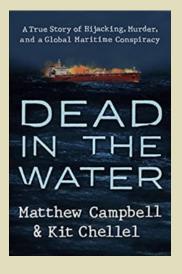
Book Club:

Will Resume in January!

We will be discussing

<u>Dead in the Water</u> by

Matthew Campbell and Kit Chellel



Men's club totes \$10 Each! ORDER HERE

Join the Men's Club here.

Questions/Ideas: Email us here.



RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

AFGHAN FAMILY

The K family is thriving in Briarcliff as our CSI volunteers continue to provide regular ESL tutoring, rides, driving lessons, connections to services, and friendship. We have all enjoyed growing and learning together and are proud that they refer to us as their American family.

UKRAINIAN FAMILY

On December 6th, with the support of HIAS, we will be bringing a new refugee family to our community. With just two suitcases of belongings, this family of four from Mariupol, Ukraine walked across the border into Poland. After living in a refugee camp for several months, they received travel authorization. We are excited to welcome them and help make Ossining their new home.

Your help is needed gathering the furniture and housewares this family will need. Click on this SignUpGenius for a listing of items. The family will need everything from spatulas to couches in their new home. If you have questions about donations, please contact Linda Kingsbury or Sue Lerner.

Help is also needed on December 4th with setting up the apartment. Please sign up here. Please invite your children, friends, and neighbors with trucks and muscles.

On December 6th, after the apartment is set up, we will greet the family at the airport (a new experience for our committee) and drive them to their new home.

Like many of our ancestors when they immigrated to the US, these two families are escaping aggression and unimaginable hardships. They are grateful for the opportunity we are providing to help raise their children in peace and safety. We are also grateful to be members of the CSI Community, changing lives and doing a small part to engage in Tikkun Olam to make the world a better place.

Abbe Marcus and Julie Peskoe Resettlement Committee Co-Chairs



PRIDE COMMITTEE

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 12/13 at 7:30pm.

For more information or to join our committee, contact

<u>Suzanne Haber.</u>



HAPPY CHANUKAH



HERE IS A LIST OF WHAT CAN BE DONATED TO THE OPP SHOP AT 61 NORTH GREELEY AVENUE, CHAPPAQUA MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 10AM - 2PM

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CALL THE OPP SHOP AT: 914-483-4144.

Men's Clothing & Shoes

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Ties

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Luggage

Backpacks

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Collectibles

Judaica

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order with ALL parts)

Lamps

Pictures/Art Work

Picture Frames

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Hard Cover Best Sellers

Vases

Crystal & China

Dishes

Silverware

Platters

Kitchenware

Pots & Pans

New Toys & Games

Gently Used Toys & Games

(clean & in working order)

When you stop in, you are likely to bump into a CSI member you know as we have a great group of volunteers.





Kol Rinah

Point your phone's camera here for more information

the Jewish Charale of Westchester

presents

Chanukah: Season of Song

Sunday, December 11, 2022 3:00 p.m.

Congregation Sons of Israel 1666 Pleasantville Road Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

For tickets and information,

www.kolrinahchorale.org



CHANUKAH

Chanukah commemorates the victory of the Jewish forces, led by Judah Maccabee, over the Syrian forces (often called Syrian-Greeks because they had come under the influence of Greek culture) lead by Antiochus Epiphanes in the year 167 BCE. Antiochus had outlawed circumcision, Shabbat observance and other customs basic to Judaism. He then desecrated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem by placing the statue of a Greek god in the Holy of Holies, and conducting sacrifices of unclean animals.

After three years of fighting, the forces led by Judah recaptured the Temple on the 25th of *Kislev*. They found it in ruins. As they began to repair and rebuild it, crowds of Jews congregated to celebrate and bring proper sacrifices to God. One version of the story tells us that the Jews celebrated the rededication of the Temple for eight days since they had been denied access to the Temple for the eight days of *Sukkot*. Of course, we are all familiar with the legend in the Talmud that recounts one cruse of oil found with the seal of the *Cohen Gadol* (High Priest). It was sufficient for one day, but a great miracle happened and the oil burned for eight days.

KINDLING THE LIGHTS

This year the first *Chanukah* candle is lit on **Sunday**, **December 18th**. One candle is lit on the first night, two the second night and so on, adding a candle each subsequent night. The "Shamash" candle is lit first and used to light the others. On the first night the candle is placed on the far right of the *menorah* (as it faces you). Each night a candle is added to the left and candles are lit left to right, so that the newest candle is always lit first, the second newest second, and so on.



Place right to left; Kindle left to right

People often use larger candles on Friday night because these candles must burn for a period of time after complete darkness sets in.

On Friday night, December 23rd, *Chanukah* candles are lit before *Shabbat* candles.

Matanah, the gift shop at CSI, has a wonderful selection of candles, menorahs and gifts for *Chanukah* and all year.

See page 18 for details about this year's in-person Chanukah shopping dates and times.

While kindling the lights, say the following blessings:

Baruch attah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'haldlik ner shel Hanukkah.

בָּרוּך אַתָּח יִי אֱלֹחֵינוּ מֶלֶּךְ חעולָם אַשֶּר קִדְשָנוּ בִּמִצְוֹתִיוּ וְצְוָנוּ לְחַדְלִּקּ נֵר שֶׁל חָנֻכָּח

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe whose *mitzvot* add holiness to our life and who gave us the *mitzvah* to light the lights of *Chanukah*.

Baruch attah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam she-asah nissim la-avoteinu by-yamim ha—heim u-va-z'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּח יָי אֱלֹחֵינוּ כַּיָפִים חָחֵם וּבַוְּמֵן חַוֶּח שֶׁעֲשָּׁח נִסִים לָאָבוֹתֵינוּ כַּיָפִים חָחֵם וּבַוְמֵן חַוֶּח

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe who accomplished miracles for our ancestors in ancient days, and in our time.

On the first night only add the following benediction:

Baruch attah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam shehecheyanu vekiamanu vehigianu lazman hazeh.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּח יָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ חעוּלָם בְּּרוּךְ אַתָּחִינוּ וּמְיַפְנוּ וְתְנֵענוּ לַוְּמֵן הַוָּח

Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe, for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day.

After lighting the candles:

These lights we kindle to recall the wondrous triumphs and the miraculous victories wrought through Your holy *kohanim* for our ancestors in ancient days at this season. These lights are sacred through all the eight days of *Chanukah*. We may not put them to ordinary use, but are to look upon them and thus be reminded to thank You and praise You for the wondrous miracle of our deliverance.

מָעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְדּ נָאֶה לְשַׁבַּחַ. תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תִּפִּלָּתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נְזַבַּחַ. לְצֵת תָּכִין מַטְבַּחַ מִצָּר הַמְנַבֵּחַ. אָז אֶנְמוֹר בָשִׁיר מִוֹמוֹר חַנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבַחַ.

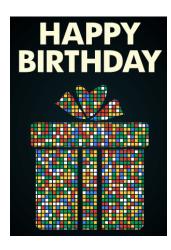
Ma'oz tsur yeshu'ati lecha no'eh leshabeakh. Tikon beit tefilati vesham todah nezaveakh. Le'et tachin matbeakh mitsar hamnabeakh, 'az 'egmore beshir mizmor khanuat hamizbeakh.

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Your saving power. You amid the raging throng were our sheltering tower. Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us. And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

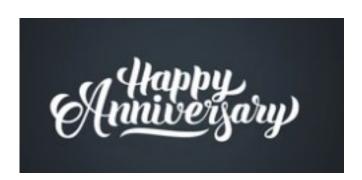
December 2022 7 Kislev – 7 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RS: Religious School NS: Nursery School JITN: Jews in the News C/L: Candle				1 7th Kislev 8am Minyan 11am Contemporary	2 8th Kislev	3 9th Kislev 9:10am Shabbat Services - Sanctuary & Live Stream
Lighting Click HERE for				Issues and the Talmud w/ Wendy Segal	6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	10:45am Junior Congregation 8pm Jewish Music
the web calendar.					C/L 4:09pm	Through the Ages Parashat Vayetzei
4 10th Kislev	5 llth Kislev	6 12th Kislev	7 13th Kislev	8 14th Kislev	9 15th Kislev	10 l6th Kisley
9am BM Family Group Class	8am Minyan	11:15am JITN		8am Minyan	10:45 Music & Fun	9:10am Shabbat Services - Sanctuary
w/Rabbi Kane 9:15am Minyan	2:30pm Women's Torah Study w/Rabbi Jan Uhrbach			10:30am HaMishpacha Discussion Group w/ Shari Baum	For Little Ones 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	& Live Stream
10am Poetry from Israel w/ Neil Schluger	7:30pm Five Things w/Rabbi Kane 8:45pm Talmud w/ Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Education Comm.		llam Contemporary Issues and the Talmud w/ Wendy Segal	C/L 4:08pm	Parashat Vayishlach
11 17th Kislev		13 19th Kislev	14 20th Kislev	15 21st Kislev	16 22nd Kislev	17 23rd Kislev
9am BM Family Group Class w/Rabbi Kane 9:15am Minyan 10am Poetry from Israel w/ Neil Schluger	8am Minyan 2:30pm Women's Torah Study w/Rabbi Jan Uhrbach 7pm Sisterhood Board	11:15am JITN 7:30pm Second Generation Survivors 7:30pm Pride Comm.		8am Minyan 11am Contemporary Issues and the Talmud w/ Wendy Segal	6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9:10am Shabbat Services - Sanctuary & Live Stream
3pm Kol Rinah Winter Concert	7:30pm Exec. Comm. 8:45pm Talmud w/Rabbi Kane	-			C/L 4:10pm	Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Tevet <u>Parashat Vayeshev</u>
18 24th Kislev 9am RS Chanukah Celebration 9:15am Minyan 10am Poetry from	19 25th Kislev 8am Minyan	20 26th Kislev 11:15am JITN 5:40pm Community	21 27th Kislev	22 28th Kislev 8am Minyan 10:30am HaMishpacha Discussion Group w/ Shari Baum	23 29th Kislev 6pm Kabbalat	24 30th Kislev 9:10am Shabbat Services - Sanctuary & Live Stream
Israel w/ Neil Schluger	8:45 Talmud	Menorah Lighting 7:30pm Board	7pm Caring Comm.	llam Contemporary Issues and the	Shabbat C/L 4:13pm	Chanukah: 7
3pm Chanukah on Broadway Chanukah: 1 Candle	w/Rabbi Kane Chanukah: 2 Candles	Trustees Chanukah: 3 Candles	<u>Chanukah: 4</u> Candles	Talmud w/Wendy Segal Chanukah: 5	Chanukah: 6 Candles	Candles Rosh Chodesh Tevet Parashat Miketz
25 lst Tevet	26 2nd Tevet		28 4th Tevet	Candles 29 5th Tevet	30 6th Tevet	31 7th Tevel
NO RS 9:15am Minyan	NO NS 8am Minyan	NO NS NO RS	NO NS	NO NS 8am Minyan	NO NS	9:10am Shabbat Services - Sanctuary & Live Stream
<u>Chanukah: 8</u> <u>Candles</u> <u>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</u>	Chanukah: 8th Day	INO KO		oani wiiiyati	4:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat C/L 4:17pm	Parashat Vayigash

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS



CELEBRANT	DATE	AGE
Henry Schiz	24	5
Aiden Parker	30	12



CELEBRANTS	DATE	YEARS	
Benjamin & Pamela Newman	4	18	
Eric & Lisa Nadler	10	27	
Jeffrey & Ilene Calderon	13	30	
Giora & Karen Payes	15	21	
David & Lisa Zimmerman	17	28	
Jeffrey & Robyn Shiovitz	18	39	
Jonathan & Erica Kolbrener	18	28	
Joshua Diamond & Zhanna Glazenburg	19	29	
Gary & Bette Slutsky	22	60	
Sid & Joan Schneider	22	54	
Paul Kalman & Betty Balsam	22	49	
Richard & Betsy Rosenblum	26	51	
Thomas & Donna Hannan	31	28	

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Condolences to Rachel Goldman on the loss of her father, Allan Goldman.

Mazal Tov to Emily Giess and Oshrie Zak on the birth of their son, Aaron Asher.

Mazal Tov to Corey and Emily Ginsburg on Parker's Bat Mitzvah.



Have a Life Cycle event to share? We'd love to know about it! Email <u>jenniferh@csibriarcliff.org</u> for inclusion in the Bulletin.

December 2022

DONATIONS

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Albert Perlman Ronnie Kent In memory of Paul Gherson Janine Gherson

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Page 28

In memory of Arlene Ditchek Beth & Harold Levine In memory of Fay Lewin Sharon & Gilbert Balog Thank you for Random Act of Challah Sonia & Paul Kleinman Thank you to CSI Marlene & Michael Ulman

ETZ CHAIM - TREE OF LIFE FUND

In memory of Charles Schwartz Cathy & George Zimmerman

In memory of Albert Perlman Ronnie Kent

Roberta & Rick Kay In memory of Laura Kay

In memory of Lewis Rosen Clare Rosen In memory of Philip Rosenberg Clare Rosen

GILBERT KAVY MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND

In memory of Christopher Contard, Sr. Elizabeth & Alan Legatt

IRA KESTENBAUM BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In memory of Murry Lewin Sharon & Gilbert Balog

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Joseph Daitch Merrie Daitch

In memory of Oppie Reformina on her birthday Cora Loteyro & Marc Lewy In honor of Marc Lewy's birthday Cora Loteyro & Marc Lewy

In memory of Albert Perlman Ronnie Kent

In honor of Parker Rose Ginsburg **Emily & Corey Ginsburg**

In honor of David's birthday & Bar Mitzvah anniversary Faye Dittelman & David Perelman

In memory of Martha Heller Suzanne & Neal Haber In honor of our grandchildren in Israel Paula & Larry Edlavitch

In memory of Ernestine Altshuler Faye Dittelman & David Perelman

RHODA & MEL MILLER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Karie & Jeff Miller In memory of Stanley Egelberg Karie & Jeff Miller In memory of Rhoda Miller

MITZNER FAMILY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FUND (LEV/SHADOWS)

Ali & Phil Edelstein In memory of Arthur A. Herman

DONATIONS - continued

MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

In memory of Helene Brown Dean Brown

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

In support of the CSI Nursery School Carole & Mark Herman

ORGANIC FARM FUND

In memory of Michael Cohen Arleen Neustein

Speedy Recovery to Steve Bender Lois & Fred Schulman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Oppie Reformina Cora Loteyro & Marc Lewy

Thank you to Rabbi Kane Marlene & Michael Ulman

In memory of Lucille Butler Gray Marcy Gray

Thank you to Rabbi Kane Emily & Corey Ginsburg

In memory of Paul Gherson Janine Gherson

In memory of Allan Goldman Robert Johnsen & Rachel Goldman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Martha Heller Suzanne & Neal Haber

CSI UKRAINE RESETTLEMENT FUND

In memory of Ralph Berger Annleah Berger

DONATIONS TO THE ORGANIC FARM FUND FROM RABBI STEVEN & JUDY KANE

In memory of Christopher Contard, Sr.

In memory of Allan Goldman

In honor of the celebration of Parker Ginsburg's Bat Mitzvah at CSI



*Denotes donations \$500 or greater.

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David & Orit Daly

Larry & Paula Edlavitch

In memory of Hyman S. Edlavitch &

Pauline Edlavitch

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In memory of Dr. Ruben Fijman

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Te thank you for you now you more than of the standard of the	List to accept an Aliyah. (circle one: Cohen Levi Israel) I wish to accept another honor. On what date? We will make every effort possible to honor you request, depending on availability on that Shabbat. 18.00 - Descriptions of each fund can be found on your generosity and ask that you do not combine one donation on one check. EKIDDUSH AFTER OUR SHABBAT MORNING YOUR DONATIONS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO this fund is \$36. FULL SPONSORSHIP of kiddush your name will be announced on the bimah on poort!
ion per fund is \$3 Te thank you for y y put more than on STOM TO SHAR T PROVIDED BY a contribution to h appreciated! Your continued sup	On what date? We will make every effort possible to honor you request, depending on availability on that Shabbat. 18.00 - Descriptions of each fund can be found on your generosity and ask that you do not combine one donation on one check. 18. KIDDUSH AFTER OUR SHABBAT MORNING YOUR DONATIONS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO this fund is \$36. FULL SPONSORSHIP of kiddush Your name will be announced on the bimah on poort!
Te thank you for you now you more than of the standard of the	We will make every effort possible to honor you request, depending on availability on that Shabbat. 18.00 - Descriptions of each fund can be found on your generosity and ask that you do not combine one donation on one check. 18. KIDDUSH AFTER OUR SHABBAT MORNING YOUR DONATIONS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO this fund is \$36. FULL SPONSORSHIP of kiddush Your name will be announced on the bimah on oport!
Te thank you for you now you more than of the standard of the	18.00 - Descriptions of each fund can be found on your generosity and ask that you do not combine one donation on one check. RE KIDDUSH AFTER OUR SHABBAT MORNING YOUR DONATIONS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO this fund is \$36. FULL SPONSORSHIP of kiddush Your name will be announced on the bimah on oport!
AMOUNT	FUNDS
	_ Mitzner Family Special Educational
	Needs Fund (Lev/Shadows)
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	_ CSI Security Sponsorship (\$220/shift)
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	AMOUNT

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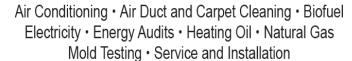
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