

### **Congregation Sons of Israel**

#### THE MYERS FAMILY CAMPUS

CONTINUING THE VISION — BUILDING OUR FUTURE FEBRUARY 2023

10 Shevat — 7 Adar 5783



Purim is coming soon!

Be sure to participate in the fun, delicious CSI Sisterhood Mishloach Manot fundraiser!

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Tu B'Shevat Seder



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#### **Congregation Sons of Israel**

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www.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@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

<u>Treasurer@csibriarcliff.org</u>

Marc Auslander, Secretary

Clare Rosen, IPP



#### **SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKERS IN FEBRUARY**

### **REFUGEE SHABBAT 2023**

In collaboration with HIAS & the Westchester Jewish

Coalition for Immigration

Saturday 2/11 at 10:30 AM | Hosted at CSI Briarcliff Manor

We invite you to hear from Iryna Lahuta, a mother of two, who will share her personal experiences about fleeing Kharkiv, Ukraine (the closest city to Russia) for safety and coming to the U.S. for refuge.

Come learn from her and discover next steps for taking action!









## In Recognition of Black History Month

The Telling: A Gathering of Remembrance and a Reflection on the African American Experience, based on the Passover Haggadah

A Presentation by April Hampton Saturday, 2/25, during *Shabbat* services.



CHESS AT CSI CONTINUES ON: 2/6, 2/13 AND 2/27 -AT 5PM FOR KIDS, AT 6:45PM FOR ADULTS.

KIDS REGISTER HERE.
ADULTS REGISTER HERE

Join those who are already enjoying the program!

# FROM THE RABBI Steven C. Kane



When does the New Year begin? If we were to look into the Talmud, the response might be "which New Year?," because according to the tractate Rosh Hashanah there are more than one! "There are four New Years: on the first of Nisan is the New Year for (calculating the reign of) Kings and for Festivals; on the first of Elul is the New Year for tithing animals...on the first of Tishrei is the New Year for counting years, and on the first of Shevat is the New Year for Trees, according to the teachings of Bet Shammai, but Bet Hillel teaches, it is on the 15th." (Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1). That there is more than one New Year should not surprise us because we have many modern secular New Years too-January 1 (for the counting of years), July 1 (for the fiscal year) and the first Tuesday after Labor Day (for the school year).

What exactly is the fourth New Year, the New Year for Trees, that is mentioned in the Mishnah? Indeed, why do trees even need a New Year? In the Torah we read, "When you enter the land and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you, not to be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit shall be set aside for jubilation before Adonai, and only in the fifth year may you eat its fruit, so that its yield to you may be increased..." Lev. 19:23-25). In addition to this, we are told in Deuteronomy 14:13, "You shall set aside every year a tenth part of the yield of your sowing that is brought from the field." So the New Year for Trees is to determine when to count a tree's years as mentioned in Leviticus, and to determine the produce

for tithing (setting 10% aside for those in need) as mentioned in Deuteronomy. That is, a tree which was planted (in the Land of Israel) that bore fruit before the 15th of *Shevat* is counted as year one of its life, and after the 15th is counted as year two. However if it did not bear fruit until after the 15th of the month, that counts as year one. The same is true for tithing: fruit that ripened before the 15th of *Shevat* was counted in the previous year's tithe, while after the 15th it was counted in the next year of the tithe.

Unlike Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3...), in Hebrew, each number is assigned a letter (like Roman numerals). Thus the number 1 is represented by aleph, 2 by bet and so on. The number 15 is represented by the letters tet and vav (9 and 6 = 15; yud/10 and heh/5are not used because they form a part of the name of God). When put together, the letters tet and vav form the sound tu, and so the 15th of Shevat is called Tu B'Shevat. While in Biblical times through the destruction of the *Bet HaMikdash* (Temple) in Jerusalem *Tu B'Shevat* was observed as described above. As the Jewish people went into exile, new customs began to develop. Since there was already an association with fruit, often on Tu B'Shevat there would be a feast with fruits. In the 16th century Jewish mystics in the town of Safed (S'fat) in Israel created a seder, similar to Pesach. In their

continued...

# FROM THE RABBI continued

seder ten fruits were eaten and, like on Pesach, four cups of wine were drunk, starting with white wine and ending with red wine.

In modern times the *Tu B'Shevat Seder* has been adapted to show our concern for the earth and ecology. In Israel, since it is the beginning of spring, it has also become the custom to plant trees on that day. This year *Tu B'Shevat* begins on Sunday February 5th. Three years ago we hosted our first *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, just before the outbreak of Covid. It was a wonderful and well attended event, featuring delicious fruits and other foods that come from the earth.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, we have not been able to have one since then. This year we are finally able to celebrate our return to an in person Tu B'Shevat Seder at CSI. It will take place at 4pm on February 5th and is planned and hosted by our Social Committee and Green Team. While showing our concern for the environment and celebrating the fruits of the earth is always a joyous occasion, this year it will be all the more so because we can do it together as a community. Please join us for what will be a beautiful and meaningful experience. Oh, and Happy New Year!

L'hitraot,

Rabbi@csibriarcliff.org





### CANTORIAL NOTES Hazzan Jeffrey Shiovitz



During the month of February, this Sunday night and Monday, February 5th and 6th, we will have the privilege of celebrating *Tu B'Shevat*, the holiday of trees. In the ancient world, this "semi-festival" was used by Jewish farmers to determine the number of years in which a tree had produced fruit and to serve as a "new year" for the accounting of the harvest. These concerns were important in order to fulfill the various commandments in the Torah regarding when a tree could be harvested and how much of the yearly harvest was to be given as an offering to God.

Today, we look at *Tu B'Shevat* in a more spiritual, symbolic way. The image of the tree has inspired life for ages. Even before Shel Silverstein's famous book, "The Giving Tree," we saw the great holiness and special lessons of trees.

Allow me to quote just one passage from Talmud: "Anyone whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds, to what is he/she likened? To a tree whose branches are many but whose roots are few; then the wind comes and uproots it and turns it upside down. But one whose good deeds exceed his/her wisdom, to what is he/she likened? To a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are many; even if all the winds come and blow against it, they could not budge it from its place."

As Jews, we would do well to learn from the tree this wisdom. We are all aware that the winds of life blow hard against us. There are the winds of anti-Semitism, secularism, materialism and the like. There are the winds of tragedy and suffering. They all seek to uproot our lives, and the lives of our families.

All too often, we emphasize the branches. We read about Judaism and Israel. We study, we debate, we feel, we identify, we sympathize, etc. But these branches will not hold us firm in the face of life's coldest, strongest winds. Indeed, it is our actions, our observances, our good deeds, which will ground us. We all know that knowledge is good. However, knowledge, which is put into action, stays forever. Feeling Jewish is wonderful. Acting Jewish is strength.

On *Tu B'Shevat*, let's take a look at ourselves, our spiritual selves. Let us check our branches, for sure. But really, let us check our roots.

Ishiovitz@gmail.com



# FROM THE PRESIDENT Mark J. Rosenberg



On January 22nd, I held the first of what I intend to be regular Ask the President town halls. These town halls are an opportunity for the community to learn about the status of various plans and initiatives and just as importantly, for me to learn about the community's concerns.

Not surprisingly, many of the questions involved the rabbi search and our plans for the future. What surprised me was the number of questions and comments about how we do not always do a good job of welcoming and including new and existing members who may not know many in the community. After the town hall, I received additional emails and calls about this issue. It became clear to me that some members sometimes feel excluded when they attend kiddush, programs and events.

I am confident that no one is intentionally excluding anyone else. It's most likely a function of members being so happy to spend time with their friends that they do not see the member or the couple sitting by themselves. Not every member, prospective member or guest feels comfortable introducing themselves to those whom they do not know. We are a warm welcoming community. So, when we see a person or a couple at kiddush or a program sitting by themselves, we need to be sure to introduce ourselves and either sit with them or ask them to join us. It is the sense of togetherness and belonging that makes CSI special. Let's make sure that everyone who belongs to or visits CSI feels that way.

An issue I raised at the town hall was the need for volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of CSI. Most of our programs, events and tikkun olam efforts and many of our classes are planned and led by volunteers. A number of our committees need volunteers including the fundraising, social action, membership retention and engagement and website committees. Regarding the website committee, we are in the process of redesigning CSI's website and need assistance with both web development and content (text, photos and images). I would also like to create a taskforce to study our dues model and to explore alternative models that are revenue neutral or revenue positive. If you are interested in joining any of these committees or the task force, please reach out to me.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the work that Rosa Pizarro does for us. If you have ever attended a class, service, event or *kiddush* at CSI, Rosa, most likely, set up and cleaned the room, put out the food and on many occasions shopped for and prepared the food. Rosa has been a valued member of the CSI family for over twenty years. The next time you see her, please let her know how much we appreciate all that she does for us.

President@csibriarcliff.org

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### TU B'SHEVAT SEDER Sunday, February 5th at 4pm at CSI

Rabbi Kane and Cantor Shiovitz will lead us in a family-appropriate inspirational Seder to celebrate the New Year of the Trees and our commitment to the environment.

This will be an environmentally friendly family event, featuring prayer, songs and traditional Tu B'Shevat foods such as salad, nuts, fruit, wine and grape juice.

Each participant will be going home with sunflower seeds, necessary growing mediums and instructions for planting.

The seedlings can be transplanted into the CSI Organic Farm in the Spring. (If you wish to plan in the Farm, please follow the directions and do not start your seed immediately following the event.)

Sponsored by the CSI Green Team and the CSI Social Committee.

\$18/adult Children 13 and under are free. Open to all! Register here.



# CSI COMMITTEES Come Join Us!

#### **2nd Generation Survivors**

If you are a child of Holocaust survivors, please consider joining this wonderful group. Whether you are seeking to keep their stories alive for the next generations, or you would simply like to find comfort and camaraderie – please join us.

Chair: Cheryl Katz

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee reviews all of CSI's financial records to ensure proper record-keeping, proper financial reporting, compliance with all legal, ethical, and contractual obligations, and that the activities and financial expenditures of the synagogue are used for charitable purposes.

Chair: Marty Weinberg

#### **Building & Grounds Committee**

It takes a lot to keep CSI running! This committee manages all the properties of the Congregation and makes recommendations for the administration of the properties, and rules for their use.

Chair: Irwin Kavy

#### **Caring Community**

The CSI Caring Community has long been the standard-bearer for *Gemilut Chasadim* – Acts of Loving Kindness. Our volunteers are always there in times of need. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. If you wish to help or know of someone in need, please contact Judy.

Chair: Judy Boehr

#### **Cemetery Committee**

The Cemetery is over 100 years old, contains an enormous wealth of CSI history, and is a rich classroom for our Hebrew School. It is where we periodically bury religious books and articles that cannot be merely thrown away.

The Committee is currently working on a recommendation to the Board that we revise the Constitution and sell plots, to raise necessary funds. Please reach out to Irwin if you would like to get involved in this effort.

**Chair:** Irwin Kavy

#### Choir

Our choir is a wonderful addition to our High Holiday services. Their beautiful melodies enhance our services. If you would like to lend your voice to the choir, then please contact the Chair – Judy Boehr.

Chair: Judy Boehr

Continued...

### **CSI COMMITTEES - Continued**

#### **Education Committee**

This Committee supervises the schools of the Congregation, determines policy, and formulates the rules and regulations for the administration of our schools. It provides support and guidance to the school Directors, and oversees CSI's youth groups and camps. The committee provides a forum and secondary resource for parents and teachers, reviews curriculum, assists the Parent Associations, and interacts with Conservative Jewish Educational organizations and associations. Please get involved in this extremely important committee!

Chair: Rebecca Schiz

#### **Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee identifies fundraising opportunities for CSI and develops projects to ensure that CSI has the funds to keep growing and thriving.

Chairs: Moshe Walsh and Meredith Belle

#### Membership Committee

Membership is the lifeblood of any shul. This committee needs your help to reach out to potential new members and invite them to join us. Please help keep us vibrant and growing! **Chair:** Roberta Bar-Levav

#### Men's Club

Our award-winning Men's Club schedules regular events including Sunday morning *Minyan* Breakfasts, Texas Hold 'Em, baseball games, golf outings, and more. Join today! **Chair:** Charles Zweibach (mensclub@csibriarcliff.org)

#### **Organic Farm Committee**

Our news-making farm and associated programs foster many important Jewish traditions and values related to ecology, agriculture, nutrition, healing/health, well-being, spiritual connection, social and environmental justice, and the benefits of productive physical work. We grow food and flowers to nourish our bodies and souls so get engaged in this exciting endeavor!

**Chair:** Ryna Lustig

#### **Pride Committee**

CSI's Pride Committee was established to help ensure an embracing community and safe spaces for all of our members and guests, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are committed to educating and creating awareness around LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer, etc.) subjects through a variety of programs and collaborations. Everyone at CSI is welcome to join and help us create educational and social programming for allies and for members of the LGBTQ+ community of all ages!

Chair: Suzanne Haber

#### Continued...



### **CSI COMMITTEES - Continued**

#### **Nursery School & Religious School Parent Associations**

Our PAs support our Nursery School and Religious School respectively. Get involved to help support our kids and keep them engaged throughout their journey!

NS Chair: Lindsey Alter (<u>csinspa@gmail.com</u>) RS Chairs: <u>Samantha Hawson/Jenean</u>

Eichenholtz

#### **Ritual Committee**

The Ritual Committee is in charge of all religious services, ceremonies and rituals of the congregation, and sets the parameters for our services. It also appoints ushers and distributes *Aliyot* and other honors for *Shabbat* and holiday services.

Chairs: Joel Neuberg and Neil Schluger

#### **Sisterhood**

CSI Sisterhood welcomes all women of CSI to join. We are part of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the largest synagogue-based women's organization in the world. Sisterhood offers social and educational programs throughout the year, including monthly Mahjong nights, speakers, a book club, our ever-popular Sisterhood Shabbat, and much more. We support CSI with our annual Purim Mishloach Manot fundraiser and Matanah, the gift shop of CSI.

Chair: Robin Ginsberg

#### **Social Committee**

The Social Committee sponsors purely social activities for different age groups throughout the course of the year. With one goal in mind we are always looking for new ideas so don't be shy!

Chair: Debra Young

#### **Social Action Committee**

The Social Action Committee helps the broader community via food drives, clothing drives – whatever is needed; we reach out in all directions!

Chair: Judy Boehr

#### **Technology Committee**

We find ways to improve information on our website (offloading some work from the office), review CSI's technology infrastructure and recommend improvements, and evaluate technology requests from other CSI committees.

If you have Marketing/Communications, HTML/CSS, web design, networking and cloud, or other general technical skills, please join us!

Chair: Jack Zinn

#### **Young Family Outreach Committee**

We are a partnership of parents with young children, working to build a connection for potential new families to join the CSI community. Our goal is to identify and bring in these young families to become members of CSI. We also hope to be a conduit for existing members and committees to get in touch with young families and invite them to participate in all the great things CSI has to offer.

Chair: Henrik Sukonnik

# CSI invites you to be a Greeter during Services

CSI needs volunteer Greeters in the lobby at all morning services to let people into the building and welcome them to CSI.

For each service, there are two sets of Greeters: 9:00am-10:30am and 10:30am-12pm.

Questions? Email us <a href="here">here</a>. Thanks for your support! CSI Greeters Coordinators

Sign Up to be a Greeter Here

# FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL DIRECTOR Naomi Elyachar



CSI Nursery School is in the busy part of its registration season for next school year. During this time, I meet with many parents of young children who are looking at different schools and making choices about their child's first school setting. I show them around the school, tell them about our program and school philosophy, and most importantly, have a chance to get to know their family and make a connection.

When meeting a family, I want to communicate the vision of the school so both the family and I can know if CSI sounds like the right fit for them. In fine tuning the messaging about our school, I realized that like many industries, schools use a lot of jargon and it can be a challenge for parents to understand the differences between programs. As our school has been through many changes in the past few years and because the larger CSI community has been so supportive in seeing the nursery school as a vital component in the growth of our community, I thought it may be helpful to share some of the important themes of our school—especially at this time when we are actively recruiting new families to register.

CSI Nursery School is a structured, play-based nursery school. This means that there is structure in each part of the students' day, and that we believe play is how young children develop and learn. Part of their day is spent in whole group instruction (if you are picturing a nursery school class sitting in a circle listening to the teacher and taking turns sharing with the group, this is that portion of the day I am describing), part of the day is

spent doing skill building activities in small groups with a teacher providing scaffolding and support, and the majority of the school day is spent engaging in independent and social play. We focus on the development of the whole child. This means that children's emotional well-being and social development are just as important in our school as their cognitive and physical growth. Our teachers recognize the uniqueness and wonder of each child. Every child here is known, cared for, and valued. We know that children learn in diverse ways, and our teachers provide engaging, open -ended materials and multi-sensory activities through each area that they study. Our school is part of a conservative synagogue, and our students learn about Jewish holidays and related value, which we believe are human values and important to all families. They celebrate Shabbat together as a community on Friday mornings and participate in tzedakah projects throughout the year. Lastly, we believe in working together with families and aim to be both a partner and support system for our school families.

I truly believe that we have an exceptional early childhood program at CSI. I hope that by knowing a bit more about the nursery school, all of our community members can now feel confident sharing information about the school and recommending it to new families in our community.

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



#### **ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 2**



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

10:45-11:45am Friday, March 24th Friday, May 5th



This program is FREE and open to all!
Advance registration HERE is appreciated.

# FRee open Gymplay

FOR Children under 2

### TUESDAYS

4:00-5:30 p.m.

#### February 7 and 14

When it's too cold to go to the playground, come join us in CSI's large social hall for play time!

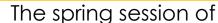
Children under 2 are invited to climb, run, and play to get their energy out at the end of the day.

Whether you can make it to one date or both of them, please register ahead of time so we can welcome you when you arrive and notify you of any weather-related changes.

Questions? Contact Naomi Elyachar, Nursery School Director

Click or scan to register







a+CSI will begin March 16th

Please contact **Naomi** with any questions!





#### FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association has been busy planning for an exciting 2023 for our teachers, students and parents!

We are looking forward to treating our incredible teachers to breakfast during their Professional Development days. We are so lucky to have the teachers we have at this exceptional school. We thank them for all that they do to educate and care for our children.

The spring holidays will be here soon, and we are delighted to support the Nursery School and Naomi with the terrific events she has planned for our families.

In February, each of our class parents has organized individual Class Parents or Moms Nights Out. We hope to continue to foster strong community and individual connections.

We welcome our newest family, the Ben-Ami/Hays family, to our Nursery School community! We are so happy to have them here!

Thank you to Parents Association member Beth Rosen, who has been busy handmaking special gifts for our new adult, as well as newborn, members of the CSI Nursery School community.

And, as always, if you are interested in becoming a PA member, please reach out to us at <a href="mailto:csinspa@gmail.com">csinspa@gmail.com</a>.



# FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR Orit Daly



This month I'd like to highlight Junior Congregation. Attending Junior Congregation on Shabbat morning, and attendance at other Shabbat Minyans, is a required part of our Religious School Curriculum. Interestingly, though, it is not a requirement developed or required by the Religious School itself, but rather by CSI's Ritual Committee in order to ensure that all of our students are able to fully participate in a *Shabbat* Service by the time they reach the age of B'nai Mitzvah. Congregation is an opportunity for all of our students in grades 3-7 to spend time going through and highlighting the important parts of the service. Sheera Zuckerman has been leading these services for decades. She uses her many years of experience to make all of our students comfortable with the prayers

rituals. The group always ends the service by joining the main service (and their parents) in the sanctuary on the *Bimah* with Rabbi Kane. It is a time to join as a community and for our students to get a taste of Jewish continuity as they move from learning to practice.

If your child still has not completed their yearly requirements for Junior Congregation, there are still three more services this year. All students are always welcome in the main sanctuary for every service as well.

Orit Daly
Religious School Director
RSDirector@csibriarcliff.org

### **Junior Congregation**

Shabbat

10:45am - 12:00pm

February 11 March 4 April 15



Junior Congregation, led by *Morah* Sheera Zuckerman, is a *Shabbat* service designed to teach our 3rd (*Gimel*) through 7th (*Zayin*) grade Religious School students the structure of the *Shabbat* morning service and prayers in preparation for becoming *b'nai mitzvah*. 3rd-7th grade students must attend THREE of these services during this school year.

#### MORE FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



<b>11th</b>	Saturday	Junior Congregation 10:45am
19th	Sunday	NO SCHOOL—Winter recess
<b>21st</b>	Tuesday	NO SCHOOL—Winter recess
26th	Sunday	NO SCHOOL—Winter recess

### **USY - ANDREA BROMBERG, ADVISOR**

### **Opportunities for Teens**

Mark your calendars now! Join us for Purim 2023! We need your help! Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 7-9PM Set up 8 dinner Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 11:00AM-12:30PM Run carnival booths



Interested in USY Summer Travel?

June, July, and August 2023 Trips to US, Canada, Israel, Europe, and the Dominican Republic

https://www.usy.org/summer-travel



The CSI Farm is about to begin our 7th growing season.

Prior to our first growing season we worked on preparing the site and improving the infrastructure: removing invasive species, installing the fence, digging the well, installing the irrigation system, creating the mounded growing beds and insuring the safety of our congregants by countless days of health and safety pruning (tree work) in our beautiful



Oak grove. There have been numerous side projects including the spreading of hundreds of yards of wood chips to create the outdoor gathering spaces and the wood chip walking path through the woods, the building of the mini greenhouse and multiple rounds of organizing of the farm shed (including sacred book burial) and more.

We are looking forward to this year's *Tu B'Shevat* seder and our community sunflower seed planting. Even if you cannot make it to the seder, please feel free to contact me to help grow a sunflower plant to be transplanted later into the farm. No experience necessary and directions on how and when to plant your seed will be included!

The farm committee worked so well this year...

We grew food, made wine, donated fresh produce, had a community garden, raised chickens/eggs, grew flowers for Shabbat, delivered "Random Acts of Challah" bags, had a weekly farm stand, sold produce at the Opportunity Shop, delivered bags of fresh produce to new members, AND the farm itself was rented out for several weddings and other private events in addition to being used for synagogue/religious school/nursery school programs. Thank you to all of those helping hands.

I encourage everyone to support our farm here at CSI. Join our local food movement. Get grounded! We need you!

#### -Ryna Lustig

A few words about upcoming wine-making requirements at the farm. We plan to rack this year's wine for the third time in mid to late February. Racking is the process of pumping the wine from one storage medium to another and back again to remove any sediment that has settled on the bottom in order to fine the wine and make it clear. We will then test the wine for TA (total acidity) and VA (volatile acidity) as well as pH (degree of acid or base). We also plan to test various blends of this harvest's wine, Petite Sirah, with last season's Marquette wine before deciding what to bottle in early April for Passover. Any congregants who wish to participate in blending and tasting are welcome whether or not they are lovers of red wine.

#### -Aaron Stern

#### SISTERHOOD

#### Sisterhood Book Club

Sunday, 2/12 at 3pm on Zoom. (Link here.)

The Tunnel by A.B. Yehoshua

A suspenseful and poignant story of a family coping with the sudden mental decline of their beloved husband and father — an engineer who they discover is involved in an ominous secret military project.

RSVP to **Shelley Glick** 





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

#### 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!



#### **SISTERHOOD** - continued



# CSI SISTERHOOD'S MISHLOACH MANOT FUNDRAISER IS HERE!!! (Purim is March 6th)

Mishloach Manot are gift bags of food and fun things that are sent to family and friends on Purim. Participation is fun and easy! Sending Mishloach Manot is a mitzvah! Sisterhood is once again offering all CSI families the opportunity to send Mishloach Manot to everyone in the CSI community.

Please go directly to the link on the CSI website and place your order through Shulcloud. Don't forget to choose the reciprocal option so you automatically send to anyone who sends to you.

SIGN UP HERE.

For those that have never used Shulcloud, you will be asked to set your password. If you have questions or are having difficulty completing your order online, please e-mail our team <a href="here">here</a>.

If you have questions regarding Shulcloud, please contact <u>Jennifer</u> in the CSI office.

The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 1st at 8:00pm.

CSI Sisterhood fundraisers are an essential part of our Community. Sisterhood-raised funds have paid for major upgrades and renovations in our building over the years. YOUR support makes it happen!

#### **MEN'S CLUB**

#### COMING EVENTS:

PLANNING MEETING: Wednesday, 2/8 at 8pm. ZOOM LINK.

World Wide Wrap: Sunday, February 12th, 9:15am. Come join us in this world-wide event!

REGISTER HERE FOR BREAKFAST

In March we will be assisting at the Purim Carnival.

In April, we will be distributing Yellow Yahrzeit candles to commemorate Yom HaShoah.

We are planning an eagle-watching event in Croton on the Hudson River.

Our Torah on Tap series with Rabbi Kane will continue soon with new topics and at a venue with warm, indoor seating. We thank our members for their support of this program. You may submit topic suggestions to the Mens Club email.

After our successful Nature Walk, we will be planning further walks.

We look forward to meeting new members this year in our Sanctuary and Social Hall, and at outdoor venues.



Book Club:
Monday, February 27th
At 7:30pm
In the Small Chapel at CSI
We will be discussing
Code Name Blue Wren
by Jim Popkin



Join the Men's Club <u>here</u>. Questions/Ideas: Email us <u>here</u>.

Men's Club invites all who wish to run or those who wish to nominate someone for next year's slate of officers, to submit names now!

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



#### **CARING COMMUNITY**

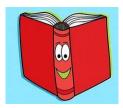
The Caring Community and the Nursery School are partnering for a new project.

Volunteers from the community will read a story to a nursery school class. Seniors and members of all ages are welcome! Books will be provided.

This is a fun project for all of the participants, and we hope you will join us.

If you are interested in reading with our young friends, contact <u>Judy Boehr</u>.

Our next Caring Community meeting is Wednesday, February 22nd, at 7pm on Zoom.





The coat drive to benefit IFCA in Ossining was a huge success. Thank you to all of those who donated warm winter clothing.

We dropped off several carloads to the IFCA. Proceeds from the sale of these items at IFCA will help pay to procure and outfit housing for members of our community in need.



#### RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

On February 11th, CSI will dedicate a *Shabbat* experience to the refugee resettlement work of CSI, HIAS and WJCI. This will provide us with an opportunity to reaffirm our support for refugees, asylum seekers and all immigrants and hear the story of a refugee's experience from a speaker recently settled from the Ukraine. Please join us.

This year, we will also celebrate the work of the CSI Resettlement Committee at the CSI Spring event on May 21st. Our hearts swell at the overwhelming response our community has provided in finding homes and continuing to help build new lives for two families, from Afghanistan and the Ukraine. While most resettlement committees are made up of at least three organizations (churches, synagogues, and other local organizations), it is remarkable to see how much we have accomplished with our synagogue alone. Our members have given above and beyond in their time, expertise, dedication and volunteering, and in return have gained stronger connections to the families, each other, and our Iewish values.

We are happy to report that both families continue to thrive. The Lukoianov family has settled in nicely and seem to be enjoying their new life. Dad walks to work at a local auto body shop. Teen M. attends Anne M. Dorner Middle School and recently attended a special program for other Ukrainian teens at the JCC Mid Westchester. Mom has also started an on-line ESL class with Bronx

Community College. She and little A have started attending a weekly playgroup here at CSI.

As we approach the one-year anniversary, the K family also continues to thrive as we work with them towards independence. The 3-year-old is blossoming in her daycare setting and Mom and the soon-to-be 1-year-old will be attending Mommy and Me classes at the Briarcliff Library. A is most proud of having passed his NY State Drivers test. While someone has generously offered to donate a car, we are still in need of funds to cover car insurance for at least 6 months. and contributions made to the Resettlement Fund for this purpose would be greatly appreciated. This would be a big step in the family's transition to independence as it will provide A with the ability to drive to school, work, and the local Majid. It would also open new job possibilities as he is actively looking for jobs with better pay and long-term growth potential.

We are continuously grateful for the help and support of our committee members and all who have supported our work. Please join us for Refugee Shabbat on February 11th to celebrate and affirm our commitment to welcome the stranger and celebrate our CSI community.

Julie Peskoe & Abbe Marcus Resettlement Committee Co-Chairs



#### PRIDE COMMITTEE

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 2/14 at 7:30pm.

For more information or to join our committee, contact Suzanne Haber.

# DID YOU KNOW...? Top Pop Culture Jewish Prayer Moments

#### 1."The Frisco Kid" Prayer: Aleinu

This 1979 comedy Western features Gene Wilder as a rabbi who secures the help of an outlaw to help get him to San Francisco. There are loads of Jewish references in this movie, and at one point Wilder recites the Aleinu prayer.

#### 2. "The Wonder Years" Prayer: Torah Blessings

This classic ABC sitcom chronicles the 1960s suburban childhood of Kevin Arnold. In the 1989 episode "Birthday Boy," Kevin's best friend Paul is called to the Torah for his *Bar Mitzvah*, reciting the blessings in Hebrew and chanting the first part of the Torah portion that recounts the violence visited by Amalek on the ancient Israelites after their departure from Egypt.

#### 3. "Who By Fire?" Prayer: Unetaneh Tokef

Jewish themes suffuse the work of the poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen, but few connect as directly to a specific piece of Hebrew liturgy as well as "Who By Fire," which draws heavily from the High Holiday prayer *Unetaneh Tokef*. The prayer lists the various ways in which death is visited upon the unrepentant.

#### 4. "Rocky III" Prayer: Mourner's Kaddish

During a pre-fight scuffle with Clubber Lang, longtime coach Mickey Goldmill is shoved and suffers a heart attack. Rocky goes on to lose the fight to Lang in a knockout. At Mickey's funeral, Rocky recites the Mourner's *Kaddish*, prompted line by line by a rabbi.

#### 5. "The Jazz Singer" Prayer: Kol Nidre

Neil Diamond's 1980 remake of the 1927 Al Jolson classic tells the story of Yussel Rabinovitch, a New York cantor lured to California by the promise of a music career. After splitting from his wife and taking up with a non-Jewish woman, he is disowned by his father. At the film's end, Yussel returns to New York to chant the *Kol Nidre* prayer and reconcile with his father.

#### 6. "Transparent" Prayer: Viddui

"Transparent" is the story of Maura Pfefferman, a transgender woman living in Los Angeles, and her three grown children. Josh, the only boy, is dating a rabbi, and the scene in her synagogue on *Yom Kippur* includes one of the most accurate and unnerving depictions of the *Viddui* prayer ever committed to film.

#### 7. "Curb Your Enthusiasm" Prayer: Sim Shalom

Shabbat, Yom Kippur, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Holocaust — all have been the targets of Larry David's irreverent humor. In one scene, Larry is ejected from services on Yom Kippur after he purchases tickets from a scalper.

						d

#### 8. "Mad Men" Prayer: Priestly Blessing

Copywriter Michael Ginsberg (Ben Feldman) doesn't command nearly the same interest as the show's leading man Don Draper (Jon Hamm), but he does have a compelling Jewish backstory, having been born in a concentration camp and adopted as a young child. When he arrives home one day to tell his father he was hired by an ad agency, the father puts his hands on his son's head and recites the Priestly Blessing.

#### 9. "Avinu Malkeinu" Prayer: Avinu Malkeinu

During her rise to fame in the 1960s, Barbra Streisand refused to sacrifice her Jewishness for more opportunities in Hollywood. While she has released four Christmas albums, she has also been known to perform her own version of the High Holiday prayer *Avinu Malkeinu* in a mix of Hebrew and English.

#### 10. "Grey's Anatomy" Prayer: Shalom Rav

The Season 15 finale of this TV drama is centered around a gruesome car pileup. Frances has a panic attack while the ambulances struggle to reach her. In an effort to calm her, surgical resident and sole Jewish Grey's character Levi Schmitt sings *Shalom Rav*, explaining that his parents used to sing it as a lullaby.

#### 11. "The Patient" Prayer: Mourner's Kaddish

This FX miniseries follows a sociopathic serial killer named Sam as he kidnaps his Jewish therapist and seeks treatment but holds him captive. Executive producers and co-writers Joe Weisberg and Joel Fields, the son of a rabbi, drew inspiration from their Jewish upbringings for several themes and scenes throughout the show, including a *Kaddish* scene. In Episode 7, the therapist, Dr. Alan Strauss, explains the ritual of reciting Mourner's *Kaddish* to Sam. Sam struggles to learn the words and ends up just waving over a dead body and saying the word "*Kaddish*." The episode concludes as Strauss symbolically recites *Kaddish* to grieve the hope he has lost.

#### 12. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" Prayer: B'rikh Shmei

When Nazi sympathizer René Belloq goes to open the Ark of the Covenant, he recites a passage from the Aramaic prayer *B'rikh Shmei*, which is traditionally recited prior to the reading of the Torah.

#### 13. "A Serious Man" Prayer: Torah service

While the film is mainly focused on the travails of Larry Gopnik, a physics professor living in suburban Minnesota, the funniest depiction of Jewish prayer is during Larry's son's *Bar Mitzvah* service.

#### 14. "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" Prayer: Torah service

In Season 4, Episode 3, Moishe Maisel finds himself preparing to have the honor of an *aliyah* at a *Bar Mitzvah*. From dramatic exits to copious amounts of Yiddish, excellent chanting of prayers and Hebrew pronunciation, a synagogue feud and references to Genesis and Deuteronomy, this episode has it all.

#### 15. "Homeland" Prayer: Mourner's *Kaddish*

"Homeland," an American adaptation of the Israeli show "Prisoners of War," depicts a prisoner of war who has been returned home and is suspected to be a double agent. In Season 2's dramatic final scene, the CIA's Middle East division chief Saul recites the Mourner's Kaddish for colleagues who were killed in an attack earlier in the episode.

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### FEBRUARY 2023 10 Shevat—7 Adar 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Shevat 10	2 Shevat 11	3 Shevat 12	4 Shevat 13
	Chess			0.00		9:10am Shabbat
Click	2/6, 2/13, 2/27			8:00am Minyan		Service Sanctuary &
HERE	Kids: 5pm			11:00am		LiveStream
	Adults: 6:45pm			Contemporary		
For Web	Mah Jong 2/6,			Issues and the Talmud Zoom	6:00pm	
calendar	2/13, 2/27 7:30pm			7 mm a 200 m	Kabbalat	8:00pm Jewish
	7:50pm				Shabbat	Music Through the
					C/L 4:56pm	Ages
					o, a noopm	Beshalach
5 Shevat 14	6 Shevat 15	7 Shevat 16	8 Shevat 17	9 Shevat 18	10 Shevat 19	11 Shevat 20
14	Tu B'Shevat	11:15am Jews In		8:00am Minyan		
9am RS		the News		10:30am		Refugee Shabbat
9am BM Family group class w/	8am Minyan			HaMishpacha		9:10am Shabbat
Rabbi Kane		4pm RS	8 PM Men's Club	Discussion Group		Service Sanctuary
		4pm Open Gym	Planning Meeting	droup		& LiveStream Guest Speaker
9:15am Minyan	7:30pm Five		Zoom	11:00am		Iryna Lahuta
4pm Tu B'Shevat	Things w/ Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Educ.		Contemporary Issues and the	6:00pm Kabbalat	
Seder	Zoom	Comm. Zoom		Talmud Zoom	Shabbat	10:45am Junior Congregation
	8:45pm Talmud					Congregation
	w/ Rabbi Kane Zoom				C/I 5.05	
12 Shevat 21	13 Shevat 22	14 Shevat 23	15 Shevat 24	16 Shevat 25	C/L 5:05pm 17 <i>Shevat</i> 26	Yitro
	Jacob Briefett 22	Jicrai 23	15 Shevat 24	10 Shevat 25	17 Shevat 20	18 Shevat 27
9am RS	8am Minyan	11:15am Jews In		8:00am Minyan		9:10am Shabbat
9:15am Minyan		the News		11:00am		Service Sanctuary &
World Wide Wrap	7pm Sisterhood	4:00pm RS		Contemporary		LiveStream
	Board Zoom	4:00pm Open		Issues and the		
	8:45pm Talmud	Gym		Talmud Zoom	6:00pm	
	w/ Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Second			Kabbalat	
3pm Sisterhood	Zoom	Gen. Survivors			Shabbat	
Book Club Zoom		7:30pm Pride Committee			C/L 5:14pm	Mishpatim
		Zoom			C/ 11 3.1 1 pin	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
19 Shevat 28	20 Shevat 29	21 Shevat 30	22 Adar 1	23 Adar 2	24 Adar 3	25 Adar 4
NO RS	NO NS / OFFICE	NO NS/ NO RS	NO NS	NO NS	NO NS	9:10am Shabbat
NO KS	CLOSED	,,,			NONS	Service Sanctuary
9:15am Minyan	Presidents' Day			8:00am Minyan		&
	8am Minyan		7:30pm Caring	11:00am	6:00pm	LiveStream Guest Speaker
			Community	Contemporary	Kabbalat	April Hampton
	7:30pm Exec. Comm.		Zoom	Issues and the	Shabbat	
	Comm.			Talmud Zoom	C/L 5:22pm	Terumah
26 Adar 5	27 Adar 6	28 Adar 7			ој и опиципп	- or uniun
	Com Minus	44.45				
NO RS	8am Minyan	11:15am Jews In the News				nc. n. v. t
9:15am Minyan	7:30pm Men's					RS: Religious School NS: Nursery School
,	Club Book Club	4pm RS				C/L: Candle
	8:45pm Talmud w/ Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Board				Lighting
	Zoom	of Trustees				

### LIFE CYCLE EVENTS



CELEBRANT	DATE	AGE
Meia Rappaport	1	13
Evan Staines	6	2
Natalie Staines	6	2
Emily Schiz	7	3
Lia Sukonnik	12	4
Liam Gray	20	1
Jonathan Hamra	23	4





Have a Life Cycle event to share?

We'd love to know about it!

Email jenniferh@csibriarcliff.org for inclusion in the Bulletin.

#### LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

We mourn the loss of longtime CSI member Joyce Schacter.

Condolences to Stacy Charney on the loss of her father, Peter Sperling. Condolences to Gerald Sherr on the loss of his brother, Stuart Sherr.

*Mazal Tov* to Nursery School parents Mallory and Josh Adelsberg on the birth of their twin daughters, Skylar Jordyn and Harper Noa.

Speedy Recovery to Art Krakowski.

Speedy Recovery to Elizabeth Legatt.

Speedy Recovery to Bernie Lipsy.

Speedy Recovery to Eleanor Frey.





\*Denotes donations \$500 or greater.

Jerome & Myra Gordon \*
Sharon Orenstein
Mark & Celiane Silverstein

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Thank you to Cantor Shiovitz

#### CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In memory of Arnold Richter In memory of Bernard Kaufman In memory of Esther Schwartz

Thank you for Random Acts of Challah

In memory of Arnold Richter

Thank you for Random Acts of Challah

In memory of Peter Sperling In memory of Rebecca White In memory of Peter Sperling In memory of George Rubenstein

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Speed Recovery to Bernie Lipsy Speedy Recovery to Eleanor Frey Cora Loteyro & Marc Lewy

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In memory of Esther Schwartz
In memory of Arnold Richter
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Speedy Recovery to Liz Legatt

Faye Dittelman & David Perelman Faye Dittelman & David Perelman

Marion & Ray Sader Marion & Ray Sader Marion & Ray Sader Marion & Ray Sader

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In memory of Peter Sperling

In support of CSI In support of CSI

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Iris Kazin

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Helene & Adam Rude Helene & Adam Rude

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In memory of Peter Sperling Gail Sider

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In honor of Leslie Gordon
In memory of Peter Sperling
In m

In memory of Maxwell Frank Eleanor Frey

In honor of Rosa Marnie & Mark Rosenberg

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In memory of Arnold Richter
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In memory of Mildred Alpert Marilyn & Bob Margolies
In memory of Elaine Sperling Stacy & Richard Charney
In gratitude for the CSI community's support Elizabeth & Alan Legatt

after Liz's knee replacement surgery

In honor of Alan's birthday Elizabeth & Alan Legatt
In honor of Bob's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Julianne & Bob Ashkinaze
In memory of Anna Ashkinaze Julianne & Bob Ashkinaze

In honor of Cora Loteyro & Marc Lewy Irene Naar

#### **DONATIONS - continued**

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In appreciation for the Rabbi Search Committee's respectful way they are approaching the search

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Thank you for Random Acts of Challah Thank you for Random Acts of Challah

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Arleen Neustein

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Sisterhood Board 2022/2023 Stacy & Richard Charney

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Thank you to Rabbi Kane Sharon Richter

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In memory of Esther Schwartz Helen Chuckrow & Richard Langeloh
In memory of Esther Schwartz Wendy Wein

Thank you to Rabbi Kane Janine Gherson
In memory of Peter Sperling Stacy & Richard Charney

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Thank you to Rabbi Kane
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JEFF D. KABAT Director

Email: Jeff@CGoodmanGroup.com

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