

### **Congregation Sons of Israel**

### THE MYERS FAMILY CAMPUS

CONTINUING THE VISION — BUILDING OUR FUTURE
MAY 2023

10 Iyar - 11 Sivan 5783





"DOING LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE."

This quote, or a version of it, has been credited to a dozen sources, from athletes and artists to poets and philosophers (like Yogi Berra...).





Your support of the CSI Annual Event on May 21st is one of those things that will make a <u>huge</u> difference for our entire community.

RAFFLES ON PAGES 8/9



TICKETS & JOURNAL ADS HERE

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT May 6th - see page 18

SHAVUOT begins May 25th - see page 2

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

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#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

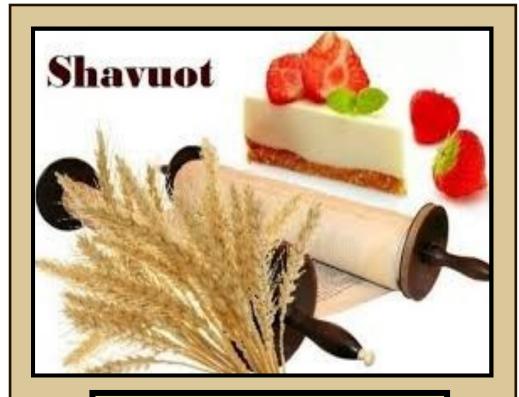
(adopted 1999, revised 2007): Congregation Sons of Israel is an egalitarian, Conservative synagogue dedicated to imparting Jewish values and traditions from generation to generation in a welcoming participatory environment. We are a caring community committed to lifelong Jewish learning, the observance 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

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Evening Service followed by

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot:

Thursday, 5/25, at 9pm

On site & Livestream

**Shavuot Day 1:** 

Friday, 5/26, at 9:10am

On site & Livestream

**Shavuot Day 2:** 

Saturday, 5/27, at 9:10am

Yizkor recited

On site & Livestream

# FROM THE RABBI Steven C. Kane



In 1994 the Israeli government, along with the philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt (and other private donors), created the Birthright Israel program. They recognized a growing chasm existed between diaspora Jewish communities and Israel (especially among young American Jews) and they felt that one way to bridge that gap was to bring young Jews to Israel on a free trip. That experience would allow them to explore Israel first hand, experience its incredible achievements and feel more personally connected to the land of their ancestors.

The first trips began in 1999, and over the past 24 years, more than 800,000 young Jews from 68 countries have participated in what is now called Taglit- Birthright Israel (Taglit is Hebrew for discovery). It is estimated that more than 20% of American Jews aged 18-46 have participated in the program. It also permitted young people whose background was mixed, to explore their Jewish roots, allowing individuals who had at least one parent of Jewish descent (and did not actively practice another religion) to participate. At one point I began compiling a list of CSI members who had been on a Taglit-Birthright trip, but it became too unwieldy, so I stopped. Suffice it to say though that hundreds of young people who grew up at CSI have participated in this program.

While it's hard to measure the success of Birthright, there is no doubt that it has both increased participants' Jewish identity, and their knowledge of and feelings about Israel. I have heard this first-hand from our members who have returned from this often life-changing trip. Yet for the past four months I have wondered how the events surrounding judicial reform in Israel might affect those feelings. Has Birthright given them an uncritical love of Israel, or has it given them a greater awareness and concern for the kind of country Israel might become? What have they learned from the events, in particular the massive protests, that have gone on? Has Israel become

more problematic for them, or has it become more important to them?

Of course, these are not only questions for those who have had their connection to Israel forged through Taglit-Birthright, but also for each of us. While it will be some time before they can be adequately and more completely answered, I believe that even now there are powerful lessons we can all learn from what is going on in Israel. Chief among them is the power of passionate, participatory and peaceful protests. For 17 straight weeks hundreds of thousands of Israelis have gathered weekly in protest, to speak out against the illiberal moves that a democratically elected government has proposed. Israel has shown us both the power that democratically elected officials can wield, and the power of the people standing up for what they (and I) believe is right.

These problems are neither simple nor easy to answer, but they are also common to so many countries today. Israel has the opportunity to model, not only for Jews around the world, but for other democracies, how to peacefully resolve issues that polarize society. Perhaps more than any Birthright program, these protests and what they bring about may help bridge the still-growing chasm between Israel and Diaspora Jews. That would truly be a wonderful unintended consequence of these protests.

L'hitraot,

Rabbi@csibriarcliff.org

& C. Kan

### **CANTORIAL NOTES** Hazzan Jeffrey Shiovitz



I have always been fascinated by Israeli composer Naomi Shemer. Her songs are by far my favorite Israeli songs of all time. Of course, my favorite is Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav, Jerusalem of Gold. I listen to it at least once a week. I have written about this song before, but as we have just celebrated the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel I began looking at the story behind the song and its composer.

Naomi Shemer was born in 1930 on Kevutzat Kinneret, where both of her parents had settled after group singing while the votes were counted, which emigrating from Vilna -- Meir Sapir in 1922 and Rivka Shostaliski in 1925. They married in 1925. Naomi's musical skill was evident during her childhood, when she began to lead community singing on the kibbutz. After completing school she was sent to study at the Academy of Music in Jerusalem and upon returning to the kibbutz taught music to the children. During this time she wrote several children's songs that were recorded by singing star Yaffa Yarkoni. She set famous poems to music, such as those of the Israeli poet Rachel, and the American poet Walt Whitman in memory of Yitzhak Rabin. She began her army service in the Nachal, eventually helping the cultural department. While in relate, Heaven forbid, but because I related too the service, she wrote many songs for the musical revue that was put on by the Nachal entertainment troupe. She was becoming a sought after composer. In 1963, Naomi composed all of the songs for the Nachal revue including Machar (Tomorrow) and Chorshat Ha'Eucalyptus (The Eucalyptus Grove), which became two of her first hit songs. In 1967, she spent some time in Paris writing more original songs as well as translating French songs into Hebrew.

In 1967, Shemer wrote "Jerusalem of Gold" for the annual song festival. She recalled:

"In the winter of 1967, I was in trouble because I had give up. I called Gil and asked him to release me: promised the Voice of Israel a new song about Jerusalem. This began the year before, if I remember Jerusalem." And Gil, wise man and teacher that he correctly. The late Yeshayahu Spero met me at Café Nitza on Allenby Street and asked me why I had never participated in the song festival. I told him

that it was because the festival was a competition. A year later ... the powers that be decided to repair the omission and commissioned from the "professionals" five songs to be performed for the festival's second half, outside the competition. Why did they want a song about Jerusalem anyway? Because of Teddy [Kollek] and Gil [Aldema]. Teddy was the one who asked that "the public singing consist of songs about Jerusalem," meaning the used to be part of the festival. (I like him very much and I like his Hebrew too, and he was also a friend of my father's.) And then Gil Aldema looked in his files and saw there was no such thing as "songs about Jerusalem." Nothing had been written since Avigdor ha-Meiri [1890–1970]! (Today, after the flood [of songs about Jerusalem], it is hard to believe, but that's how it was.)

"Gil suggested that each one of the five professional songwriters write a new song about Jerusalem. My four colleagues became frightened and refused. I was frightened and agreed, and like I said, I was in trouble. And not because I couldn't much. Jerusalem was personal, beloved and important to me. I graduated from the music academy there, I had my daughter, Leli, there, my connections with the city centered around a family of friends whose mother used to host me every year during summer vacation, and each summer I got to know a new aspect of the city's magic. But when I tried to express this, I became terrified. I remembered everything that had been written about the city since ancient times—King David, Judah Halevi—who could add a single letter to that?!

"After two months of trying in vain I decided to "It's too big for me. I simply can't write about was, said, "Don't write about Jerusalem. Forget

continued...

### **CANTORIAL NOTES** continued

about it and write whatever you want, but don't leave us without a song for the festival." When he put down the receiver, he told the people in his office, "Now she will write about Jerusalem." And that's what happened.

"I wrote "Jerusalem of Gold" that same night. The idea I started with was the Talmudic legend I remembered from my school days about Rabbi Akiva, who lived in poverty, in a hayloft with his beloved wife Rahel, who had been disowned by her father. As he plucked the hay out of her hair, he promised her that one day he would become wealthy and buy her a Jerusalem of Gold [an item of jewelry]. Our teachers, Shoshana and Amminaday, taught us many similar legends. The phrase "Jerusalem of Gold" suddenly shone in my memory as if to say, "Here I am," and I realized it would be the cornerstone of my song.

"Even with that realization, I still had my doubts." One needs to remember how gray and lacking in gold Jerusalem was then, and how one could not speak highly of it or have parades there. Like the saying "Do not wake or rouse" [Song of Songs 2:7], I was awestruck and asked myself: Of gold? Are you sure about the gold? And something answered me: Absolutely, of gold.

"It was night by the time I sat down and wrote the song. I began with my fresh, innocent memories of my visits there during summer vacation, and then I continued to "She sits alone" and "captive in her dream," and to the ancient phraseology which had just presented itself to me as if to say, Take me and do with me as you will.

"As for the melody, here I touched upon the Hasidic melodies and Yiddish songs of my late father with faint traces of Biblical cantillation. When I got to the radio. She asked to be introduced to the singer the refrain, I changed the direction upward, and it was as though I had drawn the curves of the old road here at CSI some years ago). Shemer insisted that near Moza as it approaches Jerusalem, known as the "Seven Sisters": one ascent, and then another and another, and behold—the city before our eyes.

I wept bitterly as I wrote—"Anything not born in tears is worth little"—and in the last verse I simply reported on all the obstacles that had bound my hands and interfered with my writing until then: "But as I come today to sing to you ... I am smaller than the youngest of your children."

"The next day I brought the song to the Voice of Israel. Gil held the lyrics in his right hand and the music in his left and looked at one and then the other, "his cheeks wet with tears" [paraphrased from Lamentations 1:2]. It was Friday, strange weather, it looked like either there might be a heat wave or it might rain. It was around Purim or maybe exactly Purim, and I went to Kinneret to recover from the effort.

"I should say that the first version had only two verses, the first and the last, and of course the refrain. ...

"Over the next few days I played the song for whoever came to visit, as I always do. Once I played it for Rivka Michaeli. She asked: What about the Old City? All right, I said, if you really want it, and I added the middle verse.

"The business about the Old City needs an explanation. When I went to write about it, I put all thought of physical, tangible matters out of my mind. I thought about the two thousand years of the Destruction in the abstract, not necessarily about the last nineteen years. Through a kind of telescopic lens I saw before me a city in heaven and the essence that alone I sought to capture. "

Naomi Shemer deliberated as to who would sing the song. Her daughter, Halleli, had heard about an unknown woman soldier with an extraordinary voice. She was very impressed after hearing her on and met 18 year old Shuly Natan (who performed Shuly Natan sing Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav with guitar rather than orchestral accompaniment. The song was performed in that manner and was greeted with tremendous applause. continued...

# CANTORIAL NOTES continued

After the prizes were awarded, the audience stood up and demanded to hear the song again. The second time, the entire audience joined in the refrain.

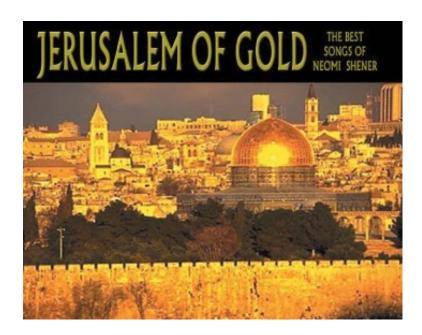
Three weeks later the Six Day War broke out, and Jerusalem was reunited. The paratroopers who liberated the city sang the song on the Temple Mount and by the Kotel, the Western Wall. After the war, Naomi Shemer added another verse beginning "We have returned to the wells." When she sang the new version for the paratroopers and they applauded her, she told them: "Actually, I should be applauding you, since it is much easier to change a song than to change a city!"

Since the first time Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav was performed at the Song Festival it has been considered the best loved Israeli song of all time. In 1998 it won first place in the "Hit of Hits" parade contest, then coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of Israel, and was also chosen as the Jubilee Song. As with many things in life, there was a bit of controversy surrounding the song and whether Naomi Shemer actually composed the melody. In 1962, at a concert in Israel, a famous Basque singer named Paco Ibanez sang a Basque melody on which

many think Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav was based. It is possible that Naomi Shemer heard it then, as she and some friends saw his performance. The melodies are similar but the words quite different. Ibanez first heard Shemer's song in the summer of 1967, shortly after it was written. He recognized it as his song, "Joseph's Hair," a lullaby his mother would sing to him. In 2002, she was asked about the resemblance and whether she had lifted the tune. She denied it and said the resemblance was slight and that outside influences can always creep in. From that point on, she was tormented by the fact that the two melodies resembled each other and in a letter written before she died in 2006, said that the resemblance was made unwittingly.

It remains to be my favorite Israeli song, and she, one of my favorite Israeli composers.

Jshiovitz@gmail.com



# FROM THE PRESIDENT Mark J. Rosenberg



With the approach of Memorial Day, I was thinking about how a recent experience deepened the meaning of the holiday to me and how, as Jews, it can have special meaning.

Last summer, my wife, Marnie, and I visited Normandy, France. While there, we spent a day visiting some of the D-Day sites. We stood on the sands of Omaha Beach looking up at the tall, steep bluffs from which German soldiers rained machine gun fire down upon American soldiers landing on that beach. We wondered, how did those soldiers make it up those bluffs and beyond. (A feat we found to be even more impressive after we learned that on D-Day the bluffs were steeper, but subsequently, American bulldozers helped flatten them in order to make it easier for troops and equipment to leave the beach.) We looked down from the top of Pointe du Hoc, trying to comprehend how the Army Rangers scaled this sheer cliff while German soldiers fired down upon them.

The emotional highpoint of the day was our visit to the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. This is the well-known cemetery that has been used as a backdrop by Presidents honoring D-Day anniversaries. At Colleville-sur-Mer lie the remains of nearly ten thousand American soldiers, soldiers who gave their lives fighting pure evil. Each of the graves is marked by either a plain, white marble cross or a Star of David bearing only the soldier's name, rank, military unit, date of death and hometown.

Seeing row after row of gravestones in this immaculately maintained cemetery, I was deeply moved as I realized that most of the soldiers died when they were about the age of my two daughters. I thought about the lives not led, the children not had, the potential gifts to the world that could not be given because these soldiers had made the ultimate sacrifice.

As Marnie and I walked among the gravestones, we found ourselves drawn to the Stars of David. Neither of us planned that. It just happened. At these graves, I felt a special connection and sense of pride knowing that we shared a religion that has existed from generation to generation for more than three thousand years. I greatly appreciated the significance that these men died while fighting the perpetrators of the Holocaust. I wanted to place a stone on each of their gravestones, but the cemetery was so well-maintained, I could not find any.

I left Colleville-sur-Mer thinking about sacrifice, loss and service. I thought about how the meaning of Memorial Day has largely moved from honoring those who have died in the service of our country to becoming the unofficial start of summer. Much of that is likely due to generational change and how military service is now structured, with most Americans no longer having relatives or close friends who have served or lost their lives while in the military.

On this Memorial Day and on future Memorial Days, we should take some time to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in the service of our country. I encourage everyone to think about what these service members gave up, and if you can, to attend their town's commemorative ceremonies.

M125

President@csibriarcliff.org



### RAFFLE WINNERS WILL BE PULLED ON JUNE 4TH

**Hey! There is a Door Prize! Every ticket to the Annual Event puts** you in the running for a SONOS MOVE - portable indoor/outdoor streaming music player donated by Ellen Johnson.





TICKET PRICE

\$10

\$100 Gift Certificate for Terra Rustica in Briarcliff Manor.



\$10 50/50 RAFFLE: Half for you and half for CSI. Buy online

or at the event, win half the pot and walk away with a pile of cash AT the event!



**\$18** 

**Exquisite Artisan blue vase** created and donated by ceramic artist Orit Daly.

Dimensions 6" x 6" x 10 3/4" tall. Gallery price: \$175.



### **TICKET PRICE**

### RAFFLE WINNERS WILL BE PULLED ON JUNE 4TH

\$18 High Holiday 2023 Parking Spot - Terrific stress reliever! \$300 value.

\$36 High Holiday 2023 Pair of reserved seats \$500 value

3 Days in "My Quiet Corner" Judy Boehr's cozy Berkshire home in the woods. Close to all Berkshire attractions.
Just 10 minutes to Great Barrington.
Sleeps 8 (3br + sofa-bed).
New screened in porch.
Dates to be mutually agreed upon.

Value + tranquility = priceless.
This raffle inactive until 20 tickets purchased.

\$49 High Holiday 2023 Pair of reserved seats PLUS parking \$800 value

1 Year CSI Membership
This raffle is inactive until 75 tickets
purchased.











### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Mary Dale & Jeffrey Allen Julianne & Bob Ashkinaze Rochelle & Marc Auslander Sharon & Gilbert Balog Jessica Bell & Josh Rosen Annleah Berger

Annleah Berger Judy Boehr

Nancy & Daniel Cohen Daphne & Alan Crosswell

Orit & David Daly

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Bryna & Michael Sweedler Ann Tappert & Brian Gelfand Susan & Michael Thrope Dorit & Moshe Walsh Deborah & Richard Yoken

Debra Young

A Note from Judy Boehr: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Project Ezra Passover Drive. We were very successful again this year, and the clients Project Ezra serves on the Lower East Side were able to have what they needed to celebrate *Pesach* because of your generosity.

### PROJECT EZRA

387 GRAND STREET GROUND FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10002

212-982-4124 / 212-982-3700 FAX – 212-677-9134 Email: codirector.projectezra@verizon.net Website: www.projectezra.org

April 24, 2023

**Board of Directors** 

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Congregation Sons of Israel

Dearest Rabbi Kane, The Social Action Committee and Congregants,

We were so touched to receive your generous Passover donations from Rabbi Kane, the Social Action committee and Congregants. We also received separate donations from CSI's members who sent us their donations directly.

Emeritus Misha G. Avramoff Thank you for choosing to make a difference in the lives of the seniors on the Lower East Side. Your contribution has already given them festive Passover celebrations and will continue to go towards combating social isolation, our direct social services, group programs and much, much more.

Your congregation is a pivotal partner in the success of Project Ezra's mission and we could not do it without you.

With gratitude,

Geraldine E. Murphy Vice President

Geraldine Murphy

On behalf of the Ezra Community

# FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL DIRECTOR Naomi Elyachar



This month, instead of writing a typical article for the bulletin, I would love to put out an invitation. Generally, the nursery school is not in session when other programs and services are occurring. We do not have a lot of personal overlap with other members of CSI. However, there is a lot to see in the nursery school even when we are not here!

This month, I invite you to take a stroll down to the nursery school side of the building. Take a look at the creative, process-based art and pictures that fill the walls in each of the hallways. Check out our CSI Nursery School bulletin board, that showcases not only pictures of our beautiful children and caring teachers, but also serves as a large-scale brochure of the school with our school philosophy and values written out. While you are there, feel free to poke your head into the new library, which was previously unused space. Now, every class comes to visit the Rachel Greenstein Children's Resource Library each week to enjoy stories, songs, and a chance to explore new books with either me or guest readers from the congregation.

Before you leave the school space, make sure to see our outdoor classroom, equipped with

outdoor tables and chairs, a mud kitchen, and open-ended wooden toys for the children to explore. You may notice colorful flowers, which our students recently planted during our nature enrichment program to brighten up the space for spring.

Even though we often do not cross paths in person at CSI, many members have mentioned to me how much they enjoy seeing our spaces and artwork when they are in the building. The teachers and I are so proud of the work that we do here. We take pride in the school being such a high-quality early childhood educational program where we focus on whole child development and recognize the uniqueness of each child, while also being a space of support and community for our school families. We would love opportunities to share the joy of our school with you—so please, before the school year is through, walk on down and take a look!

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



- 25 Shavuot Celebration
- **26** NO SCHOOL Shavuot
- **29** NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

### FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

This April, the Parents Association held a Spring Gathering for current and incoming CSI Nursery School Parents. It was so nice to meet many new parents who will be joining our community this fall. Incoming parents were able to make new acquaintances, as well as meet our current group of parents who had many wonderful things to say about the school. It was also bittersweet to have this be one of the last times some of our parents attend a CSI NS event, as their children prepare to take the big next step into kindergarten. Thank you so much to the Lemoniks for hosting this wonderful event. And as the PA heads into May we look to thank our unbelievable teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8th - May 12th. We are forever grateful for the impact you have on our children's lives every day. As always, please reach out to <a href="mailto:csinspa@gmail.com">csinspa@gmail.com</a> with any questions!









### **CSI SUMMER CAMP**



Click here for more information and enrollment links



Camp program for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds

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



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

> 10:45-11:45am Friday, May 5th

This program is FREE and open to all!
Advance registration <u>HERE</u> is appreciated.

# FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR Orit Daly



As this is my last bulletin article as Interim Religious School Director, I'd like to reflect on an interesting, eventful and full year. We returned from two uncertain years of pandemic protocols to a new, smaller school with just a few dedicated teachers, teen helpers, and a group of energetic and enthusiastic students. Thankfully, with the help of community volunteers and an amazing office staff, we put together a memorable, fun and educational program.

Although I won't be at the helm anymore, I'll still be around as I am a long-time member. I will still be involved in the school, and the Education Committee, helping CSI to further its mission of educating the next generation of our Jewish Community.

Thank you all.

Orit Daly
Religious School Director
RSDirector@csibriarcliff.org



Enrollment for Religious School 2023-2024 is open.

Planning for the next school year starts early, so please enroll your student(s) as soon as possible!

**Enrollment starts here!** 

### MORE FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

### CSI Religious School Family *Kabbalat Shabbat* & *Zayin* (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Class Graduation

For all classes & their families!

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
5:45pm
Hors d'oeuvres
6:30pm
Shabbat Rocks/Family Night
Ice cream oneg to follow

RSVPs requested—click <u>here</u>!







### **CSI Community Organic Farm**

### Regenerative Agriculture Rooted in Jewish Tradition

The winter is over! As I write this, the weather these last few days of Passover is so very warm and it puts me in the mood for the summer to come and all the wonderful vegetables and flowers we can grow in our farm and in the community garden.

David Levitt, as always, has been working on the farm even during those dormant winter months, and now things are already growing in the garden. Spring crops of beets, bok choi, garlic, kohlrabi, lettuce, radish, and turnip have been planted, which means our first harvests of the season won't be too far behind.

Organically grown vegetables are healthy!!
Organic foods often have more beneficial nutrients, such as antioxidants. Studies have also suggested that pesticide residues may contribute to ADHD prevalence. In a recent article in Tablet Magazine entitled "The Joys of Garlic," we learn

that garlic is mentioned in the Talmud, indicating it is an aphrodisiac..... (food for thought!!)

All summer long, we will be selling produce, as well as donating to a variety of charities. Be on the look-out for the information about our farm stand hours and days of operation. You can be part of the fun –tasks include harvesting, harvest weighing, order preparation, marketing, farm stand set-up, sales, andgreenhouse management, as well as outdoor labor associated with planting, weeding, pruning, staking, tying, chicken coop tending, and chip and compost distribution. Please email Ryna Lustig (<a href="mailto:rynalustig@gmail.com">rynalustig@gmail.com</a>) if you would like to volunteer.

Our community garden is available for growing your own choice of vegetables and/or flowers. We have approximately 3 X 15 foot beds. They will be available starting on Mother's Day. Please contact me – <u>Jillgreenstein9@gmail.com</u>. I am available to help with ideas for your garden.



Here are your wine bottlers enjoying the fruits of their labors!! (from L to R) Aaron Stern, Mike Kirsch, Naftali Lustig, Joel Neuberg, Jill Greenstein, Ruth Speier, Tom Hannan, Larissa Wayne-Paulmeno, Paula Edlavitch

### **SISTERHOOD**

### Sisterhood Shabbat

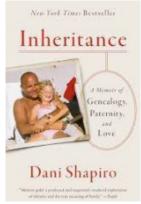
Saturday, May 6th at 9:10 AM You can donate to support our Sisterhood *Shabbat Kiddush* here.

### Sisterhood Book Club

Sunday, June 4th at 11:00 AM on the CSI Farm (weather permitting)

We will be discussing *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro - In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had casually submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her beloved deceased father was not her biological father. Over the course of a single day, her entire history—the life she had lived—crumbled beneath her. *Inheritance* is a book about secrets. It is the story of a woman's urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity, a story that had been scrupulously hidden from her for more than fifty years.





### Sisterhood Year-End Event

Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00 PM Sangria and Snacks with Sisterhood More information to follow.



Mah Jongg: Monday nights at CSI at 7:30 PM

### Sisterhood Membership:

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. 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.

### **MEN'S CLUB**

# Congregation Sons of Israel Briarcliff Men's Club

We cordially invite you to attend the

### 19TH ANNUAL J. HAROLD NISSEN AWARDS LUNCHEON

Hudson Valley Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs honoring CSI Briarcliff and congregants

Rabbi Steven Kane, 2023 Man of the Year

Jesse Dolch, 2023 Youth of the Year

Congregation Sons of Israel Briarcliff

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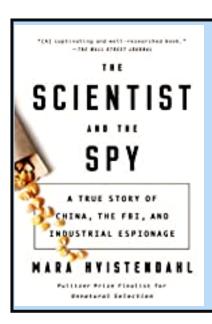


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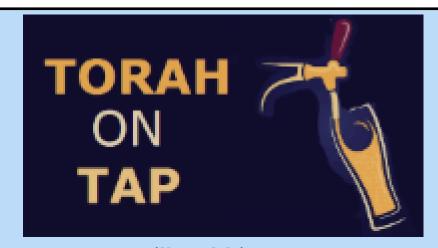
### **MEN'S CLUB - continued**





Book Club: Monday, 5/22 at 7:30pm In the Small Chapel at CSI

We will be discussing
The Scientist and the Spy
by Mara Hvistendahl



With Rabbi Kane
Wednesday, 5/10, at 7pm
105 TWENTY
120 Grand Street, Croton On Hudson, NY

Co-Sponsored by the CSI Pride Committee

We will be discussing: LGBTQ+ Issues and Answers in Conservative Judaism

**REGISTER HERE** 

### RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE



Are you curious about what our amazing Resettlement Committee has done and continues to do?

Join us at the May 21st Annual Event at CSI, in honor of their work!

Our wonderful party will provide an opportunity to meet and chat with members of the committee.

Gain insight into how rewarding the experience has been, and in fact, continues to be for those involved.

Isn't it satisfying to know that the committee's achievements have reflected so well on CSI? Their success adds interest to others who are looking for a caring community and a terrific synagogue to join.

Although the work to give shelter and hope to two lovely families has been its own reward, it is also important for the entire CSI community to acknowledge their efforts. You can do that in person on May 21. Come and enjoy their company!

Remember that all funds raised by the event are for CSI's operating costs and do not aid in the resettlement efforts.

If you cannot attend, please consider helping CSI by acknowledging the Resettlement Committee's efforts with an ad in the event journal <a href="#">HERE</a>. Raffles <a href="#">HERE</a>!

### **CARING COMMUNITY**

The reading program with seniors reading to our Nursery School classes is continuing.

A BIG THANK YOU to Naomi Elyachar for coordinating this and to our readers.

We are so pleased to see this intergenerational program get off the ground so successfully!

Our next Caring Community meeting is Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30pm on Zoom.



### PRIDE COMMITTEE

Torah on Tap: Wednesday, May 10th at 7pm LGBT+ Issues and Answers in Conservative Judaism (see Page 20 for details and registration)

Pride Shabbat: Saturday, June 3rd
Our speaker will be Nathaniel Kingsbury.
Special readings will be part of the service.
To participate, please contact Suzanne Haber.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 9th at 7:30pm on Zoom.

### SECOND GENERATION SURVIVORS AT CSI

The Holocaust & Human Rights
Education Center (HHREC) and
Westchester Jewish Council (WJC)
held its annual countywide
Yom Hashoah commemoration,
"Keeping the Memory Alive," on
April 18th at the Garden of
Remembrance in White Plains.
The program featured a keynote
presentation by a Holocaust
survivor and a procession of
Westchester's rescued Holocaust
Torahs. Cheryl Katz (front row)
held CSI's Torah at the ceremony.



Did you know CSI has a 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Holocaust Group that (generally) meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month? We started about 6 years ago and have met to share stories, hear from guests, watch films, read selected materials and support one another.

The members of the group have seen a *Holocaust Survivor Cookbook* 2007 with stories and recipes collected from around the world, and we have decided to do a CSI 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Cookbook 2023. We now have a collection of stories and recipes from 20 members of CSI. We are ready to bring this project to fruition. As the number of living witnesses (Survivors) dwindles, it is important to pass on their stories of the Holocaust and to contribute to Jewish culture through food. We want to commemorate all the brave Survivors related to CSI, who had little or no food for long periods of time and yet managed to survive.

If you are a child or grandchild of a Survivor, and want to participate and share your family story, or you know of a CSI member who has a story to tell, please contact Cheryl Katz at 914-945-0826 or <a href="mailto:coabkatz@hotmail.com">cabkatz@hotmail.coabkat





Wednesday, 5/10, from 5-7pm - CSI Members are Invited

Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps is coming to the Mystic Pointe condo clubhouse to give lifesaving CPR training including use of the automatic defibrillator device.

The course fee is \$60 paid via check made out to Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

RSVP to Elizabeth Legatt at <u>Joramila@aol.com</u>.

### May 2023 10 *lyar* - 11 *Sivan* 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NS: Nursery School RS: Religious School JITN: Jews in the News C/L Candle Lighting	1 10 lyar  8am Minyan  Chess 7pm Sisterhood Board  8:45pm Talmud	2 11 Iyar 11:15am JITN w/ Rabbi Kane 4pm RS 7:30pm Educ. Comm.	3 12 lyar	4 13 lyar 8am Minyan 11am Contemporary Issues and the Talmud: Zoom	5 14 Iyar 10:45am Music & Fun for Little Ones 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Family Service Sanctuary & Zoom	6 15 Iyar 9:10am Shabbat Service Sanctuary & Live Stream SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
	w/Rabbi Kane				C/L 7:38pm	Emor
7 16 iyar 9am RS 9:15am Minyan	8 17 Iyar 8am Minyan Chess 8:45pm Talmud	9 18 lyar 11:15am JITN w/ Rabbi Kane 4pm RS	10 19 lyar 7pm Torah on Tap	11 20 Iyor 8am Minyan 10:30am HaMishpacha Discussion Group	12 21 iyar 6:30pm Kabbalat	9:10am Shabbat Service Sanctuary & Live Stream
	w/Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Pride Comm. Lag B'Omer	w/Rabbi Kane	11am Contemporary Issues and the Talmud: Zoom	Shabbat Sanctuary & Zoom C/L 7:46pm	Behar-Bechukotai
14 23 iyar NO RS	15 24 Iyar 8am Minyan	16 25 iyar	17 26 Iyar	18 27 /yar 8am Minyan	19 28 iyar	20 29 Iyar 9:10am Shabbat Service
9:15am Minyan	Chess	11:15am JITN w/ Rabbi Kane 4pm RS		11am Contemporary Issues and the Talmud: Zoom	6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Sanctuary & Zoorn	Sanctuary & Live Stream  AUFRUF: Sam Rude & Claire Lisker
	7:30pm Exec. Comm. 8:45pm Talmud w/Rabbi Kane				C/L 7:52pm	Shabbat Mevarchim/ Bamidbar
21 1 Sivan	22 2 Sivan	23 3 Sivan	24 4 Sivan	25 5 <i>Sivan</i> 8am Minyan	26 6 Sivan	27 7 Sivan
9am RS LAST DAY 9:15am Minyan BM: JAKE MALLER 4:30pm CSI'S ANNUAL EVENT	8am Minyan Chess 7:30pm Men's Club Book Club	11:15am JITN w/Rabbi Kane	7.30 0	10:30am HaMishpacha Discussion Group  11am Contemporary Issues and the Talmud: Zoom	NO NS OFFICE CLOSED  9:10am Shavuot Day 1 Service Sanctuary & Live Stream  6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Sanctuary	9:10am Shabbat/ Shavuot Day 2 Service w/Yizkor Sanctuary & Live Stream
EVENT	8:45pm Talmud w/Rabbi Kane	7:30pm Board of Trustees	7:30pm Caring Comm.	9pm Shavuot Evening Service/Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Sanctuary & Live Stream EREV SHAVUOT	& Live Stream  C/L 7:59pm  SHAVUOT	SHAVUOT/YIZKOR
28 8 Sivan 9:15am Minyan	29 9 Sivan NO NS OFFICE CLOSED 8am Minyan MEMORIAL DAY	30 10 <i>Sivan</i> 11:15am JITN w/ Rabbi Kane	31 11 Sivan			Click HERE For the Web calendar

### LIFE CYCLE EVENTS



DATE	CELEBRANT	AGE
1	Emily Belle	8
8	Kai Kapahi	6
13	Rhea Alter	3
21	Miriam Lemonik	5
21	Noa Gray	3
24	Jordan Belle	1
29	Noah Eichenholtz	13



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

DATE	CELEBRANTS	YEARS
1	Mayra & Aaron Stern	46
1	Suzanne & Neal Haber	40
10	Lauren Thaler & Bill Null	42
15	Karen & Ed Scharf	35
17	Toni & Elliot Band	36
22	Beth & Harold Levine	40
23	Patti & Bill Robbins	41
23	Resa Mestel & Alan Fox	41
23	Melissa & Michael Reiner	30
23	Laura & Daniel Gold	30
23	Roberta & Doron Bar-Levav	24
24	Lynn & Ron Hanover	53
24	Cindy & Richard Katz	31
24	Nance & Jeffrey Lichtman	26
24	Deborah Hertz & David Levitt	25
24	Darlene Fairman & Jack Zinn	25
27	Joyce Perlmutter & Claude Tusk	44
27	Stacy & Richard Charney	33
29	Jill & Jonathan Lerner	51
30	Allison & Andrew Markowitz	24

### LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Condolences to Diane and Ronnie Myers on the loss of Diane's father, Dr. Paul D. Ellner.

Condolences to Howard and Susan Code on the loss of Howard's sister, Mary Code Hewes.

Condolences to Murray Rottenberg on the loss of his brother, Ralph Rottenberg.

Speedy Recovery to Steven Cohn.

Speedy Recovery to Aaron Stern.

*Mazal Tov* to Meryl and Marty Weinberg on the birth of their twin grandsons, Dylan Nash and Charles Ronin.

*Mazal Tov* to Nursery School parents Geneva Stork and Jeremy Jacobson on the birth of their son, Owen.

Mazal Tov to Staci Rosen-Maller on the Bar Mitzvah of her son Jake.

Mazal Tov to Helene and Adam Rude on the aufruf of their son Sam and Claire Lisker.



### **DONATIONS**

#### CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In memory of Eden Hodara
In memory of Bernard Rubin
In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner
In memory of Beth Michelle Berger
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In memory of Leo Freilich Roberta Freilich

### JEFFREY DITTELMAN/ROBINOV CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND (OVERNIGHT)

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan
In honor of the birth of Dylan & Charles Weinberg
In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner
Faye Dittelman & David Perelman
Faye Dittelman & David Perelman

In memory of Jeffrey Dittelman Seena & Jason Dittelman
In honor of Faye Dittelman's birthday Elizabeth & Alan Legatt
In honor of Faye Dittelman's birthday Rochelle & Marc Auslander

In honor of Faye Dittelman's birthday Judith Rosof

In honor of Faye Dittelman's birthday Helene & Adam Rude
In honor of Rabbi Kane FJMC Man of the Year Helene & Adam Rude
In honor of Jesse Dolch FJMC Youth of the Year Helene & Adam Rude

### ETZ CHAIM - TREE OF LIFE FUND

In memory of Aleksandr Millerman Ekaterina Milchtein & Konstantin Millerman

In honor of Bob Ashkinaze's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Renee Sampson
In honor of Rabbi Kane Leslie Gordon

Speedy Recovery to Clare Rosen Margie & Mike Kirsch In memory of Georges Griffithskig Rochelle & Marc Auslander

Thank you to the Rabbinic Search Committee Sharon Richter

for all of your hard work

In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner Margie & Mike Kirsch

In memory of Ralph Rottenberg Ronnie Kent

#### RACHEL GREENSTEIN CHILDREN'S RESOURCE LIBRARY FUND

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan

For the sale of *chametz*In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan

In honor of the birth of Liam Green

In honor of the birth of Dylan & Charles Weinberg

In memory of the brother of Jo Green

Marilyn & Bob Margolies

Jill & Joel Greenstein

Kathy & Len Levin

Kathy & Len Levin

#### IRA KESTENBAUM BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner Roberta & Richard Kay
In honor of the birth of Dylan & Charles Weinberg Debbie & Elliott Barish

### **DONATIONS - continued**

#### KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Rochelle's Birthday In memory of Georges Griffithskig

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan

In memory of Ben Levin

In honor of Suzanne Roscio being called to the Torah

In memory of Rav Eliezer Hering In memory of Harvey Zaretzky In memory of George Heller In memory of Ettarae Alpert

In memory of Jay Jamner In honor of Helen Chuckrow

In memory of Henry Schrager

In memory of Hilda Miller In honor of Jack Zinn Rochelle & Marc Auslander Rochelle & Marc Auslander Elizabeth & Alan Legatt Rika & Mark Reisman

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### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

In honor of Mark Rosenberg

Maxine and Paul Rosenberg

#### MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

In memory of Minnie Levine

Annleah Berger

### ORGANIC FARM FUND

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan

Margie & Mike Kirsch

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan

Thank you to Rabbi Kane In memory of Martin Brown

In memory of Juliet Remah Keidan

In memory of Sid Weiss Thank you to Rabbi Kane Helen Chuckrow & Richard Langeloh

Penina Aviram Dean Brown

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#### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FUND

In memory of Ruth Sankin Schildkraut In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner Kenneth Sankin Leon White

#### CSI SECURITY FUND

For the sale of chametz

Patti & Bill Robbins

### **DONATIONS - continued**

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

In memory of Dr. Paul D. Ellner
In memory of Mary Code Hewes
In memory of Ralph Rottenberg

In honor of the birth of Sasha Adira Merchan
In honor of the birth of Dylan and Charles Weinberg
In honor of the birth of Owen Jacobson

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jake Maller

In honor of the aufruf of Sam Rude and Claire Lisker

**Speedy Recovery to Aaron Stern** 

### FOR THE SALE OF CHAMETZ TO THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Julianne & Bob Ashkinaze

Rochelle & Marc Auslander

**Debbie & Elliot Barish** 

**Annleah Berger** 

**Helen Chuckrow & Richard Langeloh** 

Darlene Fairman & Jack Zinn

Janis Golubock & Michael Harlow

Joan & Alan Gordon

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**Roy Summer** 

**Elaine & Donald Sunberg** 

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### **DONATIONS - continued**

Yom HaShoah Yahrzeit Candle Program
In Support of CSI Men's Club

Ellen Freeman
Eleanor Frey
Suzanne & Neal Haber
Lynn & Ronald Hanover
Cheryl Kestenbaum
Margery & Mike Kirsch
Helene & Adam Rude
Gail Sider
Dorit & Moshe Walsh



In Support of Sisterhood Shabbat As of May 1st

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