

FEBRUARY 2012

Shevat - Adar 5772

Continuing the Vision ♦ ♦ ♦ Building our Future

**CSI Advanced Adult Education Presents
Scholar-in-Residence *Shabbat* on February 3 - 4, 2012
with DR. KENNETH PRAGER, Professor of Clinical Medicine
at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons with
“An In-Depth Look at Jewish Medical Ethics”**

On Friday evening February 3rd, following 6:00 PM *Kabbalat Shabbat* services and Scholar-in-Residence dinner (reservations required), Dr. Prager will speak at 8:15 PM on “End of Life Issues”. Dr. Prager will compare and contrast *Halachic* and secular approaches to various medical ethical issues.

On Saturday, February 4th, at 9:30 AM *Shabbat* morning services, Dr. Prager will give the *D’var Torah*: “The Most Unique *Bracha* in All of Jewish Prayer” - What is the meaning of the *bracha* religiously and medically? Services will be followed by a *kiddush*-lunch (no reservations required) and a 1:15 PM talk: “Organ Donation” - Is organ donation permissible for Jews? What is the Jewish view on buying and selling organs? What role has Israel played in the transplant community?

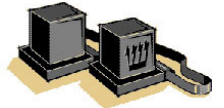
All talks are open to the public - no charge

For dinner reservations Friday evening email Ellen@csibriarcliff.org or call 914-762-2700

Saturday, February 4th 8:00 PM

“Jewish Music Through the Ages” at the home of Rika & Mark Reisman

Sunday, February 5th - A BUSY DAY AT CSII!



9:00 AM Men’s Club “Worldwide Wrap” followed by *Minyan* & Breakfast
Spend \$3.00 and 45 minutes to help provide *tefillin* for needy Masorti Jews living in Peru.

And don’t forget to stop by our



BLOOD DRIVE & ORGAN DONOR REGISTRATION

Sunday, February 5th 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The need is great - but YOU can make a difference!

Please call 762-2700 to make an appointment to help save a life or stop by our social hall.

Also on the 5th P.T.A. *B’NAI MITZVAH* WORKSHOP - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Tuesday, February 14th *Ha Mishpacha*
Luncheon & Program

Wednesday, February 15th Sisterhood
Mah Jongg

Monday, February 27th

7:30 PM College Parents pack *Purim* packages for college students

FROM THE RABBI, Steven C. Kane

One of the highlights of our year is the Scholar in Residence Shabbat which takes place this year February 3/4. For quite some time I have been looking for a scholar who could represent the best of two very complicated worlds-Judaism and medicine. I think such a person has been found! Dr. Kenneth Prager is a Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is also an educated, informed and observant Jew. He not only practices and teaches medicine, but for many years he has taught Jewish medical ethics to his own students, and has been at the forefront of thought in this area. In addition to his medical position and background in Judaism, Dr. Prager serves as the Chairman of the Medical Ethics Committee of Columbia University.

As always, our Scholar in Residence program features three talks, all of which are open to the public (reservations and payment are only required for the *shabbat* dinner, which I hope you will be able to attend). Friday night Dr. Prager will be speaking on a subject whose parameters keep changing as science advances. His topic, "**End of Life Issues**" deals with the very sensitive question of when life ends, according to both science and *halacha* (Jewish law). What is determinant of the end of life? Is it a heartbeat, breathing or brain activity? What does the Bible, Talmud and later codes have to say about this? How has science and Judaism evolved in its thinking? Is there ever a time when Judaism allows us to actively end a life (euthanasia)? What happens if there is a conflict between Judaism and medicine?

During the *shabbat* morning service, Dr. Prager will deliver his second talk, entitled "**The Most Unique Bracha In All Of Jewish Prayer**". This is a very personal talk in which Dr. Prager will relate his own experiences concerning a *bracha* that, although found in our *siddur*, is known to few of us. It is a *bracha* that says a lot about the Jewish understanding of appreciating how our bodies work. I have read a fascinating article he wrote on this subject, and I know you will find this talk quite enlightening.

Finally, following a lovely *shabbat* lunch (for which reservations are NOT needed), Dr. Prager will deliver his third talk on "**A Jewish View of Organ Donation**". (Did you know CSI has an organ transplant group that meets here monthly? I am sure some of those who come will be here to share their unique perspective!) There are many complicated medical and religious questions relating to organ donation. When is it OK to harvest an organ from a

human being? Is live donation of an organ permitted? Can we transplant organs from other animals into humans? Is it permissible for Jews to donate organs? Is it permissible for Jews to receive organs? What is the status of an organ that has been bought or sold, and what role has Israel played in this area?

I am very much looking forward to a fascinating *shabbat* filled with study, questions and discussion with Dr. Prager. I hope you will be able to join us!

L'hitraot, Rabbi Kane



It's not too late to join us! Hebrew High School Sundays

Breakfast 11:00 - 11:30

Class 11:30 - 12:15

Second trimester

8th - 12th:

Teacher: Orit Daly

Jewish Poverty Project: What is poverty in the Jewish community? The Budget game and who is a *Mitzvah* superhero?

8th - 12th:

Teacher: Roni Shapiro

Sex in The Text

(You can't believe it is really in the *Torah*)

Text: Sex in the Text, UAHC Press

Bulletin of Congregation Sons of Israel
1666 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
A Conservative Synagogue Founded 1891-Affiliated With



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.
Office: (914) 762-2700 E-Mail: info@csibriarcliff.org
Fax:(914) 941-3465 School (914) 762-6396

Steven C. Kane, Rabbi Jeffrey Shiovitz, Hazzan
Roni Shapiro Ben-David, Educational Director
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Reach CSI on the Web Page at :www.csibriarcliff.org
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CANTORIAL NOTES *Hazzan Jeffrey Shiovitz*



Can a tree bring redemption? That's the question *Tu B'Shevat* answers for us.

Jewish tradition takes trees very seriously. We call the *Torah* our Tree of Life (Proverbs 3:18). The *Torah*, in Deuteronomy, commands us to regard the first fruits of the trees we plant as sacred. One of our horrific memories is of Titus, after the destruction of Jerusalem, denuding the surrounding hillsides of their forests. Invading empires who sacked the land of its natural forestation scarred the Land of Israel for centuries. (The efforts of the Jewish National Fund have restored some of the land, and so our continuing support of JNF is critical to Israel's future.

Trees are our symbol of enduring faith. Trees are the first gift of sustenance given to us in the garden by God. We are sustained by the trees which previous generations planted for us. And we proclaim our faith in future generations by planting trees not for our direct benefit but for theirs.

That's why it's so tragic that we live in a world where trees are so lightly regarded. Rabbi Isma Schorsch teaches, "As trees fall at the end of the twentieth century at an ever quickening pace, victims of the need and greed of humankind, they give incontrovertible evidence of the dismal fact that for us, God is dead."

So, *Tu B'Shevat*, the little holiday for the trees, comes along to remind us of our fate. It's been just about three months since we read the story of Creation, in *B'reshit*. Like a mid-semester quiz, *Tu B'Shevat* comes along to ask us to check and see how much of that critical story we are carrying with us today. Are we protectors and caretakers of the earth, particularly of the land of Israel?

Tu B'Shevat always is coincident with reading from the *Torah* of the Exodus from slavery to freedom. This *Shabbat*, we will sing the Song of the Sea, that exultant celebration of redemption from the pain of slavery. We who became free are the caretakers of freedom. We who were given the garden, and then the promised land of Israel, now are the caretakers and preservers of that inheritance for the next generation. With every tree we save, with every tree we plant, we affirm our commitment to making redemption something real, for us and for our children.



HA MISHPACHA

Tuesday, February 14th - 12:30 PM at CSI
Lunch will be served . . .

**Followed by:
Sing-A-Long
With
Howard Kutcher**

Ha Mishpacha means the family. It is a group for couples and singles over 65. Each month a different musical, cultural, social or educational program will be presented. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month – but please always check the Bulletin for the current month's date.

More information Contact Cantor Shiovitz, 923-0175

MEET NEW FRIENDS – GREET OLD FRIENDS



JEWISH MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

The third in our Jewish Music Through the Ages series will be held on Saturday evening, February 4th at 8:00 PM at the home of Rika and Mark Reisman in Ossining. The topic for the evening will be "The Music of Israel's Leading Ladies". Naomi Shemer (Jerusalem of Gold) and Nurit Hirsch (*Oseh Shalom* and *Bashana Haba-ah*). If you would like to attend, please contact Cantor Shiovitz at jshiovitz@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM OUR FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COORDINATOR **Joanne Wagner**

A reminder that the final payment of all fees including dues, Religious School, Building Fund, etc. is **due March 1st** in order for your account to be up to date. If you have any questions about the status of your account please call Joanne at 762-2700.



Deadline for the March Bulletin is
Friday, February 10th.

Meeting this deadline helps to get the bulletin
to our readers on time. Thank you.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Roni Shapiro, Educational Director

Thank you to our religious school PTA for providing our *Alef* parents & students with a wonderful breakfast for the *Alef* Family “Workshop on God” Program.

Most of you know by now about the *Lev* (heart) program. Children with special learning needs are provided with a teen assistant in the classroom in order to help them get the most out of religious school. We have a self-contained class taught by Sheera Zuckerman for these special learners.

In the past 10 years, the numbers of children with special learning styles has increased to such a point that all of our teachers have been going through special workshops to learn how to teach the various learning styles in the most effective way. Gratefully, so many of you have donated money to help the *Lev* program. CSI also has an official fund called the **Mitzner Special Educational Needs Fund**. Not only does this fund help with supporting our *Lev* workers, but it helps purchase materials that may be needed to optimally benefit the learning experience of our children. When choosing from our long list of well deserving funds, I hope you will add this fund to your donation list.

Our school is in need of lap tops to be placed in each of our religious school classrooms, to assist in the teaching of all of our learners. If you have an old, but working lap top, would like to donate a new one, or want to donate money to be used towards a new one to benefit our students, please contact the school office.

Below are some interesting facts about our special education department:

- About 25% of each grade level has been classified by their school districts with a learning or behavioral challenge.
- The teachers and I read the “I.E.P.” individual education plan provided by the parent and this information is kept confidential.
- Children with learning challenges not only have a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, but love working with Cantor Shiovitz.
- We have wonderful resource teachers: Maris Aschen, Tami Drucker, Beth Roth, Sheera Zuckerman and Beverly Wizwer.
- We are blessed with wonderful teens who work with these children and they are our *Lev* workers. We desperately need more teen workers. Please speak to your teenager to see if he/she would like to

help us in our classrooms with our children who have special learning needs.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OUR CSI CHILDREN?

Please make donations to The Samantha Silverman Youth Fund, The Nursery School Special Gifts Fund, The Rachel Greenstein Resource Library Fund, The Educational Director’s Discretionary Fund, The Mitzner Family Special Educational Needs Fund and the Rhoda and Mel Miller Tuition Assistance Fund.

ALL OF THESE FUNDS ARE USED TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF CSI

February School Calendar

- 4 PJ Library program, Junior Congregation
- 5 NO HIGH SCHOOL; *B’nai Mitzvah* Workshop
- 6 *Dalet* Enrichment, NS Kids Afternoon of Fun
- 7 NS Sign Language; Play Group
- 8 *Tu B’Shevat*
- 11 Junior Congregation
- 12 *Gimel* Class (5th grade) Family Program 9-11
- 14 Play Group
- 16 Dinosaur Rocks
- 18 & 25 NO Junior Congregation
- 19 – 26 NO SCHOOL
- 27 *Dalet* Enrichment
- 28 Sign Language; Play Group

Congregation Sons of Israel Nursery School Summer Camp

Briarcliff Manor

June 25th - August 10th

9:00 - 11:55 AM

Ages: almost 2 to older 4's



“A Summer filled with fun and exploration”

Weekly Themes	Water Play	Specials
Arts & Crafts	Sports	Cooking
Music	Science	Snacks

Register Now at 914-762-6396 or

email : education@csibriarcliff.org

education2@csibriarcliff.org

Extended day available: Kids Karousel
For more information call 914-923-0160

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Dan Singer

Who doesn't love birthdays? OK, maybe when you get to a certain age you don't look forward to counting all of the candles, but you have to admit that there is something special about celebrating a birthday. Even when no one else is talking about it, we are all keenly aware when our own birthday is approaching. Mine happens to be coming up in February and I must admit I am getting excited. There are several things that are all part of the pending birthday anticipation. Part of the excitement is looking forward to the traditional family dinner at Applebees where the kids will "secretly" let the wait staff know it's my birthday so that they will sing happy birthday to me. If all goes according to plan, I will do like last year and take the afternoon off from work so Jill and I can catch a movie and spend a little down time together.

Perhaps the most special part of celebrating a birthday is the one we are least likely to admit to enjoying. After all, what symbolizes a birthday celebration more than all of the presents? Over the years I have collected a large variety of birthday gifts ranging from my favorite Captain Kirk bathrobe to a collection of sweaters that I am still waiting to come into style. As a younger adult I preferred the gifts that either made me laugh or at least came with a valid receipt. As I seemingly matured I began to appreciate the effort and thought behind the gifts that my birthday would bring. In fact until very recently, the gifts I cherished the most were the ones hand made by my kids. Creative cards and hard to recognize art projects are amongst those unique gifts that are unique to each of us and add to memories of a lifetime.

However this year I am getting a gift that seems to be topping them all. Different than any of those one-of-a-kind gifts that I continue to cherish, this year I am getting a gift that hundreds of millions of others have experienced before me. I would venture to say that each of them have enjoyed it as much as I am. This is the year I get to celebrate my birthday while watching my oldest son prepare to become a *Bar Mitzvah*. What more meaningful gift can a father receive then watching his offspring go through the process of transitioning from child to young adult right before his eyes?

What makes an experience like this so special is that I get to experience it with my family, friends and community. Regardless of what stage of life you are at, our Jewish traditions and affiliation with CSI continue to give each of us these special kinds of gifts. I fondly remember my daughter's baby naming,

my children's nursery school Passover *Seders*, and now Harrison's *Bar Mitzvah*. Many of you have had the pleasure of seeing your children get married, and even the special milestones of your grandchildren's lives. I love getting gifts and CSI has been a gift generating factory in the most meaningful way. Each year, dozens (sometimes hundreds) of parents are presented with life altering gifts through the hard work and dedication of our staff and neighbors at CSI. Often times people ask me what do I get out of all of the time and resources that my family and I have given to CSI. When I think of all that CSI, and you as its members, have given to me, I still can't help but feel that I am getting the better half of the bargain.

Have a safe and enjoyable President's Day break. I hope you enjoy whatever the next present is that CSI has for you.

CSI CARING COMMUNITY Merrie Daitch, Chairperson ♥ We Care ♥

The Caring Community runs many programs which touch a variety of our congregants. This month we'll learn more about our "Free Rides for Seniors" program. Margie Kirsch chairs this committee for us. The program is sponsored jointly by the Senior Center in Ossining and the CSI Caring Community. If you are a CSI member 65 or older who lives in Ossining or Briarcliff, and don't/can't drive your car to *shul*, this is a wonderful program for you to utilize. (Think slick, icy roads and YOU riding to *shul* without a care in the world, leaving that to the cab driver!) If you meet the parameters you are eligible to receive 10 free taxi coupons a month to use coming to and from *shul*. All you have to do is call Lora in the synagogue office, 762-2700 and let her know that you need taxi coupons. Margie will send the coupons to you through the mail. When you want to use one, just call the taxi company, and they will pick you up.

Learn more about all that we do. Join us! The next meeting of the Caring Community will be **February 14 at 7:00 PM** in the chapel. See you there.

THANK YOU

A belated thank you to those who helped take down CSI's *sukkah*: Marc Auslander, Ed Ilions, Murray Rottenberg, Michael Teitelbaum, Sarah Teitelbaum, Jack Zinn and our always helpful Rosita Pizarro & Ricardo Ayora.

CSI MEN'S CLUB
Ronnie Myers, Chair

On Saturday January 21st the Men's Club had its second Men's Club *Shabbat*. It was well attended and helped let everyone know that the Men's Club at CSI is alive, well and growing. We encourage all CSI Men to join and participate. We know you will not be disappointed.

What are you doing on Sunday Morning before the Super Bowl? (As of this writing the Giants are still alive.) Once again we are participating in the "World Wide Wrap" when our Men's Club will be wrapping *tefillin* to help needy Jews around the world. See Elliot Barish's article following this column and join us that morning to show your support and be counted in our Men's Club numbers of those who are "wrapping."

On March 22, 2012, our annual Texas Hold'em March Madness Tournament will take place. Prizes for the winners include Yankee Tickets, Free Men's Club event entry fee and more. We promise to have a much more extensive menu reflecting how we really like to eat.

Yom HaShoah candles once again will be distributed by the Men's Club however we need your support to purchase candles for the community. All donations are welcome.

Save Thursday May 10th for the annual Man of the Year Dinner. This year we are participating with the Hudson Valley Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs to honor our own **Al Saperstein** along with Youths of the Year, **Sam and Eitan Rude**. Please show your support. Journal ads will be available in the March Bulletin.



\$3 AND 45 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME . . .
IT'S THE "WORLDWIDE WRAP"

On February 5th the Men's Club and the *entire* CSI community will participate in the Seventh Annual "World Wide Wrap". Last year 15 countries on five continents participated and this event continues to grow. Chaired by Jason Eidlitz and Elliott Barish, it is a day when all are encouraged to wrap *tefillin* in recognition of needy Jews around the world.

This year we are raising money to help send *tefillin* to needy Jews in Peru. We have committed to donate the cost of purchasing one set of *tefillin* (\$175) for this very worthwhile mission. So please

come on the 5th, wrap *tefillin* (if you don't have a set, we do) and **donate \$3 or more** for this worthwhile cause. **Women and teenagers are welcome and also encouraged to attend.** "Wrapping" begins at **9:00 AM** in the lower social hall followed by a short service and a *minyan* breakfast!

Please RSVP by Sunday, January 29th to:

Elliott Barish: odontdr@aol.com

Jason Eidlitz: shoedog@optonline.net

Men's Club Membership 2011-12

Enclosed is my check for \$36 payable to CSI for active membership in Men's Club '11-'12.

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Return to CSI Men's Club
1666 Pleasantville Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510



Have you ordered your gifts of
Mishloach Manot?

Sisterhood's annual fund raiser is underway. Remember to log on to CSI.HappyPurim.com - use the log in code that was mailed to you and follow the instructions. Very easy . . . Don't miss out on sending these traditional *Purim* gifts to your friends.



ATTENTION COLLEGE PARENTS



Purim is coming to our college students. On **Monday, February 27th, at 7:30PM**, our college packing co-chairs, Judith Jay and Joyce Perlmutter invite you to join them as they meet at CSI to pack *Purim* goodies for our children away at school. If your child's college address is not registered with the CSI office, please email it to Lora@CSIBriarcliff.org so then can be included.

NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

Marion Jablansky

www.wlcj.org

www.giftshop@csibriarcliff.org

If it's February, it must be time for our annual *Mishoach Manot* fund raiser. The *mitzvah* of *Mishloach Manot* is described in the book of Esther. According to Jewish law, one should give a gift of two different types of food, one of which is prepared (cooked or baked) to at least one person. Participating in this fund raiser helps you to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *Mishloach Manot*. You will soon be receiving instructions on how to participate.

The women of CSI Sisterhood have been very busy. Mah Jong nights are still as popular as ever. The gift shop committee has gone shopping again, so stop by the table in the **CSI lobby on Sunday, February 5 to see new items.**

The calendar for 2012 is shaping up nicely. Please put the following dates on your calendars so you don't forget to join us for these fun events (Dates are subject to change. Please check the synagogue bulletin and CSI website for any scheduling changes):

February 5	Gift shop open
February 15	Mah Jong
March 4	Gift shop open
March 14	Mah Jong
March 21	General meeting
April 1	Gift shop open
April 14	Sisterhood Shabbat
April 18	Mah Jong
May 6	Gift shop open
May 16	Mah Jong
June 3	Gift shop open
June 6	Mah Jong

The gift shop is open the first Sunday morning of every month as long as Religious School is in session. The dates the Gift Shop will be open are included in the above list of Sisterhood events. All Gift Shop profits benefit CSI, so put the Gift Shop high on your list of shopping venues when looking for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* gifts, wedding gifts, housewarming gifts and general giftware. Many of our products are made in Israel or the U.S., and all of our products are competitively priced.

These are just some of the programs and services Sisterhood provides, and being a part of Sisterhood is a wonderful experience. Response to our membership drive has been great! Don't be left

out, join today and connect with Jewish women all over the world!

The CSI bulletin and the CSI website are great sources of information. Continue to read future bulletins, as well as check the website for future Sisterhood programs.

Our officers/chairpersons are always open to new ideas, so if you have any suggestions or wish to lead or help with an activity, please let us know.

President:	Elizabeth Dworkin
Treasurer:	Sharon Richter
Recording Secretary:	Ali Edelstein
Social Committee:	Wendy Gottlieb
Membership:	Beth Levine
Financial Secretary:	Sharon Richter
Bulletin:	Marion Jablansky
Gift Shop:	Annleah Berger/Robin Ginsberg/ Jill Greenstein /Marion Jablansky/ Robin Karp/Sharon Orenstein

www.WLCJ.org = the website for Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the organization to which our Sisterhood belongs. Check it out!

This month's gift suggestion: Serve your *hamentashen* in style with the *hamentashen* shaped plate you can purchase at the CSI Sisterhood gift shop!



Sisterhood Membership 2011-2012
To join, please send your check for \$25.00
dues payable to CSI Sisterhood & return it
with this form to:
CSI Sisterhood, 1666 Pleasantville Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

For questions concerning membership or to sign up for one of our committees please
Call Beth Levine 941-9221, or
Marion Jablansky 923-0089.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Judy Boehr, Chair

Another Year – Another Successful CSI Sponsored Christmas Dinner

Each year, as I get a little older, I ask myself, “Why am I doing this event again this year?” It’s a big responsibility and a lot of work. This year, there were many answers to that question.

First and foremost, approximately 80 CSI families participated in the Christmas dinner this year. Some shopped, some donated money, many cooked, served dinner and delivered meals to those who were homebound - and that was just the beginning.

For me, there were many highlights this year. I hope that by sharing them, you will get a sense of the tremendous sense of caring and generosity that was present at the Presbyterian Church that day.

- Several young CSI families and new members participated for the first time. They had such a great time and looked so happy. It felt wonderful to hear them say, “I’ll be back next year because this was so much fun!”
- A young teenager sat and really visited with an elderly guest who comes every year. She’s quite a talker who many would lose patience with, but this gentle young man was generous with his time and his kindness.
- A first or second grader spent time talking to a guest all by herself while her parents were serving dinner to others. She was welcoming and completely comfortable, and I was so proud.
- A member transported one of our guests from her assisted living residence because she knew she wouldn’t be able to come without a ride.
- Two 20-something brothers whose family always came to help clean up (not the fun part of the job) walked in unannounced to help, even though their parents were out of town.
- The niece of one of our members is a pastry chef. She donated 3 trays of delicious pastries in memory of her grandparents. No one asked her; I just got an email that she was doing it!
- Two other families (one with their two kids) came again this year just to clean up, knowing that that’s the time when everyone is tired and their help is really needed.
- It brought me joy to see several high school and college-age CSI members helping. Many of them

helped as young children with their families, but seeing them participate as young adults felt wonderful.

While there are (happily) too many participants to name individually here, I must acknowledge Sarah LaCour, who, with her mom (Nan Banks), set things up and got everything rolling in the morning. To the incredible kitchen crew that stands all day loading and unloading food from the ovens and prepares each plate individually, a huge *Todah Rabah*. Thanks to Jason Levitt who helped me distribute hundreds of flyers to publicize the event around town.

Thank you to everyone who supported this dinner with your time and your energy. I was so proud to be a part of this event. It felt wonderful to see our members (and especially their children) so engaged and involved with our neighbors. Our guests were so appreciative - praising our cooking, sharing their stories, and giving us grateful hugs.

Editor’s Note: And thank you Judy for your tremendous efforts in putting this together each year. We so enjoyed reading your highlights and we are sure they made all CSI members proud to be a part of our CSI Family.



Join the CSI Nursery School Playgroup for Children Infant - 23 Months



Make new friends with your child while you: sing songs - play parachute - create art projects and listen to stories Or

Be more active with your little one and climb through tunnels, slide down slides, jump on the trampoline or play on the mats.

Tuesday mornings - 9:15 – 10:15 AM

February 7, 14, 28

March 6, 20, 27 - April 3, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Cost \$10.00 per session. Checks are made payable to CSI Playgroup. Sign up now by calling 762-6396 or email education@csibriarcliff.org

FROM OUR YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATOR,
Beverly Sarkozi

One thing you can be sure of is that the CSI community is very generous.

☆ The CSI community is generous with clothing - so much so that all items which could not be used for the recent Midnight Run were delivered to IFCA in Ossining. We helped to fill their store with everything from coats to shoes for the cold winter months.

☆ The CSI community is generous with food. On January 11th *Kadima* held their first community service event. In conjunction with the *mitzvah* projects of Harrison Singer, Mitchell Rosenshine and Alex Baretz we held "*Kadima* Strikes Out Hunger". This was a bowling event to raise donations and food for UJA Federation of New York/Westchester Families Feeding Families to benefit the Jewish Community Council Food Pantry. The Jewish Community Council Food Pantry serves over 2,200 people a month and is the only Bronx food pantry serving Kosher as well as non-kosher food. Carloads of food were collected while our 6th and 7th graders enjoyed an evening of fun, games and pizza with their friends. Thank you to the Singer, Rosenshine and Baretz Families for coordinating and sponsoring this *Kadima* first.

☆ The CSI community is also generous with their time. On January 16th in honor of Martin Luther King Day as a day of service, CSI Teens along with Teens from Star of Bethlehem Church, and Briarcliff High School joined with teens from all over Westchester at AFYA Foundation in Yonkers. There they sorted and packed medical supplies destined for Africa and Haiti. This was a fine example of how much our Teens can accomplish in a short time by working together. Thanks to all who attended.

Hope you can join us on February 11th when our 8th through 12th graders "Occupy CSI" (at least for the night) at our *Shul* In.

I want to send a special *Yasher Koach* to Beth Schneck our USY Advisor for donating her beautiful hair to "Locks of Love" for the fourth time.

NOTES FROM OUR
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL P.T.A.



Ziona Rubin Randi Schonfeld
Ziona.rubin@yahoo.com peterandi@yahoo.com

As we enjoy the winter season, here are a few important dates to mark in your calendar:

The *Purim* Carnival is coming on **March 11th**. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us. We are also looking for food, snack and drink donations. An email was sent to all nursery school parents with a list of items needed. If you are not a nursery school parent but would like to help out, please let us know.

Our annual *Siddur* Cover Workshop will be held on March 25th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM for our *Alef* parents. Please look for emails with more information regarding this event. Should you have any questions, please contact Ziona.

Also on **March 25th the *Shorashim, Prozdor* 1 and II family programs** will be held along with the ***Dalet* class visiting the lower east side**. This trip is always a fun experience for the children.

The Passover candy sale will be starting soon. If you do not receive an order form, please let us know.

Enjoy your winter break. *Randi & Ziona*



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd, 7:30 PM



FOR OUR
5th ANNUAL MEN'S CLUB

TEXAS HOLD'EM

& NCAA MARCH MADNESS



TOURNAMENT



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP
WITH MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING

CSI Sisterhood members will be assembling the *mishloach manot* bags on Tuesday, March 6th at 9:00 AM. Help is needed! If you can be here, contact Annleah Berger, 762-5312 or email annberger@optonline.net to let her know you will help.



P E O P L E

Mazal Tov to:

David & Denise Levine on the birth of their grandson, Max Robert Levine, son of Michael & Dr. Aly Levine.

Barry & Karen Malmel on the birth of their grandson, Julian Grey VanWagner, son of Debbie & Brien VanWagner.

Speedy Recovery Helen Nelson.

Condolences to:

Sherman Alpert on the death of his mother, Sonya Alpert

Steven Bender on the death of his mother, Jean Waterman Bender.

Linda Feldman on the death of her father, Joseph Schnierer.

Stanley Kirwin on the death of his brother, Gilbert (Gibby) Kirwin.

Harold Levine on the death of his mother, Elsie Levine.

Each child brings his or her own blessings into the world. The following children, members of our congregation and/or school, will celebrate a birthday during the month of February.



Charlotte Baer
Brian Baretz
Guy Barzilai
Ian Becker
Mia Lucy Benjamin
Daniel Casper
Benjamin Cooper
Zachary Diamond
Nicole Einhorn
Leah Falah
Yael Falah
Tiffany Lina Gomes
Julia Goodkin
Justin Greenfield
Maya Greenfeld
Abbey Hertz
Zachary Kirsch
Alexander Lanoff

Samuel Lanoff
Alyssa Mathisson
Samuel Plitt
Brooke Ramer
Spencer Ramer
Mitchell Rosenshine
Elan Roth
Rylie Roth
Jamie Saxe
Rachel Seiden
Ben Shapiro
Jack Silvershein
Brett Smoler
Aiden Sokoloff
Rebecca Thrope
Madelyn Venezia
Haley Wilenzick

Mazal Tov to the following members who will celebrate anniversaries in February.

1 Barry & Gretta Seidel
2 Benjamin & Sara Levin
4 Asher & Susan Banks

26th
53rd
44th



6 **Steven & Linda Kavee** 25th
12 Henry & Barbara Schoenfeld 36th
16 Jerome & Evelyn Horowitz 20th
17 Michael & Bryna Sweedler 49th
18 Peter & Susan Diamond 33rd
19 Mark & Elyse Kovler 29th
19 Richard & Jane Taffet 28th
21 **Andrew & Julie Peskoe** 25th
24 Leonard & Karen Stahl 27th
25 Martin & Eleanor West Friedman 39th
29 Russell & Danielle Primack 16th

JEWISH/COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS



The time has come for building the Northern Westchester delegations for the 2012 JCC Maccabi Games and JCC Maccabi ArtsFest. The games will take place in Rockland County from August 12th – 17th and ArtsFest will take place in Houston from August 5th – 10th. The JCC Maccabi games and ArtsFest are large events for Jewish teens and provide an opportunity to compete, create, participate in community services projects, enjoy fun evening activities and meet other Jewish teens from across North America and abroad. Jewish teens between the ages of 13 and 16 (as of July 31, 2012) are invited to tryout/audition. Tryouts continue for girls under 16 soccer at the Rosenthal JCC on Bear Ridge Road in Pleasantville on Sunday, February 5th from 6 - 7:30 PM and Sunday, February 12th from 6 – 7:30 PM. Tryouts for boys or girls tennis, golf or swimming by appointment – call 914-741-0333 x 24 for information or Lisa@rosenthaljcc.org Appointments are needed for all tryouts including auditions for the ArtsFest.

JOB OPENINGS

The Northern Westchester Hospital Center in Mt. Kisco has asked us to share the availability of many job openings in our community. From audiologist, clerical, nurse practitioner and registered nurses to cook, kitchen worker, administrative and activity coordinators, both full and part-time positions are available. Some are on the day shift, others are night jobs and some are flexible shifts. For more information inquire at their website: www.nwhc.net and apply under the “Careers” section. Questions? Contact Tracy Engel at 914-242-8195 or tengel@nwhc.net



Call the Religious School Office,
762-6396 for contact info
RCC=Red Cross Certified
CPRC=CPR Certified BLS=Basic Life Support
AED/Defibrillator LS/Lifeguard Certified

Arin Cotel-Altman	10 th Grade	RCC
Julia Baer	10 th Grade	RCC
Melissa Band	College (holidays & breaks)	
Emily Band	College (holidays & breaks)	
Ross Beroff	11 th Grade	
Julia Bloom	11 th Grade	
Samantha Brown	College	
Danielle Crosswell	11 th Grade	
Meredith Davis	College	RCC
Logan Davis	11 th Grade	
Avital Drucker	College	
Matthew Drucker	11 th Grade	
Rachel Dworkin	9 th Grade	
Randi Fineberg	11 th Grade	RCC
Nicole Fuhr	College	
Monique Goldstein	12 th Grade	
Sarah Goldstein	10 th Grade	
Marnie Halper	11 th Grade	
Jill Hampton	11 th Grade	
Rebecca Handsman	9 th Grade	
Rebecca Hannan	9 th Grade	RCC
Andrew Horowitz	College (holidays & breaks)	
Daniel Horowitz	9 th Grade	
Jeffrey Horowitz	9 th Grade	
Emily Jampol	College	
Sari Josephberg	11 th Grade	CPR
William Kahan	College	CPR
Robert Karp	9 th Grade	
Emma Klein	11 th Grade	RCC
Joni Kretzmer	College	
Erica Lesser	11 th Grade	
Amy Levine	12 th Grade	RCC
Jessica Linde	12 th Grade	
Michael Linde	12 th Grade	
Benjamin Loeb	College	
Danna Marcus	College	
Tal Mintz	11 th Grade	RCC
Jamie Nadler	9 th Grade	
Annie Peskoe	12 th Grade	LS/CPR/AED
Emma Preston	12 th Grade	
Erica Robins	10 th Grade	
Jason Robins	10 th Grade	
Eitan Rude	11 th Grade	LS/CPR/AED
Sam Rude	11 th Grade	LS/CPR/AED
Sarah Ruthen	11 th Grade	
Jessica Scharf	12 th Grade	
Zoe Scheier	8 th Grade	

Heather Schneck	10 th Grade	
Marisa Seligman	12 th Grade	
Ashley Seruya	12 th Grade	
Nicole Silberman	9 th Grade	
Abbe Slobodin	College	
Paige Spector	11 th Grade	RCC
Samantha Sternschein	12 th Grade	RCC
Julia Stiffman	College	RCC
Emily Taffet	College	
Rachel Taffet	College	
Allison Tilles	11 th Grade	RCC
Casey Tilles	10 th Grade	RCC
Julia Weiss	10 th Grade	LS/CPR/RCC
Zoe Yellen	College	
Eliana Zuckerman	11 th Grade	

KOL NIDRE - 5772

Listed below are the names of each of you who have responded to our ***Kol Nidre Appeal*** through January 10, 2012 (since our last listing.) **Please help us achieve our goal of 100% participation.** At today's count we are at **54%**. **Further donations will be listed in our March Bulletin.**

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Auslander
Dr. & Mrs. Elliott Barish
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Belitz
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bender
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Bergstein
Mrs. Sharon Dittelman
William Drucker & Rhonda Rosenbaum
Mrs. Sylvia Eisenstein
Mr. Alan Fox & Ms. Resa Mestel
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gold *
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goldstein
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Gruskin
Mr. & Mrs. David Horing
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Horowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Jampol
Mrs. Cheryl Katz
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Kleinman
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Kobren
Mr. & Mrs. John Le Var
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller
Mrs. Mirla Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Mortman
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Schiffman
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Stern *
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sweedler
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Tan
Mr. & Mrs. Fred D Weinstein

*Denotes contributions of \$500 or more

OUR FEBRUARY *BAR MITZVAH*

LEARN ABOUT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF ISRAEL (OUI)

I am MITCHELL ROSENSHINE and I am becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* February 11, 2012. I live in Pleasantville with my mom, Dawn (who painted the crazy ladies room and nursery school bathroom here), my dad, Benjamin, and my two younger brothers: Jared, 11, who loves basketball and Eli, 9, who loves the Yankees. I attend Solomon Schechter Middle School. I am in honors math which means that I am doing 9th grade math but I am still in 7th grade.

For my *Bar Mitzvah* project, I helped collect food for the Bronxville food pantry, which supplies food to many families who don't have enough to eat. I also helped run a Bowl-A-Thon at CSI with my CSI nursery school and Schechter best friend, Harrison Singer, and another friend from my CSI nursery school years, Alex Baretz. First, we collected two hundred paper bags to put the food in, and stapled flyers to the bags with details about the type of food needed. We made posters to spread the word about the Bowl A-Thon and I also made a poster to put up in my parents' store. We distributed the paper bags to the Hebrew School one Sunday, and invited the *Kadima* students to an evening of bowling fun, pizza and prizes in exchange for their bringing in bags of food for the pantry. I hope these and other efforts will keep some children from going to bed hungry.

Sports have been a major part of my life as they take up most of my free time. I have had to learn how to manage my school, family, social and sports obligations even though there are often conflicts. I swim year round for the Marlins at the Boys & Girls Club in Mt. Kisco which is ranked 53 in the country, as well as for my hometown team in the summer (I received the David Saleeb award for sportsmanship when I was ten, and last year my relay team won at the county championships). I have completed numerous triathlons, am a very accurate target shooter (I have long dreamed of attending West Point or Annapolis), can outrace my dad at Grand Prix (I don't *think* he lets me win), recently got into bouldering (rock climbing without a rope), and am planning to try out for track this spring.

I am thankful that my years at CSI and Schechter, all the practicing, and the lessons with the cantor have prepared me for becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*. I am excited to take my adult place in the Jewish community in front of my family and friends.

Mazal Tov to the Rosenshine Family!

Please join CSI member, Lois Gimpel Shaukat on Saturday evening, **February 11th at 7:30 PM at her home, 28 Piney Point Avenue in Croton**, for an opportunity to learn about the academic prestige and social agenda of the Open University of Israel (OUI). Dr. Ilan Ben Ami, political sociologist from the OUI, will speak about his research and his book, *The Private and Public Lives of Israel's Prime Ministers' Wives*.

Prior to the lecture, Harriet Gimpel, Director of Foundation Relations at the OUI and sister of Lois Gimpel Shaukat, will make a presentation highlighting the unique features of the OUI. Following the presentations, Harriet will be happy to discuss opportunities for visits to their facilities, partnerships and your involvement in a range of areas.

In its 35 years, the OUI has paved the way for distance learning (long before e-learning) and continues to be the leading force in developing academic learning technologies in Israel. In recent years, its academic reputation has gained prestige alongside the other seven universities, recognized as universities by the Israel Council for Higher Education. Its social agenda includes reaching out to students in Israel's periphery, remote from urban centers. Its open admissions policy facilitates the aim to make an academic degree accessible, while the student must prove academic capability.

There will be no solicitation at this get-together.

For More information or to RSVP:
Loisgs18@gmail.com or 914-827-3633









Dr. Ilan Ben Ami is a political sociologist in the Department of Sociology, in Political Science and Communications at the OUI. He earned his Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York, after completing his M.A. in Sociology and his B.A. in Political Science and Sociology at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Ben Ami has recently completed a fourth term as Head of Academic Development, following his experience in course development of the OUI. With an emphasis on Israel, Dr. ben Ami's research and publications have focused on politics and policy in the fields of Culture and the Arts, as well as mass media.

Harriet Gimpel Director of Foundation Relations at the OUI, completed her M.A. in Political Science at the Hebrew University following her B.A. in Near Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. Prior to her current position at the OUI, she has held various positions as Israeli NGOs and government-funded programs in the field of informal Jewish education and the Arts.

February 1 – March 3, 2012 8 Shevat – 9 Adar 5772

Note: *Shabbat* ends 1 hour after Friday's C/L Time

Changes in calendar events may take place – please check our website www.csibriarcliff.org for up to date information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE SHABBAT – FEBRUARY 3rd & 4th with DR. KENNETH PRAGER, Professor of Clinical Medicine at Columbia Univ. College of Physicians & Surgeons</p>	<p>Have you made your dinner reservations For Friday, February 3rd</p> <p>Ellen@csibriarcliff.org</p>	<p>PURIM is coming. Please respond to Sisterhood's <i>Mishloach Manot</i> letter/email</p> 	<p><u>1</u> 8 <i>Shevat</i></p>	<p><u>2</u> 9 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>minyan</i></p>	<p><u>3</u> 10 <i>Shevat</i> 6:00 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> service 6:45 PM Scholar-in-Residence Dinner 8:15 PM Scholar-in-Residence program With Dr. Kenneth Prager</p> <p>CL: 4:56 PM </p>	<p><u>4</u> 11 <i>Shevat</i> <i>Beshalach</i> 9:30 AM <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Service Scholar-in-Residence <i>Shabbat</i>/Dr. Kenneth Prager BM JOCELYN GETGEN PJ Library Program 11:00 AM Junior Congregation 1:15 PM Scholar-in-Residence program 8:00 PM Jewish Music Through the Ages at the home of Rika & Mark Reisman</p>
<p><u>5</u> 12 <i>Shevat</i> 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE 9:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> MEN'S CLUB WORLDWIDE WRAP 9:00 AM -12:30 PM GIFT SHOP OPEN 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM PTA B'NAI MITZVAH WORKSHOP Group "B" BM Cl. 10:30 AM Adult <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Class 11:00AM Nominating Committee</p>	<p><u>6</u> 13 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> 11:00 AM Women's Torah Study</p>  <p>4:00 PM <i>Dalet</i> Enrichment</p> <p>7:30PM Men's Club 7:30PM 5 Things You Always Wanted to Know Cl. (Cantor)</p>	<p><u>7</u> 14 <i>Shevat</i> 9:15 AM Playgroup 11:15 Am Jews in the News 12:30 PM Yiddish Club</p>	<p><u>8</u> 15 <i>Shevat</i> <i>Tu Be'Shevat</i></p>	<p><u>9</u> 16 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i></p> <p>10:30 AM <i>Ha Mishpacha</i> Discussion Group</p>	<p><u>10</u> 17 <i>Shevat</i> 6:00 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service</p> <p>CL: 5:04 PM </p>	<p><u>11</u> 18 <i>Shevat</i> <i>Yisro</i> 9:30 AM <i>Shabbat</i> Morning service BM MITCHELL ROSENSHINE</p> <p>11:00 AM Junior Congregation.</p> <p>7:30 PM OUI Program at the Gimpel-Shaukat Home USY <i>Shul</i>-In</p>
<p><u>12</u> 19 <i>Shevat</i> 9:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> 9:00 AM <i>Shul</i>-In Breakfast 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM GIMEL FAMILY PROGRAM 9:30 AM – 12 Noon CONTEXT 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Group "B" BM Class 10:30 AM Adult <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Class 11:00 AM High School</p>	<p><u>13</u> 20 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> 11:00 AM Women's Torah Study</p> <p>4:00 PM <i>Dalet</i> Enrichment!</p> <p>7:30 PM 5 Things You Always Wanted to Know Cl. (Rabbi) 8:45 PM Talmud</p>	<p><u>14</u> 21 <i>Shevat</i> 9:15 AM Playgroup 11:15 AM Jews in the News</p> <p>12:30 PM <i>Ha Mishpacha</i> Luncheon & Program 7:00 PM Caring Community</p>	<p><u>15</u> 22 <i>Shevat</i> 6:30 PM Transplant Support Group</p> <p>7:30 PM Sisterhood Mah Jongg</p> <p>7:30 PM PJ Library meeting</p>	<p><u>16</u> 23 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> N.S. "Dinosaur Rocks"</p>	<p><u>17</u> 24 <i>Shevat</i> 600 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service</p> <p>C/L: 5:13 PM </p>	<p><u>18</u> 25 <i>Shevat</i> <i>Mishatim Parshas Shekalim</i></p> <p>9:30 AM <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Service</p>
<p><u>19</u> 26 <i>Shevat</i> 9:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> NO SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p><u>20</u> 27 <i>Shevat</i> 9:15 AM <i>Minyan</i></p>  <p>President's Holiday observed</p> <p>NO SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p><u>21</u> 28 <i>Shevat</i> NO SCHOOL 11:15 AM Jews in the News 12:30 PM Yiddish Club</p>	<p><u>22</u> 29 <i>Shevat</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>10-11:30 AM PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM</p>	<p><u>23</u> 30 <i>Shevat</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30 AM <i>Ha Mishpacha</i> Discussion Group</p> <p><i>Rosh Chodesh</i></p>	<p><u>24</u> 1 <i>Adar</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> NO SCHOOL</p> <p>6:00 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service</p> <p>CL: 5:21 PM </p>	<p><u>25</u> 2 <i>Adar</i> <i>Teremuah</i></p> <p>9:30AM <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Service</p>
<p><u>26</u> 3 <i>Adar</i> 9:15 AM <i>Minyan</i></p> <p>9:30 AM – 12 Noon CONTEXT NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p><u>27</u> 4 <i>Adar</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i> 11 AM Women's Torah Study 4:00 PM <i>Dalet</i> Enrichment 7:30 PM COLLEGE PARENTS PACK FOR <i>PURIM</i> 8:45 PM Talmud</p>	<p><u>28</u> 5 <i>Adar</i> 9:15 AM Playgroup</p> <p>11:15 AM Jews in the News 7:00 PM Executive Committee 8:00 PM Board of Trustees mtg.</p>	<p><u>29</u> 6 <i>Adar</i></p>	<p>March 1 7 <i>Adar</i> 7:15 AM <i>Minyan</i></p>	<p><u>2</u> 8 <i>Adar</i> NO Nursery School 9AM-noon Parent/Teacher Conferences 7:00 PM <i>Shabbat</i> Rocks/Family Night Service CL 5:29 PM </p>	<p><u>3</u> 9 <i>Adar</i> <i>Tetzaveh Parshat Zachor</i> 9:30 AM <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Service BM JULIA GOODKIN</p> <p>11:00 AM Junior Congregation</p>

CONTEXT SEMINARS RETURN TO CSI

(A program of the Jewish Theological Seminary)

Beginning February 12, 2012, Context Seminars on Classics of the Jewish Tradition: Readings, Analysis and Discussion with Dr. Benjamin Gampel, Jewish Theological Seminary, will be held at CSI.

Day/Time: Sundays, 9:30 - 12 noon

Dates: February 12, 26, March 18, April 1, 15, 22 and 29, and May 6

Tuition: \$395 for 8 sessions plus one-time \$27 blackboard fee. Payment plans and need-based scholarships available.

- * Immerse yourself in Jewish texts and scholarship
- * University-level instruction with outstanding Jewish Studies Scholars.
- * Intensive study in a supportive learning community
- * Read and prepare for stimulating discussions
- * All sources provided in English

To register online: www.jtsa.edu/context/registration

For more information, please contact:

JTS Institute for Jewish Learning, 212-870-5850

Andrea Bromberg, a CSI member, and graduate of our Nursery and Religious School, wrote the following article for her KOACH group at the University of Delaware. We share it here with you. Mazal Tov Andrea!

Since age three, I have always been in touch with some form of Jewish education. My first formal taste of Judaism was the program at our *shul* (synagogue). We sang songs about *Shabbat*, King David and Passover and baked *challah* every Friday. I am proud to say that to this day, I still remember the songs verbatim.... And let's not forget the hand motions. Once I reached school-age, my parents grappled with the decision of whether or not to send me to a Jewish day school. However, when push came to shove, day school simply wasn't in the budget and our public school was top notch. Although I did not attend a Schechter or other Jewish institution, I still consider myself a product of Jewish education. In lieu of a Jewish primary school came Hebrew School— my twice a week classes on Jewish Culture, Torah and everything in between. I learned prayers in preparation to become a *Bat Mitzvah*, did various acts of *hesed* (loving-kindness), and listened to Holocaust speakers tell their tales. These formal years of Jewish education were just the tip of the iceberg.

Just because the school year would end didn't

mean that my Jewish education had to. In fact, I owe the majority of my knowledge to the summers I spent at camp. My Jewish education flourished courtesy of Ramah Day Camp in Nyack where informally, I learned how to *bentsch* (recite Grace after Meals), how to wrap *tefillin* and, more importantly, learned how Judaism existed all around me. Day in and day out I perfected my *Birkat Hamazon* (Grace after meals) skills and my Hebrew vocabulary, as well as my dance moves on the *migrash* (field). However after four incredibly fulfilling summers, I relaxed my disciplined commitment to my Jewish education. It took me a few years away from the Jewish bubble to realize how much I yearned for it. In my high school years, when I became active in my chapter and region of USY, I never quite got into the learning sessions as much as some of my peers. It's not that learning Torah or studying laws didn't interest me; it's rather that my enthusiasm at that time existed elsewhere -- specifically, on the volleyball court. But with a future in education in mind, returning to Ramah as staff only seemed natural. And after three *sababa* (cool) summers as a *madrikhah* (counselor) in which I enriched the lives of many seven year olds just as my own *madrikhot* had done for me, I knew that the bubble was where I belonged. Everything had come full circle.

Looking back on my experiences, I am proud to have taught people about Judaism and to have learned about it myself in such an intriguing way. My years of formal and informal education have built a strong foundation for the positive way I think about Judaism and inspired my desire to attend a college with a strong and diverse Jewish community. Through my participation at University of Delaware Hillel, I have encountered many different types of Jews and have realized how much more there is to learn. I love being in an environment where I am able to get answers to my questions as well as answer questions for others. I admit, it can be hard to find a place for Jewish learning in the busy life of a college student, but every moment is a teachable one. Learning does not only mean the study of text, but also active participation. I have chosen to invest myself in Hillel, and Hillel has graciously invested itself in me – as a student, as a person, and as a member of the Jewish community.

*Andrea is in her junior year at the University of Delaware where she is majoring in Spanish Education. This past summer marked her third on staff at Camp Ramah in Nyack. She is co-chair of this year's **KOACH** Kallah. Upon her return from her semester abroad in Spain, she will serve as president of UD **KOACH**.*



The back pages of our monthly bulletin are referred to as CSI's "Yellow Pages." They contain listings of local advertisers who would like to have you as their customers. Please refer to them when you need any local services. If you know of a business which might benefit from placing an ad in our "yellow pages", please suggest that they contact Lora@CSIBriarcliff.org or call Lora at 914-762-2700. Our rates are reasonable and over 750 bulletins are mailed each month. Please take the time to look over our ads and when possible patronize our advertisers and don't forget to mention you saw their ad in the CSI Bulletin. **Also note** that you can now find our advertisers on our website – just go to bulletin in the upper right hand corner and then click on the link to advertisers under the current month's bulletin to view their ads.

Featured below are a few of our advertisers:

*Looking for the easy way to a beautiful smile, then call **Michael Sokoloff, D.D.S., (CSI member) 914-949-0068**, for all your dental needs including orthodontics for children and adults.

*If its medical, surgical or orthopedic treatment of the foot and ankle you need, then contact **Warren Altwerger, D.P.M. (CSI member) at 914-941-0206 in Ossining or 845-565-3331 in Newburgh.**

*Have shipping needs? Need copies, printing, or framing of a special family picture or certificate? Contact **David Schofield at SBS, 537 North State Road in Briarcliff, 914-923-8115.**

*Have an electrical problem at home or need some outside lighting added for your summer fun? Then call **Benny Ben-David (CSI member) 923-8384**, for expert licensed electrical work.

*If you find yourself in need of Jewish funeral services or pre-planning, call **Michael Rosenthal at the Rosenthal Memorial Chapel in Pleasantville, 914-773-0030** for reliable, responsive and respectful attention to your needs.

*Need custom invitations for an upcoming celebration? Call **Staci Rahamin, at Sincerely Staci, 914-769-6602** or email Staci@sincerelystaci.com. *Thinking about where you will plan your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* party or other special event? Call **Colonial Terrace, "The Mansion on the Hill", 914-737-0400** for a spectacular location at affordable prices. *Considering a wine tasting party for a small or large get-together? Call **Dodd Farber at Dodd's Liquor City in Millwood, 914-762-5511** for a "boutique" wine experience with custom service and discount prices.

(Received through January 10, 2012)

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>From</u>
Our daughter, Haley's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Neil Sirota

<u>Thank You to</u>	<u>From</u>
Cantor & Robyn Shiovitz for their kindness	Mrs. Sylvia Eisenstein
Cantor Shiovitz	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goldstein

<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>From</u>
Isabel Karten	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hannan
Blossom Jacobson	Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Jacobson
Adolph Jacobson	"
Mollie Perlman	Ms. Ronnie Kent
Sidney Brandt	Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Lerner
Paula Blum	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wasserman

CARING COMMUNITY

<u>Mazal Tov</u>	<u>From</u>
Rabbi & Judy Kane for their Camp Ramah "Generation to Generation" award	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Margolies

<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>From</u>
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