



CSI Congregation
Sons of Israel

Fall Newsletter

5786

THE MYERS FAMILY CAMPUS **CONTINUING THE VISION—BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

Fall Happenings and a Look into December



This Month

Jewish Music Through the Ages	11/1
Men's Club Book Club	11/6
Westchester Night of Learning	11/8
Lifelong Learning Book Series Discussion	11/9
Parent's Night Out NS Fundraiser	11/15
Torah on Tap	11/18
Congregational Shabbat Dinner	11/21

December Sneak Peek

Young Families Shabbat Dinner & Service	12/5
Nava Tehila Concert	12/6
Neshama Body & Soul Workout Class (Adults & Seniors)	12/14
Chanukkah Party	12/21
Countdown to Noon	12/31



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Naomi Elyachar

Religious School Director

Sheera Zuckerman

Rabbi Dina Rosenberg



Yesterday, our clocks quietly shifted once again. In the middle of the night, we “fell back” to standard time and gained an extra hour. The mornings now feel brighter, the afternoons shorter, and many of us feel slightly off rhythm, as though our inner clocks are still catching up. Nothing cosmic has changed, yet somehow it feels significant. How can time be lost or gained so easily?

Changing the clocks may seem like a simple matter of daylight and schedules, but it also reveals something deeper about how we live in time. It reminds us that time is not fixed; it is something we shape and sanctify. Judaism treats time not as a neutral background but as the very arena in which holiness unfolds.

When God commands the Israelites, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months” (Exodus 12:2), it’s not just a scheduling note—it’s the first collective mitzvah. Before we are taught how to build a sanctuary or keep kosher, we are taught to mark time. Abraham Joshua Heschel called Shabbat “a cathedral in time,” reminding us that holiness is not found only in sacred spaces but in sacred moments.

The extra hour we “gained” yesterday feels like a small, unexpected gift. For a moment, time seemed generous. What did we do with it? Perhaps we slept a little longer, lingered over coffee, or spent an extra moment with someone we love. And for those of us with young children—let’s be honest—the “extra hour” may have meant being awakened at 5 a.m. by a small person ready to play, proving once again that not everyone’s clock adjusts so easily.

In Jewish life, that act of slowing down—or being slowed down—echoes the gift of Shabbat. Each week, we gain sacred time by choosing to stop. The world will not pause on its own—we make it sacred by stepping out of the rush.

And yet, even as we enjoy the lighter mornings, we may already feel the shorter afternoons. That rhythm of gain and loss mirrors our own lives—the awareness that time moves on, and that each season invites its own kind of mindfulness and care.

As we adjust to the new rhythm of daylight, consider the Havdalah blessing: HaMavdil bein kodesh l’chol—the One who separates the holy from the ordinary.

Perhaps this change of hour is another kind of separation, reminding us to notice light and darkness, to breathe deeply, and to remember that holiness is never lost—only waiting to be found.

Wishing you a week of light, balance, and renewed awareness as we embrace this new season of time.

**Rabbi Rosenberg’s
feature on the front
page of The Gazette**



WESTCHESTER BOARD OF RABBIS WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL

Present



A Night of Jewish Learning

Saturday, November 8, 2025 @ 7pm

Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle, NY

✧ Musical community Havdalah ✧
Two sessions of learning experiences led by Westchester Rabbis
✧ Kosher dairy dessert and Israeli dancing ✧

**\$18 PER PERSON
BY OCTOBER 24**

**\$25 PER PERSON
AFTER OCTOBER 24**

For more information email donna@wjcouncil.org or 914-328-7001

Register online at www.wjcouncil.org

Register





23rd Annual AJC Westchester/Fairfield Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast

One Table, Many Voices: Standing Together

**Thursday, November 20, 2025
8:00–10:00 a.m.**

Specific location provided upon registration

Celebrate the power of community, connection, and shared purpose. This annual gathering brings us together to honor the richness of our differences-and to listen, learn, and grow in understanding.

[Register Here](#)



Early Registration (\$20) through November 12

General Registration (\$25)

Sponsor a Student and/or Community Member (\$25)

Dietary laws strictly observed

No backpacks or bags allowed

AJC
Westchester/
Fairfield

Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz



In the 38 years that I have been the Cantor of CSI, we have brought in so many of the worlds leading musical superstars-from Theodore Bikel to Safam to the Klezmatics to Debbie Friedman as well as Josh Warshawsky , Joey Weisenberg, Neshama Carlebach, Shlock Rock, Craig Taubman, Shuli Natan, The Moscow Mens Choir, Josh Nelson, Rick Recht, the Maccabeats, Basya Schechter and Pharaoh's Daughter and many more! This year is no exception

On Saturday evening, December 6th, we are proud to host one of the leading Jewish musical groups in the world! Yes, I said world! We are excited to welcome Nava Tehila from Israel for an exciting musical program. Nava Tehila is a unique prayer community in the heart of Jerusalem, where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to experience spiritual life inspired by Jewish tradition. Nava Tehila weaves deep Jewish heritage with contemporary Jewish-Israeli renewal, creating a space for prayer, study, music and rituals in an egalitarian, open and inclusive atmosphere. They have become the world leaders in the Jewish Renewal movement. Their Shabbat evening services are spiritual, melodic and amazing! Without realizing it, I am sure that you have heard some of their wonderful music. They have written over 125 songs for Shabbat and holidays that are sung throughout the world. I am sure you will not want to miss this exciting evening of Jewish music. Join us on this journey of creation, connection, and vibrant Jewish-Israeli spirituality! Tickets can be found on the [CSI website](#). I hope to see you there!

Please join me for this year's version of Jewish Music Through the Ages.

This series, now beginning its 38th year, will be held on Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm in congregants' homes. Programs will include musical demonstrations, discussion, fun and food! Space is limited, so please sign up now. Please RSVP to jshiovitz@gmail.com.

Jewish Music Through the Ages

November 1 The Music of Nava Tehila
At the home of Rochelle and Marc Auslander
12 Hidden Hollow Road, Millwood
914-941-7639

January 10 Klezmer Music
At the home of Debbie and Elliott Barish
81 Meadow Road, Briarcliff Manor
914-941-1374

December 13 World Jewish Music
At the home of Sheera and Richard Zuckerman
19 Barnes Road, Ossining
914-941-1048

February 7 The Music of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Woody Guthrie
At the home of Abbe and Deane Marcus
1 Ivanhoe Place, Briarcliff Manor
914-923-0631

David Pasternack Executive Director



Happy After the High Holidays!

What an incredible season it's been! I'm so grateful to have experienced my first High Holiday season at CSI, and I'm thrilled to say — we made it through together!

It was deeply inspiring to see our sanctuary filled with community, prayer, and spirit. Nearly 600 congregants joined us for Yom Kippur, and it was especially moving to watch so many children listening in awe as the shofar was sounded for almost a full minute by our Cantor's son. Moments like that truly capture the heart of who we are as a congregation.

Kol Nidre Campaign – Let's Reach Our Goal!

Now that the holidays have passed, our most important task is ensuring we meet — and exceed — our Kol Nidre fundraising campaign goal.

Thanks to an incredible double match, every dollar given above your last year's pledge will be tripled. That means if you increase your gift by \$100, CSI will receive \$300!

These funds are essential to sustaining our sacred space — supporting building maintenance, enhanced security, and enriching programs for all ages. Membership dues cover only a portion of our annual budget, so every extra contribution truly makes a difference.

If you haven't yet given, [please consider adding just a little more so your impact is multiplied through the match.](#)

Building and Environmental Updates

We continue to care for our physical and spiritual home. Recent projects include painting touch-ups, new classroom door locks, and playground fence repairs.

I'm also excited to share that we're launching a new "Green Initiative" led by Emily Sack, Bob Schloss, and Gail Sider. Soon, you'll see composting bins around the building, and we'll be using compostable plates, cups, and utensils at all events.

As it is written:

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We take seriously our responsibility to the earth to protect and sustain God's creation.

Strengthening Our Security

Recently, we welcomed representatives from the FBI to discuss ways to further enhance security around our building and remain vigilant. It was an informative and valuable meeting that strengthens our ongoing partnership with local law enforcement in Westchester.

We're committed to ensuring that CSI remains a safe, welcoming, and sacred space for all.

In Gratitude

Thank you for making this High Holiday season so meaningful. Together, through prayer, generosity, and community, we continue to build something sacred — a place of connection, purpose, and hope.

CSI November Programs

Sat.
11/1 @7:30pm

Jewish Music Through the Ages

The Music of Nava Tehila. At the home of Rochelle and Marc Auslander. Please [RSVP](#).

Sat.
11/8 7:00pm

Westchester Night of Learning (NASCI) @ Beth El in New Rochelle

An evening of learning with Westchester Rabbis. There will be 2 sessions and a kosher dairy dessert will be provided. [Register](#).

Rabbi Rosenberg will be teaching a sourdough baking class!

Tue.
11/18 7:30pm

Torah on Tap with Rabbi Rosenberg

Discover the hidden legacy of Crypto-Jews in the Americas! Explore the powerful stories of Conversos and Morenos—those who secretly preserved Jewish identity through centuries of persecution in Spain, Mexico, and the American Southwest—and uncover how their traditions live on today. [Register](#). (FULL)!

Fri.
11/21 5:00pm

Congregational Shabbat Dinner

Begin your Shabbat with us at our 6:00 PM service, followed by a delicious communal dinner at 7:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to come together, share a meal, and build connections in a relaxed and meaningful setting. [Register](#).

Sat.
12/6 8:00pm

38th Annual Concert featuring Nava Tehila from Jerusalem

Concert with Nava Tehila. The world leaders in Jewish Renewal. Light refreshments will be served. [Purchase your tickets](#).

Additional Notes:

Women's Torah Study with Rabbi Urbach

Join Rabbi Urbach and a community of women for a class described as deeply meaningful and even life-transforming. Together, you'll explore, learn, and connect in a warm and supportive setting. Classes meet via Zoom on a set schedule — see the registration page for dates and details. [Register here](#)

Please help us make a difference in our community. You can...

Make a monetary donation:
[Donate online](#) or bring a check to the office before 11/26.

Bring a turkey to CSI for donation:
Turkeys can be thawed or frozen and do not need to be kosher! Drop off turkeys in front of CSI on Tuesday 11/27 by noon.



Save These Dates for December

Sat.
12/6 8:00pm

38th Annual Concert featuring Nava Tehila from Jerusalem

Concert with Nava Tehila. The world leaders in Jewish Renewal. Light refreshments will be served. [Purchase your tickets.](#)

Sat
12/13 11:00am

Mini Minyan (K-2nd Grade)

Sat
12/13 7:30pm

Jewish Music Through the Ages

World Jewish Music at the home of Richard & Sheera Zuckerman. Please [RSVP.](#)

Sun
12/14 9:15am

Neshama Body & Soul Work Out (For Adults)

NBS, Neshama Body and Soul, is a workout-worship practice that combines Jewish prayer and teachings with body-weight strength-training (including push-ups, squats, and planks) and mobility exercises in an effort to help participants connect the physical with the spiritual. (Babysitting will be provided).

[Register.](#)

Sun
12/14 10:30am

Neshama Body & Soul Work Out (For Seniors)

Chair-Based NBS, Neshama Body and Soul, is a workout-worship practice that combines Jewish prayer and teachings with body weight and mobility exercises in an effort to help participants connect the physical with the spiritual. [Register.](#)

Sun
12/14 10:30am

Things Worth Knowing (TWK)

Join us for a session of curiosity and discovery as we launch our new CSI Learning Series! Come ready to explore surprising Jewish settlements, little-known leaders, striking achievements and failures, and unique contributions that will fill the gaps in your knowledge. [Register.](#)

Sun
12/21 10:30am

Community Chanukkah Party

Fun for the whole family!

Tue
12/31 10:30am

Countdown to Noon

Join us with your little ones for a new year's countdown at noon! With snacks and fun activities.

Naomi Elyachar Nursery School Director



At CSI Nursery School, our teachers create the heart of our program. They design the core curriculum and spend most of each day teaching, nurturing, and guiding their classes through meaningful learning experiences. In addition to this rich classroom life, our students benefit from weekly enrichment programs, where specialists lead each class in unique, hands-on explorations that expand their learning beyond the classroom.

Our weekly nature program, led by our nursery school teacher Jenn, has quickly become a highlight of the week. Jenn brings each class to our CSI farm, where she plans engaging activities that encourage children to dig into the soil, explore growing plants, and observe the natural world around them. The children are discovering firsthand how things grow and change—and this fall, each child even got to pick a pumpkin from the patch that was planted last year by our 2’s classes! These experiences help students build curiosity and appreciation for nature.

We’re also thrilled to welcome our new yoga teacher, Emily, who is an experienced early childhood educator with a strong Judaic background. She brings warmth, creativity, and mindfulness to her sessions, weaving Jewish values and holiday themes into her lessons. Each class enjoys stretching, breathing, and moving with purpose, discovering how yoga can bring calm, focus, and joy to their days.

In addition to yoga and nature, each class also enjoys music with Sheera and library time with me. These moments add richness to our weekly rhythm, offering children opportunities to sing, move, listen, and explore stories that connect to their classroom learning.

Together, these enrichment experiences enhance the vibrant learning already happening every day, helping our students grow in confidence, curiosity, and connection—body, mind, and heart.

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

- November**
- 11/5 Parent teacher conferences, no school
 - 11/11 Veteran's Day, no school
 - 11/14 Picture Day
 - 11/26 Thanksgiving celebration, no Kids Karousel
 - 11/27-11/28 Thanksgiving, no school

Please join us for our annual fundraising event

Parents night out

7:30-10:30pm
Saturday
November 15
2025

Lucy's
446 Bedford Rd
Pleasantville

[Register](#)

Your \$60 ticket includes:

- Bar bites
- 2 drink tickets
- Chance to win raffle prizes
- Great company - ADULTS ONLY :)

All proceeds directly support CSI Nursery School Parents Association

Sheera Zuckerman Religious School Director

Shalom and Shana Tova,



October came alive with creative, project-based Jewish learning and acts of mitzvot, as students explored their traditions, brought their learning to life, and built community together at CSI.

Our younger grades were abuzz with discovery and hands-on learning. All of our students helped decorate the CSI sukkah, while our Gan Yeladim (Kindergarteners) built their very own miniature Sukkah in class, and our first graders created beautiful, textured Sukkot murals using items they collected on a nature walk.

On October 12th, just before Simchat Torah, neither wind nor cold stopped our CSI families from coming together for a Sukkot Family Program. They made edible Sukkot, created Sukkot crafts, shook the lulav and etrog, and enjoyed pizza in the Sukkah. That same morning, every grade gathered around the open Torah with Rabbi Rosenberg to take a close look at the sacred scroll and learn about its writing. It was a powerful morning that inspired awe in both children and adults. The sight of the carefully handwritten Hebrew letters never fails to spark wonder and connection.

The spirit of tikkun olam carried forward the following week, when students participated in Project Isaiah. They helped pack food donations collected by our members, continuing CSI's proud tradition of caring for the broader community. One by one, our Kindergarten through Third Grade students proudly shlepped boxes of cereal, coffee, tea, milk, pasta, beans, tuna, and jars of jelly and peanut butter to the center of the lobby. Each item a small but important contribution.

Our Fourth through Sixth Graders then took over, checking expiration dates, sorting and counting the goods, and loading up carts bound for the Ossining Food Pantry. With energy and care, they boxed up the heavier breakable items ensuring that every donation made its way to those in need. Kol hakavod to the CSI volunteers and the Religious School students for their teamwork, compassion, and commitment to helping others.

Capping off a month of deep learning and engagement, on October 21st our 3rd–7th grade students participated in their first Tuesday “Ask the Rabbi” session. These thoughtful learners posed deep and creative questions such as: “Why was the Torah invented?”, “Can you convert back to Judaism if you decide to convert to another religion and then want to return to being Jewish?”, “How did the people a really long time ago have the skills to write the Torah and who taught the first one about the quill, the ink, and how to make the parchment?”, and “Who created the Hebrew language and how did it happen that the Torah is written in Hebrew?” The students were all ears as they listened to the answers.

Sheera Zuckerman Religious School Director

Looking Ahead to November / Dates to Remember

- Saturday, Nov 1 – Our first Mini Minyan for K–2nd graders, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov 4 – No School – Staff Development Day
- Sunday, Nov 9 – K–2nd Special on the Farm with Jordy Bel, who will bring her chickens and teach about caring for animals
- Tuesday, Nov 11 – No School – Veterans Day
- Saturday, Nov 15 – Our second Junior Congregation, 10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m., followed by a lunch kiddush and a Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Rosenberg
- Sunday, Nov 16 – Third Grade Parent Meeting with Rabbi Rosenberg at drop-off
- Tuesday, Nov 18 – Grades 3–7 “Ask the Rabbi”
- Sunday, Nov 23 – Grades 3–7 Special on the Farm with Jordy Bel and her chickens
- Sunday, Nov 30 – No School – Thanksgiving Weekend

As we move into this month of gratitude, we celebrate the curiosity and kindness our students bring to our CSI community each week along with the dedication of our outstanding teachers, office staff, and tireless volunteers.

Abraham Joshua Heschel once said, “Time given in service to others is time made holy.” Here at CSI, we cannot imagine Religious School without the commitment of Alan Legatt, Liz Leggat, Mary Dale Allen, Clare Rosen, Eden Rappaport, Meia Rappaport, Jacob Janowitz, Penelope Stern, and Alexandra Johnsen. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Thank you to our families for your continued partnership and support. You help make our Religious School a place where Jewish learning thrives.

B'Shalom,

Morah Sheera Zuckerman

November '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

11/4: Staff development

11/11: Veterans Day

11/30: Thanksgiving break

Sheera Zuckerman Religious School Director



K - Gan yeladim Sukkah Building



*Looking
at the
Torah*



Building Edible Sukkot



Shaking the Lulav & Etrog



Sukkot Projects



*Packing for
Project Isaiah*



Nursery & Religious School Programs

Sat 11/1 11:00am	<i>Mini Minyan</i> (K - 2nd Grade)
Sat 11/15 10:45am	Junior Congregation (3rd - 7th Grade)
Sat 11/15 11:15am	Tot <i>Shabbat</i> (0 - 5 Years Old)
Sat 11/15 @7:30pm	Nursery School Parent's Night Out Parents Night Out — a fun-filled fundraiser for the CSI Nursery School Parents Association! Enjoy music, games, bar bites, drinks, raffle prizes, and great company at this adults-only event. All proceeds support our Nursery School Parents Association! Register .
Wed 11/26 @10:00am	Nursery School Thanksgiving Celebration

Save these Dates for December

Sat 12/13 11:00am	<i>Mini Minyan</i> (K - 2nd Grade)
Sun 12/14 9:15am	Neshama Body & Soul Work Out (For Adults) NBS, Neshama Body and Soul, is a workout-worship practice that combines Jewish prayer and teachings with body-weight strength-training (including push-ups, squats, and planks) and mobility exercises in an effort to help participants connect the physical with the spiritual. (Babysitting will be provided). Register .
Sat 11/15 10:45am	Tot <i>Shabbat</i> @11:15am (0-5 Years Old), Junior Congregation @10:45am (3rd - 7th Grade), Lunch & Learn after services/during kiddush
Sun 12/21 10:30am	Community Chanukkah Party - fun event for the whole family!
Wed 12/31 10:30am	Countdown to Noon - join us with your little ones for a new year's countdown at noon! With snacks and fun activities.

Mark Rosenberg President



As I write this article, Thanksgiving is right around the corner. It got me thinking about the connection between Judaism, Thanksgiving and gratitude.

The original Thanksgiving festival was held in 1621, when the Pilgrims and native Wampanoag people came together for a multi-day festival to give thanks for a good harvest. There is a school of thought which believes that this festival was modeled on Sukkot, the Jewish festival which celebrates the harvest and commemorates the Israelites forty years of wandering in the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt. The Pilgrims, who studied the Old Testament, identified with the Israelites in a foreign land in search of freedom.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. Over time, it became a cherished secular holiday celebrated by most Americans regardless of their religious backgrounds. It's a day that unites families and friends around shared gratitude and togetherness.

It is a holiday celebrated by the overwhelming majority of Americans. A recent Pew Research Center study highlights how deeply Thanksgiving resonates across communities: 93% of U.S.-born adults celebrate it, as do 88% of immigrants who have lived in the country for more than 20 years, 76% who have been here 11–20 years, and 74% who have lived here for a decade or less. My father often recalls how, growing up, his Jewish family—and many of their friends, most of them Eastern European immigrants or first-generation Americans—celebrated Thanksgiving. For them, it was part of embracing what it meant to be American.

Beyond its historical and cultural roots, Thanksgiving shares a profound spiritual connection with Judaism through the concept of *hakaras hatov*—literally, “recognizing the good.” This foundational Jewish value teaches us to express gratitude to God and to others for the blessings in our lives. According to the teachings of the rabbis, we are to recite 100 blessings each day, each one a small act of gratitude—whether for life and health, the beauty of nature or the ability to endure hardship. We thank God before eating by saying *HaMotzi* and again afterward with *Birkat Hamazon*—blessing that remind us to see every meal as a gift.

Modern research echoes these teachings: gratitude strengthens happiness and resilience, enhances self-esteem, and inspires compassion, kindness, and generosity.

Here at CSI, we have much to be grateful for. Our synagogue is experiencing a true revival—thanks to the dedication of our clergy, Educational Directors, staff, teachers, Board members, volunteers, and donors. We are a caring and engaged community that continually reaches out to those in need, both within and beyond our congregation.

As President of CSI, I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has played a role in our renewal, growth and community.



SUPPORT OUR KOL NIDRE APPEAL

YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE [HERE](#).

THE LIST OF CURRENT DONORS CAN
BE FOUND ON PAGE

Men's Club

Thu
11/6 @7:30pm

Men's Club Book Club

We will be reading *The Witch of New York*.

Tue
11/26 @7:30pm

Torah on Tap

Discover the hidden legacy of Crypto-Jews in the Americas! Explore the powerful stories of Conversos and Morenos—those who secretly preserved Jewish identity through centuries of persecution in Spain, Mexico, and the American Southwest—and uncover how their traditions live on today. [Register](#). (FULL)

Thank you to everyone who came to Tequila, Surf & Turn, and all that Jazz and participated in the in the raffle!

Winners!

Henrik Sukonnik - Glendronach

Donna Hannan - Eagle Rare Bourbon

Roy Summer - Corazon Anejo Tequila

Bennett Ashley - Don Julio 1942

Adam Rude - Hibiki Harmony

William Robbins - The Balvenie Caribbean Cask



Sisterhood Updates

Sun
12/7 @11:00am

Sisterhood Book Discussion

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict. In the tradition of *The Paris Wife* and *Mrs. Poe*, *The Other Einstein* offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight. (Goodreads) Copies of the book are available from the Westchester Library System. [Register](#).



Matanah

New items for
Chanukkah, gifts, and
pottery just in!

Open the following Dates 9:30-11:30am

November 2nd

November 9th

November 16th

November 23rd

December 7th

December 14th

December 21st



Organic Farm

Update from the CSI Community Organic Farm

Our 2025 season has put us back on track relative to productivity. The new fence has proven effective at keeping those pesky groundhogs at bay. (Let's just say that I was identifying with Bill Murray's character in Caddyshack last season.) Thanks again to Fred and Lois Schulman for making the new fence a reality.

As of October 22nd we've harvested a total of 2,831 lbs of produce and, despite our first frost, we're still growing some hardy fall vegetables like turnip and kohlrabi. Donations amount to 28% of the total. All to the Lifting Up Westchester Community Kitchen in White Plains. Approximately 48% was sold at our farm market or used for CSI activities such as Shabbat Kiddush and Random Acts of Challah. Our chicken flock continues to benefit from the balance of the produce that isn't deemed of sufficient quality to sell. This helps to keep our feed costs in check. 25 chickens can eat a lot! Seems to me that chickens are the real land sharks. Perhaps you've heard me refer to the 'chum bucket' that I carry from the kitchen when leftovers from kiddush are ready for disposal?

A limited quantity of farm produce & eggs remain available at our farm market. Now conveniently located in the lobby, just outside the office. A call ahead to confirm quantities is recommended.

Winter preparations include creation of new bed space in our expanded Main Field footprint, conversion of grape arbor rows to regular planting beds, decommissioning of roughly half of the old Community Garden beds to create a larger area for outdoor activities/social events and the inevitable leaf collection.

See you on the farm!

David



Caring Community

The Caring Community is always here to help people in our CSI family who need support. We provide a Shabbat meal when you have a loss, visits and a meal when you are ill, rides to doctors, phone calls to congregants who live alone. We're happy to help in any way we can. Let us know if you or someone you know in the community would benefit from our special brand of caring.

Call the office or [Judy Boehr](#) (914-318-5706)

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month via zoom, and we welcome new members to our committee.

*Dropping off food from
Project Isaiah!*





P.O BOX 869
OSSINING, NY 10562
www.ossiningfoodpantry.org

October 21, 2025

Congregation Sons of Israel
1666 Pleasantville Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10511
Attn: Ms. Judy Boehr

Dear Ms. Boehr:

On behalf of the Ossining Food Pantry, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who participated in this year's Project Isaiah food drive. Your annual drive continues to be our single largest yearly food drive donation. The food collected during this drive will provide needed support to those members of our greater Ossining community that are having difficulty providing for themselves and their families.

Food insecurity remains a significant issue for many members of our community. The Ossining Food Pantry currently serves hundreds of "food insecure" households each week, representing thousands of adults and children, through direct distributions at our pantry, deliveries to homebound seniors, and by partnering with other organizations to provide additional distribution sites. In-kind donations such as those produced by this food drive are a key component of our operation and are vital to carrying out our purpose.

This has been, by far, the most successful drive to date, providing more than 1250 food items with an estimated value of close to \$4000, based on typical local pricing. The generosity and concern of supporters such as those in the CSI community helps ensure that we can continue to accomplish our mission. Please pass our gratitude on to all those who participated in this drive.

With warm regards,

Douglas Gaynor
OFP Coordinator, In-Kind Donations

The Ossining Food Pantry is recognized as a "public" 501 (c)(3) charity under the provisions of Section 509 (a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, and no goods or services, or any consideration whatsoever, was provided by the Pantry in return for your donation.

Tikun Olam Network

The mission of the CSI Tikkun Olam Network is to educate ourselves about social issues, engage in social action and promote social justice, within our community, the surrounding communities, and the world and provide CSI members with learning and social action opportunities that allow us all to live our Jewish values of repairing the world.

Project Isaiah:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our very successful Project Isaiah food drive. CSI always provides the Ossining Food Pantry with its largest single donation, and this year we contributed over \$4,000 worth of food, making this, by far, our most successful drive ever! (See letter below)

The Religious School students, led by the 5th grade captains, did a fabulous job checking expiration dates and packing the food. Thanks to Eleanor Frey, Sue Lerner, and Emma Shifrin for their help in making things run smoothly. Of course, todah rabbah to Sheera Zuckerman for organizing it all! Thank you also to Bari and Zachary Strohmenger, Tom Hannan, Howard Fleischer, Emma Schifrin, Ruth Weinreb, Cheryl Katz, and Sherman Alpert for delivering the food to the Pantry.

Other TON News:

At the October meeting of our Incredible steering committee, we reinforced our goal of collaborating with other CSI groups, in particular the Green Team, and look forward to together advancing CSI's commitment to greater sustainability. We also confirmed our support of upcoming projects such as our coat drive (November), our community Christmas event, feeding the unhoused (February) and Project Ezra (Pesach). Beyond that, TON is exploring ways CSI can support our local Jewish community more directly, through work for HOPE Community Service's kosher food pantry and via programs sponsored by DOROT Westchester.

Whatever your level of interest in our mission, we value your input and support. Feel free to reach out to either Gail Sider (gailsider@gmail.com) or Judy Boehr (tanglewoodtoots@gmail.com). Onward!

Mercaz

Final Report on Mercaz USA Campaign 2025

As the 2025 World Zionist Congress prepares to convene in late October, we offer our belated thanks to all who participated in the election this past spring. You contributed to the largest turnout in the Zionist movement's history, with nearly double the number of votes cast in the 2020 election.

Here are some other noteworthy takeaways from the results:

- The conservative movement's Mercaz USA earned 19 seats of the 155 American delegates, making it the only existing progressive slate to see an increase in voter share.
- Right-wing and religious slates won the plurality of the 155 U.S. seats
- Confirmed reports of fraud among these slates resulted in the rejection of many of those votes
- Mercaz has called on the WZO leadership to restore trust in the election system and ensure all voices are fairly represented in the next elections in 2030.
- The 155 American delegates will join some 370 representatives from Israel and around the world to decide how to allocate an annual budget of about \$1 billion and run the "National Institutions", including the World Zionist Organization, Jewish National Fund-Keren Kayemet LeIsrael and Jewish Agency for Israel.

To stay informed, visit mercazolami.org.

Gail and Judy

Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Committee has already scheduled for this fall the continuation of one successful program from the past and the inauguration of two new programs. On Sunday, November 9, from 11 AM to 1 PM, the Lifelong Learning Book Series returns. There will be a brunch and a discussion of the book *The Gates of Gaza* by Amir Tibon. The book's subtitle is "A Story of Betrayal, Survival, and Hope in Israel's Borderlands." The book jacket adds this description: "A gripping first-person account of how one Israeli grandfather helped rescue two generations of his family on October 7, 2023 — a saga that reveals the deep tensions and systemic failures behind Hamas's attacks that day."

On Sunday, December 14, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM, the first meeting will be held of the Things Worth Knowing program (which we hope will be held periodically throughout the year). The program will include brunch and there is a charge of \$18 per person. This is a program designed to engage curious minds by setting forth a selection of mostly disparate topics, many with a Jewish "slant."

The presentation, based on one perfected by Yale University professor Dr. Shawlat Toorawa, consists of bite-sized offerings on topics that hopefully will ignite wonder and foster discussion. The program will blend text and visuals. The particular topics for this first session are unknown to anyone other than Marion Sader and Gail Sider, who are developing the program. Come and be surprised by what the topics are. Come and be engaged by subjects that we are confident will be of interest to all.

On Wednesday, November 5, from 1 to 3 PM, the first session of a free six-week series offered by DOROT at CSI titled "Aging Alone Together" will be held, co-sponsored by CSI's Caring Community and the Lifelong Learning Committee. (The additional sessions will be held at CSI on November 12 and 19 and December 3, 10 and 17.)

Each two-hour session will begin with a presentation on a relevant topic facilitated by discussion groups of no more than eight people. Some of the topics to be included are: social and support networks and how they differ; advance care directives; and where to live? - move or age in place. Financial and legal issues will also be discussed.

These are just the programs already scheduled. There will be other programs added as the year 5786 goes along. If you want to be involved in discussing, developing and bringing to CSI adult learning programs that will enrich our synagogue community, please join the Lifelong Learning Committee.

CSI Lifelong Learning Committee Invites You To... Come Read with Us November 9th | 11:00am

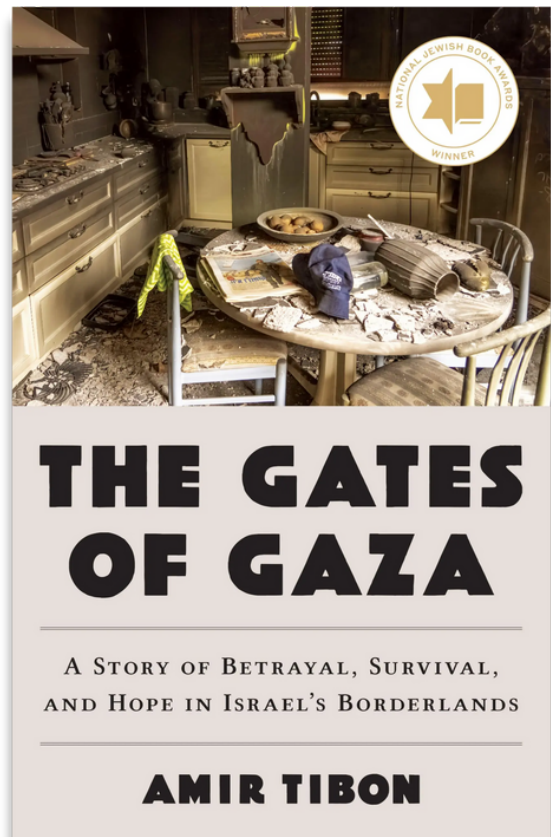
This Month's Read

The Gates of Gaza

by Amir Tibon

Four stories come together in Tibon's unforgettable memoir of happenings on October 7th.

- Read about a family on Kibbutz Nahal Oz, on the border of the Gaza Strip
- Consider the destruction of a vital military base
- Learn how grandparents rescued their family
- Assess the intertwined history of Israel, Hamas, and Gaza



Contact [Marion Sader](#) or [Roberta Bar-Levav](#) with any questions.

Brunch will be served

[Register Here](#)

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In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Gail Sider

In honor of Cantor Shiovitz's donation of his books to our new Hadar group!

Caring Community

Elliott & Debbie Barish

In memory of David Levine

In memory of Ann Rubenstein

Peter & Elaine Contard

In honor of Liz and Alan Legatt's 50th Anniversary. *Mazel Tov!*

Roberta Freilich

In memory of Ann Rubenstein

Eleanor Frey

In memory of Ann Rubenstein

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Paul & Sonia Kleinman

In memory of Theo Herzenberg

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In honor of the kindness & help provided to me by Gail Sider

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Etz Chaim-Tree of Life

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In memory of Julianne Ashkinaze

In honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of Cheryl Kestenbaums's granddaughter

Penina Aviram

In appreciation for the Jews in the News Class

Elliott & Debbie Barish

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In memory of Julianne Ashkinaze

In honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of Cheryl Kestenbaum's granddaughter

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In memory of Norma Rezak

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In appreciation for Rabbi Rosenberg's meaningful sermons at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and her awesome blowing of the shofar at Rosh Hashanah!

Harold & Beth Levine

In memory of Arleen Ditchek

Mark & Barbara Nackman

In memory of Rose Nackman

Barry & Gail Perlow

In memory of Ann Rubenstein

Gail Sider

In honor of Rabbi Rosenberg blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah!

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In memory of Julianne Ashkinaze

In memory of Ann Rubenstein

A speedy recovery to Faye Dittelman

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In honor of the 9th anniversary of Rebecca Zinn's *Bat Mitzvah*

Clare Rosen

In honor of the *Aufruf* of Maya Levine & Ben Karmiy

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In honor of Bob Schloss, *Chatan Torah* on Simchat Torah

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In appreciation of Jack Zinn for his help, dedication and patience

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In honor of Jack Zinn officiating at *shiva minyan* service for my mom and for all that he does for us at CSI.

Gail Sider

In appreciation for the Zoom *Minyan* Group

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In honor of Roberta Bar-Levav *Kallat Bereshit*

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Birthdays

October

Name	Age	Day
Blake Alter	7	10/1
Abigial Kirk	6	10/3
Mason Cantor	11	10/7
Benjamin Besner	11	10/11
Isaiah Webster	6	10/12
Bennett Schwartz	10	10/16
Cooper Schwartz	10	10/16
Noa Zak	5	10/19
Juliette Roselle	4	10/25

November

Name	Age	Day
Emilia Lupu	10	11/5
Oscar Stern	10	11/11
Dashel Stern	5	11/11
Noa Monji	4	11/12
Aaron Zak	6	11/14
Rachel Young	3	11/15
Skylar Fireman	8	11/18
Sloane Fireman	8	11/18
Mason Pajonk	9	11/18
Noa Lea	8	11/21
Joshua Staines	7	11/24
Scarlett Rich	7	11/26

Lifecycles

We'd like to express our condolences to Aimee Axelrod on the loss of her husband, Glenn Axelrod, father of Mathew (Rachel) and Sydney and grandfather to Miles.

We'd like to express our condolences to Ilene Calderon on the loss of her husband, Jeffrey Calderon, parent of Melanie Cortese & Marissa Gzran.

Mazal Tov to Dan & Marian Levine on the Aufruf of their daughter, Maya Levine & Mark Karmiy.

Mazal Tov to Mark & Rika Reisman on the Aufruf & marriage of their daughter Sandy Reisman & Ben Sternklar.

Mazal Tov to Cheryl Katz on the marriage of her son, Michael Katz & Ekaterina Zvezdova

Mazal Tov to Roberta Bar-Levav on being honored as Kallat Bereshit

Anniversaries

October

Names	Day	Years
Jeffrey & Mary Dale Allen	10/4	57
Alan & Liz Legatt	10/5	50
Daniel & Jill Singer	10/5	28
Susan & Howard Code	10/6	40
Paul & Susan Hodara	10/9	42
Mark & Barbara Nackman	10/10	43
Leonard & Deborah Chubinsky	10/10	43
Marisa Levi & Andrew Staines		10/11
Robin & Samuel Ginsberg	10/12	40
Evan & Bonnie Rogers	10/16	43
Lawrence & Elizabeth Karp	10/17	32
Asaf Falah & Jeanette Liu-Falah	10/19	19
Naftali & Ryna Lustig	10/21	41
Bennett Ashley & Ruth Weinreb	10/21	35
Beth & Marc Roth	10/22	31
Rabbi Steven & Judy Kane	10/23	42
Henrik & Jaime Sukonnik	10/23	14
Steve & Janice Rappaport	10/24	21
Andrew & Elaine Bloom	10/25	55
Andrew & Emma Schifrin	10/30	20
Robert & Marilyn Margolies	10/31	49
Elliott & Debbie Barish	10/31	43

November

Name	Day	Years
Eric & Margaret Frankfort	11/2	57
Adam & Helene Rude	11/4	35
Paul & Renee Horowitz	11/5	37
Daphne & Alan Crosswell	11/9	39
Corey & Emily Ginsberg	11/11	25
Jennifer & Todd Feinkind	11/12	9
Jonathan & Wendy Gottlieb	11/13	31
David & Bonnie Besner	11/17	12
Andre & Emily Newfield	11/17	13
Richard & Sheera Zuckerman	11/23	39
David & Debra Silberman	11/28	33
Michael & Marion Jablansky	11/29	44
Janis Golubock & Michael Harlow	11/29	5

Mazal Tov to Roberta Bar-Levav on being honored as Kallat Bereshit

Mazal Tov to Bob Schloss on being honored as Hatan Ha Torah

Mazal Tov to Marc Auslander on being hoored as Peschias Neliah

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Steven & Judy Kane on the birth of their grandson, Ori Lavi Lorberbaum, son of Tamar Kane and Daniel Lorberbaum.



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Nursery School Fund	\$ _____
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Zuckerman/ Charlotte Hering	\$ _____
Ramah Day Camp Fund	\$ _____

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<i>Etz Chaim Chumash</i> (\$72)	\$ _____
<i>Kiddush</i> Fund (Min. \$36)	\$ _____
<i>Kiddush</i> Sponsorship (Min. \$360)	\$ _____
<i>Siddur Lev Shalem</i> (Min. \$40)	\$ _____

It is our long-standing custom to share *kiddush* after our *Shabbat* Morning services. We very much appreciate the support provided by your donations in order to be able to continue this wonderful tradition. Your name will be announced on the bimah on the appropriate *Shabbat* morning. **Shabbat date:** _____



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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.

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