



CSI Congregation
Sons of Israel

September 2025

Elul/Tisheri

THE MYERS FAMILY CAMPUS

CONTINUING THE VISION—BUILDING OUR FUTURE

L'Shanah Tovah - Happy New Year!

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Rabbi Dina Rosenberg



Elul: Returning to Love

We have entered the month of Elul, the season of reflection, introspection, and preparation for the High Holy Days. It is a time when we turn inward to examine our lives — our choices, our values, our regrets — but also outward, toward the relationships that shape and sustain us.

Elul is often associated with the verse from Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs):

“אני לדודי ודודי לי – לי ודודי לי”

“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.”

This verse has become a symbol of sacred love, and is even recited at Jewish weddings. But the meaning reaches far deeper than romance — it invites us to explore the enduring, often complex, bonds of love and faith.

In his commentary on Shir HaShirim, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz reflects that to be “one’s beloved” is to recognize love not only when it is passionate and immediate, but even when it is quiet, distant, or hidden. A couple on their wedding day may feel swept up in love’s fresh intensity — but it is often the couple 20 years into marriage, who have weathered storms and doubts, that understands love’s depth.

Relationships — with people or with God — are not static. There are seasons of closeness and times of seeming absence. Yet the vow of love endures. Steinsaltz notes that even when God’s presence feels obscured, “*my beloved has descended to his garden... perhaps he will return to me with flowers.*” The love remains. We are reminded that love’s absence is not the same as its end.

During Elul, we are called to remember: God is our beloved, too. And like in human relationships, there may have been times when we questioned God’s presence — in moments of grief, silence, or struggle. But Elul gently insists: the love is still real.

This is a time to reawaken that connection. Not by waiting passively for divine love to find us, but by taking responsibility for our part in the relationship. Elul invites us to ask:

- Have I turned away?
- Have I failed to listen?
- Have I withheld love, or taken it for granted?

Through *teshuvah* — return — we begin to repair the bond. We name our missteps, seek forgiveness, and cultivate the space where love can again be felt.

This Elul, I invite you to reflect:

What does it mean to envision God as your beloved?

What would it take to restore that relationship to one of depth, honesty, and tenderness?

May this season of return guide us — not just toward atonement, but toward love. Real, enduring, sometimes-hidden love. The kind that waits patiently in the garden. The kind that promises, in time, to bloom again.

1666 Pleasantville Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

www.csibriarcliff.org
info@csibriarcliff.org
(914) 762-2700

STAFF

Rabbi

Dina S. Rosenberg

Cantor

Jeffrey Shiovitz

Executive Director

David Pasternack

President

Mark J. Rosenberg

Rabbi Emeritus

Steven C. Kane

Nursery School Director

Naomi Elyachar

Religious School Director

Sheera Zuckerman



Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz



It was 37 years ago that Robyn, Rachel and I moved to Briarcliff Manor. We were unpacking and getting used to living in a new state and being in a new synagogue. We needed to find new doctors, especially as we had a 2 year old and a new baby (David) due at the end of December. At the same time, I had to prepare for the upcoming holidays, my first at CSI. I can truly say that I was more than a little nervous. I was the fifth Cantor in 5 years. I began to think about what was the most important prayer for me that year. Should it be the Hineni, the Hazzans prayer? No, it has always been the Kol Nidrei. The first article I wrote at CSI was about the Kol Nidrei. As I begin my 38th year at CSI and my 45th year in the Cantorate, I would like to share that article with you as it still holds meaning for me.

The Kol Nidrei ritual continues to fascinate me. There are probably more myths and legends woven around its melody than almost any other liturgical theme heard in the synagogue. Most synagogue music falls into the category of what musicians call “program music.” That is, music composed to express a theme, an idea, to tell a story, or to enhance the text of a prayer. Actually, the primary task of the Hazzan is to make the words of the liturgy more meaningful, more moving, more relevant. It was considered vulgar to use a melody that has no integral relationship to the text merely to introduce a lovely tune.

Kol Nidrei is an outstanding exception to that rule. It is the melody that stands out, that touches the heart, that moves the worshiper. The words add absolutely nothing to its mystical attraction.

What do the words actually mean? As we approach Yom Kippur we are reminded of our past errors for which we hope to receive forgiveness from the Almighty. And we shall ask for forgiveness with words. But words are not always infallible nor are they always pure and contrite. We are led into most of our pitfalls with words misspoken, poorly chosen, inappropriately delivered or improperly deceptive. How can words alone bring us the forgiveness we seek?

The words are nothing more than a dry, legal formula that needs careful thought and interpretation to make them meaningful and binding. But as any melody that would attempt to translate them faithfully into song cannot possibly be moving, or even interesting. Obviously, the strength and longevity of the Kol Nidrei melody comes from association with poignant moments in the Jewish past, and draws upon our memories, our longings and our hopes as Jews.

The Kol Nidrei text was already in use in the 9th century. It, therefore, evolved well before the Spanish Inquisition. What’s more, many Sephardi communities, which are much closer to the Spanish Jewish tradition than those of European Jews, did not recite Kol Nidrei at all. So we can be quite certain that Kol Nidrei did not originate, as the legend has it, as a ritual of absolution for Marranos who wanted to be forgiven their oaths to be faithful Christians so that they might join their Jewish brothers in prayer.

Another legend, less known, also involves the Marranos but concerns the music and not the words. It proposes that the Kol Nidrei tune originated as a series of phrases used as a code for Marranos. When a Marrano attempted to enter one of the secret Yom Kippur services he was made to pass from one watchman to another. He would chant a phrase and would receive the next phrase in response. The person would then be directed to the next watchman until they reached the actual service and joined his fellow Marranos who were risking their lives to be Jews again on this holiest of days.

Continued on next page

Though this story is quite attractive it has not won wide support since in those Sephardi communities where Kol Nidrei is now chanted, the melody, which we all love so much, is not used at all. However, the legend is important for another reason. It proposes that the melody is built up out of separate musical phrases. Even a cursory inspection of the melody would seem to bear this out. The opening phrase of the Kol Nidrei tune was originally sung without words as a sort of overture, as though the Hazzan, in awe and trepidation, was timidly knocking at the gates of Mercy. Such introduction, or overtures are quite common in the Jewish liturgical tradition. The major section of the High Holy Day Shacharit service is introduced by the word “Hamelech,” the King, which is sung without words before it is actually articulated. This is also true of the first word of the Amidah when chanted by the Hazzan in his or her repetition.

Musicologists have analyzed each phrase and have clearly identified them. Originally, it is thought that these phrases were patched together according to the taste and preference of the Hazzan, the combination which we know now was probably not formalized until the late 16th century.

Whatever its origin, it is almost impossible to explain the melody’s mystical attraction. This is the Jewish song par-excellence and it achieves its grand status without any help from the words. For more than three centuries this melody has been linked to the holiest day of the Jewish year. It has become the song of the soul seeking God, the melody of a people striving to be like Him.

Robyn, Rachel, Yonah, Miriam and Maya, David, Gina, Max and Noah, Sarah, Drew, Jamie and Sophie, and Talia join me in wishing you a happy, healthy and sweet New Year. My, how we have grown! We are up to 15!

Jewish Music Through the Ages: High Holiday Edition

Sunday, September 14 @ 10:00am

Special High Holidays Edition of Jewish Music Through the Ages.

A review of the melodies from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Be prepared to sing. Email Cantor Shiovitz to Register



See next page for full JMTA Schedule for 2025/26!

JEWISH MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

2025-26

This series, now beginning its 38th year, will be held on Saturday evenings at 7:30pm 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.

November 1 The Music of Nava Tehila

At the home of Rochelle and Marc Auslander
12 Hidden Hollow Road, Millwood
914-941-7639

December 13 World Jewish Music

At the home of Sheera and Richard Zuckerman
19 Barnes Road, Ossining
914-941-1048

January 10 Klezmer Music

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



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



Hi All,

When writing the September Bulletin every year I have mixed feelings as the end of summer morphs into the Jewish Holiday season. Hope you all had a great summer! I went on my first pickleball cruise which was amazing. We definitely should have a CSI Pickleball Day.

The staff has been extremely busy this summer preparing the building from school to camp and now back to school again. We hired an industrial cleaner to help prepare the building for nursery school starting September 8th. They brought in power equipment and did an amazing job from getting stains out of carpeting that no longer needs replacing to cleaning windows on the garage doors in the Sanctuary. They even had special equipment to disinfect all the toys in all the classrooms.

We will be using them regularly to perform night cleaning as well. I hope you notice all the sparkling cleaned items around the building but of course lots to do and lots to keep up.

The staff also has been extremely busy getting ready for the High Holidays.

For those Synagogue members in good standing High Holiday tickets will start being mailed out September 5th.

If you are a Dual member, you receive two tickets. If you are a single member, you receive one ticket.

For security reasons it is very important that every member registers online via ShulCloud so we know who is in the building even if you do not need extra tickets.

Please check your [High Holiday Handbook](#). It is also on our website under About Us/Bulletin.

If you are needing extra tickets, reserved seats, reserved parking, names in Yizkor Book you can fill out all information on [ShulCloud](#). If you have any issues, please contact the office. We also need people to be greeters/users. If you can help out at any of the services for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, please sign up. We really need you.

There will be an important security training Sunday, September 7th at 11am at the Synagogue "Keeping your Family and Congregants Safe during the Holidays". The training is conducted by Andy Polay and we highly encourage you to attend. A light breakfast is included and there is no charge. Please register for this and all other events you will be attending.

Please keep an eye out in your mail for your tickets which will be arriving shortly.

Lastly, we received an anonymous \$25,000 donation to start a new fund "Interior Beautification.- This committee together will help decide how this fund is going to be utilized as well as help make any aesthetic decisions on improvements, upgrades or new things in the building.

We do have our first project about improving the two bathrooms on the Chapel side of the building. More details to come.

An early L'Shana Tovah

David

CSI Programs

Thursdays
10:30am

Gratitude Circle with Rabbi Rosenberg

This is a weekly gathering in which you will meditate, learn a Jewish text, and spend time together marking the goodness in your personal lives and in the world. This experience will renew and reinvigorate your minds, bodies, and souls.

Tuesdays
8:00pm

Wrestling with Torah

Sun. 9/7
11:00am

Security 101

Join us for an informative session where we'll cover the basics of staying safe during High Holidays. Whether you're new to CSI or just want a refresher, this is a great place to start. A complimentary brunch will be provided. No fee to attend, but please register to reserve your spot. [Register.](#)

Sun 9/14
10:00am

Jewish Music Through the Ages: High Holiday Edition

Special High Holidays Edition of Jewish Music Through the Ages. A review of the melodies from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Be prepared to sing. Email [Cantor Shiovitz](#) to Register.

SUN. 9/14
11:00am

Back to School BBQ

Celebrate the start of the school year with an afternoon of food, fun, and festivities for all ages! Enjoy burgets & hotdohgs, lawn games, and a special performance by Charlie and the Bubble Factory, a show designed for all ages and abilities, creating a magical experience for everyone. Bring your friends, bring your appetite, and get ready to kick off the school year in style! Open to all current and prospective members and Religious & Nursery School families. [Register.](#)

Sun. 9/28
9:30am

Sukkah Building

Email [Dr. Michael Teitelbaum](#) if you would like to volunteer.

Thu. 10/9
TBD

Scotch in the Sukkah

Save the date! More information coming soon!

Sun. 10/12
10:30am

Pizza in the Hut - Family Sukkot Event

Experience Sukkot through sight, smell, and symbol in this interactive celebration! Join us for arts and crafts, including edible art projects, as we explore the beautiful traditions of this harvest festival. Geared toward families with children ages 0-13. Registration coming soon.

Through Other's Eyes



THROUGH OTHER'S EYES

September 4, 2025 7:00PM ChappPAC

[Register](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Come see the exhibit and hear from two Arab and two Jewish Israelis, who participated in TOE, a program created by Givat Haviva, an organization doing ground-breaking work in building bridges between Arab and Jewish citizens in Israel.

Through Others' Eyes (TOE) is a dialogue and community-building project that brings Arab and Jewish teenagers together. The teenagers learn photography skills as they explore questions of identity, nationality, religion, and community. TOE addresses the

growing need for open channels of communication between Israeli Arab and Jewish youth who rarely, if ever, actually meet one another. The program uses photography to bring about better cultural understanding and respect through lessons, dialogue sessions, study tours, overnight seminars, and the production of a group

photography exhibit. TOE intends to fundamentally change the way the participants relate to the conflict, to each other, and to their own ability to make a difference. The project allows participants to learn about each other and achieve a greater degree of understanding and openness.

High Holiday Service Schedule

Saturday, September 13th

Selichot

Time

7:30pm

Location

Main Sanctuary

Monday, September 22nd

Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:30pm

Main Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 23rd

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services

9:00am

Main Sanctuary

Babysitting

9:30am-1:00pm

TBD

Children's Services

10:30am-12:00pm

TBD

3's Program

11:00am-12:00pm

TBD

Family Services

4:00pm

Farm

Wednesday, September 24th

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Services

9:00am

Main Sanctuary

Babysitting

9:30am-1:00pm

TBD

Children's Program

10:30am-12:00pm

TBD

3's Program

11:00am-12:00pm

TBD

Tashlich

4:00pm

Wishnie Park

Wednesday, October 1st

Kol Nidre

6:00pm

Main Sanctuary

Thursday, October 2nd

Yom Kippur Services

9:00am

Main Sanctuary

Babysitting

9:30am-2:00pm

TBD

Children's Services

11:00am-12:30pm

TBD

3's Program

11:30am-12:30pm

TBD

Family Services (with goats!)

4:00pm

West Wing

Mincha

5:15pm

Main Sanctuary

Ne'ilah

6:15pm

Main Sanctuary

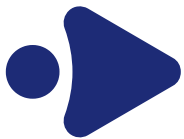
Conclusion of Fast

7:26pm

★ Selichot Services ★

Saturday, September 13th @ 7:30pm

“Sin & Forgiveness Across Faiths”



As the High Holy Days draw near, join us for a powerful evening of reflection and renewal.



An interfaith clergy panel will explore how different faiths understand sin and forgiveness, offering diverse perspectives to help us spiritually prepare for the Days of Awe.



The evening will culminate in a Selichot service, guiding us into the season with music, prayer, and intention.

[REGISTER](#)

Free and open to the community.

Come for the dialogue, stay for the soul.

Naomi Elyachar Nursery School Director



September marks not only the start of a new school year, but also the joyful return of children’s laughter, curiosity, and energy to our classrooms. After a summer of exciting growth and community connection, we are thrilled to welcome our students—both returning friends and brand-new faces—into another year of learning and discovery.

This year brings wonderful new opportunities. We have expanded to two 4’s classes to meet the needs of our growing community, and we are introducing a young 2’s class to welcome children just beginning their early childhood journey.

We are also making the most of our beautiful synagogue grounds with weekly nature classes. Children will explore the nature trail, visit the chickens in our coop, and tend to our farm area. A highlight for many will be caring for and learning about our beloved bearded dragon, Bernard.

Our summer outreach brought the warmth of CSI Nursery School out into the community. “Storytime with Tooki the Toucan” at the Briarcliff town pool was a joyful way to share stories, songs, and smiles with local families. We also proudly sponsored the Briarcliff Manor concert series, connecting with neighbors in a spirit of friendship and celebration.

Whether in the classroom, on our grounds, or out in the community, CSI Nursery School remains dedicated to nurturing curiosity, confidence, and connection in every child. We look forward to a year filled with exploration, growth, and joy.

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

September

9/1 Labor Day

9/2 Staff returns

9/4 Back to School Night for parents

9/5 Playground play dates

9/8 First day of school

9/15 Kids Karousel begins

9/23-9/24 Rosh Hashanah, no school

Sheera Zuckerman Religious School Director



Shalom CSI families,

As one season ends, another begins. Hard to believe that the opening of Religious School is nearly upon us. Here at CSI, we've been busy behind the scenes planning an incredible year filled with curiosity, creativity, and community. This year, we're bringing new energy to our curriculum with hands-on learning, safe spaces for big questions, and of course, art, music and ruach everywhere. CSI Religious School students will explore Jewish values, history, holidays, Hebrew, and identity all through rich experiences, art, prayer and song.

Tuesdays (Grades 3–7) Highlights:

- 10 “Ask the Rabbi” sessions — from open Q&As to holiday deep dives
- Jewish Art Projects inspired by Yaacov Agam, Maurice Sendak, Sonia Delaunay & many more
- Cooking for holidays
- Mitzvah Projects — packing lunches for the unhoused and others
- Holocaust speaker and engaging, thoughtful learning moments

Sundays (Grades K-7) Highlights:

- Sukkot Family Program (Oct 12)
- Tu BiShvat Seder & Edible Trees
- Challah, hamantashen, and Hanukkah baking fun
- Project Isaiah food packing
- Torah learning enhanced by Midrash for Grades 4-7

Mark Your Calendars:

- September 9: Opening day for 4-7th 4-6 P.M.
- September 14: Opening day for entire Religious School 9-11 A.M.
- September 14: Back to school BBQ for RS and NS families and CSI community 11 A.M.
- March 21: 3-7th Grade led Saturday morning Shabbat Service
- April 17: CSI ZIMRIYAH: Our School-Wide Song Festival! Bring the whole family for an unforgettable morning of music and celebration in honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut.
- May 1: School led Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service & Kabbalat Ha-siddur for 3rd grade.

A quote attributed to the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov: “If words are the pen of the heart, melody is the pen of the soul.” Let’s fill our school with ruach, with spirit, pride, and memorable learning. Encourage your children to attend Junior Congregation, Mini Minyan, and all our special events.

Haven't registered yet? There's still time! See you all soon.

B'Shalom,
Sheera Zuckerman
CSI RS Director

September '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	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	31			

9/23: Rosh Hashana

Nursery & Religious School Programs

**Thu 9/4
7:30pm**

Nursery School Back to School Night

Mon 9/8

First Day of Nursery School

Tue 9/9

First Day of Religious School 3rd-7th

Sun 9/14

First Day of Religious School for all grades

**SUN. 9/14
11:00am**

Back to School BBQ

Celebrate the start of the school year with an afternoon of food, fun, and festivities for all ages! Enjoy burgers & hotdogs, lawn games, and a special performance by Charlie and the Bubble Factory, a show designed for all ages and abilities, creating a magical experience for everyone. Bring your friends, bring your appetite, and get ready to kick off the school year in style! Open to all current and prospective members and Religious & Nursery School families. [Register](#).

**Sun 10/12
10:30am**

Pizza in the Hut - Family Sukkot Event

Experience Sukkot through sight, smell, and symbol in this interactive celebration! Join us for arts and crafts, including edible art projects, as we explore the beautiful traditions of this harvest festival. Geared toward families with children ages 0-13. Pizza to be served for all. Registration coming soon.

[Nursery School Calendar 2025/2026](#)

[Religious School Calendar 2025/26](#)



Mark Rosenberg President



A few recent experiences reminded me of the power of kindness. How very little effort on the part of the giver can mean so much to the recipient.

This summer, I went on a six-day group bike trip in France. One of the women on the trip, Lisa, arrived with a small carry-on and nothing else. When I met her, I made a comment about how she was a very efficient packer. Unfortunately, that was not the case. With a distressed look on her face, she told me that the night before, when arriving at her hotel, in the brief moment when she was focused on paying the taxi driver and her suitcase was on the sidewalk, the suitcase was stolen. Purchasing new clothes was not a simple option, as the trip was mostly through small towns with limited retail outlets.

The group learned of this shortly after we all met for the first time. Three of the women in the group who were more-or-less the same size as Lisa immediately offered to lend Lisa their biking gear and casual clothes. The moment they did this, Lisa immediately brightened. She was now able to participate in the trip without having to deal with the stressful experience of dealing with lost luggage and having minimal clothes and gear, something I went through last year. Each night at dinner, Lisa, with a big smile on her face, would announce whose clothes she was wearing and put on a mock fashion show.

I was struck by this. The three women knew Lisa for about three minutes. Yet, they did not hesitate to offer to lend her their clothes. It was such a kind act that meant so much to Lisa, the effects of which lasted the entire trip. It would have been so easy for these women to ignore Lisa's plight and do nothing. But they didn't. They immediately offered to help a stranger.

A few weeks ago, I was the recipient of an act of kindness by strangers. I got a flat tire while riding on the back roads of Katonah on a Sunday morning. As I was struggling to get the tire off the wheel so that I could replace the inner-tube, a woman driving by pulled up and asked if I could use some help. She said that her husband rides and that they live up the street. I replied that I could use a helping hand. She said that she would give her husband a call and then drove off.

A few minutes later, her husband, Lev, drove up. By then, I had removed the tire and had put the new tube in place. Unfortunately, my portable inflator did not work, so I could not inflate the new tube. I explained the situation to Lev who told me that while he had an air pump, the pump was at his house. He offered to put my bike in his car and drive us to his house, which I accepted.

After arriving at Lev's house, Lev got out his pump. We put air in the tube and worked to put the tire back in place. For over twenty minutes we both struggled with the tire, but neither of us could get it to work. At that point, appreciating that I was taking up a lot of Lev's time, I told Lev that I was calling an Uber to drive me back to where I started the ride. He insisted that he drive me back, a drive that would have taken twenty minutes each way.

After some back and forth, I convinced Lev that he had done more than enough and that I greatly appreciated his help. With that, I called an Uber, and he went off with his son to play tennis.

While sitting in the Uber, I was struck by Lev's acts of kindness. He didn't need to go to where I got the flat, drive me to his house, try to repair my bike for twenty minutes or offer to drive me to my car. Lev and his wife were complete strangers. His wife could have easily drove past me and Lev could have stayed home. But they didn't. Without hesitation, they both took acted without hesitation, which was so meaningful to me.

These acts of kindness, chesed, required minimal effort yet had a significant impact on the recipient. They remind us how we should dedicate ourselves to engaging in acts of kindness, both within the CSI community and within the greater community.

Whether it is asking one sitting alone at an event or services to join you, attending a shiva minyan, donating to a fund in honor or memory of another, volunteering of your time, driving an older CSI member to the shul, or simply thanking CSI's staff and volunteers for what they do, we all can make a difference through acts of kindness.

As the New Year approaches, we all should rededicate ourselves to engaging in acts of kindness. While the world in which we live may be becoming harsher, we can try to make it less harsh.

I wish all you a happy and healthy New Year.

Mark Rosenberg

Sisterhood Programs

Thu. 9/18
7:00pm

Sisterhood Annual Membership Dinner

Our speaker this year is CSI's own Eric Frankfort who recently published a children's book, "Simon's Bath". Eric will share his story of how he went from being an electrical engineer and math teacher to writing a children's book. Books will be available for purchase and autographs! [Registration is required by 9/15](#). This event is for Sisterhood members only.

Sun 9/28
11:00am

Sisterhood Book Club Meeting

Marriage of Opposites: a novel based on the life of Rachel Pizarro by Alice Hoffman. Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. Rachel's mother, a pillar of their small refugee community of Jews who escaped the Inquisition, has never forgiven her daughter for being a difficult girl who refuses to live by the rules. Growing up, Rachel's salvation is their maid Adelle's belief in her strengths, and her deep, life-long friendship with Jestine, Adelle's daughter. But Rachel's life is not her own. She is married off to a widower with three children to save her father's business. When her husband dies suddenly and his handsome, much younger nephew, Frédérick, arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story, beginning a defiant, passionate love affair that sparks a scandal that affects all of her family, including her favorite son, who will become one of the greatest artists of France. The book is available to borrow from the Westchester Library System. [Register](#).

ORT Honey From the Heart

Steps to order honey:

- 1) Visit www.orthoney.com
- 2) Login to your account
- 3) Click on "**Order Now**" button from the drop-down menu.
- 4) Type **CSI** on the drop down list to select us
- 5) To reorder from last year, choose "reorder from a previous year" in step 2 and choose your order.
- 6) Follow the prompts to finish your order and checkout it's quick and easy!

Important Dates:

- Order through **August 8th** to **avoid** an \$8.00 shipping fee per jar
- Order through **September 10th** for **guaranteed** Rosh Hashanah delivery
- Honey Store closes **October 22nd** (while supplies last)

[**Order Now!**](#)



Sisterhood Message

A LETTER FROM SISTERHOOD

I know September is a busy month. It's time to mentally restart from those lazy days to more active and full ones. Time to outfit our children for school supplies and new clothing. Gearing up for the High Holidays.

While understanding your cluttered schedule, I am asking you to please [join Sisterhood for the year 2025/2026](#). If you are a current member of CSI, but have never joined Sisterhood, your first years are our gift to you. If you are a new member of CSI we extend this gift to you as well.

Our dues are \$36.00. Won't you take advantage of and see the activities that Sisterhood has to offer? I look forward to meeting and greeting each of you.

With my best wishes for a healthy, sweet, prosperous and joyful New Year.

Annleah Berger
Membership Chair



Men's Club

**Thu. 9/25
7:30pm**

Men's Club Book Club Meeting

We will be discussing The Gun Fighters, How Texas Made The West Wild, by Bryan Burrough.

**Thu. 10/9
TBD**

Scotch in the Sukkah - Save the Date

Details TBA.

**Every Other
Monday**

Chess at CSI

Contact [Richard Zuckerman](#) if interested.

[Join Men's Club for the 2025-2026 Year.](#)



Congregation Sons of Israel
MEN'S CLUB

Caring Community

The Caring Committee can provide a ride to synagogue for the High Holidays if you need it. Please reach out to [Judy Boehr](#) if you need us to arrange a ride for you.

Please let Judy know by September 12th.



Second Generation

Another year! Welcome to anyone who is a Holocaust Survivor, 2nd Generation, 3rd Generation, or has a relative or friend they would like to talk about, or an interesting article, story or book from that period. Also, if you feel helpless or want to take action about current antisemitism. We have a budget to plan educational programs and activities. So join us at CSI on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 7:30pm.

Our schedule will include meetings on:

Sept 9	Feb 10
Oct 21 (Due to holidays)	Mar 10
Nov 11	April 14 Yom HaShoah
Dec 9	May 12
Jan 13	Jun 9

Contact [Cheryl Katz](#) with any questions!

FARM NEWS - Welcome to the Month of Elul

As we enter the month of Elul, we begin the tradition of blowing the shofar—a call to awaken our hearts and souls in preparation for the High Holidays. Elul is a time for reflection, a time to draw closer to both God and nature. The sound of the shofar helps us tune into this spiritual awakening, guiding us to reconnect with ourselves and our purpose.

As I write this, the warmth of summer still lingers, but subtle signs of autumn are already in the air. This shift marks the nearing close of the Hebrew year and the end of the growing season—a natural cycle that parallels our own journey of renewal.

A Summer of Growth at CSI

This summer has been a season of abundance and growth for CSI and our farm. Last year, we faced challenges with our four-legged neighbors, who enjoyed feasting on our vegetables. But this summer, with a stronger, more secure fence and the dedicated efforts of our farmer, David Levitt, and our wonderful CSI helpers, we've experienced a bounty of fresh, organic produce.

Farm Fresh Produce and Tzedakah

At CSI, we are proud to offer a wide range of fresh, organic vegetables: tomatoes, squash, lettuce, garlic, turnips, bok choy, radishes, kale, and more. Our commitment to Tzedakah goes beyond charity—it's a fundamental act of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). About one-quarter of our harvest is donated to Lifting Up Westchester, providing fresh produce to those in need.

And we don't waste anything! Vegetables that are not suitable for sale or donation go to our chickens, who happily feast on them, and in return, provide us with fresh eggs. Yes, we have chickens! You can even purchase their eggs here at CSI.

What would a Shabbat table be without flowers? We're also growing beautiful blooms, so you can enjoy fresh flowers to brighten your home and your spirit.

Visit the Farm

I encourage you to visit our farm, enjoy the peaceful presence of the chickens, and taste the delicious fruits of our labor. As we reflect on our spiritual selves during the month of Elul, there's no better way to experience joy than through the simple pleasures of fresh vegetables, flowers, and eggs.

Shanah Tovah U'metukah

Wishing you a good and sweet new year, from myself and the entire Farm Team.

Jill Greenstein

Pride Committee

The Shofar is Calling Us toward Queer Reconciliation: A Kavanah

By puckmaren glass and J.B. Sacks
(an excerpt)

...The shofar, with its ancient and resonant call, serves as a spiritual alarm clock, urging us to open our hearts and minds to the diverse voices and experiences that enrich our lives....

The shofar calls us to action, to see the needs of our communities, to respond to bigotry and violence, to condemn hate in all its forms, and to step into creating the world the way God wants to see it—the way we have been dreaming about since before dreams were dreamt.

In this moment of quiet before the shofar's piercing sound, I recall the identities and stories and colors that make up our many communities. I imagine a world where all our communities hold each other dear because we have learned that love has no bound, no gender, no one right way.

The queer community is a testament to resilience, creativity, and love. It challenges norms and expands our understanding of what it means to be human. By embracing and celebrating this diversity, we honor the divine spark within each person. However, acknowledging the queer community is only a beginning....

The shofar's call urges us to examine our own biases and privileges, to stand in solidarity and to advocate for change. It reminds us that true allyship requires more than words; it demands ongoing commitment and tangible support.

As I prepare to hear the shofar's call—it's pain and its urging, I am called to hope and to determination.

May its call inspire us to wake up to the beauty of our rich community and to actively work towards meeting its needs.

Let us build a world where everyone, regardless of their identity, can live with dignity, love, and joy.

May the sound of the shofar echo beyond our own hearing and into the actions we will use to change the world.

Kein y'hi ratzon. So may it be.

puck glass (they/them) is co-founder and co-leader of Makom Shelanu Congregation in Forth Worth, Texas and a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks (he/him) is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Palm Desert, CA. The first openly LGBTQ+ rabbi in the Conservative movement, he has been a long-time advocate of inclusion within Jewish life.

The full text of this message can be found [here](#) on Keshet's website, along with other information and resources for the High Holidays.

Wishing everyone sweet and meaningful Holidays and a year of positive change and renewal. If you would like to join in the work of the Pride Committee, please contact [Suzanne Haber](#).

Donations

**Building Security Fund
Sherman Alpert**

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund
Faye Dittelman & David Perelman**

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Mike & Margery Kirsch

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Barry & Janis Kirschner

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Caring Community**Karen Lipsy**

In gratitude for the strength & comfort offered during Bernie's illness.

Gary & Bette Slutsky

In memory of David Levine

Etz Haim- Tree of Life**Gail Sider**

In memory of Marysia Gordon

In memory of David Levine

Kiddush Fund**Jeffrey & Mary Dale Allen**

In memory of Justin Abraham Allen

Doron & Roberta Bar-Levav

In memory of Fannie Pritsker

Annleah Berger

In memory of Abraham J. Levine

Roberta Freilich

In memory of Beatrice Litwen

In memory of Bertram Freilich

In memory of Harry Litwen

Michael Liegner & Miriam Fishman

In memory of Max Fishman, Frank Fishman, and Sara Fishman

Robert & Marilyn Margolies

In memory of Jean Margolies

Joel Neuberg

In memory of Irving Neuberg

Leon White

In memory of Ida Elman

Lifelong Learning Fund**Neal & Suzanne Haber**

In memory of David Levine

Bob & Marilyn Margolies**Karen Lipsy**

In memory of Marysia Gordon

Membership Development Fund**Clare Rosen**

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Men's Club**Neil & Shelley Harwayne****Nurse School Fund****Richard & Stacy Charney**

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Sue Lerner

In memory of Zulie Lerner

Organic Farm Fund**David Teicher**

In support of CSI

Playground Fund**Bob & Marilyn Margolies**

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**The Freeman Family**

In memory of Ellen Freeman

Pamela & Stuart Hoberman

In appreciation for Misheberach said for family & friends

Daniel & Marian Levine

In appreciation for Rabbi Rosenberg's kindness during Shiva for David Levine

Richard & Deborah Yoken

In memory of Lillian Newbauer

Rachel Greenstein Children's Resource Library Fund**Joel & Jill Greenstein**

In memory of Marysia Gordon

In honor of the Aufruf of Sandy Reisman & Ben Sternklar Davis

In honor of the birth of Noah Samuel Shiovitz

Sisterhood**Annleah Berger**

In memory of Ida Berger

Lifecycles

Birthdays

Name	Day	Age
Cheza Friedman	5	1
Daphne Stern	5	3
Caleb Sukonnik	5	8
Lillian Atkins	3	13
Max Strohmenger	3	21
Julian Sukonnik	9	24

Anniversaries

Name	Day	Years
Alex Fijman & Marjory Alabre	2	19
Kevin & Sonia Mathisson	6	27
Elliot Fuhr & Merle Pine	6	39
Robert Schloss & Emily Sack	7	44
Evan & Elaine Wetzler	7	39
Rachel Kozupsky & Jonathan Gray	9	8
Richard Gans & Sharman Propp	10	36
Philip & Amy Horowitz	11	31
Gregory Gilbert & Lydia Gulick	12	10
Andrew & Carole Kagan	12	49
Deane & Abbe Marcus	13	39
Larisa Wayne-Paulmeno & William Paulmeno	13	35
Abby DeBofsky & Jeff Atkins	13	5
Steven & Robin Karp	15	38
Adam & Susan Wachtel	15	14
Norma & Stephen Katz	16	41
Arthur & Benji Baer	17	36
David & Elizabeth Metzger	17	35
Maier & Robin Rosenberg	17	47
Zachary & Alissa Lupu	29	13
Wendy & Richard Segal	29	40

Lifecycles


We'd like to express our condolences to Gayle Waxenberg (Jay) on the loss of her father, George Damiano, grandfather of Alex and Michael.

We'd like to express our condolences to Robin Ginsberg (Samuel), Steven, and Gary (Barbara), on the loss of their mother, Norma Rezak, wife of Howard, grandmother of Michelle (William), Alex, Charlotte, Aaron, and Michael, and great grandmother of Molly.

Mazal Tov to Cantor Jeffery & Robyn Shiovitz and parents, David & Gina Shiovitz on the birth of their grandson, younger brother to Max.

Mazal Tov to Nursery School parents, Andrew & Stacy Haimes, on the birth of their son, Benjamin Todd, younger brother of Josephine, Aiden, and Alex.

September 2025 Av/Elul 5785

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 CSI Congregation Sons of Israel	1 Elul 8 CSI Closed - Labor Day 8:00am Minyan	2 Elul 9 11:15am Jews in the News 4:00pm Religious School - Staff Meeting 7:00pm Sisterhood Meeting - ZOOM 7:30pm Educ. Comm. Mtg. ZOOM ONLY	3 Elul 10	4 Elul 11 8:00am Minyan 7:00pm Through Other's Eyes program w/Givat Haviva (off-site) 7:30pm Nursery School - Parent Back to School Night	5 Elul 12 9:00am Nursery School Playground Playdates 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 7:04pm Candle Lighting	6 Elul 13 Ki Teitzei 9:30am Shabbat Sanctuary & Live Stream 8:10pm Havdalah
7 Elul 14 8:30am RS Staff Meeting 9:15am Minyan 11:00am Security 101	8 Elul 15 First Day of Nursery School 8:00am Minyan 7:30pm CSI EC Meeting 7:30pm Pride Committee Meeting	9 Elul 16 11:15am Jews in the News 4:00pm First Day RS - 3rd-7th Grade 7:30pm 2nd Generation Survivors Group 8:00pm Wrestling w/Torah	10 Elul 17	11 Elul 18 8:00am Minyan 10:30am Gratitude Circle w/Rabbi Rosenberg 11:15am HaMishpacha Discussion Group w/Shari Baum 7:00pm Ossining & Briarcliff 9/11 Memorial Ceremony	12 Elul 19 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:52pm Candle Lighting	13 Elul 20 Selichot - 1st Saturday Ki Tavo 9:30am Shabbat Sanctuary & Live Stream 7:30pm Selichot Services: "Sins & Forgiveness Across Faiths" 7:58pm Havdalah
14 Elul 21 9:00am First Day of RS - All Students 9:15am Minyan 11:00am NS & RS Back to School BBQ 10:00am JMTA-High Holiday Edition	15 Elul 22 8:00am Minyan	16 Elul 23 11:15am Jews In the News 7:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting	17 Elul 24	18 Elul 25 8:00am Minyan 10:30am Gratitude Circle w/Rabbi Rosenberg 7:00pm Sisterhood Annual Membership Dinner	19 Elul 26 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:40pm Candle Lighting	20 Elul 27 Nitzavim 9:30am Shabbat Sanctuary & Live Stream 7:46pm Havdalah
21 Elul 28 9:00am RS 9:15am Minyan 4:00pm RS Polish Silver	22 Elul 29 Erev Rosh Hashana Temple Office Closes Early 8:00am Minyan Candle Lighting 6:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 6:35pm Candle Lighting	23 Tishrei Rosh Hashana Tashlich Temple Office & NS Closed 9:00am Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30am Rosh Hashanah Babysitting (until services are finished) 10:30am Children's Rosh Hashanah Service (until 12:00pm) 4:00pm Rosh Hashanah Family Service 7:33pm Candle Lighting	24 Tishrei 2 Rosh Hashana Temple Office & NS Closed 9:00am Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30am Rosh Hashanah Babysitting (until 1:00pm) 10:30am Rosh Hashanah Kids programming (until 12:00pm) 4:00pm Tashlich 7:00pm Caring Community 7:40pm Havdalah	25 Tishrei 3 Fast of Gedalia 8:00am Minyan 11:15am HaMishpacha Discussion Group w/Shari Baum	26 Tishrei 4 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:28pm Candle Lighting	27 Tishrei 5 Shabbat Shuva Vayeitech 9:30am Shabbat Sanctuary & Live Stream 7:34pm Havdalah
28 Tishrei 6 9:00am RS 9:15am Minyan 11:00am Sisterhood Book Club Meeting	29 Tishrei 7 8:00am Minyan	30 Tishrei 8 11:15am Jews in the News 4:00pm Religious School				



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SYNAGOGUE DIRECTORY

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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rabbi.rosenberg@csibriarcliff.org

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jshiovitz@gmail.com

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David.Pasternack@csibriarcliff.org

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Steven C. Kane
Rabbi.Kane@csibriarcliff.org

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naomi.elyachar@csibriarcliff.org

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