

March / April 2016

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CHAI

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from the President:

Mark S. Blechman

The phrase “don’t kill the messenger” has as its etymology and definition a suggestion that a person delivering bad news should not be punished as if he or she was responsible for news. On the other hand, what should you do to a person that delivers great news? I’ll let you tell me, since I have two pieces of great news for you.....

First.....

During our past Rosh Hashanah service, President-Elect Susan McKenna, along with lifetime congregant Felecia Ziegler and her son (the current president of GORFTY) Eli Ziegler rolled out a program wherein you were asked to contribute towards the creation of a new position at CRJ-Director of Youth Engagement and Congregational Programming. The goal of the program was to raise \$150,000 for the position and expenses for programming. The Board voted to require that before a search and hire for that position could occur, a minimum of \$50,000 (to support both a salary and expenses for the programs created) would have to be “in hand”. I am thrilled to inform you that as of right now, we have achieved our goals! (As Coach Don Shula would say after every game of the perfect season, “We accomplished what we set out to accomplish”) I have created a search committee and it will begin its work immediately to advertise, interview and choose a candidate for the position. Our hope is to have it filled in May of this year. Since one of my main goals as president was to strengthen our youth engagement, I am excited beyond words at the wonderful support and participation of you, our congregants, towards engaging our youth.

The second piece of great news arrived by email..... I was scrolling through my emails yesterday when I noticed a message from Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the URJ, entitled “Praying Without a Divide at the Western Wall”. Having visited the Wall during a recent trip with our congregation (led by our Rabbi) and having been forced to separate from my then, soon to be wife, Cindy, I was most interested. And here is how it began.....“I am proud to share the following statement from our North American Movement welcoming this historic decision by the Israeli Cabinet to create a permanent pluralistic prayer space at the Kotel in Jerusalem.” What makes this utterly historic, other than the obvious, is that the Israeli government voted to approve this unprecedented measure. As many of you know, the government in Israel is controlled by the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox, even though that group only comprises approximately 12% of the Israeli population. The success of the action must be shared by the Reform and Conservative Movements, both in Israel and North America, Women of the Wall, and the Jewish Federations of North America. The synergy of these organizations working in concert has dissolved a barrier previously unpassable. Our friend, and recent visitor to our Congregation, Rabbi Gilad Kariv of

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from the Cantor:

Jacqueline Rawiszer

Singing a New Song – Interfaith Musical Outreach at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Institutional Church.

Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer

On January 9, 2016 several members of the CRJ Adult Choir joined me in a very last minute request to participate as special guests of Dr. Rutha White and The Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA) State Conference held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Institutional Church in Orlando. We were invited as a thank you for welcoming members of GMWA and Mt. Zion to sing with us in the Orlando Interfaith Choir at the URJ Biennial this past November. When planning our program, I chose a psalm and setting our congregation is very familiar with – Psalm 96 – Julie Silver’s Shir Chadash. Without any prior knowledge, this text had been chosen as the theme of the entire event. As my relationship has grown with Dr. White, so have a number of significant connections been made through the joy of music between members of our communities. I could share more, but it is far more powerful hearing directly from the voices of our dedicated choir members who represented CRJ with grace, ruach and a true spirit of outreach.

L’shalom,

Cantor Jacki



Photo credits: Sheryl Sacharoff and Rachel Milsom

A door has opened...

A door has swung wide to an unknown but fascinating world of G-d music with the new relationship between CRJ and the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA).

Although the faith traditions are different, the commonality of music that inspires is what makes this connection a valuable and necessary gift to bridge the misunderstandings of the Jewish and Black communities. We are all G-d's children and through music we can become the workers that can help repair the world. (Tikkun Olam).

• Robert Kushner

I thought it was a very good experience as a community outreach sort of thing and I was happy to have the experience of performing with such talented people...I thought it was a very positive experience and interaction in the interfaith community.

• Maya Milsom

Once again kudos to you for organizing our group to be able to perform at this event on Sunday. I saw at this event that people of good heart and voice can come together in spite of their differing backgrounds and create wonderful and uplifting musical experiences. That type of soulful singing gives me great pleasure to hear and sing.

• Alex Sacharoff

Enriching my own inner God tapestry happened last night at Mt. Zion! It began with the love that welcomed us and the deeply felt appreciation of our being there. Throughout the evening the gathering was bathed with God's Presence through energy, passion, and spirit. Our unique and special offering for their Gospel Music program was singing a medley "We are Walking in the Light of God" in English, Hebrew, and Swahili.

I fell asleep a few hours later knowing I wanted to connect this experience in an ongoing way into my life. Upon waking up this morning the answer was waiting for me: incorporating the 3 parts of our medley into the 3 times a day that I set aside time for prayer and "check-in": the English portion added to the morning to be part of expressing gratitude and setting the tone for the day, the Hebrew portion in the afternoon to remind me of re-aligning and miracles, and the unique sounds of Swahili as part of completing the day. How grateful I am to weave these 3 new strands into my own tapestry.

• Linda Flower Gross

I am so grateful to you and Dr. White for the relationship you've developed, making this a possibility. Thanks also to Rev. Dr. Spooner and all of the wonderful congregants at Mt. Zion Church for opening their beautiful sanctuary, and for their hospitality and awesome cooking.

What an amazing experience. Wonderful music and spirituality filled the entire building, and everybody there was touched with the holiness of the event, with ruach and with love. To be a part of the experience was another leg in my spiritual journey, and in the growth of our CRJ musical group. Enough can't be said about the talent and efforts that the

GMWA groups have put into their work, and all it took was a glance around the sanctuary to see it all paid off.

I am so excited and encouraged to continue our fellowship with this group, and I can't wait for the next opportunity to meet again in shirim k'doshim (holy song).

• Tim Niemi

When you sent out the e-mail regarding singing at Mt. Zion Church, I was elated.

The members of the church were so excited about learning our music for the biennial.

With the excitement they showed, I couldn't wait to hear them sing in their home of worship.

The choirs that they invited to share their occasion were so full of spirit.

The energy in the room was so natural and the love that they shared for their religion was music in their hearts. It was an evening of fellowship. A night to be remembered, that we were guests but welcomed like family. Thank you for opening up a friendship that I am sure you will always cherish.

• Terri Misek

I believe the strongest moments were when Dr. White at the beginning of the afternoon mentioned that she had no idea that, as she eloquently put it, the Jews could swing!! But immediately followed up with you don't know if you don't know! You have to get to know your neighbor and what better way than thru our love of music and expressing ourselves thru our music and sharing that love which each other. That same sentiment was shared all evening. How can you know if you don't go out and find out for yourselves. I believe some wonderful relations are forming because of our sharing. Maybe they can teach us how to sway!! LOL

• David Armbrust

continued from page 2 - President

the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism extolled to us (in person!) the magnitude of this decision when he stated, "... (that) this is just the beginning of our efforts to ensure that the Jewish State of Israel is indeed a state where all forms of Judaism are practiced freely and without state prohibition, and where those of us who represent the largest force in Jewish life in the world today, the Reform Movement, will be a powerful force inside of Israel and a more visible alternative for worship for Israeli Jews." I offer my congratulations to Rabbi Kariv, Israel and Reform and Conservative Jews all over the world.

In closing let me encourage you to stay active in life and in our Synagogue. The nominating committee is currently interviewing candidates for your Board of Directors. Contact Dr. Cliff Selsky by email at cselsky@familyfirstpeds.com and let him know you are interested.



from the Director of Education:

Sheryl Sacharoff

It is my honor this month to feature an article written by our fourth grade teacher, **Moreh Justin Sacharoff**.

Separate but Equal? *By Justin Sacharoff*

An historic decision by the Israeli government to build a permanent egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall (HaKotel in Hebrew), guaranteeing the right of men and women to pray together at the holiest site in Judaism, is the culmination of three years of negotiations between the Orthodox establishment and non-Orthodox streams of Judaism.

The question of “Who is a Jew” has inspired much debate and consternation among the Jewish people, perhaps because Jews have always been adapting and assimilating to varying degrees, in order to survive in a world too often hostile to our people. More fascinating, though, is the question “What makes a Jew”. It is this question with which Israelis in and outside of the Knesset have been wrestling and which has been answered, if incompletely, by this decision.

Both women and men have been allowed to pray at the Western Wall since it was recaptured in the 1967 Six-Day War, but they have been separated by gender and, until 2013, women were not allowed to wear tallitot and tefillin or wear a kippah. The Rabbi who controls the Kotel, Shmuel Rabinowitz, still does not allow women to read from the Torah. Though Reform and Conservative Jews may be indisputably, Halachically Jewish, many Israelis still do not view them as real Jews, with the Haredi chairman of the Finance Committee, Moshe Gafni, calling Reform Jews “A group of clowns who stab the holy Torah,” according to Walla news.

The feminist group known as Women of the Wall has been fighting this battle for more than two-and-a-half decades. Led by Israeli activist and Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center Anat Hoffman, these women have faced police brutality and imprisonment since they began holding services at the Kotel in 1988. An area adjacent to the Western Wall, known as Ezrat Yisrael or Robinson’s Arch, already exists as an egalitarian space for non-Orthodox prayer, yet it is much smaller than the main complex and is separate. As such, the Women of the Wall refused to move their services from the main women’s prayer. As part of the agreement, the Ezrat Yisrael area will be rebuilt and expanded, with an entrance from the main complex. In turn, the Women of the Wall have agreed to move their monthly services from the women’s section to the expanded, yet smaller egalitarian section, to the disappointment of some members who have long fought for the right to pray as they chose in the women’s section that already exists. “Is this what you would call feminist process, negotiating away the rights of others,” asked Vanessa Ochs, a self-proclaimed

“original Woman of the Wall.”

For these women, the deal that has been made is no deal at all, for it would be giving up their ideals as feminists and Jews to settle, in their minds, for something less than full equality. Does it make them lesser Jews to move away from the main expanse of the Western Wall complex in favor of something presently attainable? In Ochs’ words, she is willing to risk imprisonment to never find out. In a joint statement, Rabbi Noa Sattath and Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Director of Israel Religious Action Center and Executive Director of Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism respectively, were celebratory. “This will put an end to the embarrassing spectacle of male and female soldiers and officials being segregated at government and military events, and to situations where the Kotel’s Orthodox rabbi refuses to let women light menorahs or female soldiers sing our national anthem, the Hatikvah, in public.”

In the eyes of Evan Cohen, Cantor and Coordinator of Overseas Relations and Development at CRJ’s sister synagogue Kehilat Har-El in Jerusalem, the deal is a big victory due, in part, to the pressure from North American Jewry and the increasing acceptance of and identification with Reform and Conservative Judaism among Israelis. To a growing number of Israelis, it seems, what makes a Jew is less about adherence to religious dogma and more about intention. For their part, Cohen says his congregation, which is part of the Reform movement, has been holding services, including b’nai mitzvah services, in the Ezrat Yisrael area for years.

Progress has been made, yet many challenges remain. The Muslim Waqf, which controls the Islamic prayer areas of the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount above the Kotel, has already made its displeasure known. The Palestinian Authority is similarly disapproving of the egalitarian space. Israelis, particularly those in the government, are not known for their expediency and fast pace. Implementation of the new prayer section could take a long time, especially with the opposition the move has faced, not to mention the construction is set to take place at the epicenter of the most highly-disputed piece of land in the world, and some archeologists have voiced their opposition. “It’s upon everyone on both sides of the ocean to keep the pressure up,” said Cohen.

Whether or not you believe the new, expanded egalitarian section of the Western Wall is good for Judaism, it’s no longer up to the ultra-Orthodox voices in Israel to decide what makes a Jew. “It does create a precedent in the future, from a legal standpoint, for changing the religious status quo to recognize other expressions of Judaism other than Orthodoxy,” said Cohen, “but one battle at a time.” Man or woman, you can pray as you like, if not exactly where you’d like.



Babies & Blocks

Babies and Blocks, a mommy and me program for families raising Jewish children. This program features an hour of music, stories, and activates engaging fine and gross motor skills. This group is for children 3 months – 2 years. This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in the group please contact Julie Begani jbegani@crjorlando.org.

Mark these days in your calendar

- **March 15th** – 11am PURIM!!! Dress up for a fantastic parade
- **April 19th** – 11am PASSOVER!! We're getting messy so please bring a smock!
- **May 17th** – 11am Summer Fun! We're getting WET! Please bring a bathing suit.

RSVP to www.crjorlando.org/preschool



Join Rabbi Engel and Cantor Jacki for a 30 minute music filled Shabbat Service for kids 0-6yrs. & siblings the first Friday of the month at 5:30pm.

- **March 4 | April 1 | May 6 | June 3**



Welcome New Members

Dr. Jeffery and Renee Lempert
David and Deborah Goldring



Sheloshim List

Frank Corcoran, Father of Noreen Levitt
Mary Ruth Lavin, Sister of Lois Silverberg
Robert Corcoran, Brother of Noreen Levitt
Joseph Zollman, Husband of Greta Zollman



Mah Jongg

Call Beverly Smith,
407-461-1663 or
email: thetink@hotmail.com



CRJ Seniors

The Seniors of CRJ are looking forward to our continuing spring programs on the third Thursday of each month at noon on March 17, 2016, Adrienne Katz will speak on the League of Women Voters. On April 21, 2016, our own Murray Toborowsky will speak on American Jewish History: "Abraham Lincoln & the Jews during the Civil War--What were the three controversies affecting the Jews and how did Lincoln respond? Our final program of the 2015-2016 year will include the installation of our officers on May 19, 2016.

We have a wonderful group of more than 60 persons of the age of 60 or older, who enjoy exciting programs of interest and entertainment. New members and guests are always welcome. Annual dues are only \$10 and a light lunch will be served for \$5 to members and \$8 to guests. We would love to have you join our seniors group. If you have any questions, contact me, allanmyersdmd@gmail.com

Hope to see you there,

Dr. Allan Myers,

President, CRJ Seniors

Baby Boomers Event



Get your
PUBLIX GIFT CARD at CRJ
contact
Michael Kancher
407-645-0444
or
mkancher@crjorlando.com



No experience necessary—just come try it!

Attendance at all sessions is encouraged. Each session is stand-alone so please feel free to register even if you know you cannot attend all sessions.

“What Do the Rabbis Say?” Taught by Clergy Aide Gary Becker

Thursday evenings 7:00-8:15 Feb. 25, Mar. 3 & 10

What are the Reform Rabbi's responses to contemporary questions posed by congregants? These three sessions will cover a wide range of topics and will involve attendees in discussing what they think the response to a question would have been, followed by sharing what the Rabbis have said. Great opportunity to find out how modern day, Reform Judaism, provides answers and guidance to a wide range of real life issues and concerns. The sessions will include group discussion and the opportunity for attendees to pose questions.

Great Stories in the Torah: Torah Study with Rabbi Steven Engel

Monday evenings 7:00-8:15pm Class Dates: April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th & May 2nd

There are so many great stories in the Torah. Come study and discuss several of Rabbi Engel's faves! What do we learn from the Torah and how do these stories impact our lives today? Come share your insights.

Abraham Lincoln and the Jews with Instructor Murray Toborowsky

Sunday mornings 9:45-11:00am Class Dates: April 17th, 24th, May 1st & 15th

Lincoln's meeting with early Jewish immigrants in the Midwest. How Lincoln reacted to 3 major controversies that affected the Jews during the Civil War. Why he developed friendships with so many Jews. Did Lincoln's vast knowledge of the Hebrew Bible influence his relationship with Jews? What part did they play in his road to becoming president? How did the Jews become the first to offer prayers after his death? Things that will surprise you about Lincoln that your history teacher never told you!

Hebrew III with Instructor Stewart Anderson

Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm Class Dates: April 4th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd

Continue raising your proficiency in reading Hebrew while building your skills in translating what you are reading in the siddur! You will be much more comfortable with your ability to read and understand prayers, the Haggadah, etc. Don't stop now! Join us for 7 stress-free sessions that will empower

Questions? contact **Sheryl Sacharoff**, Director of Education, ssacharoff@crjorlando.org to register online at www.crjorlando.org.
Session Price per class: \$18 CRJ Members | \$36 Community Members

you on your lifelong Jewish learning journey!

Book: Aleph Isn't Enough: Hebrew for Adults Book 2 by Linda Motzkin.



Sunday, April 3rd at 9:45am

Join the Rabbi and his esteemed panel to discuss: The End of Life: How Do I Prepare for Myself or For Others

What does Judaism say about the end of life? Sustaining life? Prolonging life? We'll also explore the medical, ethical, and practical aspects featuring experts in each of these fields. An interactive and hands-on approach to this hot topic.

RSVP to Annie at ahernandez@crjorlando.org



CRJ invites the women of CRJ to participate in fun, creative and dynamic Rosh Chodesh celebrations just for women each month at the appearance of the new moon.

The Jewish calendar provides a wonderful way to celebrate the cycles of time and change on Rosh

Chodesh, the first (and sometimes second) day of each Hebrew month. Rosh Chodesh comes to us when the moon is once again renewed--a barely visible sliver of light.

Join us on:

Adar II – Sunday, March 6 at 7:15 PM

Nisan – Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 PM

Iyar – Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 PM

Sivan – Monday, June 6 at 7:00 PM

For further information, please contact Cantor Jacki at jrawiszer@crjorlando.org.



WHAT THE CRJ CARE TEAM DOES FOR CRJ CONGREGANTS:

- Driving those in need to: Doctors' appointments, Grocery Store, Pharmacy, CRJ Services and Events
- Delivering and/or Preparing Meals after a Hospital Stay or Giving Birth

If you or someone you know would be in need of this support, please contact CRJ's Care Team Director, Beverly Smith – thetink@hotmail.com, P: 407-461-1663

We Listen To Our Members! New Groups and Activities at CRJ

By **Cathy Lieblich**, Vice President, Volunteerism & Congregant Engagement

As you know, CRJ's Volunteerism & Congregant Engagement Committee, chaired by Carole Adler, developed a Congregant Interest Survey that was sent to all members in September 2015. Those of you that indicated interest in existing CRJ auxiliaries and committees were contacted by the leads for those groups and, hopefully, you have become engaged in their activities. There was also interest in the following new groups and activities:

- **Rosh Chodesh Group:** A monthly gathering of women to celebrate the "new moon" as observed in Jewish tradition together through prayer, ritual, study and discussion of relevant topics.

Contact: **Cantor Jacki**; jrawiszer@crjorlando.org

- **CRJ Boomers:** A social group for baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964).

Contact: **Marcy Turnbull**; mousteach1@hotmail.com

- **Interfaith Couples Group:** A group for Interfaith Couples who are not only a social group but who also share their perspectives and experiences on subjects that may include marriage, raising children, celebrating holidays and other topics of interest to the group in a fun, relaxed environment that encourages and respects different views, opinions and traditions.

Contact: **Heidi Fiacco**; defiantbabe@gmail.com

- **Chavurah:** A group of 12 people who get together at each other's homes and participate in activities together sometimes including celebrating Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, and Jewish learning. There will be two groups at CRJ to start: one for adults and one for families with young children. Group members will decide how often they will meet and what they will do together.

Contact: **Gwen Kotler**; ghkot@cfl.rr.com

- **Game Night:** CRJ congregants and their friends meet on a monthly basis from 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at a community location to play games such as Mahjongg, Bridge, Poker, Rummy Cube, Scrabble, and Yahtzi.

Contact: **Gwen Kotler**; ghkot@cfl.rr.com

- **College Student Outreach:** A group that decides how best to reach out to college students of congregants including, but not limited to, sending Judaic gifts to them during holidays with a note letting them know that their congregation is thinking of them and wishing them the best.

Contact: **Felecia Ziegler**; felecia@hbbzflorida.com

I am pleased to be able to report that five of these groups have had their first get together and there are plans for expansion of the groups. They are all still open to any CRJ congregant wishing to participate.



*"When you're smiling,
the whole world
smiles with you."*

You are always cordially invited for
a free initial consultation with
Dr. Gittess at his Winter Springs office.

Come in and see how easy
it is to put a smile on!



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Annual Women's Seder

Hosted by Women of CRJ - Sisterhood

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6pm

\$42 per person | \$36 for Seniors (ages 65+) | \$18 (ages 18 & under)

Includes Seder and Full Course Dinner



To RSVP, please send check by Friday, April 1, 2016 payable to CRJ - Women's Seder

c/o Helene Becker, 540 Lakeworth Circle, Heathrow, FL 32746

or **Register online:** www.crjorlando.org

Please include your name, address, phone and email. All seats reserved. Please indicate who you would like to sit with.

For more information, please contact Helene Becker at hfrbecker@aol.com or 407-221-3958

Community 2nd Night Seder at CRJ

Open to congregants and the community.



Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 6pm

\$42 per person | \$36 for Seniors (ages 65+) | \$20 (ages 13 & under)

Includes Seder and Full Course Dinner with reserved seating.

Seder being led by: Gary Becker, Clergy Aide

To RSVP, please send check or register online by Friday, April 15, 2016.

Due to the organization required for the Seder, registrations will not be accepted after this date and there will be no payments/admissions accepted at the door.

**Community
2nd Night Seder
at CRJ**



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Number of Adults ___ Seniors ___ Children ___ Total enclosed \$ _____

Who would you like to sit with? _____

Check made payable to CRJ # _____ || Amex ___ MC ___ Visa ___ Security Code _____

CC number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Mail to CRJ-Seder | 928 Malone Drive, Orlando, FL 32810 or Register online www.crjorlando.org

For more information, please contact: Gary Becker, gbecker@earthlink.net or 407-221-5343

Join us *for Shabbat!*



March 4, 2016 at 6pm | Goldman Social Hall at 5:30pm. Join Rabbi Engel and Cantor Jacki with your toddlers and preschoolers for Tot Shabbat then stay for dinner!

Matzo Ball Soup and Salad Shabbat Dinner

Come with the family to enjoy our Matzo Ball Soup and Salad Shabbat Dinner
\$30/Family of 4, \$10 adult, \$6/kids (under 12)
5:30pm Tot Shabbat, 7:00pm Shabbat Services

Sponsored by Family First Pediatrics, Clifford A. Selsky, PhD, MD



Israeli Shabbat Dinner

April 1, 2016 at 6pm
Goldman Social Hall

Come with the family to enjoy our Israeli Shabbat Dinner!
\$30/Family of 4, \$10 adult, \$6/kids
5:30pm Tot Shabbat, 7:00pm Shabbat Services

Register online for both events at www.crjorlando.org

Creative Ideas for Your



From the Union for Reform Judaism, here are some ideas to help you and your family discover something “new” in the very “old” story told by the Haggadah.

After the traditional Four Questions have been asked and answered, invite seder guests to answer four trivia questions that you’ve developed about historical events from 50 or 100 years ago. For example, this year you might ask, “What band began their first tour as the headline act in 1964?” Answer: The Rolling Stones.

When you get to the karpas/parsley blessing, which symbolizes thankfulness for the arrival of spring, look at the children around your table. Like spring, they represent growth and new ideas. Pause, ask everyone to hold hands and have the adults bless the children.

After the Four Questions, the Haggadah turns to the Four Children. At this point, turn to the children sitting at your

table and pose a question such as: “What is the best or the most interesting or the weirdest or the most important thing you have learned in school lately?” (Kids from 7 to 17 and beyond! — can answer questions like this one.) Or ask the kids about their favorite subject in school and why they love it so much.

Another option for after the Four Questions: Invite seder guests (especially the kids) to add a fifth question. The leader of the seder can offer a small prize to the person he or she believes asks the best out-of-the-box, difficult, thought provoking, or humorous question in response to the challenge.

Before singing “Dayenu,” ask guests to think about what it means to have “enough,” especially in our consumer-goods-focused world. Then, invite guests to comment on a “blessing” they have experienced this year or are experiencing at the seder.

Before you open the door for Elijah to enter your home, distribute index cards and pens to guests and ask them to write down what a particular imaginary guest might say if he or she entered the house along with Elijah. For example, what would Hillary Clinton say if she showed up? What would the Pope say? What about Homer Simpson? Jack Black? Greg Heffley? After singing “Eliahu HaNavi,” read the answers aloud, which will, no doubt, be both funny and fascinating.

See more at: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/creative-ideas-your-passover-seder#sthash.IskF1wbi.dpuf>

March/April Donations

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Stuart Dropkin
 In memory of May Dropkin

Sandy Goodkind
 Thanks to Cantor Jacki for all her phone
 calls and caring during my recent surgery

Pierre & Roz Haskelson
 In memory of Frank Corcoran, father of
 Noreen Levitt
 In memory of Robert Corcoran, brother
 of Noreen Levitt

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Alma DiGloria
 In honor of the marriage of Norma Ball
 & Jola Cope

MELVIN YARMUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Harold & Melanie Forman
 In memory of Frank Corcoran

MEMORIAL FUND
Norma Kaplan
 In memory of Herman Kleinfeld
 In memory of Rose Kleinfeld
 In memory of Rose Kaplan
 In memory of Hyman Kaplan
 In memory of Bernard Kaplan

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Joseph & Judy Weinberg
 In memory of granddaughter, Cameron
 Bronn

Neil & Sharon Harrow
 In honor of Heather & Chris Saul's
 3rd Anniversary
 In honor of Neil & Sharon Harrow's
 40th Anniversary

Aline & Al Norber
 In memory of Anna Feldman, mother
 of Aline Norber

Bonnie & Murray Toborowsky
 In memory of Irvin Zegart

Paul Fletcher
 In honor of the Barrie Family baby
 naming

Paul Hansman
 In memory of Evelyn Hansman

Michele Brennan & Mitch Barnett
 In appreciation of Rabbi Engel for
 officiating our marriage

David & Judy Albertson
 In memory of Jay Confer

Harold & Rosalind Kaplan
 In honor of our grandson, Ethan
 Nemeroff's, Bar Mitzvah

Jeffrey & Renee Kaplan
 In memory of Milton Siegel

Ruth Wallace
 In memory of Ann Rosenberg
 In memory of Edward Rosenberg

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EDUCATION FUND
Charles & Barbara Witten
 In memory of Agie Janovitz

Janet Kovner
 In honor of the marriage of Michele
 Brennan to Mitchell Barnett

Paula Streimish & Ida Freedman
 In memory of beloved husband & father,
 Bernard Freedman
 In memory of beloved brother & uncle,
 Steve Lipof

Lisa & David Goldman
 In memory of Ethel Barsky
 In memory of Rose Polsky

Esther Wolman & Joseph Galkin
 In honor of Judy Godorov being named
 one of Kinneret's
 Council on Aging Eight over Eighty
 honorees
 In honor of Sandy Goodkind for a full
 recovery

SCOTT FLOWER CRJ CHANT FUND
 Donations from participants at the
 February 7th Chant Circle

Bert & Ronni Schoemann
 Donation
 In honor of the beautiful anniversary
 blessing by Rabbi Engel

Linda Hmieleski
 Donation

Diane Myers
 Donation

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Iris & Boo Hornstein
 In memory of Barry Levin

Bernice & Gene Schwartz
 In memory of Agie Janovitz

Sharon & Ira Silver
 Wishes for Peter Gold's recovery

Mitzi & Ben Aronson
 In memory of Dr. Barry Levin

Sherri & Robert Wildstein
 In memory of Dr. Barry Levin

Jola Cope
 In memory of Kenneth Cope & Jean Cope

Temple Israel
 Donation for Sneakers that Fit

Stuart & Peggy Janousky
 In honor of Peter Gold – Hoping for a fast
 recovery

Roberta Marowitz & Allison Driscoll
 In honor of Peter Gold

Betty & Mel Kohn
 In memory of Stella Levie
 In memory of Minnie Kohn

Paul & Lois Lilling
 In memory of Irene Lilling

Zena Sulkes Freeman & Dan Freeman
 In honor of Judy Godorov & Dr. Marvin
 Newman receiving Kinneret honor

Judy Godorov
 In honor of Sandy Goodkind

Alma DiGloria
 In honor of Zena Sulkes Freeman's Kind &
 Loving Heart

Marty & Emily Glickstein
 In memory of Frank Corcoran and Robert
 Corcoran, father and brother of Noreen
 Levitt

Morton & Gwen Kotler
 In loving memory of our parents, Elizabeth
 Sabean & Isaac Kotler

Judy Godorov
 In appreciation of Susan McKenna, for her
 good wishes
 In memory of Joseph Zollman

STANLEY S. BLOOM SOCIAL HALL
AND KITCHEN FUND
Susan & Larry Halperin & family
 In memory of Frank Corcoran

STEPHEN FEINBERG MEMORIAL FUND
Cynthia & Jim Milligan
 In memory of Jack Fallik, beloved father
 of Cynthia

TILLIE SONDOCK MUSIC LIBRARY
FUND
Mel Tresser & family
 In honor of Mati Braun

TORAH RESTORATION FUND
Barbara & Paul Grossman
 In memory of Norman Bassin, father of
 Barbara Grossman
 In appreciation of Beverly Smith
 In appreciation of Charlotte Schwartz
 In memory of cousin, Ruby Strauss

YOUTH ENRICHMENT TRAVEL FUND
Cindy Weiss & Mark Blechman
 In honor of Peter Gold and his recovery

Morton & Linda Bender
 In memory of Sean Jared Bender,
 beloved son

Brenda Fisher Wetmore
 In memory of Evelyn Koenig
 In memory of Joseph Fisher, beloved
 husband

Congregation of Reform Judaism
 respectfully requests a minimum
 donation of \$10. Thank you.

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School of Chai

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FOLLOW RABBI ENGEL



@RabbiSteveEngel



Sisterhood

It's the feeling you get, when you know you belong
And the rush of fulfillment, when we're 65,000 strong
And the satisfaction of being part of a greater social good
That's the joy of WRJ, the chemistry of Sisterhood!

We, the Sisterhood of CRJ, are thrilled with our very successful YES Fund luncheon. This year we honored Cantor Jacki for all of her contributions to Sisterhood, CRJ and the community. Violinist Mati Braun and pianist Holly Small entertained us with a musical performance, and Rabbi Engel and Mitch Menaker spoke in tribute to our beloved Cantor Jacki. This was the best attended (over 90 guests) and most financially successful (nearly \$3000 raised) YES Fund luncheon ever hosted by the Sisterhood!! The YES Fund supports scholarships for Reform seminary students in North America, Israel and around the world, as well as youth programming through NFTY. A sincere thank you to our Sisters and guests who participated in the luncheon.

At the 2015 WRJ Assembly/URJ Biennial, Cantor Jacki received a YES Fund Lifeline pin, sponsored by the Sisterhood at CRJ. This is a great honor and represents a gift to the YES Fund, made in her name, of \$1800. Several of our Sisterhood members were at the luncheon to celebrate when Cantor Jacki received her pin.

One of the most popular events each year, is the Community Wide Women's Seder hosted by the Women of CRJ. Join us on Monday, April 11 at 6:00pm for an evening exploring the role of women in the Exodus through song and contemporary readings. RSVP required — \$42 per person, \$36 for seniors (Ages 65+), \$18 for youth (18 and under). The evening includes the seder and full course catered dinner. To RSVP please send your payment by Monday April 4 to CRJ - Women's Seder. Please include your name, address, phone number and email. All seats are reserved. Please indicate if you would like to be seated with someone in particular. For more information please contact Helene Becker (HFRBecker@aol.com) 407-221-3958

Our Nominating Committee is currently seeking energetic, fun, motivated women to join the Sisterhood Board. All interested women (current or potential members) should contact our committee chairperson, Helene Becker (HFRBecker@aol.com) 407-221-3958 or Carolyn Weinstein (CarolynLW66@aol.com)

Additional Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, March 6 at 9:30am** - Blanket making for the Orlando Coalition for the Homeless
- **March 11-13** - Sisterhood Get Away to St Augustine
- **May 22** - Spring Mah Jongg Madness
- **Saturday, June 4 at 7:00pm** - Sunset Picnic, Havdalah and Chant Circle
- **Friday, June 24 at 6:00pm** - Sisterhood Shabbat
- **Saturday, June 25 at 7:00pm** - Installation of Officers, Havdalah Service and pot Luck Dinner

I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our many events. Remember, without you we are one Sister short.

Shalom,

Carolyn

CRJ Sisterhood Will Be Holding a Blanket Making Project - Sunday, March 6, 2016 9:30 am

The Blankets will be donated to the teens at the Orlando Coalition for the Homeless.

All Congregants are invited to participate. We will be working in the Social Hall Starting at 9:30 am Sisterhood will provide coffee, tea and some sweet breakfast snacks.



Supplies may be purchased at Joann Fabrics. You may either purchase the kit or your own selection of fleece colors. The blankets are simple to make. You cut two squares, then cut into all four sides to make strips on the edges. Then the top and bottom strips are tied together in a knot. There is a link on CRJ's website under Sisterhood that will give further instructions. If you have a rotary cutter and mat or sewing scissors, please bring them! As always the camaraderie is the best part!

Please join us on March 6! Any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Caplan at 407-435-5902 or email at mecaplan@hotmail.com.



Brotherhood

Brotherhood Bagel Brunch featuring Author and CRJ member Mark Pinsky - Sunday April 10th starting at 9:45 for Brunch and speaker starting 10:15 AM

Cost: Free for Brotherhood members with paid-up 2016 dues (\$36) and \$5 for all others. Anyone who joins and pays Brotherhood dues at the Brunch also gets in for free. We will collect payment at door for non-members.

Contact: Anil Aggarwal aggarwal@cfl.rr.com

RSVP to Mort Kotler gwenmor29@gmail.com

Pizza & a Movie (Disney's Inside Out*) party to

honor the students, their parents and their teachers of the Steinmetz Family School of Chai-CRJ - Sunday April 17th at 12:30 PM immediately following end of Religious School.

The Brotherhood is sponsoring this for the children and their parents. This means it is FREE for STUDENTS who attend the school and THEIR parents.

Contact Alex at asacharoff@cfl.rr.com.

RSVP to asacharoff@cfl.rr.com by 4/15/16

*Movie selection will be Inside Out which is a PG animated feature length film which came out in 2015 with characters voiced by folks such as Amy Poehler and Mindy Kaling.



Birthdays

On this special day, we wish you all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days to come! **Happy Birthday!**

MARCH 2016

1 Adam Cunningham
1 Leon Golden
1 Joel Slater
1 Jonathan Wolf
1 Mary Yasgur
2 Rika Albert
2 Shaina Beck
2 Jamie Chepenik
2 Zachary Croft
3 Julie Levitt
3 Reid Nicholson
4 Freda DeAguilera
4 Jill Kassander
4 Alex Maxwell
4 Karen Watzman
5 Dan Freeman
5 Mark Wolman
6 Mark Blechman
6 David Bloom
6 Lawrence Cohan
6 Jordan Cunningham
6 Sonja Nicholson
6 Wendy Stevens
6 Hank Wolf
7 Gwen Richman
7 Ryan Weiss
8 Antra Lang
8 Brett Scanlon
8 Mitchell Walk
8 Stephen Wolf
9 Matthew Brenner
9 Ilana Engel
9 Zachary Engel
9 Owen Lewis
9 Samantha Mintzer
9 Mark Pinsky
9 Skyla Silver
9 Sara Wolf
10 Eli Maulfair
10 Michael Maxwell
10 Laura Robinson
11 Tim Dunbrack
11 Annie Gittess
11 Robin Kunkel
11 Vicki Kushner
11 Allison Levie
11 Christopher Sauls
11 Doris Sunshine
12 Edward DeAguilera
12 Noah Falk
12 Peter Gold
12 Emily Lipkin
13 Alan Fidelo
13 Jason Goodowens
13 Leanne Rodriguez
13 Hayley Wilson
14 Kira Abelow
14 Rachel Sacks
15 Jeannette Leon Yanez
15 Jessica Scheff
15 Richard Sexton
16 Sandra Cohan
16 Robert Kennon
16 Andrea Zimbardi
17 Gloria Goldberg
18 Russell Keiner
18 Michael Rasmussen
18 Max Reis
18 Rachel Reis
19 Barbara Bernbaum

19 Jace Bornstein
19 Kayla Lewis
19 Sue Subin
19 Samuel Zusmann, Jr.
20 Rowan Bayer
20 Lynn Dictor
20 Lawrence Epstein
20 Lyndon Epstein
20 Robert Gold
20 Lindsey Goldberg
20 Brian Hoffman
20 Jennifer Landa
20 Madison Levin
20 Camy Schwam Wilcox
20 Lindsay Schwartz
20 John Shimkoski
20 Dolores Titen
21 Catherine Adler
21 Karen Knudsen
21 Judy Leavitt
22 Matitahu Braun
22 Randi Cunningham
22 Ryan Feinberg
23 Mark Blinderman
23 Maxwell Bogle
23 Lisa Goldmann
23 Michael Kancher
23 Grayson Stein
24 Lynne Bachrach
24 Shelly Ferrone
24 Jacqueline Gerber
24 Francine Haynes
24 Lawrence Kahn
24 Lauren Leavitt
24 Adele Mickenberg
24 Renee Sami
25 Tracey Dunbrack
25 Jonah Robinson
26 Thierry Brunschwig
26 Morton Kotler
26 Sam Potesman
26 Rebecca Schott
27 Stefanie Bluth
27 Elizabeth Brooks
27 Brian Morris
27 Eleazer Morris
27 Clifford Selsky
27 Steven Stack
28 George Adler
28 Andrew Bachrach
28 Claire Chepenik
28 Henry Schaffer
29 Arlene Mickenberg
29 Ava Shams
29 Ella Shams
30 Sofia Blumenfeld
30 Carole Levene
30 Ben Robinson
30 Marc Schwartzberg
31 Joshua Kalin
31 Aaron Kassander
31 Douglas McGovern

APRIL 2016

1 Adam Leavitt
1 Ethan Perelmutter
1 Floyd Sykora
1 Lilah Tanielian
1 Naomi Tanielian
1 Eric Wiener
2 Bob Caplan
2 David Gittess
2 Logan Hoffman
2 Sheryl Odza
2 Tom Thompson
2 Max Watzman
3 Sandra Fleishman
3 Robin Friedman
3 Sophie Henner
3 Barry Kaplan
3 Betty Kohn
3 Sandra Turner
3 Zachary Weinstock
3 Jonathan Wolf
4 Reid Berman
5 Audrey Brennan
5 Michelle Davis
5 Marilyn Eskin
5 Samantha Halperin
5 Amy Lipkin
6 Brianna Bayer
6 Luca Fiocco
6 Lee Lublin
6 Janet Rosenblatt
7 Wayne Dictor
7 Alex Sacharoff
7 Samantha Sexton
7 Talia Weiss
8 Stewart Bloom
8 Benjamin Burnstine
8 Matthew Dunbrack
8 Elana McGovern
8 Rachel McGovern
8 David Rasmussen
8 Jami Spector
9 Hannah Cooperman
9 Rebecca Cooperman
9 Debra Gold
9 Martin Plotkin
9 Cristian Santizo
10 Steven Barcus
10 Layla Kaplan
10 Levi Kaplan
10 Alison Peckett
10 Aaron Rasmussen
10 Renee Seltzer
10 Dana Sussmann Lewis
11 Arnold Bierman
11 Michael Henner
11 Angela Hull
11 Trudy Zarek
12 Lauren Goldsmith
12 Aaron Levin
12 Kaylah Ross
12 Ruth Schultz
13 Marc Bartnick
13 Jonathan Robinson
13 Paul Vilmos
14 Joyce Demers
14 Carys Joanna Levine
14 Lauren Morris

14 Alicia Silver
14 Caitlin Tabb
15 Marilyn Barr
15 Melissa Perry
15 Michelle Yeager
16 Alex Chatham
17 Michael Church
17 Vladimir Loscutoff
17 Susan Olsson
17 Arlene Seligman
18 Robin Angel
18 Alan Berman
18 Jessica Brannan
18 Jeffrey Friedman
18 Barbara Grossman
18 Eric Peisner
18 Shaina Spector
18 Benjamin Weinberg
19 Arine Albert
19 Judith Lukacs
19 Sean Niemi
20 Rebecca Anders
20 Madelyn Bedell
20 Linda Flower Gross
20 Neil Harrow
20 Jamie Hayes
20 Beth Kassander
20 Jon Mendelsohn
20 David Rosen
20 Judy Rosen
21 Karen Broussard
21 William MacLeod
21 Daniel Schick
21 Isabella Schwartzberg
22 Ashley Fleishman
22 Laura Grossman
22 Andrew Kuritzky
22 Pearl Metz
22 Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer
22 Pamela Resnick
23 Morgan Reich
23 Annette Rosch
23 June Solomon
23 Diego Weiser
24 Pierre Haskelson
24 Addison Kalin
24 Lawrence Lazarus
24 Valerie Lewis
24 Austin Seligman
24 Cathy Slung
25 Steven Brooks
25 Jeffrey Goldman
26 Jeremy Goldman
26 Lisa Levin
26 Clarann Mendo
26 Beverly Murphy
26 Sheila Slater
27 Brenda Fisher Wetmore
27 Charles Lehr
27 Michael Lublin
27 James Milligan
27 Jeffrey Weiss
28 Nathan Bedell
28 Barbara Borenstein
28 Jack Bovis
29 Elizabeth Barnes



Anniversaries

Joining with you in celebrating another year in love. **Happy Anniversary!**

MARCH 2016

1 Robert Shaw & Judy Doyle
1 Brian & Shana Margolis
3 Edward & Freda DeAguilera
5 Scott & Kristin Abramson
5 Elliot & Bonnie Schwartz
6 Robert & Elvia Birnholz
6 Ben & Audrey Hochstetter
8 Joe & Pam Alonso
12 Michael & Stacy Conrad
12 Mark & Cathy Lieblich
14 Steven & Diana Barcus
17 Jeffrey & Sonya Mandel
18 David & Jeanne Armbrust
18 Richard & Marilyn Greenhut
18 Jeffrey & Velaina Karon
19 James Wetmore & Brenda Fisher Wetmore
19 David & Susan Newman
21 Frank & Barbara Silverman
22 Paul & Gloria Goldberg
24 Michael & Hali Potesman
24 Michael & Lisa Slone
26 Allan & Karen Burnstine
28 Garrett & Jessica Scheff

APRIL 2016

1 Adam & Julia Berger
1 Mark & Jeannie Leavitt
1 Keith & Julie Levitt
1 Gary & Suzanne Salzman
4 Dan & Lynne Bachrach
5 Elliot & Robyn Cooperman
5 Seth & Carrie Miller
12 Cormac & Belinda Smith
13 Douglas & Donna McGovern
15 Len & Marilyn Goldman
18 Gary & Cindy Kalser
20 Gary & Dana Baumgarten
21 Paul & Lois Lilling
21 Jake & Jacqo Rappaport
22 Robert & Vicki Kushner
24 Mark & Ellen Defuso
25 Bob & Mary Ellen Caplan
25 John Shimkoski & Heidi Savage

April Birthdays continued

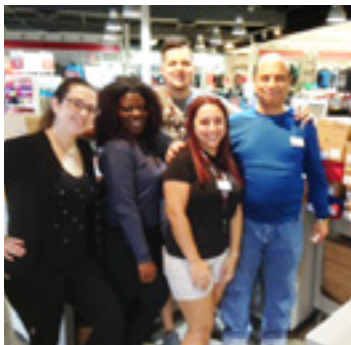
29 Alexis Lipkin
29 Vincent Long
29 Alfred Lorber
29 Ian Robinson
29 Whit Watson
29 Kevin Weiss
29 Jennifer Wilson
30 Rebecca Goldberg
30 Lillian Heller
30 Lisa Jacobson
30 Amy Steiner

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed please contact us so we can celebrate with you! Send information to:
Julie Begani at jbegani@crjorlando.org

Sneakers that Fit



YOU DID IT! We reached our Sneakers That Fit 2015 goal! Over 230 recipients were fitted with new shoes from either your donation of a pair of sneakers or generous dollars. This year we provided shoes for Hamilton Elementary School, Rock Lake Elementary School, Lake Weston Elementary School, Mending Hearts (provides affordable housing for low income families and disabled individuals), and New Hope for Grieving Children. The campaign began November 1 and lasted through December 5. Not only were shoes and funds collected through individuals, including the CRJ congregation and Temple Israel, but the CRJ Religious School as well. Dr. Sheryl Sacharoff reported that The Steinmetz



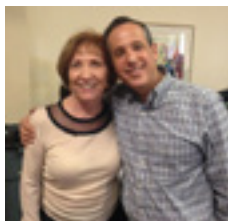
Family School of Chai families collected over \$400! A very big thank you to Valerie and Dana Sussman for assisting STF 2015 as the religious school liaisons. They graciously gave their time on Wednesdays and Sundays to meet parents in the drop off line to distribute cards and donation envelopes. Once the funds and shoe donations were tallied it was time to shop until we dropped at the The Reebok Outlet on International Drive. The staff there could not have been more helpful. A great team of sales associates, Masood, Shamar, Alexandra and David scurried around finding sizes, colors, great deals (the average cost per pair of sneakers was approximately \$25 after all of the discounts we were offered for this charity event) and the perfect fit for each applicant. In addition to the sneakers, socks were purchased in bulk and distributed along with the shoes at each venue. The shoes were presented to the recipients during the week of December 14. As you can see the entire experience was special as so many people worked together toward the success of Sneakers That Fit. Remember, you can make donations to this project all year round. Designate your donation to the Social Action Committee, Sneakers That Fit. The last detail, although far from the least, is to thank my dedicated committee.

Many thanks to Robin Angel, Judy Godorov, Sheryl Kurland, Susan Olsson, Bernice Schwartz, Sharon Silver and Cathy Swerdlow. Your time, effort and shopping expertise are invaluable to the success of this worthwhile project. Much gratitude from my heart and "sole."

Pam Levin, *Chairperson*



YES Luncheon Celebrating Cantor Jacki

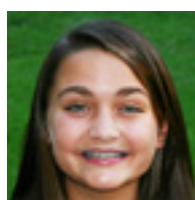




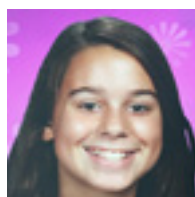
B'nai Mitzvah



Ruby Clair Albert, daughter of Dr. Matthew Albert and Molly Barnett, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 5, 2016. Ruby will be joined by her grandparents, Dr. Stephen and Carol Albert and Bill and Noel Barnett as well as her brother, sister and extended family and friends. Ruby is currently in 7th grade at Lake Highland Preparatory School, where she has played Braveheart Lacrosse for the last 2 seasons. In her free time she also enjoys baking, gymnastics and socializing with friends.



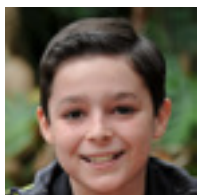
Elizabeth Brynne Watson, daughter of Whit and Tracey Watson and sister of Zachary, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 12, 2016. Ellie is a 7th grader at Trinity Preparatory School. Ellie has directed her interests at school towards acting, theater and student council. Family and friends as close as WinterPark and as far away as Norway will be celebrating with her in March. Ellie has loved working with her tutor Robin. Thank you to everyone who has supported Ellie through this year of study and growth.



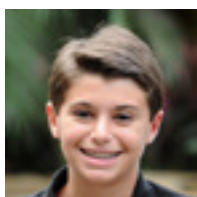
Stefanie Bluth, daughter of Jocelyn and Steven Bluth, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday March 19, 2016. Stefanie is an honor roll student 7th grader at Trinity Prep. She is a three-season athlete and loves all sports. She has a sense of humor beyond her years and is always fun to be around. Since moving from NY just 18 months ago, she has made great friends here in Florida and is excited to share her special day with them and with her loving family.



Logan Arthur Hoffman, son of Jennifer and Brian and brother of Ashlyn will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 2, 2016. Logan is a seventh grader in the Visual and Performing Arts magnet at Howard Middle School where he is in the BETA Club, performs in the wind ensemble playing the French horn and jazz band playing the alto saxophone. He loves playing soccer on the Howard Middle School team and for his competitive team at South Orlando Soccer. In his spare time he enjoys playing video games and hanging out with his friends and family. Logan has been volunteering his time between Meals on Wheels and the Coalition for the Homeless in downtown Orlando for several years. It is his way of helping those less fortunate. Logan is excited to be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with his family and friends. Go Dolphins!!



Jeremy Matthew Goldman, son of Ellen and Jeffrey, brother of Joshua and Jordan; and **Andrew Jacob Goldman**, son of Lisa and David and brother of Alexandra, will be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah on April 9.



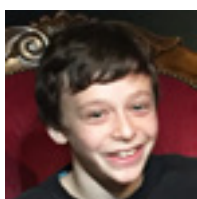
Jeremy is a seventh grader in the Pre-IB Program at Millennium Middle School. He plays the baritone in the school band. Jeremy travels with the Orlando City Soccer League and plays league hockey at the RDV in Maitland. Jeremy enjoys walking dogs and regularly takes care of pets in his neighborhood.

Andrew is a seventh grader at Lake Mary Preparatory School where he is a member of the Varsity Swim, JV Golf, Basketball and Track and Field Teams. Andrew also enjoys playing Trumpet in the Band and dancing in the G-Force half-time performances.

Andrew and Jeremy have created "Cousin's Replay for Kids" to help local children in need of sports equipment. We are looking forward to celebrating with friends and family from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Florida.



Maya Anderson, daughter of Doug and Karen Anderson, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Maya is in 7th grade at Glenridge Middle School where she plays violin in the school orchestra. Maya loves music and also plays the piano. She rows on the Winter Park Crew Middle School crew team. Maya is sensitive, caring, funny and smart and we are very proud of her. Maya looks forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with all her friends and family.



Matthew Bressler will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 16, 2016. He is the son of Nan Bressler and Jeff Bressler and brother of Elyse. Matthew is in the 7th grade at Maitland Middle School. He is in the Gifted Program and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. He is also a member of the Chamber Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble Band. Matthew recently received superior ratings in the Orange County Orchestra Solo and Ensemble. Matthew also volunteers weekly at the public library. Matthew enjoys playing and watching sports, playing the violin and clarinet, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. For his mitzvah project Matthew worked for the Center for Grieving Children planting a garden outside their facility and making donations. He is looking forward to sharing his Bar Mitzvah with family and friends.

Congratulations

to the many members of our congregation who have been honored for their philanthropy and commitment to Tikkun Olam

Adam Mendelsohn, son of Ronni and Jason Mendelsohn, was recognized by the Orlando Chapter of the American Heart Association for being Orange County Public Schools' top fundraiser in 2015's Jump Rope for the Heart. Adam, a third grader, raised over \$1,000 for last year's fundraiser at Lake Sybelia Elementary, and this February he jumped back into fundraising again this year.

The Jewish National Fund bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on longtime member **Chuck Steinmetz** at its first ever Orlando gala. Chuck is a prominent business and philanthropic leader in Central Florida, and we are fortunate that he has dedicated his time, his resources, and most importantly, his leadership to many of our local institutions including CRJ, the Orlando Science Center, the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, and the graduate business school at Rollins College. We all benefit from his support of the JNF as well because JNF's mission is to act as the caretaker of the land of Israel, on behalf of its owners - Jewish people everywhere.

Scott and Elyse Levitt, along with children Zak and Megan, are leading the community's emotional and financial support of Trinity Preparatory School student, John Michael Night. The high school senior suffered a brain stroke in mid-December and has since been diagnosed with Locked-In Syndrome, a condition which leaves the patient physically immobilized but fully cognizant. The Levitts are organizing fundraisers for John Michael's ongoing medical expenses and taken responsibility for communicating with his large community of supporters (there are over 4200 members of the Facebook page JohnMichaelStrong24). While the Nights are not members of the Jewish community, many of our congregants know John and his family through school, sports and business. In fact, the athletic director at Trinity is our very own Steven Bluth. Steven and his family, wife Jocelyn and daughters Nicole and Stefanie, joined our congregation last year, shortly after arriving in Orlando from New York.

In December, Orlando Magazine published its Best Doctor's list. Each year, local doctors are recognized by the national company Best Doctors, Inc. and featured in the pages of the local magazine. Our congregants, oncologist **Dr. Lee Zehngebot** and pediatrician **Dr. Cliff Selsky**, were honored.

Orlando Magazine publishes a list of its own compilation each summer of the area's Fifty Most Powerful People.

Jeffrey Miller and **Ted Maines** were both recognized for their individual and collective community involvement. Jeff just complete his term as board president of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida, and Ted

has served as the chair and now serves as a trustee on the Orange County Library System board. The couple regularly host fundraisers for arts, health and service organizations as well as political candidates.

We have so many members working to make the world a better place, and we are eager to feature your stories in this column.

Mazel Tov to **Ronni Mendelsohn** for co-chairing a very successful Choices 2016!

Todah Rabah to **Sammy Goldstein** for his exemplary work in the community and being honored by the Jewish Pavilion at their annual Gala on Sunday, March 13, 2016. We are so lucky to have you and Bill at CRJ!

Kinneret Council on Aging's (KCOA) named CRJ's beloved **Judy Godorov** and **Dr. Marvin Newman** as one of its 8 over 80. Yearly, KCOA recognizes eight community members over the age of eighty who make their mark through philanthropy and volunteerism. Judy and Marvin will be formally honored at a dinner on Sunday, February 28th at Kinneret Apartments. All who know Judy and Marvin and see the many ways in which they give back to our synagogue agree that this is a most deserved recognition.

Emery Rosenbluth, longtime CRJ member and attorney at Broad and Cassel, is the 2016 Recipient of the Orange County Bar Association's William Trickett, Jr. Professionalism Award. Emery has served on a number of professional, civic and public boards and has been recognized by peers who have consistently selected him as amongst the top commercial litigation attorneys in Orlando.

Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer on her election as ACC Vice President of Member Services and External Partnerships

Please share your good news and good deeds by emailing Elizabeth Bernbaum at elizabethbernbaum@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities at CRJ

An Invitation from Cathy Lieblich

As Vice President for Volunteerism and Congregant Engagement on the CRJ Board of Directors, my goal is to get to know you, your interests and skills and to help connect you with other congregants and to CRJ as your congregational family. If you think you might want to get more involved in CRJ, please call me at 321-277-7309.





CRJ Gift Shop

Purim, Passover Coming soon!!!

Groggers and masks, new beautiful seder plate, matza and afikomin covers by Yair Emanuel. Many more seder plates to choose from.

New Stock: amazing necklaces designed by artist Jackie Olineck, Chai, Star and Hamsa necklaces from Copa Judaica, Wooden Tzedakah Boxes.

All proceeds are used for purchases or donations to CRJ, CRJ Teen Groups and Steinmetz School of Chai. A large variety of all types of gift items are always available.



Hours: Sunday Religious School Days- 9:15am -12:45pm
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday (9am - 5pm), Friday (9am - 3pm)
 Please call before coming so a staff member will be ready to assist you

INVITATIONS BY SISTERHOOD

CONTACT:
 Helena Becker
 407-221-3928
 hbecker@vol.com
 or
 Beverly Smith
 407-461-4663
 thepink@hotmail.com
 Flexible appointment times

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WHO DO YOU CONTACT?

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Accountant:
Jerry Kaesberg

Maintenance Supervisor:
Michael Velez

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Care Team (help with dr visits, etc)
CRJ Office 407-645-0444

Hospital Visits:
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Harold Landey, hlandey@earthlink.net

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Volunteers:
Cathy Lieblich, clieblich@me.com

To receive **EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS** of events at CRJ, contact program director, **407-645-0444** or **jbegani@crjorlando.org**

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm Mah Jongg	2 4pm School of Chai 7:15pm Rosh Chodesh	3 11:30am Sr. Board 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm ABM	4 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6pm Matzo Ball Soup Dinner 7pm 3rd & 4th Grade Shabbat	5 Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Albert 10am Shabbat Service
6 9:30am School of Chai 1st Grade Mishpacha Day 9:30am Sisterhood—Blanket Making 9:45am Jews in America 1pm YEP	7 6:30pm Hebrew II 7:30pm Nosh of Judaism	8 5:30pm Sisterhood Meeting	9 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai 7pm Board of Directors Mtg.	10 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm ABM	11	12 Bat Mitzvah of Ellie Watson 10am Shabbat Service
13 Daylight Savings Time (Forward) 9:30am School of Chai School Purim Program	14 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism	15 11am Babies and Blocks 12:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Mah Jongg	16 4pm School of Chai 7pm Program Council Mtg.	17 12pm Seniors Program (League of Women Voters) 7pm ABM	18 7pm Shabbat Service	19 Bat Mitzvah of Stefanie Bluth 10am Shabbat Service
20 No School	21 9:30am Cooking for the Homeless 5:45pm Serving the homeless	22	23 Purim No School 12pm Torah Study 5:30pm Megillah Reading	24 7pm ABM	25 6pm Shabbat Service	26 10am Shabbat Service 10am Shabbat Yoga
27 No School	28	29	30 12pm Torah Study No School	31		



Join us for Shabbat Yoga

March 26 and May 7 at 10am

Yoga/Yuj means "union" or "yoke", to join together with ourselves and others. Let's come together for a relaxing, healing yoga practice aligning body and breath and steeped in two traditions. Meditation and discussion to follow.

This Hatha Yoga Class will focus on breathing and creating space within ourselves for something new. We will explore gentle movement linked with breath interspersed with some more optional challenging poses that can be modified. Yoga is a non-competitive practice and all levels are welcome to participate. Mats will be provided.

"Yoga has less to do with what you can do with your body and more to do with the happiness that unfolds from realizing your full potential" If you would like more information about the Shabbat Yoga Experience at CRJ, please contact Cantor Jacki at jrawiszer@crjorlando.org.



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6pm Israeli Dinner 7pm 3rd and 4th Grade Shabbat	2 Bar Mitzvah of Logan Hoffman 10am Shabbat Service
3 9:30am School of Chai 9:45pm Hot Topic: End of Life Discussion	4 6:30pm Hebrew III 7pm Great Stories in the Torah	5 5:30pm Sisterhood Mtg. 6pm Mah Jongg	6 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai	7 11am Sr. Board 7pm ABM	8 7pm Shabbat Service	9 6am: Shabbat Sunrise Chant B'nai Mitzvah of Andrew and Jeremy Goldman 10am Shabbat Service
10 9:30am School of Chai Kindergarten Mishpacha Day	11 6pm: Women's Seder 7pm Great Stories in the Torah	12	13 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai 7pm Board of Directors Mtg.	14 7pm ABM	15 7pm Shabbat Service	16 B'nai Mitzvah of Maya Anderson & Matthew Bressler 10am Shabbat Service 7:30pm A Night in the Tropics to Honor Rabbi
17 9:30am School of Chai 9:45pm Abraham Lincoln and the Jews 12:30pm Brotherhood Pizza and a Movie	18 9:30am Cooking for the Homeless 5:45pm Serving the homeless 6:30pm Hebrew III 7pm Great Stories in the Torah 7pm HHD Rehearsal	19 6pm Mah Jongg 11am Babies and Blocks	20 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai	21 12pm Seniors Program (Jewish History in US) 7pm ABM	22 1st Night Passover Seder No Shabbat Service	23 10am Shabbat Service 6pm CRJ 2nd night Seder
24 9:30am School of Chai	25 6:30pm Hebrew III 7pm Great Stories in the Torah	26	27 4pm School of Chai	28 7pm ABM	29 6pm Shabbat Service	30 10am Shabbat Service

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February, please help us say thank you!



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STAR WARS
the
Purim Spiel

Save the date for a Star Wars the Purim Spiel!
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 6:30 PM,
includes a pizza dinner.

RSVP for the dinner at www.crjorlando.org

Would you like to join Rabbi Engel, Cantor Jacki, Dr. Sacharoff and Michael Kanher in the cast of this fun new purimspiel???? No experience necessary! Minimal rehearsals!

Please sign up with Annie at ahernandez@crjorlando.org by March 4 if you are interested.

Be Happy It's Adar and May the Force be With You!!!!

*An afternoon of
beautiful music*



*to soothe your soul and enliven
your senses, featuring...*

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Matitahu Braun and Holly Small
Sunday May 22, 2016 at 3:00 PM
Congregation of Reform Judaism

(More details of the program will be provided later)



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- PURCHASING AN AD IN THE TRIBUTE BOOK
- MAKING A DONATION IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND

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For more information, please contact **Michael Kanher** at 407-645-0444 or visit www.crjorlando.org