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OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY 2018-2019

5779

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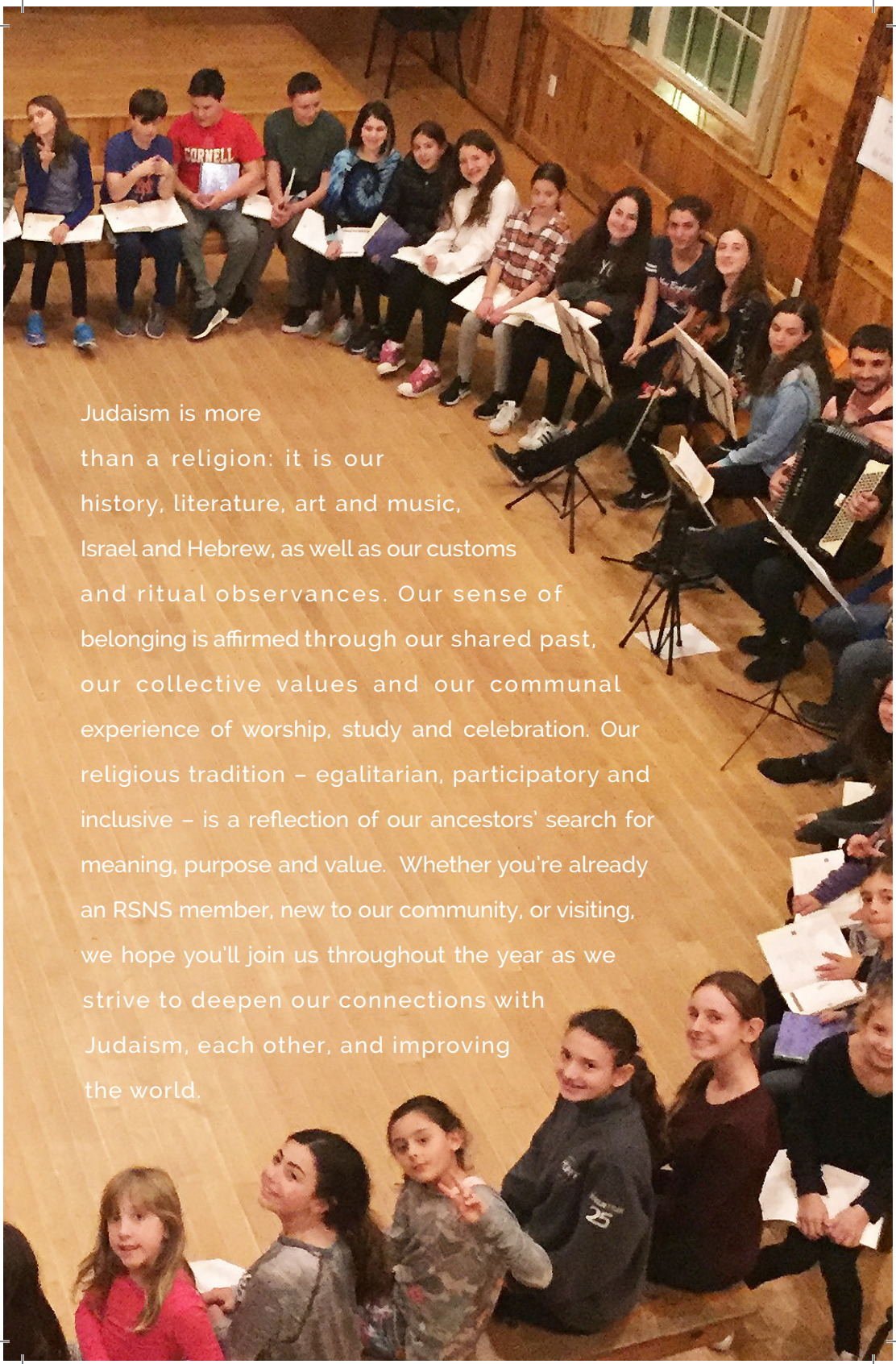
RSNS

Jewish Life
Celebrated

Ashokan Trip
12/14 – 12/16
Grades 3-6



Judaism is more than a religion: it is our history, literature, art and music, Israel and Hebrew, as well as our customs and ritual observances. Our sense of belonging is affirmed through our shared past, our collective values and our communal experience of worship, study and celebration. Our religious tradition – egalitarian, participatory and inclusive – is a reflection of our ancestors' search for meaning, purpose and value. Whether you're already an RSNS member, new to our community, or visiting, we hope you'll join us throughout the year as we strive to deepen our connections with Judaism, each other, and improving the world.

Visit
rsns.org
for more
programming
info

rsns.org | 516.627.6274

Pssst

Want to know the secret of our thriving community?

Some say it's our award-winning Gan Shalom Nursery School, our innovative Synagogue School or our enthusiasm for life-long Jewish learning.

Some say it's our relationship with the clergy. Some say it's the clergy themselves. Their humor, good cheer, knowledge, wisdom, "yes" attitude, and commitment to us and our families.

Many insist it's our warm spirit of inclusiveness or our belief in the principle that all people deserve equal rights and opportunities. To others, it's our commitment to social action, to the environment and to Israel.

Most, though, have their own personal reasons and they'd be available to share those with you and to hear what you're looking for in a Jewish community.

Please join us at one of our many experiences listed in this booklet. Contact the Synagogue to schedule a visit.

Annual Congregational Meeting 6/2, 5:15PM

Contents

RSNS
RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUE OF THE NORTH SHORE

Programs are open to non-members unless otherwise stated.

Shalom Shabbat
Monthly
9:00-9:45AM

Young

We provide a safe, cozy, stimulating and nurturing child-responsive environment in which teachers and clergy are sensitive to developmental stages of young children and to each child as an individual. With many and varied developmentally appropriate materials available, the children learn through play with one another. **Contact Laura Reich, Gan Shalom Director, for days, times, an application and additional information at 516.627.0257/GanShalom@rsns.org.**

GAN SHALOM / COME PLAY WITH ME

1 - 2 Year Olds

Tuesdays, 9:15 - 10:30AM, 10:45AM - 12:00PM

Children along with their parents/caregivers play, paint, paste, sing and share snacks. **Starts January, 2019.**

GAN SHALOM / NURSERY SCHOOL

1.9 Years – 5 Year Olds

This program offers a quality Jewish preschool experience in a safe, relaxed and nurturing environment. We believe in fostering each child's natural curiosity, imagination, problem solving skills and creativity. Children are encouraged to experiment with a variety of materials while participating in individual and group activities. The curriculum includes story time, music, art, cooking, movement, the celebration of Shabbat and Jewish holidays, and more.

GAN SHALOM / SUMMER PROGRAM

1.9 Years – 5 Year Olds

This program is the perfect time to help your child transition into the pre-school environment. It offers children a variety of activities appropriate for their age and development. Children play indoors in air-conditioned classrooms, and outdoors where sprinklers and a water slide are available. Special activities are planned for each week and include Red, White and Blue, Under the Sea, Pajama Day and Crazy Hat Day.

GAN SHALOM / BEFORE & AFTER CARE

3 – 5 Year Olds

Monday - Friday, 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Our all-day program wraps around our traditional nursery school classes and includes indoor and outdoor gym playtime, afternoon snack, story time and art.

SHALOM SHABBAT with Cantor Eric & Yoga Jen

Birth - 5 Year Olds

Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:45AM

One Saturday a month, our youngest children, along with their parent/grandparent/caregiver, celebrate Shabbat with challah and juice, songs, stories, and movement. Both Gan Shalom families and non-members are invited. **Dates: 9/22, 10/13, 11/17, 12/8, 1/12, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1.**

PJ LIBRARY with Morah Miriam and Our Clergy

Birth - 8 Year Olds

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00PM

PJ Library® JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

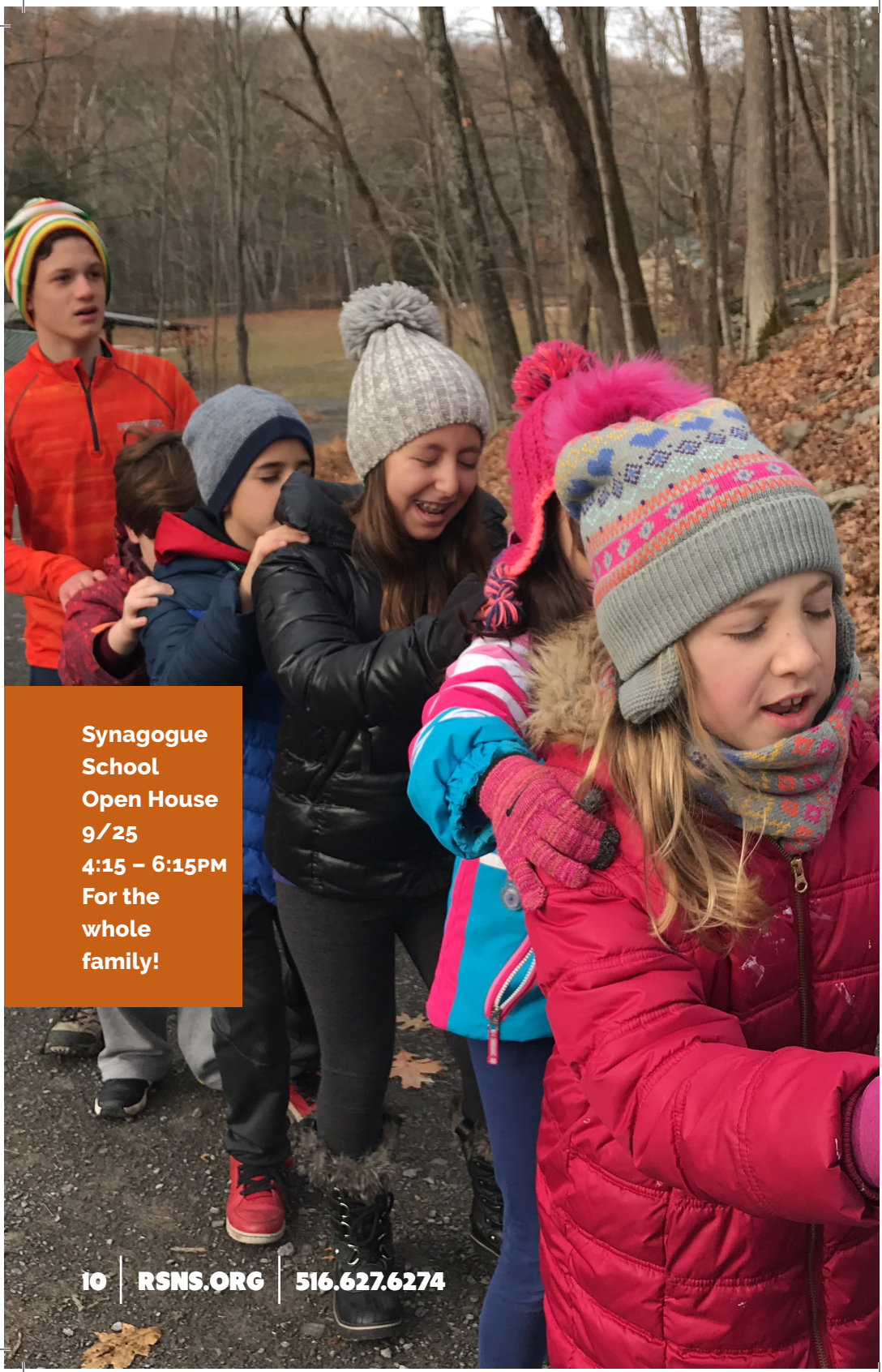
Join our PJ Family! The RSNS clergy and Gan Shalom Nursery School partner with PJ Library (a national program) to fill your lives with Jewish songs and books. Enrolled families receive Jewish-themed books monthly through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The synagogue also offers monthly PJ Library programs which celebrate Jewish holidays with crafts, storytelling, music and a pizza/salad dinner. All at no cost to you :) **Dates at RSNS: 9/26, 11/7, 1/23, 2/27, 4/17, 5/8; at Dolphin Bookshop: 12/5, time TBD.**

FAMILY HAVUROT supervised by Rabbi Jodie

Funded by UJA Federation of New York

Join a Family Havurah! Each Havurah is a small group of four to six families with children/grandchildren birth to 18. We strive to connect participants to each other and Judaism through a home-based program that meets five times a year. We pair you with other family units OR you can make your own group. Non-members and both traditional Jewish and interfaith families are welcome. Each Family Havurah is assigned a master teacher, (Miriam or Solomon) who mentors the Havurah as it engages in Jewish ritual, holidays, stories and learning.

Camp Havaya Presentation at RSNS 1/22 6:30PM



Synagogue School Open House
9/25
4:15 – 6:15PM
For the whole family!

Synagogue School

Children build community within their age groups and come together in the study of Torah, Jewish Values and Acts of Ethical Kindness. Through song, prayer and stories they deepen their knowledge of Hebrew. We teach Torah as a living document that serves not only as a record of our people's experiences, but as a blueprint for our lives today. Our synagogue school is integrated into our larger synagogue community and draws upon its resources. We seek to create a caring community within our school which reflects our congregation. **Contact Rabbi Jodie for days, times an application and additional information at 516.627.6274 / RabbiJodie@rsns.org.**

KINDERGARTEN, FIRST GRADE/ALEF
Thursdays, 4:15 - 6:15PM

We join in song and prayer with our youngest students, welcoming them into the Synagogue School learning community. Through a holiday-based curriculum, Hebrew as a living language, and family involvement, we integrate our youngest learners into the larger RSNS community. Each family may participate in the class by providing dinner for the students and by bringing a special ritual object from home for show and tell. **Start date 9/13.**

SECOND - SIXTH GRADE/BET – VAV Members Only
Families choose one of the two following educational options:
Option 1. SHABBAT SCHOOL Start date 9/8.
Tuesdays, 4:15 - 6:15PM, Friday Evening or Saturday Morning

This two-day-a-week option addresses a desire for direct parental involvement in your child's Jewish education and fosters Shabbat learning. On Tuesdays, students receive Hebrew instruction and attend school community programs including Tefillah Breira (electives) in groups with the Tuesday/Thursday students. The second day of attendance is either a Friday evening or a Saturday morning. One Friday evening each month (when family services are held), students engage in "classroom" activities from 6:00-7:25PM. At 7:30PM parents join their children for Family Services. The remaining sessions meet on Saturday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00AM and include Torah study and services.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Option 1. SHABBAT SCHOOL cont.

One Saturday a month is designated as a B'Yahad (Together) Service with Cantor Eric and Rabbi Jodie. A parent is required to attend the B'Yahad Service with their child. For the first hour, two simultaneous Torah study groups are held - one for adults and one for children, followed by a one-hour family Shabbat service. Our community is invited to attend both the adult Torah study and family service. **Start date: 9/8.**

Option 2. Tuesdays/Thursdays, 4:15 - 6:15PM

Tuesdays are for Hebrew instruction and school community programs including Tefilla Breira* (electives). On Thursdays, the focus is on Torah, Tefilla (prayer service), Jewish Values and Acts of Ethical Kindness. **Start date: 9/6.**

Tefilla Breira (prayer electives) or "Breirot"

Students have a chance to try something new by focusing on a particular type of prayer activity. They explore different ways to access prayer, for example, through storytelling, social action, yoga, Israeli dancing and creative writing sessions led by our staff.

KIDS' CHOIR with Cantor Eric (optional) Members only
Tuesdays, 6:15 - 6:30PM

The Kids' Choir is open to all synagogue school students in grades gimmel-vav. Kids learn contemporary Shabbat music including Camp Havaya (aka Camp JRF/NFTY) tunes, folk songs and other popular melodies. Kids' Choir sings at every Friday evening family service, and joins the adult choir for a special musical service in the winter. The choir also performs at nursing homes and at community holiday events**. Start date: 10/2.**

OR HADASH with Cantor Eric and our Shinshinim
Grades 4 - 6, Saturdays, 7:00 - 9:30PM

Our junior youth group is called Or Hadash (New Light). Participants get together for monthly ice cream Havdalah movie nights, and take a trip to volunteer at a Jewish soup kitchen in NYC. **Dates: 10/13, 11/17, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 5/18.**

ASHOKAN RETREAT

Grades 3 – 6, Friday 12/14 – 16

At Ashokan we experience Shabbat together. We spend time outside hiking, connecting with nature, and playing games through a Jewish lens. It is an opportunity for new bonds, and the deepening of friendships.

Our B'NAI MITZVAH Program

Members Only

We understand that young adults become b'nai mitzvah within the context of family and community. Consequently, each b'nai mitzvah family has an opportunity to involve themselves with Torah study and in enhancing the Shabbat morning service. Each member of our clergy team has a part in guiding our b'nai mitzvah and their families in their endeavors. This holistic approach to b'nai mitzvah reflects the primacy of community in Reconstructionist Judaism.

TUTORING Cantor Eric is responsible for assisting our b'nai mitzvah in acquiring the skills necessary to participate in services Friday night and Saturday morning. He meets with each student weekly, determining their abilities and encouraging them to be the best they can be.

FAMILY D'VAR TORAH Rabbi Jodie is the family guide to the Torah portion of the week for each family. After an initial home visit with Jodie, the family develops its interpretation of the Torah portion, which is presented to the congregation on Shabbat morning.

READINGS Rabbi Lee enables each family to bring themselves to the Shabbat morning experience by helping them to edit a supplement of readings of their choice to complement the many themes found in the service.

KADIMA with Rabbi Jodie, Cantor Eric and Solomon

Members only

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:00PM, includes pizza dinner

Our b'nai mitzvah meet with one another weekly for a class directed to developing a Jewish identity. Students are joined by their parents once a month. Beginning with a day-long family retreat (9/15), we form both a spiritual and a learning community where b'nai mitzvah students and their parents encounter Judaism through the eyes of the women, men and children who have helped shape our heritage. **Start date: 9/25.**

SHINSHINIM coordinated by Rabbi Jodie

In partnership with the Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center (SJJCC), the Long Island Chapter of the Israeli Scouts and several area synagogues. We receive two "Shinshinim" – Israeli High School graduates who spend their gap year with us and other local partnering institutions before they commence their mandatory military service in Israel. The Shinshinim program's mission is to bring Israel closer to Jewish communities on Long Island, to foster cross-cultural understanding, and to nurture love of and pride in Israel, particularly for our youth. These two wonderfully dynamic Israelis will each teach a class in our synagogue school and have other opportunities to interact and contribute to our community.

Teens

The RSNS teen program provides many points of entry into synagogue and Jewish life. Our post-Kadima young adults connect with their Jewish identity and community by working with younger students and adult seniors, and participating in social action activities, experiential learning and fun adventures. Bar or bat mitzvah is only the beginning!

ADOPT A SURVIVOR with Rabbi Jodie

Members only

Post-Kadima Year

This program was established by Irving Roth, director of the Holocaust Resource Center at Temple Judea of Manhasset. Mr. Roth has organized a network of Holocaust survivors to serve as "adoptees" for our eighth grade students. These connections provide a vital link to the events of the Holocaust in a time when there are fewer survivors living to tell their own stories. The process begins with conversations between survivor and adopter. Through a series of meetings held at RSNS under Rabbi Jodie's supervision, the students become "surrogate survivors," committed to learning and re-telling their survivors' stories to the next generation. Students in this program agree to speak about their survivors in the year 2045, the 100th anniversary of the camps' liberation. The initial session consists of a formal educational piece to provide students with general background information. In subsequent sessions, students meet the survivors and talk with them in detail. Finally, students present their survivors' stories to the Synagogue School and during RSNS' Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial) service. **Parents are welcome, but not required to attend, and take turns providing food for each session. One Wednesday/Month, 5:30 - 7:00PM, 9/12, 10/17, 11/28, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10. Yom HaShoah program during Synagogue School on 4/30. Yom HaShoah RSNS service 5/1, 7:30PM.**

New!

ISRAEL FOR TEEN FAMILIES with Cantor Eric and Solomon

Grades 8-12 (plus parents) Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00PM

In this three-part program, teens and their parents will unpack Israel's complicated history, current situation, and various perceptions on college campuses and beyond. Cantor Eric and Solomon will lead these essential conversations with our teen families, utilizing resources from Rabbi Jodie's Israel Education Fellowship, Qushiyot. **Dates: 10/16, 12/11, 2/12.**

BROS HODESH with Cantor Eric

Grades 8 - 12, Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00PM

Being a boy is not always so simple. In this boys-only group, we explore what being a man – specifically, a Jewish man – means, and what we can learn about ourselves and each other. Through activities, games, popular culture, food, discussions and group experiences, we are just guys. **Dates: 10/2, 10/30, 11/27, 12/18, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, 4/16, 5/28, 6/9 (Summer Sunday "BroBQ").**

GIRLS ROSH HODESH with Rabbi Jodie

Grades 8 – 12, Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00PM

This program is based on the Jewish tradition of women's New Moon celebrations to build self-esteem, Jewish identity, leadership skills, and friendship networks of adolescent girls. The monthly meetings provide a supportive environment where girls explore the social and cultural issues they encounter as they become adults and derive their own authentic Jewish values in response to the challenges they face. The small groups are designed to provide a celebratory, empowering setting in which girls can support each other in growing and learning, while having lots of fun. The program's success is due, in part, to the participatory mixture of discussing issues, traditions, and role models, as well as making crafts, writing stories, rejoicing with song and dance, socializing, and munching. **Dates: 10/2, 10/30, 11/27, 12/18, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, 4/16, 5/28, 6/11 (Dinner).**

HUDSON
apogee

New!

TEEN SHABBAT coordinated by Solomon Hoffman

THE JEWISH EDUCATION PROJECT

Grades 8 - 12, Fridays, 6:00 – 8:00PM

Four times this year, our teens will welcome Shabbat together in the comfort of a participant's home with an evening of eating, singing, reflecting and hanging out together! Teens are invited to contribute by playing an instrument or sharing poetry. This FREE program is made possible by a microgrant from the Jewish Education Project. The Jewish Education Project is the only organization that works across denominations and institutional settings within the NY Jewish community, to help educators develop innovative ways to engage and educate Jewish kids, teens and families. **Dates: 11/30, 1/25, 3/8, 5/10.**

MADRICHIM coordinated by Rabbi Jodie

Members only

Post-Kadima Year – 12th Grade

Madrichim (Aides) are given assignments which include assisting in a classroom, or in the office, Hebrew tutoring, or working one-on-one with students. During training sessions Madrichim enhance their Synagogue School experience through continued learning about Judaism, leadership, Jewish education, professional conduct and teaching techniques. **Madrichim have the option of working Tuesday and/or Thursday 4:00 - 6:30PM, once a month on Friday 6:00 - 8:30PM, and/or Saturdays 9:00 - 11:00AM. Madrichim can be paid or earn community service hours. Learning sessions are 9/4 from 7:00 – 8:00PM, and 11/20, 1/15, 3/19, 5/21 from 6:30 - 8:00PM.**

KESHER HADASH with Cantor Eric

Grades 8 - 12

Our co-ed youth group is called Kesher Hadash (New Connections). Teens have the opportunity to connect once a month by engaging in fun, informal events such as social action, holiday experiences, trips, and more. **Dates: 9/29 (Sukkathon), 10/28 (Mitzvah Day), 12/8 (Hanukah FryFest), 1/21 (MLK Day of Service), 3/31 (Event TBD), 5/5 (Teens at IsraelFest). Teen Trip timing and location TBD.**

BETTER TOGETHER
with Cantor Eric and Solomon
Members only
Grades 10 – 12 & Adult Senior Residents of North Shore Towers
Sundays 5:00-7:00PM

Teens and seniors will engage in a sharing of perspectives, experiences, opinions and wisdom on a different social justice topic each month. They will utilize a curriculum created by renowned educator and former executive of Avoda Arts, Deb Krivoy. Seniors and teens will also collaborate on a culminating final project to be presented at our annual congregational meeting in June. Dinner is included. RSNS gratefully acknowledges Legacy Heritage for inviting our synagogue to participate in its Better Together program. **Teens only meeting at RSNS, 9/12, 6 – 7PM. Students and Adult Seniors: Sundays, 5 – 7PM at North Shore Towers, 10/21, 11/18 (7-9PM), 12/9, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/19. Final presentation at RSNS' Congregational meeting 6/2, 5:15PM.**

BetterTogether

SPIRITUAL MENTORSHIP with Solomon
Grades 8 - 12

We are excited to offer a spiritual mentorship program for teens at RSNS. Educator Solomon Hoffman will mentor and Rabbi Jodie will supervise the program.

Spiritual mentorship is an opportunity to explore personal experiences and challenges through the lens of Jewish texts and teachings. During individual meetings, we will explore how to find holiness and faith in both difficult and joyous moments. This is not therapy or counseling. Instead of focusing on solving problems, we'll look to Jewish sources as a perspective on the challenges and transitions of the teenage years. Solomon meets with each participant over coffee/frozen yogurt. **Contact Solomon to setup your first appointment at Solomon@rsns.org.**

Congregational Dinner
Fridays, 6:30PM
Adults $10, Kids FREE
10/19, 2/8, 3/22, 5/31

Adults

Although Jewish sacred texts are millennia old, the Jewish People has evolved. Similarly each of us change in the course of our own lives. Adult studies give a passageway into Jewish tradition and culture within the context of the classroom and through shared experiences. Continue to explore your Jewish journey forth with the offerings that follow.

WHAT MAKES US HUMAN? with Rabbi Lee

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00PM

William Shakespeare remarked, "What a piece of work is man." For Rabbi Lee's monthly evening seminar, he will consider what makes human beings unique in our Jewish tradition. Beginning with classical writings -- biblical, Talmudic and medieval -- he will move on to modern Jewish existentialist philosophers -- Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber and Mordecai Kaplan. One need not attend every session to benefit from the course. **Dates: 10/23, 11/20, 12/11, 1/15, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/21.**

TUNEFUL TUESDAYS with Cantor Eric and Solomon

Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:30PM

Do you love to sing? Would you like to meet new people and also enrich musical participation in services and other events? Join choir members, old and new, as we put the TOGETHER in singing together. NO Hebrew or music reading skills necessary. **Dates: 7/17, 7/31, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 10/9, 10/23, 11/16, 11/20, 12/11, 1/8, 1/15, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25.**

WOMEN'S ROSH HODESH with Rabbi Jodie

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00PM

All women of our congregation are welcome to join us as we study and learn from each other. We examine traditional religious rituals and life cycle events and reflect on how they continue to meet the needs of women today. Current issues of importance to us are also discussed. Women of all ages are welcome. **Dates: 9/12, 10/10, 11/7, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 5/22.**

MEN'S GROUP

Members only

Second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 - 9:00PM

The Men's Group is a monthly vehicle for the men of our congregation to socialize and discuss topics of mutual, personal and general interest. Rabbi Lee, a member of the group, participates in the discussions. Members socialize, learn more about one another and develop friendships. Men of all ages are welcome. **Contact congregant Seymour Weinstein at MensGroup@rsns.org.**

GENERATIONS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Wednesdays, 7:30PM

The children and grandchildren of survivors join together to share stories and the history of their family members. We discover our common bonds and more fully understand the impact of the Holocaust on our lives. Discussions depend upon the needs of participants. In the past they have included action steps to deal with anti-Semitism, how to learn more about our families' past, and the question of reparations. **Contact congregant Dinah Kramer at Generations@rsns.org Dates: 11/28, 3/27, 5/29.**

THE SANDWICH GENERATION FROM ALL SIDES facilitated by either Audrey Bernstein, Carrie Diamond, Dr. Art Mones, Dr. Eileen Rosendahl or Dr. Sandy Wolkoff

Members only

Thursdays, 11:30AM – 12:45PM

Join us the first Thursday of each month as fellow congregants and outside experts share their wisdom on the joys and challenges of every phase of life's journey. This ongoing group meets to support one another and discuss a wide range of concerns such as navigating the needs of grown children, exploring life as empty nesters, building community after retirement, mindful living and caring for aging parents. **Contact congregant Carol Blumenthal at Engaging@rsns.org. Dates: 10/4, 11/1, 12/6, 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6.**

Women's Pesach Seder 4/7 4:00PM

EAT, READ, TALK with Rabbi Lee
Thursdays 12:30 - 2:00PM

We read articles of Jewish interest from a variety of sources. Subjects include politics, the arts, travel and the state of the State of Israel. Bring a dairy lunch. We'll supply the beverages and the articles to be discussed. **Dates: 10/18, 11/8, 12/20, 1/17, 2/14, 3/21, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13.**

BIBLE SEMINAR with Rabbi Lee
Thursdays, 8:00 - 9:30PM

Come and dip a cup into the sea that is the Hebrew Bible, an anchor of the Jewish People for the last two millennia. Our particular study is without end, and requires no previous experience. This year begins with the Book of Daniel, one of the most diverse and curious books in the Hebrew Bible. Don't be intimidated. This class is for those without any biblical background and for those who know a great deal. **Dates: 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27, 1/10, 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 5/2, 5/16.**

New! **INTERFAITH BIBLE SEMINAR**
Thursdays from 8:00-9:30PM

Join us as we share perspectives with the United Methodist Church of Port Washington and Temple Beth Israel in the study of Biblical text. We will concentrate on four Biblical personalities: Ruth, Esther, Daniel and Ezra. This is a joint clergy study. **Dates: 10/25 at RSNS, 11/1 at TBI, 11/8 at RSNS and 11/15 at UMC.**

SHABBAT YOGA with Rabbi Jodie (RYS-200 Certified)
Fridays, 10:00 - 11:15AM

Experience Shabbat through movement; connecting body, mind and soul. Good for all levels. Adults and post b'nai mitzvah teens, as well as non-members are welcome. Bring your own mat and yoga props (we have a few if you forget yours). Wear comfortable workout attire. **Every Friday, excluding Holidays. Please check our website calendar to confirm dates.**

YIDDISH READING GROUP

Fridays, 10:00 - 11:30AM

If you have an affection for Yiddish and its significance in our culture and daily life, this is the group for you. Whether you know a little Yiddish or are an expert, the group is glad to help you with the literature, poetry, readings from the Daily Forward, short stories and songs, which are read in Yiddish and discussed in English. **Contact congregant Jerry Bloom at Yiddish@rsns.org.**

ZIONISM SEMINAR with Rabbi Lee

Saturdays, 12:00 - 1:30PM

Join us to learn about the history of the modern State of Israel. We read original documents from a variety of sources to help understand how Israel became what it is today. Sources include memoirs, ideological treatises, positions of significant historical figures, and government and international documents. Rabbi Lee provides background information and clarification, which frequently lead to lively discussions. Each class is complete within itself, so drop by as often as you wish. **Dates: 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27, 5/18, 6/1 .**

CANTOR'S DINNER AND STUDY SESSION

Fridays, 7:00 - 8:00PM (dinner at 6:30PM)

Join Cantor Eric for Shabbat dinner and engage in lively conversation and the study of diverse topics. Each year there is a specific theme. **Dinner is at the synagogue at 6:30PM. Price varies depending on the menu. You are welcome to skip dinner and come for FREE for the 7:00 – 8:00PM study session. Shabbat evening services follow. Dates: 10/12, 11/16, 12/21, 1/11, 2/15, 3/15, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14.**

TORAH STUDY with Rabbi Jodie and Cantor Eric

Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:15AM

Study the Parshat HaShavua (Torah portion of the week). **Dates: 9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/1, 1/12, 2/9, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11.**

BETTER TOGETHER with Cantor Eric and Solomon
Grades 10 – 12 & Adult Senior Residents of North Shore Towers
Sundays 5:00 - 7:00PM
See page 19 for dates and program description.

"There's no place like RSNS for a warm, welcoming, family-oriented, intellectually stimulating Jewish experience."

Community

MEMBER2MEMBER

Member2Member is the product of a congregant collaboration designed to keep RSNS members connected with one another.

- Get recommendations and reviews of doctors, tradespeople, dog walkers and vacation spots
- Give away or sell cherished possessions or acquire new ones
- Find baby care, a new nanny or a home health aide for you or a loved one
- And so much more…

Even if we aren't buying, selling, visiting a doctor or doing new construction, M2M is a fun and vital way to feel a part of what is going on in our community.

GALA Save The Date: June 15

RSNS HOUSE BAND

Friday Evenings

Our house band includes many talented congregants. If you're a musician and would like the opportunity to play at Friday Night Shabbat Services, **contact Solomon Hoffman at Solomon@rsns.org**. Rehearsals and performances are coordinated based on availability.

ISRAEL

Our congregation seeks to provide a variety of opportunities to engage with Israel, in all its historical, political and cultural complexity. From a study of primary source documents, to a chat with the Israeli teens who work as shinshinim in our schools, to a spirited Friday night conversation, to a celebration of contemporary Israeli music, our diversity in Israel engagement mirrors the diversity of our members' relationships to Israel.

ZIONISM SEMINAR with Rabbi Lee
Saturdays, 12:00 - 1:30PM
See page 25 for program description.

ISRAELI FILM SERIES
Saturdays, 7:30PM, Nosh & Schmooze
8:00PM Film and Discussion
A three-part exploration of Israeli cinema and culture led by Israeli congregant Orly Dotan. Films and film clips will be watched as catalysts to conversations about elements of contemporary Israeli society. **Dates: 11/3, 2/2, 3/30.**

CAFE ISRAEL
Join us for a night of Israeli food, dancing, and music in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day). **Date: 5/9 6:15PM.**

SHINSHINIM **See page 14 for program description.**

SOCIAL ACTION
Our congregation is passionately committed to Tikkun Olam (Repairing our World). This includes social justice advocacy, direct service and volunteering, environmental responsibility, raising awareness and tolerance, and finding points of connection with diverse groups with whom we can partner to change our world for the better! Watch your email every Wednesday for the latest social action updates to keep informed about timely, local opportunities to engage in Tikkun Olam.

MITZVAH DAY
Our annual synagogue-wide Mitzvah Day is our chance for members of all ages - from nursery school to seniors, teens to empty-nesters, to participate in various hands on projects – from sandwich making to neighborhood cleanups, lunch and companionship for nursing home residents, to *Get Out the Vote* drives. **Date: October 28th. Look for emails or consult our website for the exact times.**

Watch your email every Wednesday for the latest social action updates.

SANDWICH MAKING with Rabbi Lee and Jen Schiffer
Sundays, 10:00 – 11:30AM
Rabbi Lee and Jen Schiffer lead our community in fun-filled intergenerational Sunday mornings making 300 sandwiches that go into 150 decorated lunch bags. The bags are delivered to the INN (The Interfaith Nutrition Network), a series of soup kitchens and emergency shelters that address the issues of hunger and homelessness on Long Island. **Dates: 10/28 Mitzvah Day, 12/9, 2/3, 3/10, 4/14, 5/19.**

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER
Fridays at 6:30PM
This intergenerational Shabbat dinner is your chance to get together with fellow members for a dinner that features challah making, dinner and fellowship. **Dates: 10/19, 2/8, 3/22, 5/31.**

UNIVERSITY DAY/SHABBATON
Saturday, May 11, 9:00AM
Join us at RSNS for our "in house" Retreat/Shabbaton. The day will begin with a B'Yahad Torah study, move on to a potluck lunch and continue with presentations and discussions. **All ages are welcome!**

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM
Reconstructionist Learning Networks connect you with people across geography and perspectives. Explore the crucial questions of Jewish life that just can't be Googled, and that matter most to you and your community. Join a network to journey, imagine and create. Collaborate with experts, including Reconstructing Judaism staff, College for Reconstructing Judaism faculty, authors and Jewish leaders. Dig into case studies, classic texts, innovative rituals, and real-life challenges and solutions. Forge connections, deepen learning and take action.

Networks meet three to six times a year online for an hour each session. Learn more about our networks and register online at **https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/networks**.

“Sandwich making is important and meaningful for our family. We spend the morning together doing something for others. We work together with congregants of all ages for something bigger than ourselves.”

Mitzvah Day
10/28

Shabbat

"We believe that the congregation should not be a passive, listening audience, but a creative, participating community."

Sam Blumenthal z"l, founding RSNS member

As a progressive community, we embrace and encourage full participation by all whenever we come together to pray, to celebrate, to remember.

SHABBAT WORSHIP

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES

8:00PM

An ancient Hebrew melody and a Billy Collins poem. A favorite congregational tune and a Middle Eastern chant. Our worship services place an emphasis on group participation, often with live musicians, spirited discussions and congregational singing, using a modern prayer book that helps worshipers of all backgrounds connect to the service in a meaningful, interactive way. **Family Services are held monthly. Description below. Consult the RSNS calendar for dates.**

SHABBAT UNPLUGGED

Fridays, 8:00PM

These monthly Friday night services include our house band along with outside professional musicians, and extended opportunities for spirited congregational singing. **Dates: 9/28, 10/19, 11/16, 1/18 (part of Shabbat Shira), 2/8, 3/22, 4/12, 5/17, 6/14.**

FAMILY SERVICES

Friday nights, 7:30PM

During the school year, we hold a monthly hour-long Family Service with songs and stories. Each month, we feature a different class from our synagogue school who lead us in the prayers they have been studying.

Family Service Monthly 7:30PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Saturdays 9:45AM

Shabbat morning services are held whenever we celebrate a student becoming bat or bar mitzvah. The full two-hour shabbat experience includes Torah reading and congregational singing. B'nai mitzvah families take an active role in offering a family d'var torah and their own choice of English readings.

B'YAHAD (TOGETHER) SATURDAY MORNINGS

A once a month Torah study for synagogue school parents (and open to the entire community) at 9:00AM followed by a lively family-oriented service from 10:15 - 11:00AM. A light kiddush potluck lunch is then served. **Dates: 9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/1, 1/12, 2/9, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11.**

SHABBAT SHIRA

January 18, 8:00PM

Our annual celebration of the Song of the Sea, featuring participation by our Tuneful Tuesdays Choir and full house band arranged and led by Solomon Hoffman.

SHABBAT HANUKAH

December 7, 7:30PM

Come celebrate the Festival of Lights with us as we weave Hanukah songs and stories into our December Friday Night Family services!

MOVING-UP SHABBAT

June 7 at 7:30PM

We invite anyone marking a passage from one school to another (nursery, middle, high school, or beyond!) to join us at our celebratory family-oriented Friday night service. A special blessing will be made for the RSNS teens graduating from high school.

Holidays

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

We observe Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur with services and programs that are directed to people of all ages. All services are accessible to people who come from strong Jewish backgrounds and to those who are just learning to formulate questions.

S'LIHOT

Saturday, September 1 at 9:30PM

In anticipation of the beginning of the High Holidays, we meet for half an hour for "renewing acquaintances," and "catching up". This is followed by a 50 minute service featuring the themes and music of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur to give us a spiritual head start.

ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh HaShanah

Sunday, September 9, 8:00PM

Join us as we begin the celebration of the New Year. The evening of Rosh HaShanah is a time for our community to engage in the process of renewal.

First Day of Rosh HaShanah

Monday, September 10

On the first day of Rosh HaShanah congregants attend one of two morning services. Using the Reconstructionist High Holiday Prayerbook, and in the tradition of our congregation, the service is punctuated with modern and contemporary readings and life cycle determined aliyot at the Torah. Toddlers and their families are invited to a half-hour long "circle" service in the Blue Room, which includes a story and songs. This experience is followed by a family oriented service in the sanctuary. The whole congregation gathers for Tashlik, a ritual casting off that which we no longer want to hold on to, at Baxter Pond Park in Port Washington. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

Morning service: first seating 8:45AM or second seating 11:30AM
Toddler Family Circle Service: 2:00 – 2:30PM
Family Service: 2:30PM
Tashlik: 4:15PM at Baxter Pond Park

Second Day of Rosh HaShanah
Tuesday, September 11

We meet again for services on the second day of Rosh HaShanah. This service features a panel of congregants. A family-friendly New Year's experience is also offered featuring art, stories and social action activities for children 2-7 and 8-11.

Morning Service: 9:45AM
Family-Friendly New Year's Experience: 11:30AM – 12:30AM.

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidre
Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00PM

We begin Yom Kippur with the chanting of Kol Nidre as we enter the time of personal reflection. We encourage you to think about ways in which you can make 5779 a year to find new ways to connect with yourself and your community.

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, September 19

As on the first day of Rosh HaShanah, we host two morning services in our sanctuary, a toddler service in the Blue Room, and a family oriented service back in the sanctuary. We return in the late afternoon for the concluding services of Yom Kippur, which include a family d'var Torah on the Book of Jonah, Martyrology, Yizkor, Ne'ila and Havdalah. For those who want to spend more time in the synagogue, we offer two different consecutive hour-long programs that lend different perspectives on this most important day.

Morning Service: first seating 8:45AM; second seating 11:30AM
Hour-Long Programs: 11:30AM and 12:30PM
Toddler Service: 2:00PM, Family Service: 2:30PM
Concluding Services: 5:00PM.

SUKKOT

Monday, September 24, 9:45AM

Join us in the Sukkah (weather permitting) for a full morning service, as we shake the lulav, read Torah and learn about the connection between our Jewish calendar and the seasons.

SIMHAT TORAH

Sunday, September 30, 7:00PM

Come dance with the Torah in this festive evening, as we consecrate our Bet students into our community of Jewish learning.

SHEMINI ATZERET

Monday, October 1, 9:45AM

We mark the end of the fall Holidays with a service featuring Torah reading, Yizkor, and recitation of Hallel.

9/11 Candlelight Memorial Service 8:00PM

THANKSGIVING

Sunday, November 18, 5:00PM

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the entire RSNS community gathers for an interfaith celebration of gratitude at a different house of worship each year. Location TBD.

TU BISHVAT

Sunday, January 27, 5:00 - 7:00PM

Celebrate the New Year of the Trees with songs, poetry, readings about the Earth, fruits dipped in chocolate, and a potluck dinner!

PURIM
Our celebration includes a Purim Carnival.

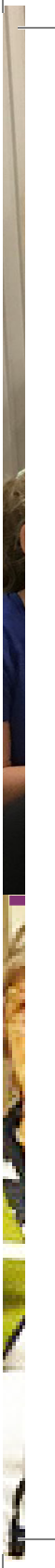
Sunday, March 17
Purim Carnival, 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Wednesday, March 20
Megillah Reading, 6:00PM
Musical Purim Play (Shpiel), 6:30PM
We continue the celebration with a communal reading of the Book of Esther, fun Purim songs, and a hilarious musical Purim Play featuring congregant thespians of all ages.

PASSOVER
Friday, April 26, 9:45 - 11:45AM
We mark the seventh, final day of Passover together with a full service including Torah reading, a discussion of the holiday, and Yizkor.

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
Wednesday, May 1, 7:30PM
We remember the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Interspersed within the liturgy are the stories of the survivors whom our 8th graders have adopted.

SHAVUOT
Sunday, June 9, 9:45 - 11:45AM
We count the days - seven times seven plus one - from the second night of Passover and come to the festival of Shavuot, which commemorates the Giving of Torah. We celebrate with readings, an aliyah at the Torah under the huppah and Yizkor.



Visit rsns.org for more programming info

Committees

JOIN A COMMITTEE AND BE INVOLVED
Our committees add to the vibrancy of the synagogue, enable congregants to influence the direction of our community and are a great way to meet others. Committees are open to all members.

CHOIR AND RITUAL COMMITTEE

All matters regarding Shabbat and holiday services and ritual practice in our synagogue community are the concern of the Committee on Ritual. Members of the committee evaluate existing policies and programs, and consider new programs as well. **Contact: Terry Wolff at Choir@rsns.org and Eileen Rosendahl at Ritual@rsns.org.**

COLLEGE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

To maintain a connection to RSNS, this committee sends our college students four care packages while they're away at school. The packages coincide with Rosh HaShanah, Hanukah, Purim and Passover, and contain healthy snacks, holiday related items (apples & honey, chocolate gelt, Hamantashen, matzah, etc), a cardand a letter from Rabbi Lee. **Contact: Lesley Siegel at CollegeOutreach@rsns.org.**

DESIGN COMMITTEE

This committee was newly activated two years ago to consider our sanctuary – the orientation of the seating, the bimah and its furnishings, including the Torah ark. Its work has been based on a series of 'town hall' meetings that determined our values, which have directed the design and the work of the architect. The committee has worked with the House Committee to evaluate matters of maintenance. The committee meets frequently. **Contact: Myrna Niego at Design@rsns.org.**

EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Meetings are lively as congregants of many generations reflect on their own educational experiences and learn about current ideas in educational practice. Members work together to ensure that the vision and quality of our Jewish learning community continues to grow in strength and meets the needs of individual learners. The group meets quarterly. **Dates: 9/25,11/27, 2/5, 6/4, 8:00PM**. **Contact: Roseann Michelson at Education@rsns.org.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the Finance Committee are concerned with the 'business' of the synagogue. Working with the synagogue board treasurer, the committee draws up the annual budget and oversees the congregation's investment portfolio. The committee meets frequently to analyze and evaluate our financial well-being, keeping the budget on track during the year. **Contact: Michael Rosenberg at Finance@rsns.org.**

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

This Committee plans and promotes programs and events that bring us together as a community, which also benefit the synagogue financially. Two annual foci of their endeavors is a raffle coordinated with the Mutual Support Committee's fall Cooperative Dinner, and a spring gala. **Contact: Alvin Pitkow at Fundraising@rsns.org.**

HOUSE COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the upkeep and repairs of the physical structure of our building, and works in conjunction with the Design Committee on major projects. **Contacts: Steve Charno and Lee Parker at House@rsns.org.**

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This committee seeks out and evaluates cultural, educational and advocacy opportunities for our members to engage with Israel – both within our congregation and the larger Jewish community. We seek to support Israel as a flourishing, peaceful and democratic home for all Jews. **Contact: Nancy Cohen at Israel@rsns.org.**

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A UJA sponsored synagogue Committee on Thriving Congregations has completed its two-year long study of our congregation. The favorable results will be the basis for moving ahead with long range planning for our community. The committee will meet quarterly starting immediately after the High Holidays. **Contacts: Judy Bieber and Susan Liberstein at LongRange@rsns.org.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee offers participants the opportunity to connect, belong and grow. RSNS is an inclusive community composed of single members, couples and families who are traditional, nontraditional and interfaith. The committee focuses on in reach and outreach activities to maintain as well as to grow our synagogue community. We meet every other month. **Contact: Jane Buford at Membership@rsns.org.**

MUTUAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

With the understanding that we are far more than a worship community, and that each one of us has something to contribute, or may, at some time, be in need, no other committee better embodies the spirit of our congregation. Through programs like our "member-2member" synagogue listserv, holiday themed outreach packages for college students and our monthly Sandwich Generation From All Sides meetings, this committee addresses the needs and interests of targeted age groups. The many subdivisions of this committee meet as needed. **Dates: 10/2 at 7:30PM, 12/13 at 12:00PM, 2/14 at 7:30PM, 4/25 at 12:00PM, 6/11 at 7:30PM. Contact: Sylvia Jacobs at MutualSupport@rsns.org.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members are responsible for all hiring and dismissal of Synagogue staff (not otherwise detailed in the Synagogue bylaws), as well as consideration of any grievances. The Board of Trustees approves all actions of this committee. A special committee may be appointed if needed to deal with specific personnel problems. **Contact: Rob Whitman at Personnel@rsns.org.**

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

This committee enhances our communal experience by bringing speakers from outside our synagogue into our building and by finding adventures that take us beyond our building. Committee members are always on the lookout for events and activities that expand the horizons of our congregation. The committee meets several times in the course of the year. **Contacts: June Pitkow and Barbara Shaffer at Programming@rsns.org.**

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee works to make our congregation known to the larger North Shore community through a variety of platforms that include our website, social media and print. The committee writes and posts press releases about Gan Shalom, our synagogue school programs and our many activities. The committee is also responsible for advertisement promoting membership. The committee meets frequently in the course of the year. **Contacts: Matt Harris and Dave Kerpen at Publicity@rsns.org.**

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Our congregation is part of the larger communities of Reconstructing Judaism. Under this rubric we see ourselves as a progressive force for Jewish expression. **Contact: Tammy Smiley at ReconstructingJudaism@rsns.org.**

SHAMOR COMMITTEE

This group monitors and responds to anti-Semitic incidents in our local community and works to help prevent future incidents. We meet with local school personnel if incidents occur and provide assistance for staff training and curriculum development as required. Committee members connect with Jewish organizations, and build bridges with houses of worship, at risk communities and local law enforcement agencies. **Contacts: Matt Harris & Lorri Staal at Shamor@rsns.org.**

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Our congregation is passionately committed to Tikkun Olam (Repairing our World). This includes social justice, advocacy, direct service and volunteering, environmental responsibility, raising awareness and tolerance and finding points of connection with diverse groups with whom we can partner to change our world for the better! The committee meets to identify need and to plan actions to pursue justice. **Contact: Debbie Kesselman at SocialAction@rsns.org Dates: 9/20 at 8:00PM, 11/14 at 12:00PM, 1/17 at 8:00PM, 3/6 at 12:00PM, 5/30 at 8:00PM.**

Staff & Volunteers

STAFF

Rabbi Lee Friedlander **RabbiLee@rsns.org**
Rabbi Jodie Siff **RabbiJodie@rsns.org**
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Officers

Co-Presidents - Ron Guggenheimer and Jonathan Paisner
Vice Presidents - Jane Buford, Matt Harris, Meryl Kaynard, Lorri Staal, Terry Wolff
Treasurer – Michael Rosenberg
Recording Secretary - Karen Unger-Belfer
Corresponding Secretary - Orly Dotan

Trustees

Alexandra Tyler, Leigh Feldman, Joshua Blumenfeld, Pearl Weinstein, Susan Hicks, Susan Liberstein, Roseann Michelson, Jodi Feld, Ted Baecher, Judy Bieber, Lesley Siegel, Lisa Sloan

Brochure
Editors - Carol Blumenthal, Natalie Mines
Design - Michelle Shain

RSNS

RECONSTRUCTIONIST
SYNAGOGUE OF THE
NORTH SHORE

1001 PLANDOME RD
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RSNS.ORG

Israel Trip
May 2020