



# SHALIYAH

Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore  
June 2015 *A Community Dedicated to Change and Committed to Tradition* Sivan/Tamuz 5775

## SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It is now time to register for RSNS Synagogue School for the 2015-2016 academic year. Students currently enrolled in Synagogue School in grades kindergarten through vav have received re-registrations forms by mail. **All parents must complete the emergency contact information** on these registration form. Check the accuracy of all pre-printed information and return the completed form to RSNS with a deposit of \$250 per student as soon as possible.

Families will be billed over the summer for the balance of tuition. As usual tuition will be due in full by September 1. Only those members in good financial standing will be guaranteed a place for their children in the appropriate grade.

To register a child who has not yet attended our Synagogue School, stop by the office or call and we will mail you a registration form. Non-members are welcome to register for kindergarten and alef (first grade) based on available space.

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## RSNS Annual Congregational Meeting

June 7, 2015

5:00 p.m. refreshments

5:30 p.m. meeting convenes

## FAMILY SERVICE TO HONOR GRADUATES Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Details are on page 4.

## DESTRESSING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

If you have a college bound high school Junior please join us for this amazing program. (parents and their HS Juniors attend together) see page 10 for details



## COMMUNAL ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH SERVICE AND CELEBRATION Saturday, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 9:45 a.m. All are invited!

### JULY SHALIYAH ISSUE

The deadline for the July 2015 issue is June 15<sup>th</sup>.

To submit content for the JULY Shaliyah, email your copy as a word document to [rsnsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rsnsnewsletter@gmail.com)



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## RABBI LEE

Dear Friends,

The most recent study by the Pew Research Center iterates its 2013 findings that Americans are increasingly unidentified by religion. For example, and most dramatically, Christian identification fell from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent between 2007 and 2014. At the same time, Americans who call themselves atheists or agnostics, grew from 16.1 percent to 23 percent. But while the 2013 study determined that 22 percent of American Jews surveyed said they had no religion, the new study indicates an increase in America's Jewish population from 1.7 to 1.9 percent. More remarkable than this slight statistical increase is that, comparatively speaking, at 75 percent, American Jews have one of the highest rates of identity retention among the country's faith communities. Only Hindus (80%) and Muslims (77%) have higher retention numbers.

But then Jewish identity is broader than faith affiliation. Mordecai Kaplan got it right when he defined Judaism as the evolving religious *civilization* of the Jewish People. How many of us RSNS members define

ourselves as 'cultural' Jews, or as Zionists (or post Zionists), or as one of any number of categories outside of 'religion.' Being able to define ourselves apart from belief has enabled Jews to positively identify with Judaism without adding God into the mix as required by adherents of other religions. Moreover, many Jews under age forty proudly define themselves as Jews outside the context of Jewish organizations. In an age when *meaning* has become more important than *community*, or, to use a word from Kaplan, than *Peoplehood*, an increasing number of Jews may well come to identify themselves as Jews without any synagogue or communal institutional affiliation. I do not know what form this collection of unassociated individual Jews will take moving in the next quarter of a century; I only know that it will be completely different from the synagogues and JCCs that exist today. The only certainty is that Judaism will continue to evolve. I can't wait to see where it will take us. No matter what, I'll sign up for this next leg of the Jewish journey.

Warmly,

*Lee*

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Watch your email for updated information on all youth programming!  
Keshet Hadash, Girls Rosh Hodesh, Bros Hodesh, Madrichim, Adopt a Survivor,  
Or Hadash and PJ Library.

If you have any questions call the RSNS office at 516-627-6274.

### SERVICE FOR GRADUATES

We will celebrate our graduates at an hour long service on Friday, June 5 beginning at 7:30 p.m. We will recognize all graduates – from nursery school, from elementary school, from middle school – but will especially celebrate students graduating from High School. We hope graduates and their families will come together for this special evening.

If you would like to read an English reading (selected by Rabbi Lee), please contact Sharon in the synagogue office at [sharonrsns@optonline.net](mailto:sharonrsns@optonline.net) or call 627-6274.

To contribute goodies for the oneg Shabbat, email Hope Pecullan at [Hpecullan@gmail.com](mailto:Hpecullan@gmail.com)

Looking forward to seeing you,  
*Rabbi Lee, Rabbi Jodie, Cantor Eric*



## SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL NEWS

Please remember to register for Synagogue School.  
Call the office if you have any questions, 516-627-6274.

First day of Synagogue School is Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Watch for a complete 2015-2016 school calendar on the RSNS website.



We can hardly believe that it's June and nursery school is almost over. All our classes are reflecting on the fun they've had this year. We are remembering all the delicious treats we've cooked, the special celebrations for the Jewish holidays and Shabbat, the trips we've taken, the exciting art experiences we've had, and all the lasting friendships we've made. It's been so rewarding working with the children and their families this year. It's been wonderful having moms, dads, and grandparents participating in our classrooms.

Our entire staff joins in congratulating the following children and their families on their graduation from Gan Shalom:

Andrew Arevalo  
Reagan Casey  
Matthew Corti  
Dylan Diamond  
Benjamin Goldrich  
Benjamin Lubetsky

Joshua Packer  
Jack Prindle  
Beck Romero  
Nathan Schiffer  
Jack Shrier  
Mason Spitalnik  
Max Tobar

**Our Moving-Up Ceremony for our fours class will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary.**

**The two's class will have a Shalom Celebration with parents on the last day of class – Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**The three's classes will have a Shalom Celebration with parents on the last day of class – Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Thanks to Parent Council for all they do to make our nursery school a success. The hard work of so many parents has contributed to the enjoyment of so many programs for the children and their families.

A special thanks to all of the teachers in the nursery school. We are blessed to have a hardworking, nurturing, enthusiastic and imaginative staff.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!  
Laura

## ADULT STUDIES & SEMINARS

### ***EAT, READ, TALK***

Rabbi Lee will hold the next of his Thursday afternoon programs in the series at **12:30 p.m. on June 11<sup>th</sup>**. He will again, present an article “ripped from the headlines” of Jewish relevance. Feel free to bring a dairy lunch and we’ll supply the hot drinks and the article to be discussed.

Rabbi Jodie Siff will hold the next of her Thursday afternoon programs on **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** The focus will be the study of Mishnah, the next sacred text written after the Hebrew Bible. You need no previous knowledge to attend her “lunch and learn.” Feel free to bring a dairy lunch and we’ll supply the hot drinks and the article to be discussed.

### **CANTOR’S DINNER**

**Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Join Cantor Eric for a wonderful discussion and dinner as we explore the topic of the year “*Jewish views of the afterlife.*” \$18 for dinner, or come for FREE just for the discussion at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Cantor Eric ([rsnscantor@gmail.com](mailto:rsnscantor@gmail.com)) (whether you’re coming to the dinner OR just the discussion!) by **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. AND WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND

### **BIBLE STUDY**

This group has been and continues to be committed to reading every word of the Hebrew Bible (in English translation). After more than a decade and a half, the group has reached the so-called Minor Prophets, minor not in importance, but in the amount of material that has survived of theirs. We will pick up the reading with the Book of Habbakuk and will move on to Psalms in the course of the year. This seminar meets biweekly, Thursdays from 8-9:30 p.m. **The program will be taking a summer break and will meet again in the fall.**

### **YIDDISH READING CIRCLE**

We meet on average, every other week on a Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the RSNS Library. For more information and a schedule contact Jerry Bloom at 516-466-2519.

### **SHABBAT SEMINAR**

**The History of Israel: A Documentary Approach:** We began our examination of Zionism six years ago through the lens of the writings of Zionist and anti-Zionist ideologues. Last year we arrived at the founding of the modern State and reached beyond to the Six Day War. We will continue to critically review the development of the State through original political and sociological documents. This seminar meets biweekly on Shabbat afternoons from noon to 1:30 p.m. **The final seminar of the season will take place on June 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### **WOMEN’S ROSH HODESH GROUP**

Traditional religious ritual was designed, and continues, to meet a variety of needs that relate to life passages: The need for the individual to be acknowledged by community, the need for the community/tribe to read itself into the passages of each member, the need for bonding, which serves both individual and community, the need to (re-)enact dramatically the great stories and messages of the tradition, for the sake of individuals and of the tradition. Through rituals, we create structures that provide an element of predictability and, therefore, safety, around times of insecurity, transition, and/or loss. All women of our congregation are welcome to join us as we continue to study, and learn from each other. **Our final study meeting for the season is June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

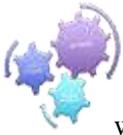
### **MENS GROUP**

The Men's Group meets the second Wednesday of each month to discuss topics of interest selected by members. While the discussion starts off with a selected topic the meetings move in many directions and are a wonderful way for members to get to know one another. All men in the congregation are invited to attend. The next meeting is **on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** Coffee and some snacks will be available.

The topic for discussion will be:

*Technology changes so rapidly that we often have to ask young people for help. Are there things that we know from life experiences that young people have missed out on and they cannot even imagine what to ask?*

## ADULT EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING Continued . . .



### ART SHOWS AT RSNS

So many RSNS members are involved with the arts. It's time to continue our ongoing art shows in the Social Hall. When the art works are for sale, 25% of the sale is a tax deductible contribution to the synagogue.

We schedule a few months in advance of a show and can accommodate paintings, photographs and another media that can be mounted on walls. Artists can be members, family and friends of members and/or those whose works contain Jewish themes. No nudes as we want all ages to be comfortable.

To chat about a show call or email Dave Eckert at 516-456-1507 or email [davepage@optonline.net](mailto:davepage@optonline.net) or Emily Klass at 516-484-9154 or email [wepkaplan@gmail.com](mailto:wepkaplan@gmail.com)

### DONATE OR MAKE A PAYMENT ON OUR WEBSITE

There is an easy and convenient way for you to give a donation to RSNS or to pay your dues. Visit our website at [RSNS.org](http://RSNS.org) and use the "DONATE" link near the top of the right side of the home page. All credit cards are accepted.

Complete all information and then click review your donation. On the next page click "Special Instructions to Seller" to indicate the purpose of your donation or payment. Call the office if you have any questions, 516-627-7274.

### Rabbinic Mentorship Program

Georgette Kennebrae, our rabbinic intern, is here for her final visit will be from June 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office if you can help welcome her into our community.

### SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>

Please join us on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. for a special class taught by our own rabbinic intern, Georgette.

### USING GOODSEARCH FOR YOUR ONLINE SERCHES HELPS RSNS

Every time an RSNS member uses a GoodSearch service, money is donated to the synagogue. If you haven't yet participated, you can view our dedicated profile below:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/rsns-reconstructionist-synagogue-of-the-north-shore.aspx>

GoodSearch Services:

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[GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com) - The online marketplace that donates a percentage of each purchase to your organization. You can choose from more than 2,500 popular merchants, find more than 100,000 coupons and deals, and the experience of shopping through GoodShop is exactly the same as going to the retailer's websites directly.

[GoodDining.com](http://GoodDining.com) - The first 365 day a year Dine for Charity program. Dine in or take out at over 10,000 participating restaurants nationwide. Up to 6% of your total check including tax and tip will be donated to RSNS.

*We have been advised that it is important to have and use up-to-date anti-virus software before using GoodSearch.*

## ***Todah . . .***

### **RSNS' Way of Saying Thanks**

In appreciation of Rabbi Lee, Cantor Eric, Solomon and Lucy for a wonderful VAV year  
The Ruskin family

In honor of the Synagogue School faculty and staff  
The Hicks Family

In memory of Norbert Haber  
Paula and Marvin Silverman  
Ilse Sander  
Susan and Tom Hicks

In honor of all the Adult B'nai Mitzvah  
Paula and Marvin Silverman

In honor of Leslie Mones for her care and expertise  
Karen Stewart

In honor of John Miodownik's birthday  
Ilse Sander  
Doris and Hans Grunwald  
Roseann and Allen Michaelson  
Anita and Jerry Bloom  
Judy and Al Bieber  
Sheri and Michael Lindner  
Alan Oppenheim  
Terry and Bob Wolff

In honor of the birth of Yael Isabel granddaughter  
of Sheri and Michael Lindner  
Sharon and Mickey Warshawski  
Terry and Bob Wolff  
Susan and Tom Hicks

In honor of Aaron Lesser becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Susan and Tom Hicks

In honor of Mitchell Schwartz becoming  
a Bar Mitzvah  
Susan and Tom Hicks

In honor of the birth of Seth Franklin Kerpen,  
son of Dave and Carrie Kerpen  
Joelle and Geoff Serota

In honor of the birth of Alexander Jacobs, son  
of Tara and Laurence Jacobs and Sylvia's grandson  
Susan and Tom Hicks

The Gourmet Havurah wants to say to Scott Feiner:  
We are proud of you and your accomplishments.  
We're confident that you will continue with  
Even more success.

Good luck in your next adventures.

Congratulations graduate . . . . .

Roberta & Milton, Viviane & Alan,  
Jacki & Andrew, Barbara & Marvin,  
Suzie & Lenny, Michele & Michael

<p><b>Consider making a donation in honor or in memory of someone, or to celebrate a simcha!</b></p>
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### **YARTZEIT**

In observance of the yarzeit of Nathan Serota  
Joelle and Geoff Serota

In observance of the yarzeitin of Sheryl Zinberg and  
Mort Helbraun  
Marian Schwartz

In observance of the yarzeit of Danny Tromberg  
Susan and Jules Kaufman

In observance of the yarzeit of Leonard Friedman  
Susan and Jules Kaufman

In observance of the yarzeit of her grandmother,  
Sylvia Baraban  
Linda Schwartz

### **MAZAL TOV**

Mazel Tov to Carrie and Dave Kerpen on the birth of  
their son Seth Franklin Kerpen

Mazel Tov to Tara and Laurence Jacobs and Sylvia  
Jacobs on the birth of Alexander Ezra Jacobs

Mazel Tov to Rachel Hecht on the marriage of her  
daughter Hillary Kindman and Julie Chachich

Mazel Tov to Joan and Martin Adickman on the  
marriage of their son Cary and Sarah Farhadian

Mazel Tov to Michael Schiffer and Jen Fink on  
their engagement.

Please join us  
as we celebrate

*Rabbi Lee's*  
*40th Year*  
IN  
THE

R A B B I N A T E



Saturday, June 13, 2015

7:30 pm

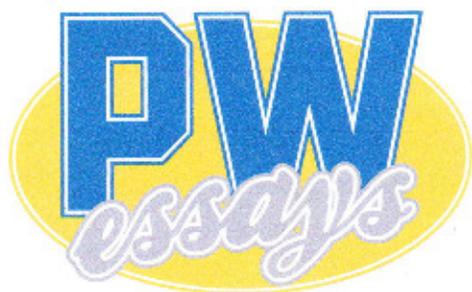
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**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**7:30–8:30 p.m.**

**Free of Charge**

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1001 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY

Space is limited. Please RSVP to reserve your spot.  
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**PAULA WHITMAN** has a Masters in Secondary English from Johns Hopkins University and a B. A. from Northwestern University. She works with a wide range of students, guiding them through the entire process and bringing out the best in their writing.

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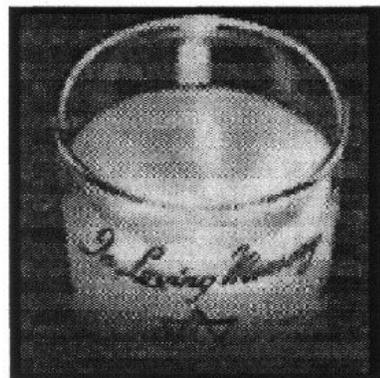
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