



JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan. 5	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship		
Jan. 12	7:00 pm	Tot Shabbat MLK Jr. Music Shabbat endipity Chorale and Spirituals		
Jan. 19	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat		
Jan. 26	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship		







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At the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 3rd I shared a few words of Torah related to an important agenda item: the structure of our support for Congregation Shir Shalom. While the meeting

has concluded and motions have been passed, I want to revisit these words as a way of prompting meaningful conversation in our congregation about how we support our sacred community (notice that I am avoiding the word "dues!").

Only a few verses after the Israelites escape Egypt through the parted Red Sea, they begin asking for the familiar. First there was not enough water, then the water was bitter, then there was not enough food, then the food was too bland, etc. God provided new opportunities and the Israelites only wanted what they had experienced in the past, even though it had been in the midst of servitude.

British Orthodox Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (in: "Terumah (5774), The Home We Build Together") describes Exodus as a book focused on "the birth of a nation...the transition of the Israelites from a family to a people and their journey from slavery to freedom..." The early responses of the Israelites to God's gifts reflect their spiritual and emotional immaturity. Like Samson, who often returns to the old and familiar when faced with something new and exciting, after each miracle the Israelites quickly revert to past attitudes and practices.

And then, in Exodus 25:2, God tells the Israelites to help construct the Mishkan, the first synagogue, a portable house of worship and gathering: "Bring Me gifts, each person as their heart moves them..." The synagogue—the central structure of the Jewish community—could only be built through the support of every member of the Israelite community.

Rabbi Sacks explains that, with the simple command, "Let them build something together." God transformed the Israelites. "During the whole construction of the [first synagogue] tabernacle, there were no complaints. The people contributed...They gave so much that Moses had to order them to stop." The message is: "It is not what God does for us that transforms us. It is what we do for God."

Our three year old son Samson complains when he wants something that is not in front of him. And I have learned that if I always give Samson what he wants when he complains, he will expect to always get what he wants when he complains. He will be what Rabbi Sacks calls, a "passive recipient," with little reason to change or mature. Instead, we encourage Samson to be an "active creator," getting what he wants for himself.

In starting to build the synagogue, the Israelites began transitioning from passive recipients to active creators. When we recognize our shared role and responsibility to build and support our synagogue, our congregation, we become active, engaged creators.

For many years synagogues have clumsily borrowed vocabulary and ideas from the secular world and tried to apply them to our sacred work: membership dues, investment, commitment, fee-for-service, ownership, CEO, CFO, even fundraising. Rabbi Larry Hoffman (in "ReThinking Synagogues: A New Vocabulary for Congregational Life." 2006. Jewish Lights Publishing) observed that, too often, we rely on a "market model of synagogue existence, accom-

con't. on page 11



FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE by Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin

A fter serving for the last two years as copresident of Congregation Shir Shalom, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know just how grateful I am to those I have worked alongside. I have witnessed a formidable generosity of time and energy in our Jewish Community by my co-President, Hal Wolkin, an incredibly dedicated Board of Trustees, Committee Chairs, and numerous volunteers. It is with great honor that I served with these people as well as with our dedicated clergy, Rabbi David Reiner and Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray and our talented Religious School Director Leslie Gottlieb and talented ECC Director, Jane Emmer.

When our two congregations first came together two years ago, we knew there would be challenges which lay ahead. Through collaboration and great respect, together we have accomplished making Shir Shalom a strong presence in our geographical area. We have much to be proud of, yet more to do.

My special thanks to Hal Wolkin, who has been incredibly generous with his time, has offered his expertise, his energy and his love for this community. He has been a respectful partner and has taught me many things.

I would like to take this opportunity to formerly welcome our new co-President, Lynn Broder. Lynn has been a member of our community for many years and has served in a multitude of positions of leadership throughout the years. She is an attorney, incredibly bright and has demonstrated a strong devotion to sustaining a strong presence of our vibrant Jewish community. She, alongside Hal, will take us to the next level of success. I will continue to serve our community as a member of our Board of Trustees and as an ex-officio officer of our Executive Committee.

We have committed leaders who care deeply about this community. I have made many connections and new friends through Shir Shalom and I am grateful to all those that I have worked alongside. Thank you for your support!

Gale Berman Immediate Past President and Board Trustee

THE CANTOR'S CORNER



SPIRITUALS JANUARY 12, 2018 7 PM

E ach year it is an honor to host the Serendipity Chorale directed by my dear friend,

Gigi Van Dyke. They are a celebrated, award winning

treasure whose music truly lifts the spirits and warms the heart. Gigi has been directing the Serendipity Chorale for decades and each year we worry that it will be her last year coming to us. She has promised to come this year, and for that I am so grateful. If you are interested in singing these gorgeous spirituals please come to a rehearsal SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 at 3 PM. Music will be distributed at that time.

The service will be Friday, January 12 at 7PM, rehearsal at 6PM. Our commonality in the history of suffering and racial bias link us. When we sing as one community we are fulfilling the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, whose memory we honor with this service each year. Please join us for this special service.

WRITING

Writing is something I have always enjoyed, and lately I have found a few outlets for it. I am on the Clergy Task Force of Jewish Women International, which focuses on healthy relationships. I serve on two committees that require writing: Shamor L'Amour, a guide each February to healthy relationships using Jewish texts, and Holiday Guides- again using Jewish texts, examining lessons from Jewish holidays that teach us about healthy relationships.

With the current wave of sexual harassment claims and icons toppling, it is all the more important to understand what a healthy relationship is, with wisdom from our Jewish sources and fresh examining of them.

Lilith Magazine, is a feminist Jewish magazine that has been around since the 1960's. I have just been added as a "blog" writer, and will have something published about KOL ISHA- The Voice of a Woman. I am concerned about Jewish women's singing voices being silenced in public as interpreted by this concept. I am hoping it will be a national conversation long overdue.

I also am a regular contributor and commentator for Primer CT, an Israel advocacy group that monitors biased and irresponsible articles that appear in the Connecticut media. I recently wrote an article about Hanukkah and the Modern Maccabees.

Singing spirituals, gathering with our community and speaking out against injustice- there just aren't enough hours in the day!

Shalom

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

by Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray

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RITUAL COMMITTEE



Have you ever felt like your opinion doesn't matter? Are you tired of other people making decisions for you? If you can think of ways to improve holiday and Shabbat services and celebrations then you

are in luck. The Ritual Committee would love to add your ideas and energy to our group. Here



are some things you might not know about the Ritual Committee:

You don't have to read Hebrew, you don't need a traditional religious background, you don't need experience planning a large party, you don't

need to commit a lot of time to attend meetings. What you do need is an interest in making your congregation more appealing so that you feel comfortable celebrating the holidays and weekly Shabbat services. We are a reform congregation made up of people whose Jewish backgrounds range from orthodox through reconstructive Judaism.

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter

We are always looking for meaningful and exciting ways to celebrate the holidays. If you attended one of the High Holy Day services, the congregational Seder, a holiday celebration, or a Shabbat service, we want to know your opinion. Join the Ritual Committee and help shape future practices.

Tu B'Shevat is on the 15 day of Shevat which is January 31st. Tu B'Shevat in biblical times was the time of year (New Year) for tithing, calculating the age of trees. This collection supported the priestly caste. Modern customs include planting trees locally and collecting money to plant trees in Israel. Conducting a Seder, a ceremonial meal with certain fruits and grains is another custom. Eating a new fruit or eating from the Seven Species (shivat haminim) as being abundant in the bible (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates) are other customs. The festival of Tu B'Shevat celebrates the connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

We celebrate the festival of Tu B'Shevat as part of our Oneg Shabbat on February 2 with traditional dried and fresh fruits. Please join us.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin





FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

RS Families: **New Connections**

ecently, comedian Joe Mande was on the bimah at Washington, D.C.'s Sixth and I Synagogue doing a bit about a nightmare he had-- before his

show-- in where he had to present his Torah portion instead of his act. In the dream, he woke up in a cold sweat. The packed room loved it!

According to The New York Times article by Noah Weiland, Lifting Spirits, Through Arts and Faith, this D.C. synagogue is bringing millennials and others to services, programs and events in a big way. They are appealing to the community with models that are meaningful-- and they are getting a great response. We are doing something similar here at Shir Shalom in many ways.

Weiland writes, "While other Jewish organizations have tried a culture-centric model—the 92nd Street Y in New York is perhaps the best example – Sixth and I's blend of the religious and the artistic has become a local template, a convergence of intellectual and spiritual currents that has helped shape the character of Judaism on Washington."

People have become the driving force of what seems to be a new movement in Jewish life-- more than before. Making communities sacred and connected - and providing new ways for them to engage—is at the heart of this effort.

A URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) new document, Moving to the Edge, in volume two, Leadership and Governance, includes ideas about principles that drive strong congregations—actually, also the title of that volume. It suggests eight new pathways to connect folks including: experimenting, bringing participants into the process, redefining success, working as a team, and other initiatives.

So it is with great pleasure to share that-- besides many programs that the Religious School regularly hosts and organizes-- our parent groups in grades 6 and 7, especially this year, have connected themselves in a new way to make the school community for these families closer-knit and connected. Recently the 7th graders had a party on the weekend at one of the homes of a student in the B'nai Mitzvah class. It was a huge success and was planned and executed

entirely by the families. Also, our grade 6 families recently organized a challah-baking party with pizza at an RS family's home, as well. Thanks go to Ross' Bakery in Ridgefield owned by a congregant family who provided the dough! Once again, the parents and students organized the event after coming up with their own ideas of how to connect with one another in a meaningful way. How wonderful!!!!

by Leslie Gottlieb

My mother used to say, as many of us do... that you can bring a horse to water but you can't make it drink and this has new meaning for me all the time. In this case, we can easily fill out membership and school forms and report to classes and events at the given times and meeting dates-religious occasions or not-but we all need to find ways to own the process and become part of the planning stages, too.

We are so grateful that our parents are finding ways to connect and create these new opportunities for themselves and their children. They are making their school and synagogues connection important and central in their lives—and for that I am in great admiration of them all.

Please find ways to make our school a springboard for more thoughtful and engaging events as the days unfold. And... thank you!

RS Upcoming Events (All Welcome):

Positive Discipline at Shir Shalom-Next meetings: Sundays, 1/7 and 1/28, 9:15 am-12:15 pm for those enrolled

Practically Religious School, Sundays, ages 2-4 and parents Meets next on Sunday, 1/21, 9:15-10:15 am

Purim Carnival- Sunday, 2/25, 12:00-2:00 pm for congregants and guests, Starts at 11:00 am for RS students (all)

ADL Upcoming Programs (All Invited): Please register with Leslie Gottlieb

Sunday, 1/28, Julia Star Program for Grades 4 & 5

Sunday, 3/11, Imagine a World Without Anti-Semitism, Grades 6 and 7

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EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

By Lewis Siegel

NAPOLEON AND THE JEWS: FRIEND OR FOE?

So, was Napoleon good or bad for the Jewish people? A historical examination of Napoleon's relationship with the Jewish people should provide an answer.

Europe in the eighteenth century was a hotbed of anti-Semitism. In France, while the Revolution helped establish some freedoms for the Jews, Judaism was still not a legitimate religion recognized by the State. Jews were treated as second-class citizens. During the Reign of Terror (1793-1794) synagogues were shut down and Jews had to practice their religion secretly. In other European countries edicts and laws against the Jews were more restrictive such as Italy, where Jews were confined to ghettos.

Napoleon began his march across Europe, and in 1797, during his Italian campaign in Ancona, he ended the practices of forcing Jews to live in ghettos, and requiring them to be identified by yellow armbands. He later closed the Jewish Ghetto in Rome and liberated the Jews of Venice, Verona, and Padua.

Napoleon's next military objective was to conquer parts of North Africa and Asia. On the way to Egypt, the French army took over the island of Malta in 1798. Napoleon learned that the Templar Knights had enslaved many Jews and disallowed the building of a synagogue. Napoleon freed those enslaved Jews and allowed the Jewish community to build their synagogue.

Napoleon and his armed forces then embarked on an invasion of Egypt, with mixed success. After somewhat of a stalemate, he moved some of his forces into Palestine, which he hoped to capture. His forces engaged the Turkish army and their British allies in a key battle at the city of Acre, but he lost, and soon after, returned to France. While at Acre, Napoleon surprisingly wrote a proclamation, printed on the 14th of April 1799, but never officially issued, that would have created a state for the Jewish people in Palestine. Here is an excerpt: "Hasten! Now is the moment, which may not return for thousands of years, to claim the restoration of civic rights among the population of the universe which had been shamefully withheld from you for thousands of years, your political existence as nation among nations...". Some have speculated that if Napoleon had been victorious in the battle for Acre in Palestine, a

Jewish state might have been created at that time. Why was Napoleon was so enthusiastic for a Jewish state? It was certainly not to use the meager Jewish population in Palestine to effectively bolster his military campaign. There may be no other answer other than his sympathy for the Jewish people whom he saw oppressed on many other occasions.

Napoleon continued his support for the Jewish people when he returned to France in 1802. He approved of a plan to give Jews complete equality with Catholics. His civil code of 1804 guaranteed religious freedom for Jews, Protestants, and Freemasons.

But afterwards, Napoleon began to turn against the Jews? Why? He may have been influenced by the rising tide of anti-Semitism in France, in some instances calling for the expulsion of the Jews. As an example, the French newspaper, The Mercure de France published an anti-Semitic article saying that the Jews could remain in France if they converted to Catholicism. Cardinal Fish, Napoleon's uncle, told Napoleon that the end of the world would come if he gave the Jews equality. At first, Napoleon resisted these and many other arguments against continuing equality for Judaism. But in 1806, presumably under pressure by anti-Semitic forces, he called for a special assembly of Jewish leaders and Rabbis to discuss the charges levied against the Jews. The charges dealt generally with the issues of loyalty to the government and lack of assimilation. This gathering was, in effect, a re-convening of the Sanhedrin of 1700 years earlier (the Supreme Court of ancient Israel). The members of the Sanhedrin answered the charges to Napoleon's satisfaction, and in 1807, he made Judaism one of the three official religions of France, but then turned against them again. He contradicted himself by demanding that Jews commit themselves to further assimilation at the expense of their religious practices. This demand was formalized in a decree imposing severe restrictions on the Jews. Over time however, he reversed the restrictions and by 1811, Napoleon removed all of them. His harsh treatment of the Jews from 1807 to 1811 was puzzling, since it contradicted his belief of religious freedom. Either he could not, or chose not to counteract the anti-Semitic atmosphere in France at that time.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our Annual Chanukah Gift Drive. Our collection box was filled with many toys and games for the children at Chasdei Bracha. There was much joy at their Chanukah party this year and they are immensely grateful to our community.



NEWS FROM NEIROT

Our spirits soared on Nov 11th as we met to watch "Above and Beyond", Nancy Spielberg's inspiring drama about American Jewish WWII pilots who fought for Israel in 1948. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the Pavilion that was festooned with paper airplanes and blue sky with poofy clouds.

The Committee thanks Resa Fremed for founding the Committee and for developing its activities for over three years and has earned a welcome retirement. Thank you Resa for your hardwork and your fine leadership. The Committee welcomes Serafima Dashevskaya who has agreed to join. In the future we are looking for activities, speakers, adventures that will interest the membership. If you know anyone who might like to speak or have read a book whose author we might invite or have any suggestions for programs, please let us know by email to Neirot@OurShirShalom.org.

Save the date for our next scheduled program, "The Last Jewish Gangster" with Myron Sugarman on April 22nd!

SISTERHOOD

by Nancy Cavillones



Happy New Year, Sisters! I hope everyone had a healthy and happy New Years' Celebration. Thank you to everyone who came to the Hanukkah Cocktail Party. A good time was had by all, and our raffle successfully raised funds for our charitable efforts.

I'd like to thank the following people for their

donations to the Chanukah raffle, confirmed at press time:

Lisa Kurtz, Beauty Counter Nicole Rose, NickiRD Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, Huck Embroidery Sal Bagliavo, Bailey's Backyard Danielle Verrilli, Audrey Road Rhonda Lackow, Masseuse Snow Hill Farm Lonnie Shapiro, Real Estate

If you have a small business, and you would like the Sisterhood to help you promote it, please reach out to me for an exciting opportunity. Email me at sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org.

Every month, the Sisterhood makes tzedakah. Your Sisterhood dues help support our charitable efforts. In addition to making a monetary donation, the Sisterhood is exploring service projects, both locally and internationally. If you would like to help spearhead a service project initiative, please get in touch! This month, a donation will be made to Daily Bread Food Pantry. Many of our members volunteer at the food pantry at least once a month, and Sisterhood member Debbie Landzberg sits on the board. We are pleased to support the food pantry in their effort to feed the community. To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to make your own donation, please contact Debbie at dlandzberg@gmail.com.

Last month, the Sisterhood also contributed many dozens of latkes to the religious school Hanukkah celebration!

We are looking forward to Adam Broderick Night, which is open to current Sisterhood members. Other upcoming events for Sisterhood members are mah jongg classes, a challah baking class and more! We are also continuing our popular knitting circle, led by Suzanne Sunday.

If you have not yet paid your dues, you can send a check to the Shir Shalom office or pay online at http://bit.ly/sisterhoodmembership. Membership is \$55 for temple members. Your Sisterhood dues support charitable giving and Sisterhood programs.

The Sisterhood is currently seeking a new treasurer! For more information, please email us.

Please join us on Facebook! Just search for Shir Shalom Sisterhood.

Hope to see you soon! Nancy Cavillones Sisterhood President SOCIAL ACTION



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 6th

We are looking for a few volunteers to take a leadership role in planning our upcoming Mitzvah Day to be held Sunday, May 6th, 2018. This is an exciting and meaningful community service day in which over 120 congregants have participated in past years. Please contact us if you can join us in the crucial planning stages.

Midnight Run

We look forward to our next outreach effort, the Midnight Run to help the homeless which will be held on a Saturday night in the Spring of 2018. There will be a donation bin in the Temple foyer to donate clean, used men's clothing: jeans, pants, shirts, shoes, hoodies, belts, small-size toiletries, and disposable razors plus NEW men's underwear and socks. Please let us know if you'd like to get involved in the sorting of the clothing or to attend the Run.

Laurel Ridge Nursing Home

Attention 6th and 7th grade students and their families! We have a wonderful opportunity for you! Bring a little bit of joy – and assistance – to the frail. Please contact us for more information.

Blood Drive

Keep on the lookout for the Date to be announced

Thank You Also to This Month's Partner-Agency Volunteers:

Daily Bread Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Distribution: Cantor Debbie, Michael Gitlitz, Debbie Lavin, Debbie Landzberg and Polly Schnell distributed food to approximately 1700 people – all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner!

 Dorothy Day Hospitality House: Carrie Chanin and Jeremy and Sophia Haber and Polly Schnell prepared and served a meal to clients in need.

 Federal Corrections Institute: Resa Fremed, Jacquie Goldner, Rabbi Jon and Jean Haddon and Polly Schnell conducted Torah study sessions and brought the joy of Shabbat to the Jewish men and women of Danbury's Federal Corrections Institute.

Resa has also completed her annual training at the FCI

Help Us Help Others This Year!

One-time and ongoing opportunities available for everyone Contact SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org panied by a corporate model of synagogue structure...boards meet regularly to oversee performance, measuring market share (membership numbers) and satisfaction of customer base. A division of labor sometimes reaches the point where the board meets for business but does not attend services..." (page 35)

But this space is sacred space and our work is sacred work. This is a business, but this sacred business is different from any other organization you might support. And so we might consider a new vocabulary to describe who we are and our connection to this synagogue, vocabulary that describes our sacred missions and sacred relationships. Fortunately, we have a lashon kodesh—a sacred tongue—that helps us to express our greatest hopes and voice our prayers. Let us think of ourselves not as members, but as "active creators" or "Bonim/builders;" we support this sacred community not with dues, but with Terumah/gifts, as our hearts move us. Rabbi Hoffman writes, "Recognizing the Jewish concept of 'gifts,' we can reconceptualize synagogue membership as a sacred contract with a community, where our gifts and passions are recognized, nourished, and directed toward the enrichment of others." (p. 89)

When I reach out to families who have left our congregation, I often find passive recipients. They may share that cost was a deciding factor: membership is expensive, college bills loom; they only visit the synagogue once or twice a year. But they are not leaving because they cannot afford membership; they are leaving because they don't want to afford membership. Their support for the congregation was transactional and fleeting but not transformational; they supported the synagogue as long as they got something from it. They failed to recognize (or we failed to inspire) a transformational sense of shared purpose.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "All your children shall be disciples of God, and great shall be the peace of your children..." In drawing close to God, in studying Judaism, our children will find peace. The Talmud suggests that we should read the Hebrew not as Banayich(your children), but as Bonayich (your builders). We can then understand the words of Isaiah to mean that in building Jewish community, in building or supporting a synagogue, we are fulfilling the ultimate Jewish mission: we are drawing closer to God and we will come to know peace.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks observed that for the Israelites to "grow to adulthood and responsibility, there had to be a transition...The people had to become God's 'partners in the work of creation.'" They could not be children—passive recipients; they needed to be builders—active creators.

As our transition continues, may we grow and learn and mature together. As we progress from the nascent stages of our united congregation, may we become active creators, bringing gifts and not dues, moved by our hearts, not as children, but as builders of the future.

Rabbi David Reiner

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY (CONTINUED)

By Lewis Siegel

So, was Napoleon a friend or foe? Between 1807 and 1811, Napoleon's restrictions on Jewish religious practice (continued from page 7)

clearly made him no friend of the Jews. On the other hand, if we examine Napoleon's overall history with the Jewish people, he was as good a friend as they had. How many others supported the right of the Jews to be a free people in their own homeland and elsewhere?

Napoleon's it clearly contradicted his previous behavi Thus, Napoleon's relationship with the Jews was a complex one. So was he a friend or foe? I think, looking at the overall picture, I would argue that he was as good a friend as they had. How many others supported the right of the Jews to be a free people in their own homeland and elsewhere? References:;

1. Dr. Ben Weider; Napoleon and the Jews; aish.com, August 11, 2007

2. Napoleon Bonaparte and the Jews; Virtual Jewish Library; The Gale Group, 2008

3. Napoleon and the Jews; Wikipedia



"Excerpts in Jewish History" is a regular feature in our Shir Shalom newsletter, written by Lewis Siegel, who wrote a similar series for Focus, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury. He is also the author of A Brief History of Modern Israel and The Evolution of Zionism.

OUR SHIR SHALOM

January 2018

SPIRITED AND SOULFUL SHABBAT AT SHIR SHALOM 2017-18 (5778) FRIDAYS October 13 - BETH STYLES March 23 – MUSIC SHABBAT **A SUITE SHABBAT** 7:30 PM Composer of award-winning 7:30 PM new Jewish music Julian Schwarz, cellist, Vocalist, pianist, arranger Marika Bournaki pianist, Paul Frucht, composer November 10- BETH STYLES AND **MARK FINEBERG** April 13 – BETH STYLES 7:30 PM 7:30 PM Reed artist-saxophone, flute, April 27- MUSIC SHABBAT clarinet, veteran of Broadway, LEON SHER blues, pop, R and B, jazz and 7:30 PM klezmer! Cantor, music director, December 15- CHANUKAH RUACH composer 7:30 PM **Celebrating Cantor** A Musical Celebration! Debbie's 18th year! January 12- MUSIC SHABBAT **MUSIC SHABBAT** May 11-**SPIRITUALS FOR ISRAELI SONGS MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY** 7:30 PM 7:00 PM Gigi Van Dyke and the **Teen Emissaries** Serendipity Chorale sing spirituals May 25- MARK FINEBERG in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 7:30 PM February 9– **MARK FINEBERG** June 8- BETH STYLES 7:30 PM 7:30 PM March 9— BETH STYLES 7:30 PM





Let's all celebrate and congratulate our congregants, Jeff and Margie Gorelick, on the birth of their new grandson, Jack Eli Shlosh. Jack was born on Thanksgiving Day and is the son of Danielle Gorelick and her husband, William Shlosh. Congratulations to everyone on this joyous occasion!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kate Alvarez Jamie Aries **Tina August** Ike Axler Lisa Baran Gabriela Barth Sofia Barth **Rachel Bender** Talia Bender Gale Berman Katie Berman Cecelia Bersch Andrew Blum Michelle Blum Noah Broder Lawrence Brooks Benjamin Caplan Lauren Caplan Robyn Cohen Karen Conti

Pamela Corrie Lauren Craw Serafima Dashevskaya **Rachel Dewar** Allison Dietzek Regan Dufner Ryan Edson **Beverly Freidenrich** Eric Freidenrich Resa Fremed Samson Friedman Stuart Gardos Christina Gogish Jeffrey Gorelick James Haber Ian Harris **Betsv Higgins** Wes Higgins Barbara Hisiger **Gregory Hoffman**

Marla Kay Sara Kay **Kimberly Knispel Rosalind Kopfstein** Ken Kurzweil Eric Kutscher Henriette Kutscher Martin Kutscher Charlotte Landzberg Deborah Landzberg Ellen Lipton Jordan Lipton Jennifer Litwin Aron Hirt-Manheimer Doug Mazlish Gayle Mazlish Richard Mishkin Sam Mishkin Sophie Needleman **Bonnie Pazer**

Matt Polinsky Sophie Rijova Lillian Roberts Sandra Rosenhouse Stacey Rubinfeld Bruce Sacks Michael Salpeter **Rona Salpeter** Brice Scanlon Annabel Schwartz Arielle Shaplen Eric Sherr Lewis Siegel Traci Silva Natanva Stark Brett Stein Jason Stein Suzanne Sundav **Riannah Wallach Elise Wilfinger**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Karl and Barbara Brodsky Ian and Sigal Leitner Allan and Alice Gottlieb Bob and Anita Quasha

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DeCicco Rebate Program

When shopping at DeCicco's (on North Salem Road, Cross River, next to John Jay High School) mention Congregation Shir Shalom before your order is complete. DeCicco's will credit us with shopping points and mail Shir Shalom a check every quarter. Contact the office with any questions.

What an easy way to raise funds!

January 2018

JANUARY YAHRZEITEN

Friday, January 5th, 2018 Peter Aries Penny Binn Binstock Herschell Chanin Ernest Elkin Jean Kaplan Martin Lipton Naomi Price Bernard Shuler

Friday, January 12th, 2018

Tillie BeckergTheodore GarfielgRoslyn HarrismJoan LandzbergmArthur PenzelfaShirley Schwartzg

Friday, January 19th, 2018

Sol Baer Sharon Eisberg Muriel Fried Ruth Glaser Aaron Jay Gordon Eugene Kahn Susan Pleener Lawrence Stewart Raynor Herbert Zieselman

father of Richard Aries

father of Carrie Chanin father of Stephanie Herbstman grandmother of Susannah Altman father of Richard Lipton aunt of Terry Henry father of Robi Margolis

grandmother of Lynn Becker grandfather of Karen Blum mother of Ian Harris mother of Steve Landzberg father of Lesly Burns grandmother of Lisa Kurtz

father of Lawrence Baer mother of Tiffany Zezula aunt of Lonnie Shapiro mother of Laura Agisim brother of Elaine Gordon father of Leslie Gottlieb sister in law of Liz Winson

father of Judi Stoogenke

- Friday, January 26th, 2018
- Stella Baker Nancy Ellis Kenneth Greenberg Saul Jacobs Jesse Kaye Abraham Mirkin Fanny Siegel Cary Wellington Norma Zucker

grandmother of Carlyn Bergman wife of Joseph Ellis husband of Barbara Safran father of Alan Jacobs

grandfather of Judith Strom mother of Lewis Siegel

mother of Bobbie Cohlan

Joan Fields Berg Rhoda Brand Anna Cohen Eli Gorelick Helene Kutscher Renee Miller Helen Rosenblatt Louis Steinhorn

Helene Fuchs Yetta Goldberg Sanford Kessler Martin Levenson Bernard Raider Ruth Sunday Davis

Oliver Hughes Solomon Fremed Morris Geller Adolph Goldner Julius Hubsher Cal Mishkoff Herman Quasha Bernard Schwartz

Douglas Birdsall Jane Falk Fred Greenberg Sarah Katz Philip Levens Joseph Mirkin Bernard Wallach Jack Wetchler mother of Jeff Berg mother of Michael Brand grandmother of Gail Henner father of Jeff Gorelick mother of Martin Kutscher mother of Linda Hirschfeld aunt of Cheryl Chess grandfather of Karen Conti

grandmother of Hanky Kutscher mother of Jacob Goldberg father of Ronni Hammer grandfather of Karen Brenner

mother of Suzanne Sunday

grandson of Rick & Bobbie Cohlan father of Charles Fremed grandfather of Jamie Garrett father of Leonard Goldner father of Jeffrey Hubsher uncle of Joan Isman father of Robert Quasha grandfather of Lisa Kurtz

father of Emily Wein grandmother of Lisa Leibowitz father of Adrienne Orlan mother of Claire Katz father of David Levens father of Judith Strom father of Roy Wallach father of Richard Wetchler



OUR SHIR SHALOM

We extend condolences to...

The Weisberg family, following the death of Martin Shapiro, uncle of Marty Weisberg. The Chess family, following the death of Pamela Chess Sklar, sister-in-law of Cheryl Chess. The Leitner family, following the death of Isaac Sanker, father of Sigal Leitner.

YOGA with Jewish chanting, prayer and insights **SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15** in the Pavilion Oct. 29 Nov. 19 Dec. 10 Jan. 28 Bring a yoga mat and any props you like to use. Our teacher: Cantor Niema Hirsch Niema is a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher RYT-200. In her practice she connects the postures of yoga with Jewish chants and blessings. She is teaching Yoga and meditation at the Merkaz Jewish high school and at her congregation. She believes in the healing power of yoga and a lifelong exploration of the connection between body and mind. Niema is the cantor of Rodeph Sholom in Bridgeport. She has a BA in Psychology and MA in Business and Software Engineering. She is



CONGREGATION Westchester and Fairfield Counties

married with two grown sons.

R SHA

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OUR SHIR SHALOM

January 2018

We Appreciate Your Generosity

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JANUARY 2018

TEVET/SHEVAT 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 New Years Day Office Closed	2	3 Religious School	4 Religious School	5 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat	6 9:00 am Torah 101- Shabbat Morning Study
7 Religious School 12:15 pm NFTY Youth Group 5-7 pm- BBYO	8	9	10 Religious School 5:30 pm NFTY Youth Group	11 Religious School	12 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm Music Shabbat	13
14 NO Religious School	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Office Closed	16	17 Religious School Rosh Chodesh	18 Religious School	19 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Shab- bat	20 9:00 am Torah 101- Shabbat Morning Study
21 Religious School- 12:15 pm NFTY Youth Group 4-7pm BBYO	22	23	24 Religious School 5:30 pm NFTY Youth Group	25 Religious School	26 7:30 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
28 Religious School 9:15-10:15 Yoga	29	30	31 Religious School Tu B'Shevat			



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