

APRIL
2018

OUR SHIR SHALOM

NISAN/IYAR
5778



ECC kids having Purim fun in their costumes!

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Apr. 6	6:00 pm	Passover Shabbat Worship with Yizkor
Apr. 13	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Apr. 20	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Apr. 27	7:30 pm	Music Shabbat—honoring Cantor Katchko-Gray on 18 years of service with special musical guest, composer (and Cantor), Leon Sher
Apr. 28	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Braden Kurtz

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street Ridgefield, CT 06877 Phone: (203)438-6589 Fax: (203)438-5488

Cantor

Deborah Katchko-Gray
CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org

Religious School Director

Leslie Gottlieb
Leslie@OurShirShalom.org

Early Childhood Center Director

Jane Weil Emmer
JaneEmmer@OurShirShalom.org

Rabbi

David L. Reiner MAHL
RabbiReiner@OurShirShalom.org

Rabbi Emeritus

Jon Haddon D.D.
RabbiHaddon@OurShirShalom.org

Administrator

Laura Morris
Laura@OurShirShalom.org

Controller

Lori Stalowicz
Lori@OurShirShalom.org



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: (203)438-6589 • Fax: (203)438-5488
Email: office@OurShirShalom.org
Website: www.OurShirShalom.org



**Sunday, May 6th,
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

Spend the afternoon with old friends and new ones too!

Work at Shir Shalom or as a member of an off-site team
to help people and organizations in need

*Food pantry work, blanket making for Kids in Crisis,
dog toy braiding for the SPCA,
potting flowers for nursing home,
cookie baking for the homeless,
outdoor work and clean-up and much more!*

Members and non-members of all ages welcome!

Perform a mitzvah as a family, individual, or for a bar/bat mitzvah!

**Enjoy a pizza lunch and an Ice Cream Sundae Wrap-up Party with
a slide show montage of our volunteers in action!**

**Please sign up by Sunday, April 22nd
to help us with event planning and to secure your spot!
(we will accommodate late registrants however)**

To register, please go online: **<http://tiny.cc/mitzvahday>**

Questions? Contact Social Action Chairpersons

Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg at

SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lynn Broder, Co-President
Hal Wolkin, Co-President
president@OurShirShalom.org

Josh Blum, Vice President
Suzanne Sunday, Vice President
Karen Taylor, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Waldman, Secretary
Gale Berman, Immediate Past President
secretary@OurShirShalom.org

Paul Amerling, Trustee
Robyn Cohen, Trustee
Michael Gitlitz, Trustee
Vlad Gogish, Trustee
Terry Henry, Trustee
Larry Hoffman, Trustee
Steve Landzberg, Trustee
Robi Margolis, Trustee
Adam Rubinfeld, Trustee
Matt Teich, Trustee
Emily Wein, Trustee

board@OurShirShalom.org

Our Shir Shalom Editor

Laura Morris
Laura@OurShirShalom.org

CONTENTS

<i>President's Message</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Cantor's Corner</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Religious School</i>	<i>page 5</i>
<i>Celebrations</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>Ritual Committee</i>	<i>page 8</i>
<i>Excerpts in Jewish History</i>	<i>page 10</i>
<i>Sisterhood</i>	<i>page 11</i>
<i>Early Childhood Center</i>	<i>page 12</i>
<i>Social Action</i>	<i>page 14</i>
<i>Yahrzeiten</i>	<i>page 16</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>page 18</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>page 22</i>

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Broder



Here we are, April is upon us, spring is fast approaching, and we are three-plus months into 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our five new Board members, Vlad Gogish, Michael Gitlitz, Larry Hoffman, Adam Rubinfeld, and Matt Teich who are already contributing new perspectives/ ideas to our collective work as a Board, and to thank Suzanne Sunday and Alan Waldman for joining our executive committee. We also offer our sincere appreciation to those whose service on our Board came to an end in December, Bobbie Cohan, Lou Haber, Richard Mishkin, Lauren Sugar, and Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke as Shir Shalom could not successfully operate without the dedicated efforts of so many capable volunteers. While we have eighteen volunteers sitting on our board of trustees, there are so many more working on our committees, and

others dedicating time to support our Religious School and our Early Childhood Center. And we cannot overlook our young adults who participate in the Student Mentor and Student Leader programs which benefits our younger students in the religious school. Then there are the other young adults who, from time to time, contribute to the music at our Shabbat services and participate in so many other ways throughout the year.

While we have a fair number of members currently volunteering on our committees, most of our committees would benefit from additional involvement. This month, we would like to specifically mention our Adult Programming Committee (previously "NEIROT") which, recently organized two wonderful dinner/film events and a group museum visit, our Caring Committee which undertakes the truly rewarding task of providing support to those members in need (transportation, meals, etc.), and our Congregant Committee (previously "Membership") which is responsible for outreach to existing members and for organizing events and activities to welcome new members. If you would like to do something special and, at the same time, enhance the level of your involvement in our community, these committees (and other committees) could use your help. Everyone has something to offer and we promise to respect your determination of the amount of time that you can make available.

We would like to share with you some of the 2017 achievements that were made possible by the financial support of all our congregants, and the efforts of our volunteers. Listed below are some of the improvements to our home and to our administration, and we are looking forward to a productive 2018 as volunteers continue to dedicate their time and effort. Of course, while all this goes on, our clergy are dedicating their efforts to making the spiritual elements of our Shir Shalom community more meaningful, and our educators are hard at work addressing the needs of our children in the

con't. page 17...

CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

To Life! Reflections on Eighteen Years in Ridgefield



Celebrating a milestone is always a good reason to celebrate. In Judaism, the number 18 holds a special place as the word life in Hebrew- the word "chai" is formed with the letters chet and yud which have a numerical value of 18. 18 is good, and double chai, 36 is very good! This year I am mindful of the blessings of

both the numbers 18 and 36.

Eighteen years ago I moved to Ridgefield to begin serving our Jewish community. Eighteen years earlier, in 1982, I founded the Women Cantors' Network. Both these events have impacted my life and my family in profound ways. Both have added immeasurably to my life and continue to be a blessing.

As I reflect on these milestones, I see the work and changes behind me and the work and issues still ahead of me.

I'm proud to see so many women cantors serving pulpits today, but I also worry that synagogues need to value the hiring of cantors, male and female as part of the staff going forward. The Cantors Assembly has a slogan- "singing is just the beginning" and truly cantors bring much more than a lovely voice to the pulpit- they bring a vibrant love of Jewish culture, music, community, spirit and caring. Music opens the soul to prayer, and a gifted cantor will uplift and reach deep into the congregation's hearts and minds. Our children should grow up knowing who their cantor is, and hopefully be inspired by them. Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday memorial is this year, and he wrote often about how his cantor influenced him growing up. Synagogues should allocate resources to a rabbi and a cantor, with both enriching the congregation and community. I'm so grateful our congregation understands the value of a cantor and I am so proud to be serving 18 years and hopefully many more!

As an early pioneer woman cantor, I am proud of our strength in numbers and love the new creativity of composers all around me. As a fourth-generation cantor from a traditional home, I also worry that nusach- our sacred chants that bring light to our Shabbat, Festivals and High Holydays will be diminished more and more. When I hear new music that has no strain of a Jewish inflection, chant, nusach

I worry our sacred music will get dusty and seen as only a historical resource. I'm hoping that our wonderful composers today will occasionally write something that has the proper nusach for that service and continue to bring these sounds to life. My grandfather, Cantor Adolph Katchko z"l was a pioneer in this regard. When he had a stroke in the 1950s he wrote down and composed everything a cantor needed to chant for Shabbat, Three Festivals and High Holydays using the nusach he learned, composing gorgeous music with those modes that is still being taught today in cantorial schools. When his book was published by the Hebrew Union College of School of Sacred Music it was said to be the first time that nusach was written down in this fashion for cantors in America. He helped fuse the European tradition with a cleaner more modern American style. I hope more composers look into that style of music, the sacred chants and prayer modes and create a new sound that can include those melodies.

Reflecting on my 18th year in our community and the 36th year of the Women Cantors' Network, I am reminded that life is so precious- and that we can always make a difference.

My teacher and mentor, Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, inspired me during the very first class I took with him at Boston University with lessons that continue to move and inspire me: "Speak truth to power...remember the victims...we must bear witness (even when there are no more witnesses)... hope is not an emotional luxury but a moral necessity." When overwhelmed with the world's events he would say, "Do something- anything- just start somewhere to fix the world".

As I reflect on my life's anniversaries- 18 years at my pulpit, and 36 years with the Women Cantors' Network, I hear Professor Wiesel's voice with me, burning in my heart. His songs are in my soul. We must not rest, we must not be silent. Elisha Wiesel, his incredible son, spoke at a memorial for his father with a meaningful and powerful call to action:

Speak out against oppression
Never be silent
Do something about oppression
Silence encourages the tormentor
One person can make a difference

As life unfolds, 18, 36, and more, may we all know that we can make a difference with our lives.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Learning Outcomes... and Jewish Identity

How do you measure learning? Here, we also have to ask... for religious school children, how do you develop a curriculum and assess learning as you

attempt to build a strong relationship and identity with Judaism? These are not mere facts we are teaching by any means. These are interesting questions that help shape our program and provide focus as we educate our youth in a well-rounded way. We try never to lose sight of the fact that what we are trying to do is build Jewish connections for a meaningful lifelong attachment to our special culture.

In an essay by Molly Worthen, assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina, *A Misguided Drive to Measure Learning Outcomes*, she discusses the contemporary movement for quantifiable data to help assess what students are learning/retaining. In this data-driven society, it is challenging to know where to draw the line in terms of concrete assessments for congregational school education. Where does learning begin and end-- and how does that fit in, precisely, to achieving bigger overall goals for creating emotional connections to a culture and religion—and way of life? As a former high school teacher, I look for a best-practice model based on secular school theories, as well as contemplating what has been successful after over two decades working as a congregational schoolteacher and director of education. With lots of guidance from our families, students, clergy, Reform Jewish organizations and our own talented staff, we have arrived at a comfortable place. We assess student learning in a way that is inclusive, non-threatening, and meaningful... and most of all we try to meet the needs of our students as individuals-- as we come to understand them over many years.

Forging a curriculum that touches all bases for students who are learning with us for, typically, a handful of years is a challenge. For congregational education, our challenge is unique because we need to add to the equation the fact that not all of our students enter and leave our program at the precise same age and grade. As a metaphor, imagine adding new cement to a truck already turning with an established mixture, hoping to blend all of it to become a

con't. page 18...



Religious School teacher, Gerry Hecht, leads grades K-5 in an educational service.



Our younger students handcrafted their own unique Passover seder plates.

APRIL B'NAI MITZVAH

**Braden Kurtz**

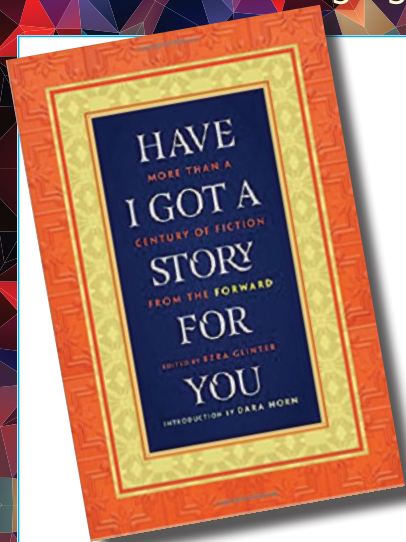
Proud to become a Bar Mitzvah, Braden is the son of Marshall and Lisa Kurtz and the older brother of Hanna.

Braden's favorite subject in school is "bus room" - but we're not quite sure what he actually learns there!

An avid baseball fan, Braden roots for the NY Yankees, loves to watch Sports Center on TV, and thoroughly enjoys playing baseball. He hopes that as an adult he can be a sports coach.

Braden has enjoyed learning Hebrew and his prayers, and especially anything that relates to Hanukkah, including opening presents. He is proud to be Jewish and thankful for all he has learned about Judaism and Hebrew.

Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Congregation Shir Shalom



Ezra Glinter, Writer, editor, translator,
biographer
Critic-at-large for the Forward

AUTHOR TALK at Congregation Shir Shalom

Tuesday, April 17, 12-2 pm

Ezra Glinter, the author of *Have I Got a Story for You!*

Bring your lunch and learn!

Special smoked salmon and whitefish salad snacks
will also be served.



Co-sponsored by
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
of Upper Fairfield County



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY



The Religious School Introduces...S.A.J.E.

Social Action as Jewish Education
For all Congregants in Grades 8—12



Jewish education and values transition into acts of loving kindness and service to the community!

- **Start at any time.** Register for any two years (or longer for extra credit) while in grades 8–12 and receive recognition by Congregation Shir Shalom for your continuing engagement in our school and temple. Receive community service hours for your time and social justice leadership.
- **Visit Congress with the Religious Action Center's L'Taken**
(Limited to students in grades 9–12, optional trip, additional fee required)
- **Help allocate RS Tzedakah Funds...**and chart your own path toward a life of tikkun olam

Program Schedule (replaces traditional Confirmation program):

Includes in-house service workshops, regional field trips, collaborating with our temple Social Action Committee/local organizations/Jewish agencies and the NFTY Youth Group

Meets (with pizza all month):

Twice monthly, Wednesdays: 4:15–5:15 pm

Twice monthly, Wednesdays: 4:15–6:15 pm

(Extended hours for service projects and youth group collaboration)

Sundays—Two annual meetings with students and families (if available): 12:15–1:15 pm with lunch

Instructors: Rabbi Reiner, Jamie Kaplan and Gerry Hecht, Facilitator: Leslie Gottlieb

- 2018–19 Calendar dates/details to follow
- Program tuition per year: see tuition schedule for details
- NFTY Youth Group Membership—temple fees included
- Community Service documentation for National Honor Society, college, employment, etc.
- Membership must be in good standing and all Religious School fees must be paid in full in order for Religious School registration to be processed.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



Shavuot is most likely the festival that we as Reform Jews know the least about. Let's discuss a bit about why we celebrate what should be a rather important holiday and what the customs are that we can observe.

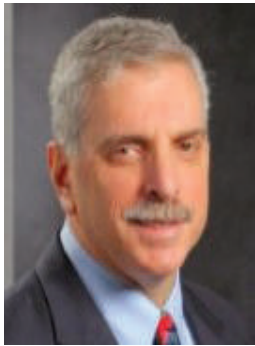
Starting on the second day of Passover we begin counting the omer, that is the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. In the days of the Temple a certain sized sheaf of grain (the omer) was brought as an offering to count the days until Shavuot. This custom was believed to allow us to prepare for Shavuot, the day that God gave the Torah to Moses.

Shavuot is celebrated for one or two days depending on your

minhag (an accepted tradition), typically one day for the reform movement. It is customary to study Torah or Talmud all night and to include a Yizkor (memorial service) to remember loved ones as we do on Yom Kippur, the last day of Sukkot and the last day of Passover. Typically we eat dairy foods such as cheesecake, cheese blintzes and ice cream to signify the receiving of the laws of kashrut as part of the Torah. Numerologists have also indicated that the letters for the Hebrew word for milk, chalav, add up to the numerical value of 40, the number of days Moses spent upon Mount Sinai receiving the Torah from God.

Each year at Congregation Shir Shalom we have a celebration of Shavuot. Our observance of this festival will take place on Saturday evening May 19 at 7 pm. If you have never attended we urge you to give it a try as the service tends to be quite interesting with a particular topic to discuss followed, of course, by delicious dairy foods.

We hope to see you at this and other festivals and at Shabbat evening services each week.



Cantor Debbie welcomed these musicians for a classical concert in our sanctuary.



It's Time to Register!

Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School 2018

EARLY REGISTRATION

**Discounted Tuition from
Feb. 15 - June 15, 2018**

*Registration forms are available
in the office and online*

<http://ourshirshalom.org/education/rs>



New to our Shir Shalom Religious School?

MARCH IS OPEN HOUSE MONTH!

Join us March 22 and 25 for our Student Seders or
when school is in session:

Thursdays 4:15-6 pm, Sundays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For info or to RSVP,
email Leslie@OurShirShalom.org



46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: (203) 438-6589 • ourshirshalom.org



THE RESOURCEFUL DIABETIC

BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

Though diabetes had been known for several centuries, what eventually led to its discovery and the role of the pancreas in controlling blood sugar began in 1889 when Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Mehring showed that when the pancreas was removed from a dog, the animal developed diabetes. The pancreas, located adjacent to the liver and small intestine, is an organ with two main functions. It excretes enzymes to catalyze the breakdown of proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates in the small intestine, and regulates blood glucose by the secretion of the hormones insulin and glucagon.

Over the years, the attempt to extract insulin from the pancreas failed because insulin is a protein and can be destroyed by proteolytic enzymes produced by the acinar cells within the pancreas itself. In 1921, the Canadian physician, Frederic Banting, and his medical student, Charles Best, devised a procedure in which they tied the pancreatic duct through which the enzymes were excreted. This caused the acinar cells to die while allowing the islet cells that produced insulin to remain intact. While the name insulin is being used here, at the time of these studies, it was simply an unknown substance that could regulate blood sugar. Using their procedure, the pancreatic extract was injected into dogs resulting in a sharp drop in blood sugar. James Collip, a chemist, joined the research team, and helped develop a method that produced a purer extract and less likely to have harmful side effects. Eventually, the researchers discovered that they could eliminate the tedious process of duct ligation in live dogs. Obtaining fresh beef or pork pancreas from the slaughterhouse, enabled them to produce pancreatic extracts as viable as those obtained from the ligation process. In 1922 at Toronto General Hospital, the purified extract was injected into a 14 year-old boy who was gravely ill with diabetes. Miraculously his blood sugar dropped dramatically, and his condition improved. This was the first case in which a diabetic was treated successfully.

Eventually insulin was produced commercially in large quantities from pork or beef pancreas and was available for widespread use.

THE STORY

In 1940, Eva and Victor Saxl, a young Jewish couple, were fortunate to be among the small number to escape Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia. After winding their way through Europe, they were able to get passage across the Suez Canal, and eventually to China, where they settled in the Jewish ghetto in Shanghai. Eva was an English teacher and Victor worked as an engineer. Some months after their arrival, Eva became ill. A doctor in Shanghai diagnosed her with Type I diabetes. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, they began to tighten their occupation of Shanghai, and cruelly closed down the pharmacies. Although Eva had a modest supply of insulin, she realized that it would soon run out. Unable to have legal access to insulin, Eva at first thought about getting it through the black market, but quickly changed her mind when her friend died from contaminated insulin. Out of desperation, Eva wondered about making her own insulin. While searching for a procedure, Eva and Victor found a copy of "Beckman's Internal Medicine" that contained a detailed method for the preparation of insulin originally published by Banting and Best. However pig and beef pancreases were extremely difficult to get.

Determined to find an alternative, she learned that water buffalo pancreases could be obtained, although they were costly. Eva and Victor raised money by knitting stockings, and sold them to pay for the pancreases. A Chinese chemist generously gave the Saxls a laboratory in which to do their research. They began testing the extracts on rabbits. Time was of the essence because eventually Eva's supply of conventional insulin would be depleted. Despite that, Eva reluctantly had to use up some of her conventional insulin in order to compare it with the extracts. She divided the rabbits into two groups, one receiving the extract and the other pure insulin. Eva had no way to test the blood sugar levels of the rabbits so could only look for signs of hypoglycemic shock as an indication of insulin potency. Satisfied with the results, Eva began self-injection with the purified pancreatic extracts. Fortunately, the treatments were effective, and she suffered no adverse effects.

SISTERHOOD

by Nancy Cavillones



Happy April, Sisters and belated Chag Sameach! As we head into warmer days, I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Stay tuned for details about the End of Year dinner. I also hope to see my sisters on Mitzvah Day, this year taking place on Sunday, May 6th. For more information

about Mitzvah Day, contact Sisterhood members Debbie Landzberg or Debbie Lavin.

Some news: It has been my immense pleasure to serve as Sisterhood president this year. Unfortunately, my term comes to a close next month. My family and I are relocating to California. We will greatly miss our lovely Shir Shalom community! This also means that we are looking for a new Sisterhood president. If you love to plan events, raise money for charity and be an active participant in the Shir Shalom community, this is a great role! I'm happy to chat with anyone

that is interested.

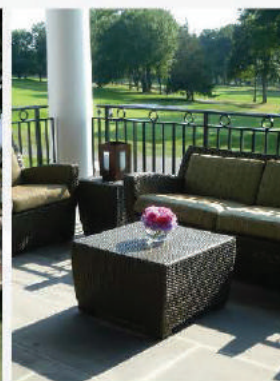
Every month, the Sisterhood makes tzedakah. Your Sisterhood dues help support our charitable efforts. In addition to making a monetary donation, the Sisterhood is exploring service projects, both locally and internationally. If you would like to help spearhead a service project initiative, please get in touch!

This month, a donation will be made to World Jewish Relief, a UK based international Jewish charity. WJR is committed to meeting the needs of individuals and communities living in poverty, assisting them in the transformation of their lives and livelihoods. To learn more, and to make your own donation, visit <https://www.worldjewishrelief.org>.

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!



ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB IS THE PERFECT VENUE TO HOST ANY SPECIAL OCCASION

SPECTACULAR NEW CLUBHOUSE BOASTS A 300 GUEST BALLROOM

EXQUISITE AMBLER AND ANNEX ROOMS ARE IDEAL SPACES FOR
SMALLER AFFAIRS, MEETINGS AND CEREMONIES

TERRACES AND PATIOS OVERLOOKING THE SCENIC GOLF COURSE PROVIDE A
GORGEOUS BACKDROP FOR OUTDOOR COCKTAIL PARTIES

ONE AFFAIR PER DAY WITH EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE AND IMPECCABLE SERVICE



333 HURLBUTT STREET | WILTON, CT 06897 | T. 203.752.4500
WWW.RHCCONLINE.COM

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer



The following is part of an article by RABBI P.J. SCHWARTZ of Congregation Shir Hadash of Los Gatos, California. Rabbi Schwartz summarizes my sense of children and the importance of instilling an early sense of engagement in community. I share this with you with the permission of Rabbi Schwartz.

Affirm children's creativity and imagination: Allow children to lead you into their world of make believe and you will experience awe and wonder through their eyes. As Miss Frizzle from The Magic School Bus says, "Get messy and make mistakes." When you play with children and let them lead you in play, you not only get to embrace your inner child, you also can get a good sense of how children process information, and what excites and disappoints them.

Encourage children to verbalize their feelings: When children are sad or angry, help them verbalize and explain their feelings. Children are easily discouraged when they don't feel they are being heard, so active listening is a crucial skill for adults who interact with children.

Adapt parenting strategies to help you interact with children: When possible, find opportunities to observe how children's parents engage with them and mirror those techniques that seem to be effective. Parents appreciate when you compliment their own parenting styles.

Learn children's likes and dislikes, their strengths and areas for growth: As in any friendship, knowing and caring about the other person not only strengthens the relationship, but also allows you to help facilitate how children and their families interact in group settings.

Ensure children feel a sense of belonging: Families want their children to feel a sense of belonging and community throughout their lives. Although it's not possible to know precisely what this means for each family or each child, it's important to make sure that families' concerns, interests, ideas, and more are heard and, when necessary, to have the community respond to needs and concerns.

Begin building Jewish connections with children as soon as possible: Providing meaningful Jewish experiences that foster personal, physical, cognitive, and spiritual development of children from the get-go, means that chil-

dren (and their families) are more likely to feel connected to their Jewish community throughout their lives – from childhood through adulthood.



Summer Fun

At Congregation Shir Shalom
Early Childhood Center - programs for children 2-5 years old
46 Peaceable Street Ridgefield, CT 06877 203-438-6589 X 16

REGISTRATION FORM

Summer 2018

9:30-12:15 3 DAYS PER WEEK
TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

Child's Name: _____ Gender _____ Birthdate: _____
Street Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Fall 2017 my child will be attending (school name): _____
Parent name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Parent name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Siblings: Name: _____ birthdate: _____
Name: _____ birthdate: _____

Local emergency contacts:

Name/Relation: _____ Phone# _____
Cell: _____

Name/Relation: _____ Phone# _____
Cell: _____
Child's Doctor _____ Phone# _____
Allergies: _____
Special Needs/Services: _____

My child will attend Summer Fun:
3 days per week (T-W-Th)

Session 1 - June 19,20,21,26,27,28	_____	\$400
Session 2 - July 10,11,12,17,18,19	_____	\$400
Session 3 - July 24,25,26,31 & August 1,2	_____	\$400
Full Summer	_____	\$1100

Payment is due in full by 5/1/2018

SOCIAL ACTION



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

By Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg



The Social Action Committee is gearing up for our **Annual Mitzvah Day**, to be held Sunday afternoon, **May 6, 2018 from 12 pm to 4 pm**. This is a community-wide day of social service, when we will be helping more than a dozen local causes. In the past we have had over 120 congregants and community members participating. We still need volunteers to lead some of the activities on the event day and to help with the organizing committee. Please email us at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org to let us know of your interest.

Our **Midnight Run** outing to help the homeless in NYC is set for **Saturday evening, May 19**. This is an exciting opportunity for families to work together to help homeless folks. Adults and teens of at least 12 years of age are welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to complete a Mitzvah for B'nai Mitzvah preparation. Usually a parent will accompany a teen, as this is a gratifying shared experience. If you cannot come on the evening adventure, we encourage you to participate in other ways: **make bagged dinners for that night, or a big pot of hearty soup; help us to sort and label donated clothing or donate clothing and toiletries!** We need the following donations:

Gently used men's jeans, pants, shirts, hoodies, belts and shoes
 NEW men's underwear and socks
 Travel-size toiletries, toothpaste and disposable razors
 Backpacks and tote bags

We would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the individuals who have volunteered with our partner agencies this month. Your efforts mean so much to the people you have helped.

Daily Bread Food Pantry: Nancy Cavillones, Cantor Debbie, Debbie Landzberg, Amy Margulies, Polly Schnell, Maddie Sobel

Dorothy Day Hospitality House: Richard Segalman and friends Cole Blackwell and Anthony Krista-Kelsey.

Federal Corrections Institute: Polly Schnell

The Social Action Committee participated in the Religious School's Purim Carnival! The children made Shalach Manot (giving gift bags is a Mitzvah for Purim!) to donate to the children at the Northern Westchester Community Center in Katonah. The bags included candies, raisins, pencils and little toy prizes.

If you would like to participate in any of these upcoming activities, please email us at: [SocialAction @ OurShirShalom.org](mailto:SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org).

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Neil Alexander
David Amerling
Paul Amerling
Ally Andrade
Jesse Baer
Andy Baran
Michael Bard
Lily Bender
Max Berger
Lynn Broder
Karl Brodsky
Isaac Buls
Richard Carter
Stella Cavillones
Adam Cohen
Robert Colen
Evy Drawec

Lara Parker-Edson
Amy Friedenrich
Lawrence Gottlieb
Daniel Greenberg
Abe Hammer
Ronni Hammer
Sarah Kaplan
Rebecca Kaufman
Kyle Kipnes
Sheryl Knapp
Jonathan Knapp
Allen Kopfstein
Braden Kurtz
David Kurzweil
Rhonda Lackow
Rita Landman
Lucy Landzberg
Susan Lapine
Alison Lustig

Marlee Lustig
Lyla Mayer
Harrison Mazlish
Lorraine Lazarus-Morley
Stacey Neumann
Adam Ozols
Robert Quasha
Andrew Rappaport
Allyson Rappaport
Emma Rosenfeld
Jordan Segalman
Emma Sherter
Craig Sherter
Samantha Shulman
Zachary Stark
Jessica Stark
Ali Stein
Paul Stevelman
Stacey Sussman

Jill Teich
Evan Walker
Zachary Wetchler
Miriam Wetchler
Danielle Winson
Caitlin Winson
Lora Wishod
Peter Zeitz
Michael Zeitz
Rachel Zins

MAZEL TOV!



Another grandchild? Yes, indeed! A hearty congratulations, again, to our congregants Jeff and Margie Gorelick on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Sloane, on January 29, 2018. Emma is the daughter of Jacob and Jessica Gorelick. How nice that the Gorelicks baby grandson, Jack, has a new baby cousin, Emma!

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Gale Berman
Jay & Arlene Heffler
Howard & Luda Samuels

David & Andrea deLange
Warren & Karen Lustig
Jack Goldberg & Trudy Wood

Len & Jackie Goldner
David & Amy Margulies

EZ MOVING

Ezra Zimmerman owner/operator

- Local and long distance moving
- Tree work
- Junk removal
- Snow plowing and removal

Phone: 203-448-7342 • email: EZservicesnow@gmail.com

www.ezmovingct.com

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!



APRIL YAHREZEITEN

Friday, April 6th, 2018

Bernard Benjamin		Mary Benjamin	
Millie Bernstein	aunt of Alan Pilch	Marilyn Cohen	mother of Susannah Altman
Arnold Eydenberg	grandfather of Susan Westlake	Norma Friedman	wife of Joshua Friedman
Bernie Gerard	father of Ira Gerard	Barbara Gray	aunt of Scott Gray
Wallace Kalter	stepfather of Marcia Needleman	Meyer Katz	father of Claire Katz
Ted Krulwich	brother of Jeffrey Krulwich	Arthur Margolis	father in law of Robi Margolis
Allen C. Peyser	grandfather of Jennifer Castelhana	Barbara Stoll	mother of Susan Andrade

Friday, April 13th, 2018

Alan Bangser	brother of Robert Bangser	Irwin Bassett	brother of Annabel Schwartz
Jack Berkowitz	grandfather of Stephen Heit	Sarah Buchman	aunt of Donald Gordon
Isadore Cohen	grandfather of Gail Henner	Leah Fergenson	grandmother of Michael Bergman
Rita Katchko	mother of Cantor Katchko-Gray	Cyril Lesser	father of Diana Friedlander
Belle Lubetsky	mother in law of Joshua Friedman	Adolph Ratner	grandfather of Judith Strom
Isidore Resnick	father of Anita Quasha	Mary Salpeter	mother of Michael Salpeter
Ben Stern	brother of Barbara Manners	Isaac Weintraub	grandfather of Karen Gerard
Fay Weisberg			

Friday, April 20th, 2018

Ruth Auerbach	mother of Michelle Auerbach-Sherr	Robert Fields	uncle of Helene Karlin
Murray Fischberg		Charles Gantwerker	father of Scott Gantwerker
Lillian Gordon		Harvey Haddon	brother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
Murray Haddon	father of Rabbi Jon Haddon	Annette Holson	grandmother of Robin Heit
Jo Ellen Kipnes	mother of Todd Kipnes	Rose Leitner	grandmother of Ian Leitner
Esther Oks-Ponczyk		Joshua Ponczyk	
Hilda Vendig	mother of Richard Vendig	Louis Warton	father of Gale Berman

Friday, April 27th, 2018

Harry Becker	grandfather of Lynn Becker	Edward Carroll	father of Jim Carroll
Ruth Fox	mother of Barbara Hisiger	Nathalie Fried Alexander	
Rose Gantwerker	mother of Scott Gantwerker	Phyllis Goldfield	mother of Laurie Wolkin
Joseph Hubsher	grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher	Andrew Hyman	friend of Richard Mishkin
Debbi Jacobs-Eckert	friend of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia	Edward Modest	father of Betsy Brand
Ruth Muchnick	grandmother of Jason Muchnick	Rose Pecker	mother of Sunnie Colen
Sol Saleem	grandfather of Kate Alvarez	Rebecca Shimkin	grandmother of Janine Gordon
Lilyan Simels	mother of Toba Stutz	Lisa Stoll	sister of Susan Andrade

We extend condolences to...

To the Manus family on the death of Freda Manus, mother of Rhonda Manus.

PRESIDENTS' ARTICLE (CON'T.)

Religious School and in the Early Childhood Center.

In 2017, some of the more significant improvements to our home and administration included: Repair/replacement and painting of the siding on the exterior of the Pavilion and installation of larger rain gutters and leaders in some areas and leaf guards, to prevent future damage.

- Replacement of two boilers that provide heat to the mansion to provide reliability and energy efficiency.
- Replacement of the halogen recessed lighting in the sanctuary with LED lighting to improve energy efficiency.
- Substantial improvement to our accounting and financial reporting functionality within the context of existing computer hardware and software.
- Installation, in December, of a new computer network and work stations to provide for greater security of temple records and to make way for a new temple management software system in 2018 which will facilitate greater efficiency in operation of our office, improved interface with members regarding their member accounts, and an on-line registration and

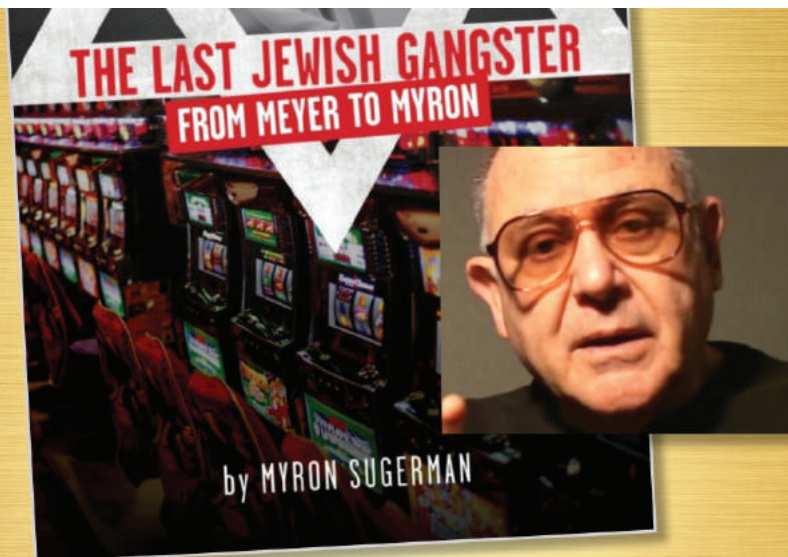
payment processing by late 2018 or early 2019.

- Improvements to our website, which we expect to further refine in late 2018 following a change in website platforms being implemented by the Union for Reform Judaism.

In 2018, the appearance of our home will be further enhanced as we replace the railing above the portico at the main entrance to the Mansion, install new carpeting in the hallway that runs from the Sanctuary to the Rabbi's office, and replace the bulbs and certain fixtures in the Pavilion to provide for fully functional lighting using LED technology. We will also undertake selective roofing repair/replacement and, as previously reported, implement changes to the building to improve security. The latter is receiving much attention from our Security Task Force, a group of capable and dedicated volunteers.

We would like to close by thanking you for your support of Congregation Shir Shalom and its mission. As we face the many challenges in an increasingly uncertain world, having a vibrant and growing Jewish community in our neighborhoods to serve as a refuge and caring community could not be more important.

NEIROT AUTHOR TALK



Charming Myron grew up in the Mob
He will regale us with tales of the Jewish and not-so-Jewish Mob

Wine and cheese will be served
Donation \$10

Sunday, April 22 at 4 PM.

Let us know you are coming by emailing Neirot@OurShirShalom.org

We Appreciate Your Generosity

Donations

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

The families of Michael, Mark & Jeffrey Parson
Gene & Laura Wishod

in memory of Harriet Parson
in honor of Rabbi Reiner

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Gene & Laura Wishod
Hal & Laurie Wolkin

in honor of Cantor Debbie

Robert & Barbara Bangser

in honor of Cantor Debbie

Religious School, con't. from page 5...

cohesive blend. Imagery too concrete?

Students are typically here from grades three through seven. Those who remain after becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah are, truly, in the best position to gain the most, in my opinion. Our thirteen year-olds have an incredible foundation in Jewish practice and thought. As teens, they can tap into this phase of life with new developmental and emotional changes that will help them foster a unique understanding of what Judaism means in their young adult lives. They have the potential to make lifelong connections based on these impressionable teenage years--- as they remain engaged in temple life by choice. Education and choice... the principles of Reform Judaism.

It is interesting to me, other Reform Jewish educators and clergy across the country that this has become precisely the age for students in where many parents do not take a closer look at teen programming at their synagogues-- and how these precise programs being offered have the potential to enrich their teen's life in a unique way. As one teacher shared with me, "Why would you get a driver's license and never drive a car?" That's a solid metaphor and serves as an important question to consider.

At Shir Shalom, we have followed a trend toward engaging our youth in real social action, so much so that we have transformed our traditional Confirmation program for 8th and 9th graders into a richer fuller community-service based course that will include students from grades 8-12. SAJE, Social Action as Jewish Education, will combine Jewish teachings and values with a hands-on approach to Judaism. It is a religion that honors deeds over words, in the end, and we are following through with this idea in many ways. We will continue to offer teens a chance to become Mentors, Leaders and classroom Volunteers;

as these programs produce a waiting list each year, we have come to understand that our teens want to be a part of the process and learn by... doing mitzvot and being truly helpful. Nothing gets them more enthralled than helping others and, interestingly, many synagogues—in my opinion-- have missed this cue in a big way. We have achieved this call to action and we should give our students a way to follow through as global citizens and Jews.

With so much to offer and so little time, we need parents to help us win over our teens. As a son/daughter of the commandments... literally what Bar and Bat Mitzvah means... our teens have become adults in the eyes of the Jewish community. We need their time commitment to achieve all that is possible to meet the goals we have set out for our youth. We need your help.

Long before grade 7, we need families to structure conversations so that students' teachers and I are supported by our parents as we try to create bonds for moving ahead at Shir Shalom. We will offer community service hours for every time our teens participate in SAJE—but we need your support getting them to commit and making time in their busy lives for this sustained involvement.

We'll figure out the learning outcomes that make sense developmentally for your children in order for them to walk away with a balanced understanding of our culture through grade 7... but we need kids to start here earlier (kindergarten would be great) and we certainly need them here long after they read from Torah at thirteen. Help us help them!

Don't forget to register for the 2018-19 school year. Forms are online on our website under Education and Religious School.

Hope your Pesach holiday and spring break are sweet and memorable!!!

(203) 438-6597

DANIEL P. JOWDY
Director**KANE FUNERAL HOME, INC.**P.O. Box 459
25 Catoonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877-0459


Party Creations
of Connecticut, LLC

*Custom Party Décor
And Balloon Designs*

(203) 740-8233

www.gotopartycreations.com

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Baby/Bridal Showers
Quinceaneras
Corporate Events

Weddings
Sweet 16s
Birthdays
Anniversaries

Cindy Greenfeld
cindy@gotopartycreations.com

Eric Greenfeld
eric@gotopartycreations.com

DANIEL P. JOWDY
Director**JOWDY-KANE FUNERAL HOME**9-11 Granville Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 748-6262
Fax (203) 748-6490

God Bless America! Life is Beautiful

DIMITRI'S
DINER
Family Restaurant



Open 7 Days A Week

www.dimitrisdiner.com

16 Prospect Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: 203-438-5338 • **FREE DELIVERY**

**203-438-7100****BREAKFAST - LUNCH AND TAKE-OUT**
91 DANBURY ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877**Dylewsky, Goldberg & Brenner, LLC**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**Scott M. Brenner, CPA**
PARTNER

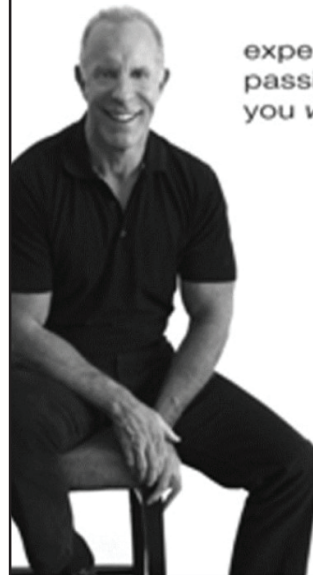
203-975-8830 [TEL]

203-323-7123 [FAX]

sbrenner@dgbcpas.com

30 Oak Street, Stamford, CT 06905

“when was the last
time you really loved
your hair?”

experience the quality and
passion our team delivers and
you *will* love your hair again

ab

adam broderick
salon & sparidgefield southbury 203 431 3994
adambroderick.com

Relax your body,
calm your mind,
renew your spirit...

RHONDA S. LACKOW

Licensed Clinical Massage Therapist



Rhonda has a diverse private practice, providing a nurturing, healing experience to clients of all ages. She has been practicing therapeutic massage since 2005 and helps clients manage stress, loss, illness, and life transitions. She is trained and experienced in Swedish, Deep Tissue, Reflexology,

trauma treatment, Oncology massage, pregnancy and post-natal massage, Myofascial Release, Reiki, and Hospice massage and energy work.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

🏠 158 Danbury Rd. Suite 3, Ridgefield, CT
 ☎ 203-733-7198 ✉ rlackow@gmail.com

**PSAT, SAT, and
 ACT Tutoring
 (Reading,
 Vocabulary,
 Grammar, and
 Essay Writing)**

**College Application
 and Essay Review**

**Susan Westlake
 Educator and Attorney**

914-232-4152

susan123westlake@gmail.com

The Best of Old World Elegance, Rural Beauty and Modern Amenities

Located in a country setting, the newly renovated clubhouse features a stunning ballroom windowed throughout, with panoramic views of a spectacular golf course and surrounding hills.



*Parties of all sizes welcome
 One affair per day
 Kosher catering available*



SALEM GOLF CLUB

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914*669*5485 www.salemgolfclub.org

...Excerpts in Jewish History, con't. from page 10

There were numerous diabetics in the Shanghai ghetto where the Saxls were living, and all were in dire need of insulin. The first patients to be treated with Eva's extract were two boys at a nearby hospital who were gravely ill in diabetic comas. Both survived. Between 1942 and 1945, despite the difficult atmosphere of war-torn Shanghai, Eva and her husband continuously made batches of insulin extract, successfully treating dozens of diabetics, all of whom survived.

After World War II, the Saxls left Shanghai for the United States, where Eva met Elliott P. Joslin, MD, founder of the current Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, MA. Eva was invited to give a series of lectures on her experience treating diabetes under extremely difficult conditions in Japanese occupied Shanghai. After Victor Saxl died in 1968, Eva moved to Santiago Chile to live with her brother, who was her only relative. She devoted much of her time aiding underprivileged children with medical problems. Eva Saxl, a most remarkable woman, died in Santiago in 2002 at the age of 81.

A FINAL NOTE

In 1923, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Frederick Banting, James Collip, and J.J.R. Macleod for the discovery of insulin. Macleod was director of the research facility and was more of a cheerleader than researcher. Charles Best was unceremoniously left out. Banting reacted to the decision by generously sharing his proceeds from the prize with Best. History has been kinder to Charles Best. Banting and Best are generally credited with the discovery of insulin, whereas Collip and Macleod are barely remembered.



"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.

Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Shir Shalom



Justin Beck, teacher of Jewish spirituality/kabbalah

Spirituality/Kabbalah

at Congregation Shir Shalom

Monday night, April 30, 7 pm

Justin C. Beck, who has been studying and practicing kabbalah for over 20 years in the US and Israel.

He has studied at two yeshivas in Jerusalem, Nahar Shalom and Simchat Shlomo Yeshiva.

He has also studied with some tremendous rabbis/teachers/authors. In addition to continuous ongoing study, Justin has been teaching Jewish spirituality/kabbalah at synagogues, JCCs, continuing education programs, publicly and privately for the past 5 years.

APRIL 2018

NISAN/IYAR 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 No Religious School	2 No ECC	3 No ECC	4 No ECC No Religious School	5 No ECC No Religious School	6 No ECC Office Closed 6:00 pm Passover Shabbat with Yizkor	7 9:00 am- Torah 101, Shabbat Morning Study
8 No Religious School	9 No ECC	10 No ECC	11 No ECC No Religious School	12 No ECC No Religious School	13 No ECC 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	14 9:00 am- Torah 101- Shabbat Morning Study
15 Religious School Rosh Chodesh Iyar 4:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	17 12 noon- Author talk w/ Ezra Gliner "Have I Got A Story For You"	18 Religious School 5:30 pm NFTY	19 Religious School 12noon-"Lunch & Learn" with Rabbi Haddon	20 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	21
22 Religious School 4:00 pm Neiro- w/ Myron Sugarman	23 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Religious School	26 Religious School 7:00 pm- BOD meeting	27 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Music Shabbat honoring Cantor Katchko Gray's 18 years in our community	28 5:00 pm- Bar Mitzvah: Braden Kurtz
29 Religious School 9:30 am NFTY	30					



www.halprince.com

YOU'RE INVITED!

Party Planning Showcase

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 • 7:00-9:00 pm

Coliseum • 15 South Broadway • White Plains, NY

Live DJ show at 8:00 PM

DJs, MCs, and Dancers from

Hal Prince
music & entertainment

- ◆ Interactive games for kids
- ◆ Roaming entertainers
- ◆ Photography & Videography
- ◆ Invitations
- ◆ Photo area
- ◆ Dance platforms
- ◆ Party favors
- ◆ Party décor

Friends and family are invited! Refreshments will be served!

RSVP by April 18 to 914-241-3300
or email info@halprince.com



Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture

April 13	11 AM	Hartford, CT State Capital Holocaust Remembrance Songs of the Resistance, Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray
	7:30 PM	Beth Styles, Spirited and Soulful Shabbat
April 17	12-2PM	Have I Got a Story For You—Ezra Gliner, author Federation-sponsored author lunch and learn Bring a lunch and enjoy!
April 27	7:30 PM	Cantor Leon Sher, guest musician In honor of Cantor Debbie's 18th year Oneg sponsored by Scott and Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray
May 11	7:30 PM	Israeli Songs—Israeli Teen Emissaries to participate
May 25	7:30 PM	Mark Fineberg—Spirited and Soulful Shabbat
June 3	12-2 PM	Classical Concert, Paul Frucht, director Mika Sasaki, piano Danbury Music Center at Shir Shalom
June 8	7:30 PM	Beth Styles, Spirited and Soulful Shabbat



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877

Non Profit
Organization
Postage
PAID

Danbury, CT
Permit No. PI 2008



The kids at our Early Childhood Center are ready for any emergency!