

MARCH  
2018

# OUR SHIR SHALOM

ADAR/NISAN  
5778



## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mar. 2	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship with 4th grade participation
Mar. 3	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah: Noah Rose
Mar. 9	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat
	7:30 pm	Shabbat Across America- Ruach Shabbat with Beth Styles
Mar. 10	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Margulies
Mar. 16	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Mar. 17	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bat Mitzvah: Abby Segalman
Mar. 23	7:30 pm	Music Shabbat
Mar. 24	10:00 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah: Jeremy Haber
Mar. 30	8:00 am	Passover Service- Feast of the Firstborn
		Erev Pesach- No Shabbat evening service
Mar. 31	10:00 am	Passover Morning Worship
	5:00 pm	Communal Seder

## CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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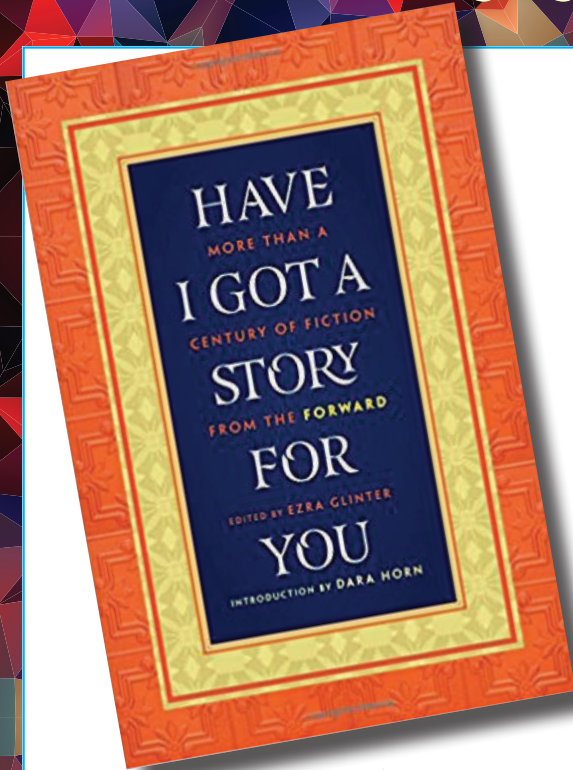
CONGREGATION  
SHIR SHALOM

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# Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Congregation Shir Shalom



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

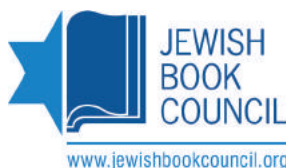
## AUTHOR TALK at Congregation Shir Shalom

Tuesday, April 17, 12–2 pm

Ezra Gliner, 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

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Broder



As this is my first article as co-president, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to those members of our community who may not know me. My husband Stan and I, and our three children have lived in Ridgefield since 2002 and were members of TSI for 13 years prior to Shir Shalom. I have served in many different volunteer and leadership roles in both the

Ridgefield community and our synagogue. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as your co-president with Hal Wolkin and hope to meet as many of you as I can in person at various events at Shir Shalom and in the broader communities that Shir Shalom serves.

As with all of our volunteers and lay leaders, it is my primary goal to see Shir Shalom grow and thrive, and serve the needs of our community. When my children were young, I was always looking to set a good example for them and emphasized the importance of giving back and investing in our community. My children all attended Maimonides Academy and it was there that I began to realize how important it was to me that there be a thriving Jewish community in this area. I saw how my children blossomed and flourished while learning and practicing the many important life lessons the Torah teaches us, such as Tikkun Olam or healing the world. Their Jewish Education gave them a foundation upon which to build their identities as principled young adults. Attending religious school at our synagogue as well as URJ Crane Lake Camp helped forge their identities as Jews and give them a moral basis upon which to navigate the world.

Since neither my husband nor I originally hail from this area, it was important to us when we moved here to find a community where we could raise our family and establish our roots. Although we were somewhat forced into this search by virtue of not having any family in the area, it turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for us to belong to a community of friendly and caring people who would be a pillar of support through the years. By being part of the temple community, we were never without people to laugh with us during our triumphs, and cry with us during our challenges.

Our temple community has allowed our family to explore our connections to each other, to the community beyond, and to the world around us. It has afforded us the opportunity to participate in acts of mitzvot, or good deeds, through many social action projects and charities. It has taught us all about the importance of giving back and supporting one another and it has served to enhance our lives in ways we could never have imagined. My hope is that whatever the Shir Shalom community means to you, you will feel that being a part of it is enriching your lives and those of your family members, and is providing an anchor in the otherwise stormy world in which we live.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your co-president, and if you have any comments or questions, please always feel free to reach out to Hal or to me.

Lynn Broder  
Co-President



## CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

## How About Some Composers Who Are Women Cantors



When I founded the Women Cantors' Network in 1982, there were very few women who composed cantorial music. In fact, music often had to be adjusted for the voice of a woman cantor, sometimes even rewritten. But today, there are dozens of incredible women cantors who are composing for the synagogue. In the era of #MeToo, it is more important

than ever that congregations #HearOurVoice and create spiritually safe places that respect women and use our work.

Here is a list of amazing cantors whose work I regularly use in my own congregation. While it was difficult to narrow this down to seven (and my choices of course were purely subjective), I chose based off of melodies that really stick to your kishkes and bring the text to life. I also focused on cantors who have been composing for years; whose music is sung regularly in Reform, Renewal, Conservative, and Reconstructionist Congregations. But even as you read this, young composers are writing and their compositions will become the new "traditional" music in the future. There are dozens more composers whose work is worthy of attention, but hopefully this list can get you started.

**Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller.** As a professor of Cantorial Arts at Hebrew Union College (HUC) NYC, Benjie has inspired a new generation of cantors and exposed them to her passion for meaningful Jewish music. Choirs all over the world sing her "Halleluhu Psalm 150" and her new "Oseh Shalom" has been performed with orchestra and world class singers. Personally, I sing "May You Live to See Your World Fulfilled" at every B'nai Mitzvah and "Zeh Dodi" at every wedding. Benjie is also publishing a songbook in the near future—it belongs in every cantor's library! Her CD, *A World Fulfilled*, is magnificent.

**Cantor Natasha Hirschhorn.** Natasha is the Music Director of Congregation Anshe Chesed in New York City and is part of the faculty both of HUC and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Her music is haunting and unusual. My congregation's choir sings her rendition of "Oseh Shalom" during the High Holidays, and I believe that her "Yesh Adonai Bamakom Hazeh" ("G-d was in this place and I did not know") has the power to cause a spiritual awakening every time it is sung.

**Cantor Robbi Sherwin.** Robbi is a force of nature—a unique mandolin playing cantor/rabbi who plays with the popular band, Sababa, and has been a leader in the

Women Cantors' Network. She and Marci Vitikus (also a member of the Women Cantors' Network) co-wrote "Atah Kadosh," which my congregation uses to complete the chanting aloud of the Amidah each week. Her "Maariv Aravim" and "Love Adonai Your G-d" are also both notable.

**Cantor Rachelle Nelson.** Rachelle is a composer of Jewish music from South Florida. She has created several songbooks and CDs and also runs In the Spirit Music Foundation, which encourages writing new inspirational Jewish liturgical music. She graduated in 1984 from HUC's School of Sacred Music (now the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music). Her "Modim Anachnu Lach" is a Hebrew-English prayer of giving thanks that I use at my interfaith Thanksgiving services.

**Beth Styles.** Beth is a producer/composer/musician/vocalist and a popular Artist in Residence at synagogues. As a composer, her music is fresh and unusual, a mix of Jewish gospel flavored with deeply spiritual and lush melodies that stick to your kishkes. I met Beth in the 1980s when she produced my first CD, *Jewish Soul*. (She also produced for Diana Ross.) Years later, she is a frequent musical guest in my synagogue creating a "Shabbat Experience" that moves and inspires. I could list a dozen of her songs, but "Grateful," "Light These Lights," "Mi Sheberach," "Shehecheyanu," "Hashkivenu," "Adonai S'fatai," and "Shabbat Shalom" have now become "traditional" songs in my synagogue.

**Cantor Lisa Levine.** Lisa is a worship artist, songwriter, recording artist, and yoga prayer facilitator, who has been writing music for over 30 years. She created "Yoga Shalom," combining Yoga and Jewish prayerful movement and worship. Her songbooks and CDs are numerous and well received, though I love her "Mi Sheberach" and "V'shamru" in particular. These tunes are essential parts of my Shabbat services, bringing an easy singing and soulful quality to song and worship.

**Ellen Allard.** Ellen is arguably the best known children's composer and teacher around today. Her captivating energy and catchy tunes are classics in the preschool communities. "Holy Holiness" is one of those rare songs that can be perfect for three year olds, teenagers leading a service and/or any intergenerational group praying. The piece's simple repetition of beautiful lyrics, like the phrase, "All around everywhere, holy holiness," is transformative. "I feel like an angel," said one young boy after singing this work. That's what I hope to create in a service—a sense of holy transcendence, a feeling that is uplifting and peaceful. "Holy Holiness" does that every time!



## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

With two granddaughters both under a year old living two and three hours away, respectively, Face Time has become our passport to spending time visiting with each other. Clearly, it is a wonderful tool for all of us. It is fascinating to watch a seven and ten month old staring into a laptop or

smartphone. Their natural pull toward the screen seems almost innate and their gratification palpable—all without any artifice-- as phones and technology have become like extensions of our own bodies no matter what our age.

In the article, *Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation* by Jean M. Twenge from the September issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*, the writer explores research showing how smartphones are influencing us all—for their positive and negative effects. As we have many teens involved in our school and youth group programs each year—it is of particular interest to see how these devices compete for real-life interaction-- at Religious School and in their private lives. Recently, when two twenty year old Israeli emissaries visited our grades 7-12 group, the Internet educational game *Kahoot* was featured as part of their presentation. I have rarely seen a room of twelve-fifteen year old students light up with interest so quickly. In truth, Kahoot is a great learning tool and the secular schools use this game to teach for good reason.

With concern Twenge writes, “Around 2012, I noticed abrupt shifts in teen behaviors and emotional states. The gentle slopes of the line graphs became steep mountains and sheer cliffs, and many of the distinctive characteristics of the Millennial generation began to disappear. In all my analyses of generational data—some reaching back to the 1930s—I had never seen anything like it.”

She continues, “The allure of independence, so powerful to previous generations, holds less sway over today’s teens.... At first I presumed these might be blips, but the trends persisted, across several years and a series of national surveys. The changes weren’t just in degree, but in kind. The biggest difference between the Millennials and their predecessors was in how they viewed the world; teens today differ from the Millennials not just in their views but in how they spend their time. The experiences they have every day are radically different from those of the generation that came of age just a few years before them.”

The writer asks, “Why are today’s teens waiting longer to take on both the responsibilities and the pleasures of adulthood? Shifts in the economy, and parenting, certainly play a role. In an information economy that rewards higher education more than early work history, parents may be inclined to encourage their kids to stay home and study rather than to get a part-time job. Teens, in turn, seem to



Religious School students take the lead making bologna sandwiches for the homeless as part of “Sandwiches for Service”.



It wasn't just the kids having a good time at the Religious School's Purim Carnival!



## MARCH B'NAI MITZVAH

**Noah Benjamin Rose**

Born on March 1st, Noah is the son of Andrew and Nicole Rose and the younger brother of Lauren. At the end of the month, Noah will celebrate his favorite holiday, Passover, with his extended family that he looks forward to seeing.

Noah's favorite prayer is the Sh'ma because it provides him with the opportunity to give thanks to all the wonderful things in his life, like his family. Noah notes that becoming Bar Mitzvah allows him to be an adult in the Jewish community and he enjoys helping the younger students study Hebrew as they prepare for their special day.

Some of Noah's favorite things include baseball, playing his alto saxophone, drawing and X-Box. He enjoys social studies, Jewish history, and hopes one day to be a neurosurgeon.

**Ethan Margulies**

Ethan is proud to be a Jew because he feels a connection to others, as well as a sense of pride because of who he is. He believes that being a Jew defines him and gives him meaning in his life. He is the son of Dave and Amy Margulies and has one brother, Jake. The Margulies have one furry family member, their dog Tahoe. Jake social studies, Jewish history and soccer, which he hopes he can play professionally.

Ethan has strong feelings about becoming a Bar Mitzvah, saying "it means to me the next step into manhood. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah enlightens me to truth of responsibilities I have as a Jewish man.

**Abby Rose Segalman**

As Abby states "Rosh Hashanah is my favorite Jewish holiday because it falls around my birthday and I celebrate it with my family and we eat sweet things". For Abby,

becoming a Bat Mitzvah means becoming a young adult who will contribute positively to society. She is proud to be Jewish because the Jews have made so many contributions to the arts and sciences and have overcome so much adversity.

Volunteering at the Pegasus Therapeutic Riding program has shown Abby, first hand, adults and children overcoming adversity. Abby plans to continue her volunteer work throughout her high school years. Hoping to become a professional equestrian it's clear why her favorite sport is riding her horse, Jack. Jack also keeps company with the family's two dogs, Lady and Max.

Abby is the daughter of Joel and Eileen Segalman and has two older brothers, Jordan and Richard.

**Jeremy Nathaniel Haber**

Jeremy Haber is the son of Lou Haber and Caroline Chanin, and the youngest of the four siblings (Hilly, James, and Sophia). This family also includes a furry, family member, called Bandit. Jeremy enjoys playing the clarinet and sports such as swimming, basketball and volleyball. In school, his favorite subjects are science and

math and in religious school he studies Torah and Jewish culture. In the future, he would like to be a scientist.

Nahum Chanin is Jeremy's great-grandfather, who served as general secretary of the Workmen's Circle, a Jewish social justice organization. Nahum helped save a number of Jews from the Holocaust by assisting in their immigration to the U.S. He is Jeremy's Jewish hero.

Jeremy's favorite prayer is silent meditation, because it gives him a chance to reflect, and the Mi Shebeirach prayer because it is good to pray for people who are not well. It is important to Jeremy to become a Bar Mitzvah and take on the responsibilities of being a member of the Jewish community. Jeremy will continue with his social action commitments, including his work at the Dorothy Day House.



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

## *Social Action as Jewish Education*

For all Congregants in Grades 8-12



*Where 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 & receive recognition by Congregation Shir Shalom for your continuing engagement in our school & temple. Receive community service hours for your time & 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 & 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 & 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



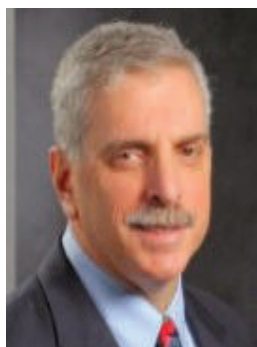
## RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



**M**atzo. We all eat it. Some of us like it, some do not. We all know its symbolism and why it is eaten during Passover. This year Passover occurs early in the secular calendar, beginning on the evening of Friday, March 30 so this is the perfect time to discuss the topic of matzo.

It is permitted to eat matzo at any time during the year, however we are commanded in Parsha Bo (Exodus 12:18) and in Parsha Emor (Leviticus 23:6) "seven days shall you eat matzo", starting on the 14th day of Nisan. It is also the 158th commandment in the tractate Pesachim in the Talmud. There are specific rules in the Mishnah however that apply to the baking of matzo which is considered kosher for Passover.



Matzo that is kosher for Passover may only contain two ingredients, flour and water. The flour must be continually watched from the time it is milled to make sure there has been no contamination. No

leavening agents may be used and care must be taken to clean the equipment between making batches of matzo to be certain there are no contaminants, which may act as leavening agents, remaining. Baking of the matzo must be completed within 18 minutes of mixing the ingredients, to prevent the leavening process from beginning, even with just these two ingredients. Quite possibly you may have heard of a product called shmurah matzo. These matzot are subject to yet another level of scrutiny, that is the wheat must be watched from the time of harvest through milling and baking, and are typically hand-formed rather than machine-formed.

Now that we have learned about matzo perhaps we have piqued your interest in joining your fellow congregants at our annual Community Second Night Seder on Saturday March 31 to be held in the pavilion at Congregation Shir Shalom. It is an evening full of song, food, telling the story of Passover and camaraderie, and is suitable for all ages. Due to the early deadline for this article (it is being written in January), plans are still being completed. Please watch the weekly email blasts and other forms of communications for details in the days to follow. We hope to see you and your friends and families in attendance.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin



*Everyone enjoyed the Purim celebration, complete with costumes!*





**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](mailto:Leslie@OurShirShalom.org)



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## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

By Lewis Siegel

## THE BINDING OF ISAAC (THE AKEDAH); A VIEW OF TWO POETS

The story of the binding of Isaac (Akedah, Genesis 22; verse 6), a most fascinating biblical narrative, lends itself to a multitude of interpretations, commentary, and insights into human behavior. Writings delving into the psyche of Abraham and Isaac, analyses dealing with obedience, faith, and psychology are abundant. Christian theology also gets into the act. The Christians' belief that Isaac was actually sacrificed and resurrected, provides them credence for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The Akedah has not eluded the poetic field. Poets have used their creativity to arrive at each of their unique interpretations of the story. Very poignant poems were written by the Israeli poet Yehudah Amichai, and the British poet, Wilfred Owen.

**The Real Hero**

by Yehudah Amichai

*The real hero of the Isaac story was the ram,  
Who didn't know about the conspiracy between the others.  
As if he had volunteered to die instead of Isaac.  
I want to sing a song in his memory—  
About his curly wool and his human eyes.  
About the horns that were so silent on his living head.  
And how they made these horns into shofars when he was  
slaughtered  
To sound their battle cries, or to blare out their obscene joy.  
I want to remember the last frame  
Like the photo in an elegant magazine:  
The young man tanned and manicured in his jazzy suit  
And beside him the angel, dressed for a party in a long silk  
gown.  
Both of them empty-eyed, looking at two empty places,  
And behind them, like a colored backdrop, the ram  
Caught in the thicket before the slaughter.  
The thicket was his last friend.  
The angel went home. Isaac went home.  
Abraham and God had long gone before.  
But the real hero of the Isaac story  
Was the ram.*

**The Parable of the Old Man and the Young**  
by Wilfred Owen

*So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,  
And took the fire with him, and a knife.  
And as they sojourned both of them together,  
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,*

*Behold the preparations, fire and iron,  
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?  
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,  
And builded parapets and trenches there,  
And stretched forth the knife to slay his son.  
When lo! An angel called him out of the heaven,  
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,  
Neither do anything to him. Behold,  
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.  
But the old man would not so, but slew his son,  
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.*

While each poem has a diametrically opposite ending, the objective of both poets may be the same.

Wilfred Owen fought for the British in World War I, and wrote most of his poetry during the war. He was killed in action only one week before the Armistice. His mentor Siegfried Sassoon, published Owen's poetry after the war. The poem appears to illustrate the disturbing and repetitive theme of political leaders who would be willing to sacrifice the lives of others in order to preserve their pride.

Yehudah Amichai, an Israeli, fought in three Israeli wars-1948, 1956, and 1973. He was considered Israel's greatest poet. This poem was written after the Israeli intervention into the Lebanese Civil War in 1982. One interpretation could be that Amichai is rejecting animal sacrifice and/or animal cruelty. On the other hand, he could be using the ram as a metaphorical representation of the innocent soldier sent off to a needless war by leaders who would be willing to sacrifice them. This latter interpretation would then be similar to Owen's.

There well could be other interpretations of these poems, and if any Shir Shalom congregants would like to share their views, please send them in, and they could be part of the next issue of the Shir Shalom newsletter in the section on Excerpts in Jewish History. (lewsie@comcast.net)



*"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.*



## SISTERHOOD

by Nancy Cavillones



**I**n Like a Lion, And Hopefully, Out Like a Lamb! Happy March, Sisters. In February, we continued with our popular Knitting Wednesdays and Mah Jongg Thursdays. Many thanks to Suzanne Sunday and Margie Gorelick, respectively, for coordinating those

activities. At the end of February, we had our annual Adam Broderick Night, spearheaded by Leslie Kramer, who did a great job planning an evening of pampering.

Looking ahead, we hope to offer more cooking classes, and other member-led activities. If there's a program you'd like to see, please be in touch!

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, an organization, 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.worldjewish-relief.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!

Nancy Cavillones  
Sisterhood President

## NOTES FROM NEIROT

**O**n April 22nd at 4 PM we will be talking with Myron Sugarman, the "Last Jewish Gangster". Raised at the feet of the Mob, he will tell tales of the gansters, Jewish and not.

***Don't Fuggedaboutit!***

Also, keep in mind that we are looking for presenters. Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Contact NeiroT @ Our Shir Shalom.org

## FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer



As signs of spring peak out from our long hard winter, I can do nothing more important than think about our garden. Our growers program is a highlight of our early childhood center. Each year magic happens in our garden. We incorporate all kinds of learning into our garden experience. This includes, but is not limited to,

the study of science, nature, creativity and patience, all essential components of inquiry. There is a myriad of scientific concepts we discuss with kids when planting and tending to a garden. The wonder of seeing plants grow may spark our inquisitive minds to ask questions like: Why do the plants need sun? How does the plant “drink” water? Why are worms good for the plants?

When we begin to harvest your produce, think of all the brain-building vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients our kids will be eating and how that will continue to boost brain development. Even if kids may not love the foods they grow at first, we encourage them to keep tasting and trying and to train their taste buds to enjoy the bounty of our garden.

When children participate in gardening, the fruits and vegetables that they are inspired to eat will no doubt have a positive effect on their body. But the act of gardening itself can also promote a healthy body. Kids LOVE to get their hands and feet in the dirt. These days all kids could benefit from a little more physical activity and sunshine they’ll get while gardening. Activities like moving soil, carrying a heavy watering can, digging in the dirt and pushing a wheelbarrow can promote gross motor skills and overall strength for a more fit body.

Time in the garden allows for team building and promotes communication skills. Planning a garden, planting the seeds and watching them grow give kids a sense of purpose and responsibility. Making sure that the plants get enough water and sun fosters mindfulness. The concepts learned while gardening, like composting food scraps for fertilizer or using gathered rainwater, can show kids a deep respect and responsibility for taking care of our planet.

Furthermore, studies show that when children have contact with soil during activities like digging and planting, they have improved moods, better learning experiences and decreased anxiety. Most important, the self-esteem a child gets from eating a perfect cucumber that he grew himself is priceless.





# 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

## Don't Miss These Great Service Opportunities!

### Midnight Run

Our next Run to help the homeless of New York City will be held on a Saturday night in May. Date TBD.

Please let us know if you'd like to **attend the Run or help sort out the clothing!**

Also, please look for our **donation bin** in the Temple foyer. We would be grateful for the following donations:

- Clean, used men's clothing: jeans, pants, shirts, shoes, hoodies, belts
- Trial-size toiletries, and disposable razors
- NEW men's underwear and socks

### Mitzvah Day will be Sunday, May 6

### **Join our good-humored and motivated planning team!**

Your ideas and a little bit of your energy will go a long way towards planning this meaningful temple-wide annual event.

**....And Mark Your Calendars Everyone! Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> is Mitzvah Day!**

### Laurel Ridge Nursing Home

### **It's not too late!**

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to participate in this important, heart-warming program. Help the residents participate in recreational activities at the nursing home.

### Blood Drive

Look-out for the date of this life-saving program. To be announced

### You can sign up to Volunteer with our Partner-Agencies

**Daily Bread Food Pantry:** We need volunteers to help at the pantry as clients shop. Upcoming dates are Monday mornings, March 26 and April 30.

**Dorothy Day Hospitality House:** We need volunteers to help prepare and serve a meal to clients in need. Upcoming dates are Sunday afternoons, March 4 and April 1.

**Federal Corrections Institute:** Thanks to Polly Schnell who brought a bit of joy to inmates as she led a Shabbat service and discussion and lead them in song with the help of her guitar!

Contact [SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org) for More Information!

**Thank you Everyone!**

## 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 Jason and Jessica Gorelick. How nice that the Gorelicks baby grandson, Jack, has a new baby cousin, Emma!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Abby Aframe  
 Asher Meister-Aldama  
 Holly Alexander  
 Craig Altman  
 Max Axler  
 Jason Bangser  
 Alexis Barrett  
 Julia Besterman  
 Joshua Bolgar  
 Ethan Broder  
 Barbara Brodsky  
 Andrew Carter  
 Robin Bartley-Cohen  
 Aaron Cohen  
 Jaime Bartley-Cohen  
 Ellen Conti  
 David deLange  
 Lana Dubin  
 Blake Edson  
 Andrew Emmer  
 Kenneth Feldman

Zachary Fischman  
 Deborah Gantwerker  
 Scott Gantwerker  
 Michael Gilbert  
 Andrew Glicklich  
 Mark Glicklich  
 Maxine Gorelick  
 Leslie Gottlieb  
 David Gottlieb  
 Rannon Gray  
 Jeremy Haber  
 Jay Heffler  
 Robin Heit  
 Richard Hellinger  
 Emily Herbstman  
 Jesse Hisiger  
 Taylor Hoffman  
 Laurel Honig  
 Carter Hughes  
 Jamie Kaplan  
 Dayna Kaplan

Jeffrey Klotz  
 Julia Knispel  
 Lisa Kurtz  
 Lawrence Lapine  
 Kelly Lash  
 Laura Leitner  
 Terrence Levens  
 Jeffrey Levi  
 Kenneth Litwin  
 Judith Hirt-Manheimer  
 Amy Margulies  
 Josh Meyer  
 Wendy Meyer  
 Austin Omin  
 Jessica Pollack  
 Lisa Pollack  
 Harrison Rappaport  
 Rabbi Fred Reiner  
 Noah Rose  
 Andrew Rose  
 Sophie Rudin

Julie Sacks  
 Barbara Safran  
 Dylan Salpeter  
 Howard Samuels  
 Wynter Schnell  
 Fulvio Segalla  
 Alexandra Shaplen  
 Alexa Stevelman  
 Murray Tarnapoll  
 Alisa Trachtenberg  
 Seth Levi Tubbs  
 Isabel Voellmicke  
 Benjamin Voellmicke  
 Kurt Voellmicke  
 Beth Waldman  
 Bennett Wattles  
 Emily Wein  
 David Yolen  
 Will Yolen  
 Jane Zeitz  
 Lily Zezula

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Edward and Ana Barth  
 Martin and Hanky Kutscher

Bryan and Jamie Garrett  
 Steven and Debbie Landzberg

Paul and Barbara Heller  
 Robert and Judith Strom

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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!



## MARCH YAHREZEITEN

## Friday, March 2nd, 2018

Samuel Auerbach      father of Michelle Auerbach  
 Marcelle Goldstein      cousin of Margery Wallach  
 Richard Klein      father of Dayna Kaplan  
 Dorothy Martin      grandmother of Dawn Kessler  
 Max Rifkin  
 Edward Shade      uncle of Diana Friedlander  
 James Taylor      father in law of Karen Taylor

## Leonard Brodnick

Sayde Hisiger      mother of Miles Hisiger  
 Sydney Kopfstein      father of Allen Kopfstein  
 Lottie Mirkin      grandmother of Judith Strom  
 Max Schenk      stepfather of Allan Gottlieb  
 Irvin Slotnick      father of Jacqueline Goldner

## Friday, March 9th, 2018

Harvey Alterman      husband of Rhonda Manus  
 Pauline Berkowitz      grandmother of Stephen Heit  
 Amy Cohen      sister of Adam Cohen  
 Seymour Drucker      grandfather of Janine Gordon  
 Moses Fergenson      uncle of Michael Bergman  
 Melvin Moss      father of David Moss  
 Aida Ryan      mother of Eve Siegel

Monte Baier      brother of Shelby White  
 Elliot Bernstein      father of Meredith Rudin  
 Ada Dolin      grandmother of Rachel Bender  
 Albert Elkin      grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman  
 Felicia Israel-Mucciolo  
 Herman Rosenthal      grandfather of Susan Westlake  
 Douglas Schwartz      son of Annabel Schwartz

Beatrice Strom      mother of Robert Strom

Charles Warton      brother of Vicki Yolen  
 brother of Gale Berman

## Friday, March 16th, 2018

Steven Abraham      brother of Vivian Hoffman  
 Lyubov Dashevskaya      grandmother of Vladimir Gogish  
 Jerome Howard      father of Laurie Dubin  
 Leon Levy      husband of Shelby White  
 Fred Murad      brother of Menashe Murad  
 Helen Pilch      mother of Alan Pilch

Laura Bank      aunt of Arnold Leitner  
 Florence Fine      grandmother of Peter Fine  
 Feyga Levin-Goldberg  
 Gloria Margolis      mother of Elise Aries  
 Jeanne Perrin      mother of Charles Perrin  
 Betty Ravitch      grandmother of Michael Gitlitz

## Friday, March 23rd, 2018

Daniel Berlin      brother of Ruth Ossher  
 Morton Eydenberg      father of Susan Westlake  
 Morris Heller      father of Paul Heller  
 Anna Jacobson      grandmother of Karen Conti  
 Marvin Kipnes      father of Todd Kipnes  
 Esther Mirkin      mother of Judith Strom  
 Elsie Rudy  
 Tillie Schmeltzer      mother of Resa Fremed  
 Robert Sigman      friend of the Berman family

Michael Davis      brother in law of Elyse Davis  
 David Hagen      son of Renee Hagen  
 brother of Ellen Lipton  
 Francis Horvilleur      father of Laurence Furic  
 Milton Kamler      grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld  
 George Levenson      uncle of Karen Brenner  
 Thelma Reichenthal      mother of Sandra Rosenhouse  
 Sam Schmeltzer      father of Resa Fremed  
 Ellen Seligman      sister of Maggie Seligman  
 Richard Wood      father of Trudy Wood



## MARCH YAHRZEITEN

Friday, March 30th, 2018

Ellen Cohen	mother of Rich Cohen	Harry Cohen	grandfather of Steven Kaye
Eva Engel	grandmother of Robin Heit	Alvin Farans	father of Danielle Finke
Louis Grayson	friend of Donald Gordon	Eva Greenberg	mother of Adrienne Orlan
Kenneth Henry	father of Robert Henry	Mary Keleher	mother of Catherine Mishkin
David Leitner	father of Ian Leitner	Anne Elizabeth Raynor	
Louis Rubinfeld	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld	Richard Ruo	father of Eileen Segalman
Emmy Sternberger	grandmother of Alice Gottlieb		

We extend condolences to...

To the Wallach and Wallach-DeLucia families on the death of Lisa Tucker.



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Toni Edelman Krell

in memory of Arthur Edelman

Sam & Libby Edelman

in memory of Arthur Edelman

#### Music Fund

Matt & Jill Teich

in memory of Jay Davis

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

be content with this homebody arrangement—not because they're so studious, but because their social life is lived on their phone. They don't need to leave home to spend time with their friends."

Sadly Twenge concludes, "You might expect that teens spend so much time in these new spaces because it makes them happy, but most data suggest that it does not."

To that end educators and parents have had to struggle for real time conversations with teens more than ever before. This is where a weekend in Washington, D.C. spent with hundreds of other Jewish teens and leaders from across the country becomes even more special. We are sending a strong group of students and chaperones to the Religious Action Center's L' Taken program for the second year in a row and the information from the R.A.C.'s website helps to explain its mission best. We hope to share with all of you our experiences and takeaways from this year's program.

#### From the R.A.C. L'Taken Parent Brochure...

*Since 1961, the Religious Action Center has been a voice for Reform Jewish values in Washington, DC. The RAC educates and mobilizes teens, clergy, and everyone in between. In all, they advocate for public policy that reflects the Jewish commitment to social justice.*

*Students will learn... history and background of important public policy issues for greater understanding and engagement in the national dialogue • The deep Jewish values that underpin social justice advocacy and how the pursuit of justice is a pillar of Jewish tradition • Up-to-the-minute legislative*

*updates on current policy • Skills in critical thinking, writing and oration • Persuasive speech writing • Capitol Hill legislative advocacy*

*Every year nearly 2,000 high school students descend upon Washington, D.C. for the L'Taken Social Justice Seminars, a four-day Jewish public policy conference hosted by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). invest in a teen's Jewish future. Students will travel with their community for a fun and meaningful weekend together. The program is designed to both expose participants to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these topics. On Friday and Saturday, participants have the opportunity to attend interactive programs on Israel, climate change, racial justice, campaign finance reform, economic justice, reproductive rights, LGBTQ civil rights, church/state separation, international relations and more. On Sunday, participants have the opportunity to focus on a single, specific issue about which they are particularly passionate. The seminar culminates with students presenting a speech to their Members of Congress on the topic of their choice. L'Taken also takes advantage of the vast opportunities available in our nation's capital by visiting the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonians, the National Mall, and celebrating Havdallah at the Jefferson Memorial. And, all the while, teens have the chance to meet and mingle with Reform Jews from across the United States.*

At Shir Shalom, we hope to continue this tradition for many years and hope your 9-12<sup>th</sup> grader will join us in future years. Stay tuned for photos from this year's trip!!



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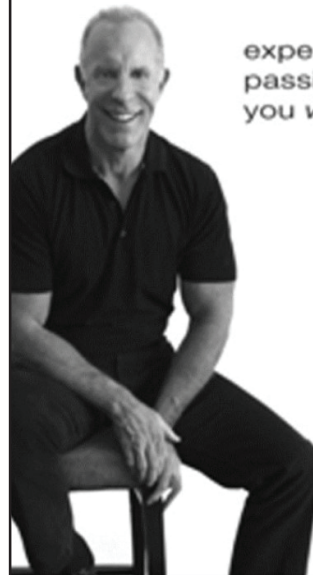
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Jan. 28	Sunday 9:15–10:15 AM	Jewish Yoga with Niema Hirsch, complimentary
Feb. 9	Friday 7:30 PM	Mark Fineberg and Brian Besterman Spirited and Soulful Shabbat
Feb. 16–19		LIMMUD NY, Jewish Learning without Limits, in Princeton, NJ—A weekend of learning with Jewish scholars Cantor Debbie will be teaching huck weaving
March 4	9:30–11 AM 4–6 PM	Intro to Huck Tallit Making—Cantor's house  Composers and Their Worlds Classical Concert in our sanctuary Danbury Music Center Ives Concert Series—Free—donations accepted
March 9	7:30 PM	Beth Styles Spirited and Soulful Shabbat
March 23	7:30 PM	A Suite Shabbat—Julian Schwarz, cello Marika Bournaki, pianist Jewish themed classical music Paul Frucht, composer—his piece "The Reckoning" will be played
April 13	11 AM 7:30 PM	Hartford, CT State Capital Holocaust Remembrance Songs of the Resistance, Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray  Beth Styles, Spirited and Soulful Shabbat
April 17	12–2 PM	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

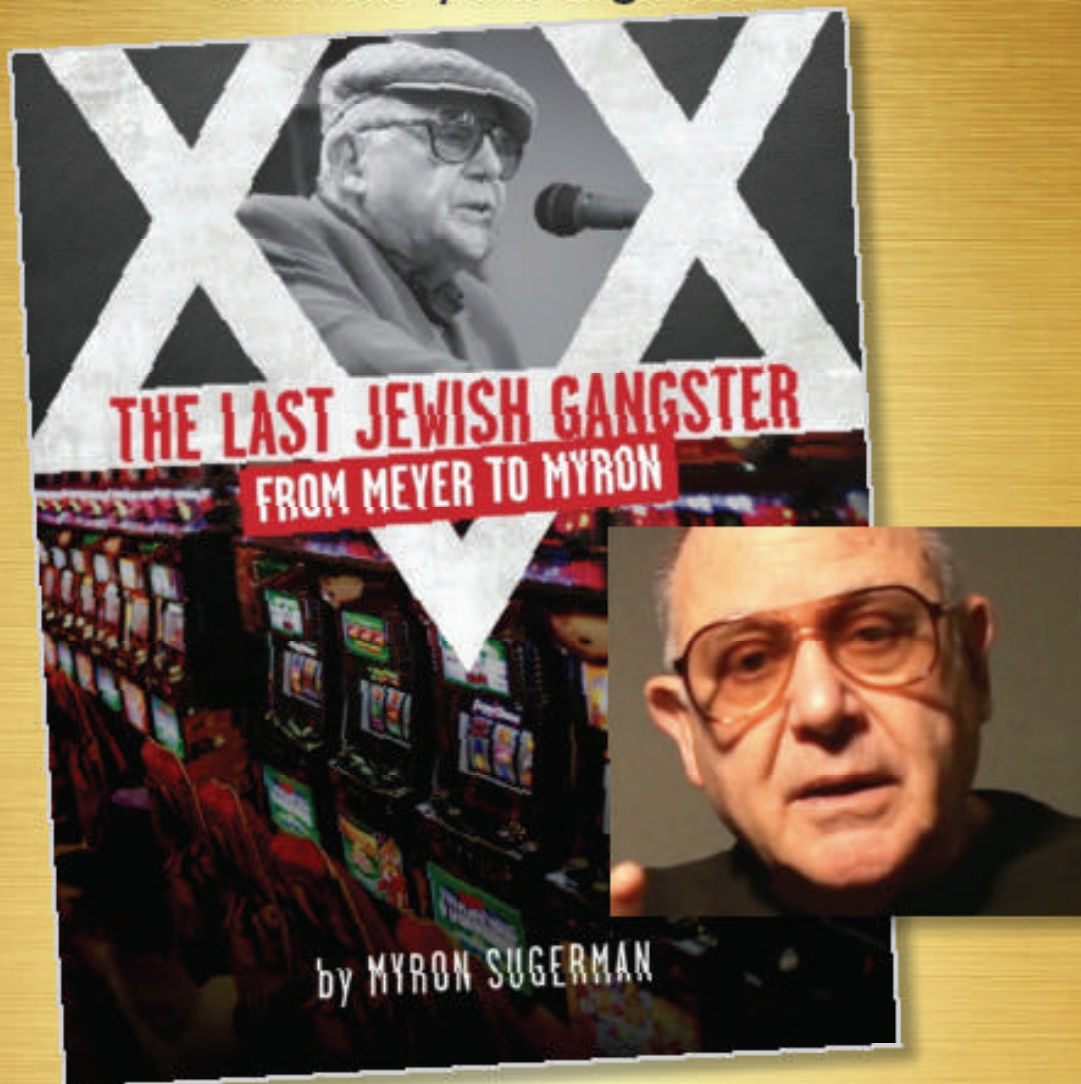
MARCH 2018

ADAR/NISAN 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Religious School Purim	2 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ grade 4 participating	3 9 am- Torah 101-Shabbat Morn- ing Study 10:30 am- Bar Mitzvah: Noah Rose
4 Religious School 4:00 pm-Classical Concert "Compos- ers & Their Worlds"	5	6	7 Religious School	8 Religious School 7:15 pm- BOD meeting	9 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Ruach Shabbat w/ Beth Styles "Shabbat Across America"	10 5:00 pm- Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Margulies
11 Religious School 10:15 am- ADL program Daylight Savings Time begins	12	13	14 Religious School 5:30 pm NFTY	15 Religious School 12noon-"Lunch & Learn" with Rabbi Haddon	16 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	17 9 am- Torah 101-Shabbat Morn- ing Study 10:30 am- Bat Mitzvah: Abby Segalman Rosh Chodesh Nisan
18 Religious School 9:30 am-Holocaust speaker, Judy Altman	19	20	21 Religious School- model seder	22 Religious School- model seder	23 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Music Shabbat	24 10:00 am- Bar Mitzvah: Jeremy Haber
25 Religious School	26	27	28 Religious School	29 NO Religious School	30 8:00 am- Fast/ Feast of the Firstborn NO Shabbat eve- ning worship	31 2nd Night Seder 10:00 am- Passover morning service 5:00 pm- Commu- nal Seder



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