

JUNE
2018

OUR SHIR SHALOM

SIVAN/TAMMUZ
5778



In May, two of our ECC students were
preparing for Mother's Day

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
June 2	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bat Mitzvah: Abby Rudin
June 8	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Congregational dinner Confirmation & Graduation Shabbat Worship
June 9	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Nate Cohen
June 15	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
June 16	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah: Newton Bersch
June 22	7:30 pm	Shabbat Worship LGBT & Allies Pride Month
June 29	6:30pm 7:30 pm	Shabbat ShaBBQ Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

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of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Broder & Hal Wolkin



On Friday, April 30th, we came together for a community dinner followed by a very special musical Shabbat to celebrate Cantor Debbie's eighteen years with our Shir Shalom community. We were at capacity in our pavilion and together enjoyed a delicious and festive meal, as well as one of the grandest Oneg Shabbat dessert receptions that we have experienced at Shir Shalom. Approximately 150 congregants and guests joined the community dinner and many more arrived thereafter to participate in Shabbat Services and the Oneg Shabbat dessert reception. Thank you to Lorilee Palazzo, Laura Morris and Debra Lavin for making delicious baked goods for our Oneg Shabbat and to Heather Satin for the beautiful decorations and tower of sweets. Thank you

also to Miguel Cardenas for his help making the celebration run seamlessly.

Cantor Debbie's impressive achievements include not only the last eighteen years here at Shir Shalom, but also an impressive career that spans more than 30 years. We are so fortunate to count her among our dedicated clergy. Cantor Debbie is a fourth generation cantor and, since 1999, Congregation Shir Shalom has been her spiritual home. Her "Music Shabbat" programs with the Shir Shalom Adult Choir, Shir Shalom Talented Teens and guest artists have garnered much praise in the community. She founded the Women's Cantor's Network in 1982, a national organization of 300 members. Her spirited and soulful programs and concerts of Jewish music and her recordings and Katchko Songbook are widely enjoyed. She teaches hazzanut via Skype for the European Academy of Jewish Liturgy and has published, Jewish Huck Embroidery, using Swedish Weaving to create heirloom tallitot. Her classes, "Stitch and Kvitch" have inspired dozens of people to make tallitot and let's not overlook the numerous tallitot that she has personally knit that are worn by many in our congregation, including our Rabbi and Co-Presidents. We could go on and on but instead, refer you to Cantor Debbie's own website, <https://cantordebbie.com/>, where you will discover a large sample of her lifetime's work which speaks for itself.

Just as important, is Cantor Debbie's warm and welcoming personality, which cannot go unnoticed by anyone who interacts with her, from our children who she helps to prepare for Bat/Bar Mitzvah, to the adults participating in our Adult Choir and other programs which Cantor Debbie either orchestrates or participates in.

Our Cantor, like our Rabbi, is front and center when it comes to community involvement and outreach. Activities such as orga-
(con't. page 18).

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



On May 5th, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn that my teacher and colleague, Rabbi Dr. Aaron Panken, PhD, z"tl, was tragically killed when the plane he was piloting crashed. Rabbi Panken was 53 years old and had been serving as President of Hebrew Union College-

Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) since 2014. Hebrew Union College is the oldest Jewish seminary in America, and is where Rabbi Haddon, Rabbi Burstein (of blessed memory), and I studied to become rabbis—it is the institution responsible for training most of the rabbis, cantors, educators, and other Jewish professionals that serve Reform Jewish congregations. After settling into his role as President over the past few years, Rabbi Panken was preparing many significant new initiatives for HUC-JIR and the future of that institution and our movement was very bright. As President of HUC-JIR, Rabbi Panken was responsible for the physical act of ordination—laying hands upon and blessing each student as they concluded their rabbinical and cantorial studies. He was a thought leader in the Reform Movement, in the American Jewish community, and throughout the world. His presence, his intellect and charm, his kindness are already missed.

By virtue of his role as President of HUC-JIR, nearly every rabbi in North America was connected to Rabbi Panken, and he was well liked and highly respected by all. Rabbi Burstein, of blessed memory, had a very special connection with Rabbi Panken for many years, especially through Rabbi Burstein's work with HUC-JIR, the Board of Governors, and the rabbinical alumni association, as well as Rabbi Burstein's tenure at Westchester Reform Temple (prior to starting at Jewish Family Congregation). I know that a few members of our congregation met Rabbi Panken at Rabbi Burstein's funeral.

An outstanding teacher and renowned Jewish scholar, I was privileged to learn from Rabbi Panken

on a few occasions (though I was a student at the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR and he was on the faculty of the New York campus), and witnessed how he brought ancient texts to life and celebrated the nuances of rabbinic commentary codified centuries ago. Even more memorable were our personal interactions on a variety of occasions, when I experienced the warmth and caring and genuine interest that he brought to his relationships with colleagues and students, supporters and friends. Our paths crossed many times: Rabbi Panken had worked with my mother (of blessed memory) on the editorial board of Reform Judaism magazine; through his wife's family, Rabbi Panken was connected closely to my alma mater and my undergraduate thesis advisor; we were randomly assigned adjacent seats on a few flights to conferences around the country. One of my most memorable interactions was when we flew together to the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Convention in Orlando in 2015. Our conversation ranged from the page of Talmud in Aramaic with Hebrew commentaries that he was preparing to teach during the convention, to the book I was reading by Modern Israeli novelist, David Grossman, to his identification of our flight plan and altitude based upon looking out the window of the plane, to meaningful conversation about our (at the time, in process) merger, to an in-depth analysis of the flight approaches to the Danbury Municipal Airport. His quiet brilliance, genuine compassion, and diverse interests were revealed throughout the flight. Rabbinical school includes exposure to many aspects of Jewish history and culture and it is rare to find a colleague who had mastered so many with intelligence and wit.



As I reflect on those hours together and all that Rabbi Panken was bringing to HUC-JIR, I can better see how he inspired so many and how he aspired to ensure graduates of HUC-JIR would make a

(con't. on page 4)

significant difference in the Jewish community and the world as a whole.

As the Jewish world mourns the death of Rabbi Panken, I want to share a few words from the obituary written by Laurie Goodstein, published in New York Times (online on May 6; in print on May 7, 2018):

“Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, who expanded the ranks and ambitions of liberal Reform Jewish leaders in North America and in Israel, where Orthodox Judaism dominates, died on Saturday when a plane he was piloting crashed...on a routine flight check with an instructor. Flying was his hobby.”

Rabbi Panken was elected to the presidency of Hebrew Union in 2013, after serving on the faculty and in leadership there for nearly three decades...

[T]he largest Jewish denomination in the United States and Canada, [Reform Judaism] is dwarfed in Israel, where the Orthodox rabbinate has been fighting to retain its control over institutional religious life.

“He knew that it was crucial to create change from the inside, attract more and more liberal rabbis, who could create more Reform congregations that hopefully will lead to a change in Israeli policy and culture, and a recognition of liberal Jews as authentic Jews,” said Rabbi Norman J. Cohen, professor emeritus and former dean, provost and interim president of Hebrew Union College, who taught Rabbi Panken and was serving under him when Rabbi Panken died. “Such a vibrant, dynamic guy...”

A somber ordination of new rabbis and cantors in New York went ahead on Sunday morning without him. He would have spent the next weeks traveling to all four campuses, presiding over ordinations and graduations. He had consecrated students in New York last week in a private ceremony, laying his hands on each of their heads and saying a blessing, Ms. Rosensaft said.

Rabbi Panken added programs in entrepreneurialism, nonprofit management and education, and linked the campuses through technology and online learning programs. He renovated and expanded the Jerusalem campus. In his four years as president, rabbinical students across the four campuses increased by 60 percent, education students by 50 percent, and cantorial students and nonprofit

students by 40 percent, Ms. Rosensaft said.

Rabbi Panken had himself grown up in Reform Jewish synagogues, schools and day camps, and was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1991. He encouraged his students to be involved in advocating for the rights of women, refugees and minority groups, and to ground it all in the Jewish value of “tikkun olam,” or healing the world.

“For me,” he said at his inauguration as president in 2014, “Reform Judaism has always symbolized what I consider to be the best of Judaism — firmly rooted in our tradition, yet egalitarian, inclusive of patrilineal Jews and intermarried families, welcoming to the L.G.B.T. community, politically active and respectful of other faiths and ideologies.”

Aaron David Panken was born in Manhattan on May 19, 1964, to Beverly and Peter Panken. He grew up in New York and graduated from Johns Hopkins University in the electrical engineering program. But he had been an adviser in a Reform movement regional youth program, and decided that he liked working as a counselor and pastor far more than working in a laboratory...

“He was the I.T. guy at home,” [his wife Lisa] said. “That was where his passion for flying came from; it combined his love of nature and technology.”

Rabbi Panken earned a doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University. Before teaching at Hebrew Union [College], he was a congregational rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan and a rabbinical intern at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Besides his wife and his parents, he is survived by his children, Eli and Samantha; and his sister, Rabbi Melinda Panken of Temple Shaari Emeth in Manalapan, N.J.

While presiding over the graduation ceremonies this month, Rabbi Panken noted that the world was “particularly challenging and painful” in a way that “transcends anything I have seen in my lifetime.”

“But here’s the thing,” he continued. “The Jewish people, and our religious friends of other faiths, have seen this before, and we have lived through it, and thrived and built again and again and again.”

Zecher Tzaddik Livracha—May we find blessing in remembering his righteousness!

CANTOR'S CORNER



18 years of Chai on Peaceable St

Zeh Hayom Asah Adonai- Nagilah V'Nism'cha Vo

This is the day God has made- let us rejoice and give thanks!

Thank you to the chairs of this fabulous and meaningful evening- dear friends Bonnie Pazer and Co-President Lynn Broder. I was not allowed to know what was being planned, but writing this in advance I am certain it is full of joy, wit, humor, thoughtfulness and love.

To my devoted and talented Adult Choir- thank you so much for learning new music in a short time, singing with beauty and great spirit. Cantor Leon Sher- a friend from college days whose music is so outstanding- thank you for sharing your musical gifts with my congregation on this special milestone occasion. Musicians and Friends- truly the All Star Line Up- Beth Styles, Mark Fineberg, Jay Heffler, Even my son David Zimmerman! Thank you for adding your musical voices tonight and throughout the year. Cantors Kathy Barr, Nina Primer and Susanne Katchko-sister- thank you for singing throughout the service! What an honor to have Federation Director David Weissberg here as well. Carrie Chanin- our duet never gets old! You truly "raise me up!"

Thanks to Leslie Gottlieb, our wonderful Education Director for all your support year long and for this service. Our support staff- Laura Morris, Lorilee Pallazo, Lori Stalowitz, Miguel Cardenas and Leidy Restrepo. Thanks for all you do everyday. Rabbi Haddon – thank you for "moving mountains" to get me to Temple Shearith Israel in 1999 with President Terry Henry as a truly great leader. Together you convinced me life would be wonderful here and it surely has. Our years working together were magical.

Rabbi Reiner- thank you for being an extraordinary mentch of a rabbi, truly a partner on and off the bima. It continues to be an honor to work beside you. You, Ashley and Samson bring so much joy into our lives.

Thank you to my amazing husband who delights and participates in this synagogue life I've chosen. It's a joy to see my expanded family here,- the Zim-

merman boys who arrived in 1999 have grown up here- Thank you to everyone who understands "it takes a village". Dear friends who made an effort to be here- thank you so much.

Without a congregation, I would not be here in this beautiful sanctuary with all of you. Your support is what makes all of this possible. May we continue to share in all that life offers us- 18 is chai-life- Thank you to everyone here for enriching my soul and making my life as a cantor so fulfilling with endless space for creativity, community and spiritual moments like this. To LIFE!





FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Being Thirteen

Several years ago, The Atlantic magazine published an important article by Karl Taro Greenfeld, *My Daughter's*

Homework is Killing Me. Greenfeld tried to complete his eighth grade daughter's homework assignments for a week. The feature was an alarming reminder for me about what we ask of our children/students at thirteen—when students are in grade seven or eight, typically. Add to the secular school and after-school activity mix our Religious School requirements, and you can imagine why our brand-new teens have a grumpy side, at times! Let's not forget how much we are all asking of them!!

Greenfeld writes, "What has changed? It seems that while there has been widespread panic about American students' falling behind their peers in Singapore, Shanghai, Helsinki, and everywhere else in science and mathematics, the length of the school day is about the same. The school year hasn't been extended. Student-teacher ratios don't seem to have changed much. No, our children are going to catch up with those East Asian kids on their own [xxxx] time.

Every parent I know in New York City comments on how much homework their children have. These lamentations are a ritual whenever we are gathered around kitchen islands talking about our kids' schools.

Is it too much?

Well, imagine if after putting in a full day at the office—and school is pretty much what our children do for a job—you had to come home and do another four or so hours of office work. Monday through Friday. Plus Esmee gets homework every weekend. If your job required that kind of work after work, how long would you last?"

In the URJ weekly online Torah bulle-

tin last month, senior Rabbi David A. Lyons, whose pulpit is in Houston, TX talks about the educational value of repetition with respect to the parashah Emor. He refers to 11th century Rashi—and shares ideas about parents teaching children about the importance of Shabbat. All in all, at the RS we look at parenting and teaching from all angles. We can take advice about how to raise and teach our kids from those who lived long ago as well as from our contemporaries, but some of it has to be figured out on the fly as we live our lives and teach our children. We have to meet them where they are.

At Shir Shalom, our approach to each B'nai Mitzvah student is individualized and made very personal... even and especially in the case of twins of which we have many sets. We remind ourselves as clergy and educators how much we can reasonably and fairly expect from our teens as they become B'nai Mitzvah—or commandment accountable and our youngest Jewish adults. It is a milestone, for sure, for our youngsters and their families—especially when it is the oldest sibling in the family making the learning curve for a successful year the most challenging. After that, the family knows just what to expect—although each individual sibling is so different.

No matter what the age of our young charges, we keep in mind the big picture as to who they are as human beings and members of our community. We take all of it into account in all the years we work together.

We will miss all of our students over the summer months and look forward to working with you and them in the fall. We have a very special learning community here at the Religious School—with programs here for them through grade twelve!! Don't forget to register before the early discounted deadline of June 15.

Thanks for all you have contributed this year, and for your support and friendship.

L'hitraot!!

JUNE B'NAI MITZVAH



Abby Rudin

Aspiring to become a teacher, Abby Rudin has a passion for theater and singing. The second child of Eric and Meredith Rudin, Abby's middle name, Joy, becomes clearly appropriate.

In school, Abby's favorite subject is Art and in Religious School she enjoys reading Hebrew. This young lady welcomes becoming a Bat Mitzvah and the added responsibilities of being a Jewish adult. She would like to continue to teach the younger Religious School students and eventually become a mentor.



Newton Bersch

Ask Newton about his favorite Jewish holiday and he'll tell you it's Hanukkah, complete with food, presents, and a sense of not being "overly religious". Newton is excited to become a Bar Mitzvah, but dismayed that he still cannot own or drive a Ferrari.

He doesn't "plan" to help others in the upcoming year, and rather prefers random acts of kindness when there's a necessity. Newton admits that he tries to help out at home with chores and that you might even find him washing dishes!

Nate Cohen

(photo not available)

Nathan, or Nate as he prefers, is the second of the four sons of Rich Cohen and Jessica Medoff. Nate attends East Ridge Middle School in Ridgefield and our Religious School. We know that Nate is looking forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah and to be part of a long and important tradition. Nate enjoys rock climbing, but being on stage is what he enjoys most. His favorite color is blue, his favorite subject is history and his favorite Jewish hero is Herb Cohen, author of *You Can Negotiate Anything*.

Nate frequently helps out his family, especially babysitting his little brother E.Z.

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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 weekly on Wednesdays (with pizza all month)

Contact Leslie Gottlieb, Director of Education, for details.

(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.

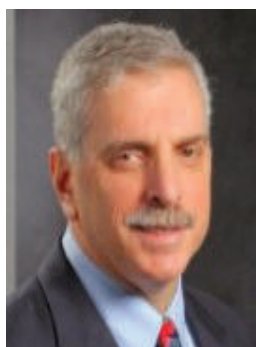
RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



I began writing this article on the evening of April 30 – the temperature barely reached 50 degrees today. Despite the cool weather, summer will indeed arrive and along with that some of the ritual events that our congregants look forward to.

There are a number of b'nai mitzvah in the month of June, both in the morning and the afternoon. This is an opportunity to remind you that our Shabbat morning or afternoon services on those days are open to all of our congregants. If you have not attended one of these services where our students are called to the Torah you should make a point of attending. It is a testament



to our clergy and our religious school staff in the ability of our young men and women to lead the

congregation in prayer and chant from the Torah. You will also be impressed on how they can deliver a d'var torah giving insight into their respective Torah readings.

On Friday evening June 8 we are planning a service to recognize graduating seniors in our community – please check on updates to follow for further details.

Over the past few years we have set the start time for Shabbat evening services at 6:30 pm during the months of July and August. This has been met with overall favorable comments and attendance as it affords members enough time to arrive home, yet it is early enough to give families the opportunity for after-service activities with daylight hours still available. Please continue to check the email blasts for special ongei Shabbat which will follow some services.

We hope that on the warm summer evenings which will invariably arrive that you come to enjoy the air conditioning, the camaraderie and the ruach (spirit) of our community.

NEWS FROM NEIROT

by Jackie Goldner

On April 22nd Myron Sugarman, the self-described last-Jewish gangster and author of the memoirs of the same name, entertained and amazed us with tales of the Jewish Mob of Newark, New Jersey. He described how the Mob formed, as a way of making money for the poverty-stricken new Jewish immigrants and as a mode of protection for those immigrants. He told us how the Mob helped with the birth of Israel because of their skill at “persuasion” and their familiarity with guns and smuggling. He mentioned a famous observant Jewish gangster who never killed on Shabbat unless it was absolutely necessary! We enjoyed wine and cheese and had a great time. I have no photo because I have a non-photographic memory (I never remember to take photos!).

Serafima Dashevskaya and I are busy planning activities for 2018. Arthur Kurzweil will visit us. He is an expert in magic, kabala and Jewish genealogy. Rabbi Deborah Prinz, author of On the Chocolate Trail will speak. I guarantee that you will enjoy the evening. We will present a speaker from the Bucharian Jews of Queens, and more!

We are always looking for more presenters. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or would like to join the Committee.

Gleefully submitted,

Jackie Goldner

SISTERHOOD

by Nancy Cavillones



Happy Almost Summer, Sisters! Hard to believe but June is here and another year of Sisterhood is coming to a close. Please mark your calendars for an end of year Sisterhood gathering on Wednesday, June 6th. Check your inbox or our Sisterhood group page on Facebook for more information! We had a great time at our challah braiding class, led by Kate

Alvarez. We also enjoyed Sip and Paint at Paint Draw and More in Georgetown. Thank you to everyone that joined us!

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!

In honor of the b'nei mitzvah this month, Sisterhood's tzedakah donation will go to Hadassah Zionist Organization of America. Among other works, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) provides medical care to over one million patients a year regardless of race, religion or nationality. HMO includes the Middle East's most advanced medical facilities: two hospitals in Jerusalem and the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower. HMO is internationally renowned for its pioneering medical research, which benefits people in every corner of the world. In the U.S., Hadassah's 330,000 members, associates and supporters- found in every congressional district across the country- advocate on issues of importance to women and the Jewish community. To learn more and to make your own donation, visit <http://www.hadassah.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 president and treasurer! For more information, please email us.

Please join us on Facebook! Just search for Shir Shalom Sisterhood. Have a great summer!

Nancy Cavillones

Sisterhood President, Outgoing



Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Sam Yolen, son of Shir Shalom congregants David and Vicky Yolen, on his graduation and ordination as a rabbi from the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, New York.



WE ARE HERE IF YOU NEED US.... JUST REACH OUT!

Tired of being kept on hold when dialing 211 or using other search engines? Unable to find help but don't know where else to go?

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREATER DANBURY/PUTNAM is your answer. We're here when you need us at **(203) 794-1818** or through e-mail at jfsdanbury@gmail.com. A live service provider will respond within a 24 hour period, Monday through Friday. Personal meetings can be arranged by appointment.

Please find us on Facebook: Jewish Family Services of Greater Danbury/Putnam.

**** PLEASE ALSO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.jfsdanbury.weebly.com ****

Who are we? **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES** is an independent social service organization for the Greater Danbury/Putnam area. We offer resource and referral information on a confidential, no-fee basis to all individuals and families residing in Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman, CT, as well as Putnam County, NY. We are overseen by a 10-member volunteer board and administered by a dedicated, caring professional. How have we helped? Here are some examples of the help we have provided:

1. Homecare resources provided to an adult daughter whose father has Alzheimer's disease and requires assistance with walking and daily living skills;
2. Furnished elder law referrals for children seeking conservatorship;
3. Disability resources furnished to a family caring for a disabled young person;
4. Assisted living and long term care options supplied to children of aging parents;
5. Mental health counseling referrals for individuals, couples and families.

NOW LET US HELP YOU! - We are a 501(c)3 organization. Your support is tax deductible.

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer



As we wind down our third year in our new home we celebrate another magical group of families, children and teachers. I also look forward to setting some goals for this coming year. Here are some things that I would love to further incorporate into our school.

Sustainability and Nature

We currently have a wonderful strong program exploring nature, but I would love to build on this and make this part of our curriculum “grow”. We explore our natural world, hunt for earthworms, go on “listening walks” where we silently focus on the sounds of the outdoors. Our nature consultant, Deanna Novak, continues to inspire us with creative and rich programming. We plant and tend to our garden all year long.

“New research shows that children who play and learn in nature grow up healthy, smart, and happy. What’s more, this model encourages exploration and curiosity, teaches scientific method and observation skills, supports creativity and problem solving, helps reduce stress, provides young children with positive experiences of the natural world, affords a wider diversity of learning experiences, and allows for increased physical activity.”

Gardening and tracking the changing seasons helps develop patience and attentiveness and provides a platform to teach about nutrition. Outdoor exploration teaches social and emotional skills, as it allows for a greater variety of interactions with peers.

In the coming school year we will continue to expand in our focus on sustainability. We will make every effort to buy sustainable materials. If you have thoughts or ideas, please share.

Multi-generational Learning

Preschool is a great opportunity to build community and establish events that inspire an intergenerational educational programming. Proponents of this model suggest that young children benefit from extra nurturing and attention, awareness of the aging process and comfort around people of all ages. It also gives our youngest kids a chance to learn social skills, and preparation for the world beyond school. Older

adults gain the sense of being needed and appreciated, an opportunity for social interaction and ways to share things and talents that are important to them.

What’s more, intergenerational learning holds value in the world of Jewish education as well, where there’s a particular focus on the transmission not just of knowledge, but also of tradition. Intergenerational learning provides a framework for passing on Jewish values and experience from one generation to the next.

If you would like to share your talents, or volunteer in our school we would love to start a program that can benefit our entire community.

Mindfulness for Miniatures

Weekly yoga classes are currently a highlight of our program. Students spend time breathing, stretching, and posing. They listen to bells, observe quiet time, participate in yoga-centered movements, and visualize thoughts. Research is showing that being mindful and building self-awareness can have positive health benefits such as alleviating physical and emotional discomfort and stress. Coupled with studies demonstrating how mood and emotional states affect learning, this makes a strong case for purposefully instilling mindfulness in the classroom. There is a growing trend in early childhood education to do just that, and we would like to continue to explore new ways to incorporate mindfulness into our community.

If you have any thoughts or ideas to contribute, please share them with me.



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

Donations - We Appreciate Your Generosity

Music Fund

Donald & Betsy Davis	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Alan & Andrea Jacobs	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Richard & Debra Bush	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Doris Cohen	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Elyse Davis	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Ellen A. Reiss	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Josh & Wendy Meyer	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Richard & Linda Vendig	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Steve & Debbie Landzberg	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Suzanne Sunday/Ken Kurzweil	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Max & Tara Axler	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Linda Arenson	in honor of Cantor Debbie
David Kaminer/Karen Taylor	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Michael & Gale Berman	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Michael & Gale Berman	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Allan & Alice Gottlieb	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Alan & Bonnie Dietzek	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Karen & Scott Brenner	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Adam & Robyn Cohen	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Rabbi Fred Reiner	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Michael & Emily Wein	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Bob & Terry Henry	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Margaret Seligman	in memory of Janice Seligman	Michael & Rona Salpeter	in honor of Cantor Debbie

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Marty Weisberg	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Lisa Bloch Rodwin	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Ellen DuBois	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Charles & Resa Fremed	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Jeff & Heather Butchen	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Milton & Nina Primer	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Michael Gitlitz/Rita Landman	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Harold & Ruth Ossher	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Jeff & Kim Knispel	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Rhonda Manus	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Bruce & Julie Sacks	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Lynn Becker	in honor of Cantor Debbie
David & Vicky Yolen	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Lou Haber/Carrie Chanin	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Robi Margolis	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Robi Margolis	in honor of Jeremy Haber
The Segalman family	in honor of Abby Segalman		

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael & Rona Salpeter	in memory of Mary Salpeter	The Segalman family	in honor of Abby Segalman
Richrd & Linda Vendig	in memory of Richard's parents		

General Fund

Lou Haber/Carrie Chanin	in honor of Cantor Debbie	Larry & Leslie Gottlieb	in honor of Cantor Debbie
David Kaminer/Karen Taylor	in honor of Cantor Debbie	David & Bonnie Pazer	in honor of Cantor Debbie

Yahrzeit Donation

Alan & Bonnie Dietzek	in memory of Fred Dietzek	Robi Margolis	in memory of Stephen Margolis
	in memory of Rosalyn Levitt	Robi Margolis	in memory of Arthur Margolis

Education Enrichment Fund

Richard & Jennifer Carter	in honor of Leslie Gottlieb	RS 7th grade class	with thanks
The Kalish family		The Landzberg family	

SOCIAL ACTION



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

By Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg



Our Annual Mitzvah Day, Sunday afternoon, May 6, 2018, was a huge success! At this community-wide day of social service we helped more than a dozen local causes with more than 120 congregants and community members participating. Pizza was served for lunch and ice cream sundaes at wrap-up time. Our volunteers helped the following organizations: The Community Center of Northern Westchester (food donations, embroidered

bookmarks and new school supplies), the Daily Bread Food Pantry (organizing and cleaning along with food donations), Ridgefield Food Pantry (food donations), local nursing homes and the Women's Center of Danbury (potted flowers), Family and Children's Aid (children's book donations), Kids in Crisis (fleece blankets), Crayon Initiative (peeled and sorted crayons for hospitalized kids), Dorothy Day Hospitality House (freshly baked cookies), Operation Shoebox (candy bags for the troops), SPCA (dog toys), Northern Westchester Hospital NICU (hand-knitted premie hats), the wider community (tolerance/anti-hate buttons) and Shir Shalom (polished the Torah ornaments, newly laid wood chips on the path to Westmoreland parking, sparkling clean Early Childhood Center outdoor toys!)

Wynter Schnell put together an instant slide show of the activities shown at wrap-up time. Thank you to all the activity leaders and logistical volunteers, to Eve Siegel for designing our flyer, and Laura Morris for logistical details. And a special thank you to the Mitzvah Day Planning Committee members: Judy Vanderveldon, Polly Schnell, Suzanne Sunday, Amy Margulies, Ellen Darvick, Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin. And a BIG thank you to all the participants who attended!

Our Midnight Run outing to help the homeless in NYC took place Saturday evening, May 19. Thank you to all who helped out. More details in the summer newsletter.

We would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the individuals who have volunteered with our partner agencies this month: at the Daily Bread Food Pantry - Jeff and Linda Krulwich and Richard and Joel Segalman; at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House - Wendy Meyer and Gale Berman and at the Federal Corrections Institute - Polly Schnell, Resa Fremed, Rabbi Jon and Jean Haddon, and Jackie Goldner.

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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Aiden Aframe
Seth Alterman
Susannah Altman
Ari Alvarez
Brooke Axel
Tara Axler
Shayna Baran
Evan Baran
Isabelle Bard
William Barth
Jordan Beck
Ben Behar
Robyn Behar
Marley Bender
Sari Benson
Newton Bersch
Adam Bovilsky
Michael Brown
Richard Bush
Evan Castelhana
Sunnie Colen
Julie Conti

Jacob Cotumaccio
Joseph Cotumaccio
Laurie Dubin
Joseph Ellis
Stuart Feldman
Jessica Sera Fine
Robert Fischman
Alison Ganis
Karen Gerard
Daniela Goldman
Leonard Goldner
Donald Gordon
Martin Gorman
Renna Gottlieb
Max Grzymala
Sophia Haber
Rabbi Jon Haddon
Julie Held
Lexi Held
Gail Henner
Stephanie Herbstman
Zachary Higgins

Adam Hisiger
Nicole Kalish
Adam Kay
Emily Klotz
Will Knispel
Gary Krampf
Jeffrey Krulwich
Justin Landzberg
Jacob Lantner
Mark Lavin
Talia Levinsohn
Graeme Lipper
Zachary Lipton
Sophie Llewellyn
Barbara Manners
Monnie Newman
Danielle Ossher
Alexander Ozols
Max Polinsky
Nathaniel Rappaport
Anna Reiter
Richard Reiter

Tamra Rosenfeld
Aaron Rubinfeld
Meredith Rudin
Jonathan Rudin
Abigail Rudin
Margaret Seligman
Elyse Sherr
Heather Sherr
Andrea Stegman
Bernard Stein
Samantha Stevelman
Samantha Stockel
Robert Strom
Annabel Ubaghs
Jacob Wetchler
Stella Wetchler
Hal Wolkin
Ruby Yuan

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Joe & Susannah Altman
Heath & Danielle Bender
Lou Haber & Carrie Chanin
Rick & Bobbie Cohan
Murray & Elinor Darvick
Charles & Resa Fremed
Robert Jolly & Jennifer Gelfand
Mark & Hildi Glicklich

Jeff & Margie Gorelick
Michael & Ronni Hammer
Howard & Gail Henner
Bob & Terry Henry
Matt & Stephanie Herbstman
Jeffrey & Emily Levi
Richard & Cathy Mishkin
Gordon & Polly Schnell

Alan & Lisa Sheptin
Michael & Traci Silva
Andrew & Lynne Stark
Paul & Peri Stevelman
Jane Emmer & Stu Tygert
Michael & Emily Wein
Bradford & Stephanie Yuan

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What an easy way to raise funds!

More Mitzvah Day Fun!



JUNE YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, June 1st, 2018**

Adolph Auerbacher		Bertram Bildner	father of Rachelle Axel
Madeleine Eisberg	grandmother of Tiffany Zezula	Everett Felper	father of Margie Gorelick
Alex Leitner	father of Arnold Leitner	Leela Mallon	mother of Linda Krulwich
Samuel Mirsky	grandfather of Carlyn Bergman	Norman Remler	father of Leslie Moss
Alan Stutz	husband of Toba Stutz	Clarissa Zaltzberg	grandmother of Rita Landman

Friday, June 8th, 2018

Henry Bangser	father of Robert Bangser	Norda Berlin	mother of Ruth Ossher
Nathan Binstock		Ed Blum	father of Neal Blum
Henry Cavillones Sr.	father of Henry Cavillones Jr.	Marlene Klotz	sister of Jeffrey Klotz
Paul Mallon	brother of Linda Krulwich	Shirley Novom-Cowan	grandmother of Jeffrey Gorelick

Friday, June 15th, 2018

Rose Abrams	grandmother of Elyse Davis	Judith Birnbaum	
Maurice Cohen		David Dutka	
Martin Fiderer	father of David Fiderer	Norma Ginsberg	grandmother of Jamie Garrett
Florence Goldner	mother of Leonard Goldner	Tim Neary Tuesday	friend of Richard Mishkin
Samuel Nisberg	son of Lynne Malat	Shirley Novick	mother of Deborah Gantwerker
Lillian Paget	mother of Debra Paget	Morris Pottish	uncle of Richard Mishkin
Ruth Pottish	aunt of Richard Mishkin	Irving Uchetel	father-in-law of Joe Cotumaccio
Joe Yordan			

Friday, June 22nd, 2018

Allen Alexander	step-father of Hal Wolkin	Joan Arnow	mother of Joshua Arnow
Toby Berman	mother of Michael Berman	Freida Binstock	
Gussie Boudier	grandmother of Claire Katz	Jack Brill	father of Elyse Arnow
Lynn Cotumaccio	wife of Joseph Cotumaccio	Harold Fisher	father of Larry Fisher
Amy Franklin	step-sister of Ken Isman	Martin Langer	father of Karen Gerard
Elizabeth Levine	grandmother of Stephanie Herbstman	Joel Levy	father of Marla Kay
Philip Stein	grandfather of Bonnie Wattles		

Friday, June 29th, 2018

Belle Baker	aunt of Carlyn Bergman	Lillian Benjamin	
Josephine Blumberg	grandmother of Martin Kutscher	Jack Cohen	grandfather of Tiffany Zezula
Jack Eber	grandfather of Lynn Becker	Joan Feinstein	mother of Shari Zins
Dennis Fine	husband of Karen Fine-Shalett	Eli Lackow	father of Rhonda Lackow
Herbert Markham	uncle of Richard Mishkin	Anita Mishkin	mother of Richard Mishkin
Harold Pecker	father of Sunnie Colen	Ethel Price	grandmother of Terry Henry
Hannah Rabinowitz	aunt of Dayna Kaplan	Albert Ross	grandfather of Karen Brenner
Bessie Ross	grandmother of Karen Brenner	Martin Shapiro	
Marvin Grody	father of Erica Levens	Arthur Zucker	father of Bobbie Cohan

PRESIDENTS' ARTICLE (CONT.)

nizing the placement, last December, of dozens of Hanukkah Menorah in Ridgefield storefronts, arranging with the Danbury Music Center for a portion of the Charles Ives Concert Series to be held at Congregation Shir Shalom, and her social media presence, ensures awareness of Congregation Shir Shalom's presence and prominence in the broader community in which we live. She also speaks out against hate and intolerance and is, along with our Rabbi, a strong voice against anti-Semitism and injustice.

At the conclusion of Friday evening's Shabbat Services, after presentations by our Rabbi and guests, Hal summed it all up with one word, "Wow", intended to describe the achievements and the contributions of Cantor Debbie, a word

that also describes our Rabbi, our Religious School Director, our Early Childhood Center Director, our education, administrative and custodial staff, and our temple community. We are very fortunate to have brought together, two really special congregations to form Congregation Shir Shalom and we are equally fortunate that Congregation Shir Shalom can count on your commitment and support. It is your support of your community that makes everything possible.

If you were unable to join us for the celebration of Cantor Debbie's eighteen years with Shir Shalom but would like to share a few words of praise or appreciation, please do not hesitate to send her a note or an e-mail. Congratulations to Cantor Debbie and to all of us.



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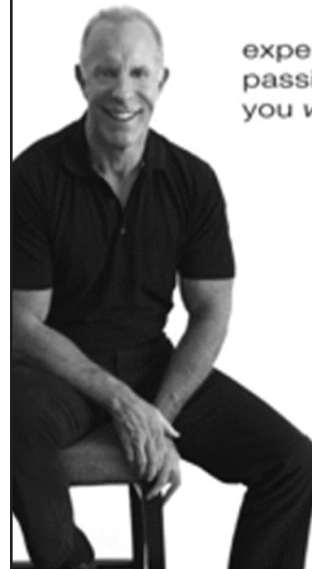
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trauma treatment, Oncology massage, pregnancy and post-natal massage, Myofascial Release, Reiki, and Hospice massage and energy work.

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JUNE 2018

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 11:30 am-Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	2 9:00 am- Torah 101 10:30 am- Shabbat Morning Worship Bat Mitzvah: Abby Rudin
3 12:00 noon- Classi- cal Concert	4	5	6	7 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	8 10:00 am- ECC Closing Day Cere- monies 6:00 pm- Congre- gational dinner 7:30 pm- Confir- mation & Gradua- tion Shabbat with Beth Styles	9 5:00 pm- Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Nate Cohen
10	11	12 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	13 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	14 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	15 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	16 9:00 am- Torah 101 10:30 am- Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah: Newton Bersch
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	22 7:30 pm- Kabbalat for "Pride Month" Shabbat; special blessing for LGBTQ & allies	23 10:30 am- Shabbat Morning Worship Genauer baby naming
24	25	26	27 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	28 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	29 6:30 pm- Shabbat ShaBBQ 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	30

Shir Shalom-Good News!



There's been more than a flurry of activity in the Wallach family, as Marge Wallach welcomed her great-granddaughter, Adeline Milliken. The baby is also the grandniece of Wendy Wallach-Delucia.



Grandparents, Aron and Judith Hirt Manheimer welcomed their granddaughter, "Naomi Eleanor Hopper", born on April 4, 2018. Looks like Naomi and her big brother Eddie are getting ready for the Shir Shalom choir!



Max and Tara Axler added Abe Axler to their clan on April 18th. Six year old big brother Ike, and three year old sister Eleanor couldn't be happier!



On Saturday, May 19th, Hannah DeLucia wed Brian Underwood. Hannah is the daughter of Michael DeLucia and Wendy Wallach-DeLucia, as well as the granddaughter of Margery Wallach. The newlyweds plan to make their home in Boston.

If you have good news to share in our monthly bulletin, please contact the office at 203-438-6589



OUR SHIR SHALOM
**CONGREGATION
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of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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OUR SHIR SHALOM

June 2018

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Our Religious School visits the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City