

JULY/AUGUST
2018

OUR SHIR SHALOM

TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL
5778

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 6	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
July 13	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Viva La Shabbat Oneg Shabbat with French-themed foods
July 20	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
July 27	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Milk & Cookies Shabbat

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 3	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
August 10	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Summer Yellow Shabbat
August 17	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
August 24	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Lunch Box Treat Shabbat
August 25	4:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bat Mitzvah: Tessa Higgins
August 31	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Pre-service nosh Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Broder & Hal Wolkin



In today's world of uncertainty and conflict, maintaining our warm and welcoming atmosphere is increasingly challenging. All houses of worship grapple with the question of how to balance security and openness at the same time. There are many factors to consider, not the least of which is to use Jewish principles to guide us. Protecting our tabernacle is a sacred duty and your clergy, lay leaders, and many dedicated volunteers have been working on the best solution to this issue.



In late 2017, a security task force was formed to examine what potential steps should be taken to secure both the building, as well as the members of our community. The task force assessed our current policies and procedures and made recommendations as to next steps. Thank you to Paul Amerling, and all the members of the task force for all their hard work and dedication to this effort. An update on the steps taken to date was reviewed at the security town hall meeting held on May 21st, a recording of which is available to congregants. Thank you to Jason Mayer, Early Childhood Center parent and security expert for answering questions and sharing his knowledge and expertise with us.

Security experts agree that any security plan should address three pillars: people, processes and technology. With regards to technology, we are partnering with the Patriot Group, a professional security consulting group, to help us create a comprehensive plan for upgrading access and security in the building. To establish processes, we continue to meet with the Ridgefield Police Department on a regular basis to review our policies and procedures. Any procedures and policies are useless without practice and repetition, so our staff conduct frequent drills to reinforce what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency.

The people pillar in this triad of security is, of course, you, our congregants. Whatever steps we take to improve security will surely fail without all of us doing our share. We should never be afraid to challenge each other in a polite and respectful manner when it comes to security. The "see something, say something" effort is still our best defense to any potential threat. To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including: who or what you saw; when you saw it; where it occurred; and why it's suspicious. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1. Please do not hesitate to contact our temple office with any questions or concerns at any time. We must all be vigilant and work towards these goals together. We should all notice our surroundings at all times and not be afraid to speak up when appropriate.

(con't. page 22).

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



Throughout the five years of rabbinical school a significant amount of time is spent studying history, text, Hebrew, and rituals. The practical application of that learning is a critical and formative experience as well. I was blessed with opportunities to serve several small congregations in the deep south and mid-west

(congregations that lacked the financial capacity to support a full or part-time rabbi-in-residence) as well as opportunities to work with rabbis at larger urban congregations. These practical experiences were invaluable in helping to shape my rabbinate; opportunities to teach and preach and learn in the field, as well as opportunities to reflect on and grow in my sacred work. Working with congregations also helped solidify my desire to work as a congregational rabbi. I am amazed by how much I have grown since my first days in Ridgefield, to say nothing of my personal growth since serving my first student pulpit, Congregation Gates of Prayer in New Iberia, Louisiana.

Recognizing the impact that student fieldwork had on my rabbinical school experience, I am pleased to introduce Rabbi Emily Aronson, a third year student at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). Rabbi Emily will begin working with Congregation Shir Shalom in September. Because this is an internship program in the midst of a rigorous, full-time academic program, our time with Rabbi Emily is limited to ten hours per week, and I know that she is going to be a wonderful addition to our congregational community.

The student fieldwork internship program gives rabbinical students practical experience as well as an opportunity for mentoring with an experienced rabbi in the field—I know that Rabbi Burstein, of blessed memory, really enjoyed his work mentoring rabbinical students. We have all probably encountered a graduate student preparing for their profession in our lives: medical and nursing students, student teachers, legal interns, etc. Rabbis (and cantors!) are no different: internships help students gain valuable experience and, with appropriate supervision, can help students succeed. Rabbi Emily will be helping to lead worship and giving sermons and teaching (to name

a few of her anticipated activities) in a congregation (as opposed to engaging in those activities at HUC-JIR with her classmates and peers). The experience of working with a congregation will help Rabbi Emily grow as a teacher and preacher and clarify her own style and vision for her future rabbinate.

In addition to helping lead Shabbat evening worship and delivering sermons throughout the year, I anticipate that Rabbi Emily will be working with the Congregants Committee to focus on membership engagement and leading educational programs for adults and families.

Rabbi Emily grew up in the suburbs of Washington, DC and completed the Joint BA program at Columbia University and List College of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, earning a BA (Cum Laude) from Columbia in Ethnicity and Race Studies as well as a BA (Summa Cum Laude) with Honors in Jewish Thought from List. During her undergraduate studies, Rabbi Emily received the Benjamin and Anna Jaffe Memorial Award from JTS and her Senior Thesis with Honors was titled “Kinship, Conversion, and Patrilineal Descent: Reform Jewish Conceptions of Identity and Belonging.”

As an undergraduate, Rabbi Emily was active in the Columbia/Barnard Hillel organization, spent a summer interning at NAACP Washington Bureau through the Machon Kaplan Fellowship program of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and worked as a Goldman Fellow on National and Legislative Affairs at the American Jewish Committee in Washington, DC.

As a student in the rabbinical program at HUC-JIR in New York City, Rabbi Emily has been selected as a Froman Fellow with the New Israel Fund, an HUC Clergy Fellow with the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), and is currently a Leffell Fellow with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). She is also a recipient of the prestigious HUC Tisch Fellowship and has been awarded more honors than I can fit in this column. Rabbi Emily has experience teaching and working with youth of all ages at several synagogues in New York City, and will be working as a unit head at the Young Judea Sprout Brooklyn Day Camp—a Hebrew immersion program for students in primary grades.

I know you will join me in warmly welcoming Rabbi Emily Aronson to Congregation Shir Shalom this fall.

The Early Childhood Center at Congregation Shir Shalom announces

Session 1: 10/2–12/18/2018

Session 2: 1/8–3/20/2019

Session 3: 3/26–6/5/2019

Practically Preschool

A program for Toddlers and a “Grown Up”

Wednesdays ONLY Session 1

from 9:15 to 10:30 A.M.

Drop Off Tuesdays sessions 2 and 3

9:15 to 11:15

Children participate alongside their grown-up partners—taking the lead once they feel comfortable and have an understanding of the routine of the class. Singing, art projects, a sensory table, a read-a-loud, and even more are packed into this first class experience



PRACTICALLY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Child's Full Name _____ DOB _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Session 1: 10/2–12/18/2018 _____

Session 2: 1/8–3/20/2019 _____

Session 3: 3/26–6/5/2019 _____

Cost: Session 1—\$360 Cost Session 2—\$540 (2 days) Session 3—\$540 (2 days)

For more information, please contact Jane Emmer at JaneEmmer@ourshirshalom.org



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CANTOR'S CORNER



Cantor Debbie spent a fabulous day in New York City with our Israeli teen emissaries.





FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Teenage Resilience and SAJE

Years ago I helped to organize a kallah event for the Westchester

Area Temple Educators held at Shaaray Tefila in Bedford. Our guest speaker was Dr. Robert Brooks who has lectured nationally and internationally to audiences of parents, educators, mental health professionals, and business people on topics pertaining to motivation, resilience, family relationships, the qualities of effective leaders and executives, and balancing our personal and professional lives (this, from his website bio at <http://www.drrobertbrooks.com/about/--> and please take a look there for some wonderful books he has authored and co-authored, if interested). The idea of raising resilient teens was important to me then as a parent, high school teacher and temple educator. It is, to me now, more important than ever to help our families raise strong teenagers as the landscape for them has become even more intense and difficult to maneuver.

Rabbi P.J. Schwartz is the rabbi educator at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, CA. and he writes, "Being a teenager is difficult. It is a time filled with all types of changes – biological and physical, social, emotional, and intellectual. What's more, thanks to the expectations placed on them by society, parents, peers, and, frequently, the pressure they put on themselves, today's adolescents are extremely prone to stress.... With days (and nights) filled with academics, extracurricular activities, sports, community service projects, religious studies, and homework it's no wonder that today's teens are more overwhelmed and worried about failure than their peers in past generations. All this pres-

sure only drives teens' desire for perfection and fuels their need to be the best – at everything – to keep pace with the competitive world of college admissions."

At Shir Shalom, we have decided that merging our teens' needs as individuals at this delicate age with their desire for some kind of Religious School commitment that combines community service was an idea waiting to be realized and long overdue. With our new program starting this fall at our temple, called SAJE or Social Action as Jewish Education, and which replaces traditional Confirmation, we plan to add action to education to give our 8th-12th graders an outlet for learning, socializing and becoming active participants in our communities.

Our first unit will focus on poverty and will feature Jewish thought, provocative prompts--- such as speakers, videos, quotes, news articles, songs, etc. -- and then our teens will be following up with small group work that focuses on their positions and projects that get them directly involved. They will visit the Northern Westchester Community Center food pantry as a group activity in the fall and participate in many in-house and off-site visits. This program will feature hands-on experiences that students help to design as a way to confront today's issues. They will receive community service credit for all their time in class and in the field. Our teens will be cooking, visiting various sites and creating programs for the temple and Religious School. Depending on their specific interests – and led by Rabbi Reiner, Jamie Kaplan, Gerry Hecht and with my direct involvement, our clergy and staff will lean on Jewish values to forge a path forward.

Classes meet weekly on Wednesdays with pizza and are one hour and two hours, alternating (4:15-5:15 pm and 4:15-6:15 pm). Students can choose to make a two-year commitment that will be formally recognized – and they may

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

elect to stay with the program for all five years as middle and high school students—and maybe even become program leaders as they mature into this role.

Students in grades 9-12 can join us in Washington, D.C. for the Religious Action three-day weekend that we chaperone (open to non-SAJE participants, too). This year we plan to visit on January 25-28. (An additional cost is involved for this event.)

Our website calendar and single-page calendar edition will have all the details for each meeting time for your planning purposes. Students can put in extra hours, too, and we will help them record it all for their specific high school requirements, college and/or career goals. We want our teens engaged in a big way, but we will also make time for socializing within the framework of the time allotted, as this is a special place **where Jewish teens want to** come together for friendship, too.

So here's the link to the RS registration page with all of the different fliers and forms you can check out... whether it's for SAJE or for our vibrant K-12 program that includes: the Student Mentor, Student Leader and Assistant Teacher (for grade 12 Mentors) programs. Grade 8 volunteers for the RS are welcome, too.

Let us know at any time over the summer if you'd like to meet to discuss any program our school offers. We want our families to be engaged, and especially our students who have become B'nai Mitzvah in grades 7 and 8. We are the place to be after grade 7, and we need our parents to support this vision. In fact, we encourage all of our parents and congregants to let us know if you are professionally or personally involved with an organization that you would like to present to our SAJE members or RS students, if appropriate. It would be wonderful to share your passions with our kids. Thanks and have a safe and happy summer.

I recently heard a story on NPR about parenting. The story certainly can be applied to education as well. It spoke about two kinds of parents in modern America. The story is about a book by Alison Gopnik, "The Gardener and the Carpenter".

The "carpenter" thinks that his or her child can be molded. "The idea is that if you just do the right things, get the right skills, read the right books, you're going to be able to shape your child into a particular kind of adult," she says.

The "gardener," on the other hand, is less concerned about controlling who the child will become and instead provides a protected space to explore. The style is all about "creating a rich, nurturant but also variable, diverse, dynamic ecosystem." We at the ECC are "gardeners". We celebrate each child for who they are and help them to grow by nurturing their intellect and spirit.

Summer at the Early Childhood Center is an exciting time. As we harvest our first garden at Congregation Shir Shalom we look back at a great year with both excitement and anticipation of what is ahead. Camp is just getting started; we add life and vitality to an otherwise quiet building.

I feel like an old commercial when I think about our (The Early Childhood Center) place in the larger community of Congregation Shir Shalom. "We Bring Good Things to Life..". We are noisy, energetic and sometimes distracting, but the feeling at our ECC invigorates our synagogue. [46 Peaceable Street](#) is a loving, safe, and nurturing home away from home.

Our learning environment extends beyond our "walls". During the summer months we play and learn mostly outdoors. This opens up a world of adventure and exploration where children can test their limits and physical skills.

They can also have a quiet moment under a tree reading a book or simply day dreaming. Our garden is a place where the children begin to witness the wonder of nature. Our garden is nurtured and cared for by our children and offers opportunities to appreciate the natural world around them.



ECC Summer Fun...



ECC Fun...All the Time!





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

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



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

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

Program Schedule (replaces traditional Confirmation program):

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

Meets 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



Spring fever. It's real. Once counting the days of the Omer is over (culminating with Shavuot) it's extra minutes of sunshine and warmer temperatures. Many of us are fortunate and have summer plans which include a break from the everyday routine. Many families and congregants are able to spend time outdoors and take advantage of the summer season.

To herald in the summer please join us for a BBQ at 6:00 p.m. on June 29 followed by the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service.

Summer Shabbat services (July and August) start at 6:30 p.m. This will afford families the opportunity to come home

from work or camp, attend services and still leave during daylight. For those people that show up early,

a small nosh and conversation with your fellow congregants is a pleasant way to end the work week.

The Ritual Committee has planned four Summer Oneg Shabbatot, featuring some new themes. Please join us on the following dates as well as the other Friday night services. We look forward to seeing you.

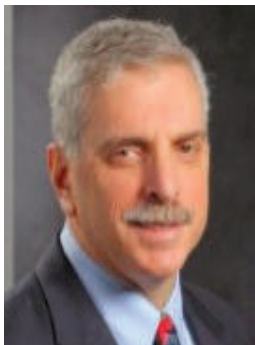
6:30 p.m. Friday July 13- Viva La Shabbat – French themed food

6:30 p.m. Friday July 27- Milk and Cookie Shabbat

6:30 p.m. Friday August 10- Summer Yellow Shabbat

6:30 p.m. Friday August 24- Lunch Box 'Treat Shabbat

The clergy and members of the Ritual Committee are already planning for the 5779 High Holy Day services. Please continue to check the e-mail blasts for updates. As always if you have any comments or suggestions, please see one of us at services or email us at ritual@ourshirshalom.org



ADULT PROGRAMMING (formerly NEWS FROM NEIROT)

by Jackie Goldner

August 12th, Sunday 3PM Film

Operation Wedding See this film before it opens wide!

Synopsis: Soviet Jews denied exit visas plan to hijack a plane in the guise of attending a family wedding.

Appetizers a la Russe and Vodka served.

Donation \$18

October 6th Saturday 7:30 Speaker Debbie Prinz author of

Jews on the Chocolate Trail : Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao.

Copious chocolate treats will be served.

AND... a chocolate-baking class led by our own Stacey Sussman (time and date to be determined).

November 4th Sunday 3:00 PM Speaker Arthur Kurzweil

Multi-talented Arthur, is an expert in Jewish genealogy

and Jewish treats, like your Bubbe used to make, will be served.

Join us!

CONGREGANTS COMMITTEE

NEW from **THE CONGREGANTS COMMITTEE:**

Have you heard about the newest committee at Shir Shalom? It's the Congregant's Committee. What is the Congregant's Committee? We are a group of congregants who are interested in attracting and welcoming new congregants and recognizing the needs and interests of all of our congregants as well as working towards developing and deepening relationships between congregants and our Shir Shalom. Our committee members include, Bobbie Cohan, chair, Jessica Aframe, Jen Carter, Andrea De Lange, Polly Schnell and Terry Henry, Board liaison. Thank you to these committee members who are taking a role on this new committee. If you are interested in joining us or if you have any suggestions for the strengthening of our community or for attracting prospective congregants please contact Bobbie Cohan at rmcbjc@aol.com. We would love to hear from you.

SISTERHOOD



Happy Summer, Sisters! At the time of this writing, it was raining, so hopefully, by the time you're reading this, the days have become properly summer-like. This is my last newsletter as Sisterhood president as my family and I departed for the west coast on June 30th. I've

enjoyed getting to know all of you during my brief tenure, and I'm happy to leave you in the hands of our new co-presidents, Bonnie Pazer and Wendy Meyer.

To wrap up the Sisterhood year, we met for happy hour drinks at the Redding Roadhouse. Thank you to everyone that came out to eat, drink and kibbitz. I was glad for the opportunity to say goodbye to all of you!

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 supports charitable giving and Sisterhood programs.

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

Have a fantastic summer!

Nancy Cavillones

Sisterhood President, Outgoing

With Many Thanks....

The Shir Shalom congregation, clergy and staff extend our heartfelt thanks to Nancy Cavillones for her time and devotion to several of our Shir Shalom programs.

Nancy took on the role of Sisterhood president, launching several new events amongst its programs. She was also involved with our Tot Shabbat 2.0 program with resounding success.

Nancy and her family are relocating to California and we wish them a safe journey and best of luck in their new home. All of you will be missed.

A special blessing and mezuzah was shared with Nancy and her family during our Pride Shabbat Worship on Friday, June 22nd.

Neirot at Congregation Shir Shalom
invites the community to a screening of

OPERATION WEDDING

A documentary film by Anat Zalmanson Kuznetsov

My parents & the plane hijacking
"heroes" in the free world,
"terrorists" in Russia

Israel/Latvia, 2016, 63 minutes
Subtitles: English. Russian. Hebrew



AWARD OF RECOGNITION

OPERATION WEDDING
FEATURE

OFFICIAL SELECTION

GOLD MOVIE
AWARDS
GODDESS NIKE
ANNUAL EDITION



Sunday, August 12 at 3 PM

Congregation Shir Shalom 46 Peaceable Street Ridgefield, CT

Soviet Jews denied exit visas in 1970 hatch a plan to hijack an empty plane
and escape under the guise of attending a family wedding,
View the harrowing tale before it opens wide in theaters

Nosh a la Russe and vodka!

Donation \$18

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



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Website: www.ourshirshalom.org

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

by Lewis Siegel

HOW THE JEWS OF BULGARIA WERE SAVED

In late 19th century Bulgaria, the Jewish people were loyal citizens and well integrated into Bulgarian society. They fought for their country in the war against Serbia, the Balkan wars, and World War I and by the middle 1930's the Jewish population in Bulgaria was about 50,000. However, by 1938 things changed. Bulgarian terrorist groups began attacking synagogues and other Jewish facilities.

King Boris III was the ruler of Bulgaria. He became king in 1920 and by 1934 he had ascended from puppet status to powerful ruler. In 1940 major decisions had to be made. Nazi influence began to spread over Bulgaria. Russian influence also increased with the growing power of the Communist Party. Boris III chose to align himself with the Nazis because they were willing to help Bulgaria annex neighboring Thrace and Macedonia. Boris III also wanted to retrieve the territory of Dobrudja that was lost to Romania after the Balkan War of 1913.

King Boris III made his choice official when he signed a tripartite agreement with Germany and Italy in early 1941. He had serious reservations. Nevertheless, it was politically advantageous to show his support for Hitler and the Nazi regime, and so the king reluctantly signed the agreement. According to the pact, Thrace and Macedonia would be returned to Bulgaria at a later date. Nazi influence prompted the Bulgarian government to enact "The Law for the Defense of the Nation", a vicious anti-Semitic document modeled after the Nazi Nuremberg laws of 1935. Jews could not use Bulgarian last names, employ non-Jewish domestic labor, or be citizens. They were subject to a whole host of onerous restrictions. Although this law was passed, it was fought bitterly, illustrating the dramatic difference between Bulgaria and Nazi Germany. Protests against this Draconian law came from every direction. Tobacco workers, shoemakers, teachers, textile workers, tailors, and other groups registered protests generally in the form of telegrams to governmental officials just prior to enactment of the law. All efforts failed, but a tone was set that was to manifest later on.

In June 1941, Germany attacked Russia. Bulgaria was now a satellite of Germany. However,

Bulgaria didn't declare war on Russia, and didn't even break off diplomatic relations with Russia. During the same period, Parliament leaders imposed even stricter laws on the Jews. Despite this, ordinary Bulgarian citizens, unlike their German counterparts, turned a blind eye to those laws and failed to aid in their enforcement. King Boris III counteracted the parliament by easing some restrictions. He even received a birthday greeting from his son, the president of the Jewish community, which the king responded kindly to. The king also met with the chief rabbi to discuss the new political situation. There was obviously a schism between the king and the parliament. Finally, a Jewish delegation appeared at the office of Minister of Interior Peter Gabrovski to protest the new laws. They were told not to worry. The harsh treatment of the Jews was to be no more. Gabrovski, a known anti-Semite, either changed or was lying to placate the Jews.

It was now 1943 and Nazi representatives were in Bulgaria insisting that preparations be made for deportation of the Bulgarian Jews. Gabrovski complained that the Bulgarian Jews were needed for major labor projects and managed to stall the deportation. Sadly, Gabrovski had no objection to the deportation of all of the Macedonian and Thrace Jews who were not yet part of Bulgaria. The Nazis had a contract to deport 20,000 Jews from Macedonia and Thrace. When they discovered that there were only 12,000 living there, the Nazis demanded that an additional 8,000 be taken from Bulgaria proper. A Bulgarian, Alexander Belev (a committed Nazi), was to be in charge of deportation of Bulgarian Jews. Belev had to make up for the lack of 8,000 Jews that the Nazis wanted deported.

A quirk of fate changed the course of Bulgarian Jewish history. Belev had a mistress by the name of Liliana Panitza who had a fondness for the Jewish people. When she heard about the secret plans for deportation of the Bulgarian Jews, she warned key figures in the Jewish community. When the word got out about the deportation plans, large numbers of Bulgarian citizens came to the support of the Jews and offered to shelter them if necessary. Sympathetic

members of Parliament led by Dimitar Peshev demanded that the deportation be canceled. At this point, King Boris stepped in and issued an edict at the eleventh hour blocking the deportation process.

One city that failed to receive the cancellation orders was Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria. A courageous act by a Bulgarian clergyman saved the Jews of Plovdiv. Metropolitan Kyril, pastor of the Plovdiv Christian Orthodox Church, had been an extremely outspoken critic against anti-Semitism in Bulgaria. About 1500 Jews were about to be rounded up by police for deportation. Kyril confronted the police and threatened to throw himself on the railroad tracks if any attempt was made to deport the Jews. It was rare for a Bulgarian clergyman to defy orders from the government. Kyril demanded that the government officials cancel the deportation. The police backed down, stopped the roundup of the Jews, and surprisingly acceded to Kyril's request. Similar revolts took place in other cities such as Sliven, Pazardjik, Samokov, and Shumen, where clergy and supportive Bulgarian citizens aided the Jewish cause. It was March 1943, and Jewish deportation had now ceased. However, the battle wasn't over.

Dimitar Peshev, now the Deputy Speaker, and one of the strongest Jewish supporters in Parliament, knew that the Nazi sympathizers in the parliament were planning for a renewed deportation process, and he had to try to head them off. He wrote a letter signed by 43 Parliament members to Prime Minister Bogdan Filov, a strong Nazi supporter, and urged that no further action be taken against the Jews. This set off a fierce battle in Parliament, after which Peshev was relieved of his Deputy Speaker position (while still remaining in Parliament). But the push for deportation was abandoned temporarily.

In April 1943, Metropolitan Stefan, perhaps the most respected church leader in Bulgaria, and a powerful voice against anti-Semitism, met with a group of church leaders from all over Bulgaria, to ward off any further action against the Jews.

The church leaders arranged a meeting with King Boris III and presented their case. Boris rejected their arguments because he feared open criticism against the government. He was straddling a thin line between preventing deportation of the Jews, and maintaining friendly gestures towards the Nazis. In any event, the Metropolitans planted a seed.

Alexander Belev, the Nazi fanatic, was now more enraged than ever, and instead of deporting 12,000 Jews, he was now determined to deport all 50,000. The Nazis were becoming impatient with him, and a message came from Heinrich Himmler's office demanding action. Boris's claim that the Jews were required for important building projects in Bulgaria was losing credence with the Nazis. Belev and cohorts now prepared a new plan for the deportation of the entire Jewish population. Liliana Panitza, hearing of the new plans, warned a key Jewish leader of what this was about and the impending deportation. The Jewish community was now frantic. They staged protests and enlisted the support of Metropolitan Stefan, who tried to exert his influence with the government. Unfortunately, those in the government who had been supporting the Jews had lost their power and influence. Hundreds of Jews were rounded up and prepared for deportation. The last hope now was with King Boris III. Representatives met with the king, who rejected the plan to deport the Jews to Poland, but accepted the proposal to transfer all the Jews from Sofia to the Central provinces. On May 21, 1943 the government formally issued that order, and about 19,000 Sofia Jews were sent to live in the central provinces where they all survived.

Metropolitan Stefan attempted to prevent further deportation by offering to christen all Jews who desired it. His hope was to prevent their names from being targeted by the authorities. Throughout the Holocaust, the Bulgarian church stood head and shoulders above all others in their bold attempt to rescue the Jews.

Despite his failed attempts to deport the Jews out of Bulgaria, Belev still would not quit. He ordered the arrests of several hundred Jews and placed them in camps. However, within a short period of time they were released, (perhaps because the Bulgarian police decided not to hold them). Counteracting Belev's action was King Boris III. He bravely met face to face with Hitler on several occasions and continued to deflect demands for deportation of the Jews to Poland. King Boris III stood firm. Suddenly, in August 1943 the king became gravely ill and died. His death was a mystery, though many speculated that he was poisoned. By 1944, the Germans were losing the war, as well as their grasp of the Jewish situation in Bulgaria. A new government set up by Dobri Bojilo was no

longer interested in Jewish deportation and the complications it would cause. In fact, Bojilov even began allowing some Jews to emigrate to Palestine. Finally, in September 1944, Bojilov resigned and Ivan Bagraniov became head of the government. Bagraniov made dramatic changes that included restoring the Jewish people to their true place in Bulgarian society. The nightmare was finally over.

As the Nazis were herding Jews into death camps over much of Europe, a benevolent king, a courageous Christian clergy, a courageous group of politicians, and so many wonderful Bulgarian citizens, stood up to the Nazis.

All 50,000 Bulgarian Jews survived the Holocaust, and the vast majority eventually emigrated to Israel.

A Final Comment:

Some historians have not been kind to King Boris III. They believe that he should have done more to try to save the Jews of Macedonia and Thrace. The fact is that his efforts did save all 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Nazis. Besides, who else would have

stood face to face with Adolph Hitler in the “Eagles Nest” and said, “No”? The king said No twice: No to deporting the Bulgarian Jews, and No to immersing Bulgaria in a war against Russia.

References:

1. Michael Bar Zohar- “Beyond Hitler’s Grasp”; Adams Media Corporation; 1998
2. Steve Lipman- “The Unknown Rescue”; The Jewish Week; April 28, 2000
3. “History of the Jews in Bulgaria”- Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia



“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.



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SOCIAL ACTION

BY DEBBIE LAVIN & DEBBIE LANDZBERG



We hope that your summer is off to a great start! Some of you may not be aware that Shir Shalom's outreach activities continue through the summer months. Here's an overview of our partner agencies and volunteer opportunities. Sign up once or as many times as you'd like! Join us!



We send volunteers regularly to help clients at Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury which serves several hundred food insecure families every month. The Pantry offers fresh produce, meat and dairy products along with many non-perishable items at no cost. Our volunteer team helps to man the Pantry as guests shop on Monday and Friday mornings. The Pantry would love to add

more volunteers to their roster. Our congregants also serve homeless and hungry individuals at Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury. Dorothy Day warmly welcomes anyone in need of a meal. The soup kitchen is open seven days a week, twice daily, sustaining hundreds of struggling individuals in our community. It is truly eye-opening to speak with these folks and to hear their stories. Volunteers help to prep the meal, set up and serve clients on the first Sunday of the month. Let us know of your interest even if you are unavailable on these dates. It is possible to join teams on alternate dates as well.

We are thrilled with the success of our Friday evening Shabbat program at the Federal Corrections Institute in Danbury. Volunteers and a small group of female inmates sing songs, discuss the Torah portion, say a few prayers - connecting in ways that they find most meaningful. Please consider joining our dedicated team on an occasional Friday evening. You too may be deeply touched by this experience. Please reach out to us for more information about how to become an FCI volunteer.

Our local skilled nursing facility for the infirm elderly, Laurel Ridge Health Care Center in Ridgefield, invites volunteers ages 12 and up to play games with and "be the eyes and ears" of residents as they participate in planned social activities. Even a short visit can make such a difference to these folks. Programs occur throughout the week. Please let us know of your interest so that we can reach out to the Recreation Department on your behalf. For more information or to volunteer please email us at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org.

And here's a bit of news! Our Midnight Run outing to help the homeless in NYC on Saturday, May 19th was a great success. We served approximately 70 homeless clients and distributed gently used clothing, new socks, and new underwear to all. We offered everyone delicious bagged dinners, bottled waters, a huge pot of hearty soup, hot chocolate, and thanks to Dunkin' Donuts in Goldens Bridge who donated donuts and croissants at closing time, we gave out special treats as well. Thank you's go to the families who went on the run and made bagged dinners and donated new underwear: Michael and Miranda Wein; Heather Satin, Bobby Rowland and Jared and Tyler Rowland; Paul, Elizabeth, Zachary and Danielle Amerling; and Debbie and Harrison Lavin. Each family drove a vehicle too. Special thanks to the Amerlings for driving their large truck which carried the majority of the clothing. Also special thanks to the other people who helped out: Polly Schnell, Amy Margulies and Serafima Dashevshaya who all made additional bagged dinners; and Debbie Landzberg, Debbie Lavin, Amy Margulies and Ellen Darvick who all helped to sort the clothing in the weeks before. The clients were all very appreciative and we experienced the mitzvah of helping others. It is a gratifying experience all around and helps us all appreciate the blessings we have. We encourage you to get involved next year!

Lastly, we would like to thank the individuals who have volunteered with our partner agencies this month: at the Daily Bread Food Pantry - Bobbie Cohan, Debbie Landzberg, Wendy Meyer and Lynne Stark and at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House - Jessica and Larry Brooks and Debbie Landzberg and at the Federal Corrections Institute - Rabbi Jon and Jean Haddon and Polly Schnell.

We look forward to working with you as we strive to do "tikkun olam", to heal the world, one small step at a time!

JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Carly Alterman
Zachary Amerling
Maxwell Andrade
Adam Andrade
Linda Arenson
Elise Aries
Eleanor Axler
Lawrence Baer
Robert Bangser
Susan Bard
Jacob Barrett
Edward Barth
Ellen Barth
Ana Barth
Mason Behar
Riley Benson
Skyler Benson
Samantha Berg
Richard Bersch
Howard Blum
Stephanie Blum
Matthew Braunstein
Alexa Brenner
Stan Broder
Arthur Brown
Cole Butchen
William Caplan
Lauren Carroll
Alice Cavillones
Nancy Cavillones
Micah Cavillones
Catherine Charles
Rich Cohen
Micah Cohen
Rick Cohlan
Sarah deLange
Andrea deLange
Michael DeLucia
Elizabeth Dietzek
Susan Dufner
Jane Emmer

David Fiderer
Max William Fine
Isaac Fine
Anna Fisher
Charles Fremed
Diana Friedlander
Jacob Furic
Zoe Rose Gallagher
Jillian Garrett
Bryan Garrett
Walter Garrett
Jamie Garrett
Lillian Gilbert
Jasper Gitlitz
Michael Gitlitz
Jacob Gorelick
Elana Gorelick
JoAnn Gorman
Alice Gottlieb
Allan Gottlieb
John Grzymala
Renee Hagen
Maddy Hammer
Michael Hammer
Barbara Heller
Spencer Hellinger
Lydia Hellinger
Terry Henry
Jessica Herbstman
Tessa Higgins
Seth Hisiger
Erica Hollar
Joan Isman
Mona Jhaveri
Isabella Jureller
Chloe Jureller
David Kaminer
Laura Kaplan
Peter Kaplan
Spencer Kaplan
Lindsay Karlin

Roger Karlin
Claire Katz
Hannah Kaufman
Sophie Kaufman
Jason Kaufman
Barry Kay
Steven Kaye
Elinor Klein
Elizabeth Klotz
Caleb Knapp
Ethan Knapp
Louisa Knapp
Allison Kramer
Steve Landzberg
Rebecca Lantner
Hillary Lavin
Linda Lederman
Eliza Lichtman
Ruby Lichtman
Justin Lipper
Karen Lustig
Matthew MacGregor
Max Meyer
Rebecca Mishkin
Sam Murad
Lindsay Neumann
Julia Neumann
David Newman
Gregory Newman
Diane Parson
Daniel Parson
David Pazer
Spencer Pazer
Alan Pilch
Francesca Polinsky
Brian Pollack
Sara Reiter
Leah Rendon
Dawn Roberts
Nicole Rose
Aaron Rosenfeld

Mathew Rosenfeld
Jared Rowland
Emmie Samter
Naomi Sapadin
Heather Satin
Gordon Schnell
Dory Quoya Schnell
Luca Segalla
Steve Shainmark
Lisa Shaplen
Matthew Sherter
Lillian Shore
Curt Shulman
Eve Siegel
Lynne Stark
Remi Stein
J.J. Stevelman
Tamara Strom
David Taylor
Sarah Teich
Jordan Teich
Scott Trachtenberg
Zoe Vandervelden
Richard Vendig
Alan Waldman
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Liz Winson
Douglas Yolen
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 Jeffrey & Lesly Burns
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 Nevin & Laurie Dubin
 Emanuel & Ellen Genauer
 Jeremy Tubbs & Daniela Goldman
 Larry & Leslie Gottlieb
 Lindsay & Julie Held

Richard & Lydia Hellinger
 Jonas & Nicole Kalish
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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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General Fund

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Yahrzeit Donation

Leonard & Jackie Goldner	in memory of Florence Goldner
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Rabbi Emeritus Fund

Jim & Marcia Carroll	in memoriam	Jeff & Margie Gorelick	in honor of Emma Gorelick
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Early Childhood Center

Derek & Jessica Aframe	in honor of Jane Emmer	ECC Class	in honor of Jane Emmer
Frank & Julie Rendon	in honor of Jane Emmer		

JULY YAHARZEITEN

**Friday, July 6th, 2018**

Annette Belsky		Milton Kempler	
Lillian Kutscher	stepmother of Martin Kutscher	Abe Lederman	father of Linda Lederman
Ben Levy	grandfather of Marla Kay	Harold Margolis	father of Elise Aries
Allan Medoff	father of Jessica Medoff	Fred Novick	father of Deborah Gantwerker
Joseph Orlan	father in law of Adrienne Orlan	Oscar Ratner	uncle of Judith Strom
Alan Rubinfeld	father of Adam Rubinfeld	Mona Rymberg	aunt of Judith Strom
Hyman Sherr	father of Eric Sherr	Cecile Berman	mother of Maddie Sobel

Friday, July 13th, 2018

Lena Bank	grandmother of Arnold Leitner	Helen Eydenberg	grandmother of Susan Westlake
Joseph Goldberg	father of Jacob Goldberg	Sheldon Haber	father of Louis Haber
Diane Kalish	mother of Jonas Kalish	Rose Davis	mother in law of Elyse Davis
Katharine Reynolds	mother of Jean Haddon	Max Schattner	
Fannie Schoenholz	aunt of Karen Conti	Charles Shalett	father of Michael Shalett
Minnie Sherr	grandmother of Elyse Davis		

Friday, July 20th, 2018

Rheba Alpert	grandmother of Karen Blum	Al Arenson	father of Linda Arenson
Susan Aufmesser		Seymour Barth	father of Edward Barth
Stanley Bergman	father of Michael Bergman	Paul Busch	
Richard Dutka		Minnie Fremed	mother of Charles Fremed
Sam Ginsberg	grandfather of Jamie Garrett	Harold Hagen	father of Ellen Lipton
Harold Hagen	husband of Renee Hagen	Carol Held	mother of Lindsay Held
Norman Hirt	father of Judy Hirt-Manheimer	Charles Karsch	grandfather of Karen Blum
Sheldon Kempler	brother of Felice Kempler	Beatrice Kopfstein	mother of Allen Kopfstein
Shirley Lazarus	mother of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley	Fannie Rotenberg	grandmother of Elise Aries
Jesse Seligman	father of Maggie Seligman	Edith Sherr	mother of Eric Sherr
Sheila Solomon Rose	mother of Lisa Baran	Carl Sonnett	father of Meridith Sonnett
Hannah Vandervelden	daughter of Steven & Judy Vandervelden	Herbert Waldman	father of Alan Waldman

Friday, July 27th, 2018

Beatrice Alper	mother of Lonnie Shapiro	Jerry Blum	father of Joshua Blum
Kenneth Bookspan	father of Dawn Roberts	Sadie Dutka	
Lenore Gorman	mother of Martin Gorman	Sarah "Sally" Kalem	grandmother of Beth Waldman
Lillian Kayser	grandmother of Laura Leitner	Henry Langer	grandfather of Karen Gerard
Ronald Rose	father of Lisa Baran	John Swedlin	father of Maddie Sobel
Minnie Teitler	grandmother of Laura Leitner		

AUGUST YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, August 3rd, 2018**

Edward Gray	father of Scott Gray	Warren Isman	father of Ken Isman
Philip Manners	father of Barbara Manners	Edward Joel Mendell	
Jennie Mirsky	grandmother of Carlyn Bergman	Joseph Salpeter	father of Michael Salpeter
Hugo Sternberger	grandfather of Alice Gottlieb	Tamara Uchetel	mother in law of Joe Cotumaccio
Matthew Weber	brother in law of Barbara Manners		

Friday, August 10th, 2018

Helga Allen	mother of Rona Salpeter	Michael Brodsky	father of Karl Brodsky
George Brody	great uncle of Joan Isman	Sam Feinleib	grandfather of Leslie Gottlieb
Pearl Feldman	mother of Stuart Feldman	Daniel Fox	father of Lauren Sugar
Richard Glass	brother of Michelle Blum	Harry Goodman	grandfather of Marla Kay
Colette Horvilleur	mother of Laurence Furic	Leo Klotz	father of Jeffrey Klotz
David Malat	father of Lynne Malat	Seymour Sapadin	father of Brian Sapadin
Larry Sheptinsky	father of Alan Sheptin		

Friday, August 17th, 2018

Beverly Baer	mother of Lawrence Baer	Belle Baier	mother of Shelby White
Pauline Binstick	relative of Moreton Binn	Rokki Bluestein	wife of David Bluestein
Jack Darvick	father of Murray Darvick	Reuben Ginsberg	great uncle of Jamie Garrett
Julius Goodman		Claire Markham	aunt of Richard Mishkin
Goldie Mitzelman	grandmother of Karen Taylor	Helen Orlan	mother in law of Adrienne Orlan
Stanley Simpson Jr.	father of Dawn Kessler	Robert Wallach	son of Margery Wallach
Robert Wallach	brother of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia		

Friday, August 24th, 2018

Rose-Mary Binstock	relative of Moreton Binn	Charlotte Broder	mother of Stan Broder
Robert Hammer	father of Michael Hammer	Morris Henner	father of Howard Henner
Joseph Hodas	father of Elinor Darvick	Lucille Levenson	grandmother of Karen Brenner
Mitchell Perrin	father of Charles Perrin	Perry Reynolds	father of Jean Haddon
Ruth Schichman	grandmother of Joe Altman	Fred Schwartz	husband of Annabel Schwartz
Fred Schwartz	father of Vicki Yolen	Rochelle Simson	sister of Andrea Jacobs
Roy Wallach	husband of Margery Wallach	Roy Wallach	father of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia

Friday, August 31st, 2018

Mabel Bright	mother of Margery Wallach	Donna Ellen Brown	
Joseph Fried		Esther Gerard	grandmother of Ira Gerard
Fred Goetz	uncle of Rosalind Kopfstein	Lev Gogish	husband of Serafima Dashevskaya
Lev Gogish	father of Ilay and Vlad Gogish	Dorothy Himoff	
Louis Karlin	father of Roger Karlin	Jacob Levine	grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman
Samuel Levy	step-father of Richard Burg	Alfred Pilch	father of Alan Pilch
Stanley Slone			

PRESIDENTS' ARTICLE (CONT.)

We know that the process towards improvement is slow and lengthy and that there are no easy and quick answers. Our clergy, staff and lay leaders have already made significant strides by creating and practicing the procedures and policies that we already have in place. Regardless of what steps we take as an institution to secure our building and control and monitor access to it, none of it will be effective if we

do not all take responsibility. We hope you will be patient and supportive while we work towards solutions to achieve our eventual goal of keeping our Shir Shalom Community the safe and welcoming place it has been and will continue to be.



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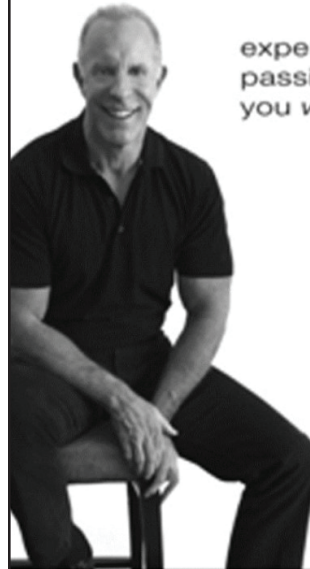
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JULY 2018

TAMMUZ/AV 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Fourth of July holiday- Office closed	5 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	6 6:00 pm- pre-service nosh 6:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	7
8	9	10	11	12 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	13 6:00 pm- pre-service nosh 6:30 pm- Viva la Shabbat (French themed food)	14 9:00 am- Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Study
15	16	17 6:00 pm- "Pizza in the Park" CHIRP concert in Ballard Park	18 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	19 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	20 6:00 pm- pre-service nosh 6:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	21 9:00 am- Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Study
22	23	24	25	26 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	27 6:00 pm- pre-service nosh 6:30 pm- Milk & Cookies Shabbat Sing-A-Long Shabbat (with Rabbi Haddon)	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST 2018

AV/ELUL 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	2 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	3 6:00 pm- pre-ser- vice nosh 6:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	4
5	6	7	8	9 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	10 6:00 pm- pre-ser- vice nosh 6:30 pm- Summer Yellow Shabbat	11 9:00 am- Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Study
12 Adult Program: 3:00 pm- Film "Operation Wed- ding"	13	14	15 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	16 12 noon-2pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi Haddon 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	17 6:00 pm- pre-ser- vice nosh 6:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	18
19	20	21	22	23 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	24 6:00 pm- pre-ser- vice nosh 6:30 pm- Lunch Box Treat Shabbat	25 9:00 am- Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Study 4:00 pm- Shabbat Afternoon Worship
26	27	28	29 7-9 pm- Sisterhood knitting class	30 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	31 6:00 pm- pre-ser- vice nosh 6:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	

Shir Shalom-Good News!

Please welcome our newest congregants to Shir Shalom:

Ellen and Emanuel (Manny) Genauer of Ridgefield, CT. After retiring to the South they decided to come back up North and now make Ridgefield their home. They have two grown married children and several grandchildren.

Stephanie Adler Yuan and Bradford Yuan recently moved to Katonah, New York from Brooklyn. They have a daughter, Ruby in the 6th grade and a son Oliver in the 2nd grade.

Meg Weissmann of Ridgefield, CT. Meg is a social worker at Norwalk Hospital.

Mona Jhaveri and Michael Brown of Ridgefield, CT. Their daughter Pearla is in the 5th grade and their son Arthur is in the 3rd grade.

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



Our congregants, the Amerlings, delivering food to the homeless in NYC on their "Midnight Run"



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July/August 2018

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There were colorful rainbows everywhere during our first LGBTQ PRIDE Shabbat on Friday, June 22nd.