

SEPTEMBER
2018

OUR SHIR SHALOM

ELUL/TISHRI
5778/5779



SEPTEMBER SHABBAT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

HIGH HOLY DAYS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Sept. 14	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Sept. 21	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Sept. 28	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Sept. 29	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Yoga Shabbat Morning Worship Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Voellmicke

Sept. 1	7:30 pm	Selichot
Sept. 9	Sunday 7:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Worship
Sept. 10	Monday 9:00 am 11:30 am 2:30 pm 5:00 pm	Rosh Hashanah 1st day Early Worship Late Morning Worship Tot Rosh Hashanah Tashlich
Sept. 11	Tuesday 10:00 am	Rosh Hashanah 2nd day Worship
Sept. 18	Tuesday 7:30 pm	Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur) Worship
Sept. 19	Wednesday 9:00 am 11:30 am 2:30 pm 3:15 pm 4:00 pm	Yom Kippur Early Worship Late Morning Worship Tot Yom Kippur Music & Meditation Service Afternoon, Yizkor, and Neilah Service

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lynn Broder & Hal Wolkin



One question confronting American Jews today is "why should I belong to a synagogue?" In this day and age of online communities, interconnected lives through social media, and ever increasing demand on our time, many families feel that they don't need the benefits of belonging to a synagogue, or that they don't value membership relative to the costs.



As lay leaders, we often hear from former members that they don't use the synagogue and therefore it doesn't make sense to make their community commitment. Our goal is to operate less like a gym where you pay to belong so long as you use it, and more like a non-profit whose mission we support and want to see continue to do good works, because in the end, our Shir Shalom is a sacred

community that needs the financial support of our congregants to continue to thrive. Our best hope would be that our members attend Shabbat services as often as they can and participate in the many programs, activities, and committees that we have to offer. However, perhaps a better answer is to explain how participation in religion is correlated with many health benefits and positive outcomes, and that remaining a part of our Shir Shalom community is the best way to achieve them.

Economists have suspected for a long time that religiosity fosters economic success. A study published in the National Bureau of Economic Research in February of this year found that an increase in religiosity, in this case, Evangelical Protestantism, provided substantial benefits to the participants. The study was conducted by three self-identified economists; an atheist, an evangelical Christian and an agnostic Jew. The participants in the study were economically disadvantaged students, some of whom attended classes that combined religious teachings with advice on health and employment, and others who received only the non-religious advice. The results after six months found that those who received the religious education reported not only feeling their lives guided by those religious teachings, but also earned more money. Previous studies have found that religiousness is also correlated with healthy behaviors, less drug and alcohol abuse, increased financial success, and lower crime rates. As New York Times columnist, and proclaimed secular Jew David Leonhardt, wrote, "...the evidence has made me more humble and open-minded about how the world can go about solving some of its problems."

Of course, I don't mean to suggest that belonging to a synagogue can cure all of life's ills. Nor do I suggest that one cannot be religious without belonging to a synagogue. But there can be no doubt that belonging to a synagogue such as Shir Shalom makes staying

(con't. page 19).

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



I am looking forward to our upcoming celebrations of the New Year and observance of Yom Kippur as a sacred community.

The month of Elul has begun, leading up to Rosh Hashanah. There is a rabbinic teaching (I have

shared before): the word Elul in Hebrew is an acronym for a phrase from the Biblical Song of Songs, Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li—I am my beloved's as my beloved is to me.

During Shabbat worship on Rosh Chodesh Elul (the beginning of the new month of Elul), the parashah was R'eih (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17), which opens with an encouragement from God: "See, this day I set before you blessing and curse." The late medieval Italian commentator S'forno explains that God is REALLY saying "Pay good attention so that you will not be like the nations of the world who relate to everything half-heartedly, always trying to find middle ground..."

Our lives and relationships are filled with compromise and seeking the middle ground. Not every choice is between good or bad, blessing or curse. A healthy balance in our personal and professional lives is good. Spending every minute at work may lead to strains in family relationships; spending every minute with family can limit success and mobility at work. We seek a comfortable and healthy balance between personal and professional, work and family.

In interpreting the Torah concept a professor in rabbinical school explained, "you are either pregnant or not..." The healthy and comfortable balance between family and work can only exist when we are committed to family and committed to work. I understand S'forno's middle ground as rooted in feelings of ambivalence or apathy or even

convenience, not balance. As Jews (and, especially, as Reform Jews) we seek balance between our traditions and modernity; participation in the Jewish community should not be limited to occasions that are convenient or impactful.

Song of Songs—the source of Ani L'Dodi V'Dodi Li—is written as a song between loving partners, and read as an allegory, a love song between God and the people of Israel. It is easy for relationships to become stale and for a partner to feel unappreciated. Our tradition, through the Song of Songs, the words of Deuteronomy 11:26, and our celebration of the High Holy Days remind us that our commitments—to each other, to our community, to God—should deepen and grow over time. Growth comes from renewing our commitment, deciding to pursue blessing and not curses, while ambivalence or apathy cause stagnation. It is important to demonstrate our commitment in our relationships, with partners, family, and friends, and the High Holy Days are an opportunity for us to demonstrate our renewed commitment to our tradition, our sacred community, and our God.

In preparing for the High Holy Days, the words of Deuteronomy 11:26 remind me of the importance of not seeking the middle ground and recommitting in my relationships with family, our community, and God. As we prepare together for the Yamim Nora'im—awesome days—in the weeks ahead, may we better understand what it means to commit to our families, our community, and our tradition. And now I should really go get some flowers for Ashley...

With warm wishes for a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah—a year filled with blessings,

Rabbi David L. Reiner

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

SPIRIT AND SOUL AT SHIR SHALOM

2018-19 (5779) FRIDAYS

December 7 — **CHANUKAH SONGS OF LIGHT
AND HOPE**

Mattan Klein, Israeli Jazz Flutist

January 18 — **IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
16TH ANNUAL SPIRITUALS SHABBAT**

Serendipity Chorale, Gigi Van Dyke, conductor
Keys Chorus, Rob Silvan, Director

March 22 — **A SUITE SHABBAT —A TRIBUTE
TO LEONARD BERNSTEIN**

Claire Simand, Dir of Wooster School Theater and Music
Caroline Chanin, mezzo soprano
Brian Besterman, piano
Bruce Sachs, vocals and piano

May 17 — **ISRAELI CELEBRATION**

Federation Teen Emmissaries
Shlomo Shai, accordion

**RUACH SHABBAT—SPIRITED AND SOULFUL
WITH BETH STYLES AND MARK FINEBERG**



Oct. 12
Feb. 1

March 1
Shabbat Across
America

May 31



Rabbi David Reiner
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray
Rabbi Jon Haddon, Emeritus
Shir Shalom Adult and Talented Teen Choirs



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Faith is a challenging topic to consider no matter what religion is being discussed. How do you define it? How do you teach it in a congregational school setting? How do you retain it over a lifetime? As we lead our

students into another school year, we ask ourselves many essential questions to guide our instruction-- and this is one of them.

Writer, Michael Arceneaux, says, "The faith community I grew up in taught me to suppress my feelings." He explains that after walking away decades ago from regular church attendance, coming back to religion as an adult-- after feeling solidly rejected, personally, for his life choices-- felt unnecessary and unrewarding after giving it another go. He refers to himself as a recovering Catholic even though he is far from involved at this point. But he is still looking to understand his faith in religion, a lifelong battle for some.

Over this past summer, we visited dozens of churches in Italy. The concept of religion, although not my own during many church visits, was very present in my mind as we saw in the smallest towns the grandest cathedrals --one, even, on a tiny island in the middle of a lake! The artwork, sculptures, golden altars-- and marble columns that were stories high-- were impressive and imposing and gave me the sense that I was visiting palaces. As a Jewish person, these grand edifices were, still, places of great holiness that were breathtaking and, to me, very contemplative spaces, despite their size and grandeur. Actually, some of the temples in Prague and Amsterdam we had seen in years past were grand in many ways and that was new to me, too, then. Still, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peters, on my third visit in thirty-six years, were more awe-inspiring than they had been for me in the past. Age? Attending synagogue all of my life--in much more scaled-down sanctuaries--made me think of how people worship and share the concept of Gd in different ways. Our students always ask us where Gd is-- and we respond often with, "Gd is, Gd was, and Gd will always be... and, Gd is everywhere." Older Jews often want to know where Gd is, especially at challenging times in life.

This summer on Tish B' Av, a day reserved for remembering our shared tragic moments as Jews, my adult daughter and I watched a Holocaust film, "Fanny's Journey." It is a movie our teachers plan to share with our older students and their families this school year. It was a beautiful and hopeful examination, and a true story, of the challenge a group of nine Jewish children experienced when their adult escort leading them to the Swiss border... disappeared. The resilience of the children, and especially of the main character, Fanny, gave me the impression that Gd lives within all of us at every age and that you don't always need a prayer book or sanctuary to connect with divinity. It can be found deep inside all of us and children reveal that to us all the time. That said, being apart of any strong community, whether it is a church, synagogue, camp, or school community-- gives us greater strength, unmatched when we are on our own in the world.

In an essay about surrounding yourself with positive people for living a healthier life, Tara Parker-Pope explains that in Japan... "a place where the average life expectancy for women is 90, the oldest in the world, people form a kind of social network called a moai--a group of five friends who offer social, logistic, emotional and even financial support for a lifetime." This network seems to help each individual maintain healthy benefits over a lifetime. That sounds to me like many groups of friends I have watched over the years at our synagogue even though most have met as adults. Our school students are well on their way toward achieving this ideal!

As the new year begins for all of us at Congregation Shir Shalom and for all of our students, we like to think we offer a very special place of holiness with the added benefit of lifelong friendships--made or waiting to be made--to help us all live our lives with a sense of community in a sacred setting. Our sanctuary, although equal in beauty and modesty, is a warm shelter of peace that connects us all to our better selves. That has been my experience and yours, too, I hope. I look forward to seeing all of you here soon. L' shannah tovah and may your year be filled with love, health and much sweetness. Stop by at dismissal on the first Sunday of RS (see calendar on our temple website for details) and enjoy a sweet ice cream treat to start the year off just right! All are welcome.

TEEN EMISSARIES

SHALOM TO OUR NEW SHINSHINIM-
OUR 2018-19 FEDERATION ISRAELI EMISSARIES

Welcome to Shay Eshel, Eyal Marom, Yuval Shahar and Rotem Sharon who will be joining our community in the fall as part of the Israeli Emissary program sponsored by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. This is a wonderful opportunity to add some cross-cultural enrichment to your family life. Please reach out to these special young ambassadors. Invite them to your home for a Shabbat dinner or to spend a day with your family going apple picking or to a baseball game. Show them a bit about life in the U.S. If you are interested in inviting any or all of the Shinshinim to have a meal with your family or would like to explore the possibility of becoming a host family for three months, please call contact Stacy Kamisar at skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org or Judy Blumenthal at jblumenthal@jewishphilanthropyct.org

Eyal Marom- I'm from Daverat, a beautiful kibbutz near Afula. My father, Jonathan, is a colonel in the IDF air force. My mother, Yifat, is an accountant in Afula. I have two younger sisters, Aya and Shir. In high school, I majored in both Software Engineering and Music. I have been studying jazz music and playing the piano since the age of seven. In addition, in my last three years of high school, I participated in the IDF program 'Magshimim', the National Cyber Program, that trains young students from tenth to twelfth grade to become an intelligence cyber officer in the army. Youth movement, where I was a counselor for two years.

Shay Eshel- My name is Shay Eshel, I live in Moshav Ram-On in the Yizrael Valley. I love living in the Moshav because it keeps me very close to all my friends, and I like it that I am attached to my neighbors and to my Moshav community. We are a family of four – Amir my father, Yael my mother, my little brother Reyi and me. My brother is

two years younger than me and I like that age difference because we're very close to each other. My mother works as a CPA and my father is a lawyer. I have been dancing professional Classical Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap for eleven years. I do it for 4-5 times a week, sometimes even more. I dance the syllabus of the Royal Academy of Dance – in London. I also have other hobbies such as scuba diving, swimming, watching TV, meeting with friend and going to the beach. I consider myself an adventurous person, and I really like to try new things and get to know new people and new places.

Rotem Sharon- My name is Rotem Sharon. I'm 18 years old. I live in Alloney Abba. I have two older siblings. My sister, Adi, is 24 years old, she is a student for physical therapy in Haifa's university. My brother Tomer is 22 years old. In high school I majored in both physics and media, which included production of documentary films. I really like music and playing the piano and guitar. In addition, I love hand crafting such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery etc. I was also a part of Bnei Hamoshavim youth movement, where I was a counselor for 2 years.

Yuval Shahar- I have a small and very close family. My father Hanan is a police officer and my mom Esther is an artist and English and art teacher. My brother's name is Roi and he is 23 years old and serves as an officer in the IDF. We live in a small communal village called Gan Ner in the beautiful Gilboa area. I have very good friends with whom I spend a lot of my time. I studied two majors in high school. The first one was Arabic (reading, writing and talking). My second major was Theater in which I learned acting skills, writing and more. I like sports very much and playing soccer with my friends. Since I was a little boy I participated in athletic competitions. Music and dancing have a huge part in my life and I enjoy both very much.





Join Us for our Monthly

Tot Shabbat

Joyful Service and Dinner

The fun begins at 5:30 pm.

October 12, 2018	February 8, 2019
November 9, 2018	March 8, 2019
December 7, 2018*	April 12, 2019
January 11, 2019	May 10, 2019
	June 14, 2019

Please visit our website for additional events for families with young children.

*special Hanukkah intergenerational celebration

Ourshirshalom.org



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

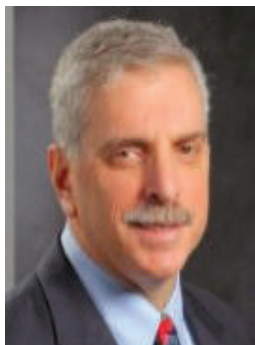
- 2018–19 Calendar dates/details to follow
- Program tuition per year: see tuition schedule for details
- NFTY Youth Group Membership—temple fees included
- Community Service documentation for National Honor Society, college, employment, etc.
- Membership must be in good standing and all Religious School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

RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



Hopefully you were able to attend some of our Shabbat services this summer. In addition to a pre-service nosh each week, meaningful sermons and joyful singing we enjoyed a variety of festivities. We began with Shabbat Sha-BBQ and continued with Viva La Shabbat, Milk and Cookies and Sing-a-Long Shabbat, Yellow Shabbat and Lunch Box Shabbat. These all afforded us time to connect with our fellow congregants and partake in interesting themed foods.



Now that it is the beginning of September we hear that perennial Jewish conversation, that is, whether the High Holy Days are “early” or “late” this

year. The true answer of course is that they are right on time with Rosh Hashanah occurring on the first day of Tishrei each year. Based on the secular calendar the High Holy Days are beginning the week after Labor Day. As a reminder here is a summary of our service schedule:

Selichot- Saturday, September 1 @7:30 pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Sunday September 9 @ 7:30 pm followed by an Oneg reception sponsored by the Board of Trustees

Rosh Hashanah first morning service – Monday September 10 @ 9:00 am or 11:30 am – see service description in ticket request packet you received
Tot Rosh Hashanah service geared to families with pre-school age children – Monday September 10 @ 2:30 pm. Complimentary tickets for non-members available through the office.

Tashlich service – Monday September 10 @5:00 pm – at the home of Elizabeth and Paul Amerling

Rosh Hashanah second morning service – Tuesday September 11 @10:00am followed by congregational luncheon. Reservations required for luncheon.

Kol Nidre service – Tuesday September 18 @7:30 pm

Yom Kippur morning service – Wednesday September 19 @ 9:00 am or 11:30 am – see service description in ticket request packet you received.

Yom Kippur tot service geared to families with pre-school age children – Wednesday September 19 @ 2:30 pm

Music and meditation service – Wednesday September 19 @3:00

Yom Kippur afternoon and Neilah service with **Yizkor service** – Wednesday September 19 @4:00 pm
Congregational Break Fast – immediately following Yom Kippur services. Reservations required. Volunteers to help prepare food are needed – please contact Ronni or Michael Hammer.

If you have any additional ticket requests or other questions please contact Laura Morris in the office.

We hope to see you and your families at our services and on behalf of the clergy and the ritual committee we wish you a sweet New Year.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

by JACKIE GOLDNER & SERAFIMA DASHEVSKAYA

October 6th Saturday 7:30 Speaker Rabbi 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 are generously provided by our own Stacey Sussman.
 Donation \$20

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!

SISTERHOOD

by Bonnie Pazer & Wendy Meyer



Summer is flying by, time to start to think about back to school, High Holidays, and a new year of Sisterhood!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new co-presidents of Congregation Shir Shalom Sisterhood and let you know that we are working hard to plan a calendar filled with fun activities and social opportunities that we hope will enrich and support our female community.

We have been members of Congregation Shir Shalom and sisterhood for over 20 years, enjoying and appreciating what being a member of both the synagogue and Sisterhood means, particularly when our children were growing up. Sisterhood is a wonderful organization of friendship and support. We have always looked forward to being a part of this vibrant and enthusiastic group. It is our hope that all who are interested will join us.

Sisterhood kickoff will take place late September or early October. Please stay tuned for more news and information! Feel free to drop us a note to share some of your thoughts and ideas.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Don't forget to visit us on Facebook. Just look for Shir Shalom Sisterhood. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones!

Bonnie Pazer & Wendy Meyer
Presidents



ECC Summer Fun 2018

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

After a terrific summer program we are looking forward to beginning a new school year with exciting programs planned and new ideas developing.

Here at the ECC we recognize the importance of early childhood education, and we give each child the opportunity to grow, to discover, and to celebrate life in wonderful ways.

With our experienced staff, children will feel our energy and devotion. We are planning another year of curriculum that stimulates inquisitiveness. We integrate general and Jewish learning in an exciting way, combining the finest of early education approaches and Jewish values and ethics.

We want your family to view Congregation Shir Shalom ECC as your “home”. We will continue our special programs including music, yoga and cooking. This year we will introduce our new portable Maker/Breaker Space. We have gathered tools and materials to create, invent, tinker and design.

Children are natural makers, and we at the ECC would like to encourage this process through our new space.

If you would like to donate materials for our maker space here is a list of suggested materials:

- cardboard boxes (variety of sizes)
- empty tissue boxes
- paper towel rolls
- variety of caps (soda caps, water bottle caps)
- plastic solo cups
- tape (masking tape, painters tape, lots of tape!)
- ribbon
- buttons
- markers
- empty plastic containers (cottage cheese, butter, yogurt)
- cereal boxes
- popsicle sticks
- computer keyboards, toddler toys (to deconstruct), large old calculators



Our makerspace is a space that has materials that are intentionally placed for making. The goal of this initiative is to encourage:

- Communication
- Creativity and Innovation
- Curiosity
- Collaboration
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

When we allow young children to have these creative, open-ended makerspace experiences, we are enabling them to develop foundational skills for future learning... and in the process have a great deal of FUN!

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

by Lewis Siegel

A SPORTS WRITER AND MUCH MORE

There are many examples of Jewish individuals who became very successful, accumulated great wealth, and still adhered to that important principle in Judaism – tzedakah ** (The Jewish requirement to do justice to others, but often interpreted as charity). The following is a story about such a person who floundered in one career, inadvertently found another, became very successful, and has truly exemplified tzedakah.

Mitchell David “Mitch” Albom, currently 60 years old, was born in Passaic, New Jersey. He graduated from Brandeis University with a degree in sociology. His goal in life, however, was to become a jazz musician. He played in a band in high school, and studied with a highly respected jazz musician from the Berklee School of Music in Boston. After college, Albom traveled to Europe to develop his musical career. He ended up on the Island of Crete, where he spent seven months as a rock singer and piano player. He tried song writing, but failed to attract any interest in his songs, and the frustration caused him to return to the U.S. to continue his career in New York night-clubs. To help pay expenses, Albom took part-time jobs. He wrote circulars for a super market, articles for a Queens, N.Y. newspaper, and also had a part-time job writing for a sports magazine. Albom realized he had a talent for writing, and enrolled in the School of Journalism at Columbia University, where he received a Masters Degree. He followed this with an MBA degree from the Columbia University School of Business.

In 1983, Mitch Albom was hired as a writer for a Fort Lauderdale newspaper, and in 1985, won an award from the Associated Press for the best sports story of the year. That year, he was hired to work for the Detroit Free Press as lead sports columnist, a position that he still holds.

During his years in Detroit, Albom has been named the best sports columnist in the nation 13 times by the Associated Press, and seven times for the best feature writing. No one else has won this award more than once.

By 1989, Mitch Albom turned his effort to writing books. He wrote one book on famed University of Michigan football coach, Bo Schembechler, called BO, and another one a few years later on the University of Michigan basketball team of the early 90's called Fab Five, Basketball, Trash Talk, the American Dream.

Albom, in addition to his full-time job as sports writer and author, runs a regular sports program on a Detroit radio station, and has made appearances on many of the most popular TV talks shows. In 1992, he had a song published, “Cookin’ for Two”, which was used in the movie remake of “Christmas in Connecticut”.

In 1995, Albom’s life took a significant turn toward spirituality and he began writing on that subject, after he heard about a Ted Koppel Show interview with his old sociology professor Morrie Schwartz, who was suffering in the terminal stages of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Albom felt the need to reconnect with his professor, and began a series of trips from Detroit to Suburban Boston every Tuesday during the period of Morrie Schwartz’s final days. This was his opportunity to provide comfort and companionship to a dying man. Since Schwartz’s medical bills were enormous, Albom thought if he wrote a book about this experience, the proceeds from the sales would help pay Schwartz’s medical expenses. Several publishers rejected him. Finally, Doubleday Books agreed to publish the story. It was accepted for publication before Morrie Schwartz died, and his medical expenses were paid for from the proceeds received for the book. The popularity of the book skyrocketed, particu-

(Con’t. on next page)

larly after an appearance by Albom on the Oprah Winfrey Show. Tuesdays with Morrie sat on the New York Times bestseller list for four years, has now sold over 14 millions copies, and translated into 41 languages. It was also made into a TV movie and an Off-Broadway play.

Spirituality and faith remained the theme for Mitch Albom's subsequent books. His next book in 2003, *The Five People Who You Meet in Heaven*, was about an elderly man who died, awoke in Heaven and met five people there whose lives he had interacted with on earth. They helped to give him an understanding of the meaning of life. This book sold 10 million copies and it was made into the most watched TV movie of 2004.

In 2006, Albom wrote a book called *For One More Day*. It asked the question, "What if you could go back and spend one more day with a loved one who passed away"? This book was the New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly best-sellers lists.

In 2009, Albom wrote a second non-fiction book called *Have a Little Faith*, based on his real life relationship with his Rabbi from childhood, Albert L. Lewis who, seven years before he died, asked Albom to deliver the eulogy at his eventual funeral. Albom had many meetings with the rabbi in order to get a better understanding of the man who someday he would eulogize. In Detroit, he also encountered another pastor, Henry Covington, an African American, who was a former drug addict and convict, and was now ministering to an impoverished, mostly homeless congregation in Detroit. Between the two clergymen, he developed a better understanding of the meaning of faith.

In addition, Albom has written several more books.

Humanitarian Contributions

Mitch Albom made important contributions by founding programs in which he personally participated:

1. The Dream Fund- This was established in 1989 to provide scholarships for disadvantaged children to study the arts.

2. A Time to Help- This started in 1998, and provides numerous services—homeless shelter, food banks, senior citizen homes, and a school for under-privileged children and children with disabilities. Albom and his radio co-host, Ken Brown, participated in these projects.

3. S.A.Y.(Super All Year) was established in 2006 to provide assistance for the most impoverished people in Detroit.

4. Hole in the Roof Foundation- This was begun in 2009 as a project to raise money to be used for repairing dilapidated houses of worship of all denominations. One project that Albom was involved with was rebuilding a Mission and Orphanage in Haiti. He not only raised money for the project-- he was seen in Haiti helping with the construction.

Mitch Albom, who continues his career as a distinguished sports writer for the Detroit Free Press, is an outstanding example of one who exemplifies the principle of tzedakah.

** Maimonides discussed this in his Mishnah Torah, (Laws of Charity, 10: 7-14) where he listed eight levels of tzedakah.

Reference: Wikipedia



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

SOCIAL ACTION

BY DEBBIE LAVIN & DEBBIE LANDZBERG



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Help us help others this year! Your help will be greatly appreciated and will help us to make a difference! Also project co-leaders needed to help plan any of these important programs.

One-time and ongoing opportunities available for everyone



HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

Begin collecting non-perishables to donate to our neighbors in need! (7th graders needed for food drive preparation, flyer distribution, food collection at services etc.

Adults volunteers needed to help supervise the bag distribution and collection)

THE DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY TEAM

Help man this Danbury pantry with our enthusiastic volunteer crew as needy clients shop. (Designated Mondays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.; join us when it works for you!)

DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Serve meals to guests of this Danbury soup kitchen. We'd love your help. Ages 12 and up. (First Sunday of every month/volunteer only once or as much as you'd like)

DANBURY FEDERAL CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

Co-facilitate Shabbat discussion group with Jewish female inmates.

(Last Friday evening of each month/volunteer only once or as much as you'd like)

SANDWICHES FOR SERVICE: Volunteers needed to help make sandwiches for clients of the Dorothy Day soup kitchen.and to donate some of the fixings!

DISTRIBUTE FOOD FOR THE NEEDY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Help the Daily Bread Food Pantry prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas

“RUNS” TO BRING FOOD, CLOTHING & TOILETRIES TO THE HOMELESS

Reach out to New York City's homeless this coming fall and spring

PARTICIPATE IN OUR BLOOD DRIVE: Likely time frame: early November

SHIR SHALOM MITZVAH DAY

Join our temple family for a day of community building and community outreach on **Sunday, May 6th!**

We'd love to include you in our programs!

Thanks to this summer's volunteers who worked at-- **Daily Bread Food Pantry:** Karen Alexa and Evan Brenner; Bobbie Cohan; Ellen, Brooke and Carly Goldstein; Julie and Morgan Held; Cantor Debbie Katcho-Gray; Debbie Landzberg; Amy Margulies. **Dorothy Day Hospitality House:** Jessica Brooks, Carrie Chanin, Lou Haber.

Federal Correctional Facility: Resa Fremed, Rabbi Jon and Jean Haddon.

Contact SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Susan Andrade
 Rachelle Axel
 Everett Axel
 Sarah Baer
 Heath Bender
 Brian Benson
 Jeffrey Berg
 Michael Berman
 Daniel Berman
 Ella Blum
 Eli Bovilsky
 Michael Brand
 Betsy Brand
 Scott Brenner
 Karen Brenner
 Abigail Brooks
 Zoe Butchen

Michael Caplan
 Dana Carroll
 Lucas Castelhanos
 Elia Cohen
 Caroline Dewar
 Nevin Dubin
 Stephen Finke
 Bryon Friedman
 Sean Gantwerker
 Jacob Goldberg
 Jackie Goldner
 Jeremy Gordon
 Michael Gottlieb
 Hillary Haber
 Arlene Heffler
 Regina Heit
 Paul Heller

Nina Hisiger
 Gregory Hoffman
 Mindy Hoffman
 Meryl Honig
 Ben Johnson
 Arthur Jureller
 Elana Kaplan
 Gregory Kaplan
 Zachary Kaplan
 Todd Kipnes
 Leslie Kramer
 Daniel Krampf
 Zoe Lash
 Melanie Leitner
 Richard Lipton
 Jessica Medoff
 Nancy Metzler

Bryce Lazarus-Morley
 Kenneth Needleman
 Emily Nossan
 Kory Nossan
 Ruth Ossher
 Mark Parson
 Joshua Pilch
 Michael Pilch
 Amanda Roberts
 Tyler Rowland
 Luda Samuels
 Aaron Sapadin
 Reed Sapadin
 Max Scanlon
 Lindsay Scott



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 Brian Besterman & Alison Ganis
 Michael Gitlitz & Rita Landman
 Drew & Mindy Hoffman
 Larry & Vivian Hoffman
 Joel & Laura Kaplan
 Peter & Jamie Kaplan

Jeffrey & Elizabeth Klotz
 Matthew Meister & Dafne Sanchez-Aldama
 Adam & Donna Ozols
 Andrew & Nicole Rose
 Joel & Eileen Segalman
 Adam & Stacey Sussman
 Kurt Voellmicke & Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke

Donations - We Appreciate Your Generosity

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Joseph Cotumaccio in memory of Lynn Cotumaccio

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Margaret Seligman	in memory of Jesse Seligman
Emanuel & Ellen Genauer	in honor of naming of Clay Osborne
Michael & Rona Salpeter	in memory of Joseph Salpeter
Michael & Rona Salpeter	in memory of Helga Allen
Ira & Karen Gerard	in memory of Miriam Langer
Barbara Tansky	

General Fund

Larry & Leslie Gottlieb	in memory of Laura Fiderer
Larry & Leslie Gottlieb	in memory of Deborah Nelson Shimer
Lynne Alswanger-Busch	
Richard & Cathy Mishkin	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Richard & Cathy Mishkin	in honor of Hal Wolkin

Rabbi Emeritus Fund

Ira & Karen Gerard in memory of Miriam Langer

Early Childhood Center

Alex & Deborah Perry

Music Fund

Allan & Alice Gottlieb

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, September 7th, 2018**

Melvin Baran	father of Andy Baran	Jean Haddon	mother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
Sadie Hodas	mother of Elinor Darvick	Max Kalb	grandfather of Dayna Kaplan
Francis Karlin	mother of Roger Karlin	Miriam Klein	mother of Dayna Kaplan
Ruth Lowy	mother of Terry Henry	Sol Pottish	uncle of Richard Mishkin
Ruth Siegel	wife of Lewis Siegel	Leopold Weisberg	
Dudley Westlake			

Friday, September 14th, 2018

Rabbi Marcus Burstein	husband of Eric Larson	Deborah Darvick	daughter in law of Elinor & Murray Darvick
Ara Goodman	grandmother of Milton Hollar	Jonathan Gordon	brother of Elaine Gordon
Victor Hausner	father of Marcia Needleman	Emanuel Hisiger	father of Miles Hisiger
Herbert Hodas	brother of Elinor Darvick	Cantor Theodore Katchko	father of Cantor Katchko-Gray
Sidney Kirstein	grandfather of Joel Kaplan	Minna Lehrman	mother of Lora Wishod
Rose Margolis	mother in law of Robi Margolis	Cathie Jo Raynor	
Seymour Schreckinger	father of Jamie Kaplan		

Friday, September 21st, 2018

David Bassett	father of Annabel Schwartz	Harry Fergenson	grandfather of Michael Bergman
Arnold Friedlander	husband of Diana Friedlander	Stanley Gottlieb	father of Lawrence Gottlieb
Jerry Grant	father of Lynne Stark	Monroe Hyman	father of Lisa Pollack
Larry Mirkin	brother of Judith Strom	Harold Redman	father of Debra Lavin
Irv Schnider	uncle of Margie Gorelick	William Schwartz	friend of Moreton Binn
Wendy Steinberg	sister of Jay Walker	Mary Taylor	grandmother of David Taylor
Lee Wallach	brother in law of Margery Wallach		

Friday, September 28th, 2018

Leonard Dutka		Murray Emmer	father in law of Jane Emmer
Sylvia Farber	mother of Hildi Glicklich	Sophie Felper	grandmother of Margie Gorelick
Eddy Fuchs	father of Hanky Kutscher	Rabbi Alex Goldman	father of Robert Goldman
Sophie Goodman	grandmother of Marla Kay	Abraham Holson	grandfather of Robin Heit
Siegfried Karl	father of Rosalind Kopfstein	Ethel Kurlander	great aunt of Matt Herbstman
Leroy Levin	father of Sherry Levin Wallach	Joseph Meyer-Gordon	
Nathan Muchnick	grandfather of Jason Muchnick	Anna Schattner	
Freda Silverman	grandmother of Richard Burg	Frieda Stern	grandmother of Laurie Dubin


PRESIDENTS' ARTICLE (CON'T.)

connected to one's Judaism easier and more enjoyable. It is often at times of crisis when our members realize just how much being part of the Shir Shalom community means to them. We hope that all our members will continue to enjoy the benefits of our Shir Shalom community, whether they are imme-

diately apparent or not. Having faith in the Jewish values that our Shir Shalom community promotes and supports can have benefits that may take years to fully develop, but will certainly enrich the lives of all who continue to be a part of it.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE 2018

<p>PRESCHOOL: Crayola large crayons Coloring book or pad</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e6f2ff;"> <p>A donation of \$25 will provide a student with basic supplies!</p>  </div>	<p>SECONDARY: Colored pencils #2 pencils (packages of 12) 1" 3-ring binders Notebook filler paper Subject dividers Single-subject notebooks Two-pocket plastic folders Black & white marble composition books 3" x 5" white ruled index cards 3" x 3" Post-its Erasers Soft nylon pencil bag</p>
<p>ELEMENTARY: Crayola Washable Markers Crayola crayons (box of 24) Glue sticks Colored pencils #2 pencils (packages of 12) Two-pocket folders Black & white marble composition books Handheld pencil sharpener Erasers 3" x 3" Post-its Soft nylon pencil bag 12" ruler (inches & metric units)</p>		

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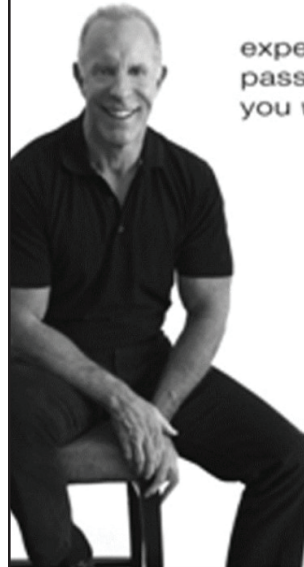
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SEPTEMBER 2018

ELUL/TISHRI 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 7:30 pm- Selichot
2	3 Labor Day- Office closed	4	5	6 7:00 pm- HHD Choir rehearsal 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	7 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	8
9 Erev Rosh Hashanah	10 Rosh Hashanah Day 1	11 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 1:00 pm- 2nd Day Luncheon	12 9:15 am- ECC 1st day	13 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	14 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	15
16 7:00 pm- HHD Choir rehearsal	17	18 Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre	19 Yom Kippur	20 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	21 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	22
23 Religious School- 1st day Erev Sukkot 5:00 pm- Pizza in the Hut	24 10:30 am- Sukkot service Office Closed	25	26	27 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	28 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	29 10:00 am- Yoga Shabbat morning worship 5:00 pm- Shabbat afternoon worship- Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Voellmicke
30 Erev Simchat Torah						

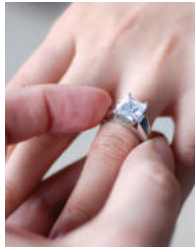
Shir Shalom-Good News!



"Sugar and spice, and everything nice"
 Congratulations to Garry and Lindsey Berger on the arrival of their daughter, Avonlea True Berger, on Tuesday, June 19th.



She Said "YES"!



Spencer Paul Hughes

On June 20, 2018, Andrew Emmer, son of David Emmer, of blessed memory, and Jane Emmer, became engaged to Sydney Gilbert. The couple met at the University of Maryland and plan to be married in early summer of 2019. They currently live and work in New York City.

Adding another member to our Shir Shalom family is Spencer Hughes. Spencer was born on Wednesday, August 1st at 2:14pm, weighing in at 6 lbs. 1 oz. He joins his brothers, Carter and Asher, and proud parents Tyler and Hilary, in the Hughes' household and is the grandson of our congregants, Rick and Bobbie Cohan.





**CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM**
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

September 2018

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*L'shanah
Tovah
Happy
Rosh Hashanah!*

