

DECEMBER
2018

OUR SHIR SHALOM

KISLEV/TEVET
5779

DECEMBER SHABBAT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 7	5:00 pm	Tot Shabbat & nosh
	5:45 PM	Menorah lighting
	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
		5th Grade Service
		Special Musical Guest: Mattan Klein
		Chanukah songs
	7:00 pm	Congregational Shabbat Dinner
Dec. 8	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship
		Bat Mitzvah- Eva Trachtenberg
Dec. 14	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
		Oneg Shabbat
Dec. 21	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
		Oneg Shabbat
Dec. 28	7:30 pm	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



I have had the privilege of serving as Co-President of Congregation Shir Shalom since its formation as a result of the merger of Jewish Family Congregation ("JFC") and Temple Shearith Israel ("TSI") three years ago. Before that, I was involved in the lay leadership of JFC for many years as its Co-President, its Chief Financial Officer and as a member of the Board and various committees. It seems like a lifetime of involvement and it has all been rather rewarding, especially in the opportunities such involvement has afforded me in meeting and working with so many individuals who are dedicated to maintaining a vibrant Jewish community in our geographic area. Most recently, I have had the honor of serving as Co-President, first with Gale Berman and currently with Lynn Broder.

The time has come for me to begin a slow and orderly process of reducing my involvement in the lay leadership of our temple community. My term as Co-President ends on December 31, 2018 and I will not be seeking re-election to that post, however I have been nominated for another two year term on the Board of Trustees and I have accepted that nomination which will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in December. I will also continue to advise the Executive Committee and to that end will continue as a non-voting member of that committee for at least one year. I continue to be committed to our community but I also realize the importance of having others contribute their time and capabilities toward moving Shir Shalom into the future. The time comes when one must, as they say, sail off into the sunset and while that time has not arrived, one must plan ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know just how grateful I am to those I have worked alongside. There are far too many individuals to name, so many who served on the Board, on the Executive Committee, on operating committees and in other volunteer capacities over so many years. I am also grateful for the support and efforts of our temple's dedicated clergy - - Rabbi David L. Reiner (and Rabbi Marcus L. Burstein, z"tl) and Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray (and Cantor Kerry Ben David, z"tl), and our talented Religious School Director Leslie Gottlieb and Early Childhood Center Director,

(con't. page 9)

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



We have created many wonderful opportunities to celebrate Chanukah this year, which begins at sundown on December 2nd and concludes before sundown on December 10th (last night of Chanukah is December 9th). I hope that you will join us for some (or all) of our celebrations!

The Religious School will have some fun and engaging Chanukah related activities on Sunday, December 2nd, between 9AM and noon. In addition to chocolate treats with Chef Patty and gift wrapping to benefit victims of the Camp Fire in California, there will be a special presentation from a Repair the World, an organization that is committed to "making meaningful service a defining element of American Jewish life." Chanukah literally means "dedication," and on Chanukah we rededicate ourselves to Judaism and Jewish values, including acts of Tikkun Olam, that repair our world.

On Monday, December 3rd, from 5:30-6:30PM, I hope that you will join us for our annual Community Menorah Lighting in Ridgefield, on Main Street (CVS Plaza, next to Prime Burger). We are partnering with Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown for a fun and special celebration with local officials and neighbors. There will be delicious (fried) treats, a challah menorah from Ross Breads, singing, dreidel, and more! Please bring non-perishable or canned goods to help build our "Mitzvah Menorah," to benefit the Ridgefield Food Pantry.

We will light the Chanukah Menorah at Congregation Shir Shalom on Wednesday,

December 5, and Thursday, December 6, at 5:30PM with our Religious School families. Please join us for singing and snacks (even if you do not usually attend on Wednesdays or Thursdays!).

And, last but not least, our stupendous celebration of Chanukah Shabbat will be on Friday, December 7th. The Early Childhood Center celebration (with delicious food, Chanukah songs, and more) will begin at 11AM and conclude around noon. Our evening celebrations will begin at 5PM with some Chanukah food to nosh on, Chanukah songs, activities, and dreidel playing. Especially for families with children under eight years, this pre-service celebration is open to all in our community. Religious School students will be leading us in lighting the Chanukah menorah at 5:45PM (Bring your own Chanukah menorah!). Shabbat evening worship will begin at 6PM with a special musical guest all the way from Israel: renowned flautist Mattan Klein. Our fifth grade students will help lead our service. Following worship there will be a delicious, catered congregational Shabbat dinner. Please let us know that you will be joining us (so we can have enough food!) by e-mailing or calling our office (office@OurShirShalom.org; 203-438-6589). We will ask for \$10 per person to offset our costs. During dinner we will enjoy and sing together Chanukah songs and we are, again, thrilled to welcome our guest musician from Israel!

For a minor holiday we have a lot happening to celebrate Chanukah together and I hope that you will join us!

With warm wishes,
Rabbi David L. Reiner



Light the Menorah!

Join Congregation Shir Shalom for our Chanukah Celebrations!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

RIDGEFIELD'S COMMUNITY
MENORAH LIGHTING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018
5:30-6:30PM

MAIN STREET IN RIDGEFIELD
(CVS PLAZA, NEXT TO PRIME BURGER)

BRING A CANNED GOOD & HELP BUILD A "MITZVAH MENORAH"

SING AND DANCE WITH CHANUKAH FAVORITES

ENJOY DELICIOUS CHANUKAH TREATS

HEAR FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS & CLERGY

GIFT BAGS FOR KIDS

CELEBRATE UNITY & DIVERSITY;

STAND UP FOR COMPASSION!

CHANUKAH SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

AT CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM
(46 PEACEABLE ST, RIDGEFIELD)

11AM - YOUNG COMMUNITY CHANUKAH SHABBAT
WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

5PM - PRE-SHABBAT NOSH
(FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS UNDER 8 YEARS)

CHANUKAH ACTIVITIES & SONGS

5:45PM - MENORAH LIGHTING

6PM - SHABBAT EVENING WORSHIP

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST: MATTAN KLEIN (ISRAELI FLAUTIST)

7PM - COMMUNAL SHABBAT DINNER

CHANUKAH SONGS OF LIGHT AND HOPE

WWW.OURSHIRSHALOM.ORG

RSVP OR FOR MORE INFO, CALL 203-438-6589 OR E
MAIL OFFICE@OURSHIRSHALOM.ORG

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



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Sam Stein was a school friend of our daughter-in-law at Dartmouth College. In the online magazine, The Daily Beast, he wrote a piece last month called, I Grew Up in a Place Where I Felt Safe From Anti-Semitism—It Was the United States. His article was

in response to the greatest violent tragedy aimed at Jews to befall this country. October 27, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA felt more like a day long ago from our darkest days as a people. How do we move forward together and teach our children appropriate lessons from this event?

We teach our children the *Eitz chaim hi* prayer-- and talk about holding fast to the tree of life. For after what the community of the Tree of Life Or L'Simcha synagogue endured this fall, this prayer will always resonate in a new way for me. This is the translation and its wisdom endures:

**A tree of life to those who hold fast to it,
and all who cling to it find happiness.
Its ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all its paths are peace.
Help us and guide us, inspire us and provide us
With the wisdom Your Torah can show.
Cause us to learn, renew and return,
Just as in days of old.**

Stein was shocked at his own inability to grieve when visiting the death camps in Europe as a younger Jew. He writes, "I remember standing there, staring at the ash pits of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and telling myself to cry. It was the spring of the year 2000. I was a senior in high school, a Jew who had accompanied several dozen other Jews on a trip to Poland to visit the concentration camps before heading to Israel, to witness the chapter that came after the diaspora. And I couldn't get over the fact that as I stared at the spot where Nazis had placed the remains of thousands of Jews they'd thrown into furnaces, I wasn't moved to tears." I understand how troubling this was for Stein. I remember visiting Dachau in my early twenties and not knowing what to make of my emotional frozenness. How could this have happened? I remember then thinking that this was so isolated an event in history-- and that surely we had all learned so much from this tragic time that it could never repeat itself. My elders and our Holocaust survivors who visit us every school year warn us to never give

in to this idea-- as they thought they were living normal lives, too, right before their worlds were turned upside down. It is a difficult balance to strike... feeling at home and safe while always being watchful. My Holocaust-survivor mother-in-law, a secular Jew, always looks around while we are dining out in what feels like very safe and upscale restaurants in this area—and routinely says things like, "We're the only Jews here." It never ends for her. It's not fear, but awareness.

Sam Stein and others like him—our children, too—felt that growing up in the NYC vicinity in an area that feels very welcoming to Jews—was a world that moved past blind hatred and racism toward Jews. But, looking back, our middle son who played on the golf team for Fox Lane H.S., heard that Jews were not welcome guests for membership on the course where they played. How did we ever get through that discussion?

Almost twenty years ago on a family trip to France, I was jarred by events of that summer there in where synagogues were being targeted with violence. Again, you find yourself moving past it somehow—making excuses for it being out of the ordinary, and sure to pass.

It is disconcerting at any age, but for Sam Stein who just became a father, he is looking at this October tragedy in a new light. Today he writes, "I am not struggling to produce tears today. I'm struggling to hold them back." We all know that we change with time and the tears missing in his eyes so long ago have found a way to exit in a sadness that grips him and all of us today. He reflects... "This is what the shooter was targeting: not individuals but the very elements that bind those individuals together—a sense of spirituality, a place of worship, and centuries of tradition. He was targeting the seamlessness with which the Jewish community has fit into America's social fabric. He wanted that younger me to not be so flippant about anti-Semitism, to not feel so removed from the atrocities that had accompanied Jews elsewhere."

This is where our congregation and our school become so helpful as we come together to grieve and support each other. Our students are learning the history of the Jews, current events as they impact our lives, prayer and worship practices, a love for Israel – and so much more. We are creating a future Jewish community that will one day take our place and continue throughout the ages. Torah is the tree of life teaching us ways to paths of peace and love.

Thank you for supporting this mission.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL , CONT.



This will be an easy-going group of women (men are welcome, too) who want to read something other than wine labels and grandiloquent tomes at a monthly book club.

Recognizing that we all lead busy lives, the Shir Shalom People of the Book Club will be “low impact”: we will limit our selections to current and previous Best Sellers, and/or books located in the Book Club corners of our local libraries. We’ll take turns choosing books and bringing snacks.

Our first meeting will be held in the CSS library at 7:30pm on Wednesday, December 5th. The book we’ll be discussing is “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng.

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month

At 7:30pm in the Congregation Shir Shalom library.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



Do I smell latkes frying already? Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem that had been defiled after the Maccabean Revolt, a biblical story that — while it has a few different versions — celebrates the miracle of triumph against overwhelming odds. One part of the miracle, perhaps the part most familiar to today's celebrants, is the story of how one night's worth of oil miraculously lasted for eight. That element has inspired a tradi-

no definitive origin of this tradition but different Jewish communities lay claim to the chocolate coins based on either rewarding children with sweets or the tradition of paying itinerant Rabbis. Playing the dreidel game is another Chanukah tradition. The exact origins of this spinning top game are also unknown, but it's thought to have derived from a 16th century game played in Ireland that made its way to Germany.

Chanukah starts "early" this year, Sunday evening December 2, the 25th day of Kislev. May you enjoy the festival of lights with family and friends and celebrate the little miracles that occur every day.

If you are interested in helping to plan Shabbat and holiday events and services or have an idea or suggestion, please contact the ritual committee at ritual@ourshirshalom.org

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin

tion of eating foods cooked in oil, such as potato latkes and sufganiyot (jelly filled Israeli donuts). Another food tradition is chocolate gelt. There is

PRESIDENTS' ARTICLE, con't.

Jane Emmer, and our dedicated administrative staff, Laura Morris (Temple Administrator) and Lori Stalowicz (Controller) and many others including Kathleen Sakowitz and Carol Wakeman, over the years. When JFC and TSI came together three years ago, we knew there would be challenges which lay ahead. Through collaboration and great respect, together we have accomplished making Shir Shalom a strong presence in our geographical area. We have much to be proud of, yet more to do.

My special thanks to Gale Berman and more recently to Lynn Broder who have both been incredible partners, generous with their time and knowledge, and with their overwhelming dedication of energy to this community that they both love.

Effective January 1, 2019, Lynn Broder will continue as President. There will be no Co-President during 2019, however, the entire Executive Committee team will share in performing some of the tasks / responsibilities of the President to assist Lynn as the role of president of a synagogue, in our complex 21st century world really requires the efforts of at least two individuals - - keep in mind that this is part-time volunteer role. As many of you know, Lynn has been a member of our community for many years and has served in a multitude of positions of leadership throughout those years. She is an attorney, incredibly bright and has demonstrated a strong devotion to sustaining our vibrant Jewish community and its strong presence in this area. We have committed leaders who care deeply about our community. Thanks to each of you, our members, for your support of our community without which we would not exist.

Hal Wolkin, Co-President

MATTAN KLEIN is coming back to SHIR SHALOM!

When Mattan Klein, famed Israeli jazz flutist lived in New Jersey, he was a frequent musical guest at Temple Shearith Israel. He moved back to Israel several years ago and his career has grown even more. Lucky for us, he wants to return and is planning on bringing his magic flute to our services on Friday Dec. 7 at our 6PM Chanukah Songs of Light and Hope Shabbat worship.

He makes everything sparkle and shine- Please make every effort to attend this service and say Shalom to Mattan from Israel!



Sisterhood News

Sisterhood has had a strong start to the season. We were delighted to see so many friendly faces, and some new ones, at our kickoff in September. We have several events scheduled that we hope you will put in your calendar, including a wine, cheese and shopping night with Vivian Hoffman at her lovely store, followed by our annual Chanukah dinner, Thursday, December 6th at Café 123 in South Salem.

One of our most popular events, Mah Jong, will also continue and new players are welcome. For details, please contact Margie Gorelick at Margie.Gorelick@gmail.com. As always, we welcome and encourage all to join us and become a member of Sisterhood.

In these difficult and often disconcerting times, we hope that you all remember that there are still places that we can find comfort and peace. One of our most important goals at Sisterhood is to provide a safe haven and escape from the often troubling day to day developments in the world that we live in. We are here if you need to talk or just want some company. Sisterhood offers a place of community and friendship for all those who are interested. If you haven't previously been in Sisterhood or attended one of our events, we hope you will give us a try. There is a group of wonderful, dedicated and engaged women just waiting to greet you. It is our mission to keep our social network of women alive.

As always, we welcome your input, suggestions, and most importantly, your help to continue to make our Sisterhood the strong and vibrant group that it is. Please feel free to reach out to us at Sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org

We hope that you all stay well and look forward to a happy new year!

Bonnie and Wendy



FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

JANE EMMER



**Welcome to a world
of learning, excitement
and friends!**



**The ECC kids certainly
know how to have F-U-N!**



EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

by Lewis Siegel

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT AND THE STRUGGLE FOR JEWISH SURVIVAL

Here are two questions:

1. What is Zionism?
2. Was the Zionist movement necessary for the survival of the Jewish people? And was the Zionist movement sufficient to achieve that aim?

Long before the State of Israel existed, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis defined Zionism as the following:

1. Zionism seeks to establish in Palestine for those Jews who choose to go and remain there, and for their descendants, a legally secure home.
2. Zionism seeks to establish this home in Palestine because it feels that the underlying longing of the Jews for Palestine is a fact of deepest significance.
3. It is believed that only in Palestine can Jewish life be fully protected from the forces of disintegration.
4. Finally, ever since the destruction of the Temple, 2000 years ago, the longing for Palestine has been ever present with the Jew. It was the hope of return to the land of his fathers that buoyed up the Jew during persecution, and remains deeply ingrained in the prayers of the devout.

So, the Zionist movement has two major goals: to satisfy the yearning of the people to be able to return to the land of their biblical ancestors, and to create a state, able to defend itself against any outside forces, and be a safe haven for the Jewish people.

While the Zionist movement clearly had a purpose, was it really essential for the survival of the Jewish people? Consider the following chronology:

722 BCE — Tiglath-Pileser and his Assyrian army conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and banished the Jewish people from their homeland. As a people, they were never heard from again.

586 BCE — Nebukadnezzar and his Babylonian forces conquered the Southern Kingdom of Israel, and sent the Jews into exile. It wasn't until about 540 BCE when the Persians, led by Cyrus defeated the Babylonians, and allowed the Jews to return.

164 BCE — Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Temple, built a Pagan altar to the Greek God Zeus, which led to the Hasmonean revolt, the victory of Judas Maccabeus and his forces over the Greeks,

and the restoration of the Temple.

63 BCE — Pompey and his Roman armies conquered the Jewish nation and the people lost autonomy over their land for 2011 years.

70 CE — Titus conquered Jerusalem, the second Temple was destroyed, and at least 600,000 Jews were killed.

132 to 135 — The Rebellion led by Bar Kochba against the Romans was suppressed, and over 500,000 men were killed or sent into slavery.

350 — Emperor Constantine barred the Jews from Jerusalem and imposed the harshest restrictions on them.

379 — St. John Chrysostom and St. Ambrose in Milan said, "Jews are the most worthless of men. They are lecherous, greedy and rapacious. They worship the Devil. It is essential that Christians hate them."

415 — Antioch Jews were accused of ritual murders. Many synagogues were taken over by Christians, and the Jews were ousted.

1012 — Emperor Henry expelled the Jews from Mainz. This was the beginning of Jewish persecution in Germany.

1066 — 5000 Jews were massacred in Granada, Spain. This was during the Golden Age of Judaism in Spain, when Jews were for the most part treated better under Moslem rule than they were in Christian countries.

1144 — This was the first recorded blood libel. In Norwich England, Jews were accused of torturing and killing a Christian child, and using his blood for a Passover ritual.

1190 — All the Jews in York England were massacred, reminiscent of the last stand at Massada.

1290 — The Jews were expelled from England

1298 — There were multiple massacres of Jews in Germany.

1306 — The Jews were expelled from France

1348 — Jews were blamed for the Black Death that killed 75–200 million people. It was claimed that they poisoned the wells to kill Christians.

1478 — Pope Sixtus IV issued a Papal Bull ushering in the beginning of Spanish Inquisition. Jewish converts to Christianity were accused of perverting Christians and were put to death.

1492 — The Jews were expelled from Spain.

1510 — The Jews were expelled from Brandenburg, Germany.

1516 — The first Jewish ghettos in Europe were built in Venice

1544— The Reformation began. Martin Luther's anti-Semitic writings encouraged persecution of the Jews.

1593— The Jews were expelled from Italy and Bavaria.

1648— Chmelnitsky and his Cossack army led the massacre of at least 100,000 Jews in 300 communities in Poland and the Ukraine.

1768— 20,000 Jews in Poland were murdered

1840— Damascus was the scene of the infamous blood libel, where again Jews were accused of killing Christians and using their blood for Passover rituals. 1881— Pogroms began in Russia. 60,000 Jews were murdered.

1894— Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army, was convicted of treason, although the accusation against him was false. He wasn't exonerated until 12 years later. His trial led to violent outbreak of anti-Semitic activity in France

1903— The Protocol of the Elders of Zion appeared in Russia. This false malicious document tells of a Jewish conspiracy to rule the world and destroy Christianity. The Protocols spread all over the world. Henry Ford used it in his anti-Semitic publications.

1903 to 1906— Frequent pogroms against Jews in Russia, the worst one was in 1905 in Odessa, where about 2500 Jews were killed.

1920—The Arabs began multiple attacks on Jewish villages in Palestine

1929—There were wide-spread Arab attacks on Jews in Palestine, particularly in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Safed. Hebron and Safed suffered the worst, with a total of 85 Jewish deaths.

1936 to 1939— The Arabs began a three-year rebellion in Palestine. Jewish villages were under constant attack during this period. The main military force, the Haganah, began the defense of Jewish towns, and the Irgun, a more militant group, began offensive activity against the Arabs.

1938— November 9 (Kristallnacht)- Violent pogroms in Germany and Austria took place against Jewish homes, synagogues, and places of business. This was the beginning of the Holocaust.

1938 to 1945(The Holocaust period) — Six million Jews were murdered throughout Europe.

1939— British issued a White Paper, limiting Jewish immigration into Palestine. If the conditions set in that White Paper had succeeded, it would have negated any chance for a Jewish state in Palestine. However, the White Paper was never rescinded, and the British blocked Jewish immigration into Palestine, even after World War II.

1947, November 29— The British were unable to maintain any semblance of order in Palestine and were under constant military attack from Arabs and Jews. Consequently, the British relinquished their Mandate over Palestine, decided to leave the territory, and handed the problem over to the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states. The Jewish Agency of Palestine accepted the partition plan, while the Arab nations reject the offer.

1948— On May 14, the British were gone from Palestine. That afternoon, David Ben Gurion addressed a group of Jewish leaders in the Tel-Aviv museum and spoke the following words: "...By virtue of our natural and historic right, and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael, to be known as the State of Israel..."

The Zionist movement has been able to establish a safe haven for the Jewish people to finally live in peace in the land of their biblical ancestors, until it was quickly revealed that they would have to spend more than the next 70 years protecting that safe haven against the outside forces that sought to destroy them.

The Jewish people have found another safe haven in America, where, despite occasional anti-Semitic episodes, they have been able to live, work, worship in peace, and see their children and grandchildren grow up and prosper in a safe environment. Then, along came the Pittsburgh massacre. What will American Jews do now? First we'll mourn, then bravely battle our way back and find a way to survive as we have done for the past three thousand years.



"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.

ADULT PROGRAMMING.

Adult Programming Update

November 4th's program featuring Arthur Kurzweil was a hit! More than 50 people delighted in his charming and informative talk about how to locate our ancestors. He pointed out many different routes to accessing our Jewish roots. Arthur, a man of many talents is also a magician. He promised to "reappear" soon.

We also enjoyed an extensive nosh a la Bubbe with homemade goodies by Serafima Dashkevskaya and Nina Primer, egg creams, schnopps and knishes imported from Yonah Schimmels. It was a trip abroad the Es Es Myn Kint!

Please join us for our upcoming programs:

On Sunday, Jan 27th Sana Krasikov, author of The Patriots will speak. This bang up novel by Krasikov, the winner of the 2009 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and a resident of Hastings-on-Hudson, was published at a time when Russia once again poses a threat to American democracy. It is a riveting evocation of the Depression and Cold War years told with brilliant insight and extraordinary skill through the history of one family moving back and forth between continents over three generations.

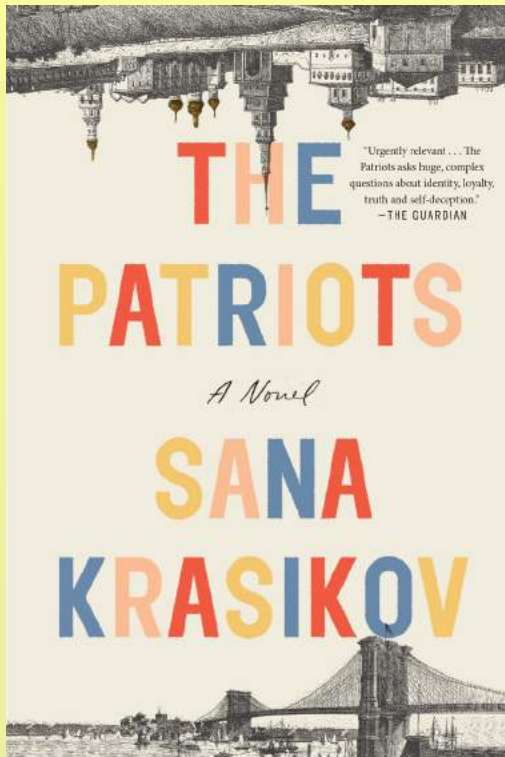
On Sunday, March 24th Manashe Kamimov will talk to us about the Bukarian Jewish Community and Culture. Manashe is a professor of Jewish Studies at CUNY Queens. We will see the documentary about Bukharian Jews and their connection to the Great Silk Road.

On Sunday, May 19th Tamara Drucker, a well known quilt artist will tell us about her art. She has created many extraordinary designs including quilted scenes of Israel. She will amaze us with examples of her work.

Join us! And, as always, if you or someone you know would entertain presenting at Shir Shalom. Please let us know!



Congregation Shir Shalom presents Author Talk with Sana Krasikov



**Award winning author Sana Krasikov presents the true story behind her
new novel "The Patriots".**

THE PATRIOTS: An idealistic young American woman heads for the Soviet Union in 1934, with consequences that reverberate through three generations of one Jewish family. An epic that takes us from Stalin's era to America to the oil-rich world of New Russia.

Sunday, January 27 at 3 PM

Slavic/Yankee Melange Nosh to be served.

Donation \$10

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

We Appreciate Your Generosity

Donations

General Fund

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in memory of Sy Altman

in honor of Jacob's Bar Mitzvah

Education Fund

Ben & Susan Frank

Larry & Leslie Gottlieb

in memory of Laura Emmer

in memory of Laura Emmer

Music Fund

Ed & Gloria Russin

Richard Lipton

in honor of Cantor Debbie



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Adasko
Arel Meister-Aldama
Isabella Alvarez
Danielle Bender
Brian Bender
Garry Berger
Karen Blum
Neal Blum
Thomas Brennan
Rena Bruckman
Marcia Carroll
Cheryl Chess
Hannah DeLucia
Jenna Dubin
Sylvia Freidenrich
Jennifer Gantwerker
Emanuel Genauer
Ira Gerard
Elaine Gordon

Janine Gordon
Jean Haddon
Jake Heffler
Vivian Hoffman
Andrea Jacobs
Jonas Kalish
Steve Kaye
Andrew Knispel
Gabrielle Krampf
Linda Krulwich
Erica Levens
Jake Levi
Kenneth Levinsohn
Ethan Margulies
Casey Mayer
Danielle Mazlish
Nicole Meyer
Zoe Ozols
Zachery Ozols

Calvin Pan
Andrew Pollack
Eliana Reiter
Georgia Rich
Hannah Rosenfeld
Jordan Rubinfeld
Joelle Sacks
Richard Segalman
Michael Shalett
Karen-Fine Shalett
Lisa Sheptin
Vittal Shesh Sheridan
Keith Sherling
Evan Sherling
Suzanne Sherter
Tammi Jacobs Shulman
Jacob Silva
Avri Soloff

Greyson Soloff
Scott Soloff
Peri Stevelman
Ellen Strauss
Judith Strom
Matthew Teich
Eva Trachtenberg
Margery Wallach
Yu Xuan Wang
Richard Wetchler
Caleb Wilfinger
Lucas Winson
Bryan Wolkin
Oliver Yuan
Bianca Zaken
Tiffany Zezula
Nathan Zezula

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Cantor Debbie & Scott Gray
Ian & Robin Harris

Mark & Debbie Lavin
David & Leslie Moss

Lew & Eve Siegel



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DECEMBER YAHRZEITEN

Friday, December 7th, 2018

Paul Abraham	father of Julie Sacks	Marvin Baker	uncle of Carlyn Bergman
Evelyn Brenner	grandmother of Scott Brenner	Harold Broder	father of Stanford Broder
Leo Fine	grandfather of Peter Fine	Natalia Glicklich	mother of Mark Glicklich
Arthur Karsch	father of Karen Blum	Marvin Olarsch	father of Judy Vandervelden
Jacob Puteska		Benjamin Ringler	grandfather of Elyse Arnow
Grayce Romeo	son in law of the Rosenhouses	Ruth Rosenthal	grandmother of Susan Westlake
Lauren Rousseau		Alfred Strauss	grandfather of Ellen Strauss
Rose Zilber	grandmother of Barry Kay	26 Sandy Hook School victims	

Friday, December 14th, 2018

Seymour Berman	father of Michael Berman	Alexander Davis	father in law of Elyse Davis
Martin Davis	grandfather of Suzie Rabinowitz	Mary Jane Denzer	mother of Holly Alexander
Seymour Eslofsky	father of Ellen Barth	Joan Hammer	mother of Michael Hammer
Joan Holson	mother of Robin Heit	Millie Jacobs	mother of Alan Jacobs
Dorothy Karl	mother of Rosalind Kopfstein	Billie Kaserman	mother of Wendy Meyer
Mina Kaye	mother of Steve Kaye	Michael Mishkin	father of Richard Mishkin
Violet Murad	mother of Menashe Murad	Claus Pappenheimer	father of Julie Held
Frank Policoff	grandfather of Steve Kaye	Pamela Siegel	cousin of Rosalind Kopfstein

Friday, December 21st, 2018

Tillie Becker	grandmother of Lynn Becker	Rita Bergman	mother of Michael Bergman
Gussie Ellis	mother of Joseph Ellis	Yvette Epstein	mother of Andrea Jacobs
Bernard Glaser	father of Laura Agisim	Anna Heit	grandmother of Stephen Heit
Sadie Kaplan	grandmother of Steve Kaye	Joy Koy	great aunt of Jamie Garrett
Belle Krietzberg	great aunt of Joshua Arnow	Jane Langer	grandmother of Karen Gerard
Jeff Lederman	brother of Linda Lederman	Oscar Lowy	grandfather of Terry Henry
Percy Paget	father of Debra Paget	Harry Poushter	father of Bruce Poushter
Toby Rosenstein	mother of Ronni Rosenstein		

Friday, December 28th, 2018

Samuel Antkies	father of Michael Antkies	Mildred Block	aunt of Barbara Manners
Herschell Chanin	father of Carrie Chanin	Martha Cohen	grandmother of Tiffany Zezula
Theodore Garfiel	grandfather of Karen Blum	Gay Golman	aunt of Jamie Garrett
Ruth Henner	mother of Howard Henner	Paul Lowy	father of Terry Henry
Jodie Teitler	cousin of Laura Leitner	Minnie Wallach	mother in law of Margery Wallach

SOCIAL ACTION



SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Debbie Lavin Amy Margulies Debbie Landzberg

Our big event in November was our Breakfast Run, held on Sunday Nov 18. We have many people to thank for participating in this event, headed up by Amy Margulies. We will extend those thanks in the next newsletter!

Debbie, Debbie and Amy held a discussion with the SAJE students discussing homelessness in our area, with Jamie Kaplan and Leslie Gottlieb. The kids then sorted many toiletries in preparation for making the toiletry bags for the Breakfast Run. Thanks to the SAJE students, Miranda Wein, Jacob Voellmicke, Amy Stark, and also Jamie Kaplan's 5th grade RS class who also helped sort!

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped at the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury, both helping clients shop and registering them for the big Thanksgiving turkey/basket of trimmings: Ethan Brenner, Karen Brenner, Cantor Debbie, Jenn Castelhana, Alisa Glick, Christina Guhl, Julie Held, Leslie Kramer, Debbie Landzberg, Debbie Lavin, Mark Lavin, Amy Margulies, Bonnie Pazer, Lynne Stark, Judy Vanderveldon. And Linda Hirschfeld.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare a meal and serve it at the Dorothy Day Hospitality Center: Wendy Meyer, Gale Berman, Carrie Chanin. Volunteers are needed each month for this Sunday afternoon mitzvah.

And finally thanks to the team that has provided shabbat worship and study to the women at the Danbury Federal Corrections Institute: Rabbi Jon and Jean Haddon, Jackie Goldner and Resa Fremed. Overflow Shelter Volunteers: The cold weather is inconvenient and uncomfortable for most of us but can be life-threatening for those who don't have a warm place to sleep at night. Join volunteers from our area temple groups/fellow congregants who have been doing this mitzvah for many years now. Spend one night at the Danbury Overflow shelter so their doors can stay open. New volunteers are always paired with an experienced volunteer. Our group has been assigned to the following weeks:

December 24th-30th

January 28th – February 3rd

February 25th – March 3rd

Let us know if you are interested in volunteering on a particular night or finding out more about this vital important service! Email us at SocialAction@ourshirshalom.org to volunteer for any of these much needed community service activities. It is truly a mitzvah, and creates a gratifying feeling. This is especially valuable this time of year in terms of helping our kids understand the value of giving.

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 • 6 PM

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

Serendipity Chorale, Gigi Van Dyke, conductor
Keys Chorus, Rob Silvan, Director • 7 PM

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 • 7:30 PM

May 17 — **ISRAELI CELEBRATION**

Shlomo Shai, accordion • 7:30 PM

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



Oct. 12
March 1 Shabbat Across America
May 31



Nov. 2
Feb. 1
March 1 Shabbat Across America
May 3

Rabbi David Reiner
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray
Rabbi Jon Haddon, Emeritus
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December 7, 2018*

January 11, 2019

February 8, 2019

March 8, 2019

April 12, 2019

May 10, 2019

June 14, 2019

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

*special Hanukkah intergenerational celebration @ 5pm

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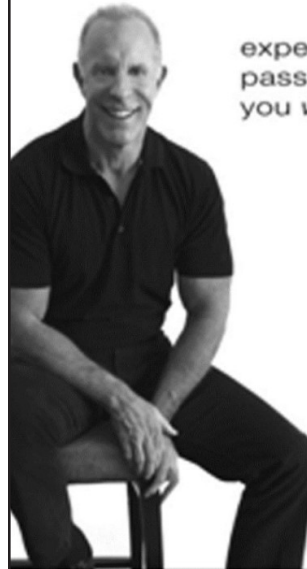
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DECEMBER 2018

KISLEV/TEVET 5779

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Religious School- Chanukah celebra- tion	3 9:15 am- ECC 5:30-6:30 Com- munity Menorah Lighting on Main St. in Ridgefield (CVS Plaza, next to Prime Burger)	4 9:15 am- ECC	5 9:15 am- ECC Religious School 5:30 pm- Meno- rah Lighting with Religious School families 7:30 pm- Shir Sha- lom "People of the Book" book club	6 Religious School 5:30 pm- Meno- rah Lighting with Religious School families Sisterhood dinner- off site at Cafe 123	7 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:00 pm Tot Shab- bat & nosh 5:45pm Menorah Lighting 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat- 7:00 pm- Congre- gational Shabbat dinner	8 9:00 am- Torah Study 101 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Worship- Bat Mitzvah of Eva Trachtenberg
9 Religious School	10 9:15am- ECC	11 9:15 am- ECC	12 9:15 am- ECC Religious School	13 Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	14 9:15am- ECC 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	15
16 Religious School 12:15 pm- Jewish Learning with Rabbi Emily	17 9:15 am- ECC	18 9:15 am- ECC	19 9:15am- ECC Religious School	20 9:15am- ECC Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	21 9:15am- ECC 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	22 9:00 am- Torah Study 101
23 NO Religious School	24 NO ECC Office CLOSED	25 NO ECC Office CLOSED	26 NO ECC NO Religious School Office CLOSED	27 NO Religious School Office CLOSED	28 NO ECC 7:30PM- Kabbalat Shabbat Office Closed	29
30 No Religious School Office CLOSED	31 New Years Eve Office CLOSED	January 1st New Years Day Office CLOSED				

Good News!

Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Sheptin

Zach and Danielle were married by Rabbi Reiner on November 10 at The Metropolitan Club in New York City. Zach is the son of our congregants Alan and Lisa Sheptin.

On Thursday evening, January 23, 2014, Zach and Danielle were out with respective friend groups exploring the art galleries of Chelsea. While exploring a gallery, Zach ran into an old high school friend, Noah Phillips (a former JFC member!). Noah was with a couple of his friends, one of whom quickly caught Zach's eye and heart; her name was Danielle. They got to talking, swapped numbers at the end of the night, and had their first date at the Penrose the following week. Now, nearly five years later, they are husband and wife!

Danielle and Zach reside on the Upper East Side. Danielle is the Director of Client Services at Strayboots, and Zach is a Senior Consultant at FTI Consulting.

Together they enjoy cooking, exploring the many neighborhoods of New York City, spending time with friends and family, traveling, trying new restaurants, visiting museums, and watching "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" re-runs.



Please Welcome Our Newest Members!

Jeffrey & Phyllis Altman
Judith Besserman
Jordan Brandt & Yue Xuan Way
Isia & Veronika Bursuker
Michael & Jillian Deutsch
Matthew Heslinga & Leah Friedman
Geoff & Anne Kupferschmid

James & Helen Marks
David & Lara Naylor
Bruce & Ianne Poushter
Mike & Colleen Scott
David & Judith Shapiro
Jane Stern
Jon & Eve Zibel



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The RS teen SAJE team working with the Shir Shalom Social Action Committee.