

MARCH/APRIL
2019

OUR SHIR SHALOM

ADAR I/ADAR II
NISAN 5779



MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1	5:15 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Across America Welcome, nosh & activity Spirited & Soulful Shabbat "Honoring New Congregants" Communal Shabbat Dinner
March 2	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bat Mitzvah-Riannah Wallach
March 8	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
March 9	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bat Mitzvah-Sylvia Friedenrich
March 15	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
March 20	5:30 pm	Purim
March 22	7:30 pm	Music Shabbat "A Suite Shabbat" Oneg Shabbat

March 23	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah-Zachary Ozols
March 29	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
March 30	10:00 am	Shabbat Yoga
April 5	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship "Welcome the Stranger" Oneg Shabbat
April 12	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat 2.0 Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
April 19	8:00 am	"Fast & Feast of the First Born" service No Shabbat evening worship
April 20	10:00 am Time TBD	Passover Morning Service 2nd Night Community Seder
April 26	6:00 pm	Passover Service with Yizkor

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street Ridgefield, CT 06877 Phone: (203)438-6589 Fax: (203)438-5488

Cantor

Deborah Katchko-Gray
CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org

Religious School Director

Leslie Gottlieb
Leslie@OurShirShalom.org

Early Childhood Center Director

Jane Weil Emmer
JaneEmmer@OurShirShalom.org

Rabbi

David L. Reiner MAHL
RabbiReiner@OurShirShalom.org

Rabbinic Intern

Emily Aronson

Rabbi Emeritus

Jon Haddon D.D.
RabbiHaddon@OurShirShalom.org

Administrator

Laura Morris
Laura@OurShirShalom.org

Controller

Lori Stalowicz
Lori@OurShirShalom.org



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

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: (203)438-6589 • Fax: (203)438-5488
Email: office@OurShirShalom.org
Website: www.OurShirShalom.org

The Catskills come to RIDGEFIELD COMEDY NIGHT



Featuring: Steven Scott— seen on America's Got Talent, and NBC, CBS, FOX, Comedy Central, Gotham Comedy Live
and

Alexandra McHale— seen on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, CBS's The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn, Comedy Central's Premium Blend

Saturday, April 27

Time: Doors open at 7:15 Show starts at 8PM

Join us for wine & beer, and desserts

Ticket prices: \$36 per person cover charge

Mail your check to :



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

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please reserve _____ seats for me at \$36 per person ☐ \$18 donation per person ☐ Other donation _____

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



In the midst of March we will celebrate Purim, a festival of fun and mischief, and I look forward to our carnival on Sunday, March 17, as well as our celebrations in the evening on Wednesday, March 20.

I am also thrilled to share some exciting news about Congregation Shir Shalom. In the midst of the prolonged conversations about building a winter club and outdoor ice rink on Peaceable Street, Congregation Shir Shalom was approached by a local developer to discuss the possibility of constructing an ice arena on our property. Please be sure to read the entire article to learn everything to know about this exciting opportunity.

Since the construction of the Pavilion addition in 2006, our congregation has been exploring opportunities for increased revenue with flexible, mixed use, space that is, for the most part, unused throughout the week. A local developer recognized an opportunity (perhaps inspired by the proposed plans for the Ridgefield Winter Club that could be built down the street). And a recent Wall Street Journal article by our own congregant, Rich Cohen, profiling Zach Hyman (left wing for the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs) spoke to the recent rise of interest in ice hockey within the Jewish community.

It is difficult to measure the dimensions of the Pavilion because the walls are often closed or it is filled with chairs and tables. From the back wall of the sanctuary to the opposite side of the dance floor is approximately 200 feet, and side to side the Pavilion is 90 feet wide. A standard NHL rink is 200 feet by 85 feet. USA Hockey (Rule 102) states that the recommended dimensions of a "regulation rink" begin at 185x85. Our proposed rink will be a little smaller (to fit inside the current footprint of our building, leaving room for team benches and some spectator seating), at 175x80, meaning that we will not be able to host any regional playoffs or national championships. Our rink will be large enough for teams to practice and play, and larger than the other proposed ice rink on Peaceable Street.

The hours of an ice arena generally fit with hours when our building is not in use: most days the rink would open at 5AM for practice and remain open throughout the day. The rink would not be available on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings (or if a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is scheduled), or on Sunday mornings during Hebrew school.

The rink will be retrofitted inside our current

building and footprint, and will include replacement and upgrades to some of our current features. Because no exterior construction is necessary, there is no requirement for a public hearing or debate on our construction plans—the process is no different than if we were to replace an interior wall or renovate a kitchen. Additionally, because Congregation Shir Shalom already has a special use permit from the Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission and is an exempt institution, we will not be subjected to the same process and controversy that has hindered and delayed the proposed Ridgefield Winter Club. We are, of course, reaching out to our neighbors for input on our proposed plans.

The rink will be constructed atop our existing foundation and there will be a movable floor that lays on top of the rink when we need to use the Pavilion for other programs (Shabbat dinners, Oneg Shabbat, High Holy Days, Private events, etc.). The side walls of the rink ("boards") will be removable and lock into place as needed, and will be available for advertising (generating additional revenue, and Congregation Shir Shalom will have final say on any content). The wall pockets that currently house the tracked, moveable divider walls that separate the Pavilion sections will become benches for the players and score keepers (and penalty boxes). The tracked divider walls will be replaced with either a pocket wall or a ceiling mounted vertical wall (like a garage door). The new wall will also help with temperature regulation. This feature means that we will not need to switch floors if only one or two sections of the Pavilion are needed for an event or program. We will also be able to rent smaller sections of the rink for a birthday party or multiple concurrent games of broomball.

The exterior walls of the Pavilion will be replaced with tracked glass walls that can be opened. There will be comfortable (but technically temporary) spectator benches/bleachers on our patio (where we build our Sukkah), put into place before games. The new walls will also add natural light and I anticipate that it will change the feel of worship on the High Holy Days, for those who sit in the Pavilion. There will also be a similar small spectator area on what is now the dance floor (it will be behind one of the goals). The wall that separates the dancefloor will be replaced and more windows will be added (the library can be used as an additional spectator area). We will add a new set of doors at the bottom of the ramp that separates our old building from the Pavilion—this will help with temperature regulation and our HVAC system.

(con't.)

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK (CONT.)

CANTOR'S CORNER

The existent projector and drop down screen in the Pavilion will be replaced with a new, gigantic LCD monitor that will be ceiling mounted. In addition to use as a scoreboard and for replays, the screen can be used for screening movies and presentations. Several high definition cameras will be installed around the Pavilion (to record games and practices and help with skill development). The developer has also offered to install cameras in the Sanctuary – these will enable us to record worship services and to simulcast services on monitors around the Pavilion and the rest of our synagogue. Congregants who typically sit in the back of the Pavilion will feel much closer to the bimah and congregants who get a little restless during services will be able to stretch or check on children upstairs, without missing a prayer. We will also be able to live streaming services and programs (homebound congregants will be able to participate in worship remotely).

Similar to the proposed Ridgefield Winter Club, our rink will operate like a private club. Annual membership will be available to area residents and will include a “Fair Share” fulfillment of Congregation Shir Shalom community commitment (each club member will generate about four thousand dollars of revenue for Congregation Shir Shalom). While club members will have priority, the rink will also be available to the general public for rental, with a portion of revenue going to Congregation Shir Shalom. Members of Congregation Shir Shalom will be able to rent or use the rink at a significant discount. Please consider holding your ice skating birthday party at our ice rink on Peacable! Snacks prepared in our commercial grade kitchen will be available for purchase, generating additional revenue. The developer has agreed to pay all renovation costs as well as incidental costs (including increases in our utility and maintenance costs and insurance premiums). The rink will technically belong to Congregation Shir Shalom (if the rink were viewed as a tenant, we might need to pay taxes on the generated revenue/rental fees). The developer's company will be contracted to manage the rink and their compensation will be based upon rink memberships and rentals at no financial risk to Congregation Shir Shalom.

I have shared before the tradition of Purim pranks, similar to April Fools' pranks. This column is completely fictional and was written as a Purim prank. Hopefully you are still reading and have not called Town Hall to complain or offer praise, or gone out to purchase a new pair of ice skates! Chag Purim



March 22nd at 7:30 PM

A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein

Here is our local gem of a singer and performer! Meet Claire Simard-

Claire is the Head of Music and Theater at the Wooster

School in Danbury, where she teaches chorus and acting. She recently made her Richter debut as Grace Farrell in “Annie”. Claire has a B.M. in Vocal Performance from the Catholic University of America and

did post graduate studies at Brooklyn College Conservatory, the Conservatoire de Paris and the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy.



Her opera roles include Musetta in “La Boheme”, Pamina and 1st Lady in “Magic Flute”, and Fiordiligi in “Cosi Fan Tutte”. This

spring Ms. Simard will be singing a recital with Walter Cramer at the Richter Arts Association. She has also done solo recitals at Concordia Conservatory in Bronxville, NY, where she was adjunct voice faculty from 2008-2012.

Be sure not to miss this “Suite Shabbat” and special tribute.

March 31st at 4:00 PM

Music by Jewish Composers

Featuring violinist Avi Nagin, cellist Julian Schwarz, and pianist Marika Bournaki

June 2nd at 4:00 PM

Solo Spotlight:

Harpist Emily Levin

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Our Shir Shalom Editor

Laura Morris
Laura@OurShirShalom.org

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

by Josh Blum

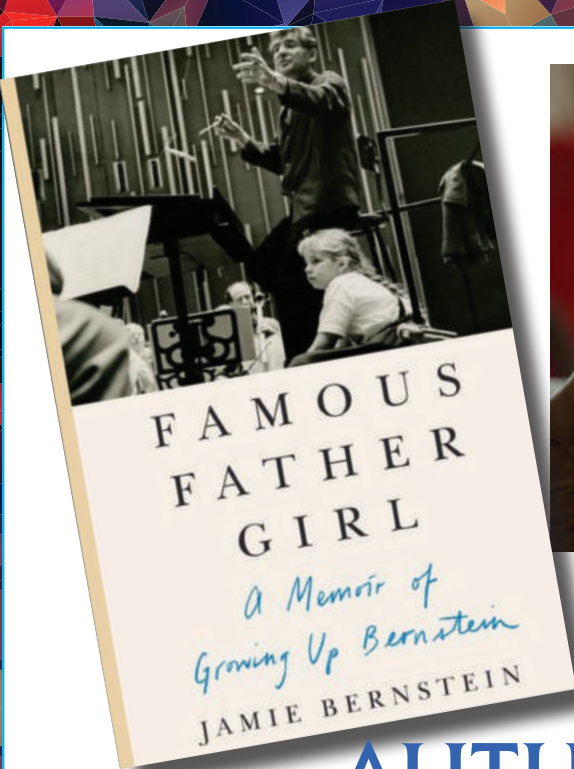
As I'm writing this, a polar vortex has much of the United States in its clutches. After months of short days and single digit temperatures, I'm ready for spring and all that it promises, though I'm resigned to the fact that it'll be a while before these promises are fulfilled. In the meantime, if you find yourself searching for the feelings of regeneration and renewal that always seem to arrive with the spring, I'd like to suggest spending some time this Shabbat at Shir Shalom. Admittedly, it can take a bit of work to get to services on a Friday night, especially when it's cold and dark outside and we're tired from a long demanding work week, but I can tell you from experience that I always feel less depleted and disheartened, more animated and optimistic and alive, walking out of services than walking into them. And with all due respect to Rabbi Reiner, I attribute much of this regeneration to the power of music.

At Shir Shalom music is not only in our name, it's in our blood. Whether the source of that music is Cantor Katchko Gray or the choir or the amazing accompanists or guests she brings to us, the music at Shir Shalom is somehow both grounding and uplifting, bringing us more deeply into ourselves and taking us beyond ourselves. Even when we don't know a melody or the words to a specific song (for me, it's often especially when I don't know the melody or the words), the pull of music is powerful, mystical in a way that transcends language and consciousness. I've been told that Daven, the Yiddish verb meaning "to pray," shares the same root as the verb "to wander," and the familiar melodies and voices of the people around us provide us the license for this sort of wandering. Sitting quietly, listening or humming along, inspires introspection.

At the same time, when we add our voice to those of the congregation, music can have the opposite effect, offering us the chance to connect with our history and with our community in something timely and timeless. It may be our music more than anything else that allows us to feel at home in synagogues and worship services around the country and around the world. Music fosters connection - to our pasts, personal and collective, to our community, our heritage, and our hopes for the future; it casts the spell that calls us home no matter how long it's been since we've last felt its power.

No matter what the current conditions suggest, spring will be here eventually, and soon many of us will be sitting around a Seder table, our spirits lifted by the familiar story of redemption and renewal, by foods we love (or love to complain about!), by the presence of family and friends, and of course, by song. Whether it's the youngest members of our group working their way through the Four Questions, or a rousing version of Dayenu, or perhaps even Chad Gadya at the end of the meal, the celebration is incomplete without song, as it would be without the familiar wistful wish: "Next year in Jerusalem." For now though, before and after our next Seder, if we're looking for a little bit of spring, if we're seeking revitalization and renewal, maybe in addition to thinking about next year in Jerusalem, we should add "This year, this week, in Ridgefield; this Shabbat at Shir Shalom."

Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Congregation Shir Shalom



Jamie Bernstein, author of
Famous Father Girl

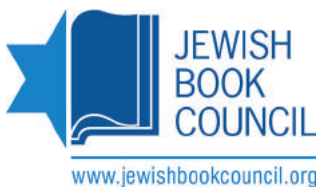
AUTHOR TALK at Congregation Shir Shalom

Sunday, April 28, 2 pm

Jamie Bernstein, the author of *Famous Father Girl*, will
speak about herself and her father.

Special musical-themed refreshments will be served.

Co-sponsored by
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
of Upper Fairfield County



www.jewishbookcouncil.org



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY



Congregation Shir Shalom is joining with hundreds of locations throughout North America to celebrate "Shabbat Across America."

We will also honor those who have become part of the Congregation Shir Shalom family over the past year during our service.

5:15 PM—6 PM: Welcome, nosh and activity especially for children 6 and under

**6:00 PM: Spirited and Soulful Shabbat Worship
with special musical guests Beth Styles & Mark Fineberg.**

7:00 PM: Communal Shabbat Dinner and Oneg Shabbat

There will be a challah contest—taste and vote for the best challah in Ridgefield!

RSVP by February 22. Please call the main office at (203) 438-6589 or email office@ourshirshalom.org



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



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Sitting in the lobby area of Shir Shalom on any given day of the week, one can learn a lot from Religious School students if you spend time getting to know them in this casual setting. The school has an informal rule about cell phones for the lobby area that I share playfully with them again and again to remind them that when they are alone, they may use their phones. It is also fine to communicate with parents by phone in that location, too. I continue to remind them - with great affection and a warm smile each time they break the one-person rule - that once another human being, typically a friend, enters this space then phones need to disappear so that normal human interactions can occur. It seems sad that we have arrived at such a place, but we have, sadly. Walking into that space - seeing four or five students of the same age staring into their palms and not chatting - seems wrong in a place that values community so very much. It is really not so much of a rule, in fact, but more of an excuse and opportunity to discuss our relationships - and life.

It seems sometimes that we have all lost the freedom to ignore our phones even when conversation is guaranteed - as long as we all look up long enough from our screens. We are in uncharted territory as we move into this world of anti-socialization. Casual unplanned conversation can be so rewarding for us all, and when students enter our communal space, it seems important to reinforce this idea. The students always smile back at me after I ask them if they know The Rule, and then we chat about why it's important for us all to stay engaged in the moment with others. Then - it's time for class or pick up and we start all over again on another day when the phones come out. Fortunately, we don't see cell phones appear in the classroom so we all seem to be clear on that expectation. The lobby rule is different and evolving with everyone sharing an opinion.

In the recent NY Times Magazine article, Brain Candy by Willy Staley, the writer explores

the idea of memes. A student explained this concept of memes to me not so long ago. As mentioned, hang around in the temple lobby for any length of time and one can get quite an education - especially from our fabulous teens. It seems that Richard Dawkins, the British ethologist, coined the phrase in his 1976 book, *The Selfish Gene*, as a "way to conceptualize the transmission of culture in biological terms. For Dawkins, a meme, shortened from the Greek *memime* - 'an animated thing' - was a unit of culture, a building block of our mental architecture." Dawkins wrote that, "memes propagate themselves in the meme pool by leaping from brain to brain." What an interesting way to look at this! As memes are so pervasive these days in politics, and especially on Twitter - I'm glad our temple lobby conversations have been so instructive.

With so much being shared these days on social media, we all know it is important to understand who is sponsoring and authoring what we read - more than ever. These are important conversations to have with our students, too. Recently, our Grade 7 expanded Heritage Day workshop with parents and students featured a thoughtful lesson about cultural bumper stickers - here and in Israel - to help us understand some of the popular sentiments being shared by all kinds of cultural and religious factions. Whether it's in the temple classrooms or in the lobby, we need to engage our teens in conversation with adults and each other in a way that invites open discussion about what we are all viewing privately. The strength of our school community demands that much; also, our kids should count on our oversight as a way of monitoring and guiding them in this ever-confusing world where everything is posted for all to see. We need to be their caregivers, too.

Also, please don't forget to register for the Early Bird RS Registration for 2019-20! We look forward to working with your children for the remainder of this year, and for all the years you trust us with this great and wonderful responsibility. Thank you.

BRING YOUR
FRIENDS
AND FAMILY



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

Presented by Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School

PRIZES

COME
IN COSTUME

ADMISSION
\$10 A CHILD
Adult admission
FREE

PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 17,
Congregation Shir Shalom
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT

11:00 am–12:00pm

Religious school students only

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Open to the Public

Carnival Games

CONTACT
203-438-6589
FOR MORE INFO

Face Painting by
Enchanted Garden Studios

Indoor Archery

BBYO will be here to help
create lots of fun for all!!

Food & Drinks
for Sale

Body Art

Danny Diamond
Magic & Balloons

Jewish Food Fest...
Enjoy knishes, blintzes, bagels, real old-
fashioned seltzer, pickles and more!

Free Popcorn & Cotton Candy
Old-fashioned Egg Cream Station
Inflatable Twister

Sponsored by
EST. 1952
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DAY CAMP



Our students learning to make challah bread.



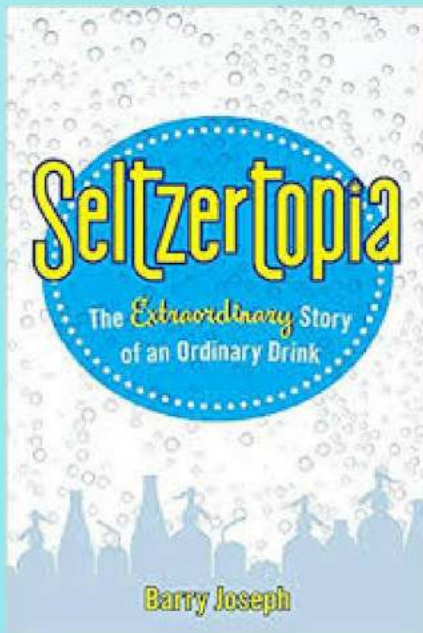
Religious School SAJE cooks for Inspirica!!

SAJE student enjoying goodies and bingo with Prospect Ridge residents.



THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF AN ORDINARY DRINK

Presented by Congregation Shir Shalom Religious
School & Adult Programming Committee



COME AND MEET THE AUTHOR, BARRY JOSEPH
WHO WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT... WHAT'S JEWISH
ABOUT SELTZER!

Sunday, March 3 from 11 am to 12 pm

All congregants and families are welcome!

This is a great program to help everyone excited about our special guests
from...

Gomberg Seltzer Works of Brooklyn who will set up an old-fashioned Egg
Cream station

at our Jewish Food Fair/Purim Carnival Event on March 17!

Our Early Childhood Center...



How young is too young to start learning about science?

The answer is you are never too young to start learning about science!

Our preschoolers had a “blast” with their homemade volcanoes. Just some vinegar and baking soda and VOILA!

Who knows where these inquisitive souls will venture next and what they will learn!



Jane Emmer
Director, ECC

Welcome to Shir Shalom!

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our new congregants, Ron and Julie Tiktin.

Ron and Julie joined in January 2019. They make their home here in Ridgefield, Connecticut where they are raising their three children: 10 year old Ella, and twins, Daniel and Alexa, 8 years old.

Please welcome the Tiktins into our Jewish community!



Calling All Volunteers! Social Action Needs Your Help...



Our fabulous Social Action team helps out by volunteering at The Daily Bread food pantry by stocking shelves and distributing bags of groceries to those in need. When you see them, please say thank you! From left to right:

Karen Brenner, Debbie Lavin, Mark Lavin, Cantor Debbie, Alisa Trachtenberg, Debbie Landzberg

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

by Amy Margulies, Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg

So many of our neighbors are in desperate need. They struggle to cover the costs of basic necessities, often don't know where their next meal is coming from, don't have a comfortable place to spend the night. Shir Shalom volunteers staff volunteer-run organizations that address these needs yet we have recently had great difficulty filling our teams. We need more congregants to join our ranks. Please help!

We man Daily Bread Food Pantry on select Monday and Friday mornings while needy clients shop and we prepare and serve meals to hungry clients at Dorothy Day Hospitality House on the first Sunday of each month. Spend your morning or afternoon truly making a difference. Many thanks to the volunteers who participated in these last 2 months at the Daily Bread: Cantor Debbie, Karen Brenner, Debbie & Mark Lavin, Debbie Landzberg, Alisa Glick Trachtenberg. And at the Dorothy Day: Wendy Meyer, Gale Berman, Carrie Chanin, Anne Kupferschmid and Amy Passman. Thanks also to the volunteers who shared Shabbat with the women at the Federal Prison: Resa Fremed, Jacqueline Goldner, Polly Schnell, Rabbi Jon & Jean Haddon.

Also, we urgently request that you consider volunteering one or more times at our Overflow Shelter during the winter months. This cold-weather shelter provides a life-saving service for those who don't have a warm place to sleep at night. It will not open without our volunteers! As in past years, our temple group has agreed to man the Overflow shelter at the Congregational Church in Danbury for three weeks this season: the last week in December, January and February.

We would love to hear from you and, to answer your questions and to provide more details. Please reach out to us at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org. Many thanks in advance!

On November 18, we organized a Breakfast Run for the Midnight Run organization, whose goal is to help the homeless by forging a bond between housed and homeless people, which benefits our group of adults and teens as they broaden their view and receive gratification from establishing this bond. Each year, with your help, the Social Action Committee organizes two runs: The Breakfast Run (fall) and Midnight Run (Spring).

The preparation for the Breakfast Run is truly a team effort. We began with 20 volunteers on November 17th who helped to prepare the sandwiches, pack & organize the clothing, sort toiletries and wash coolers. These wonderful people volunteered for 3 hours on a Saturday to make sure that we were prepared for Sunday's run. A huge thank you goes out to our kitchen crew who prepared and packaged 72 sandwiches; Julie Held, Serafima Dashevskaya and Linda Hirschfeld. Thank you to Donna & Zach Ozols, Debbie Lavin, Kurtz Family, Margulies Family, Zins Family, Judy Vandervelden, Benson Family and Jennifer Mayer for sorting, folding, boxing & assembling the toiletry kits, sweat-shirts, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, candy and the beautiful presentation of the donuts. You all made Sunday's run very efficient.

On Sunday, November 18th the run began at 6AM. Our incredible Breakfast Run team included the Sussman Family, Amerling Family, Alvarez Family, Margulies Family, Julie Held and Miranda Wein. This group was the most hardworking, dedicated and kind bunch of individual who were such a pleasure to work with. We are also very grateful to Serafima Dashevskaya & Laurie Dubin for volunteering to help us make the egg sandwiches & clean the kitchen for our run. Once in New York City our team set up the food and supplies at Stuyvesant Cove Park overlooking the East River. The children did a fantastic job and engaged in conversation with the homeless. Many faces we remember from last year's run. Sometimes these small acts of kindness like helping a person pick out a sweatshirt or offering them a sandwich, makes such a difference in someone's life. Everyone at the Breakfast Run felt a connection with this group of homeless people. It just takes a little effort to make a big impact in a person's life. So, thank you to our gracious team for donating your time and for sharing this experience with your children.

Without the help of the Social Action Committee Co-Chairs Debbie Lavin, Debbie Landzberg and Amy Margulies, this event could not have happened. Every day you all give so much to help others and it is important to recognize those efforts. Thank you. The next run is our Midnight Run in the spring which Debbie Lavin will organize. Please think about joining our team which truly makes a difference in helping the homeless.

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

“NO MATTER HOW FAR”

By Lewis Siegel

Five years ago, Eve and I were on vacation in San Francisco, and one day visited the Legion of Honor Museum in Lincoln Park. This museum of European art is so named because it is a replica of the Palace of the Legion of Honor in Paris. In a park-like area near the museum, with the Pacific Ocean in the distance, is a small Holocaust memorial consisting of several stone plaques with inscriptions, and a bronze and cement sculpture. The sculpture, created by George Segal, depicts a prisoner standing behind a barbed wire fence, and beyond the standing figure, are white painted-bronze bodies strewn on the ground.

At first, I wondered why there was a Holocaust Memorial in this unusual location. But then I had another thought. Here we were, 3000 miles from home, in a far-off place. The



sculpture was standing alone with no obvious relation to the museum and it overlooked a vast ocean scene. It seemed as if the sculpture just appeared out of nowhere, looking far, hoping that someone would notice it. I suddenly realized that no matter how far we travel, no matter how much time elapses, the haunting memory of the Holocaust is with us.

I wondered, how long will this last? Will the Jewish people in the distant future have the same emotional reactions that we feel today, or will the memory of the Holocaust even-

tually disintegrate into a casual footnote of Jewish history? The latter doesn't have to be. The Passover Haggadah reminds us every year to tell of the exodus from Egypt, and we still do that over 3000 years later. The Jewish people have many tragic memories: The exile of most of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after the defeat by the Assyrians in the year 722 BCE, the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE and the exile to Babylonia, the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, the failure of the Bar Kochba rebellion 132-135 CE, and the myriad of pogroms over the next two thousand years. But one can argue that nowhere in our history has the sheer magnitude of the Holocaust been equaled. As we tell about the exodus from Egypt, we must also pass this story on to all future generations. We should tell about the Nazi regime inflicting this great tragedy by exterminating six million Jews, two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe. The story of the Holocaust should be told from generation to generation, so that those fateful words "Never Again" will be ingrained, and always be a reminder of what happened, and what could happen.

Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



Passover, Tetzaveh and Other Things

It has been noted that Passover has become the most widely practiced festival on the Jewish calendar. This is the result of the enjoyment of the Passover Seder, which is an amalgamation of fun, food, camaraderie and storytelling, becoming a focus for families and friends whether or not all attendees are Jewish. Once again this year our community Second Night Seder is being planned – it will be a catered event taking place on SATURDAY APRIL



20, 2019. Further details will be presented in a flyer shortly. This is an evening full of food, ruach (spirit) and good friends for all ages. We look forward to having you and your loved ones joining us.

Just a few weeks prior to the publishing of this article we read Parsha Tetzaveh in our weekly cycle of Torah. In this section of Exodus, Aaron is appointed to be the High Priest by God and there is quite a bit of attention spent on detailing the exquisite garments that need to be fabricated by the Israelites for his use. Perhaps this is where the expression attributed to Mark Twain, “Clothes make the man” originated from. In modern Judaism the Rabbis do not continue this tradition (although when I was young it was typical for Rabbis to have costume jewelry adorning their tallitot) and the only vestige of this practice is the embellishment of the coverings of the sifrei torah. On that note, one of our congregants and member of the Board of Trustees Suzanne Sunday, has volunteered to fabricate a new cover for our Brno scroll to be displayed during the next Pride Month. This

will be a tremendous addition to our welcoming Shir Shalom community.

Parsha Tetzaveh brings forth an interesting dilemma when interpreting Torah. Why was Aaron the person selected by God to be the first priest? For that matter why were any of the individuals we learned about in Genesis selected by God? Recent research conducted by William Bushell PhD, a friend and colleague, indicates that certain humans are capable of detecting stimuli at the quantum level. Perhaps people such as Aaron, Moses or Abraham possessed this capability and thus were able to communicate closely with God. It is shown that some people can detect a single photon of light – perhaps the explanation of Moses’ experience with the burning bush. If you have continued interest in this field I suggest you read his article entitled, “Experiments Suggest Humans Can Directly Observe the Quantum” published online in Psychology Today.

Undoubtedly if you have attended Shabbat evening services over the past few weeks you have noticed a substantial upgrade in the presentations of the Ongei Shabbat. Our staff member Lorilee Palazzo has been tasked with making all sorts of home-made goodies and the reviews from attendees have been overwhelmingly positive. As you could expect, there is a cost to the congregation for providing these receptions. We hope that our members will step up and sponsor an Oneg Shabbat to celebrate a simcha, birthday, anniversary, graduation or any other event in your life. This will insure that we can continue to provide this wonderful social gathering each week.

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

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Drop Off Tuesdays sessions 2 and 3
9:15 to 11:15

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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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Jewish Moral Leadership

Please join Rabbi Emily Aronson for our social justice class on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm.

What are our obligations, as Jews, in responding to many injustices that exist in our world? Our rabbinic intern, rabbi Emily will be exploring the topic of Jewish Moral Leadership in a series of special classes. Join Rabbi Emily to learn about and discuss the roots of Jewish social justice, Jewish values that guide us in contemporary social justice work, how our social justice work shapes our Jewish identities, and our Jewish obligation to be moral leaders. Drop in on this class or our April discussion as well.

Adult Programming

On March 24th at 3 PM Menache Khaimov will tell us of the history and culture of the Bukharian Jewish community. One of the oldest ethnic groups along the "Silk Road", some say that the Bukarians are descended from the Tribes of Naphtali and Issachar, of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Now most of the community is gone from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan and has developed a unique culture in Queens. Journey there with us!



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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Abby Aframe	Julia Knispel
Asher Meister-Aldama	Jeffrey Knispel
Holly Alexander	Lisa Kurtz
Craig Altman	Lawrence Lapine
Max Axler	Kelly Lash
Jason Bangser	Laura Leitner
Alexis Barrett	Terrence Levens
Jordan Brandt	Jeffrey Levi
Ethan Broder	Kenneth Litwin
Barbara Brodsky	Judith Hirt-Manheimer
Andrew Carter	Amy Margulies
Robin Bartley-Cohen	Izabelle Marks
Aaron Cohen	Josh Meyer
Jaime Bartley-Cohen	Wendy Meyer
Ellen Conti	Austin Omin
David deLange	Jessica Pollack
Lana Dubin	Lisa Pollack
Blake Edson	Harrison Rappaport
Andrew Emmer	Rabbi Fred Reiner
Kenneth Feldman	Marlainer Rich
Zachary Fischman	Noah Rose
Ellen Genauer	Andrew Rose
Michael Gilbert	Sophie Rudin
Andrew Glicklich	Julie Sacks
Mark Glicklich	Barbara Safran
Maxine Gorelick	Dylan Salpeter
Leslie Gottlieb	Howard Samuels
David Gottlieb	Wynter Schnell
Rannon Gray	Fulvio Segalla
Jeremy Haber	Alexandra Shaplen
Jay Heffler	Alexa Stevelman
Robin Heit	Murray Tarnapoll
Richard Hellinger	Alisa Trachtenberg
Emily Herbstman	Isabel Voellmicke
Alexander Herbstman	Benjamin Voellmicke
Jesse Hisiger	Kurt Voellmicke
Taylor Hoffman	Beth Waldman
Laurel Honig	Emily Wein
Carter Hughes	David Yolen
Tyler Hughes	Will Yolen
Jamie Kaplan	Jane Zeitz
Jeffrey Klotz	Lily Zezula

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Neil Alexander	Marlee Lustig
David Amerling	Lyla Mayer
Paul Amerling	Harrison Mazlish
Alexandria Andrade	Lorraine Lazarus-Morley
Abe Axler	Stacey Neumann
Jesse Baer	Adam Ozols
Andy Baran	Andrew Rappaport
Michael Bard	Allyson Rappaport
Lily Bender	Julie Rendon
Max Berger	Valerie Rich
Lynn Broder	Emma Rosenfeld
Karl Brodsky	Jordan Segalman
Richard Carter	Emma Sherter
Adam Cohen	Craig Sherter
Robert Colen	Samantha Shulman
Lara Parker-Edson	Sally Slater
Amy Freidenrich	Ali Stein
Lawrence Gottlieb	Paul Stevelman
Daniel Greenberg	Stacey Sussman
Abe Hammer	Jill Teich
Ronni Hammer	Evan Walker
Sarah Kaplan	Zachary Wetchler
Rebecca Kaufman	Miriam Wetchler
Kyle Kipnes	Danielle Winson
Sherl Knapp	Caitlin Winson
Jonathan Knapp	Lora Wishod
Allen Kopfstein	Peter Zeitz
Braden Kurtz	Michael Zeitz
David Kurzweil	Alexandra Zibel
Rhonda Lackow	Lillian Zibel
Rita Landman	
Lucy Landzberg	
Susan Lapine	
Alison Lustig	

MARCH AND APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Edward & Ana Barth	Michael & Gale Berman
Bryan & Jamie Garrett	David & Andrea deLange
Paul & Barbara Heller	Jack Goldberg & Trudy Wood
Martin & Hanky Kutscher	Len & Jackie Goldner
Steve & Debbie Landzberg	Jay & Arlene Heffler
Robert & Judith Strom	Warren & Karen Lustig
	David & Amy Margulies
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 Lew and Eve Siegel
 Lew and Eve Siegel

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 in memory of Herbert Zieselman

in memory of Ruth Sunday Davis
 in honor of Cantor Debbie

in memory of Bernard Shuler
 on the occasion of an Oneg Shabbat
 in memory of Lee Blum
 with gratitude to Cantor Debbie
 with gratitude to Robi Margolis
 with gratitude to Rabbi Reiner

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Neal and Karen Blum
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 Karl and Barbara Brodsky

in memory of Lee Blum
 in memory of Kenneth Greenberg
 in memory of Priscilla Levy
 in memory of Max Brenner

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Barry and Marla Kay
 Frank and Susan Andrade

in memory of Priscilla Levy

Rabbi Emeritus Discretionary Fund

Barry and Marla Kay

in memory of Priscilla Levy

**Our Newest Arrival!**

After 40 seemingly long weeks of pregnancy (but who's counting), Austin Sawyer Deutsch became the newest member of Congregation Shir Shalom on Saturday, January 19, 2019.

Austin arrived tipping the scales at 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 inches long! There's little doubt that in just a few years Austin, and his big brother Landon, will enjoy hours of mischievous little boy playtime. Proud parents, Michael and Jillian Deutsch, might be enduring some sleep deprivation, but are ecstatic to welcome Austin to their family!

MARCH YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, March 1st, 2019**

Bernard Baker	father of Carlyn Bergman	Marcelle Goldstein	cousin of Margery Wallach
Sadye Hisiger	mother of Miles Hisiger	Gloria Katz	mother of JoAnn Gorman
Sydney Kopfstein	father of Allen Kopfstein	Freda Manus	mother of Rhonda Manus
Lottie Mirkin	grandmother of Judith Strom	Max Rifkin	
Max Schenk	stepfather of Allan Gottlieb	James Taylor	father in law of Karen Taylor

Friday, March 8th, 2019

Harvey Alterman	husband of Rhonda Manus	Monte Baier	brother of Shelby White
Pauline Berkowitz	grandmother of Stephen Heit	Abraham Berlin	father of Ruth Ossher
Leonard Brodnick		Amy Cohen	sister of Adam Cohen
Ada Dolin	grandmother of Rachel Bender	Albert Elkin	grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman
Moses Fergenson	uncle of Michael Bergman	Felicia Israel-Mucciolo	
Melvin Moss	father of David Moss	Irving Reichenthal	father of Sandra Rosenhouse
Herman Rosenthal	grandfather of Susan Westlake	Aida Ryan	mother of Eve Siegel
Douglas Schwartz	son of Annabel Schwartz	Beatrice Strom	mother of Robert Strom

Friday, March 15th, 2019

Steven Abraham	brother of Vivian Hoffman	Blanche Agisim	mother of Elliot Agisim
Laura Bank	aunt of Arnold Leitner	Elliot Bernstein	father of Meredith Rudin
Lyubov Dashevskaya	grandmother of Vladimir Gogish	Seymour Drucker	grandfather of Janine Gordon
Florence Fine	grandmother of Peter Fine	Feyga Levin-Goldberg	
Fred Murad	brother of Menashe Murad	Jeanne Perrin	mother of Charles Perrin
Betty Ravitch	grandmother of Michael Gitlitz		

Friday, March 22nd, 2019

Samuel Auerbach	father of Michelle Auerbach-Sherr	Morton Eydenberg	father of Susan Westlake
David Hagen	son of Renee Hagen	Morris Heller	father of Paul Heller
Jerome Howard	father of Laurie Dubin	Anna Jacobson	grandmother of Karen Conti
Milton Kamler	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld	George Levenson	uncle of Karen Brenner
Gloria Margolis	mother of Elise Aries	Esther Mirkin	mother of Judith Strom
Elsie Rudy		Sam Schmeltzer	
Tillie Schmeltzer	mother of Resa Fremed	Irvin Slotnik	father of Jacqueline Goldner
Richard Wood	father of Trudy Wood		

Friday, March 29th, 2019

Ellen Cohen	mother of Rich Cohen	Harry Cohen	grandfather of Steve Kaye
Michael Davis	brother in law of Elyse Davis	Eva Engel	grandmother of Robin Heit
Louis Grayson	friend of Donald Gordon	Kenneth Henry	father of Robert Henry
Mary Keleher	mother of Catherine Mishkin	Marvin Kipnes	father of Todd Kipnes
Anne Raynor		Louis Rubinfeld	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld
Richard Ruo	father of Eileen Segalman	Emmy Sternberger	grandmother of Alice Gottlieb
Charles Warton	brother of Gale Berman	Herman Zeitlin	father of Ianne Poushter

APRIL Yahrzeiten

**Friday, April 5th, 2019**

Bernard Benjamin		Marilyn Cohen	mother of Susannah Altman
Bernie Gerard	father of Ira Gerard	Barbara Gray	aunt of Scott Gray
Eva Greenberg	mother of Adrienne Orlan	Wallace Kalter	step father of Marcia Needleman
Meyer Katz	father of Claire Katz	Ted Krulwich	brother of Jeffrey Krulwich
Leon Levy	husband of Shelby White	Arthur Margolis	father in law of Robi Margolis
Allen Peyser	grandfather of Jen Castelhana	Helen Pilch	mother of Alan Pilch
Barbara Stoll	mother of Susan Andrade		

Friday, April 12th, 2019

Alan Bangser	brother of Robert Bangser	Irwin Bassett	brother of Annabel Schwartz
Mary Benjamin		Jack Berkowitz	grandfather of Stephen Heit
Daniel Berlin	brother of Ruth Ossher	Sarah Buchman	aunt of Donald Gordon
Arnold Eydenberg	grandfather of Susan Westlake	Leah Fergenson	grandmother of Michael Bergman
Warren Gittlen	grandfather of Franki Zimmerman	Francis Horvilleur	father of Laurence Furic
Rosalie Kupferschmid	mother of Geoff Kupferschmid	Cyril Lesser	father of Diana Friedlander
Adolph Ratner	grandfather of Judith Strom	Thelma Reichenthal	mother of Sandra Rosenhouse
Robert Sigman	friend of Michael & Gale Berman	Ben Stern	brother of Barbara Manners
Isaac Weintraub	grandfather of Karen Gerard	Fay Weisberg	mother of Marty Weisberg

Friday, April 19th, 2019

Lillian Gordon		Harvey Haddon	brother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
Murray Haddon	father of Rabbi Jon Haddon	Rita Katchko	mother of Cantor Debbie
Jo Ellen Kipnes	mother of Todd Kipnes	Esther Oks-Ponczyk	grandmother of Jack Goldberg
Joshua Ponczyk	grandfather of Jack Goldberg	Monroe Sachs	father of David Sachs
May Salpeter	mother of Michael Salpeter	Hilda Vendig	mother of Richard Vendig

Friday, April 26th, 2019

Millie Bernstein	aunt of Alan Pilch	Edward Carroll	father of Jim Carroll
Murray Fischberg		Natalie Alexander	
Phyllis Goldfield	mother of Laurie Wolkin	Annette Holson	grandmother of Robin Heit
Joseph Hubsher	grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher	Debby Jacobs-Eckert	friend of Wendy Wallach DeLucia
Edward Modest	father of Betsy Brand	Ruth Muchnick	grandmother of Jason Muchnick
Sol Saleem	grandfather of Kate Alvarez	Rebecca Shimkin	grandmother of Janine Gordon
Lilyan Simels	mother of Toba Stutz	Lisa Stoll	sister of Susan Andrade

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MARCH 2019

ADAR I/ADAR II 5779

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 5:15 pm-Shabbat Across America w/ New Congregant Welcome 6:00 pm-Spirited & Soulful Shabbat 7:00 pm-Congre- gational Shabbat Dinner	2 5:00 pm- Shabbat Afternoon Worship- Bat Mitzvah- Riannah Wallach
3 9:00 am- Religious School	4 9:15 am- ECC 7:00 pm- Jewish Moral Leadership with Rabbi Emily	5 9:15 am- ECC	6 9:15 am- ECC 1-3 pm- Sisterhood knitting class 4:15 pm- Religious School	7 4:15 pm- Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	8 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	9 9:00 am- Torah 101 5:00 pm- Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bat Mitzvah- Sylvia Friedenrich
10 Daylight Savings Time begins 9:00 am- Religious School 11:15 am- RS Parent Brunch	11 9:15 am- ECC	12 9:15 am- ECC	13 9:15 am- ECC 4:15 pm- Religious School	14 4:15 pm- Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	15 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	16
17 9:00 am- Religious School 11:00 am- Purim Carnival	18 9:15 am- ECC	19 9:15 am- ECC	20 9:15 am- ECC 1-3 pm- Sisterhood knitting class 4:15 pm- Religious School 5:30 pm- Purim	21 4:15 pm- Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	22 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- "A Suite Shabbat"	23 9:00 am- Torah 101 10:30 am- Shabbat Morning Worship Bar Mitzvah- Zachary Ozols
24 9:00 am- Religious School 3-5 pm- "Bukharian Jewish Culture"	25 9:15 am- ECC	26 9:15 am- ECC	27 9:15 am- ECC 4:15 pm- Religious School	28 12 noon- Lunch & Learn 4:15 pm- Religious School	29 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Shabbat	30 10:00 am- Shabbat Yoga
31 9:00 am- Religious School 4:00 pm- Music by Jewish Composers						

APRIL 2019

ADAR II/NISAN 5779

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:15 am- ECC	2 9:15 am- ECC	3 9:15 am- ECC 1-3 pm- Sisterhood knitting class 4:15 pm- Religious School	4 4:15 pm- Religious School	5 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- ECC Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat "Welcom- ing the Stranger"	6 9:00 am- Torah 101
7 9:00 am- Religious School	8 9:15 am- ECC 7:00 pm- Jewish Moral Leadership with Rabbi Emily	9 9:15 am- ECC	10 9:15 am- ECC 4:15 pm- Religious School	11 4:15 pm- Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	12 NO ECC 5:30 PM- Tot Shabbat 2.0 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat	13 9:00 am- Torah 101
14 NO Religious School	15 NO ECC	16 NO ECC	17 NO ECC NO Religious School	18 NO Religious School 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	19 8:00 am- "Fast :& Feast of the First Born: service NO ECC NO Evening Shab- bat worship Erev Pesach-Pass- over first night	20 10:00am- Passover Morning Service Passover- 2nd Night Seder
21 NO Religious School	22 9:15 am- ECC	23 9:15 am- ECC	24 9:15 am- ECC	25 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	26 9 am- ECC-Pass- over celebration 7:30 pm- Passover service with Yizkor	27 7:15 pm- Comedy Night
28 9:00 am- Religious School 3:00 pm- Author Talk w/ Jamie Bernstein	29 9:15 am- ECC	30 9:15 am- ECC				



2019 Prom Drive

HELP LOCAL TEENS ATTEND PROM

We are seeking donations of gently used prom attire, accessories, and shoes for both young ladies and young gentlemen to offset the financial burden of attending prom.



Please bring your donations to the Community Center:

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Congregation Shir Shalom presents History and Culture of Bukharian Jews with Historian Manashe Khaimov



Manashe is an Adjunct Professor in Jewish studies with a specialty of History and Culture of the Bukharian Jews at CUNY Queens College. He was born in a city along the Silk Road, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan where his ancestors lived for over 2000 years.

The program topics will include:

- *Where did Bukharian Jews come from? Bukharian Roots: Movie Screening & Discussion*
- *Bukharian Jews and The Great Silk Road. What is the connection?*

Sunday, March 24 at 3 PM

Authentic Bukharian snacks will be served.

Donation \$18

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



In January, our Diaspora Diners had a culinary feast featuring South and Central American Jewish fare. The festivities were graciously hosted in the Trachtenberg home. Stay tuned for the next upcoming event featuring Jewish Italian specialties!