

JAN/FEB  
2020

# OUR SHIR SHALOM

TEVET/SHEVAT/  
ADAR 5780



## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SHABBAT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan 3	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Jan 10	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Jan 17	7:00 pm	MLK Spirituals Shabbat with Serendipity Chorale
Jan 24	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Jan 31	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat

Feb 7	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Feb 14	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Feb 21	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat
Feb 28	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Oneg Shabbat

## CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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

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SHIR SHALOM**  
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Phone: (203)438-6589 • Fax: (203)438-5488  
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**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

**PRIZES**

**COME IN COSTUME**

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

Presented by **Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School**

# PURIM CARNIVAL

**Free Popcorn & Cotton Candy**

**Sunday, March 8,**  
**Congregation Shir Shalom of**  
**Westchester and Fairfield Counties**  
46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT

**CONTACT 203-438-6589 FOR MORE INFO**

**ADMISSION \$10 A CHILD**  
Adult admission FREE

**11:00 am-12:00pm** Religious school students only  
**12:00 pm-2:00 pm** Open to the Public

**Food & Drinks for Sale**  
**Carnival Games**  
**Inflatable Twister**

**Body Art** **Danny Diamond**  
**Face Painting by** **Magic & Balloons**  
**Enchanted Garden Studios** **Indoor Archery**

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

Sponsored by **Kiwi COUNTRY DAY CAMP**

## YOU'RE INVITED!

### Party Planning Showcase

Sunday, January 26, 2020 • 1:00-3:00pm\*

Renaissance Westchester Hotel • 80 Red Oak Lane • West Harrison, NY

**LIVE DJ SHOW AT 2:00 PM**  
DJs, MCs, and Dancers from

*Hal Prince*  
music & entertainment

- Interactive Games
- Photography
- Live Musicians
- Invitations
- Party Décor
- Photo Area
- Dance Platforms
- Lighting
- A/V
- Party favors

*Friends and family are invited!*  
*Refreshments will be served!*

\* **SNOWDATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020**  
*In the event of heavy snow the showcase will be rescheduled.*

RSVP by January 20 to 914 241-3300  
or email [info@halprince.com](mailto:info@halprince.com)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Lynn Broder



By the time you read this we will have said goodbye to 2019 and hello to 2020. As I reflect on my time as president, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve this community alongside many dedicated and capable volunteers. We have achieved many important goals, learned valuable lessons and continue to work towards the tasks yet to be completed.

Our goal remains to provide events and programs that will fulfill the religious, spiritual, intellectual and social needs of our congregants. We have partnered with a new marketing and outreach professional, Bruce Apar, to increase our presence in the community using local print media, traditional platforms, social media including Facebook, Burbio, online calendars and more. We look forward to continuing to work with him in the coming year to promote our mission and vision throughout the

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Larry Hoffman, President*  
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**Our Shir Shalom Editor**

*Laura Morris*  
**Laura@OurShirShalom.org**

communities that we serve. We have also hired a part time internal communications assistant Sasha Schroeder, who is helping us make sure we keep you all informed and included. We continue to improve our infrastructure and communications internally-we have made some progress and will continue to work to improve this aspect of congregational life.

As my term as president comes to an end, I must thank all of those who made the experience so meaningful and who put their hearts and souls into this place every day-including our office staff Laura Morris and Lori Stalowicz, our porters who maintain our building, our education directors Jane Emmer, Sarah Denyer, and Leslie Gottlieb, and of course our wonderful clergy Cantor Debbie and Rabbi Reiner. It has been a true privilege to meet with Rabbi Reiner every week, benefitting from his advice and counsel, and go on this journey with him.

Finally, I would like to thank all the hardworking volunteers-too numerous to mention- who keep this place running, especially the board of trustees and the executive committee. I am especially thankful to Larry Hoffman who has generously agreed to step up as President, answering the call to serve. I also want to thank Terry Henry who is stepping back onto the executive committee after a few years away. I am glad to be able to continue working with all these smart and dedicated people and know that I step down leaving Shir Shalom in good hands.

As president, I have grown both personally and as a member of the greater community. I have had the chance to meet and work with many wonderful people whom I might not have known otherwise. I am so grateful that I took that first step 15 years ago, volunteering to run a fundraiser and serve as sisterhood treasurer ( a position I still hold if anyone is interested)-all of which led me to one day become president. I'm sure at that time I was focused on how I would find the time to give with all the other demands of daily life and three children, but what I could not have known is how much giving that time would give back to me-in the people I would meet, the work I would be able to do and the reward that comes with giving back. I strongly encourage all our congregants-whether you have just joined our community, or been here for a long time, to volunteer in some way no matter how small. You will be happy you did.

I am excited for all the possibilities that lie ahead and optimistic as we move into the next decade. Our Atid-campaign for the future will ensure that we continue to grow and evolve as a congregation so we can serve the religious, intellectual and spiritual needs of our congregants and our community. I look forward to continuing to serve this community however I can.

## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



The past several weeks of family leave have flown by, and the reduction of my commitments with Congregation Shir Shalom has allowed me to bond with our (now six month old) son, Asher, care for Samson, and support Ashley in her return to full time work. It was wonderful to spend as much time with our family as I did, and I am returning to work with a newfound appreciation for the challenges that many parents (especially mothers) may experience after the birth or adoption of a child. This was not vacation or especially restful; in addition to familial responsibilities, I spent an average of 25 hours each week in the service of our sacred community, including Shabbat worship, working with B Mitzvah families, and – sadly – supporting several congregants following deaths in their families. I am grateful for the patience and understanding you have shared during this important time as well as the tremendous support of our staff, clergy, and lay leadership, who have taken on additional responsibilities during my reduction in hours.

As I returned from leave, I was fortunate enough to attend the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial Convention where I spent time learning from and interacting with Reform Jewish congregational thought leaders from across our country and around the world, including our own Rich Cohen, who gave a fantastic and engaging presentation on “Exceptional Jews.” Participating in Shabbat worship with more than five thousand Jews from around the world is a different and uplifting experience. I found inspiration in the words of Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, encouraging us to rethink what it means to be affiliated with a synagogue, and to ever-widen our tent to welcome more people into our sacred communities.

Embracing diversity and inclusion is a great growing edge for Reform congregations (ours included) – welcoming people into our tent – regardless of their religious background, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, education, political affiliation, socio-economic status, and physical appearance. What the Union for Reform Judaism terms “audacious hospitality” reminds us to welcome (eagerly) everyone into our sacred community. Pursuing audacious hospitality should also lead us to rethink what it means to be affiliated with Congregation Shir Shalom as the membership models of years past were predicated on assumptions that were once reasonable and are now far from absolute. How do our current practices for affiliation and financial support reflect our desire to be inclusive and embrace diversity, especially in the context of age, marital status, and socioeconomic status? How can our current practices be adapted to reflect changing views towards affiliation among several different age cohorts in our sacred community?

I would welcome your thoughtful responses!

During the URJ Biennial I attended many sessions focused on developing skills for rabbis/clergy and lay leaders, including a session titled “A Conversation for Politically Conservative Reform Jews.” The URJ is an affiliate of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and while the word “Progressive” refers to our approach to Judaism, it might not surprise you to learn that polling data shows that the majority of Reform Jews lean progressive in their politics. Nevertheless, there are many Reform Jews who are deeply committed to Progressive Judaism and identify as politically conservative. Congregation Shir Shalom is not an outlier in this regard: many people in our congregation identify as politically conservative. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion – audacious hospitality – includes a commitment to ensuring that Congregation Shir Shalom is a sacred community where people with differing political views and affiliations feel welcome. We will sometimes disagree. Listening and recognizing our differences, finding opportunities to engage our diverse views through meaningful conversations, appreciating that diversity extends to political views will help us widen our tent and grow as a sacred community.

Family leave has helped me to grow as a person, a partner, a parent, and a rabbi – thank you for this blessing of time. May we all continue to grow, as individuals and as a diverse and inclusive sacred community.

Rabbi David L. Reiner

CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY



*It was a fabulous classical concert with Peter Dugan (above).*



*Left to right sponsors: Dr. Scott Gray, Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray, Peter Dugan, Paul Frucht (artistic director), Jonathan Cziner (associate artistic director), Charles Ives Music Festival at the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra. Concert sponsored by Connecticut Family Orthopedics and OrthoPrompt. The concert was held at Congregation Shir Shalom.*



*Please join us on Friday, January 17th at 7:00PM as we celebrate Shabbat with our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Spirituals Service. At left, Gigi VanDyke rehearsing for this special musical service.*





# SPIRITED AND SOULFUL MUSIC SERIES

2019-2020 5779-5780

## FRIDAYS

Nov. 15, 7:30 PM

Jazzy Jewish Acapella  
Redhot and Blue Acapella  
of Yale



Jan 17, 7:00 PM

MLK Spirituals Shabbat  
Rob Silvan  
Serendipity Chorale—  
Gigi Van Dyke



March 20, 7:30 PM

Classic Cantorial Shabbat  
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray  
with Gina Wilson



April 24, 7:30 PM

A Suite Shabbat with  
Julian Schwarz, cello  
Marika Bournaki, piano



Beth Styles

Oct 18, May 8



Mark Fineberg

Nov 8,  
Feb 28—Shabbat Across America



An Afternoon of  
Musical Theater  
with Claire Simard  
and Brian Besterman

Sunday Nov 17, 3pm



*We Appreciate Your Generosity*

**General Fund**

Robi Margolis	in memory of Freda Shuler
Ken Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday	in memory of Saul Kurzweil
Ken Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday	in memory of Ruth Rothwax
Ken Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday	in memory of Evelyn Kurzweil
Karl & Barbara Brodsky	in memory of Ann Brodsky
David & Vicki Yolen	in memory of Leila Stockel
Ellen Reiss	with thanks
Ed & Pat Sherrick	with thanks
David & Phyllis Amerling	in memory of Jack Bergson
Karen Taylor	for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat
David & Vicki Yolen	in memory of Fred Yolen

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Richard Lipton	
Jeff & Heather Butchen	
Michael & Rona Salpeter	in memory of Joseph Salpeter
	in memory of Helga Allen
	in memory of Rabbi Marcus Burstein
Susan Glickman	with thanks
Barbara Safran	in memory of Kenneth Greenberg

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Robi Margolis	in gratitude for the musical presentations
Susan Glickman	with thanks

**Music Fund**

Allan & Alice Gottlieb	in honor of Cantor Debbie
Jon & Allison Stockel	with thanks for Cantor's music
Richard Lipton	
Michael & Rona Salpeter	in memory of Cantor Kerry Ben-David

*Please welcome our newest congregants...*

*Greg and Amanda Eisen*

*Welcome to the Shir Shalom community!*

# Our Religious School...

## RS SAJE Program: Studies Gun Violence Prevention



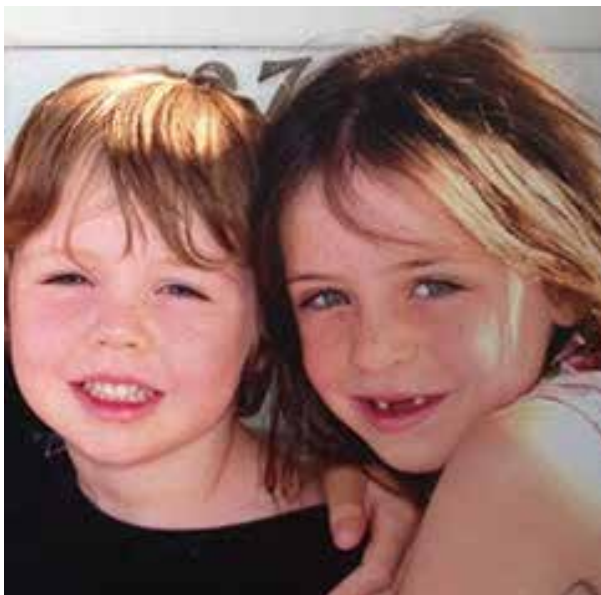
Natalie Barden was in grade five when she learned the terrible news that her baby brother, Daniel, had been gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School. For her and her brother James, December 14 would never be the same again for their family and so many others in their community. The world changed forever that sad day.

A couple of years after that tragedy, Natalie's father, Mark, spoke at Jewish Family Congregation in South Salem in an event held to remember losses that our two separate communities experienced. Gun violence played a role in both.

We learned that night, that in times of tragedy, communities can be strong and come together to begin to heal--- as one family. Speakers and clergy from Newtown spoke to our congregation and invited guests-- and we also recalled the awful event that took the lives of two of our RS students. Molly and Gregory-- and their mother, Amy, were killed just a year before the horrors of Newtown.

We listened, sang and prayed together, and knew our connection mattered. The Junior Newtown Action Alliance teens sang a song of peace. Their parent group, the NAAA, was represented by Shir Shalom friend, Carol Wakeman, and others who visit Washington, D.C. every year to try to help legislators understand that they must help to enact common sense gun laws to protect all of our families.

In honor of the victims of Sandy Hook, we created two plaques for the memorial wall in the sanctuary—one for the twenty-six victims and one specifically for Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher at Sandy Hook and a personal friend of Shir Shalom teacher, Rona Salpeter. A memorial stone, plaque and benches were designed, created and installed by one of our teen Mentors as an Eagle Scout project. These angels, as Natalie calls them, will never be forgotten.



**Daniel & Natalie Barden**

In a recent online Sandy Hook Promise newsletter, Natalie wrote, "I used to leave the gun violence prevention work to my dad, Mark. But we *all* have to act, even if we don't want to. I know what losing a loved one to gun violence feels like, and I want to prevent other people's lives from being shattered in that same way. Thank you for your support today. Together, we're honoring my brother and everyone who's been killed by gun violence by taking action to build a safer world for all kids."

Our SAJE teens in grades 8-12 (Social Action as Jewish Education) have studied gun violence prevention this semester along with their teachers, Jamie, Gerry, Rabbi Reiner and me. We have had speakers talk with them from several organizations—but it was when Natalie and her friend Danielle Johnson, both high school students in Newtown, spoke to our group that it meant the most. They are examples of teen advocates... kids who are truly making a difference and changing the world. We donated \$100 of our school tzedakah funds to the Newtown Foundation and the same

amount to Sandy Hook Promise in their honor. These funds will help the teens travel to D.C. to attend the annual memorial held at the cathedral there—as well as visit the offices of CT legislators to beg for change.

Recently at one of our classes, we held a live Facetime call with Rabbi Brad Boxman of Kol Tikva in Parkland, FL. He spoke for over thirty minutes and told about his community's tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S. which killed seventeen. He personally buried two teens who were Jewish. His synagogue

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**Gregory, Molly, & Amy**

became a true sanctuary that tragic day when teens who became B-Mitzvah there, now ran for shelter since the temple was close to their school in which they were escaping. Our teens, with the help of Cantor Debbie, will design, create and send a handmade tallit to Rabbi Boxman's temple to be leant to those in that community in need of extra healing. They have amassed eight tallitot so far—some made by campers at URJ Camp Coleman in nearby Georgia. It will be a real honor to deliver this tallit to that community and we hope RS teacher, Gerry Hecht, will have a chance to do that in person as he has a personal friendship with Rabbi Boxman.

Rabbi Boxman told the governor of his state-- at a meeting held in his temple office that these teens (some of the same students who organized and held the March For Our Lives Rally in March) that these kids were like a train coming through-- and that if he didn't

get on board with their agenda, the train would run right past and over him. He was proud to share that metaphor with our students. Those teens are hoping for new laws that address the issue of mandatory background checks and making assault weapons designed for military use-- illegal. Our teens agree. We welcome everyone to learn more about our SAJE program and encourage newcomers at any time. Through social action, community service projects and Jewish education, our school's teens are taking the call to action seriously.

## *“Good News!”*

*Jeff and Margie Gorelick are delighted to announce the birth of their third grandchild, Eve Leah, who was born on November 20, 2019 in New York City. Eve's parents, Marc and Elana Sehgal are so excited about the arrival of their new baby girl. Eve weighed in at 6 pounds 10 ounces. Mom and baby Eve are both doing well.*



## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

***THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY; WHO WAS THE LAST MAN STANDING?***

By Lewis Siegel

**INTRODUCTION**

In religious school, like everyone else, I learned about the Hanukkah story. Judas Maccabeus' army drove Antiochus Epiphanes IV and his Greek (Seleucid) army, out of Jerusalem after the Seleucids desecrated the Temple. The Temple was restored and the oil, which was only enough for one day, lasted eight days. (actually, the miracle of the oil story was probably not known until it was found in the Babylonian Talmud about 700 years later). But I never learned what happened in the years after. It wasn't until later in life that I became curious about that epoch in Jewish history. What I found was that the period from 164 BCE to 37 BCE was a chapter in Jewish history that made me feel very uncomfortable. I had reservations writing about it, because it was a turbulent historical period with violence between Jews, and particularly within families. After considerable thought, I decided to go ahead and present that period of Jewish history as I believed it actually occurred, along with its many blemishes.

**Here is a skeletal outline of what happened after the restoration of the Temple.**

Judas was killed in battle about five years after he restored the Temple. The Seleucids regrouped and regained control of Jerusalem. For the next 125 years or so, control of the Jewish state (Judea\*\*) alternated respectively between the Seleucids and the Jews together, the Jews alone, the Romans and the Jews together, and finally the Romans alone. It ended in 37 BCE, when Herod became ruler of Judea.

**DETAILS OF THE STORY,**

Judas Maccabeus was the son of Mattathias and one of five brothers. After his father died, Judas led an army into Jerusalem in 167 BCE to drive out the Seleucids (who had desecrated the Temple and prohibited the practice of Judaism). After three years of warfare, the Seleucids were finally driven out. Judas restored the Temple and became ruler of the Jewish people from 164 to 160 BCE. However, the Seleucids re-fortified and attacked again. Judas was killed in battle, and the Seleucids took control of Judea. It was now up to Judas' surviving brothers, Jonathan and Simon, to regain the land for the Jewish people. The other brothers, Johanan and Eleazer had been killed in earlier battles.

**Let's Make a Deal**

Jonathan had hopes of recapturing Jerusalem and becoming High Priest and Ruler, but he needed help. He built up his forces to the extent that he was able to make an alliance with the Seleucid ruler, Demetrius, who also thought it advantageous to have the Jewish forces on his side. So, they combined armies, and peacefully coexisted for the next six years (but Jonathan still had no autonomy over the Jewish people). In 147 BCE, a rival of Demetrius,

Alexander Balas, came forth to claim leadership of the Seleucids. A battle ensued between Demetrius and Balas. Demetrius was defeated, and Balas enticed Jonathan to join forces with him. Balas allowed Jonathan to be appointed High Priest of Judea. Jonathan remained in that position for about five years until the son of Demetrius, Demetrius II, arose and claimed to be the true Seleucid leader. Jonathan remained on the side of Balas, but when Demetrius II defeated Balas in a civil war, Jonathan tried to switch sides. But it was too late. Demetrius II had Jonathan killed, his two sons captured, and the family were never heard from again.

**Let's Make a Deal; Next Man Up**

After Jonathan was killed, Simon thought it would be beneficial to join Demetrius II, in spite of what happened to his brother. Demetrius II was happy to have Simon and his forces on his side, and appointed Simon High Priest and ruler of Judea. Simon ruled until 135 BCE, until another tragedy occurred. He and two of his sons were assassinated by his son-in-law.

**The Hasmoneans have arrived**

At this point in time, all of the sons of Mattathias had been killed. Simon was the first of a series of Jewish leaders, some of whom had the dual role of High Priest and political ruler. That chain of Jewish leaders became known as the Hasmonean Dynasty. The dynasty lasted until 37 BCE. Why the name Hasmonean? It was believed to have been derived from Asmoneus, the great grandfather of Mattathias.

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## **A New Hasmonean Ruler Arises**

Around 135 BCE the Seleucid Empire was showing signs of disintegrating. At the same time, the surviving son of Simon, John Hyrcanus, amassed an army. Without opposition, he assumed the position of ruler and high priest of Judea. He wanted to expand his territory, and during his 25 years as ruler he conquered Transjordan, Samaria, Galilee and Idumea. The importance of Idumea was that it was Idumea where he forcefully converted the entire population to Judaism. It was also to be the homeland of Herod the Great, who would later become King of Judea. Unlike his predecessors, John Hyrcanus died of natural causes.

## **I Can't believe What He Did**

John Hyrcanus expected his wife to succeed him as ruler and his eldest son, Aristobulus, to become High Priest. Aristobulus, however, had other plans. He immediately imprisoned his mother, who eventually died in prison. He also imprisoned three of his brothers and killed a fourth brother (who had been his ally). In 103 BCE, He died of a painful illness after only one year as ruler. Aristobulus' wife Salome (the humane one in the family), released the three brothers from prison, and married one of them, Alexandre Jannaeus. He became the new ruler of Judea.

## **He Was as Bad as his Brother, Maybe Worse**

Alexandre Jannaeus wanted to expand Judea also, so he conquered Gaza and the city of Acre in 94 BCE. He had an affinity for Hellenist culture and rituals, but had little knowledge of Jewish rituals. While he attempted to perform a ritual for Sukkot in front of a large crowd of people, he erroneously poured water over his feet instead of on the Altar. The crowd mocked him unmercifully, and in retaliation (according to the Jewish historian Josephus, who lived in the first century CE), he had the entire group of people who mocked him, killed. Alexandre Jannaeus also put to death other individuals whom he perceived to be rebellious of his leadership. He died in the year 76 BCE and his kingdom was left to his wife Salome Alexandre. She formed an army, fortified cities of the kingdom, and even established a Sanhedrin as a Supreme Court, and before she died in 67 BCE, appointed her son Hyrcannus II as successor. Hyrcanus II reigned for only three months when his brother, Aristobulus II formed an army of followers, captured the temple, forced his brother to surrender his rulership, and claimed the throne of Judea for himself. He ruled until 63 BCE.

## **It's 63 BCE, The Romans Are Coming; The Background**

Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey became a triumvirate of Roman generals during the first century BCE. Crassus was killed in a war with the Parthian Empire based in Persia. Caesar and Pompey formed a loose alliance which became tighter when Pompey married Caesar's daughter. That friendship ended when she died in childbirth along with her newborn. The alliance was over and the two generals became enemies.

Pompey invaded Judea in 63 BCE, but he allowed the Judean state to continue with local autonomy, maybe, because he was pre-occupied with other warfare. Pompey did have Hyrcanus II reinstated on the throne because Hyrcanus II was weaker than his brother Aristobulus II, and less likely to start a rebellion against Rome. Aristobulus II was shipped to Rome as a prisoner, while Hyrcanus II ruled Judea until about 40 BCE.

## **Antigonus II Mattathias, Herod and the End of the Hasmonean Dynasty**

After the deaths of Pompey in 48 BCE and Caesar in 44 BCE, Antigonus II Mattathias, the son of Aristobulus II, formed an army, established an alliance with the Parthians (from Persia), and conquered Jerusalem. He ended the rulership of his uncle Hyrcanus II, by savagely injuring him and sent him off to live in Babylonia. Antigonus became ruler and High Priest. However, the Roman Senate had intended to appoint Herod, King of Judea in 40 BCE, but fighting broke out between the forces of Antigonus and a Roman army led by Herod. Herod defeated Antigonus in a war that lasted three years. Antigonus was executed, and Herod ruled Judea from 37 BCE until his death in 4 BCE.

Thus, ended the Hasmonean Dynasty in 37 BCE. It lasted 103 years. Perhaps the one positive thing about the Hasmonean Dynasty was that it was the only period in Jewish history between 586 BCE and 1948 CE, that the Jewish people had autonomy over their own land.

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**SO, WHO WAS THE LAST MAN STANDING? IT HAD TO BE HEROD.** He ruled Judea for 33 years and died of natural causes.

## FINAL NOTES

### 1. How did Herod Become King of Judea?

Herod was raised as a Jew. He was the son of Antipater, an Idumean, who converted to Judaism during the forceful conversions imposed by John Hyrcanus. Antipater was an artful politician who became an assistant to the later Hasmonean rulers. More importantly, Antipater formed an army and provided military support for Julius Caesar when he was fighting a battle in Alexandria. That endeared him to the Romans and probably helped him convince the Roman Senate to appoint his son Herod to become ruler of Judea. In addition, Herod already had achieved political status as Governor of Galilee for a number of years.

### 2. The Complexity of the Story

The detailed story of the Hasmonean Dynasty was more complex than shown here. There were more individuals involved and more detailed events. Nevertheless, while making an effort to weed out much of what (I believe) was extraneous material, I tried to present the story concisely without leaving out essential information, or distorting its fundamental accuracy.

#### References:

1. Elon Gilad; Meet the Hamoneans: A Brief History of a Violent Epoch; Haaretz, December, 2014
2. Hasmonean Dynasty; Encyclopedia Judaica
3. Maccabees, Books I and II; New Jerusalem Bible
4. Hasmonean Dynasty; Wikipedia
5. Kenneth Atkinson; A History of the Hasmonean State, Josephus and Beyond; Bloomsbury Publishing  
This book may be the most complete and detailed account of the Hasmonean Dynasty

\*\* Judea was the name of the Jewish State used during the Greek and Roman period as a variation of Judah. The name Judea lasted until 135 CE, when the Roman emperor Hadrian, probably because of his dislike of Jews, changed the name to Provincia Syria Palestina (later Anglicized to Palestine), in memory of the Philistines.

*“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.*



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kate Alvarez  
 Jamie Aries  
 Ike Axler  
 Lisa Baran  
 Sofia Barth  
 Gabriela Barth  
 Jordana Bellows  
 Talia Bender  
 Rachel Bender  
 Katie Berman  
 Gale Berman  
 Cecelia Bersch  
 Andrew Blum  
 Michelle Blum  
 Noah Broder  
 Lawrence Brooks  
 Miles Campagna  
 Robyn Cohen  
 Karen Conti  
 Pamela Corrie  
 Lauren Crow  
 Serafima Dashevskaya  
 Austin Deutsch  
 Landon Deutsch  
 Rachel Dewar  
 Allison Dietzek  
 Regan Dufner  
 Ryan Edson  
 Beverly Friedenrich  
 Eric Friedenrich  
 Resa Fremed  
 Samson Friedman  
 Christina Gogish  
 Jeffrey Gorelick  
 Brian Graham  
 James Haber  
 Ian Harris  
 Wes Higgins  
 Betsy Higgins  
 Gregory Hoffman  
 Asher Kahn  
 Marla Kay

Sara Kay  
 Kimberly Knispel  
 Rosalind Kopfstein  
 Anne Kupferschmid  
 Kenneth Kurzweil  
 Eric Kutscher  
 Martin Kutscher  
 Charlotte Landzberg  
 Deborah Landzberg  
 Ellen Lipton  
 Jordan Lipton  
 Jennifer Litwin  
 Aron Hirt-Manheimer  
 Richard Mishkin  
 Sophie Needleman  
 Bonnie Pazer  
 Alexander Rich  
 Lillian Roberts  
 Sandra Rosenhouse  
 Stacey Rubinfeld  
 Michael Salpeter  
 Rona Salpeter  
 Brice Scanlon  
 Micah Schechter  
 Marjorie Schiff  
 Annabel Schwartz  
 Judith Shapiro  
 Arielle Shaplen  
 Lewis Siegel  
 Traci Silva  
 Doug Slater  
 Brett Stein  
 Jason Stein  
 Suzanne Sunday  
 Riannah Wallach  
 Roy Weinstein  
 Charlie Yolen  
 Victoria Yolen  
 Joey Zimmerman

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Aleman  
 Elizabeth Amerling  
 Sadie Baran  
 Karina Barth  
 Jane Bendor  
 Blake Berg  
 Lowell Berg  
 Joshua Blum  
 Rebecca Brand  
 Evan Brenner  
 Carrie Broder  
 Pearla Brown  
 Jeffrey Burns  
 Jeff Butchen  
 Jennifer Carter  
 Ellie Carter  
 Daylin Chess  
 Theodore Cox  
 Eliza Crow  
 Alexander Cross  
 Ross Davis  
 Julie deLange  
 Danielle Dietzek  
 Alan Dietzek  
 Andrew Dufner  
 Victoria Friedman  
 Leah Friedman  
 Ilya Gogish  
 Margie Gorelick  
 Cantor Katchko-Gray  
 Kylee Harris  
 Skyler Harris  
 Iliana Hellinger  
 Jacob Hellinger

Drew Hoffman  
 Lauren Hubsher  
 Sierra Hubsher  
 Willow Hubsher  
 Asher Hughes  
 Caleb Kaufman  
 Hanna Kurtz  
 Jacob Lash  
 Lauren Leong  
 Catherine Lipper  
 Andrew Lipton  
 Robi Margolis  
 David Margulies  
 Alexander Mathias  
 Jennifer Mayer  
 Oliver Moore  
 Joseph Niola  
 Charlotte Omin  
 Sophie Omin  
 Nora Perry  
 Aviva Salpeter  
 Jason Samuels  
 Joel Segalman  
 Jacqueline Sherling  
 Elliot Sherling  
 Spencer Shore  
 Rebecca Stadlen  
 Pia Vandervelden  
 Zachary Waldman  
 Max Wasserman  
 Michael Wein  
 Margaret Weissmann  
 Laurie Wolkin  
 Ezra Zimmerman

## January and February Anniversaries

Karl & Barbara Brodsky  
 Arthur Jureller & Rena Bruckman  
 Isia & Veronika Bursuker  
 Allan & Alice Gottlieb  
 Todd & Karen Kipnes  
 Marcus & Tamar Mathias  
 Ronald & Barbara Ripps  
 Jon & Eve Zibel



## JANUARY YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, January 3rd, 2020**

Peter Aries father of Richard Aries  
 Ernest Elkin father of Stephanie Herbstman  
 Seymour Eslofsky father of Ellen Barth  
 Bernard Gorman father of Martin Gorman  
 Billie Kaserman mother of Wendy Meyer  
 Martin Lipton father of Richard Lipton  
 Helen Milrod mother of Marion Milrod  
 Naomi Price aunt of Terry Henry  
 Jacob Schneider grandfather of Margie Gorelick

Seymour Berman  
 Pearl Elkin  
 Eli Gorelick  
 Jean Kaplan  
 Helene Kutscher  
 Renee Miller  
 Michael Mishkin  
 Helen Rosenblatt  
 Bernard Shuler

father of Michael Berman  
 grandmother of Stephanie Herbstman  
 father of Jeff Gorelick  
 grandmother of Susannah Altman  
 mother of Martin Kutscher  
 mother of Linda Hirschfeld  
 father of Richard Mishkin  
 aunt of Cheryl Chess  
 father of Robi Margolis

**Friday, January 10th, 2020**

Tillie Becker grandmother of Lynn Becker  
 Penny Binstock relative of Moreton Binn  
 Ruth-Ann Brofsky sister in law of Kupferschmid family  
 Yetta Goldberg mother of Jacob Goldberg  
 Sanford Kessler father of Ronni Hammer  
 Priscilla Levy mother of Marla Kay  
 Bernard Raider  
 Louis Steinhorn grandfather of Karen Conti

Joan Berg  
 Rhoda Brand  
 Helene Fuchs  
 Roslyn Harris  
 Joan Landzberg  
 Arthur Penzel  
 Shirley Schwartz  
 Ruth Davis

mother of Jeff Berg  
 mother of Michael Brand  
 grandmother of Hanky Kutscher  
 mother of Ian Harris  
 mother of Steve Landzberg  
 father of Lesly Burns  
 grandmother of Lisa Kurtz  
 mother of Suzanne Sunday

**Friday, January 17th, 2020**

Sol Baer father of Lawrence Baer  
 Herschell Chanin father of Carrie Chanin  
 Solomon Fremed father of Charles Fremed  
 Theodore Garfiel grandfather of Karen Blum  
 Julius Hubsher father of Jeffrey Hubsher  
 Bernard Schwartz grandfather of Lisa Kurtz  
 Herbert Zieselman father of Judi Stooenke

Allan Blumstein  
 Sharon Eisberg  
 Muriel Fried  
 Morris Geller  
 Eugene Kahn  
 Steven Zeitlin

father of Eve Zibel  
 mother of Tiffany Zezula  
 aunt of Lonnie Shapiro  
 grandfather of Jamie Garrett  
 father of Leslie Gottlieb  
 brother of Ianne Poushter

**Friday, January 24th, 2020**

Stella Baker grandmother of Carlyn Bergman  
 Oliver Cohlman Hughes grandson of Rick and Bobbie Cohlman  
 son of Tyler and Hillary Hughes  
 Nancy Ellis wife of Joseph Ellis  
 Aaron Gordon brother of Elaine Gordon  
 Martin Levenson grandfather of Karen Brenner  
 Joseph Mirkin father of Judith Strom  
 Susan Pleener sister in law of Liz Winson  
 Norma Zucker mother of Bobbie Cohlman

Douglas Birdsall  
 Arthur Edelman

father of Emily Wein  
 father of Sally Slater

Ruth Glaser  
 Kenneth Greenberg  
 Abraham Mirkin  
 Cal Mishkoff  
 Lawrence Raynor

mother of Laura Agisim  
 husband of Barbara Safran  
 grandfather of Judith Strom  
 uncle of Joan Isman

**Friday, January 31st, 2020**

William Drucker father of Janine Gordon  
 Joy Ginsberg mother of Jamie Garrett  
 Fred Greenberg father of Adrienne Orlan  
 Hannah Hirt mother of Judy Hirt-Manheimer  
 Ruth Kahn mother of Leslie Gottlieb  
 Nathan Kaplan grandfather of Susannah Altman  
 Jesse Kaye uncle of Dianna Friedlander  
 Philip Levens father of David Levens  
 Marcy Daniels  
 Benjamin Rothberg cousin of Judith Strom  
 Lauren Finster friend of Susan Bard  
 Albert Strom father of Robert Strom  
 Anna Weintraub grandmother of Karen Gerard  
 Jack Wetchler father of Richard Wetchler

Judith Eydenberg  
 Adolph Goldner  
 Diana Hirt  
 Saul Jacobs  
 Jacob Kaplan  
 Sarah Katz  
 Edward Kleinbaum  
 Norman Levitt  
 Irma Lowy  
 Fanny Siegel  
 Arthur Stöll  
 Bernard Wallach  
 Cary Wellington

mother of Susan Westlake  
 father of Leonard Goldner  
 sister of Judy Hirt-Manheimer  
 father of Alan Jacobs  
 grandfather of Steve Kaye  
 mother of Claire Katz  
 grandfather of Stacey Rubinfeld  
 father of Bonnie Dietzek  
 grandmother of Terry Henry  
 mother of Lewis Siegel  
 father of Susan Andrade  
 father in law of Margery Wallach  
 father of Brad, Abby, & Ben Wellington



## FEBRUARY YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, February 7th, 2020**

Hannah Drucker grandmother of Janine Gordon  
 Betty Mirkin aunt of Judith Strom  
 David Siegel father of Lewis Siegel

Theodore Mallon  
 Michael Robinson  
 Jeannette Walker

father of Linda Krul  
 relative of Moreton Binn  
 mother of Jay Walker

**Friday, February 14th, 2020**

Carole Alexander mother of Neil Alexander  
 Gregory Davis son of Elyse Davis  
 Reveka Gogish grandmother of Ilya Gogish  
 Stephen Margolis husband of Robi Margolis  
 Joseph Rosenhouse father of Harry Rosenhouse  
 Morris Rymberg uncle of Judith Strom  
 William Shoff grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher  
 Millicent Stark mother of Andrew Stark  
 Brett Winson husband of Liz Winson

Max Banner  
 William Frankel  
 Charlene Lavin  
 Mark Pekersky  
 Hubert Ryan  
 Norman Sage  
 Diane Silverman  
 Rose Vayda  
 Benjamin Wishod

father of Barbara Brodsky  
 grandfather of Scott Brenner  
 mother of Mark Lavin  
 father of Luda Samuels  
 father of Eve Siegel  
 father of Robyn Cohen  
 grandmother of Margulies family  
 relative of Moreton Binn  
 father of Gene Wishod

**Friday, February 21st, 2020**

Thelma Apel grandmother of Valerie Rich  
 Arthur Brown father of Michael Brown  
 Lucille Colville mother in law of Ronni Rosenstein  
 Sandra Elkin mother of Stephanie Herbstman  
 John Grzymala father of John Grzymala  
 Eric Morley father of Larry Morley  
 Anna Shapiro grandmother of Laurie Dubin  
 Burt Yolen father of David Yolen

Cantor Kerry Ben-David  
 Marvin Burg  
 Mollie Darvick  
 Robert Felper  
 Emelie Howard  
 Sam Munsart  
 Rose Shoff

husband of Batyah Ben-David  
 brother of Judith Besserman  
 mother of Murray Darvick  
 grandfather of Margie Gorelick  
 uncle of Joan Isman  
 grandmother of Jeffrey Hubsher

**Friday, February 28th, 2020**

Blanche Agisim mother of Elliot Agisim  
 Abraham Berlin father of Ruth Ossher  
 Alex Gelbart father of Mindy Hoffman  
 Gloria Katz mother of JoAnn Gorman  
 Norman Lash father of Joseph Lash  
 Irving Reichenthal father of Sandra Rosenhouse  
 Max Schenk stepfather of Allan Gottlieb  
 Edward Shade uncle of Diana Friedlander  
 Morton Tucker

Bernard Baker  
 Vivienne Bruckman  
 Marcelle Goldstein  
 Sydney Kopfstein  
 Freda Manus  
 Rose Robinson  
 Rose Schneider  
 Nancy Sherter  
 Rae Weissman

father of Carlyn Bergman  
 stepmother of Rena Bruckman  
 cousin of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia  
 father of Allen Kopfstein  
 mother of Rhonda Manus  
 relative of Moreton Binn  
 grandmother of Margie Gorelick  
 mother of Craig Sherter  
 aunt of Diana Friedlander

## Condolences-

To the family of Jon Stockel, on the death of Jon's father, Stanley Stockel, z"l.

To the family of Leslie Gottlieb, on the death of Leslie's uncle, Paul Einberg, z"l.

To the family of Jason Mayer, on the death of Jason's mother, Leslie Mayer, z"l.

To the family of Joh Stockel, on the death of Jon's mother, Leila Stockel, z"l.

To the family of Jeff Butchen, on the death of Jeff's father, Jerry Butchen, z"l.

To the family of David Fiderer, on the death of his father in law, Murray Jacobs, z"l.

To the family of Ian Harris, on the death of Ian's father, P. Jay Harris, z"l.

To the family of Barbara Heller, on the death of Barbara's father, Samuel Richman, z"l.

*May their memory be for a blessing.*

**Relax** your body,  
**calm** your mind,  
**renew** your spirit...

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

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JANUARY 2020

TEVET/SHEVAT 5780

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 No ECC No Religious School	2 No ECC	3 No ECC 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	4
5 9am-12pm-Religious School	6 9:15 am- ECC	7 9:15 am- ECC	8 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm-Religious School 7:30pm- Book Club	9 No ECC 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	10 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	11
12 9am-12pm-Religious School 11:15am-12noon RS Sunday Social	13 9:15 am- ECC	14 9:15 am- ECC	15 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm-Religious School	16 No ECC 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	17 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm- Tot Shabbat 7:00 pm-MLK Spiritu- als Shabbat	18
19 No Religious School	20 No ECC Building Closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday	21 9:15 am- ECC	22 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm-Religious School	23 No ECC 12 noon: Lunch & Learn "Judgimg Others Fairly" 7-9 pm- Mah Jong	24 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	25
26 9am-12pm-Religious School 3:00 pm- Adult Programming "Bob Dylan's Jewish Music"	27 9:15 am- ECC	28 9:15 am- ECC	29 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm-Religious School	30 No ECC 7-9 pm Mah Jong	31 9:15 am ECC 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	



FEBRUARY 2020

SHEVAT/ADAR 5780

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:00am-12 noon- Religious School Family Ed- grade 5, model wedding	3 9:15 am- ECC	4 9:15 am- ECC	5 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm- Religious School 7:30pm- Book Club	6 No ECC 7:00 pm- Mah Jong	7 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship w/ 4th grade participating	8 10:00 am- Shabbat morning "Music & Meditation" service. Luncheon to follow
9 9:00am-12 noon- Religious School-	10 9:15 am- ECC	11 9:15 am- ECC	12 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm- Religious School	13 No ECC 7:00 pm- Mah Jong	14 No ECC 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	15
16 No Religious School	17 No ECC Building closed for Presidents' Day	18 No ECC	19 9:15 am- ECC 4:15-6pm- Religious School	20 No ECC 7:00 pm- Mah Jong	21 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	22
23 9:00am-12 noon- Religious School- 11:15-12noon RS Sunday Social	24 9:15 am- ECC	25 9:15 am- ECC	26 9:15 am- ECC	27 No ECC 7:00 pm- Mah Jong	28 9:15 am- ECC 11:30 am- Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm- Tot Shab- bat 2.0 6:00 pm- Congre- gational Dinner 7:30 - Shabbat Across America w/ Mark Fineberg	29

## Congregation Shir Shalom presents: "Bob Dylan's Jewish Music" with Rabbi Stephen Karol



The great singer-songwriter Bob Dylan is Jewish and his music reflects Jewish culture and Biblical references. Rabbi Karol will discuss and play You Tubes of Dylan's music.

*Rabbi Karol is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook, NY. He is the author of "Finding Hope and Faith in the Face of Death: Insights of a Rabbi and Mourner" and will sell and sign his book.*

**Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 3 PM**

*Dylan inspired refreshments will be served.*

Donation \$10

Let us know you are coming by emailing [AdultProgramming@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:AdultProgramming@OurShirShalom.org)



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Website: [www.ourshirshalom.org](http://www.ourshirshalom.org)



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