



## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nov 6	6:00 pm	Consecration and Camp Shabbat Worship (please join us to welcome new RS students)	Dec 4	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Nov 7	9:00 am	Torah 101	Dec 5	9:00 am	Torah 101
Nov 13	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat (online) Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	Dec 6	9:30 am	Annual Meeting
Nov 20	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship V'Shamru-a-Thon	Dec 10		Chanukah begins at Sundown
Nov 21	9:00am 10:30 am	Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Worship: Bar Mitzvah, Benjamin Kalish	Dec 11	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat (online) Chanukah Shabbat Worship- Special Music for Chanukah
Nov 22	3:00 pm	Author visit on Zoom	Dec 12	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship: Bat Mitzvah, Nina Gitlitz
Nov 27	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	Dec 18	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Halleluya-a-Thon
			Dec 19	9:00am	Torah 101
			Dec 25	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship



## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



I am grateful for so much positive feedback in response to the High Holy Days and appreciate that our sacred community was able to feel connected in meaningful ways, even if we were not able to share hugs and shake hands in the same physical space. It was special to share the same spiritual space for a few hours and both celebrate and observe the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur and take time away from the stresses of daily life. Many in our sacred community shared how much they enjoyed participating in our worship from the comfort of home, a back porch or living room couch, still surrounded by loved ones, and able to find meaning in prayer in new ways.

Congregation Shir Shalom was an outlier among Reform congregations in proceeding with live-streamed worship with opportunities to participate in-person. Most colleagues pre-recorded worship or had full service production companies. We hoped that people in our sacred community would feel more connected if they were able to see each

other live and interact during worship. Our worship may not have been quite as crisp and polished (and we certainly exceeded the goal for service length that I had planned/hoped), and many have shared how much they appreciated the spontaneity of our worship and how it helped them feel more connected.

Planning and executing our High Holy Days was a significant undertaking and I am grateful to so many for their important work. While our texts and traditions have endured and evolved over thousands of years, the High Holy Days this year were something of a blank slate, and we were able to approach tradition with an eye towards innovation. Cantor Debbie was a wonderful clergy partner throughout the process and I am truly blessed to have partnered with her for so many years as well as this year, and I missed sharing the bimah with her during services. We knew that High Holy Days worship would look different this year, and the beautiful, heartfelt, and uplifting liturgical music Cantor Debbie recorded (which you can presently watch or listen to on OurShirShalom YouTube channel) was a constant sound from years past. We had to unpack and discuss every prayer in every service to decide what to record and what we could skip, recognizing that our services would need to be shorter than in years past. We now have wonderful recordings that are a tribute to her voice and legacy, and I am grateful for her time, energy, and expertise in preparing, practicing, and recording such beautiful music. Our musicians were fantastic as well and we are all grateful for the accompaniment of Gina Wilson on piano, Mark Fineberg on several wind instruments, and Andrew Woodruff (who played cello during Kol Nidrei).

The Worship and Adult Programming Sub-Team of our Re-Opening Task Force helped us identify priorities, goals and a vision for High Holy Days worship, and I am grateful to many who participated with that team including Serafima Dashevskaya, Robi Margolis, Michael Bergman, Dr. Alice Gottlieb, and Jack Goldberg. The chairs of our Ritual Committee, Dr. Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin had double (even triple!) duty, participating in the Task Force/Sub Team meetings as well as Ritual Committee meetings. The Ritual Committee continued to identify priorities, goals, and a vision for the High Holy Days, and began the process of planning and execution, supported by committee members including Michelle Blum, Alan Pilch, Dawn Roberts, Adam Rubinfeld, Marty Weisberg, Joe Ellis, and Scott Trachtenberg. Within the Ritual Committee, a few members took on significant additional tasks and I am grateful to Dawn Roberts for coordinating our Jewish Journeys speakers, Alan Pilch for his work on our Yizkor Memorial Book, Marty Weisberg and Michael Salpeter for their work as High Holy Days ushers, and Michael Salpeter for coordinating Torah and Haftarah readers. Michelle Blum, Dawn Roberts, and Laurie Dubin deserve tremendous appreciation for creating, coordinating and assembling the High Holy Days care packages that were hand delivered to most congregants by members of the Board, Congregants Committee, Ritual Committee, ECC Parents, and more volunteers. Many thanks to our Torah and Haftarah readers: Ellie Carter, Aviva Salpeter, Julie de Lange, Michael Salpeter, Debra Paget, Joe Ellis, Laurence Furic, Noah Rose, Trudy Wood, David Manners-Weber, Eliza Wein, Alan Pilch, and Elaine Gordon. And I am grateful to our active Past Presidents who honored us by holding a Torah for Kol Nidrei: Diana Friedlander, Gale Berman, Lynn Broder, Jean Haddon, Ken Isman, Joan Isman, Karen Taylor, Robi Margolis, Scott Brenner, Steve Landzberg, Terry Henry, Hal Wolkin, Laurie Wolkin; our current president (and future past president!), Larry Hoffman; our emeritus Rabbi Jon Haddon (not a past president, but certainly worthy of holding a Torah!); as well as our other active past presidents: Sheila Perrin, Alan Pilch, Jack Goldberg, and Polly Schnell.

The Re-Opening Task Force Core Team met frequently during the summer to discuss and determine how we could accommodate in-person worship in addition to live-streamed worship during the High Holy Days and beyond and I am grateful for the tireless efforts of the Sub Team Chairs who comprised the Task Force: Dr. Emily Wein (Youth Programs Sub Team), Dr. David Pazer (Medical Advisory Sub Team), as well as Larry Hoffman (President of Congregation Shir Shalom) and Dr. Terry Henry (Executive VP of our Congregation) – Larry and Terry also worked with the Chair of our Housing Committee, Hal Wolkin, to ensure that appropriate cleaning plans were in place.

## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK CONT.

A few people in our sacred community with specific, relevant expertise offered solicited advice in helping with some of the technical audio and visual aspects of what became a production. I am grateful to Heather and Jeff Butchen and Warren Lustig for preliminary advice. Jill Teich of Hal Prince Music and Entertainment was patient in hearing our vision and connecting us with several vendors who could assist with execution, using her industry connections, and helping us understand options (and budget!). Our “product” (if we can call worship a product!) was produced after many hours of consultations and consideration of many scenarios (we even looked into renting a massive tent!), and Jill offered us tremendous support along the way. Jill also connected me with Andrew Stein Videography, which worked very well. From home you may not have seen that our Sanctuary was transformed into a temporary broadcasting studio with multiple cameras, monitors, microphones, and computers which enabled us to both live-stream worship with congregants participating from the Sanctuary. Andrew Stein and Jon Bonci (our A/V production team) were excellent to work with and (from what was shared with me) the prayer experience from home was engaging and meaningful without technology becoming a source of distraction. The unseen technological know how required for a smooth worship service experience was significant, and I will spare you the details. Andrew and Jon were a great team from operating cameras to sound to playing the correct prayer recording at the right time. Thank you also to Adam Sussman who spliced cables to bring internet into the Sanctuary and constructed our Sukkah!

Julie de Lange, who grew up at Congregation Shir Shalom, was a fantastic part of our broadcast/production team, and our worship would not have been possible without her. I am still trying to define Julie's title: Zoom host, technical advisor, visual prayer accompanist, worship producer, etc. From college, Julie helped run our Zoom worship, answering questions from congregants and offering technical assistance, making sure that everyone was muted, controlling the “spotlight” when we wanted other congregants on screen, and advancing the prayer slides so people without prayer books could follow along and find meaning in our ancient words of prayer.

Our staff played a critical role in planning, implementing, and communicating our plans and creating online opportunities for processing registrations and donations, and I am grateful to our Administrator, Laura Morris, our Controller, Lori Stalowicz, and our E-Communications Director, Sasha Schroeder. My assistant, Allyson Bellio, deserves a tremendous amount of credit as well for her assistance with scheduling, planning, and so much more, which allowed me to focus on rabbinical responsibilities. Our Religious School Director, Leslie Gottlieb, helped prepare our Religious School families for a meaningful High Holy Days (and helped coordinate with the Social Action Committee for our annual food drive) and our ECC Director, Sarah Denyer, helped get our ECC families excited. Attendance at our Tot Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was tremendous and it was great to see so many families and children socially distancing during our outdoor service – a great opportunity for future growth.

On a more personal note, I want to thank and acknowledge Aron Hirt-Manheimer, editor-at-large of the Union for Reform Judaism, a knowledgeable and skilled editor, who has helped edit my sermons for several years. There was no shortage of sermon topics this year, and Aron's wisdom and insight helped me create sermons that were relevant, timely, and less than fourteen minutes, for the most part! I should also mention Aron's wife, Judy, who offered wisdom and advice drawn from years of working with children, as I wrote The Truth Fairy.

I am grateful to my father and his wife, Susan, for their support and insight and feedback in response to sermons and other plans, as well as my father's participation with a recorded message shown during our Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidrei Worship.

And last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to my family for their patience and support throughout the months leading up to the High Holy Days. Samson and Asher inspired a few sermons along the way and helped keep me busy during any of the few moments of “downtime” I had along the way. And Ashley, who was patient and supportive for many months, somehow managing her career, professional responsibilities, and caring for a one year old and five year old, while also making time to help me prepare and pare down services. WOW.

I am sure that I left someone off this list that ended up longer than any sermon I delivered this year. May we all continue to find comfort, strength, and inspiration in our sacred community, and health and joy in this new year!

Rabbi David L. Reiner

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Larry Hoffman

**Random Acts of Kindness**

As we wind down this historic year and election time is upon us I vote for a large dose of random acts of kindness and civility by all the members of our community to close out this very difficult year. I cannot think of a better gift for each of us to share, given everything we have all collectively gone through these last eight months. We are all painfully aware of the variety of challenges, health issues, and disruptions in our routines and civil unrest that have swept through our community and our country. Now it seems to me is a good time to pivot and let's all go out of our way to treat everyone we meet a little better and with some added kindness.

Call a friend you have not spoken to in a long time and when you do take the time to really listen; you might just be surprised what you learn and how good it feels to reconnect. Buy someone flowers unexpectedly. Thank a teacher or a dedicated police officer or a health care worker you don't know well for their unwavering commitment. Smile a bit more and say Thank You a little louder. Friend that friend on Facebook you have somehow managed to ignore for way too long. Find a way, even if difficult, to have a civil discourse if the topic is politics in America. Be extra patient with those you love.

In regards to saying Thank You I would be remiss not to say a special thanks to all of our congregants who supported our High Holiday and Yom Kippur fundraising efforts, your generosity is vital to our community and greatly appreciated. My desire is that we all find a way to end this year with a renewed sense of hope and optimism for a brighter future and that our sacred community acts as a bright light and shining example of how to treat our friends and neighbors with an extra dose of kindness.

Warm Regards,

Larry Hoffman  
[President@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:President@OurShirShalom.org)

## CANTOR'S CORNER

## CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY



Kol Nidre is one of the most sacred musical experiences of the year in Jewish worship. It is solemn and awesome; the music is powerful. The cantor has a responsibility to represent the community and uplift them through his or her voice. It is the one prayer I have had extreme anxiety over, due to the pressure I feel to make it just right. I remember years ago coughing and clearing my throat so often right before, when I began to sing I had even more to overcome! As I get older, the anxiety is less, but the awesomeness increases with age and perspective.

It would have felt neglectful of my duties as cantor to play a recording of my father singing the Kol Nidre up until this year. For 40 years I have chanted Kol Nidre with my father's voice in my head. This year, with the creativity of Zoom, pre-recordings, videos shared, it was not a crazy idea to play my father singing the Kol Nidre as one of the three chanted. Luckily my wonderful Rabbi David Reiner loved the idea. His father Rabbi Fred Reiner is an esteemed rabbi, and he often shares his father's wisdom, bringing him into our worship experience.

The music of this Kol Nidre was composed by my grandfather, Cantor Adolph Katchko. He wrote music that is still taught to cantors worldwide, bringing traditional modes and text together. His publication of "A Cantorial Thesaurus" was hailed by Hebrew Union College in the early 1950's as the first cantorial book of traditional but original melodies using Jewish modes of nusach as its base. When I was a young girl I thought he wrote Jewish music. I thought he wrote everything. I would say to someone, my grandfather wrote a lot of Jewish music, ever hear this? I would start to sing the opening notes of Kol Nidre, and they would say, "Wow! I've definitely heard that!" Of course, every Kol Nidre starts that way, as the sacred melody is considered Mi Sinai, from Mount Sinai, a select group of melodies traditional and considered especially holy.

My father's Kol Nidre moves me for many reasons. It was the only time he was in a recording studio. I insisted he and my mother come to a small recording studio in Georgetown, CT to record a few gems I loved. I had just recorded my first CD in 1994. Both my parents had been battling cancer, and I knew this may be my only chance to have a professional recording of them. The studio had a keyboard that had an organ sound- not my mother's preference, but it worked. When I heard the opening chords of hers on Kol Nidre as that recording began, I burst into tears sobbing. It was my mother's hands on that keyboard and I could hear her so clearly. She would pass only two years later in 1996. My father at the time of the recording, had a kidney removed from cancer and a piece of his lung removed from cancer. Having these two major surgeries would impact anyone, especially a singer who needs the abdominal muscles and diaphragm to sing well.

The recording showed little loss of vocal strength, but I knew he had those obstacles to climb, and he was able to sing with the majesty, power and deep conviction of a master cantor. His father told him he had "the voice of a prophet" and his Kol Nidre to me sounded that way. My dear father passed away in 1997 to join my beloved mother.

When I heard Natalie Cole harmonize with her belated father, Nat King Cole in that incredible duet, "Unforgettable," I began to wonder if I could do the same with my beloved father and his studio recordings.

I did my Katchko Three Generations of Cantorial Art recording in 2009, and I knew I should try harmonizing with my father. After all, he was my primary teacher and the music was transmitted to him by his father. This recording was done to show a woman can sound like a traditional cantor and a woman at the same time. I changed many keys to be female friendly and added guitar chords for the liberal cantors. It was thrilling to do a recording of a piece, Ki K'shimcha and include my grandfather as well, bringing three generations of cantors together. I was lucky to find a great studio engineer Paul Avgerinos from Studio Unicorn in Redding, CT. Twelve years after my father passed, I was singing with him in the studio. It continues to be a surreal experience to listen to our voices together, but it is incredibly moving. I am so grateful for the technology that brought us together.

When the Kol Nidre was played during our recent Kol Nidre service I knew it was not the time for a video montage (though I was tempted to show photos of my father as a cantor) because it is ultimately about the prayer, the text and our obligation as cantors to fulfill our duty as Shlichei Tzibor, representatives of our congregation.

Another silver lining from Covid, was that after sobbing nonstop during the Kol Nidre of my father, it was then my turn to do the third Kol Nidre. Luckily it was prerecorded and videoed, so I could pray and recover at the same time.

Thank you to Natalie Cole for the idea of singing with a deceased parent. I am grateful for the opportunity to share his magnificent voice and soul with my congregation. I do believe with a cloud, comes a silver lining. When things return to somewhat normal, I hope to keep this recording as a Kol Nidre offering going forward. May his voice and the glorious music my parents shared with me always be a blessing and an inspiration

Please see Cantor Debbie's blogs including above article at: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/a-kol-nidre-tale-thank-you-natalie-cole/>

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/cantors-and-covid-a-new-fall-phobia/>

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/second-day-rosh-hashanah-a-yartzeit-and-ptsd/>



**Congregation Shir Shalom is happy to welcome new Congregants:**

Allison Sidel and David Minsek and their children, Leah and Adam, from New Milford, CT.

Rebecca and Daniel Darst and their children, Henry and Annabel, from Wilton, CT.

Jessica and Lance Reisch and their children, Eric, Ethan and Emberly from Redding, CT.

We are glad that you have become part of our Congregation Shir Shalom community and we all wish you a warm welcome!

## Ooo Baby, Baby....



Proud parents Vlad and Christina Gogish welcomed their new daughter Ella Rose at 11:01 PM on Sunday, September 13th, 2020. Ella weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 19 inches.

We also congratulate big sister Lila, and Grandmother Serafima Dashevskaya, Uncle Ilya Gogish and dog Toby, who are also thrilled to be enjoying their new sister, granddaughter and niece!



## MAZEL TOV!



## FROM THE CONGREGANT COMMITTEE

### **Wondering what IS the Congregant's Committee and what do they do ?**

We are the former "membership committee" and SO MUCH MORE. We believe that our present congregants and those yet to become congregants are the most important part of our community. We use the word congregants, not members. A congregant reminds us of our sense of belonging to and commitment to Congregation Shir Shalom and to each other. We are not "members" as in "I belong to a country club, a YMHA, a gym, the PTA, etc. " We are so much more.

We are there to support and lift up the work of our congregation. We are there for our own lifecycle events and those of our fellow congregants, we are there to support the Jewish community at large of Northern Westchester and Fairfield County, we are there to show the Jewish presence in these communities. We are there so that we may worship now and with your support there will always be a Jewish place and community.

In order for us all to make our congregation the best it can be we need to provide inspirational services, creative education for children and adults, support during hard times as well as times of joy and all the other aspects of congregational life. We have a professional staff that can provide much of that but not without you getting involved in many of the aspects that so many of our congregants volunteer to do. This is OUR congregation.

Part of what this committee does is answer the call when prospective congregants contact us. We reach out and answer questions about Shir Shalom. We provide a personal touch. We reach out and welcome new congregants and try to match them with a congregant that may live near them, have similar interests or children with similar ages. We look to support our congregants, both our recent and long term congregants with ways to get involved, suggestions, ways to better our congregation and provide a continued way for us all to participate and be a part of the community we call Shir Shalom. We are not only interested in answering the call for prospective congregants , we are interested in how our congregation can best serve ALL its congregants.

Presently our committee is comprised of Jessica Medoff, Christine Gogish, Bobbie Cohan (chair) and Terry Henry (Board liaison). We need you too. Please call or email Bobbie Cohan to hear more about how you can be involved in this committee or the many others that are vital to the running of our congregation.

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

Adult Programming is working hard to bring interesting programs to the congregation. For the time being all programs will run online via Zoom.

Rabbinic Pastor Dr. Aliza Erber returned to Shir Shalom on October 25. As a Rabbinic Pastor, Rabbi Aliza often leads services with various congregations, teaches Biblical courses and speaks on various topics. This time at Shir Shalom she discussed different aspects of the Genesis narrative and why it is important, including the injustices, within the book. In June, we had Dr. Erber for an author talk about the Holocaust and it was a success.

**Jane Stern**, our congregant and renowned author and food, travel and pop culture writer, will present a talk on **Sunday, January 17, 2021** (*Topic TBD*). Details will be sent out soon!

At Cantor Debbie's initiation as part of the Cultural Arts Series she has been bringing to Shir Shalom, we will also host two Author Talks on **November 22, 2020** and **February 7, 2021** in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council and Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County: To register for these Author Talks below, please RSVP by email to: [office@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:office@ourshirshalom.org).

*Zoom registration and links will be emailed after you RSVP.*

### Sundays at 3PM

#### November 22: Amy Schwartz

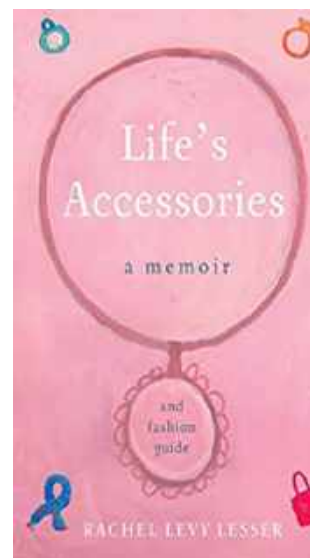
"Can Robots be Jewish? and other pressing questions of modern life"

#### February 7: Rachel Levy Lesser

"Life's Accessories. A Memoir (and fashion guide)"



In "Can Robots be Jewish," the rabbis' responses span the range of modern Jewish thought and include Independent, Humanist, Jewish Renewal, Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Sephardic, Chabad perspectives. Sometimes they agree-but not often. Argument is a Jewish pastime and even a form of worship; it's been that way throughout the ages, ever since rabbis sat on dirt floors in Babylonia and disputed the words of the sages. As the old joke goes, ask two Jews a question, and you'll get three opinions. With ten or more rabbis debating creative questions, you get all that, and more!



**Rachel Levy Lesser** can relive almost every significant life event through an accessory. A scarf, a pair of earrings, a bag, even a fleece pair of socks—each contains the elements that put together the story of a life. *Life's Accessories* is a funny, sad, touching, relatable, shake-your-head-right-along-as-you-laugh-and-wipe-away-tears, coming-of-age memoir. In fourteen essays, Lesser tackles sensitive issues like anxiety, illness, and loss in a way that feels a bit like having a chat with a good friend.



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy  
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY



# SPIRITED AND SOULFUL WORSHIP

2020-2021 / 5781

## **PRAYER-A-THONS!**

**HEAR A FEW VERSIONS AND VOTE ON YOUR FAVORITE ONE!  
A SERVICE USING THE FAVORITES WILL BE ANNOUNCED**

Cantor Debbie will be singing several versions of V'Shamru on Friday, November 20th during our Shabbat Service and asking you to vote on your favorite version! The winning melodies from this and all of our prayer-a-thons listed below (and from October 16th) will be enjoyed at a special Shabbat Service in the Spring!

### **FRIDAYS:**

<b>November 20, 2020</b>	<b>V'Shamru-a-thon</b>
<b>December 18, 2020</b>	<b>Halleluya-a-thon</b>
<b>January 22, 2021</b>	<b>Adon Olam-a-thon</b>



*Please also join us for holiday music at our Chanukah Shabbat!*

**December 11, 2020      Chanukah Shabbat: Special Music  
for Chanukah**



## ***We Appreciate Your Generosity!***

### **General Fund**

Eric Larson  
Michael Gitlitz & Dr. Rita Landman  
Beverly Leighton

Karl and Barbara Brodsky  
Kenneth Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday  
David and Phyllis Amerling

in memory of Rabbi Marcus Burstein, z”l  
in memory of Sheila Gitlitz, z”l  
in memory of her parents, Nathan &  
Esther Kleiman, z”l  
in memory of Ann Brodsky, z”l  
in memory of Saul Kurzweil, z”l  
in memory of Helen Bergson, z”l Jack Bergson, z”l  
and Rabbi Burstein, z”l

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Wendy Lipp  
Richard and Miriam Wetchler  
Craig and Suzanne Sherter  
Steven and Debbie Landzberg  
Marcia and James Carroll  
Bobbie and Rick Cohan

Edward & Ana Barth  
Michael & Rona Salpeter

in honor of Zachary becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
in honor of Emma becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
in memory of Al Landzberg, z”l  
in honor of our High Holy Days  
in honor of Rabbi Reiner and our wonderful  
and inspirational High Holy Days services  
in memory of Sheila Barth, z”l  
in memory of Joseph Salpeter, z”l

### **Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Marcia and James Carroll

in honor of our High Holy Days

### **Music Fund**

Myrna Robinson

in memory of Barry Robinson, z”l

### **Early Childhood Center**

Alex Perry  
Bottomline Technologies

### **Rabbi's Emeritus Fund**

Elinor and Murray Darvick

in memory of their son, Steven Mechanic z”l

## ***We Appreciate Your Generosity!***

### **Yom Kippur Pledges**

**Thank you to the generous families listed below who have pledged to our Yom Kippur Appeal:**

(We look forward to thanking additional contributors in our next issue!)

Paul & Elizabeth Amerling  
Joshua & Elyse Arnow  
Stanford & Lynn Broder  
Garry Berger & Lindsey Getner  
Judith Besserman  
Howard Blum and Marcy Blum  
Scott & Karen Brenner  
Jeff & Heather Butchen  
Adam & Robyn Cohen  
Murray & Elinor Darvick  
Serafima Dashevskaya  
Alan & Bonnie Dietzek  
Nevin & Laurie Dubin  
Joseph Ellis  
Peter Fine & Lauren Leong  
Scott & Becky Freedman  
Robert & Elaine Gell  
Ilya Gogish  
Michael & Ronni Hammer

Terry & Robert Henry  
Larry & Vivian Hoffman  
Alan & Andrea Jacobs  
George & Elise Jonisch  
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray &  
F. Scott Gray  
Steve Kaye & Linda Arenson  
Jeffrey & Kimberly Knispel  
David & Leslie Kramer  
Jeffrey & Linda Krulwich  
Kenneth Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday  
Steven & Deborah Landzberg  
Mark & Debra Lavin  
Arnold & Laura Leitner  
Richard Lipton  
Ellen Lipton  
Robi Margolis  
David & Amy Margulies  
Josh & Wendy Meyer

Larry Morley & Lorraine Lazarus-Morley  
Adrienne Orlan  
Charles & Sheila Perrin  
Rabbi David Reiner & Ashley Heller  
Hal & Dawn Roberts  
Ronni Rosenstein  
Michael & Rona Salpeter  
Joel S. & Eileen Segalman  
Robert & Judith Strom  
Karen Taylor & David Kaminer  
Scott & Alisa Trachtenberg  
Steven & Judy Vandervelden  
Kurt Voellmicke & Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke  
Jane Weiller  
Michael & Emily Wein  
Susan Westlake  
Lora Wishod  
Hal & Laurie Wolkin  
David & Victoria Yolen

### **High Holy Day Donations:**

(Includes General HHD Donation, Tickets, Memorial Book, Prayer Book Borrowing & Prayer Book Dedications)

Neil & Holly Alexander  
Rafael & Kate Alvarez  
David & Phyllis Amerling  
Paul & Elizabeth Amerling  
Richard & Elise Aries  
Ellen Barth  
Jeffrey Berg & Debra Paget  
Michael & Carlyn Bergman  
Judith Besserman  
Moreton & Marisol Binn  
Neal & Karen Blum  
Karl & Barbara Brodsky  
Richard Burg  
Richard & Debra Bush  
Jeff & Heather Butchen  
James & Marcia Carroll  
Adam & Robyn Cohen  
Robin Como  
Kenneth & Lauren Craw  
Murray & Elinor Darvick  
Serafima Dashevskaya  
Nevin & Laurie Dubin  
Gail Fernandez  
Laurence Furic  
Ira & Karen Gerard  
Michael Gitlitz & Rita Landman  
Ilya Gogish  
Jacob Goldberg & Trudy Wood  
Janine Gordon  
Jeffrey & Margie Gorelick  
Allan & Alice Gottlieb

Brian Graham & Jane Bendor  
Michael & Ronni Hammer  
Ian & Robin Harris  
Matt & Stephanie Herbstman  
Matthew Heslinga & Leah Friedman  
Linda Hirschfeld  
Tyler & Hilary Hughes  
Kenneth & Joan Isman  
Tammi Jacobs Shulman  
George & Elise Jonisch  
Arthur Jureller & Rena Bruckman  
Jonas & Nicole Kalish  
Peter & Jamie Kaplan  
Steve Kaye & Linda Arenson  
Jeffrey & Linda Krulwich  
Eric Larson  
Mark & Debra Lavin  
Arnold & Laura Leitner  
David & Erica Levens  
Ron Levinsky  
Warren & Karen Lustig  
Barbara Manners  
Robi Margolis  
Jason & Jennifer Mayer  
Josh & Wendy Meyer  
Marion Milrod  
David & Leslie Moss  
Kenneth & Marcia Needleman  
Joseph Niola  
Robert & Amber Paprin

Alan Pilch & Elaine Gordon  
Rabbi Fred Reiner & Susan Liss  
Ronald Rippes  
Harry & Sandra Rosenhouse  
Adam & Stacey Rubinfeld  
David Sachs & Linda Shackelford  
Barbara Safran  
Michael & Rona Salpeter  
Gordon & Polly Schnell  
David & Judith Shapiro  
Lewis & Eve Siegel  
Andrew & Lynne Stark  
Paul & Judith Stooogenke  
Robert & Judith Strom  
Karen Taylor & David Kaminer  
Ron & Julie Tiktin  
Scott & Alisa Trachtenberg  
Richard & Linda Vendig  
Kurt Voellmicke & Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke  
Alan & Beth Waldman  
Jay & Eileen Walker  
Michael & Emily Wein  
Marty Weisberg  
Susan Westlake  
Shelby White  
Lora Wishod  
Hal & Laurie Wolkin  
David & Victoria Yolen  
Michael & Jane Zeitz  
Jon & Eve Zibel

## Our Religious School...



The teachers at the RS have never worked harder! I am totally amazed at every turn by their dedication to our students and families. To me, this is essential to share so that everyone knows how tirelessly they work all week long to teach a single class or two—whether it is online or in-person. This year, especially, with so much more time required for them to lay out plans for instruction due to Covid safety protocols, they are showing their commitment... more than ever!

This year the RS is offering a hybrid educational plan for the RS. Midweek Hebrew instruction includes a whole class meeting-- and then each teacher offers three small weekly group sessions that parents sign up for each week. These groups offer a more intimate learning experience and it's a time for students and teachers to get to know each other more closely. The amount of personal time our teachers are using to arrange these meetings to cater to families with all kinds of scheduling issues and educational needs—is astounding. Recently, using additional personal time, RS teacher, Karen Blum, added in a forty- minute tutoring session for one of her students-- brand new to Hebrew! That is true commitment!

On Sundays, we offer in-person outdoor/indoor socially-distanced learning. So far, the weather has cooperated and meeting outdoors was the perfect way to teach Sukkot! I am on the frontlines each week on the Zoom calls and at temple-- and can assure you that I have never worked with a team so dedicated and energized. We are so lucky to have these professionals as the leaders of our school. I am honored.

It would be neglectful here to omit the thirteen mentors and assistant teachers in our program this year. These madrichim (guides) help shore up the foundation of our program offering teen leadership and excellence at the core! Our teens are on Zoom calls running break-out rooms, attending in-person classes—and participating on the small group calls, as well. Trained in pedagogy in year one of the program, this is what we are proud of most of all... our teens who choose each year to re-engage and lead--- after becoming B-Mitzvah. It is sad that they leave us after their senior year in high school as they head off to college, but they often reappear in our lives as a satisfying reminder that we set them on their way as young teachers and learners. Many of them, like Sam Blum (Josh and Michelle's oldest child) become teachers and youth professionals in the Jewish realm after college-- and this makes us especially proud. Former mentors/assistant teachers like Sam-- and Rayn Schnell, keep in touch and will be forever a part of the teaching team that makes Shir Shalom unique!



Fifth grader, Lily Zezula, learning in our outdoor school in October

Our Religious School continued on next page...



Above: a recent photo of Rayn Schnell in the forefront (child of Polly and Gordon Schnell) and a short note (excerpted with her permission) sent by her from Tufts University...

Hi Leslie!

This is Rayn and I am writing to you from Massachusetts during my sophomore year at Tufts! It has been such a long time since I have seen you and the temple, I really miss it! I hope you and your family are safe and healthy during this crazy time. Recently, especially during the high holidays, I have been thinking about the special place JFC and Shir Shalom have in my life. I have such fond memories of mentoring and teaching over the years. Just yesterday, I was even thinking about a long, long time ago, maybe second or third grade, making little felt menorahs to send to the college student members of the temple, and having no idea what college even was! I want to thank you for giving me such great opportunities for so many years, and I would love to (socially-distantly) visit next time I am back home!

I am signing up to volunteer for the Tufts Literacy Corps, an organization that sets Tufts students up with younger students from surrounding towns to help them in math, reading, and writing. I would love to work with kids again and I think this organization would be a great way! I thought of you first because throughout all my years at JFC and then Shir Shalom, you really stuck by me and helped me come out of my shell. That is what I am hoping to help these students do. Thank you so much (for this and everything else :) *Warmly, Rayn*

Receiving a note like this is a happy reminder of all the special personalities that make the RS so special this year and in past years. Included below is a single (Zoom) lesson plan from Grade 7 teacher and B'nai Mitzvah tutor, Ruth Ossher. It is only one sample of the plans teachers create from week to week to make learning fun and meaningful. We hope you agree!

- Goals:
1. Refresh Hebrew reading skills
  2. Learning to sing the Ashrei
  3. Teach about Simchat Torah
  4. Master singing the Ending Haftara Blessing
  5. Perfect singing the V'Ahavta
  6. Teaching key roots, prefixes and suffixes

Prayers: Ending Haftara Blessing, Ashrei, V'Ahavta, Avot v'Imahot, G'vurot, Fri night Kedushah

4:00 Take a deep breath, relax your shoulders. (Remind them that we tend to hold our breath when at the computer and when texting.)

What do you know about Simchat Torah? What do we do? (dance with Torah. Hakafot. Read end and then beginning of Torah. Why do you think we do that?)

Go over the ending Torah portion. Moses is about to die. He gives a blessing to each of the tribes. (What are the tribes. Why do you think he gave them a blessing? How do you think they feel about the leader they've had since leaving Egypt dying?) Moses then goes up Mt. Nebo so that he can see the land where the Israelites will live but he's told that he'll die before that happens. Moses dies and they bury him in Moab and mourn his death for 30 days. (We have the tradition of mourning for 30 days except for mother and father.) Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the Israelites heeded him, doing as the Eternal had commanded Moses. (Why do you think they mention Joshua at this point?)

Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses—whom the Eternal singled out, face to face (Makes the point that Moses was our greatest prophet.) Then we read from the beginning of the Torah, the story of the creation of the world. (Why do you think we do that? Why don't we just stop with reading the end of the Torah?)

4:20 Holiday review matchup

4:35 Review roots, prefixes and suffixes in V'ahavta. Sing V'ahavta

4:45 Sing Ending Haftara Blessing and Ashrei

5:00 HEBREW READING and vocabulary PRACTICE

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD

On October 18, 2020, Sisterhood celebrated our **2020-21 Kick-Off** with an on-line gathering of Shir Shalom Sisterhood members, along with many of their family members, enjoying the entertainment of an interactive, family-friendly Virtual Magic Show performed by professional magician Tom Pesce.

Given continuing COVID concerns, we anticipate Sisterhood activities will continue primarily through on-line platforms. *Details for our next online event are included below.* We are also considering Zoom or Google-Meets to get together in smaller groups to informally catch up with one another from time to time or set up on-line-friendly activities. We are interested in thoughts and ideas for the coming year. We post on Facebook on both the Shir Shalom Sisterhood and Shir Shalom Friends sites.

Be well and Stay well!  
Laurie Wolkin, Margie Gorelick and Christina Gogish

Join **SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD** on **Thursday, November 12th at 7pm** to see

ACT of Connecticut's production of **THE LAST FIVE YEARS** together...  
while staying apart!

**ONLY \$54 per livestream ticket\***

Please visit <https://www.actofct.org/the-last-five-years> to purchase your livestream tickets for **Nov. 12th.**

Use code **SHIR** at checkout to receive the discount.

\*Service fees may apply. Please note that this is a special discount only being offered to Shir Shalom Sisterhood and is only valid for the performance on Thursday, November 12th.

After seven long months, ACT of CT's "extended intermission" has come to a close and in order to ensure a safe return for our audiences and performers, a limited number of in-person seats will be available for our first musical of the 2020-2021 season, *The Last Five Years*! We understand that some of our patrons may not yet feel comfortable returning to the theater in-person. For that reason, we have also secured the streaming rights for our performances of this emotionally powerful and intimate show. This "alternate way" to view our production will allow you and your friends the opportunity to watch the show together!

This is the perfect opportunity to plan a 'virtual' social event for any organization or club! Plan a pre or post show 'remote' gathering and watch *The Last Five Years* from the comfort of your couch!

*The Last Five Years* is a modern 90-minute musical that has enraptured audiences around the world with its spellbinding and emotional score. This musical ingeniously chronicles the five-year relationship between two New Yorkers: Cathy (played by Katie Diamond), a struggling actress, and Jamie (played by Daniel C. Levine), a budding novelist. *The Last Five Years* is told through an unconventional structure in which Cathy tells her story in reverse-chronological order (beginning the show at the end of their marriage), while Jamie's is told in chronological order (starting just after the couple has met for the first time). With book, music and lyrics by Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown (*Honeymoon in Vegas*, *13*, *The Bridges of Madison County*), this musical was adapted into a film in 2014, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan. *The Last Five Years* was named one of TIME Magazine's ten best shows of 2001.



## NEWS FROM THE ECC

## Our Early Childhood Center

by Sarah Denyer (ECC Director)

Autumn has been lovely at the ECC! Despite the challenges that living through a pandemic brings, our children, parents and teachers have done an admirable job adjusting to new routines and rules. Our students are so cooperative about wearing their face coverings and understand that mask breaks can only happen when they are outdoors and far apart. Masks are just part of the new normal we are all experiencing and our young children have surely accepted that fact while forming relationships, laughing, exploring and playing joyfully together.

We have engaged in typical autumn Shir Shalom preschool activities such as tasting a variety of apples with honey, listening to the shofar blast, singing songs and dancing with Rabbi David and Cantor Debbie, decorating and spending time in our Sukkah and we even built a small Sukkah for the animals who live in Shir Shalom's forest. We long for a time that our students' parents are able to join in on the fun. As we fully adjust to our current world, we are working through safe ways to gather in person so our families can learn more about each other than just our email addresses! Stay tuned...



## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

### THE JEWISH WAR

By Lewis Siegel

In the year 66 CE, The Jews of Judea arose in a rebellion against Roman rule that developed into a full- scale war, finally ending in 73 CE with the fall of the Jewish fortress at Masada. Second only to the Holocaust, that war saw what may have been the worst loss of Jewish life in the history of the Jewish people, and sadly, the destruction of the Second Temple.

Just about everything that we know about that war is derived from a single eyewitness— Flavius Josephus, a Jew, who lived through the entire war and many years after. His given name was Yosef Ben Matityahu. Josephus wrote a detailed analysis of the war with Rome in a book called, “The Jewish War” (in edited form, available from Amazon).

The reasons for the Jewish rebellion in 66 CE were the usual suspects—painful taxation and merciless abuse of human rights-on the of the part of local Roman ruler (Procurator) Gassius Florus. Florus was far more abusive than those rulers before him. He stole, extorted, arbitrarily imprisoned, and executed a number of Judeans. Judea also had a Jewish King, Herod Agrippa II, the great grandson of Herod the Great. However, he was more of a ceremonial ruler than an authoritative one and could not challenge the behavior of Florus. As the rebels prepared for an uprising, Agrippa II passionately pleaded with the people until he was in tears, not to engage the more powerful Roman forces. He urged them to try to endure Florus until Rome replaced him. However, replacement of rulers had not been frequent, inasmuch as the previous two procurators, Albinus and Festus, served for a combined 12 years before Florus. Nevertheless, many Influential Jews, including several priests, prevailed on the rebels, begging for a peaceful solution, but to no avail. The rebels were determined to fight. A bloody fight broke out between the Jews who thought it safer to maintain the status quo, and the rebels. After a seven-day battle, neither side changed its position, so now there was no way to stop the rebellion.

The war began with rebel forces attacking the Roman garrison at Masada and displacing the Roman army from the fortress that they had held. Eventually the war spread throughout Judea, and for a while the Jews were winning, but it was not to last. Emperor Nero was given the bad news of the Roman army’s performance, so he dispatched his best general, Vespasian, his son Titus, and more powerful Roman forces, to battle the rebels. Josephus, who at that time was governor of Galilee and apparently a trained soldier, formed an army and entered the war to support the rebels. By 68 CE, the Roman army was beginning to overwhelm the rebels. Josephus and his forces were about to be captured. He and 40 others managed to hide out in a cave. The Romans discovered where they were located and demanded that they surrender. The Jews thought mass suicide was not as bad as Roman torture, so they drew lots based on a plan to kill each other until there was no one left. They proceeded to carry this out until Josephus and one other were the only ones left. Then the two chose to surrender. Josephus, being one of the rebel leaders, was a prize capture.

The year now was 68 CE. What was to come is reminiscent of the story of Joseph in the Torah. Josephus asked for a private meeting with Vespasian. Surprisingly Vespasian agreed. Josephus told Vespasian he had a vision that Vespasian would become Emperor. Vespasian thought Josephus was just trying to save his skin. However, Vespasian discovered that Josephus had made other prophecies that had come true. Vespasian questioned the other prisoners and found that Josephus predicted that the town of Jotapata would fall to the Romans after 47 days, and that Josephus would be taken alive by the Romans. Both prophecies came true. Now Vespasian began to believe Josephus. Nevertheless, he still imprisoned him, but treated him better than other inmates. He even had clothes and gifts brought to him. That made the other prisoners furious. They called Josephus a traitor and wanted to see him dead.

*(con’t. on next page)*

By 69 CE, Nero had committed suicide. That year, Rome had four emperors. They were: Galba (who was killed), Otho (who committed suicide), Vitellius, (who was deposed), and finally Vespasian. When he became emperor, Vespasian was now certain that Josephus had that vision. Vespasian rewarded Josephus by releasing him from prison. In 71 CE Josephus was further rewarded by being made a Roman citizen. He then defected fully to the Roman side. To show his gratitude, Josephus changed his first name to Flavius, the Emperor's family name. Now he was certainly considered to be a traitor, and even centuries later, some Jewish scholars refused to read his writings.

In 70 CE, Titus's forces invaded Jerusalem. In addition to planning a total massacre, Titus intended to destroy the Temple. To penetrate Jerusalem, the Roman army had to breach the three outer walls of the city, which they finally succeeded in doing. Titus ordered the troops to set the Temple on fire. According to Josephus's writings, Titus had a change of heart. He was appalled when he realized that the sacred inner sanctuary would soon be consumed in flames, so he ordered the soldiers to put out the fire. However, it was too late. They were in a frenzy to cause total destruction, and they did.

The war did not end completely until 73 CE with the fall of the Jewish fortress at Masada. Josephus estimated that the war cost the lives of 1.1 million Jews (some historians believe that Josephus' estimate could be an exaggeration). Adding to that catastrophic event was the total destruction of the Temple.

After the war, Vespasian remained emperor until his death in 79 CE, when his son Titus took his place. Josephus developed a close relationship with Titus and became his close friend and advisor. Josephus died around the year 100 CE, and never returned to his native land.

Interestingly, Titus had a lengthy love affair with a Jewish woman, Berenice, (the sister of Herod Agrippa II). She expected Titus to marry her, but he was pressured to not marry a Jewish woman, so he chose to send her away. Her destination was not known. Titus's relationship with Berenice was described briefly in Mozart's opera "La Clemenza di Tito (The Clemency of Titus).

As noted earlier, that war, (if Josephus' estimate was correct), was probably the second worst catastrophe in the history of the Jewish people. It would take over 1800 years of much suffering before the Jewish people would regain their homeland as the State of Israel.

We can only hope that someday soon, Israel will no longer have to defend itself against the outside forces that continuously seek its demise.

**In the words of Stephen Foster,**

*Many days you have lingered around my cabin door,  
Oh, hard times, come again no more.*

**NOTE:** The Bar Kochba rebellion of 132-135 CE (also known as the Second Jewish-Roman War), had a similar tragic outcome with a Jewish death toll of 580,000, according to Roman historian Cassius Dio.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Flavius Josephus, "The Jewish War"; Translation by G.A. Williamson, 1959; Edited by E. Mary Smallwood, 1981
2. Wikipedia

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





## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

*from Debbie Lavin, Amy Margulies & Debbie Landzberg*

Thank you to the Congregation for your generous donations of non-perishable foods and supplies during our High Holiday Food Drive. It was wonderful to see friends and familiar faces as we collected during the two Shofar Drive-through experiences.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers this year; Andrew Carter, Leah and Victoria Friedman, Jacob, Ben and Lisa Voellmicke, and Jake Margulies. Victoria & Leah delivered the much-needed food to the Community Center of Northern Westchester, while Lisa Voellmicke & Amy Margulies brought the remaining bags to the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury, CT. Both organizations were thrilled with the amount we collected and thank us for our generosity and kindness during such difficult times.

If you are interested in doing some community service, **volunteers are needed at The Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury.** The pantry has been open throughout the pandemic. It has adjusted its operations to keep volunteers and clients safe and has been serving three to four times more hungry families than ever before. Daily Bread's needs have increased recently yet its volunteer pool continues to shrink as many helpers return to their jobs and college students to school. **The pantry needs our help!** Please reach out to Debbie Landzberg at [dlandzberg@gmail.com](mailto:dlandzberg@gmail.com) for more information and volunteer times. Thank you to our food pantry volunteers Leslie and David Moss and Alisa Glick.



## RITUAL COMMITTEE

BY MICHAEL SALPETER AND LAURIE DUBIN

***The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of G-d will stand forever.***

Isaiah 40:8

The High Holy Days have passed having brought alternative ways to celebrate the holidays as a community. We are so grateful for the many individuals who gave of their time, creativity, and talents to add to our holiday celebrations. On behalf of the Ritual Committee, we would like to thank the following people: Rabbi David Reiner, Cantor Deborah Katchko Gray, the professional musicians, members of the ritual committee, Michelle Blum and Dawn Roberts, who coordinated the High Holy Day “special delivery” bags, the delivery drivers, the office and maintenance staff, and technical support staff.

Thank you to the congregants who attended services in the building and who protected themselves and others by maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. We welcome your comments and suggestions and appreciate feedback.

Chanukah is just around the corner starting on the evening of December 10th and ending the evening on Friday, December 18th. The Jewish festival of lights commemorates the re-dedication of the second temple in Jerusalem in the 160's BCE. Most celebrations of Chanukah include lighting a menorah for eight nights. Foods cooked in oil are served. Latkes are the most common fried food served in Ashkenazi Jewish households. In Israel, sufganiyot (round jelly filled donuts) are popular. Columbia's Santa Marta community eats fried plantains called patacones. In India, Jews light wicks dipped in coconut oil and eat barfi, a dense milk-based treat enhanced with sweet fruit. Morocco's Chanukah treat is a newer take on the fried doughnut called sfenj. Jaffa oranges come into season in the late fall/early winter and their juice and zests are added. In Turkey, burmelos, a fritter similar to latkes are eaten. Afghan Jews needing to hide their Jewish identity couldn't light a menorah but instead filled small plates with oil and set them beside each other, symbolic of the oil the Maccabees used to light the temple. However you celebrate the festival, may it be safe (and delicious).

**Please Join us for our special  
Chanukah Shabbat Worship  
Friday, December 11th at 7:30 pm**



The Community Center of Northern Westchester is asking our community to contribute to two important drives starting October 1st:

**Holiday Food Drive 2020:** Frozen Turkeys up to 12 pounds, Frozen Turkey breasts or Roaster chickens, 1 or 2 lb bags of flour or sugar, small vegetable oil, coffee (instant/ground), Tea Bags, Hot chocolate, and Butter/Shortbread cookies.

**Share the Warmth Drive:** donating Pajamas (newborn - 12), new socks, hats, scarves, gloves (all ages), and new warm blankets.



**Please bring donations beginning October 1st to:  
Community Center of Northern Westchester**  
84 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY 10536 | (914) 232-6572  
HOURS: TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS 10 AM - 4 PM,  
THURSDAYS NOON – 6 PM, SATURDAYS 10 AM - 1 PM  
For more information about us visit [communitycenternw.org](http://communitycenternw.org)



## NOVEMBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, November 6th, 2020:**

Jack Bergson	father of Phyllis Amerling	Mayer Blum	brother-in-law of Sandra Rosenhouse
Howard Cohan	father of Rick Cohan	Jay Davis	husband of Elyse Davis
Esther Fenster	sister of Murray Darvick	Harold Heffler	father of Jay Heffler and Jill Teich
Irwin Krulwich	father of Jeffrey Krulwich	Sidney Klein	father of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz
Samuel "Poppy" Mofson	grandfather of Bonnie Pazer		
Jack D. Weiler	grandfather of Joshua Arnow		

**Friday, November 13th, 2020:**

Herbert Abraham	father of Vivian Hoffman	Sheila Gitlitz	mother of Michael Gitlitz
William Keleher	father of Catherine Mishkin	Adele Kleinbaum	grandmother of Stacey Rubinfeld
G. Leonard Lazarus	father of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley	Philip Levine	uncle of Joan Isman
Fannie Levy	mother of Richard Burg	Mordecai Lewittes	relative of Matthew Meister and Dafne Sanchez-Aldama
Ruth Kurzweil Rothwax	aunt of Ken Kurzweil		
Freda Shuler	mother of Robi Margolis	Edgar Strauss	father of Ellen Strauss
Mae Wishod	mother-in-law of Lora Wishod		

**Friday, November 20th, 2020:**

David Hoffman	father of Drew Hoffman	David Kay	father of Barry Kay
Aline Lawrence	sister of Adrienne Orlan	Gloria Maron	sister of Resa Fremed
Rachel Rosenhouse	mother of Harry Rosenhouse	Anita Sax	mother of Liz Winson
Sylvia Stein	Grandmother of Edwin Haber		

**Friday, November 27th, 2020:**

Norman Bard	father of Michael Bard	Ethel Feinleib	grandmother of Leslie Gottlieb
Gertrude Frankel	grandmother of Scott Brenner	Louis Heit	grandfather of Stephen Heit
Herman Hoberman	grandfather of Meridith Sonnett	Frances Kempler	mother of Felice Kempler
Beatrice Krulwich	mother of Jeffrey Krulwich	Gladice Levenson	aunt of Elaine Gordon
Joseph Victor Meister	relative of Matthew Meister and Dafne Sanchez-Aldama	Seymour Needleman	father of Kenneth Needleman
Arlene Richner	aunt of Ellen Strauss	Jack Rosenstein	father of Ronni Rosenstein
Pauline Silverman	grandmother of Marsha Antkies	Norman Silverman	father of Marsha Antkies
Bernice Strauss	mother of Ellen Strauss	Peter Vandervelden	father of Steven Vandervelden
Fred Yolen	uncle of David Yolen		

## DECEMBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, December 4th, 2020:**

Marvin Baker	uncle of Carlyn Bergman
Leo Fine	grandfather of Peter Fine
Evelyn Kurzweil	mother of Ken Kurzweil
Howard Malloy	father of Betsy Higgins
Benjamin Ringler	grandfather of Elyse Arnow

Harold Broder
Abraham Isaac Gordon
Lillian Lotstein
Marvin Olarsch

father of Stanford Broder
father of Elaine Gordon
mother of Susan Lapine
father of Judy Vandervelden

**Friday, December 11th, 2020:**

Robert Arnow	father of Joshua Arnow
Alexander Davis	father-in-law of Elyse Davis
Esther Eber	grandmother of Lynn Becker
Joan Hammer	mother of Michael Hammer
Mina Kaye	mother of Steve Kaye
Claus Pappenheimer	father of Julie Held
Ruth Rosenthal	grandmother of Susan Westlake
Rose Zilber	grandmother of Barry Kay

Susan Bendor
Mary Jane Denzer
Natalia Glicklich
Joan Holson
Murray Milrod
Frank Policoff
Alfred Strauss

mother of Jane Bendor
mother of Holly Alexander
mother of Mark Glicklich
mother of Robin Heit
father of Marion Milrod
grandfather of Steve Kaye
grandfather of Ellen Strauss

**Friday, December 18th, 2020:**

Seymour Berman	father of Michael Berman
Martin Davis	grandfather of Suzie Rabinowitz
Yvette Epstein	mother of Andrea Jacobs
Bernard Glaser	father of Laura Agisim
Sadie Kaplan	grandmother of Steve Kaye
Billie Kaserman	mother of Wendy Meyer
Belle Krietzberg	great aunt of Joshua Arnow
Jeff Lederman	brother of Linda Lederman
Harry Poushter	father of Bruce Poushter
Elizabeth Wood	mother of Trudy Wood

Evelyn Brenner
Gussie Ellis
Seymour Eslofsky
Millie Jacobs
Arthur Karsch
Joy Koy
Jane Langer
Michael Mishkin
Grayce Romeo

grandmother of Scott Brenner
mother of Joseph Ellis
father of Ellen Barth
mother of Alan Jacobs
father of Karen Blum
great aunt of Jamie Garrett
grandmother of Karen Gerard
father of Richard Mishkin
mother of Harry and Sandra
Rosenhouse's son-in-law

**Friday, December 25th, 2020:**

Samuel Antkies	father of Michael Antkies
Mildred Block	aunt of Barbara Manners
Martha Cohen	grandmother of Tiffany Zezula
Oscar Lowy	grandfather of Terry Henry
Percy Paget	father of Debra Paget
Jodie Teitler	cousin of Laura Leitner

Rita Bergman
Ruth-Ann Brofsky
Anna Heit
Arnold Manus
Toby Rosenstein

mother of Michael Bergman
sister in law of Geoff & Anne Kupferschmid
grandmother of Stephen Heit
father of Rhonda Manus
mother of Ronni Rosenstein

*Condolences*

To Edward and Ana Barth, and their children, Gabriela, William, and Sofia on the death of Edward's mother, Sheila Barth, z"l

*May their memory be for a blessing.*

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**We are happy to announce that Congregation Shir Shalom's Office  
is open for in-person visits at select times:**

Congregation Shir Shalom's office has continued operations throughout the ongoing pandemic, without interruption, even when we needed to work remotely. We want to update you about our on-site operations:

**Visiting our building:** If you would like to hand-deliver something or need to pick something up, there are clear plastic bins and a mailbox on our porch. Yahrzeit candles, prayerbooks, Jewish calendars, and more are available for home use. Our office is generally open for phone calls or visits **from 10AM-2PM**, Monday-Friday, or by appointment. Our staff can be contacted over e-mail, and your patience is appreciated. Our practice is to not check or send e-mail on Shabbat or other Jewish holy days unless a message is related to that day. Some of our staff work flexible hours and may check and respond to e-mails on Sundays; other staff check and respond to e-mail Monday-Friday only.

Please contact Rabbi Reiner's assistant, Allyson ([RabbiAssist@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:RabbiAssist@ourshirshalom.org)) to schedule a meeting with the rabbi (online, by phone, or in person).

Donations and payments can now be made online through our congregant portal. Please contact our Controller, Lori, with questions related to your account, by e-mail ([Lori@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:Lori@ourshirshalom.org)) or by calling our office.

Our staff wears masks while we are in the public portions of our sacred space and **we expect visitors and vendors to also wear masks.** If you are feeling well, we are eager to welcome you. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, not feeling well, are subject to a quarantine, have been with someone who tested positive in the past 14 days, or you or someone in your home has travelled to a place on the Connecticut Travel Quarantine list, please stay home. Thank you!



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

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