



MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 5	6:00 pm	Shabbat Worship: Shabbat Across America At Home	April 2	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 12	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	April 3	9:00 am	Torah 101
March 13	9:00 am 10:30 am	Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Worship: Bat Mitzvah, Leah Friedman	April 9	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 19	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Shalom Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	April 16	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Shalom Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 20	9:00 am	Torah 101	April 17	9:00 am 10:30 am	Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Worship: Bat Mitzvah, Anna Reiter
March 26	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	April 23	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 27	9:00 am	Torah 101	April 24	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship: Bat Mitzvah, Miriam Wilson
<p>Sat. March 27th Passover begins at sunset</p> <p>Sunday, March 28th Shir Shalom Community Seder</p>			April 30	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship



MAKING MEMORIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

SISTERHOOD SIP & CHAT

AUTHOR EVENT WITH JANE STERN



SHESH SHERIDAN BAR MITZVAH

STEVE KAYE BAR MITZVAH

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILY DAY



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Larry Hoffman

The Brighter Side of Covid 19

We are all too familiar with the anxiety and extreme health consequences that have been brought about by Covid 19. For those in our sacred community who have suffered most my heart goes out to you and your entire family.

On the brighter side, I was reminded during a recent meeting with all the amazing congregants who volunteer for our various committees (Ritual, Social Action, Education, Caring, Sisterhood, Adult Programming, etc.) that many of us have experienced quite a number of good things during Covid.

One of the most common positive things that was mentioned is the gift of spending more quality time with our grandchildren and children, including those who are older and have returned to home base for, as it turns out, an extended period of time. Needless to say, adjustments need to be made but at the end of the day providing a safe haven, and experiencing that feeling of creating “extra” time together that would have never occurred has been deeply rewarding for many of us. For those in our community with younger children, I tip my hat to all the parents who have had to learn to adapt in so many ways during these unusual times. I assure you when you look back on this period in five or ten years you will actually be jealous and think fondly of that crazy time you had together.

Many of us have learned for the very first time some very creative and fun ways to socialize via Zoom. Who would have ever thought that everything from Chanukah celebrations to book clubs, to cocktail hour with good friends from around the country were a safe and a fun way to spend some time.

Working from home has created more time in the day, which in itself is a gift. With gyms closed for an extended period of time many of us have rediscovered the benefits of long walks and hikes through the Pound Ridge Reservation. We no doubt finally justified, in a healthy way, that monthly Peleton subscription, and in perhaps not the healthiest way physically, but what better way to relax and justify that outrageous Optimum cable bill by binge-watching our favorite Netflix shows.

All of the aforementioned activities have played a role in brightening our days, but there are two groups of stars during this difficult time that have shined brightest. We are grateful to all the health care workers who are members of our sacred community who have worked tirelessly for many months tending to the health needs of countless people, while putting themselves in harms way and yet they do it day after day, month after month; that I believe is a bright star!

We are also blessed in our community to have a wonderful group of educators in our ECC who have shown up each and every day to keep our youngest members engaged and active, and I can assure you first hand, that a smile or even the smallest comment from our youngest makes the day brighter. We are equally blessed by the great job our Religious School Director and her entire staff have done to reinvent our programming for our older students. Last, but not least, our clergy and Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutors have found ways to prepare their students who continue to shine bright on the bimah.

Warm Regards,
Larry Hoffman, President

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



As vaccine distribution progresses, I have been thinking about how our lives and our sacred community will evolve in the weeks and months ahead.

There are many practical considerations as we contemplate increased in-person offerings. Our experiences during the past year, including in-person worship during the summer, a hybrid approach to the High Holy Days, the opening of our Early Childhood Center and evolving approaches to our Religious School, demonstrate that we are prepared for agile responses to the practical challenges ahead.

And beyond our practical considerations, I recognize a unique opportunity for spiritual response, in the context of our sacred community as well as our personal and professional lives.

The rhythm of our lives was suddenly interrupted nearly a year ago. For better or worse we were forced to adjust to major life changes: not commuting, not travelling, not seeing friends or family, not... Our personal and professional lives changed rapidly as jobs changed and were lost, as families with children struggled to balance personal and professional responsibilities, suddenly supplementing distance learning by teaching topics we have not studied or used for decades. We celebrated birthdays with car parades, eagerly trying to mark special occasions and create memories while socially distant. For many, lockdown was chaotic monotony.

20th Century theologian, philosopher, and civil rights activist, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, taught: "...the distinguished word kadosh ("holy") is used for the first time in the Book of Genesis at the end of the story of creation. How extremely significant is the fact that it is applied to time..." As Rabbi Heschel explains, this is why Judaism is "a religion of time aiming at the sanctification of time. ... Judaism teaches us to be attached to holiness in time, to be attached to sacred events, to learn how to consecrate sanctuaries that emerge from the magnificent stream of a year...Jewish ritual may be characterized as the art of significant forms in time, as architecture of time."

Indeed, our rituals focus on the sanctification of time, elevating (what might otherwise be mundane) moments of our existence. A bris or baby naming sanctifies the start of life. A Bat/Bar Mitzvah sanctifies the transition from childhood to adulthood. Passover infuses the spring with a sense of holiness as do the High Holy Days each autumn. Shabbat is a weekly reminder of our need to sanctify time.

I wrestled with the need to sanctify time during the chaotic monotony of the pandemic, rhythms of life disrupted, trying to define the "new normal."

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK CONT.

Widespread vaccination offers hope tempered with uncertainty of what “normal” may look like in the future. Some may yearn for a return to old rhythms of life – travelling and visiting family and friends. Others may prefer new rhythms – less commuting, more time with family. Still others may seek balance between the two.

If Judaism is (as Heschel described) “a religion of time aiming at the sanctification of time” then how can we sanctify time as we return to old rhythms, continue current rhythms, or seek new rhythm in our lives? The question can transcend our interactions with Congregation Shir Shalom: How do we acknowledge our first return to an office? Our first meal out with friends? Visit to the gym? Visit with family?

As people in our sacred community begin to receive vaccinations, we have added a prayer to our Shabbat worship – Birkat HaGomel – a prayer of gratitude traditionally recited after surviving a life-challenging situation. I cannot blame God for COVID-19, or credit God with creating and distributing a vaccine. While the vaccine is created, produced, distributed, and administered by people, receiving a vaccine can be a sacred occasion, set apart from every other moment this past year, potentially enabling many more sacred moments in the months and years ahead, as families are reunited.

On the surface, vaccine distribution is a clinical process. And yet, after a year of severe disruption and monotony, it can become a sacred moment enabling many more sacred moments. As we contemplate the next phases of our lives, may we, as a sacred community, find meaningful ways to acknowledge and sanctify the passage of time, within our families, our professional lives, our communities.

With warm wishes,
Rabbi David L. Reiner



Congregation Shir Shalom is happy to welcome new Congregants:

Noah and Amira Axe and their children, Jillian and Augustin, from Ridgefield, CT.

Rachel and Erin Gorman and their son, Owen, from Ridgefield, CT.

Stacey and Jonathan Wanicur and their son Tyler, from Ridgefield, CT

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

RITUAL COMMITTEE

BY MICHAEL SALPETER AND LAURIE DUBIN

March 2021 marks a full year of incorporating Shabbat, Jewish holidays and festivals through virtual platforms. Starting last March, Friday night services were quickly adapted for Zoom. Digital versions of prayer books and Haggadahs became necessary. We followed the recommendations for temple onsite operations from the individuals on our medical advisory board. We have arrived at the spring season with a year's worth of safe practices services. As if their jobs weren't broad enough, technical prowess by Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Katchko-Gray were added to their repertoire.

Many families last year attended multiple Seders for Passover. Pesach starts with the Feast of the Firstborn the morning of the first Seder. Details for this service will be announced through the weekly email blast. Shir Shalom's **Second Night Seder is on March 28th** through Zoom. Celebrate with Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Katchko-Gray as they lead the service through readings and song.

In addition to attending Shir Shalom's Seder, consider conducting your own Seder during the week of Passover. There are a wide variety of options available for Haggadahs. Some families use websites to download and create their own unique booklet. Some families use ancient Maxwell House coffee Haggadahs. However you celebrate Passover, may it be a healthy and happy one. In addition to reciting "Next year in Jerusalem, I'm adding, "Next year back in the temple pavilion."



Join Rabbi Reiner on select Saturdays at 9AM in 2021 for Torah 101. Please check our weekly eblast and Shir Shalom calendar for dates.



FROM THE OFFICE

Congregation Shir Shalom Congregant Directory

We are excited to inform you that our searchable congregant directory is now available online and is a great way to help us remain connected with others in our sacred community! You can access this congregant directory when you log into your Shir Shalom Congregant account through ShulCloud. ***As a reminder, our directory is for personal use and may not be used for any form of solicitation, or shared with anyone outside our congregation***

Please welcome our new* Board Trustees!

BOARD	TEAM
<p>Larry Hoffman, President President@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Terry Henry, Executive Vice President Execvp@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Suzanne Sunday, Vice President Adam Rubinfeld, Vice President Karen Taylor, Chief Financial Officer Lynn Broder, Immediate Past President Alan Waldman, Secretary Secretary@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Josh Blum, Trustee Larry Brooks, Trustee* Jody Cross, Trustee* Vlad Gogish, Trustee Steve Landzberg, Trustee Robi Margolis, Trustee Stacey Neumann, Trustee* David Pazer, Trustee Marc Sheridan, Trustee* Michael Zeitz, Trustee Tiffany Zezula, Trustee*</p> <p>Board@OurShirShalom.org</p>	<p>Rabbi David L. Reiner MAHL RabbiReiner@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Religious School Director Leslie Gottlieb Leslie@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Early Childhood Center Director Sarah Denyer Sarah@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Temple Administrator Laura Morris Laura@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Controller Lori Stalowicz Lori@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Allyson Bellio Rabbiassist@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Alexandra Schroeder Communications@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Rabbi Emeritus: Jon Haddon D.D. RabbiHaddon@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Early Childhood Director Emerita Jane Emmer Jweilemmer@gmail.com</p>

Visiting our building: Our office is generally open for phone calls or visits from **10AM-2PM**, Monday-Friday, or by appointment. 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, and Jewish calendars are available for home use. Our staff can be contacted by e-mail at the above listed email addresses. Our practice is to not e-mail on Shabbat or other Jewish holy days unless a message is related to that day. 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 or 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!

ADULT PROGRAMMING

We offered some interesting and lively author talks in January and February and we are so glad to see so many of our congregants attend! First, on Sunday, January 17, the guest speaker was our own congregant and renowned author, Jane Stern. Jane was reading a few of her essays and stories that were engaging and very funny. People said they really enjoyed the presentation and asked questions that were moderated by Cantor Debbie.

On Sunday, February 7, we hosted another author in partnership with the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy: Rachel Levy Lesser, who read from her book, "Life's Accessories. A Memoir (and fashion guide)." Rachel read a sad story and a happy story from her book. Attendees were asked to wear or bring some of their "life's accessories" and the event was quite interactive!

We invite you to join us for our next online program on **Sunday, March 14th at 3pm with Rachel Levy Lesser - a special Passover program!** Look for email with sign up details and online link.

BAKING MACAROONS WITH Rachel Levy Lesser

Sunday, March 14th at 3PM on Zoom

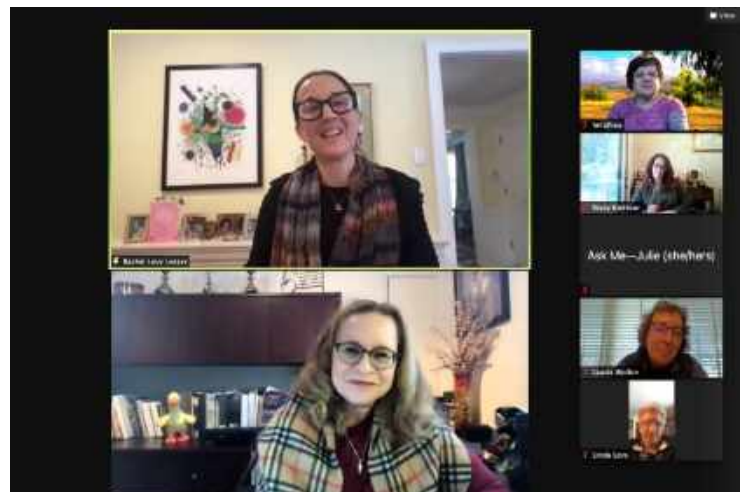
Ednee's Chocolate Coconut Macaroons

Ingredients:

- 4 egg whites
- 1 pinch of salt
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 12 oz semisweet chocolate chips
- 14 oz shredded coconut



LAST MONTH'S AUTHOR EVENT WITH RACHEL LEVY



*For the time being, all Adult Programming events will run online.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS



We hope that you and your loved ones are well and managing through this difficult time.

Local organizations and programs which serve our neighbors in need would love your help during this incredibly challenging time. A big thank you to Andrea de Lange for volunteering at Daily Bread Food Pantry this fall. Here is a bit of information that you and members of your families might find useful:

Daily Bread Food Pantry: This Danbury-based food pantry has been open throughout the pandemic thanks to the support of the community. DBFP continues to provide more than sixty pounds of fresh, healthy food items to almost two hundred struggling households twice weekly. The pantry is always in need of enthusiastic volunteers and monetary donations to cover the costs of several thousand pounds of food each week. Please call 203-826-8252 if interested in volunteering and go to: www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com to make a donation.

Community Center of Northern Westchester: Located in Katonah, the CCNW's Food Pantry and second-hand clothing boutique is serving a huge number of families and would welcome socially distant volunteers and financial donations can be made at their website: <https://communitycenternw.org/>

Dorothy Day Hospitality House: Your help is needed purchasing, prepping and/or serving food for hungry guests at this Danbury soup kitchen. Please consider one or both of the following!

1. Go to www.dorothydaydanbury.org to sign up for sandwich-making and drop-off.
2. Team up with volunteers at Temple B'nai Chaim in Wilton as they shop for meal fixings, cook and serve a warm meal to clients each month. Your assistance with any portion of this effort would be hugely appreciated! Please contact Peggy Zamore at peggyz18@gmail.com to volunteer or make a donation to help cover the cost of the food by going to TBC's website: <https://templebnaichaim.wufoo.com/forms/m7x3s5/>, selecting Tzedakah and typing Dorothy Day in the description field.

Laundry Love: This important program allows people with limited resources to wash their clothing free-of-charge at White Street Wash in Danbury. Coordinated by local temples and churches, Laundry Love has helped many struggling families in our area. Volunteer staffing of the laundromat is not needed during COVID, however, the program is currently very much in need of funds to pay for laundromat gift cards and laundry detergent for clients. If interested in donating,

1. Checks can be written payable to St. James' Episcopal Church (fiduciary of Laundry Love). Memo line should read "LLGD" or "Laundry Love of Greater Danbury". Please mail to:

St. James Episcopal Church
Attention: Denise Holl, LLGD
25 West Street
Danbury, CT 06810

Many thanks everyone!
Wishing you well and access to the vaccine soon!!

Debbie Lavin, Amy Margulies & Debbie Landzberg



CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH

**PRAYER-A-THON RESULTS ARE IN!**

During the pandemic we are trying new ideas and I'm so pleased to report the results of our PRAYERATHON! Each month from October to January we had a musical offering at the end of the service, listening to several versions of the same prayer. Many thanks to my friend Cantor Kathy Sebo for her idea of a Mi Chamochathon, giving way to our Prayerathon!

It is great for me to get positive and honest feedback about various styles and composers of prayer. I know that there is great comfort in hearing melodies from growing up, from temples of our youth, which leaves us with some wonderful, traditional melodies. However, there are new composers who are adding to our tradition in beautiful ways. I was thrilled to see my friend Beth Styles get a high rating for her new Adon Olam! Here are the results!

October Oseh Shalom-a-Thon 1. Nurit Hirsch
2. Jeff Klepper

November V'sham'ru-a-Thon 1. Moshe Rothblum " Ramah"
2. Lawrence Avery

December Halleluy-a-Thon 1. Leonard Cohen
2. Sufi Chant

January Adon Olam-a-Thon 1. Gerovitch (traditional)
2. Beth Styles

We will be announcing the Friday evening services where the number one will be featured and another with the number two choices featured! Look for the weekly eblasts for the dates!

Thank you for caring, listening, voting and enjoying the various versions of our beloved prayers. It was wonderful and we will do it again! Many thanks to Rabbi Reiner and Julie DeLange for their expert technical assistance for the polling!

Shalom,
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

EZ MOVING

Ezra Zimmerman owner/operator

- Local and long distance moving
- Junk removal
- Tree work
- Snow plowing and removal

Phone: 203-448-7342 • email: EZservicesnow@gmail.com
www.ezmovingct.com

RIDGEFIELD: (203) 438-6597
DANBURY: (203) 748-6262

DANIEL P. JOWDY
DIRECTOR

**KANE FUNERAL HOME, INC.
JOWDY KANE FUNERAL HOME**

P.O. BOX 459
25 CATOONAH STREET
RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877-0459

9-11 GRANVILLE AVE
DANBURY, CT 06810

Serving all faiths, our staff have years of experience compassionately caring for families with honesty, cooperation, professionalism and sensitivity.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is excited that, despite nearly two feet of snow this week, we can say that Spring will soon be here! During these last couple of months, Sisterhood had an opportunity for connection through our "Sip & Chat" and to sign on to "Zoom" meetings with "Inspiring Women," sponsored by the Temple Emanuel Streiker Center, as well as to gather online for an author talk on the book "Life's Accessories." Most of all, we look forward to when we can once again safely gather in connection in-person. Look for Shir Shalom Sisterhood Group on Facebook.

Sisterhood is for all women of our synagogue!

Laurie Wolkin, Margie Gorelick and Christina Gogish

FROM THE CONGREGANT COMMITTEE

Reminder: Congregation Shir Shalom will once again be participating in Shabbat Across America From Home

"Turn an ordinary Friday night into something extraordinary!"

On **Friday night, March 5, 2021**, join us as we celebrate something that unites all Jews across America and the world: Shabbat! Everyone is invited. We will have an opportunity to experience Shabbat from home and share our experience with tens of thousands of Jews across North America.

That's the magic of Shabbat Across America and Shabbat Across Canada.

Together with the Ritual Committee and hard working volunteers this will be another of our special Shabbats where we join together as a community. Also, a surprise Shabbat gift will soon be delivered to all congregants as we honor each other and our 5th year as Congregation Shir Shalom!

Mark your calendars for **March 5, 2021 at 6 PM.**

The Congregant Committee also hosted a successful, positive and future-focused Shir Shalom **All Committee meeting** on February 8th. In attendance: Ritual Committee, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Social Action Committee, Caring Committee, Congregant Committee, Education Committee, Special Arrangements, Religious School, Early Childhood Center, Rabbi, Cantor, staff and Board members.

If you are interested in becoming more involved at Congregation Shir Shalom or joining a committee, please email

office@OurShirShalom.org.



Our Religious School...

Looking Back and Ahead... Together

by Leslie Gottlieb



Who are you today? How has the pandemic changed you and your family? How has this trauma made us different? When can we return to a normal way of life and will it ever look the same again? What language will we use to describe this passage of time? How will we explain it to future generations? What impact has it had on your life?



According to HUC's Dr. Betsy Stone, Ph.D. and Jewish education and professional development specialist (bio below), after this experience, "We will look, feel and be different... and the world will be changed forever." During a three-part seminar led by the UJA Federation of NY and the Jewish Education Project, Stone posed many provocative questions for educators and teachers to consider. In this multi-part event, *Looking Forward While Glancing Back*, we discussed how we can all move forward as we plan while using lessons we have learned. What *exactly* have we learned and how can we as individuals, and as Jewish professionals, plan for the following school year—and life?

All of us have had feelings of helplessness over the last year. Our schedules and daily lives have been upended. Routines have been changed and many of us have had to see the world from the inside looking out. According to Stone, "We are not working from home but rather sleeping at work." That rings too true for many of us. We cannot escape our desks and responsibilities, and our concept of home and free time is bound up with so much else. Most of all, the lives of our children have been altered and since trauma is additive, we can only hope kids will become more resilient as a result. For teens, college-age students and millennials... life has been particularly challenging. Having said this, thinking of those in their eighth decade, or thereabouts, living alone with few or no outlets makes it impossible to compare situations.

Dr. Stone talks about comparative suffering and warns, "Don't compare your insides to someone's outsides." As we look at social media, especially, it might seem that others are coping better and living life more fully; this doesn't help us or our children feel better at all and could be damaging.

Stone says we will all need to be creators of new process rituals as we move ahead. At the RS, for this year we had to re-create our entire program--- and will have to meet the challenge to offer a new plan going forward using what we have learned from remote education. It's so common to hear, "You're on mute," over and over in the course of a single day these days or... "Please use the chat feature to introduce yourself." A year ago, this would have meant so little to most of us although Rabbi Marcus Burstein, z"l, had staff meetings many years ago using Zoom when bad weather kept us all at home. Who knew?

Our Religious School continued on next page...

In the **National Teachers Association** January magazine edition, tips for educators appeared in *How to Engage Students in a Virtual Classroom*. It advised: build human connections, create small groups, set goals together, review and renew class norms, answer common Q & As (from students), get students moving, and give students choices. We tried all of those measures this year and met with much success. Of course, remote learning has had its advantages—like great attendance, being able to design diversified learning groups, fewer interruptions, and so on—but we do so miss in-person singing together with Cantor Debbie and Rabbi Reiner, making sandwiches side by side in the kitchen, visiting with our Israeli emissaries, saying hello to Patrick at the front door, and so much more. When we return to whatever we call it (Stone calls it, *After Times*) we will have lived through a time when being near to others was dangerous. Whoever could have imagined that besides those who specialize in and study disease?

Together, moving forward, we will create the best of what is possible. This spring, as we move away from one set of holidays and further along in the Jewish calendar toward Pesach, we can use this time to feel a sense of renewal and renewed purpose. We can really appreciate each other in a meaningful way after being denied so much for so long. Our lives are different, sure. Moving ahead together makes everything seem easier. Thanks for your part in making this school year, this far, a success. It's truly a team sport!

Notes: *Dr. Betsy Stone received her Doctorate in Psychology from Yale University. She is a retired psychologist who serves as an adjunct lecturer at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Her classes include Human Development for Educators, Adolescent Development, and Teens In and Out of Crisis. She teaches and consults with Jewish professionals across the country.*

<https://www.betsystonephd.com/>

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

RHONDA S. LACKOW
Licensed Clinical Massage Therapist



Rhonda has a diverse private practice, providing a nurturing, healing experience to clients of all ages. She has been practicing therapeutic massage since 2005 and helps clients manage stress, loss, illness, and life transitions. She is trained and experienced in Swedish, Deep Tissue, Reflexology, trauma treatment, Oncology massage, pregnancy and post-natal massage, Myofascial Release, Reiki, and Hospice massage and energy work.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

🏠 158 Danbury Rd. Suite 3, Ridgefield, CT
📞 203-733-7198
✉️ rlackow@gmail.com

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

DREYFUSS, HERZL, AND THE CREATION OF ISRAEL

By Lewis Siegel

“Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the days that ever come, can depend on what you do today.”

Ernest Hemingway: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

The book of Job in the Hebrew bible tells us about a righteous, God-fearing man, whose faith was put to the ultimate test. He had been afflicted with a serious skin disease, the painful loss of his possessions, and the even greater pain of losing his children. Job was eventually rewarded by God with greater riches than he had before. There are so many stories of good people who suffer profound losses and setbacks, overcome them, either by personal effort or because of good fortune, and go on to greater achievements and riches than before. Here is the story of one man who endured considerable suffering. Not only was his life restored with honor, but the pain inflicted upon him may have helped begin a path towards a Jewish homeland.

Alfred Dreyfuss was born in 1859 in Mullhouse, Alsace, the youngest of nine children. At the age of 18 he attended the Ecole Polytechnic military school in Paris from which he graduated in 1880 as a sub-lieutenant in the French army. Dreyfuss then attended an artillery school in Fontainebleau until 1882. He became an artillery officer, and was promoted to lieutenant in 1885. In 1889 he was made adjutant to the director of a government arsenal and was promoted to captain.

In 1894, a counter-intelligence division of the French army discovered that a high-level foreign agent in the French army was leaking information about artillery parts to the Germans. Dreyfuss became the scapegoat, being accused of espionage, and in January 1895 he was convicted in a secret court martial, and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil’s Island.

In the Book of Job, Satan told God that Job would curse God after God took away all of Job’s possessions. In fact, Job never lost his faith in God, although he begged for an audience with God to understand why he was made to suffer. Although Dreyfuss was publicly degraded by having his rank insignia cut off his uniform, and his sword broken (a humiliating gesture), he didn’t curse his superiors either. Dreyfuss maintained his patriotic fervor and cried out, “I swear that I am innocent. I remain worthy of serving in the Army. Long live France! Long live the Army”!

In August 1896, the chief of French military intelligence found evidence to show that the real traitor was Major Ferdinand Esterhazy, who was subjected to a secret court martial and surprisingly, found innocent. Shortly after, Esterhazy fled the country. When this information leaked out, many French artists and intellectuals charged the government with blatant anti-Semitism, for imprisoning Dreyfuss for a crime they knew he didn’t commit. In 1898, Emile Zola, wrote an editorial in the newspaper accusing the Government for its action. Zola’s letter began appropriately with the words, (“Jaccuse”). After much pressure, The French government still refused to exonerate Dreyfuss, but in an attempt to save face for the grievous mistake, agreed to pardon him. It wasn’t until 1906 that Alfred Dreyfuss was granted a new trial in which he was finally acquitted of all charges. On July 12, 1906, Alfred Dreyfuss was a free man, after having suffered for 12 years for a crime he didn’t commit. He was re-admitted into the army with a promotion to the rank of major

(con’t. on next page)

in command of an artillery unit. When World War I began, Dreyfuss was promoted to lieutenant colonel and served as commander of an artillery supply unit. In November 1918, Alfred Dreyfuss was promoted to the rank of Officier de la Legion d'honneur. He went on to live a quiet life until 1935 when he died at the age of 75. In his honor, a 12 ft. statue of Alfred Dreyfuss stands in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

HERZL AND THE CREATION OF ISRAEL

So, what is the correlation between Alfred Dreyfuss and the creation of a Jewish homeland? Theodore Herzl enters the story. Theodore Herzl was born in Hungary in 1860. By 1895, after believing in the idea of Jewish assimilation into the fabric of society, he began to notice aspects of anti-Semitism in Vienna where he was living. This came to a boiling point when as a reporter, he was asked to cover the Dreyfuss trial. The virulent anti-Semitism he saw at that trial and on the streets that day was the turning point for him. Crowds were shouting, "Death to Dreyfuss, Death to the Jews". That convinced Herzl that assimilation into the European population was no longer possible. In 1896 he published his famous work, "Der Judenstadt", in which he wrote that anti-Semitism was ubiquitous and inevitable, assimilation was doomed to failure, and a Jewish state was the only answer. "Der Judenstadt" was translated into several languages, and began to have a major impact throughout Europe. This led Herzl to organize the first International Zionist Congress in 1897. For the next six years, he lobbied vigorously for a Jewish homeland. In 1903, in a meeting with Joseph Chamberlain the British Colonial Secretary, Uganda was suggested as a possible Jewish homeland. Palestine surely would have been the first choice, but it was under Turkish control, and the Sultan rejected the idea. When Herzl suggested Uganda to the 6th International Zionist Congress, it was flatly rejected by the Russian delegation. From then on, Palestine was to be the only choice. It wasn't until 1917, when Britain and France were planning how to divide up the Middle East after the war, that the British issued the Balfour Declaration, stating that they looked with favor on a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Finally, in 1922, the League of Nations issued a proclamation called "The Mandate for Palestine", which officially gave the Jewish people homeland status in Palestine, along with the existing Arab population. But it wasn't until November 1947 that the General Assembly of the United Nations recommended a partition of Palestine into a Jewish and Arab state. On May 14 1948, the State of Israel was born.

Alfred Dreyfuss was a righteous man who suffered through no fault of his own, but finally prospered in the end. More important, his suffering could have been the catalyst that eventually led to a Jewish homeland and subsequently, a Jewish state. Would Herzl have followed the same Zionist path if it were not for the Dreyfuss trial? We will never know. It is certainly possible that the day Theodore Herzl attended the trial of Alfred Dreyfuss, although only one day in all the days that will ever be, was to have a profound effect on all the days that were to come.

"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*.



MARCH YAHRZEITEN

Friday, March 5th, 2021:

Pauline Berkowitz	grandmother of Stephen Heit	Ada Dolin	grandmother of Rachel Bender
Albert Elkin	grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman	Moses Fergenson	uncle of Michael Bergman
Sadye Hisiger	mother of Miles Hisiger	Lottie Mirkin	grandmother of Judith Strom
Melvin Moss	father of David Moss	Herman Rosenthal	grandfather of Susan Westlake
Aida Ryan	mother of Eve Siegel	James Taylor	father-in-law of Karen Taylor, grandfather of David Taylor
Charles Warton	brother of Gale Berman		

Friday, March 12th, 2021:

Harvey Alterman	husband of Rhonda Manus	Monte Baier	brother of Shelby White
Elliot Bernstein	father of Meredith Rudin	Amy Cohen	sister of Adam Cohen
Seymour Drucker	grandfather of Janine Gordon	Florence Fine	grandmother of Peter Fine
Ronald Graham	father of Brian Graham	Leon Levy	husband of Shelby White
Helen Pilch	mother of Alan Pilch	Betty Ravitch	grandmother of Michael Gitlitz
Douglas Schwartz	brother of Vicki Yolen	Beatrice Strom	mother of Robert Strom
Margery Bright Wallach	mother of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia		

Friday, March 19th, 2021:

Steven Abraham	brother of Vivian Hoffman	Laura Bank	aunt of Arnold Leitner
Edgar Bendor	father of Jane Bendor	Lyubov Dashevskaya	grandmother of Vladimir Gogish
Morris Heller	father of Paul Heller	Francis Horvilleur	father of Laurence Furic
Jerome Howard	father of Laurie Dubin	Fayge Levin-Goldberg	grandmother of Jacob Goldberg
Gloria Margolis	mother of Elise Aries	Esther Mirkin	mother of Judith Strom
Jeanne Perrin	mother of Charles Perrin	Thelma Reichenthal	mother of Sandra Rosenhouse
Robert Sigman	friend of Michael and Gale Berman	Richard Wood	father of Trudy Wood

Friday, March 26th, 2021:

Harry Cohen	grandfather of Steven Kaye	Michael Davis	brother-in-law of Elyse Davis
Eva Engel	grandmother of Robin Heit	Morton Eydenberg	father of Susan Westlake
David Adam Hagen	brother of Ellen Lipton	Kenneth Henry	father of Robert Henry
Milton Kamler	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld	Marvin Kipnes	father of Todd Kipnes
George Levenson	uncle of Karen Brenner	Richard Ruo	father of Eileen Segalman
Tillie Schmeltzer	mother of Resa Fremed	Sam Schmeltzer	father of Resa Fremed

Condolences

To Rabbi Jon Haddon and Jean Haddon on the death of Rabbi Haddon's brother, James Haddon, z"l

May his memory be for a blessing.

APRIL YAHRZEITEN

Friday, April 2nd, 2021:

Millie Bernstein
 aunt of Alan Pilch
 Mary E. Keleher
 mother of Catherine Mishkin
 Barbara Gray
 aunt of Scott Gray
 Wallace Kalter
 step-father of Marcia Needleman
 Emmy Sternberger
 grandmother of Alice Gottlieb
 Herman Zeitlin
 father of Ianne Poushter

Marilyn Cohen
 mother of Susannah Altman
 Bernie Gerard
 father of Ira Gerard
 Eva Greenberg
 mother of Adrienne Orlan
 Louis Rubinfeld
 grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld
 Barbara Traynor Stoll
 mother of Susan Andrade

Friday, April 9th, 2021:

Susan Baier
 cousin of Shelby White
 Jack Berkowitz
 grandfather of Stephen Heit
 Isia Bursuker
 husband of Veronika Bursuker, father of Moshe
 Bursuker, and grandfather of Eve and Ari
 Warren Gittlen
 grandfather of Franki Zimmerman
 Ted Krulwich
 brother of Jeffrey Krulwich
 Arthur Margolis
 father-in-law of Robi Margolis
 Isaac Weintraub
 grandfather of Karen Gerard

Alan Bangser
 brother of Robert Bangser
 Sarah Buchman
 aunt of Donald Gordon, z"l
 Arnold Eydenberg
 grandfather of Susan Westlake
 Leah Fergenson
 grandmother of Michael Bergman
 Meyer Katz
 father of Claire Katz
 Cyril Lesser
 father of Diana Friedlander
 Ben Stern
 brother of Barbara Manners

Friday, April 16th, 2021:

Rita Katchko
 mother of Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray
 Joshua Ponczyk
 grandfather of Jack Goldberg
 Monroe Sachs
 father of David Sachs
 Louis Warton
 father of Gale Berman

Esther Oks-Ponczyk
 grandmother of Jack Goldberg
 Adolph Ratner
 grandfather of Judith Strom
 Mary Salpeter
 mother of Michael Salpeter
 Fay Goodman Weisberg
 mother of Marty Weisberg

Friday, April 23rd, 2021:

Edward Carroll
 father of Jim Carroll
 Phyllis Goldfield
 mother of Laurie Wolkin
 Murray Haddon
 father of Rabbi Jon Haddon
 Andrew Hyman
 friend of Richard Mishkin
 Hilda Vendig
 mother of Richard Vendig

Jo Ellen Kipnes
 mother of Todd Kipnes
 Harvey Haddon
 brother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
 Annette Holson
 grandmother of Robin Heit
 Lisa Stoll
 sister of Susan Andrade

Friday, April 30th, 2021:

Rita Bush
 mother of Richard Bush
 Debbi Jacobs-Eckert
 grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher
 Joseph Hubsher
 great-aunt of Karen Gerard
 Lillie Landsberg
 father of Betsy Brand
 Edward Joseph Modest
 mother of Sunnie Colen
 Rose Pecker
 mother of Sunnie Colen
 Sol Saleem
 grandfather of Kate Alvarez
 Harold Teich
 father of Matt Teich

Joan Bieber Carroll
 mother of Jim Carroll
 Ruth Fox
 mother of Barbara Hisiger
 James Jolly
 father of Robert Jolly
 Ivey Meyers
 granddaughter of Ellen and Murray Darvick
 Ruth Muchnick
 grandmother of Jason Muchnick
 Florence Rubin
 grandmother of Susan Dufner
 Rebecca Shimkin
 grandmother of Janine Gordon
 Gisela Warton
 mother of Gale Berman

We Appreciate Your Generosity!

General Fund

Marion Milrod

Andrew & Lynne Stark

Marc & Sarita Sheridan

Wendy and Josh Meyer

Bob and Terry Henry

Gale & Mike Berman

Tara and Max Axler and family

Robi Margolis

Natalie, Steven and Lisa Zeiger

in memory of Helen Milrod, *z”l*

in honor of the wonderful and heartfelt service performed by

Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Debbie for Shesh’s Bar Mitzvah

in memory of Wendy’s mom, Billie Kaserman, *z”l*

in honor of Shesh Sheridan becoming Bar Mitzvah

in honor of Steve Kaye’s Bar Mitzvah

in memory of Stephen Margolis, *z”l*

in honor of Rick Cohlan

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Drs. Lisa Ipp & Kurt Voellmicke

Robert & Terry Henry

Anonymous

in honor of Ben becoming Bar Mitzvah

in memory of Ralph Kravitz, *z”l*

Cantor’s Discretionary Fund

Cantor Josh Breitzer

With gratitude for generosity of time, talent and spirit in
helping to raise up future cantors!

Music Fund

Dr. Barbara E. Safran & Family

in memory of Dr. Kenneth A. Greenberg, *z”l*

Education Fund

Tracey and Marty Weisberg

in memory of Nadine Goldman, *z”l*

ECC Fund

Alex Perry

Bottomline Technologies

Elise and George Jonisch

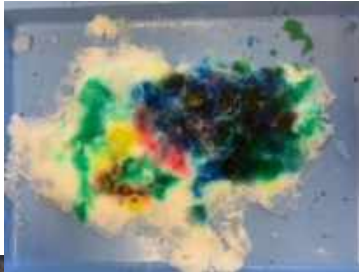
in memory of Elaine Lynn, *z”l*

NEWS FROM THE ECC

Our Early Childhood Center

by Sarah Denyer (ECC Director)

Happy and healthy at the ECC in 2021! We have been enjoying the abundance of snow, for large motor play as well as indoor experimentation. While learning about Tu Bishvat, the students planted a variety of bitter herb seeds that we hope will mature in time to include on their Seder plates. Each class also created their own versions of winter trees. The Pre-K Class had “Friendship Week” in mid-February. They read stories and talked about what it means to be a good friend, engaged in projects involving teamwork, as well as acknowledging random acts of kindness. Our ECC students are also looking forward to dressing up and celebrating Purim. Please note that registration for the 2021/22 school year has begun and plans for our Summer Fun program will be released soon!





CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877

Non Profit
Organization
Postage

PAID

Danbury, CT
Permit No. PI 2008

The Best of Old World Elegance, Rural Beauty and Modern Amenities

Located in a country setting, the newly renovated clubhouse features a stunning ballroom windowed throughout, with panoramic views of a spectacular golf course and surrounding hills.



*Parties of all sizes welcome
One affair per day
Kosher catering available*



SALEM GOLF CLUB

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914*669*5485 www.salemgolfclub.org