



November and December Worship Schedule

November 5	6:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	December 3	6:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship, Family Chanukah Celebration
November 6	9:00 a.m.	Torah 101	December 4	9:00 a.m.	Torah 101
November 12	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Worship - Spirited and Soulful Music with Beth Styles	December 10	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
November 13	5:00 p.m.	Shabbat Afternoon Worship, Bat Mitzvah, Hanna Kurtz	December 11	4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Afternoon Worship, B'not Mitzvah, Charlotte & Sophie Omin
November 19	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	Sunday, December 12		Annual Meeting
November 20	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Torah 101 Shabbat Morning Worship, Bar Mitzvah, Adam Minsek	December 17	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
November 26	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	December 18	9:00 a.m.	Torah 101
Sunday, November 28		Chanukah begins	December 24	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
			December 31	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Please join us in-person or online for our Shabbat Services.



High Holy Days 2021/5782



CONGREGANT SPOTLIGHT

Hal and Laurie Wolkin: JFC Legacy member-1989 (31 Years!)



How long have you lived in the area? Where did you grow up?

43 years. Laurie grew up in the Bronx, and Hal grew up in Queens, then Yonkers.

How long have you been married? Where did you meet?

44 years. Hal and Laurie met through friends who were getting married – they were helping their friends move into an apartment. Their first date was dinner and a drive-in movie (The Exorcist).

What are your occupations?

Laurie continues to work professionally as a Psychologist having earned her PhD in 1982, not in private practice but for a therapeutic school/day treatment program in Westchester. Hal was a CPA who left one of what were the Big 8 firms at a partnership level before he created and ran the global tax function in a very large, worldwide corporation. He has been retired for several years while Laurie is not yet retired.

Do you have a Jewish journey story?

Laurie grew up in the Bronx in an insular village-type neighborhood with a small orthodox synagogue next to their apartment building. She wanted to imitate her brother who was 3 years older and preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, even though girls generally did not have Bat Mitzvahs in those days. She attended the Hebrew school there.

After they were married and adopted their son Bryan, Hal and Laurie joined JFC. They sought out JFC so that they could have a naming ceremony for the baby as well as a family event to welcome their son. The naming ceremony required membership at JFC. Both Laurie and Hal became very involved at JFC with both of them participating as key members of the Board. For many years, Laurie held a position as a bridge between the Rabbi and the Board. Hal also served as Board President and CFO/Treasurer.

What keeps you connected to the community?

Participation in religious ceremonial events, Sisterhood, serving on the Board and committees.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday and why?

Passover because it's a time to bring family together; it's not strictly or highly religious, and they and Bryan have invited non-Jewish friends as well.

What is your favorite Jewish food? Laurie - Rugelach and babka; Hal - Stuffed Cabbage

What hobbies and interests do you have?

Hal designed and landscaped their property in South Salem- the shrubbery, the trees, the flowers so that flowers bloom throughout the seasons. Hal also sails on his boat 2 times a week. Laurie plays Mahjong with the group of women who've started this activity at the temple. She also enjoys Sisterhood.

What piece of advice would you have for someone new to Shir Shalom?

If you want to get involved, come to an event – a religious school event, a Sisterhood event. Attend an event or services face to face. To the extent that a person is not a religious person, they will become more comfortable in participating in religious events or services if they are not strangers in the community.

Hal and Laurie also mentioned the importance of existing members to involve and invite new members to participate in events or to help in committees or on the Board. Finding ways to be connected will lead to better community.

From the Congregants Committee

Our Shir Shalom Bulletin is again featuring *The Congregant Spotlight*, where you will have an opportunity to get to know some of our long standing congregants (those who have been part of our community for 20 years or more). We are inspired by the lifetime commitment these families make to our Jewish community and the Jewish presence in Northern Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Thank you to Congregants Committee members Linda Hirschfeld, Jamie Kaplan & Christina Gogish, with the support of Bobbie Cohan, for this feature in our newsletter.

If you are interested in becoming **more involved** at Congregation Shir Shalom please consider joining one (or more) of our committees: Ritual Committee, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Social Action Committee, Caring Committee, Congregant Committee, Education Committee, Special Arrangements, Board.



Spotlight congregant photographs were taken by Jamie Kaplan.

JAMIE KAPLAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

Please email Office@OurShirShalom.org for more information.



Congregation Shir Shalom is happy to welcome new Congregants:

Alan & June Rubin from Ridgefield, CT.

Renee and Jeffrey Pessin from Redding, CT.

Michael and Alexandra Hirschbein and their children, Eli Scott and Isabelle, from Ridgefield, CT.

Natalie and Simon Gros and their children, Micah and Charlie, from Ridgefield, CT.

Michelle and Josh Krellenstein and their children, Eliza and Samara, from Ridgefield, CT.

Evan and Alyson Rosenthal and their daughter Skylar from South Salem, NY.

Lisa Halpern and her daughter Celia from Ridgefield, CT.

Alexis and Mark Czeterko and their children, Claire and Maddie, from Ridgefield, CT.

Scott and Hannah Robbin and their children, Ayla and Asher, from Ridgefield, CT.

Mark and Andrea Davis and their children, Nicole and Ilana, from Ridgefield, CT.

Michael and Lauren O'Sullivan and their son Jackson from South Salem, NY.

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

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK



The High Holy Days are a distant memory, and this is the first bulletin published in 5782. I am grateful for so much positive and constructive feedback shared during and after our worship celebrations and observances. Many were involved with our efforts to help our sacred community feel connected, even if we were not able to gather in person en masse (or: unmasked). Rising concerns about the delta variant led us to change plans and led many to reconsider their plans to attend in person. And, as I shared on Rosh Hashanah morning, many in our sacred community found meaning, spiritual connection, and fulfillment while participating in our livestreamed worship. Every service was special and one of the most special experiences for me

was the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah when we welcomed more than three hundred people outdoors to our inaugural youth service, our shofar service, and our tot service. It was wonderful and uplifting to see so many people gathering at Congregation Shir Shalom to celebrate the New Year. And our outdoor Yizkor (Memorial) Service on Yom Kippur was, similarly, a newly meaningful and innovative opportunity to find comfort and connection in our vibrant community.

After more than a year of livestreaming our worship from different locations (including pre-recorded music during the High Holy Days in 2020), it was wonderful to again share the bimah with Cantor Debbie and to be moved and uplifted by her voice live and in-person. Our fantastic musicians added to our worship, complementing Cantor Debbie beautifully: Gina Wilson (piano), Mark Fineberg (clarinet/sax/flute), and Andrew Woodruff (cello). Our video production team helped work through A/V challenges to ensure that offsite participation and I am grateful to Andrew Stein and Evan Brenner. I need to extend a special message of appreciation to Julie DeLange for all of her assistance, managing our Zoom feed, troubleshooting audio problems, arranging our “Visual Tefillah,” and MUCH more (during High Holy Days and throughout the year!). We envisioned worship that was accessible in person or livestreamed, interactive with opportunities for engagement without feeling overly produced, and I hope that people found meaningful connection to our tradition, our community, and each other.

I am grateful to our professional staff for all of their efforts and assistance with planning and execution. Our office administrator, Kim Franz, our Executive Director, Mark Block, were both new on the job and managed to find success through a trial by fire. Our Education Directors, Sarah Denyer (Early Childhood Center) and Cathy Deutchman (Religious School) helped with our planning and worship and with engaging our young families. And my assistant, Allyson Bellio, was tremendously supportive going above and beyond her responsibilities and supporting my work, to fill in many gaps and help make sure that everything fell into place, especially as our plans evolved and Mark and Kim were learning the ropes. And our security lead, Patrick Barry, kept us safe in many ways, was a cheerful presence and greeter, and a great liaison with the Ridgefield Police Department. Our maintenance team, Maria and Teresa, kept the synagogue looking beautiful. And I am grateful to Ezra Zimmerman and EZ Moving for providing us with assistance in moving and setting up chairs and tents for our outdoor services.

And there are many volunteers to thank as well! The Ritual Committee, led by Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin, helped with planning and executing our worship. Michael helped arrange new and returning 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 served as an usher, along with Marty Weisberg.

FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK CONT.

Joe Ellis and Dawn Roberts coordinated our Jewish Journey speakers. Dawn also helped with our welcoming initiatives along with Michelle Blum, Laurie Dubin, and many more. Alan Pilch continued his work on our *Yizkor* Memorial Book. And I am grateful to all the other members of the Ritual Committee, the Congregants Committee (led by Bobbie Cohlan), and the Social Action Committee (for their work planning the annual High Holy Days Food Drive, led by Amy Margulies, Debbie Lavin, and Debbie Landzberg). And I would be remiss to not also thank our Housing Chair, Hal Wolkin, our Board of Trustees and, especially, the President and Executive Vice President of our Congregation: Larry Hoffman and Terry Henry

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, for his wisdom, insights, ideas, and patience, helping me create sermons that were relevant, timely, clear, and reasonably brief.

And last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to my family for their continued patience and support, and for sharing joy during any “downtime.” And I am in awe of Ashley, who was patient and supportive, somehow managing to balance professional responsibilities, active boys, and more, all while training to run her first marathon. WOW.

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

Board and Staff

FROM THE OFFICE

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 email addresses listed below. Our practice is to not e-mail on Shabbat or other Jewish holy days unless a message is related to that day.

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	Religious School Director Emerita Leslie Gottlieb Leslie@OurShirShalom.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY HOFFMAN

As we heard in our worship on Yom Kippur, Tzedakah is powerful and can change our outlook. Our responsibility to better the world through tzedakah begins with cultivating a culture of giving here at Congregation Shir Shalom. Tzedakah has been a cornerstone of Judaism and Jewish communities for thousands of years. Congregation Shir Shalom is sustained through your generous support. All our Trustees have led by example during these last 18 tumultuous months. We give our time and our financial resources to strengthen and enhance Congregation Shir Shalom.

We have made significant changes to reduce costs over the past year. But Community Commitment (aka "dues") and tuition alone do NOT fully cover our needs. I am asking everyone to unite forces with our Board of Trustees and join in the tradition of Tzedakah – righteous giving. We count on donations to our Annual Yom Kippur appeal to help pay our current bills. Last year our appeal raised 75,000 dollars. With your help I am confident we can reach that milestone this year. Reflective of your INDIVIDUAL circumstances, please enable us to better serve our inclusive community and meet our goal. I am sensitive that everyone's situation is unique, and we rely on those who are FORTUNATE enough to contribute more and engage in an act of Tzedakah and help "balance the books." Your support is extremely important and greatly appreciated.

Having a financially sound communal home to find solitude and experience spiritual renewal, to celebrate joyful life events, to adapt to our crazy world together and a place where children make life-long friends and learn about healing the world are all reasons to care about Shir Shalom.

I have a question. Does anyone think it's possible Jews invented WORRYING? I know for myself I have practiced the art for a VERY long time. As a student I worried about exams way too much. But I recently came across the phrase "constructive worrying" that made me feel better. This is a type of worrying that can be beneficial BECAUSE it leads to preparedness. I now realize, that constructive worrying lead me to better academic performance. Constructive worrying was also the motivation for starting our Atid campaign, getting prepared: planning and ensuring the long-term financial health and vibrancy of Congregation Shir Shalom.

I have come to learn that successful fundraising is not a sprint, it is a marathon. Our campaign committee and our Board of Trustees have lofty goals, and it is our intention to reach out to each and every family in the next six months in order to share and reach those goals.

We are blessed with a passionate Rabbi and an amazing Cantor who are committed to a future Congregation Shir Shalom whose trademark is deeper and more meaningful engagement WITH our community.

Funds raised from the Atid campaign will allow us to:

- Ensure that cost is not an obstacle to affiliating with our sacred community, enrolling children in our Religious School and building their Jewish identity.
- We will be in a better position to engage with current and future congregants by creating and strengthening programming and deeper connections within our community.
- A successful campaign will create funds necessary for maintenance, repairs and improvements to our synagogue without significantly increasing the cost of affiliation.

Today, however, I am asking you to help Congregation Shir Shalom pay its bills for 2021. Whether you are a congregant, family member, or guest, please be generous and complete an act of tzedakah by supporting our sacred community. This is our home, and we are the ones responsible for making ends meet; your-willingness to help makes a world of difference. Your Generosity and Commitment are fundamental to our success and greatly Appreciated by the entire Board of Trustees.

Wishing Everyone a Happy and more importantly a Healthy New Year.

Larry Hoffman, President

RITUAL COMMITTEE

BY MICHAEL SALPETER AND LAURIE DUBIN

THE RITUAL COMMITTEE
November 2021

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” William Arthur Ward

The value of gratitude can alter one’s entire outlook on life. The ability to acknowledge something good that one experiences and to express appreciation for it is an admirable way to live. Jews in America have two Thanksgivings. Last month we celebrated Sukkot, the “Jewish Thanksgiving” festival where (in Leviticus 22:34) G-d commands the biblical Jewish nation to gather in huts at the end of the harvest. The farmers took stock of their produce and gave thanks for their bountiful harvest.

We are grateful for the many individuals who gave of their talents, time, and creativity during the High Holy Day celebrations. With so many variables changing daily, we wish to acknowledge the flexibility and hard work of some key people who worked to make the holidays memorable and meaningful. On behalf of the Ritual Committee, we would like to thank the following people: Rabbi David Reiner, Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, the professional musicians -Mark Feinberg and Gina Wilson, in the office - Mark Block, Allyson Bellio, Kim Franz, our religious school director Cathy Deutchman, the technical support staff, Julie DeLange, and Patrick Barry working security.

We also would like to thank Laura Morris and Lori Stalowicz for their years of dedication to our congregation and the ritual committee. In addition, we would like to thank the members of the Ritual Committee who meet several times a year to assist the clergy planning the holidays. Thank you to Scott Trachtenberg, Alan Pilch, Linda Hirschfeld, Marisa Schafer, Michelle Blum, Joseph Ellis, Dawn Roberts, and Martin Weisberg. Special thanks to Michelle Blum (and Josh Blum) for putting together and coordinating the holiday gift bags and Joseph Ellis and Dawn Roberts for helping coordinate and edit the Jewish Journey presentations. Also, thanks to Jenna Dubin for her graphic design expertise.

We look forward to celebrating Chanukah, Shabbat and all festivals this coming year with you and your families.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin



Torah Study

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

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

THE LIBRETTIST OF VENICE

By Lewis Siegel

Many would say that this story could only be found in a movie or play. But sometimes, truth can be stranger than fiction.

Emanuele Conegliano was born in 1749 to a Jewish family in the Jewish ghetto of Ceneda, near Venice. He was the oldest of three sons of Geremia Conegliano, a widower, who worked as a leather tanner. Not long after Emanuele's bar mitzvah, the family converted to the Roman Catholic faith, so Germania could marry an 18 year old Catholic girl. This also allowed the three boys to enroll in a seminary for a quality education. Since it was customary for one who was baptized by a bishop to adopt the actual name of that bishop, Emanuele became Lorenzo da Ponte, a name that he used his entire life.

Because of his Catholic training in the seminary, Lorenzo sought a life in the priesthood, and was ordained in 1773. His Jewish life ended right after his bar mitzvah, and he abandoned his priestly life shortly after he was ordained. He became a womanizer, and had an affair with a married woman who gave birth to two of his children. He was also an avid gambler, and supposedly was involved in the operation of a brothel. Despite this, Da Ponte was still able to devote considerable time to teaching and writing. He was an avid reader, easily devouring writings of the great poets and philosophers, even memorizing Dante's "Inferno". Giacomo Casanova, the Italian adventurer, poet, and womanizer, was Da Ponte's close friend. In 1776, Da Ponte published a philosophical work entitled, "The American in Europe" based on the writings of Benjamin Franklin, who was visiting Italy at that time. The Venetian Inquisition Authorities found this work to have seditious overtones, and accused Da Ponte of teaching dangerous ideas. That publication and his adulterous behavior were enough to put him on trial for immoral activity. He was found guilty and banned from Venice for a period of 15 years. Before the guilty verdict was issued, he had already left town.

Da Ponte moved to Gorizia (near Trieste), a town known for its culture and book publishing, where he obtained a position writing for the Aristocracy. Although his poetry was popular, it created a bitter rivalry among other poets in Trieste and he decided to leave Trieste. When he received a letter offering him a job in the Court at Dresden, he jumped at the chance and moved to Dresden. It turned out that the letter was a hoax. However, while in Dresden, he became friendly with Catarola Mazzola, a well-known poet, who taught him opera libretto writing. Mazzola gave him a letter of introduction to Antonio Salieri, an opera composer in the court of Emperor Joseph II of Austria. Joseph II was a strong supporter of the arts and retained several opera composers in his court. After meeting with Salieri and then with the Emperor, Da Ponte was offered a position as court librettist. During Da Ponte's six years of employment, he wrote librettos for 20 operas. They included: three for Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, six for Antonio Salieri, and four for Vincente Martini y Soler. Da Ponte collaborated with Mozart on three of the greatest operas ever written: "The Marriage of Figaro", "Don Giovanni", and "Cosi Fan Tutti" (He may have had help from his friend Casanova on the text of Act II of "Don Giovanni").

In 1790, Joseph II died and his brother Leopold became Emperor. Leopold's scant interest in the arts, and more importantly, a falling out with Da Ponte, resulted in his being fired as court librettist. Da Ponte thought he would try Trieste again, and so he left Vienna and took a married woman along with him until her husband came and took her back. Soon after, Da Ponte fell in love with an English Jewish woman, Anna Grahl, whom he called Nancy. Da Ponte was now 43 years old, and Nancy was to be the last woman in his life. Evidence suggests that Lorenzo and Nancy were married in a synagogue according to Jewish ritual. Da Ponte would have had to conceal his past from the rabbi and also from the Catholic Church. In any event, Abbe' Da Ponte became Signor Da Ponte overnight, and that subterfuge would have to remain for the rest of his life.

Trieste held little interest for the Da Pontes, so they began traveling through Europe and ended up in London. Da Ponte obtained a position in an opera house writing librettos and overseeing theater productions. Twelve years in London saw Da Ponte engage in faulty business dealings that resulted in numerous arrests for indebtedness. Nancy, who now had four children, could no longer deal with this instability and decided to move to America. Some of her family had already moved to Philadelphia. Da Ponte, in fear of debtor's prison, and longing for his wife and children, left London and joined his family in Philadelphia in 1804. To escape an epidemic of yellow fever, they moved to Elizabeth New Jersey, and then to New York City. On the advice of his father-in-law, Da Ponte opened up a grocery store. In his memoirs, Da Ponte mused about going from a glorious life in the emperor's palace, to weighing two ounces of tea in his grocery. Unfortunately, the grocery went out of business, and he had to earn money by giving Italian lessons.

One day, in Riley's bookstore on Broadway, Da Ponte met Clement Clark Moore, author of "A visit from St. Nicholas" ("T'was the night before Christmas"). Moore was scholarly in Greek and Hebrew. He was astounded that Da Ponte was a friend to both Mozart and the great poet, Metastasio. Da Ponte and Moore became lifelong friends. The chance meeting with Moore was a major break for Da Ponte, because Moore's father, Benjamin, was professor and president of Columbia College. He had been Episcopal Bishop of New York, had officiated at the inauguration of George Washington and had also administered the last rites to Alexander Hamilton after his fatal duel. Benjamin Moore met with Lorenzo Da Ponte and was astounded by Da Ponte's vast knowledge of Hebrew and Latin. Da Ponte dazzled Moore with lengthy passages he had memorized from works by Homer, Virgil, Horace, and others. In 1819, Da Ponte accepted a teaching position in Italian literature at Columbia College, and in 1825, was made chairman of the department, a position he retained for life.

Lorenzo and Nancy also founded a boarding school to provide children with a classical education. His contribution to the field of Italian literature was enormous. He imported thousands of books over the years and sold his collection to Columbia College. In 1828, Lorenzo Da Ponte became an American citizen. Five years later, he established the first opera house in New York City, but it only lasted three years because of his typically poor business decisions.

Lorenzo da Ponte was probably the greatest opera librettist of all time. His life was filled with extraordinary successes and checkered with comparable failures. It was reflected in the following words he wrote near the end of his life: "I believe that my heart is made of different stuff from that of other men. . . . The hope of giving post funera immortality to my name, and of leaving to a nation which I revere, a memory of me which will not be ignoble. . . . But he also added, "I dreamt of roses and laurels, but from the roses I had only thorns, and from the laurels, bitterness". Lorenzo Da Ponte died in 1838 at the ripe old age of 89, and was buried in New York City (near what is now JFK Airport).

As the rabbi stood before young Emanuele Conegliano at his bar mitzvah, wishing him a happy and productive life, his rabbi could never have envisioned that it would be the wild life of Lorenzo Da Ponte.

References:

1. Rodney Bolt- The Librettist of Venice; Bloomsbury Publishing, NY, 2006.
2. Memoirs of Lorenzo Da Ponte, New York Review of Books, Y 2000.
3. Susan W. Bowen- Lorenzo Da Ponte: Mozart's American Librettist; EIR Feature, Nov 17, 2006.

"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

We had a successful High Holiday Food Drive! Thank you to all the families who donated. We donated approximately 120 bags of food split between the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury and the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah. They were very appreciative. See the photo of volunteers who delivered and stocked the shelves at the DBFP including Jacob, Ben and Lisa Voellmicke, Andrew Carter, Jake and Amy Margulies and Debbie Landzberg.

We are happy to report the figures for the 2 Red Cross Blood Drives we held this summer, teaming up with the Jesse Lee Church in Ridgefield. We had a nice turnout of congregants to donate blood, so thank you to all who volunteered! In June, we had 34 “productive” donations and in August we had 26 “productive” donations. Thanks again to Amy Margulies and other volunteers who helped organize.

Ben and Jacob Voellmicke, assisted by their Mom Lisa, have been working to organize the teens to participate in Social Action activities. Thanks to these teens and kudos to their community-oriented values!

Due to continuing Covid precautions, we have postponed our Midnight Run activities until next spring – we will plan a Breakfast Run for the Spring, 2022.

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. The program is very much in need of funds to pay for laundromat gift cards and laundry detergent for clients. If interested in donating, 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!
 Debbie Lavin, Amy Margulies and Debbie Landzberg



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD

Greetings from Sisterhood!

The leaves are finally turning color, so Autumn must be upon us! We are delighted to share with everyone information about Sisterhood plans, again with our primary goal of connection and engagement for all women of our Congregation and our local community. So far this Fall, Sisterhood celebrated Sisterhood in the Sukkah, where participants gathered outside in our synagogue Sukkah and enjoyed beverages and individual snacks along with lively conversation. Cantor Debbie participated and a lovely time was had by all.

Game Nights: Mah Jongg has returned with play on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00. We are welcoming new players with Mah Jongg orientations and instruction in late October and November provided by Sisterhood members. Look for postings on the Shir Shalom Sisterhood Facebook group page for details or reach out to Stacey Sussman at (917) 301-3691.

We are also pleased to announce that there is also interest in instruction in the game Canasta for those who might enjoy that popular card game. More info to come on this!

Book Club Returns! We are delighted to announce the return of Book Club, this year being led by Phyllis Shaw and Andrea deLange. The first book will be "The Midnight Library" and the first meeting will take place on **Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the synagogue.

Crafts with Cantor Debbie: Hanukkah Shell Decorating for Sisterhood members and their children on Sunday, November 7, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 at the Synagogue. The event is free but registration is required with a max of 15 people so keep an eye out for sign up information coming soon. Come prepared to have fun and be creative!

Sisterhood anticipates opportunities to coordinate with Brotherhood as well as other committees in their efforts to support and grow Shir Shalom. Sisterhood activities taking place indoors at the Synagogue will adhere to COVID requirements.

****Interested in becoming a part of Sisterhood? It's not too late!** Email sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org. All Sisterhood activities available to congregants for an annual dues rate of \$36 and rate of \$108 for a non-synagogue members. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet and make new friends, connect with other women, and simply enjoy another aspect of engagement in our Jewish community.

Our official **Sisterhood Kick-Off event** took place on Monday, October 18th. We welcomed a great group of almost 50 women for an amazing night of meeting new people and reconnecting with friends. People sat inside and outside Shir Shalom to enjoy unlimited

delicious pizza and cannolis from Brick House Pizza Truck. Thank you to everyone who came and made it such a wonderful night of fun energy, laughter and connecting with women.



CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY



CRAFTS WITH CANTOR DEBBIE

Challah Cover Workshop for Shir Shalom Adult Education



Sunday, March 13th: 1 - 3:00 PM:

Open to adult Congregants
(limited to first 15 to register)

Sunday, March 27th: 12 - 1:00 PM:

Workshop for RS students/families
(limited to first 15 to register)

Sunday, March 27th: 1 - 3:00 PM:

Open to adult Congregants
(limited to first 15 to register)



Learn to make a beautiful challah cover using Swedish Weaving and a fabric that is easy on the eyes!

All materials covered by Cantor Debbie- if you have specific colors you want, please bring DMC Pearl Cotton #5 skeins in the colors you want. You'll need two of each color.

RSVP to adultprogramming@OurShirShalom.org by Feb. 1st

Also, Sisterhood families are invited for **Chanukah shell crafts on November 7th from 1 to 3:00PM**
(Attendance limited, RSVP to sisterhood@OurShirShalom.org)

Chanukah shell crafts for RS Grades 4th-7th will be on November 14th from 12 to 1pm!

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CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY

Music and Cultural Arts at Congregation Shir Shalom

Schedule of Events & Services



Friday, Nov. 12th: 7:30 PM: Spirited and Soulful Music with Beth Styles, composer and recording artist. Beth will share her original soulful Shabbat music with us.

Friday, March 11th: 7:30 PM: Purim Singalong with Mark Fineberg, reed artist.

Friday, April 8th: 7:30 PM: Julian Schwarz, cello and Marika Bournaki, piano: World class musicians performing Jewish Music in our sanctuary as part of our Friday evening service.

Sunday, April 24th: 2 PM: Songs and Stories of Elie Wiesel: Cantor Katchko-Gray shares a lifetime of learning from her teacher.

Friday May 13th: 7:30 PM: Spirited and Soulful Music with Beth Styles.

We hope you will join us for these Musical events and services!

All programs are sponsored by the Cantor's Music Fund. Thank you for your donations.



Sisterhood in the Sukkah



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.

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Renee and Jeffrey Pessin

Serafima Dashevskaya

Warren and Karen Lustig

Karen Taylor and David Kaminer

Beverly Klein

Phyllis and David Amerling

Phyllis and David Amerling

Robi Margolis

Robi Margolis

Robi Margolis

in memory of Renee's father, Sam Bronner, *z"l*

in memory of Lev Gogish, *z"l*

in honor of the birth of their grandson, Ethan Shir Amir

in memory of Mary Taylor, *z"l*

in honor of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz

in memory of Phyllis's parents and grandparents

in memory of Rabbi Marcus Burstein, *z"l*

in memory of Mark Yustein, *z"l*

in memory of Rose Margolis, *z"l*

In gratitude to Ruth Ossher, Cantor Debbie, Rabbi

Haddon, Rabbi Reiner for their assistance with the Shiva

for Charles Fremed, *z"l*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lora Wishod

Gale & Michael Berman

Resa Fremed

Michael Brown and Mona Jhaveri

Matt and Stephanie Herbstman

Robert and Barbara Bangser

Mark Moss

Bruce and Julie Sacks

Ruth Schwartz

in memory of Gene Wishod, *z"l*

in memory of Charles Fremed, *z"l*

in memory of Charles Fremed, *z"l*

in memory of Pearl Brown, *z"l* and Arthur Brown, *z"l*

in honor of Jessica and Mike's wedding

in honor of Rachel and Jeremy's wedding

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Michael and Ronni Hammer

Robi Margolis

Barbara Appleby

Lora Wishod

Lora Wishod

Lora Wishod

David and Leslie Moss

in memory of Charles Fremed, *z"l*

in memory of Charles Fremed, *z"l*

in memory of Charles Fremed, *z"l*

in memory of her husband, Gene Wishod, *z"l*

in memory of her mother, Minna Lehrman, *z"l*

in memory of her father, Joseph Lehrman, *z"l*

in memory of Elyse Davis's mother, Gloria Sherr Abrams, *z"l*

ECC Fund

Alex and Deborah Perry

We Appreciate Your Generosity!

Yom Kippur Pledges

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

Elliot & Laura Agisim
Linda Arenson
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Jeffrey Berg & Debra Paget
Judith Besserman
Moreton & Marisol Binn
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Kurt Voellmicke & Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke
Alan and Beth Waldman
Marty Weisberg
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High Holy Day Donations:

(Includes General HHD Donations, Memorial Book and Guest Donations, Prayer Book Borrowing & Prayer Book Dedications):

Elliot & Laura Agisim
Neil & Holly Alexander
Joshua & Elyse Arnow
Noah & Amira Axe
Max & Tara Axler
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Edward & Ana Barth
Allyson Bellio
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Lora Wishod
Hal & Laurie Wolkin
David & Victoria Yolen
Michael & Jane Zeitz
Nathan & Tiffany Zezula
Jon & Eve Zibel

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITEN

Friday, November 5th, 2021:

Jerry Butchen	father of Jeff Butchen	Howard Cohlan	father of Rick Cohlan
Jay Davis	husband of Elyse Davis	Esther Fenster	sister-in-law of Elinor Darvick
Helene Howard	stepmother of Laurie Dubin	Irwin Krulwich	father of Jeffrey Krulwich
Sidney Klein	father of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz	Samuel "Poppy" Mofson	grandfather of Bonnie Pazer
Rachel Rosenhouse	mother of Harry Rosenhouse	Marvin Schattner	
Jack D. Weiler	grandfather of Joshua Arnow		

Friday, November 12th, 2021:

Herbert Abraham	father of Vivian Hoffman	Bernard Etish	grandfather of Rachel Gorman
Gertrude Frankel	grandmother of Scott Brenner	Sheila Ravitch Gitlitz	
Harold Heffler	father of Jill Teich	William Keleher	father of Catherine Mishkin
G. Leonard Lazarus	father of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley	Gladice Levenson	aunt of Elaine Gordon
Fannie Levy	mother of Richard Burg	Mordecai Lewittes	relative of Matthew Meister and Dafne Sanchez-Aldama
Horst Leffkowitz			
Philip Levine	uncle of Joan Isman	Ruth Kurzweil Rothwax	aunt of Ken Kurzweil
Edgar Strauss	father of Ellen Strauss	Freda Shuler	mother of Robi Margolis
Mae Wishod	mother-in-law of Lora Wishod		

Friday, November 19th, 2021:

Morton Birnbaum		Abraham Isaac Gordon	father of Elaine Gordon
David Hoffman	father of Drew Hoffman	Adele Kleinbaum	grandmother of Stacey Rubinfeld
Aline Lawrence	sister of Adrienne Orlan	Seth Lawrence	brother-in-law of Adrienne Orlan
Gloria Maron	sister of Resa Fremed	Anita Sax	mother of Liz Winson

Friday, November 26th, 2021:

William Goldman		Louis Heit	grandfather of Stephen Heit
Frances Kempler	mother of Felice Kempler	Herman Hoberman	grandfather of Meridith Sonnett
Beatrice Krulwich	mother of Jeffrey Krulwich	Bernard Lipman	father of Steve Lipman
Joseph Victor Meister	relative of Matthew Meister and Dafne Sanchez-Aldama		
Seymour Needleman	father of Kenneth Needleman	Arlene Richner	aunt of Ellen Strauss
Peter Vandervelden	father of Steven Vandervelden	Fred Yolen	uncle of David Yolen

Condolences

To Resa Fremed on the death of her husband, Charles Fremed

To Elyse Davis on the death of her mother, Gloria Abrams

To Tracey Weisberg on the death of her sister, Barbara Kielhoffer

DECEMBER YAHRZEITEN

Friday, December 3rd, 2021:

Marvin Baker	uncle of Carlyn Bergman	Harold Broder	father of Stanford Broder
Evelyn Brenner	grandmother of Scott Brenner	Ethel Feinleib	grandmother of Leslie Gottlieb
Leo Fine	grandfather of Peter Fine	Jack Himoff	
Arthur Karsch	father of Karen Blum	Evelyn Kurzweil	mother of Ken Kurzweil
Lillian Lotstein	mother of Susan Lapine	Howard Malloy	father of Betsy Higgins
Marvin Olarsch	father of Judy Vandervelden	Jacob Puteska	
Benjamin Ringler	grandfather of Elyse Arnow	Grayce Romeo	mother of Harry and Sandra Rosenhouse's son-in-law

Friday, December 10th, 2021:

Robert Arnow	father of Joshua Arnow	Seymour Berman	father of Michael Berman
Alexander Davis	father-in-law of Elyse Davis	Mary Jane Denzer	mother of Holly Alexander
Seymour Eslofsky	father of Ellen Barth	Joan Hammer	mother of Michael Hammer
Joan Holson	mother of Robin Heit	Natalia Glicklich	mother of Mark Glicklich
Billie Kaserman	mother of Wendy Meyer	Mina Kaye	mother of Steve Kaye
Murray Milrod	father of Marion Milrod	Michael Mishkin	father of Richard Mishkin
Claus Pappenheimer	father of Julie Held	Frank Policoff	grandfather of Steve Kaye
Ruth Rosenthal	grandmother of Susan Westlake	Alfred Strauss	grandfather of Ellen Strauss

Friday, December 17th, 2021:

Martin Davis	grandfather of Suzie Rabinowitz	Gussie Ellis	mother of Joseph Ellis
Norma Etish	grandmother of Rachel Gorman	Yvette Epstein	mother of Andrea Jacobs
Bernard Glaser	father of Laura Agisim	Millie Jacobs	mother of Alan Jacobs
Billie Kaserman	mother of Wendy Meyer	Jeff Lederman	brother of Linda Lederman
Harry Poushter	father of Bruce Poushter	Elizabeth Wood	mother of Trudy Wood

Friday, December 24th, 2021:

Rita Bergman	mother of Michael Bergman	Herschell Chanin	father of Carrie Chanin
Theodore Garfiel	grandfather of Karen Blum	Anna Heit	grandmother of Stephen Heit
Sadie Kaplan	grandmother of Steve Kaye	Joy Koy	great aunt of Jamie Garrett
Oscar Lowy	grandfather of Terry Henry	Arnold Manus	father of Rhonda Manus
Percy Paget	father of Debra Paget	Toby Rosenstein	mother of Ronni Rosenstein

Friday, December 31st, 2021:

Samuel Antkies	father of Michael Antkies	Mildred Block	aunt of Barbara Manners
Allan Blumstein	father of Eve Zibel	Martha Cohen	grandmother of Tiffany Zezula
Pearl Elkin	grandmother of Stephanie Herbstman	Eli Gorelick	father of Jeff Gorelick
Aaron Jay Gordon	brother of Elaine Gordon	Gay Golman	aunt of Jamie Garrett
Bernard Gorman	father of Martin Gorman	Martin Levenson	grandfather of Karen Brenner
Martin Lipton	father of Richard Lipton	Paul Lowy	father of Terry Henry
Helen Milrod	mother of Marion Milrod	Naomi Price	aunt of Terry Henry
Jacob Schneider	grandfather of Margie Gorelick	Bernard Shuler	father of Robi Margolis
William Tandet	father of Naomi Shapiro		

NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR CATHY DEUTCHMAN



In the early 1990's, I bought a little-known book called "Chicken Soup for the Soul" and was moved by a story I read about generosity. A woman driving over the Bay Bridge into San Francisco reached the tollbooth, and in a spontaneous act of generosity, paid for her car and the car directly behind hers. The next person in line was so delighted not to have to pay the toll, that he paid for the person in line behind his car, and this went on for a long time.

The catchphrase 'Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty' was coined around that time, and put on bumper stickers and t-shirts to remind others to be generous and kind. It wasn't until later that I connected this idea to the Jewish value of generosity (nedivut). It feels good to practice generosity and kindness, inspires others to do the same, and is a Jewish virtue.

In Judaism, there is a saying:

Mitzvah goreret mitzvah....One good deed brings about another...

I interpret this to mean that one act of goodness, or mitzvah, clears the way for more acts of goodness to happen. When we align or open ourselves to doing good deeds, we organically want to engage in more positive actions. The second part of the saying reads "one transgression leads to another transgression." Negative behaviors can lead to more negative behaviors in a downward spiral.

As we head toward Thanksgiving and Chanukah at the end of the month, I invite you to pay attention to the virtue of generosity and practice it by being more generous with yourself and others. What might it look like to be more generous with yourself, with your family and with your community? How might your actions inspire those around you to be more generous? How might you catch your child being generous and name it and praise them for it?

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Chanukah/Chag Chanukah Sameach,

Cathy Deutchman
Education Director

Our Early Childhood Center by Sarah Denyer (ECC Director)

We have had a fantastic start to the school year at the ECC! We welcomed 12 new families and the children have adjusted beautifully to their new school. Outdoors, our students have enjoyed harvesting beans, tomatoes, and cucumbers from our garden, listening to the Rabbi blow the shofar, dancing to shabbat songs, decorating and spending time in the Sukkah and having their families join for a special Sukkot Young Community Shabbat. In the classroom, the children have learned the daily routines, worked on art projects and cooking lessons, formed friendships and of course engaged in lots of cooperative play!

In mid-October we reinstated our annual field trip to Gossett Brother's Nursery. We were very lucky to get a gorgeous day to tour the nursery and it was wonderful to have so many parents and grandparents able to join us! After the tour each child got to plant a hyacinth bulb and pick a pumpkin from the patch.

We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and Chanukkah in November!

Field Trip to Gossett Brother's Nursery

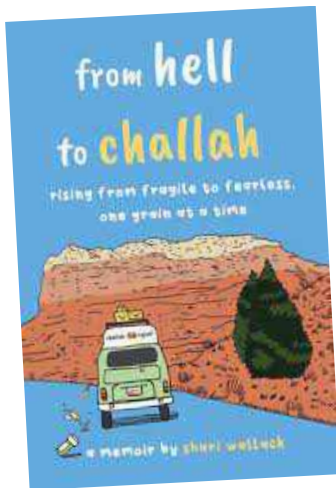


ADULT PROGRAMMING

Two author talks will be cosponsored by the **Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County** and Congregation Shir Shalom. These authors were selected by the Jewish Book Council for their 2021 – 2022 book tours. Both talks will be presented on Zoom and will start at 3PM. On **Sunday, November 14**, Shari Wallack will discuss her latest book “From Hell to Challah.” In this book she shares her inspiring, funny, and uplifting story through despair, survival, and mental emancipation during the chaos of 2020. On **Sunday, January 9, 2022**, David Page, a renowned food writer, will talk about his latest book “Food Americana” - a fascinating exploration of how America created a national cuisine from the foods of many other countries. Jewish-specific content includes the fascinating story of bagels and lox.

Behind the pages with Shari Wallack**Sunday, November 14th at 3PM via Zoom**

“From Hell to Challah: Rising From Fragile to Fearless, One Grain at a Time”



In *From Hell to Challah*, Shari Wallack shares her inspiring, funny, and uplifting story through despair, survival, and mental emancipation during the chaos of 2020. Her journey begins inside a mental hospital and continues on a trip to eighteen destinations throughout the United States during the Covid-19 pandemic. She details her innermost thoughts, hopes, and fears while illustrating how she went from crippling depression to joy over a three month period. Along with a multitude of colorful characters, Shari navigates an exciting and unusual voyage of selfdiscovery and healing. Among the useful lessons she learns along the way, she discovers that cooking and baking calm her. She provides the recipes that helped her through her struggles, with the hope that others will find the same much needed comfort. Shari’s heartwarming and humorous story from despair to joy shows that happiness and purpose can be found even in the most difficult of times.

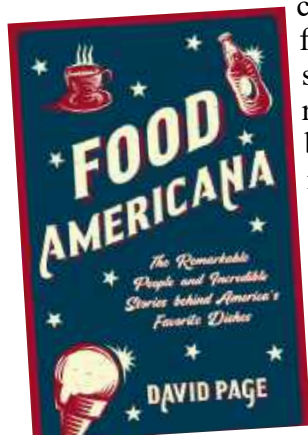


Author Bio: Shari Wallack started her professional career working for Club Med in New York City, and relocated to Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 1993 to work as an incentive sales executive for multiple cruise lines. In 1997 Shari became an “accidental entrepreneur.” She later founded Buy the Sea, which has become the largest and most decorated cruise and all-inclusive brokerage company in the industry. Shari is the proud mom of Rachel and Jake.

Behind the pages with David Page**Sunday, January 9th at 3PM via Zoom**

“Food Americana: The Remarkable People and Incredible Stories behind America’s Favorite Dishes”

A fascinating exploration of how America created a national cuisine from the foods of many other countries. Jewish-specific content includes the fascinating story of bagels and lox, from behind the counter at Russ & Daughters appetizing store on the lower east side, to Marvin Lender describing the history of Lender’s Bagels, to Mel Brooks reminiscing about lox as a once-a-week treat as a child. And there’s also the real backstory of Jewish love for Chinese food. Safe treyf anyone? What is American cuisine? What national menu do we share? What dishes have we chosen, how did they become “American,” and how are they likely to evolve from here? *Food Americana*, answers all these questions and more.



Author Bio: Two-time Emmy winner David Page changed the world of food television by creating Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Before that, as a network news producer, he traveled America and the world covering the biggest stories, and indulging his love for terrific food. He’s passionate, engaging, humorous, and he has fascinating stories to tell.





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