



## September and October Worship Schedule

Friday, Sept. 3	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Monday, Sept. 6	7:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Worship
Tuesday, Sept. 7	9:30 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship
	3:30 pm	Youth Family Worship (Outdoors)
	4:00 pm	Shofar Service (Outdoors)
	4:30 pm	Tot Service (Outdoors)
	5:30 pm	Tashlich @ Lewisboro Town Park
Wednesday, Sept. 8	9:30 am	Rosh Hashanah Worship, Day 2
Friday, Sept. 10	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Wednesday, Sept. 15	7:00 pm	Kol Nidrei / Erev Yom Kippur
Thursday, Sept. 16	9:30 am	Yom Kippur Morning Worship
	3:30 pm	Youth Family Worship (Outdoors)
	4:15 pm	Tot Worship (Outdoors)
	5:00 pm	Outdoor <i>Yizkor</i> Memorial Service
	5:30 pm	Afternoon Worship / Mincha
	6:15 pm	<i>Yizkor</i> / Memorial Service (Indoor)
	6:45 pm	Neilah
Friday, Sept. 17	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Monday, Sept. 20	6:00 pm	Erev Sukkot
Tuesday, Sept. 21	10:30 am	Sukkot Worship
Friday, Sept. 24	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Monday, Sept. 27	6:00 pm	Erev Simchat Torah/Sh'mini Atzeret with <i>Yizkor</i>

Friday, Oct. 1	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Saturday, Oct. 2	9:00 am	Torah 101
	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship, Bat Mitzvah, Ella Tiktin
Friday, Oct. 8	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Saturday, Oct. 9	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship, Bat Mitzvah, Lillian Shore
Friday, Oct. 15	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat
	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Saturday, Oct. 16	9:00 am	Torah 101
Saturday, Oct. 16	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship, Bat Mitzvah, Hannah Sussman
Friday, Oct. 22	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Saturday, Oct. 23	10:30 am	Shabbat Morning Worship, B'nai Mitzvah, Penny & Calvin Wein
Friday, Oct. 29	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Please join us in-person for our Shabbat Services.  
We will also continue to stream all services on Zoom.



## CONGREGANT SPOTLIGHT

### Debra Paget & Jeff Berg: JFC Legacy member-1993

**Christina:** *Tell us a little bit about what brought you to the area and how you came to be congregants.*

**Debra:** We originally moved to Goldens Bridge in 1992. Jeff took a job transfer and at that point in time our kids were 2, 2 & 5 years old. We moved from the Boston area and did not belong to a synagogue there. We went to services at different synagogues. Our daughter Samantha was starting kindergarten when we moved and we wanted her to start Hebrew school so we started looking at synagogues pretty much right away. Jeff grew up in a conservative synagogue and I went to an Orthodox synagogue even though we didn't practice in the house. We knew we were looking for something that made us feel comfortable. Neighbors of our's belonged to JFC. We went for a Hanukkah service & then we went to a prospective new members event and we just felt at home.

**Christina:** *What memories stand out from your time as congregants?*

**Jeff:** I have to say certainly the bar & bat mitzvah of our children were special times for us. Seeing the kids grow through religious school, especially Samantha growing through the mentoring program that Leslie (Gottlieb) implemented in the Religious School.

**Debra:** Sam was in the first group of mentors. The kids were post confirmation. Leslie was looking for a way to engage the kids and keep them engaged so they ended up as student teachers in the religious school. Samantha met a lot of little kids that way and loved it.

**Jamie:** *The program is so unique and that your daughter was in the first group to go through is so special. There are weekly meetings with the students beginning with 8th*

*graders and then they are inserted into a classroom as a mentor. As the students move up in the grades they are like teaching assistants.*

**Jeff:** I appreciated that because I spent 3 years in my high school days teaching in our religious school. I gained a lot of self confidence and insight into learnings that you don't have as a student. To see Samantha have that same experience was very gratifying. Among other memories that stand out was serving on the board of trustees at JFC for 4 or 5 years. Those were very memorable and useful years. We ran some major fundraising activities in terms of galas & auctions. We did a lot of good things in terms of building community and raising money for the temple during that time.

**Debra:** To put into perspective in terms of our tenure at the synagogue when we first joined the synagogue was meeting in South Salem Presbyterian church. When we bought the building in South Salem I walked with the Torahs from the church to the new building. We went from the church building to JFC having our own building through the fundraising and the eventual merger with TSI and moving into the building and forming a congregation called Shir Shalom. We haven't been there as long as a lot of people but I feel like we've come full circle.

**Christina:** *What keeps you connected to the community?*

**Debra:** We live in Cape Cod during the High Holy Days and yet we come back to Ridgefield or Zoom in as the case may be last year. When we knew we weren't ever going to be back to the Westchester/Fairfield area to live we talked about it. We had no desire to join a synagogue in Cape Cod or Scottsdale. It's like the theme song from Cheers "where everybody knows your name." I want to go to a place that's familiar and where I feel at home.

**Jeff:** The thing that keeps me most connected is that I serve as chair of the Financial Planning Board. It's a way for me to serve the temple in a way that is easily done from far away.

**Jamie:** *Are there any other stories that are unique and special to your family?*

**Debra:** The High Holy Days are coming up and Jeff always blows shofar. The first High Holy Days we spent together as a couple was Yom Kippur and I went to his family. He blew shofar at his family synagogue in Wethersfield, CT. To me it's been that continuity. We come back and he brings his shofar and he blows shofar. He started when he was 14 and has been doing it for 50 years except for a few missed years here and there. It's the continuation of his family tradition which I love.



Debra and Jeff at their daughter, Samantha's wedding in June. **Pictured to the right** (L to R): Meredith & Blake Berg; Samantha & Ryan Sigman; Lowell Berg & Jordan Mayer.



## From the Congregants Committee

In this issue of the Shir Shalom Bulletin we again feature 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 Christina Gogish & Jamie Kaplan, with the support of Bobbie Cohan, for this new feature in our newsletter.

**To join our Congregation or for more information, please email us at**  
[office@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:office@OurShirShalom.org)



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

Melanie and Tim Dascenzo and their children, Samuel, Lillian and Alexa, from Ridgefield, CT.

Rebecca and Jarret Lew and their children, Samantha and Zachary, from Ridgefield, CT.

Sari and Ben Yaffee and their children, Peyton and Evans, from Ridgefield, CT.

Karen and Asaf Savir and their children, Abigail, Aidan, and Ethan, from Ridgefield, CT.

Debrah and Matt Gershner and their children, Nathan and Jacob, from Ridgefield, CT.

Scott and Robin Soloff and their children, Avri and Greyson, from Danbury, CT.

Sarah and Eric Rottman and their son, Micah, from Ridgefield, CT.

Evan and Tara Nussbaum, and their children, Indiana, Mackenzie, and Willa, from Ridgefield, CT.

Dana and Andrew Harnett and their daughter, Ivy, from Ridgefield, CT.

Isaac Hirt-Manheimer and Gloria Manheimer and their children, Elijah, Hannah, and Eleanor, from Ridgefield, CT.

Rebecca and Chris Antista and their children, Isaiah and Leon, from Ridgefield, CT.

Marilin and Steve Lipman from Ridgefield, CT.

Naomi (Cookie) Shapiro from Ridgefield, CT.

Susan Randel and Americo Carrasco and their son, Alan, from New Milford, CT.

Jared and Jessica Burwick and their daughter, Charlotte, from Newtown, CT.

Phyllis Shaw from Ridgefield, CT.

Marilyn Jablonski from Somers, 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



Summer has flown by at Congregation Shir Shalom and it has been wonderful to welcome and help orient the newest members of our staff team, our Executive Director, Mark Block, our Education Director, Cathy Deutchman, and our Office Administrator, Kim Franz. I am eternally grateful to our departing staff – Leslie Gottlieb, Laura Morris, and Lori Stalowicz – for their dedication and commitment to our mission and sacred work.

Our transition provides an important and meaningful opportunity to step back and reconsider our operations and approaches to our community and sacred work and wonder, “How can we better serve our community?”

It is an eternal question especially on my mind as the High Holy Days approach and I reflect on the past year. When have I found success? When did I miss the mark? What are opportunities for improvement and growth? The High Holy Days have many themes, including those expressed in the Untaneh Tokef prayer, centered around prayer (t’filah), the pursuit of justice and righteousness (tzedakah), and our desire to repent and return to a place of wholeness and peace (t’shuvah).

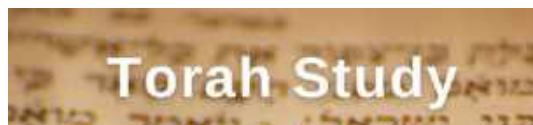
We will gather in the weeks ahead for the High Holy Days. Sadly we are not able to be together in the same physical space, not able to shake hands or embrace as we were in the past. But we are gathering nevertheless: in homes, online, outside. We are gathering with a shared connection and sense of purpose, to pray, to live, to eat, to reflect on the past year and to ponder the mysteries of life, as part of a Kehillah Kedosha – a sacred community.

The words of 20th Century theologian and civil rights leader Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel on the front of our High Holy Days Information packet stand out in my mind: “The root of religion is the question of what to do with the feeling for the mystery of living, what to do with awe, wonder, or fear.”

We may all struggle with the uncertainty, the mystery of living: awe, wonder, and even fear. And the days and weeks ahead are an important opportunity to return to our community, to reconnect, to pray, to sing, to reflect, to examine how we can be better as individuals and as part of a sacred community.

I hope to see everyone in the weeks ahead, in person and online, indoors and outdoors, as we celebrate and observe the High Holy Days together. Ashley, Samson, Asher, and Pancake join me in wishing everyone L’Shanah Tovah U’Metukah, a good, sweet, and healthy New Year!

Rabbi David Reiner



**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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MARK BLOCK

**Fashioning a Relevant, Contemporary Congregation**

**W**ith the High Holidays and the start of a New Year upon us, we find ourselves taking stock of our place in the world and how we can work to be better human beings in the months ahead. At the same time, as the secular calendar year progresses, we are giving renewed thought and having conversations on the approach to areas critical for the success of Shir Shalom:

Let's begin with the premise that there is work we can do to enhance our approach to being open, inclusive, relevant and creative.

Shir Shalom's leadership and staff are addressing some of the necessary areas that will help us drive the development of our community and congregational culture that is different from the Shir Shalom many long-time members recall. To be relevant in today's world of Jewish observance we must look at the future in ways that would not have been thought of in the past:

1. Let's make our Jewish faith one in which we express a contemporary form of Reform Judaism that more directly accommodates our American individualism while enhancing Jewish continuity and community.
2. When we hear from a congregant or prospect who says I'm spiritual, but not religious, let's welcome them through even more exciting programs and services in a way that bridges spirituality and religion in a warm communal embrace.
3. If we need to carve out time from a busy schedule in order to pursue spiritual practice, let's be sure we do so in a meaningful and understanding way. The times have changed, and we need to recognize that change, and meet each other where we are in our own Jewish journeys.
4. As Jews, we are ultimately accountable to our communities, both religious and secular. Let's not abrogate our responsibility to make it engaging for ourselves and the generation to follow.

When we talk about holiness, we must understand there are many ways to be spiritual. Like any form of religious observance, there is not a one size fits all approach. Our spirituality can come through our values, culture, tikkun olam and more. There is generally a quieter and more inward and actively searching component that takes place as the focus is on something much different than prayer, belief and behavior. The active spiritualist seeks a space where there are no judgments made, and our approach to Judaism is one for which focuses on the contemporary world built on the foundation set by those who came before us.

As we look to be more relevant and constructive, as individuals we are constantly seeking to locate the spirit within ourselves and a modern view of "soul," along with the need to develop a personal journey toward a vision and imagination we see in our mind's eye throughout life. Not unlike physical exercise, if we don't work at keeping in shape spiritually, in our home, at work, socially and at our synagogue we will find ourselves "lost" in a time that focuses more on the material, and less on the spiritual. We should not deprive ourselves of that which we work hard to attain, after all that is what Jews have always sought. What we should do is maintain a level of self-discipline and a commitment to intention, consciousness, along with an awareness of our faith and how it can help in guiding us through the maze of life, much as it has through the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected us all.

As we celebrate the holidays, we have much to think and talk about. We must do so in a respectful and open manner, and together we will find we can be a better congregation because of it. Through open minds and hearts, we can build and prosper. When we look forward we don't ignore or forget our past, but see the view in front of us to be an exciting opportunity to make changes that will enhance our personal and institutional practice of Judaism that is just as meaningful as that which we see in the rearview mirror.

Ann and I wish you peaceful and spiritually personal holidays. As we reflect on this difficult past year let's look ahead to a New Year that is the foundation for days that are meaningful and purposeful for ourselves and our congregation.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah.

## RITUAL COMMITTEE

BY MICHAEL SALPETER AND LAURIE DUBIN

## THE RITUAL COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2021

***...But repentance, prayer and righteousness will avert the severe decree***

These few words from our High Holy Days liturgy are perhaps the most poignant and meaningful of all those we read on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Many of you will recognize this to be from the Untaneh Tokef prayer which we recite on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It refers to the notion regarding our placement in the Book of Life for the year to come. This prayer does not make mention of the manner in which we should repent and pray and as we know this past year and a half has totally changed our perception on this topic.

A few weeks ago we were optimistically planning for a near-normal return of High Holy Days services at Congregation Shir Shalom. Vaccinated congregants were to be welcomed back without the necessity of wearing a face covering and we were hoping to provide food on a limited basis for an oneg shabbat or luncheon. Unfortunately the Delta variant's rapid spread has changed our approach. As I am writing this, the city of Danbury, just today, reinstated an indoor mask mandate followed by Brookfield tomorrow. We then will be welcoming all who wish to come to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services with the proviso that all attendees will be wearing a mask. Those of us who wish to watch from home can do so with our live stream. The hope is that some families who feel secure about being with others they know may come together and participate as a group online.

Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Katchko-Gray have planned an exciting line-up of High Holy Days services including a tot service, a family oriented youth service, a Shofar service and Tashlich. It may sound trite but there is something for everyone with a degree of flexibility. We are also planning on outdoor seating (weather permitting of course) just outside our sanctuary for those who may feel more comfortable with such an arrangement.

Look for details related to service start times and we look forward to seeing you and your loved ones whether in person or remotely.

L'shanah tovah  
Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



## 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. Yahrtzeit 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.

## Board and Staff

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<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><b>Senior Rabbi</b> David L. Reiner MAHL RabbiReiner@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p><b>Cantor</b> Deborah Katchko-Gray CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p><b>Executive Director</b> Mark Block Mblock@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p><b>Religious School Director</b> Cathy Deutchman Cathy@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Center Director</b> Sarah Denyer Sarah@OurShirShalom.org</p> <p>Office Administrator Kim Franz KFranz@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> <p>Religious School Director Emerita Leslie Gottlieb Leslie@OurShirShalom.org</p>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY HOFFMAN

First and foremost on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees I want to wish every member of our sacred community a happy and more importantly healthy New Year, L' Shanah Tova! We are fully aware that these remain challenging times but there is substantial good news to share regarding Congregation Shir Shalom. I want each congregant to know that we are blessed with a professional staff and volunteers who have been working very hard to prepare and create a fulfilling fall experience for our sacred community.

Our Early Childhood Center led by Sarah Denyer has navigated in an amazing way all obstacles and continues to provide a warm and nurturing place for the youngest members of our community. Our Religious School has successfully transitioned from the skilled direction of Leslie Gottlieb to our new Director Cathy Deutchman who has already received praise and accolades from many families. The number of students enrolled this year has increased and planning and modifications have been made in order to offer our children a meaningful learning experience this fall. I also want to thank all the parents, especially the newest members of our community, for their trust and support. It is very much appreciated. Our children will continue to learn and gain an understanding of Jewish customs and traditions and to build enduring friendships, that I hope will last a lifetime.

I want to take a moment to welcome and share the news once again that Mark Block has joined us as our first Executive Director. Mark brings over a decade of experience in this position and will provide our community with administrative oversight, and more importantly he is someone who cares deeply about growing Shir Shalom as a vibrant, inclusive spiritual center for life long Jewish journeys.

Our Rabbi and Cantor and the ritual committee are building upon our experiences from last year and planning for a high holiday season that will connect and inspire us and unite us spiritually through worship and music.

Congregation Shir Shalom is blessed that even during these challenging times most of our congregants have continued or increased their financial commitment and support of our sacred community. We will grow and thrive with the support and generosity of our congregants. Once again, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees I want to thank each and every congregant for their commitments.

The last year has been memorable, challenging and at times downright difficult. Through it all Shir Shalom has grown and continues to strive to be a special place for meaningful connection, learning, and spiritual renewal. A place to support each other where active involvement forms the backbone of our sacred community.

Warm Regards and Happy New Year!

Larry Hoffman  
President

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHIR SHALOM SISTERHOOD

**O**n behalf of Sisterhood, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Thank you to everyone that attended our Sisterhood gatherings at Ballard Park for the CHIRP concerts. It was great to see you all!

We are looking forward to a year of fun and engaging events with Sisterhood. Please keep an eye out for more information about our annual Sisterhood Kick-off event coming up in October. We invite all women of Shir Shalom to come, and look forward to getting to know our new congregants. For more information to join or get involved in Sisterhood, please email [Sisterhood@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:Sisterhood@OurShirShalom.org) and join our Facebook group Shir Shalom Sisterhood.

L'Shana Tovah!

Laurie Wolkin, Margie Gorelick and Christina Gogish



## ADULT PROGRAMMING

**A**dult Programming took a break during the summer. Currently we are working on bringing some exciting events to the congregation.

Two author talks will be sponsored by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. 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.

*More details on the authors above will come in the weeks ahead.*

During one of the summer Shabbat services, Cantor Debbie dedicated about 15 minutes to the memory and songs of her beloved teacher Elie Wiesel. We asked Cantor if she would do a longer presentation for our congregation and she graciously agreed!

You do not want to miss this event on **Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 2PM. Cantor Debbie will share a lifetime of learning and songs from her teacher: “Songs and Stories of Elie Wiesel.”**

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS



# High Holy Days Food Drive 5782



This year our drive will benefit **three** pantries that need our help!

The Community Center of Northern Westchester

The Daily Bread Food Pantry

The Ridgefield Food Pantry: *(only accepting monetary donations and gift cards this year)*

## Foods Needed Most

- Cereal - hot or cold
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Cans of hearty soup, beef stew and chili
- Rice - 1 or 2 pound bag
- Pasta and tomato sauce
- Canned fruit and canned vegetables
- Canned tuna and canned meat
- Ready Meals (ex: meals in a can)
- Dried and canned beans
- Juice / Broth
- Shelf stable fruit juice
- Baking items (cake mix, flour)
- Diapers, baby food
- Dry and shelf stable milk
- Personal care products (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Laundry Detergent, Toilet paper, dish soap, etc.

Gift cards from Stop and Shop and ShopRite and online monetary donations appreciated!  
*See our Shir Shalom weekly email for links to donate directly to the above three pantries.*

**Please bring your donations during the High Holy Days to the Shofar Service on Rosh Hashanah**  
 (Tues. September 7th at 4:00pm).

We will also have bins at the Temple for drop off starting in September.

Please contact [SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org)  
 or contact Amy Margulies and Debbie Lavin with any questions.

**Thank You!**

## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

### No Matter How Far

By Lewis Siegel

Seven years ago, Eve and I were on vacation in San Francisco, and one day visited the Legion of Honor Museum in Lincoln Park. This museum of European art is so named because it is a replica of the Palace of the Legion of Honor in Paris. In a park-like area near the museum, with the Pacific Ocean in the distance, is a small Holocaust memorial consisting of several stone plaques with inscriptions, and a bronze and cement sculpture. The sculpture, created by George Segal, depicts a prisoner standing behind a barbed wire fence, and beyond the standing figure, are white painted bronze bodies strewn on the ground. Of all of the Holocaust scenes I have seen, as frightening and gruesome as they were, this one gave me the eerie feeling that I was actually there, witnessing the tragic event.

At first, I wondered why there was a Holocaust Memorial in this unusual location. But then something else came to mind. Here we were, 3000 miles from home, in a far-off place. The sculpture was standing alone with no obvious relation to the museum, overlooking a vast ocean. It seemed as if the sculpture just appeared out of nowhere. I imagined that it was peering into the distance saying, "Please remember me".

Suddenly I realized that no matter how far we travel, no matter how much time elapses, the haunting memory of the Holocaust will be with us.

I wondered how long this will last. Will the Jewish people in the distant future have the same emotional reactions that we feel today, or will the memory of the Holocaust eventually disappear into a casual footnote of Jewish history? That doesn't have to be. Every year we tell of the plight of the Israelites and their exodus from Egypt, and we still do that 3000 years later. It's easy to remember the exodus from Egypt because the Torah and the Passover observance reminds us. But the Holocaust doesn't have such a reminder. It stands on the memory of the Jewish people. In Israel Holocaust Remembrance Day is an official national holiday (Yom HaShoah, 27th of Nisan). It is observed in other parts of the world also, but generally in a less formal manner. The question is, can it be sustained?

The Jewish people have many tragic memories: The exile of most of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after the defeat by the Assyrians in the year 722 BCE, the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE and the exile to Babylonia, the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, the failure of the Bar Kochba rebellion 132-135 CE, and the myriad of pogroms over the next two thousand years. But nowhere in our history has the sheer magnitude of the Holocaust been equaled. We have to pass on its story to future generations. We should tell about the Nazi regime exterminating six million Jews, two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe. The story of the Holocaust should be told from generation to generation, so that those fateful words "Never Again" will be ingrained, and always be a reminder of what happened, and what could happen.



"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*.



CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY



## CRAFTS WITH CANTOR DEBBIE

### Challah Cover Workshop for Shir Shalom Adult Education



**Sunday, February 13th: 12 - 1:00 PM:**  
**Workshop for RS students/families**  
*(limited to first 15 to register)*

**Sunday, February 13th: 1:30 - 2:30 PM:**  
 Open to adult Congregants  
*(limited to first 15 to register)*

**Sunday, March 27th: 12 - 1:00 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](mailto:adultprogramming@OurShirShalom.org) by Feb. 1st

RIDGEFIELD: (203) 438-6597  
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DANIEL P. JOWDY  
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CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY



# Music and Cultural Arts at Congregation Shir Shalom

## *Schedule of Events & Services*



**Sunday, October 24th:** 3:00 PM: Klezmer Concert- Beryllium String Quartet: featuring Rena Isbin, violin; Robert Burkhart, cello; William Hakim, violin; and Beryl Diamond Chacon, violin.

**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.

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

### **General Fund**

Lindsay and Julie Held  
Dawn and Hal Roberts  
The Gogish Family  
Dr. & Mrs. Arnold and Laura Leitner  
John and Heather Kahan  
Karen Taylor and David Kaminer

in memory of Ellen Granat, mother of Lynne Stark, z”l  
in memory of Ellen Granat, mother of Lynne Stark, z”l  
with gratitude to Rabbi Reiner for Ella’s Baby naming

in memory of Lester Israel Kahan, z”l  
in memory of Goldie Mitzelman, z”l

### **Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**

Naomi Stern  
Richard Lipton  
The Butchen Family  
  
Lynne and Andrew Stark  
The Schobel Family  
John and Bonnie Edelman  
Linda Katz  
Philip Edelstein  
Joel and Eileen Segalman

in honor of the High Holy Day services  
in memory of Miriam Lipton, z”l  
in memory of Eileen & Joel Segalman’s niece Kylie and  
Joel’s Uncle Richard  
in memory of Ellen Granat, z”l  
in memory of Ellen Granat, z”l  
in memory of Kylie London Vanderbilt, z”l  
in memory of Kylie London Vanderbilt, z”l  
in memory of Kylie London Vanderbilt, z”l  
in memory of Kylie London Vanderbilt, z”l

### **Cantor’s Discretionary Fund**

Joe Ellis  
Richard Lipton

in honor of his Bar Mitzvah  
in memory of Miriam Lipton, z”l



Congregation Shir Shalom is seeking a volunteer to organize our ***Book Club this Fall.***

If anyone is interested in organizing this club in September or looking for more information on our Congregation Shir Shalom book club, please email [rabbiasst@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:rabbiasst@OurShirShalom.org).

Thank you!

## NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR CATHY DEUTCHMAN



Sitting around the table during a family reunion this past August, I paused to reflect on how very good it felt to sit with my brothers and how happy I felt to see my children sitting together. We had waited a long time to celebrate my mom's 80th, and because of the restrictions of covid we hadn't sat together in over a year.

*Hinei ma tov umanayim shevet achim gam y'achad*

How good and pleasant to sit with our brother and sisters.

During this time of global pandemic, these words resonate. We are social creatures who seek friendship, community and connection. We've had to find new ways to sit together in this past year and a half. Do any of these sounds familiar?

Sitting together over Zoom, sitting masked outdoors under blankets in winter, Attending Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, birthdays, funerals, baby naming's and other lifecycle events on Zoom, Participating in or planning a drive-by to help celebrate graduations, birthdays and other events.

As Jews we know that communal prayers hold a certain power, and that's why we need a minyan of ten to say them together. Communal prayer is an expression of community and a building block for creating community. I'd say the same is true of learning. We can learn alone yet the learning that's done in chavruta (with a partner) or with a teacher and classmates takes on an entirely different experience and builds community in the process.

The Education Committee met at the beginning of August and discussed personal examples of meaningful Jewish experiences. After listening to what each person said, we identified the defining characteristics. Topping the list was the word "community" and so we wrote as the first guiding principle: "Fostering Jewish friendship and connections through community."

Conventional wisdom tells us that "shared joy is a double joy." As we roll into a new season and new Jewish year, I wish for us all many moments to sit together as sisters and brothers in joy. In these continued uncertain times, we'll need to be flexible and creative, to find ways to sit together. I'm certain we'll find ways.

Wishing you a healthy and sweet new year,

Cathy Deutchman  
Education Director



We invite you to join us for the Jewish custom of ***Tashlich***. ***Tashlich*** occurs during the afternoon of the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*.

*"Today we have come to this body of water to perform the **Tashlich** ceremony; seeking, symbolically, to cast away our accumulated sins and transgressions, to send away our unworthy thoughts, to purify our hearts and our souls, as the new year begins."*

We will observe ***Tashlich*** on **Tuesday, September 7th**, at **Lewisboro Town Park**, 1079 NY-35, South Salem, NY, at **5:30 p.m.**  
Brief ceremony – 15 minutes or less.

*Please bring bread to participate.*



## SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, September 3rd, 2021:**

Donna Ellen Brown		Jean Haddon	mother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
Dorothy Himoff		Samuel Levy	step-father of Richard Burg
Dr. Joseph Fried		Stanley Slone	
Sally Tandet	mother of Naomi Shapiro	Leopold Weisberg	father of Martin Weisberg
Dudley Emerson Westlake			

**Friday, September 10th, 2021:**

Jonathan Howard Gordon	brother of Elaine Gordon	Victor Hausner	father of Marcia Needleman
Herbert Jay Hodas	brother of Elinor Darvick	Sadie Hodas	mother of Elinor Darvick
Ruth Lowy	mother of Terry Henry	Sol Pottish	uncle of Richard Mishkin
Ruth Siegel	wife of Lewis Siegel		

**Friday, September 17th, 2021:**

Deborah Darvick	daughter in-law of Elinor Darvick	Arnold Friedlander	husband of Diana Friedlander
Emanuel Hisiger	father of Miles Hisiger	Monroe Hyman	father of Lisa Pollack
Ara Goodman	grandmother of Milton Hollar	Cantor Theodore Katchko	father of Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray
Rose Margolis	mother-in-law of Robi Margolis	Cathie Jo Raynor	
Irv Schneider	uncle of Margie Gorelick	Minna Lehrman	mother of Lora Wishod
Seymour Schreckinger	father of Jamie Kaplan	Wendy Steinberg	sister of Jay Walker
William Schwartz	relative of Moreton Binn		

**Friday, September 24th, 2021:**

Sheila Barth	mother of Edward Barth	Ann Brodsky	mother of Karl Brodsky
Norman Burg	brother of Judith Besserman	Murray Emmer	father-in-law of Jane Emmer
Sylvia Farber	mother of Hildi Glicklich	Sophie Felper	grandmother of Margie Gorelick
Harry Fergenson	grandfather of Michael Bergman	Jerry Granat	father of Lynne Stark
Abraham Holson	grandfather of Robin Heit	Stanley Gottlieb	father of Lawrence Gottlieb
Leroy Ronald Levin		Ethel Kurlander	great aunt of Matt Herbstman
Larry Mirkin	brother of Judith Strom	Nathan Muchnick	grandfather of Jason Muchnick
Harold Redman	father of Debra Lavin	Freda Silverman	grandmother of Richard Burg
Mary Taylor	grandmother of David Taylor	Frieda Stern	grandmother of Laurie Dubin
Anna Schattner			

## Condolences

*To Lynne Stark on the death of her mother, Ellen Granat*

*To Joel Segalman on the death of his uncle, Richard Segalman*

*To Joel Segalman and family on the death of his niece, Kylie London Vanderbilt*

*To Judith Strom on the death of her brother, Robert Sidney Mirkin*

*To Jessica Brooks on the death of her brother, Jair Ernesto Romero*



## OCTOBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, October 1st, 2021:**

Carol Joyce Altman	mother of Joe Altman	Leonard Dutka	
Abraham Fox	father of Barbara Hisiger	Eddy Fuchs	father of Hanky Kutscher
Sophie Goodman	grandmother of Marla Kay	Joseph Meyer-Gordon	
David Kushner	father of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz	Dominic Romeo	father of Harry and Sandra Rosenhouse's son-in-law

**Friday, October 7th, 2021:**

Gerald Jay Berg	father of Jeff Berg	Gerhard Bendix	father of Alice Gottlieb
Jay Bovilsky	father of Adam Bovilsky	Pearl Brown	mother of Michael Brown
Rabbi Marcus Burstein	husband of Eric Larson	Dorothy Dietzek	mother of Alan Dietzek
Seymour Epstein	father of Andrea Jacobs	William Fischman	father of Robert Fischman
Helen Friedlander	mother-in-law of Diana Friedlander	Barbara Paget Forst	sister of Debra Paget
Regina Heit	mother of Stephen Heit	Milton Kaye	father of Steve Kaye
Joseph D. Lehrman	father of Lora Wishod	Phil Kurtz	father of Marshall Kurtz
Lynn Levi	aunt of Adam Rubinfeld	Carol Lackow	mother of Rhonda Lackow
Sylvia Mininberg		George Orlan	husband of Adrienne Orlan
Hattie Schwartz	relative of Moreton Binn	Sam Schmeltzer	father of Resa Fremed

**Friday, October 15th, 2021:**

Joseph Emmanuel Brenner	grandfather of Scott Brenner	Nancy DeLucia	mother of Michael DeLucia
Germ Dashevskiy	grandfather of Vladimir Gogish	Crescenzo DeLucia	grandfather of Ilya Gogish
Molly Friedlander		Gregory Friedlander	
Amy Friedlander		Ruth Goodman	mother of Monnie Newman
Vladimir Gogish	grandfather of Vladimir Gogish	Naomi Gray Kaplan	mother of Scott Gray
Marc Kaplan	cousin of Judith Strom	Saul Kurzweil	father of Ken Kurzweil
Rae Michael	great grandmother of Danielle, Caitlin and Lucas Winson	Norma Sachs	mother of David Sachs
Doris Weiler	grandmother of Joshua Arnow	June Shaplen	mother of Jason Shaplen
Sam Friedlander		Elaine Zimmerman	grandmother of David, Aaron, Ezra and Joey Zimmerman

**Friday, October 22nd, 2021:**

Max Baker	grandfather of Carlyn Bergman	Jack Bergson	father of Phyllis Amerling
Rose Bergman	grandmother of Michael Bergman	Mayer Blum	brother-in-law of Sandra Rosenhouse
Celia Burg	mother of Judith Besserman	Flora Fergenson	aunt of Michael Bergman
Edward Friedlander	father-in-law of Diana Friedlander	Helen Garfiel	grandmother of Karen Blum
Harold Horowitz	grandfather of Stacey Rubinfeld	Wolf Manheimer	father of Aron Hirt-Manheimer
Yale Ossher	father of Harold Ossher	Martha Ratner	grandmother of Judith Strom
Frieda Stern	grandmother of Laurie Dubin	Richard Stanley	

**Friday, October 29th, 2021:**

David Alper	father of Lonnie Shapiro	Martin F. Burg	father of Richard Burg
Gertrude Cohen	grandmother of Matt Herbstman	Edward Epstein	father of Sheryl Knapp
David Emmer	husband of Jane Emmer	Joan Fine	mother of Peter Fine
Denise Fuchs	mother of Hanky Kutscher	Bebbee Garcia	sister of David Fiderer
Harold Horowitz	grandfather of Stacey Rubinfeld	Billie Hoffman	mother of Larry Hoffman
Jacob Goldberg	grandfather of Jacob Goldberg	Arthur Klein	husband of Elinor Klein
Norbert Schmidek	Grandfather of Dana Harnett	Bernard Stein	husband of Ali Stein

# MAZEL TOV!



Join us in wishing Mazel Tov to Leslie and Larry Gottlieb who are excited to share the recent birth of their fourth grandchild, Ruthie Stanley Gottlieb, born on July 7 in Philadelphia. Dylan, Lee and June are so happy to share their home with their newest member! Ruthie is named for

Leslie's mother, Ruth, and for Larry's father and Lee's father, both named Stanley. They chose the name Ruth because Dylan said his grandmother represented love, kindness and all that was good in life.



Please join us in wishing ***Mazel Tov*** to Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray and F. Scott Gray on the birth of their third granddaughter, Liliana, born July 2nd to proud parents Joey and Nicole Zimmerman.



**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

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☎ 203-733-7198

✉ rlackow@gmail.com



## Our Early Childhood Center

by Sarah Denyer (ECC Director)

The ECC reinstated its Summer Fun program this year and our participants all enjoyed being at Shir Shalom and meeting new friends. There were 28 children enrolled, 14 of those being from families that are brand new to Shir Shalom. Our program was lead by Alison Llewellyn who had an assistant director (Sarah Denyer) a lead teacher (Olivia Horowitz) and 6 lovely teenaged interns to help run a joyful and busy 6-week summer program. Each of the 2-week long sessions had a specific theme, Science and Nature, Goop Lab and Art Studio. One of the many highlights was having artist and ECC teacher Liz Raymond teach the children how to tie dye their very own ECC Summer Fun T-shirts. Our last day featured a surprise ice cream truck resulting in lots of adorable, happy, sticky faces! A fun time was surely had by all of our participants this summer.

We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students to the ECC on September 2nd for our Back to School Meet and Greet to kick off the 2021/22 School Year!







# CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877

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