

OUR SHIR SHALOM

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties Early Fall 2022 / Elul-Tishrei-Heshvan 5782-5783

Selichot

Saturday, September 17 *Havdalah and Selichot* Worship 8:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25 *Erev Rosh Hashanah* Worship 7:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah – First Day

Monday, September 26 Morning Worship 9:30 AM

Outdoor Youth Service 3:15 PM

Outdoor *Shofar* Service 4:00 PM

Outdoor Tot Service 4:30 PM

Tashlich at Lewisboro Park 5:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah – Second Day

Tuesday, September 27 Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 4 *Kol Nidrei /Erev Yom Kippur* 7:30 PM

Wednesday, October 5 Morning Worship 9:30 AM

Outdoor Youth Service 3:30 PM

Outdoor Tot Worship 4:15 PM

Afternoon Worship/*Mincha* 5:00 PM

Yizkor Memorial Service 6:15 PM

Neilah 6:45 PM

Food Truck Break Fast 7:15 PM

Sukkot/Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 9 *Erev Sukkot* 6:00 PM

Monday, October 10 *Sukkot* Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday, October 16 Pizza in the Hut 11:30 AM

Simchat Torah 12:30 PM

Monday, October 17 *Sh'mini Atzeret/*
Simchat Torah (w/Yizkor) 10:30 AM

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us in-person or via Zoom for all worship services throughout the year.
Zoom links are made available through our weekly congregant eblast.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER WORSHIP AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

September 2	6:00 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship	October 4	See cover	<i>Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur</i>
September 7		Early Childhood Center Meet and Greet	October 5	See cover	<i>Yom Kippur</i>
September 8		First day of Early Childhood Center Program	October 7	6:00 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship
September 9	5:30 p.m.	<i>Tot Shabbat</i>	October 8	10:30 a.m.	<i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship, <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> , Daniel Krampf
September 9	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship	October 9	See cover	<i>Erev Sukkot</i>
September 10	9:00 a.m.	Torah 101 w/Rabbi Reiner	October 10	See cover	<i>Sukkot</i> - Day One
September 10	10:30 a.m.	<i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship, <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> , Jacob Barrett	October 14	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship
September 11	9:30 a.m.	<i>B'Yachad</i> School begins	October 15	10:30 a.m.	<i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship, <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> , William Knispel
September 16	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship	October 16	See cover	<i>Hosha'na Rabbah</i>
September 17	8:00 p.m.	<i>Havdalah</i> and <i>Selichot</i> Worship	October 17	See cover	<i>Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah</i>
September 23	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship	October 21	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship
September 25	See cover	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	October 22	9:00 a.m.	Torah 101 w/Rabbi Reiner
September 26	See cover	<i>Rosh Hashanah</i> - Day One	October 22	5:00 p.m.	<i>Shabbat</i> Afternoon Worship, <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> , Arthur Brown
September 27	See cover	<i>Rosh Hashanah</i> - Day Two	October 28	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Worship



TORAH 101 WITH RABBI REINER

Join Rabbi Reiner on select Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for Torah 101.

You'll find this opportunity to engage in the study of our faith, observances and text to be extremely uplifting and interesting as we learn together. Check our weekly eblast and calendar for dates and in-person and Zoom information.

OUR MISSION

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are a vibrant and inclusive community inspired by Jewish values and traditions.

We honor the diversity of our backgrounds, experiences, and aspirations.

We celebrate our shared values: the study of Torah, participatory worship driven by music, the promotion of lifelong learning, the ongoing project of *Tikkun Olam* (Healing the World), and the work of social justice. We embrace the responsibility/task of being "a light unto the nations," building a brighter future for our community and the world.

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM OF WESTCHESTER AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES

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OFFICE HOURS

Our office is generally open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. If you are unable to visit during our office hours, there is a clear plastic bin on the porch by our main entry door. *Yahrtzeit* candles, prayer books, Jewish calendars and seasonal items are available for home use. Our clergy and staff are eager to connect by email or telephone and (consistent with our Jewish values) our practice is not to check or respond to e-mail on *Shabbat* or other Jewish holy days, except in the case of a life-cycle emergency. Thank you.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Rabbi David Reiner



As I prepare for my tenth observance of the High Holy Days in our community, I am reflecting upon my time in Ridgefield, blessed to

serve our sacred community. It has been an honor, a blessing, and a privilege to share the pulpit with Cantor Debbie for so many years! I am amazed by how our world, our community, and our congregation have changed, to say nothing of my growth personally and professionally, a rabbi, a spouse, and a parent.

I looked back at the bulletin column I wrote in the Fall of 2013 and am even more appreciative of my personal and professional growth and the significant changes in our world and community, and I also recognize that while everything has changed, there is a great deal that has remained the same. In 2013 I wrote of my aspiration to

- “Feed our hunger for meaning and spirituality by inspiring connections with Jewish practice, tradition and culture. Our worship, our educational programs, the meaningful

relationships that we create and deepen, our communal acts of *Tikkun Olam* will feed our desire for spirituality and add meaning to our lives.

- “To strengthen and grow our congregation. Growth is about more than families, *Shabbat* attendance, or dollars raised; it is about becoming a visionary congregation in which members recognize our sacred purpose and are able to add genuine meaning to their lives through engaging in our congregation.

“There are four modes of spirituality—four interconnected

"I am amazed by how our world, our community, and our congregation have changed."

paths by which [we] may add meaning to [our] lives...engaging with our congregation: worship, learning, cultivation of relationships, and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). Some seekers may find meaning through moving worship; services may very well NOT appeal to other members of our congregation. Some people find learning to be meaningful and spiritually fulfilling, while some may find that spending time with other members of our congregation adds the most meaning

to their lives. Acts of *Tikkun Olam* – actions that repair our world – add meaning to the lives of many; making the world a better place gives us a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

“...this ambitious plan needs your support – it cannot be accomplished by any one alone. Our Torah tells the story of the wandering Israelites surviving in the desert – individuals coming together to be a part of the community – and the same holds true of our congregation. We will add meaning to our lives as individuals by coming together and engaging with each other in the sacred tasks

of *Tikkun Olam*, worship, learning, and the creation and deepening of meaningful relationships [within our sacred community]...”

So much has changed, we have found so much success and yet so much remains the same; our aspirations for a stronger, visionary congregation continue forward.

May the year ahead, as I approach my second decade serving our sacred community, be filled with sweetness and joy, continued growth and the strengthening of our sacred community.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu,

Rabbi David L. Reiner

COVID-19 POLICIES

In response to continued infection rates in our area, and on the advice of our medical advisors, we continue to recommend and encourage masking at Congregation Shir Shalom. This recommendation extends to all visitors, guests, students and staff. Masks are available at our entrance for any visits, including before services and other programs and events.

PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray



From my very first High Holy Day services in 1976 at Boston University at the age of 19 I knew preparing for the music

and spiritual experience was like the "Jewish Olympics." It is a delicate balancing act of good health, vocal strength and stamina, musical preparation and all the bigger questions of one's life. Are we ever truly ready to answer those questions?

What have you done this year? What could you do better? I love the words to the song "Ratzo Vashov" by my colleague Cantor Lisa B. Siegal, "Where have I been? Where am I going to? Counting the days of the ebb and flow".

For 46 years I've been doing this High Holy Days dance of preparation, fear, nerves, rehearsing, reviewing music, cooking, baking, and gathering family together, juggling it all knowing that one bad allergy season, cold, asthmatic bronchitis, and now Covid, could put a real dent in all the plans! Luckily, there have been few real dents along the way,

and mostly a wonderful uplifting experience I eagerly look forward to each year. Most people think it's lovely to see the leaves starting to turn colors; cantors think – Uh oh – we know what's coming and what's expected of us.

Adding to the usual preparations and worrying, for me is a long history of cantorial musical memories. My very first musical memory is of sitting on the stairs listening and watching my parents rehearse for the High Holy Days during the

"What have you done this year?
What could you do better?"

summer. It began in August usually, with my father standing by the black baby grand piano in the living room that my mother was playing. They always began with *Selichot*, a musical journey of the High Holy Days, and ended with *Neilah*, the final service of *Yom Kippur*. I listened and absorbed this mostly Katchko classical cantorial music as well as Lewandowski, Sulzer, and others. It always sounded grand and glorious, majestic, dignified, and awesome. I had heard my famous grandfather gave a rare compliment to my father as he studied to be a cantor and told him he "had the voice of a prophet." It

sounded prophetic to me, and it has stayed with me all my life. It is that sound that inspires me during the High Holy Days. I can hear my father singing the exact words and melodies of his father during portions of the service. People sometimes tell me they notice a change in my voice, my spirit and feel the change too. It is a channeling of a deeper older sound that just connects me to my father and his father through the music.

It is my hope that this year, 2022, my 46th High Holy Days brings all of us good health, spirit and soaring music that lifts us up and carries into the New Year 5783.

May we all answer the questions, "Where have I been? Where am I going to?" and look forward to a brighter and more peaceful world.

Here are two older essays I wrote about the High Holy Days for the Times of Israel Blogs.

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

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/a-kol-nidre-tale-thank-you-natalie-cole/>

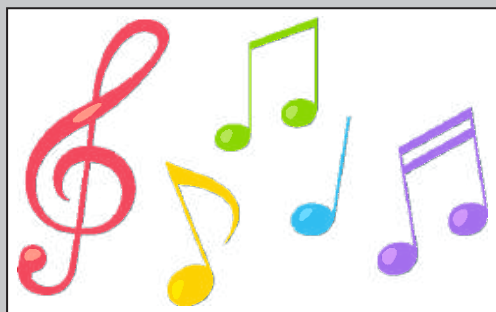
L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu,

Cantor Debbie

HIGH HOLY DAYS CHOIR REHEARSALS

High Holy Days choir rehearsals take place, September 11 and 18 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Any new singers please contact cantordebbie@ourshirshalom.org.

Thank you.



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeff Gorelick and Larry Brooks



Sadly, the wonderful days of Summer are numbered and Fall, the busiest time at Congregation Shir Shalom, approaches. Our spiritual focus of the year, the High Holy Days, are weeks away and you should have received



your packets and ticket information. As is our tradition and that of virtually all synagogues in America, you will also be asked to be a part of our annual High Holy Days Appeal through your contribution. While coming on the heels of our Atid campaign (which is still ongoing), it seems we are asking a lot of your generosity. An explanation is in order. The Atid campaign is meant to address **long term goals** of our sacred community, including unforeseen facility needs, programming to enrich our congregant experience, and helping our fellow congregants, those less

fortunate, to continue to maintain their affiliation with our sacred community. The Appeal is our most important **annual** fundraiser, the one that we use for ongoing operations to help alleviate an annual deficit that we experience in running CSS and our religious school.

As you may know, our fifteen-year-old boiler malfunctioned this past March, and, after many hours of work by our Executive Director, Mark Block, and our lay leadership,

"Regardless of whether you are physically able to be present in our synagogue, we want to enable you to be part of our sacred community."

a permanent solution appears in the offing. We would also like to extend our thanks to Hal Wolkin, Robert Henry, and Richard Lipton for their invaluable help with this problem. This, by the way, is an example of the unexpected facility issues that can come up for which our annual Appeal is crucial in helping to lessen the burden on us all.

Also, importantly, we have completed the installation of our state-of-the-

art new audiovisual system in our sanctuary which you will experience and see in use throughout the High Holy Days and beyond. Regardless of whether you are physically able to be present in our synagogue, we want to enable you to be part of our sacred community. As an example, this may mean a grandparent participating in a *Shabbat* service, continued participation by those in our community that move to another state, or someone experiencing physical hardship or illness that wants to participate in a service. This permanent enhancement to our facility is an important component of our future.

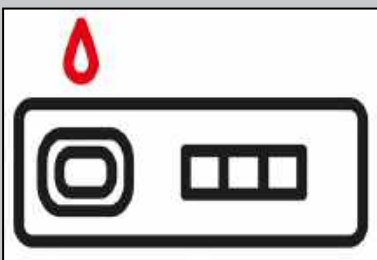
There is more to come in the months ahead, and we look forward to great things on the horizon for our sacred community at Congregation Shir Shalom. We wish you and yours well until we see each other on *Rosh Hashanah!*

If you would like to connect, please do not hesitate to send us an email to president@ourshirshalom.org.

L'Shanah Tovah,

*Jeff Gorelick and
Larry Brooks*

COVID-19 TEST KITS AVAILABLE



We have a limited number of FREE Covid-19 rapid home test kits available. To schedule pick up or delivery of a test kits, contact RabbiAssist@ourshirshalom.org. The Caring Committee is available to assist with shopping and grocery delivery for congregants who are home bound or quarantining. Please give the office a call.

SPIRITUALITY THROUGH COMMUNITY

Mark Block, FSA, Executive Director



As we fast approach the start of a New Year, we find ourselves preparing to take stock of our place in the world and how we can

work to be better human beings in the year ahead.

At the same time as the secular calendar year progresses we are aware of the changes that Covid has brought to our own lives and that of our synagogue community.

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 newly contemporary form of Judaism that accommodates our American individualism while enhancing Jewish continuity and community.
2. When we hear from a congregant who says I am spiritual, but was never religious, let's embrace them through our services and programs in a way that bridges spirituality and religion in a unique way.
3. As we carve out time from busy schedules 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 not just recognize that change, we need to embrace it.

When we talk about a renaissance in our religious beliefs, it has become a common theme that it must be one of

spirituality coupled with tradition—the past, present and future as an integrated focus on community, observance and acceptance. To embrace those of diverse practice and observance our focus should be on belonging, believing, and participating. There are so many ways this can occur.

When we talk about spirituality we have to understand there are many ways to be spiritual. Like any form of religious observance, this is not a one size fits all approach. Our spirituality can come through our values, study, culture, *Tikkun Olam* and more.

"We are constantly seeking to locate the spirit within ourselves and a modern view of "soul.""

There is generally a quieter and more inward and actively searching component that takes place as the focus is on something much different than rote prayer, belief and behavior. The active spiritualist seeks a space where there are no judgments' made and the approach to Judaism is an active one for which focus in the contemporary world is sought.

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 synagogue we will find ourselves "lost" in a society 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 American Jews sought from the earliest days of immigration. What we should do is maintain a level of self-discipline and a commitment to intention, consciousness and awareness of our faith and how it can help in guiding us through the maze of our daily life.

In the next issue of our bulletin I will continue my thoughts on spirituality through community and observance and tie both articles together for ourselves and our synagogue. Through open minds and hearts we can build and prosper. When we look forward we don't ignore or forget our past, but I believe we see the view in front of us to be an exciting opportunity to 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 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.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Mark Block

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE



OUR 2022/5783 FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS THREE PANTRIES • THE RIDGEFIELD FOOD PANTRY • THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER • THE DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Foods needed most include: • Hot or cold cereal • Peanut butter and jelly • Cans of hearty soup, beef stew and chili • Rice, pasta and spaghetti sauce • Canned fruit • Canned vegetables • Canned tuna • Canned meat • Dried beans • Canned beans • Shelf stable fruit juice • Diapers and baby food • Dry and shelf stable milk • Personal care products (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)

*Gift cards from Stop and Shop and ShopRite and online monetary donations also appreciated!
Note, the Ridgefield Food Pantry is not accepting food at this time.*

Donation bags will be collected during the High Holy Days. We also encourage you to drop off a bag to either the Community Center of Northern Westchester, or the Daily Food Pantry if you will not be in-person for High Holy Day services this year. These agencies rely on our generosity. *Please check online for their donation times.*

Please contact SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org with any questions.

RIDGEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

400 MAIN STREET
RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877
CHECK OR GIFT CARDS ONLY TO TOWN OF
RIDGEFIELD, "EMERGENCY FUND"
[HTTPS://WWW.RIDGEFIELDCT.ORG/SOCIAL-SERVICES/PAGES/FOOD-PANTRY](https://www.ridgefieldct.org/social-services/pages/food-pantry)

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

84 BEDFORD ROAD
KATONAH, NY 10536
[HTTPS://COMMUNITYCENTERNW.ORG/
DONATE-FOOD](https://communitycenternw.org/donate-food)

DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

1 TERRACE PLACE
(BEHIND ST. JAMES CHURCH
AT 25 WEST STREET)
DANBURY, CT 06810
[HTTPS://WWW.DAILYBREADFOODPANTRY
.COM/DONATE-1](https://www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com/donate-1)

SOCIAL ACTION

Our first social action activity of the fall is our annual High Holy Days food drive. Please donate non-perishable food items to our High Holy Days Food Drive. You can bring bags full of food items or Stop and Shop gift cards to High Holy Day services, by *Yom Kippur* and a couple of days afterwards. If you are observing remotely, you can also donate money to the food pantries at the websites listed in the flyer in this bulletin and in the High Holy Days mailing you received. Please see the flyer for suggested food items. Please give generously, these three food pantries are depending on us.

We will be doing a Breakfast Run to help the homeless in New York City on Sunday, December 4. This is an early morning event where

we prepare breakfast for 40-60 homeless men and women and bring it to one assigned spot in Manhattan, where we also give



out new socks, underwear, and gloves/hats to the clients. We need about 15 volunteers: 5th-8th graders (with a parent) and teens are welcome, as are adults. This

is a very gratifying activity and a great parent-child experience together. We will also be doing our preparation and packing up on Saturday, December 3rd, when others may also participate. Please email Debbie Lavin to volunteer at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org.

Finally, we co-hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive on August 24th, held at the Jesse Lee Church in Ridgefield. Thank you to all who donated. And thank you to our Teen Social Action Leaders Jacob and Ben Voellmicke and Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke for volunteering.

*Debbie Lavin and
Debbie Landzberg*

LOOKING TO ADD MUSIC TO YOUR SIMCHA?



Bob Scrafani can be privately hired to add piano to Bnei Mitzvah services. For more information, contact Cantor Debbie at CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org.

ADULT PROGRAMMING NEWS

On Sunday, October 23, Brad Shaw, an experienced New York City guide, will be conducting a tour of Synagogues of the Lower East Side for our congregation. Everyone is welcome. Stay tuned for more details. If you are interested, please email to adultprogramming@ourshirshalom.org.



RITUAL COMMITTEE

"...That is when we discover that, even in a secular age, God is still there, open to us whenever we are willing to open ourselves to Him." – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 2017

Rabbi Sacks, the late Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth penned the above quote as part of an essay regarding the High Holy Days. The month of *Tishrei* is quickly approaching with *Rosh Hashanah* 5783 just days away. All of us have the opportunity once again this year to open our hearts and minds at Congregation Shir Shalom in the manner we prefer.

As in the two previous years, the clergy and the ritual committee have made it possible to provide a hybrid model for worship on these

High Holy Days. Congregants have the option of attending services in person or remotely via a Zoom link. Cantor Katchko-Gray has assembled choir members and we are looking forward to their return



after a two-year hiatus. Services for families with pre-school and religious school age children will have special services on both *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. Weather permitting, we are hoping to provide outdoor seating to those attendees who would prefer that experience. In addition, if health

considerations will allow us to do so we are hoping to include events for food and schmoozing. Watch for announcements as we get nearer the High Holy Days.

If you were among the members who enjoyed our summer Shabbat services which we held outdoors most of the time and indoors the remainder of the weeks, we look forward to your continued presence. For those of you who were not able to attend in the past few months, welcome back. We look forward to seeing all of you in our live or online sacred space.

Shanah tovah,

*Michael Salpeter and
Laurie Dubin*

SISTERHOOD NEWS

L'Shanah Tovah! Can it almost be time for that greeting?

One of the major goals of Sisterhood has been to create opportunities for connection for women of our synagogue. To that end, Sisterhood has continued and expanded participation in Mah Jongg, and over the summer introduced learning and playing Canasta (skillfully taught by Naomi (aka Cookie) Shapiro, Eve Siegel and Resa Fremed). Book Club met and discussed our July selection "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" and we look forward to our meeting in September to discuss "The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman.

Book Club has been skillfully led by Phyllis Shaw and Andrea de Lange, and is both lively and enjoyable, so



consider reading and joining in on the conversation at the Synagogue on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. Also, this summer, we had a well-

attended "Dinner Out" at Eddie's in Ridgefield, and a lovely walk/hike in Leon Levy Preserve. We can't leave out the Sisterhood gathering at Ballard Park for Summer Music. Many thanks to all who have participated and continue to support Sisterhood, focused on maintaining connections between the women of Shir Shalom.

Looking forward to another annual Sisterhood Kick-off Event later this Fall sometime after High Holy Days!

*Margie Gorelick,
Christina Gogish and
Laurie Wolkin*

Congregation Shir Shalom
of Westchester and
Fairfield Counties



To Register directly online, please click here
<https://ourshirshalom.shulcloud.com/event/sukkot-pizza-in-the-hut.html>

Or send your check to the synagogue at 46
Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877.

Join our Congregation Shir Shalom family as we celebrate Sukkot with a delicious pizza lunch and holiday crafts on Sunday, October 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Shake the lulav, hold the etrog and enjoy festival music with Rabbi Reiner and Cantor Debbie!

\$5 donation per person. Registration required for food preparation.

Congregation Shir Shalom CULTURAL ARTS CALENDAR 2022-2023/5783

Sponsored by The Cantor's Music Fund

NOVEMBER 6

Beryl Diamond Chacon, violin and
Roni Ben Hur, guitar
Ladino, Classical, Jazz Brazilian Music
@ 3:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18

Spirited and Soulful Kabbalat Shabbat
Beth Styles @ 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 11

Debbie Zecher
Jewish Caroling
Annual meeting @ 1:45 p.m.,
followed by concert @ 3:00 p.m.,
hors d'oeuvres/wine & cheese following

DECEMBER 17

Shabbat Music and Meditation
Nosh and daven 9:00 a.m.
Service @ 9:30 a.m.

JANUARY 13

MLK Shabbat
Kimberly Wilson
Service @ 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 12

Julian Schwarz and Marika Bournaki
Music that Celebrates Life!
Cello and piano duets @ 3:00 p.m.

MARCH 18

Shabbat Music and Meditation
Nosh and daven 9:00 a.m.,
Service @ 9:30 a.m.

MARCH 24

Spirited and Soulful Kabbalat Shabbat
Beth Styles @ 7:30 p.m.

MAY 6

Shabbat Music and Meditation
Nosh and daven 9:00 a.m.,
Service @ 9:30 a.m.

MAY 19

Spirited and Soulful Kabbalat Shabbat
Beth Styles @ 7:30 p.m.



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 Visit: OurShirShalom.org

NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Cathy Deutchman, Director



The new moon on August 26 marked the beginning of the Hebrew month of *Elul*. It's traditionally a time

when we reflect on the past year, ensuring that when we reach *Rosh Hashanah* on September 25, we've set the groundwork for the ten days of repentance. As educator John Dewey wrote, "We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience."

For many, this concept is incredibly daunting. With the distractions at this time of year, it might not be at the top of your to do list. Here are some ideas you might consider to help you prep for the new Jewish year.

- Hear the shofar daily and read Psalm 27.
- Meditate or spend some time journaling.
- Read some books about the High Holidays. "This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared" by Rabbi Alan Lew, "Repentance" by Joseph Soloveitchik, "Return and Renewal: Reflections on Teshuva and

"The process of reflecting will likely help you learn."

Spiritual Growth" by Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein.

- Partake in a digital detox: limit your screen time as much as possible.
- Reach out to friends and family who you haven't contacted for a while.

- Bring back the tradition (or start a new tradition!) of sending a *Rosh Hashanah card*.
- Watch the YouTube video called "Learn how to forgive" by Rabbi Sacks.
- Something not on this list and entirely different, that will help get you in the mindset for reflection.

Whatever you decide to include, the process of reflecting will likely help you learn from your past experiences and prepare you for the new year ahead!

At *B'Yachad* (Together) school, we are excited to start a new year, have prepared an exciting calendar of programs and encourage family participation. I look forward to learning and celebrating together.

Cathy Deutchman



It was wonderful seeing many of our B'Yachad students enjoying time together while celebrating Shavuot at this summer's Ice Cream Meet Up.



OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Sarah Denyer, Director



Our ECC children enjoyed all the water-play and excitement our Summer Fun Program had to offer

in June and July! We welcomed new friends and wished our rising Kindergarteners well as they move on to new schools. The children tended to the vegetable garden this summer and it is really flourishing with beans, tomatoes,

and cucumbers. Our one cantaloupe plant survived, but never flourished or produced, and the pumpkin plants have blooms that we are observing and rooting for! It's such a lovely experience gardening

"It's such a lovely experience gardening with children."

with children and watching their excitement as they find and harvest the veggies they helped grow! It is also interesting to talk about the

plants that did NOT flourish with our students. One 4-year-old thinks the cantaloupe plant got crowded by the quick-growing cucumbers, which is an amazingly reasonable conclusion! Shir Shalom's *B'Yachad* students also planted giant sunflowers and several of them have grown very tall and beautiful!

We look forward to welcoming our ECC students back to school on September 7th!

Sarah Denyer



MORE SUMMER FUN!



CONGREGANTS MAKING NEWS

Steven Waldinger

*Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance
Board Member Recognized for
Significant Contributions to the Arts*

June 13, 2022

Last week, the Ridgefield Arts Council recognized individuals who work tirelessly “behind the scenes” to assure that the arts and cultural organizations in our community thrive. In 2021, Ridgefield was designated the first Cultural District in our state, and it is in no small part due to these volunteers.

Among the honorees was Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance (RCD) Board member Steven Waldinger. Steven understands first-hand the importance this nonprofit dance studio plays in the community - his daughter Hannah danced with RCD for many years.

“I feel fortunate that Hannah’s participation at RCD led me to the

Board and service to RCD, which is such a significant contributor to the Arts in Ridgefield. Most rewarding has been the annual collaboration between RCD and Somers Holocaust Memorial Commission, where I have served as President since 2010.”



An attorney practicing from his firm, Shapiro Gettinger Waldinger & Monteleone in Mount Kisco, NY, and resident of Ridgefield, CT where he is actively involved in the community, Steven also served on the Board of Trustees at Manhattanville College and is past President of the Northern Westchester Bar Association.

Amy Piantaggini, RCD Executive Director says, “Steven has been a vital member of our Board

of Directors for many years. I am most inspired by his work committed to human rights and social justice through his work with the Somers Holocaust Memorial Commission. We are so lucky to have new opportunities to present choreography at the annual Yom Hashoah event he spearheads as President of the Commission.”

RCD, located at 440 Main Street, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dance school, that is nationally recognized as a “distinguished, high achieving, pre-professional performing arts school” that “nurtures young dance artists in strong movement technique.”

Reprinted from <https://news.hamlethub.com/ridgefield>

If you know of a Congregation Shir Shalom congregant who is making news please let us know. We would like everyone to read about it.

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Franklin Roberts, z”l
Hal and Dawn Roberts
Alice Cohlan, z”l
Rick and Bobbie Cohlan
Robert Trachtenberg, z”l
Tracey and Marty Weisberg

In Honor Of:

The baby naming of Alexa Rose Dascenzo
Melanie and Tim Dascenzo

With Gratitude:

Eric Larson

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Franklin Roberts, z”l
Hal and Dawn Roberts
Max Burg, z”l
Judith Besserman

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of:

Goldie Mitzelman, z”l
Karen Taylor and
David Kaminer

Michael Brodsky, z”l
Karl and Barbara Brodsky

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Donna Ellen Brown
Dr. Joseph Fried
Esther Gerard
 grandmother of Ira Gerard
Dorothy Himoff
Louis Karlin
 father of Roger Karlin
Dr. Herbert Kreevay
 father of Michelle Krellenstein
Samuel Levy
 step-father of Richard Burg
Stanley Slone
 brother of Judith Shapiro
Leopold Weisberg
 father of Marty Weisberg

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Irving Davis
 father of Mark Davis
Charles Fremed
 husband of Resa Fremed
Jean Haddon
 mother of Rabbi Jon Haddon
Victor Hausner
 father of Marcia Needleman
Sadie Hodas
 mother of Elinor Darvick
Francis Karlin
 mother of Roger Karlin
Eugene Kaserman
 father of Wendy Meyer
Lucille Levenson
 grandmother of Karen Brenner

Ruth Lowy
 mother of Terry Henry
Sol Pottish
 uncle of Richard Mishkin
Ruth Siegel
 wife of Lewis Siegel
Sally Tandet
 mother of Naomi Shapiro
Dudley Emerson Westlake
 father of Susan Westlake

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Deborah Darvick
 daughter in-law of Elinor and
 Murray Darvick
Arnold Friedlander
 husband of Diana Friedlander
Herbert Jay Hodas
 brother of Elinor Darvick
Cantor Theodore Katchko
 father of Cantor Deborah
 Katchko-Gray
Minna Lehrman
 mother of Lora Wishod
Rose Margolis
 mother-in-law of Robi Margolis
Alfred Pilch
 father of Alan Pilch
Cathie Jo Raynor
Irv Schneider
 uncle of Margie Gorelick
Seymour "Sy" Schreckinger
 father of Jamie Kaplan

William Schwartz
 relative of Moreton Binn
Wendy Steinberg
 sister of Jay Walker

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Sheila Barth
 mother of Edward Barth
Norman Burg
 brother of Judith Besserman
Murray Emmer
 father-in-law of Jane Emmer
Sylvia Farber
 mother of Hildi Glicklich
Harry Fergenson
 grandfather of Michael
 Bergman
Stanley Gottlieb
 father of Lawrence Gottlieb
Jerry Granat
 father of Lynne Stark
Monroe Hyman
 father of Lisa Pollack
David Jonisch
 father of George Jonisch
Larry Mirkin
 brother of Judith Strom
Harold Redman
 father of Debra Lavin
Mary Taylor
 grandmother of David Taylor



In Memoriam

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

We extend condolences to:

Hal Roberts on the death of his father, Franklin Roberts, z"l

David Rich on the death of his father, Jacques Rich, z"l

Scott Trachtenberg on the death of his father, Robert Trachtenberg, z"l

May their memory be for a blessing.

OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

Gloria Abrams
mother of Elyse Davis
Carol Joyce Altman
mother of Joe Altman
Leonard Dutka
Sophie Felper
grandmother of Margie
Gorelick
Eddy Fuchs
Jonathan Howard Gordon
brother of Elaine Gordon
Abraham Holson
grandfather of Robin Heit
Ethel Kurlander
great aunt of Matt Herbstman
David Kushner
father of Karen Taylor and Lori
Stalowicz
Leroy Ronald Levin
Joseph Meyer-Gordon
Nathan Muchnick
grandfather of Jason Muchnick
Anna Schattner
Freda Silverman
grandmother of Richard Burg
Frieda Stern
grandmother of Laurie Dubin

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Gerhard Bendix
father of Alice Gottlieb
Gerald Jay Berg
father of Jeff Berg
Sam Bronner
father of Renee Pessin
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
Barbara Paget Forst
sister of Debra Paget
John Freidenrich
father of Eric Freidenrich
Helen Friedlander
mother-in-law of Diana
Friedlander

Louise Gellis
mother of Natalie Gros
Regina Heit
mother of Stephen Heit
Phil Kurtz
father of Marshall Kurtz
Carol Lackow
mother of Rhonda Lackow
Lynn Levi
aunt of Adam Rubinfeld
Edythe Lipman
mother of Steve Lipman
Sylvia Mininberg
George Orlan
husband of Adrienne Orlan
Hattie Schwartz
relative of Moreton Binn

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Ann Brodsky
mother of Karl Brodsky
Jack D. Burg
brother of Richard Burg
Germ Dashevskiy
father of Serafima
Dashevskaya, grandfather of
Vladimir and Ilya Gogish
Molly Friedlander
Amy Friedlander
Gregory Friedlander
Vladimir Gogish
father-in-law of Serafima
Dashevskaya, grandfather of
Vladimir and Ilya Gogish
Naomi Gray Kaplan
mother of Scott Gray
Marc Kaplan
cousin of Judith Strom
Milton Kaye
father of Steve Kaye
Saul Kurzweil
father of Ken Kurzweil
Joseph D. Lehrman
father of Lora Wishod
Norma Sachs
mother of David Sachs
Sam Schmeltzer
father of Resa Fremed
June Shaplen
mother of Jason Shaplen
Doris Weiler
grandmother of Joshua Arnow

Elaine Zimmerman
grandmother of David, Aaron,
Ezra and Joey Zimmerman
Sam Friedlander

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Max Baker
grandfather of Carlyn Bergman
Rose Bergman
grandmother of Michael
Bergman
Laurel Brenner
mother of Andrea Davis
Celia Burg
mother of Judith Besserman
Flora Fergenson
aunt of Michael Bergman
Edward Friedlander
father-in-law of Diana
Friedlander
Rachel Leah Gorelick
mother of Jeffery Gorelick
Wolf Manheimer
father of Aron Hirt-Manheimer
Rae Michael
great grandmother of Danielle,
Caitlin, and Lucas Winson
Martha Ratner
grandmother of Judith Strom
Dominic Romeo
father of Harry and Sandra
Rosenhouse's son-in-law
Frieda Stern
grandmother of Laurie Dubin

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

David Alper
father of Lonnie Shapiro
Martin F. Burg
father of Richard Burg
Gertrude Cohen
grandmother of Matt
Herbstman
David Emmer
husband of Jane Emmer
Edward Epstein
father of Sheryl Knapp
Joan Fine
mother of Peter Fine
Bebee Garcia
sister of David Fiderer
Jacob Goldberg
grandfather of Jacob Goldberg

(CONT'D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Billie Hoffman

mother of Larry Hoffman

Harold Horowitz

grandfather of Stacey

Rubinfeld

Arthur Klein

husband of Elinor Klein

Norbert Schmidek

grandfather of Dana Harnett

Richard Stanley

Don't forget to Register through the congregant portal so we know when you'll be joining us for High Holy Days services, either in person or online. It's important for setup purposes both indoor and outdoor that we know who will be with us.



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DIRECTOR

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The Board of Trustees, Clergy and Staff of
Congregation Shir Shalom
wish you a New Year blessed with
new joys, new hopes and new beginnings.
May you be inscribed for a good year!