

OUR SHIR SHALOM



Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

Summer 2023 / Tammuz-Av-Elul 5783

JOIN US FOR AN END OF SUMMER

COOKOUT

Join us to reconnect with congregants and friends, and welcome new members of our Shir Shalom community!

**BURGERS & HOT DOGS,
SIDES & DESSERT!**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 @ 4:30 P.M.

**FREE OF CHARGE!
OPEN TO THE ENTIRE
CONGREGATION!**

Thanks to our CSS Brotherhood for the food donation and the BBQing. Vegetarian options will be available!

**We ask you to bring
a side, a salad, or
dessert to share!**

Sign-up and RSVP will be sent via our weekly email this summer. We look forward to you joining us.

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.

JULY - AUGUST WORSHIP AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

July 7 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
July 14 5:00 p.m. *Tot Shabbat 2.0*
 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
 Dessert program to follow
July 21 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
July 28 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship

August 4 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
August 11 5:00 p.m. *Tot Shabbat 2.0*
 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
August 18 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
August 25 6:30 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat* Worship
August 27 4:30 p.m. **Cookout at Shir Shalom!**
 All Congregants are invited!

Torah 101 will not be held in July or August,
and will resume this fall.

***Please join us in-person or online for Shabbat,
holiday and events throughout the year!***



TO OUR NEWEST CONGREGANTS

Susie Gurwitz and her son Oliver (Ridgefield, CT)
Miriam and Aaron Schindel (Bethesda, MD)



UPDATED COVID-19 POLICY

Congregation Shir Shalom is adhering to the current CDC Covid-19 guidelines. To ensure protection for yourself and others, please look at the CDC website, which can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/covid19>.

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM OF WESTCHESTER AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES

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OFFICE HOURS / SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY EMAILS

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, festivals or secular Federal holidays, except in the case of a life-cycle emergency. We ask that you refrain from emailing or texting our clergy or staff during those times. We'll be happy to communicate you upon their conclusion. Thank you.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Rabbi David Reiner



This past June we read in the book of Numbers, Chapter 12 a brief story in which Miriam and Aaron, the sister and brother of Moses incite

a rebellion amongst the people of Israel. In an act of divine retribution Miriam is suddenly severely sickened. Upon seeing his sister stricken, "Moses cried out to the Eternal, saying, 'O God, PLEASE heal her! (*El na r'fa na la!*)'" The intensity of this plea can hardly be emphasized sufficiently on paper; imagine pleading with God for the life or health of a loved one, a sibling, a parent, or a child. These words are the inspiration for a significant section in our worship service when we pause from standard liturgy to offer prayers for healing. We refer to these prayers for healing commonly as the "*Mi Shebeirach*".

Whether it is the person praying who is in need of healing, a member of their family, a friend in our sacred community, or even a member of the greater community, the section of our service devoted to prayers of healing is meaningful and has the potential for intense emotions. And the *Mi Shebeirach* serves another significant function in the life of our congregation: it is a virtual bulletin board, an opportunity to build our community by letting congregants know when others in our sacred community are in need of healing or support.

Our tradition teaches that it is a *mitzvah* of the highest order to support the sick. Several prayers in our liturgy remind us of our obligation to aid in the healing process through prayerful interventions and supplications to the Divine, as well as through engaging in *Bikur Cholim*, "visiting the sick." Anyone who has been seriously ill can attest to the restorative power that visits and other interactions – even those of a casual nature like a phone call or a card – can have. In visiting or calling

"Our tradition teaches that it is a *mitzvah* of the highest order to support the sick."

those members of our community in need of healing, we may help them to feel supported, and these positive feelings have the potential to benefit the infirm physically and emotionally. At a time when one may be feeling utterly alone, a smiling face or kind word can be significantly beneficial.

In our desire to encourage healing and fulfill a *mitzvah*, we have compiled a list of names shared by congregants. Reading the names of people who are in need of healing offers us a focal point for our prayers and informs us of those in our midst that we might support with our presence, often people in our community that we did not know were in need of healing!

We do a great job of adding and keeping names on our list and I

sometimes wonder whether an out of date or overly lengthy list detracts from the intensity and potentiality of a spiritual experience. When the same names are read week in and week out do we gloss over new people in need of our prayers and support? To that end, it is important to keep our list current; in this way we will maintain the intent and integrity of this section in our service, be more aware of those in our community in need of healing, and effectively capture the spirit of Moses' plea that inspires our own prayers.

As we begin a new year on *Rosh Hashanah*, we will refresh our healing list and invite you to share (or reshare) names of people in need of healing in the New Year by contacting my assistant, Allyson Bellio (RabbiAssist@OurShirShalom.org).

Names will be kept on the list for four weeks unless you specifically ask for a name to be kept on longer.

With warm wishes for health, I am,

Rabbi David L. Reiner

THE BLESSINGS OF LIVING AND GIVING

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray



Naso, The Blessings of Living and Giving: Y'varechecha as a Guide

Hearing my father, Cantor Theodore Katchko

of blessed memory, sing the *Y'varechecha*, the Priestly Blessing at the end of every Friday evening service, began my love affair with this prayer. His majestic voice soaring over the congregation, singing with deep belief and love for every word through the beautiful music remains the musical memory that inspires me to this day. His blessing of the congregation was part of every service and ended the formal services of the Conservative pulpits he served, accompanied by organ with the rabbi interpreting the translation.

I was thrilled to see that this *parashah*, *Naso* which contains this blessing was available for my reflections. That is also a blessing!

My father's voice, singing this particular prayer, has stayed with me and guided me throughout life cycle events as well. He sang it at my first wedding, every *bris* of my four sons, and although he passed in 1997, a recording from a *bris* became a powerful moment for subsequent *simchas* – I had his voice sing this blessing at each of my son's *Bar Mitzvah* services and my second wedding to Dr. F. Scott Gray, and I was privileged to sing it at my sons' Aaron and David's wedding. I sang it at a triple baby naming of three

precious granddaughters recently and felt the power of this blessing on our family.

It was requested at a family *Shabbat* dinner by my son Aaron, wondering, "Are we still doing the blessing of our children?"

"Of course, we are!" His asking me to sing it and bless his daughter was a magical moment where I knew this tradition was valued and would continue.

The recording of my father singing it was played when I was honored at my temple for my 10th, 13th and 18th anniversaries, and will be played when I retire at my 25th year

"The blessing of *Y'varechecha* reminds us that God can give us strength..."

in my pulpit in 2024 in Ridgefield, Conn. It is impossible to listen to my father at these moments and not weep, so I don't worry anymore about that. I just weep and remember his powerful spiritual voice and let it wash over me like the sea of tears that are flowing.

While the *Birkat Kohanim* was an honor bestowed on the *Kohanim*, the High Priests at the Temple in Jerusalem, it is a blessing that has become part of the fabric of Jewish life, synagogue, and home. While rabbis and cantors offer this blessing at life cycle events and services, it is the parents blessing their children that I find most moving.

What greater joy can there be than to wish your children to have a beaming

and joyful light in their hearts and peace in their lives? As we travel this bumpy road of life, having this blessing to offer and receive is a powerful signpost.

I have always thought that it is impossible to become an adult without experiencing loss and pain, tragedy, and suffering. It is just part of life. We are all the "walking wounded".

The blessing of *Y'varechecha* reminds us that God can give us strength, cast a heavenly light of hope, and offer us the gift of *shalom* in our hearts and souls, if we are listening and open to it. There were many times in life when I needed that lifeline.

A disastrous first marriage, blessed with four amazing sons, but a tragedy of his serious drug addiction, mental health struggles, resulting in prison, financial complications, even food insecurity are a part of my "walking wounded" history. I could not script this, and yet it happened.

Knowing that it could always be worse, having studied seriously with Elie Wiesel *z"l* during college and beyond; seeing an example of life and hope rising from the ashes, stayed with me during those dark years. Elie Wiesel showed us by example how to overcome tragedy and be a beacon of light and peace, always grounded by our teachings and traditions. Learning from him that the act of holding a prayer book was a holy blessing helped me see the possibilities beyond the darkness and fear of the moment. Having my father's voice singing the *Y'varechecha* in my kishkes –

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THE BLESSINGS OF LIVING AND GIVING

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

my guts – brought me strength and comfort.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God cause a light to shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God lift you up and bring you peace.

The traditional translation is from the *Hertz Chumash* (my grandmother Rae Epstein z”l studied with Rabbi Hertz in England). I’m aware the language is dated, but it is elegant and historic.

Numbers VI 24-26:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Offering a blessing of peace to our congregations, and to our families is a blessing in itself. While we bless others, we are also blessing ourselves. It’s the giving that comes back to bless us, and there is no greater blessing than having children

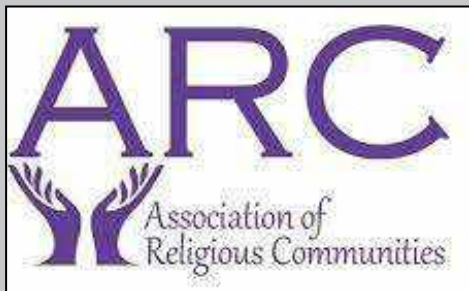
ask to be blessed.

As I look ahead to my retirement, I hope to continue to bless my family and feel that blessing come back to guide me. It all began with my father’s voice for me, and these powerful words found in Parshat Naso. May we all be blessed with the light of God, and peace in our lives.

Cantor Debbie

Reprinted with permission, Baby Boomer Rabbi, 2023

RABBI JON HADDON HONORED BY ARC



Rabbi Emeritus, Jon Haddon, was honored by ARC (Association of Religious Communities) in Danbury, CT on May 11th at the Amber Room Collonnade for his twenty five years of dedicated service.

The Association of Religious Communities was founded over four decades ago for the purpose of facilitating interfaith cooperation in the greater Danbury area. It's mission is to alleviate the causes of violence, suffering, and hate while advancing peace, justice, and human dignity.



Pictured left to right: Jean Haddon, Rabbi Emeritus Jon Haddon, Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, Rabbi David L. Reiner.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Larry Brooks



I hope you are having an enjoyable start to Summer! Lots of great things to reflect on from the last few months, such as *Mitzvah*

Day and LGBTQ+ Pride Shabbat. For those not familiar with *Mitzvah* Day, it is a community-building event where more than 100 volunteers, kids, and adults, gather at the temple to participate in service projects. This includes food pantry work, outreach to children in need, gardening for low-income elderly, nature trail clearing, baking cookies for the local soup kitchen and much more! This is a very important and meaningful event for our sacred community. A BIG thank you to Debbie Lavin and all that supported her and our community! If you are interested in participating or leading our next social action initiative please feel free to reach out to us at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org.

We also celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month in June. Thank you to the Trachtenberg family for leading our congregations' efforts as well as to the Dubin Family, Lorraine Lazarus-Morley, Renee Pessin, and the rest of the Shir Shalom Pride Affinity group. We participated in the Pride Progress Flag Raising Ceremony at Town Hall, worshiped together at our annual Pride Shabbat Service, and had a presence at Ridgefield Pride in the Park. Our Sisterhood also marked Pride month by reading *The Guncle*. These are all very meaningful events

aligned with our Congregation's commitment to being inclusive and caring and to honor diversity. If you would like to participate in the Congregation Shir Shalom LGBTQ+ affinity group, please contact Alisa Trachtenberg @ alisaglick@gmail.com. For information on LGBTQ+ support groups, the LGBTQ+ Oral

"I hope you'll attend our free end of summer Shir Shalom barbeque on August 27th!"

History Project, local Pride specials and perks, resources, or other information, go to ridgefieldctpride.com.

In addition to supporting additional upcoming events, the Board is focused on several strategic priorities. Marc Sheridan, as Executive Vice President of the Board, is leading our work to ensure the security and safety of our community. We are very grateful to Richard Priem, a CSS Congregant and COO and Deputy National Director of Community Security Service, for helping make CSS safer for all members of our community. Richard has years of experience in synagogue security, and coincidentally moved to Ridgefield during the pandemic. Richard supported a Threat Vulnerability and Risk Assessment which will help us identify physical security upgrades to the building, identify grant opportunities, update policies and procedures, recommend training we should provide staff and congregants, and more.

I'll conclude with two additional updates. First, I hope you'll attend our free end of summer Shir Shalom barbeque on August 27th. It'll be a great opportunity for us to get together and enjoy time with each other. Mark Block, our Executive Director, will share a registration link shortly. Secondly, I recommend you read Mark's update to learn more about the completion of our renovation which was caused by water damage that occurred in late December. Thank you Mark and all the volunteers that helped restore the beauty of our physical space.

My co-President, Jeff Gorelick and I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer with family and friends, and we hope to see you on August 27th!

Larry Brooks

WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK!

Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA



There are moments when we can count our blessings, as individuals and as an organization. Being blessed calls to mind

the old saying, from the Babylonian Talmud, that *"Ein Mazal l'Yisrael"* – the people of Israel are not governed by fate or destiny. Nowadays, the Hebrew *mazal* is commonly compared to the English concept of luck. It could be interpreted as indicating that Jewish people are not affected by luck. However, the original expression signifies that Jewish individuals are not influenced by astrological forces.

Traditional Jewish believers generally feel that God exercises immense control over human lives while still permitting human free will. Such a belief system would presumably have no room for luck. It is hard to point out any Jewish theologies that permit the idea of luck; yet there are numerous varieties of Judaism. Moreover, rabbinical thought is familiar with the concept of probability, and a few legal or ethical quandaries can be solved by means of probabilistic reasoning.

When considering the sub-questions, Jewish sources frequently do convey a conviction that results may be modified by expressions of faith such as prayer and noble deeds. So, while Jewish faith may be said to modify outcomes, it is through processes distinct from luck. Moreover, Jewish texts allude to the tossing of lots (e.g.,

the Book of Esther) and analogous tools. The priestly breastplate incorporates a fortune-telling device, the *Urim* and *Thummim*, but this is believed to not grant answers that are reliant on luck.

I cannot find any Jewish teachings that attribute any part to luck – but, since there are various forms of Judaism, it is hard to make any clear declarations. Nevertheless, rabbinical thought does accept the principles of probability, and some legal or ethical dilemmas can be settled with probabilistic reasoning.

I talk about luck here because, in many ways, as 2022 was about to

"While Jewish faith may be said to modify outcomes, it is through processes distinct from luck."

come to an end, we were extremely fortunate, some would say "lucky" in an otherwise unfortunate way. It is already known that the extreme cold of the season was the cause of the major water pipe burst in pavilion one. Furthermore, the day before, the brief power failure that was triggered by the bitter cold high winter winds had left us without power and our oil burners were unable to start on their own. Consequently, the sanctuary/pavilion space decreased in temperature, causing the pipe to burst.

By happenstance, Kim Franz, our administrative assistant, and me, were both in the office during that vacation week due to a memorial

service being officiated by Rabbi Haddon on that freezing day. Thanks to the swift action of Ridgefield Fire Department, the 120lbs of water pressure that were flooding from the pipe burst were halted before the damage could become even worse.

Within an hour, ServPro had arrived, and the water was being removed. In the following days, carpets were removed, floors and walls were inspected, and we knew that the task at hand would be quite arduous. Our insurance provider was incredibly sympathetic and quick to handle our claim, so we could receive the essential funds to renovate our area.

After full remediation we began the work of near total renovation. I cannot thank our Housing Chair Hal Wolkin enough for immediately springing into action as soon as I called him while the water was still filling our spaces during the pipe burst. The same for our Facilities Manager Pat Barry. Rabbi Reiner rushed over when he received my call, and we wasted no time in getting to work, even as the water continued to make its way throughout the space. In time, we were fortunate to benefit from the knowledge and time of congregant Eileen Segalman, an interior designer, who brought her professionalism and labored diligently to guarantee that our space would have what she and I referred to as "intentionality" when being remodeled. We had many a compromise following active discussions on just about everything we were doing to enhance all the spaces that required remodeling.

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WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK! (CONT'D)

As luck would have it, we had the chance to bring something entirely new and attractive to life from our place, all the while keeping in mind that we did not want to deviate too far from the original interior design of being in harmony with the outside natural beauty surrounding the synagogue.

Our design comprised of three distinct carpets, broadloom and carpet squares, each intended to complement one another. In the sanctuary, a beautiful branch and leaf pattern was chosen while the pavilions featured a stylish lotus floral design. Moreover, the curved steps to the *bima* were enhanced with a soothing carpeted waterfall effect.

To make the walls contemporary and brighter, a paint color from the sage family was selected and brought from the hallway and pavilions into the sanctuary as well. This approach enabled us to unite the classic and the modern gracefully without being overly obvious.

The entranceway also underwent some significant alterations, which involved the installation of a new entryway/dance floor which seamlessly blends the existing structure of the mansion with the latest additions first constructed in 2006. We strongly feel that this addition added a new layer of liveliness to our amazing space.

Finally, we decided to stay within

our budget by using insurance reimbursement funds to fully refinish our pews, lecterns, and the Torah reading table. The result is truly attractive and creates one cohesive space for the entire synagogue.

I'm pleased we were able to achieve our objective of designing a space that is stimulating and appealing, yet still maintains its originally designed traditional atmosphere. We are very eager to showcase our remodeled space to our community and future visitors in the months ahead. And all it took was a little bit of luck, and a lot of hard work by many!

Mark Block

FIVE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO REMEMBER

Within a week of the flooding and damage that occurred in late December I wrote these five points that I have kept in my desk and referred to for nearly six months as we worked through the remediation and renovation of our space. These reminders helped me remain focused on the task at hand and not lose sight of the opportunity to enhance our sacred space.

A Jewish sanctuary or social space often combines traditional and modern elements in a unique way. Our sanctuary, pavilions and common spaces are characterized by these five elements:

THE FIRST. A sense of sacredness and beauty is created by the architecture of the space. A vaulted ceiling, arched pews, rich hardwood

woodwork elevate a space visually.

THE SECOND. Designed and natural lighting in a thoughtful manner greatly enhances the atmosphere of the space.

THE THIRD. Sanctuaries and social halls are both sacred and functional spaces and should reflect the community and the facilities surroundings.

THE FOURTH. It is important to design with intentionality by giving ample consideration to colors and materials when determining how the aesthetic will be perceived. To create a sense of reverence and warmth, rich, warm tones are often used. In addition, the choice of high-quality materials, such as polished wood, and complimentary flooring

and paints will contribute to the aesthetic of the rooms and space.

THE FIFTH. The sanctuary and pavilions were designed for functionally and should be warm and inviting spaces ideal for worship, community gatherings, celebrations, and other events. The layout and flow of the space should be considered carefully so that it is both functional and appealing.

There is more to a Jewish sanctuary and social space than its physical appearance. A truly beautiful building is one that serves a purpose, fosters community, and offers meaningful experiences.

REMEDIATION AND RENOVATIONS



In late December 2022 immediately after the burst of a sprinkler pipe in the ceiling of Pavilion One, ServPro was on the scene beginning the remediation process. Repairs got underway as we settled our insurance claim in early 2023.

REMEDIATION AND RENOVATIONS (CONT'D)



EPC Management served as our general contractor through the renovations of our space. At the time of printing the restrooms, kitchen and entryway/dance floor were under replacement. All work will be completed by mid-July.

SOCIAL ACTION

Thank you for making Mitzvah Day a success on May 7! We had over 80 adults and kids work on a dozen projects to help folks in need and to spruce up Congregation Shir Shalom outside! Special thanks to the people who have been working with me for months to get things ready – Judy Vandervelden, Elie Schechter, Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke, Jacob and Ben Voellmicke, and Eve Siegel. And a huge thank you to the activity leaders for making it happen, and please forgive me if I left anyone out:

Rena and Bella Bruckman
Serafima Dashevskaya
Lara Edson-Parker
Ellen Darvick
Laurie Dubin
Dr. Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke
Christina Gogish
Randi and Jacob Gurka
Hilary Hughes
Kenneth Kurzweil
Mark Lavin
Roy Leonard
Renee Pessin
Andrea and Richard Reiter
Alyson Rosenthal (Abrami)
Eli Schechter
Paulette Schneider
Phyllis Shaw
Judy Vandervelden
Margaret Weissman
Laurie Wolkin
Vicky Yolán and family
Margaret Weissman
Tiffany Zezula

And big thanks to synagogue staff Patrick Barry and Luzy Dvaz and

Maria Silva for helping in the set up and clean up!

Thank you also to those businesses and individuals who donated supplies:

- Posada's Landscaping for donating 10 yards of wood chips and lending us an array of tools to work outside.
- Hal Wolkin for donating the potting soil for the flowerpots.
- Gossett's Nursery in South Salem for donating all the flowers we potted. They have been incredibly generous to us over the years.
- Suzanne Sunday for her significant donation of school supplies for the Community Center of Northern Westchester.
- And Vicki Yolán for all the cookie dough!

Our other on-going project involves preparing a meal for the Dorothy Day Hospitality Center in Danbury. Once a quarter, Deb Gershner leads a group who purchases and prepares a meal for this vital "soup kitchen." This will be the first week in September. If you are interested in helping, please contact Debrah. gershner@gmail.com. Another congregant heads up an effort to make a monthly meal for the DDHC. If interested in helping, please contact Jeff at Jhubsher@comcast.net.

Thank You!

Debbie Lavin



MITZVAH DAY 2023



SISTERHOOD NEWS

In the spirit of connection, spring is finally moving into and feeling like summer!

Sisterhood continues to be committed to facilitating the making of connections amongst the women of Shir Shalom and welcomes several new members! Our efforts in relation to Sisterhood serve to strengthen our Shir Shalom community. While two hikes were planned, one was cancelled due to an overabundance of rain and mud. There was, however, another opportunity for a lovely walk/get-together within the Ridgefield Recreation property trails.

Despite strange weather patterns and Canadian Wildfire smoke, Sisterhood continues to provide a range of game activity through the summer months. Monday evening Canasta/Rummykub (yes, spelling is correct), and Thursday evening Mah Jongg, are both from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Those interested

in learning these games need only give us a “heads-up” and we will organize a plan for both new instruction as well as the continuing regular play.

Book Club enjoyed lively conversation and camaraderie hosted by Bobbie Cohan in discussion of the book *The Gunkle*. Currently, Book Club is reading *All the Broken Places* (written by John Boyle) and will next meet to discuss that book on Wednesday, July 19th, location to be determined and announced.

Sisterhood organized our annual “Dinner Out,” which signals the start of summer, and was enjoyed by the twenty-three women who attended!

Finally, Sisterhood this year again made a substantial donation to the CHIRP music programming offered all summer at Ballard Park in Ridgefield. Watch for announcements when Sisterhood

will make an effort to have more of a unified presence at those concerts.

Looking towards the Fall, 2023, we anticipate a fun and instructive Challah Baking experience with Bobbie Cohan close to the High Holy Days! Watch for the specific date!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

*Margie Gorelick,
Christina Gogish,
and Laurie Wolkin*



RITUAL COMMITTEE

As we begin our planning and preparation for the High Holy Days, we are reminded that *Rosh Hashanah* is not the only “New Year” in the Hebrew calendar. In addition to the First of *Tishrei* which we typically regard as THE New Year, Jews also recognize *Tu B'Shvat*, the First of *Nisan* and the First of *Elul* as the other three New Year’s days. As we think about it, there are many New Year’s days in our personal lives. Examples include birthdays, the first day of school, the first day of school summer vacation, the July 4th Independence Day, *yahrtzeits*, anniversaries and almost any recurrent important event.

In the Shir Shalom world the month of June was filled with what we could deem New Year’s days. We rededicated our beautifully restored sanctuary and are holding *Shabbat* services in there, after being relegated to temporary quarters in the library since December. There were celebrations as four of our *B’Yachad* students became *Bat* and *Bar Mitzvah*, marking their transition into Jewish adulthood. We also had the opportunity to celebrate an important milestone birthday with longtime congregant Curt Shulman who was able to join us in-person for *Shabbat* services. We also plan on



remembering the Holocaust victims from Kromeriz, Czech Republic, the source of one of our *sifrei Torah*, who were deported in June 1942.

In July we once again begin our summer service schedule with *Shabbat* evening services starting Fridays at 6:30 p.m. This affords our congregants the opportunity to attend services and still have enough daylight remaining to enjoy *Shabbat* dinner or other events before darkness falls. Please follow the schedule on the weekly email blasts in case of any late changes.

There will also be communications

forthcoming regarding High Holy Days services. This year *Rosh Hashanah* begins on Friday evening September 15, continuing Saturday morning September 16 and Sunday, September 17. *Yom Kippur* services will start with *Kol Nidre* on the evening of Sunday, September 24 followed by the various services on Monday, September 25. You may contact the office with any questions regarding the High Holy Days.

As we enter this period of the year it is appropriate to consider the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, “The Hebrew Bible is not an optimistic book. It is, however, one of the great literatures of hope.” We hope you have a wonderful summer with your loved ones, we hope to see you for *Shabbat* services, and we hope for health and peace for all.

*Michael Salpeter and
Laurie Dubin*



B'YACHAD FINAL DAY, SPRING 2023



NEWS FROM THE B'YACHAD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Cathy Deutchman, Director



My three-year-old niece watched me race around gathering ingredients for a baking project, and said, "Just slow down,

Aunt Caffy." Sometimes we need a reminder from others, and often we go "away" to find moments of reprieve. If we're lucky, we have places to visit and people to remind us to take a breather at some point this summer.

While many of you may be away on vacation, and enjoying some family time, here at *B'Yachad*, the work hasn't slowed down. Two main priorities of the summer are hiring and onboarding new teachers and developing clear goals and outcomes for learning.

"The school year will be upon us before we know it!"

I'm excited to announce that two new teachers have joined our team, and we'll meet over the summer, so they become familiar with the curriculum and our school culture. Look for more details about them in the coming weeks.

A colleague and I are working to develop a project-based learning approach to teaching Torah. Students in grades K-3 will learn stories of Genesis and write their

own "*midrash*," interpretation of the story, depicting their ideas through words and art.

The school year will be upon us before we know it! If you're planning to register your child for *B'Yachad*, please REGISTER NOW so we can accommodate everyone.

With gratitude,

Cathy Deutchman



OUR SPRING B'NEI MITZVAH FAMILIES

We'll Be Sharing More About Our Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in 2023



Pictured to left to right:
(1) Leon Antista April 29,
(2) Aiden Aframe June 3,
(3) Eli Scott Hirschbein June 17,
(4) Ruby Kalish June 10,
(5) Ben Berman March 11,
(6) Nathan Gershner April 1,
(7, 8) Everett Axel June 10

*Photos one through six by
Jamie Kaplan Photography*

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Sarah Denyer, Director



Springtime at the ECC brings about increased outdoor exploration and preparing and planting our vegetable garden. This

year our Purple Room students started bean seeds indoors and transferred them

to the garden in mid-May. We also planted cauliflower, cucumbers, tomatoes, and

squash courtesy of Elise Jonisch who donated all the seedlings that she propagated herself and we thank her for her generosity! The ECC Garden is flourishing!

We were so excited to be back in our beautiful, newly renovated sanctuary and pavilions for our Last Day Celebration and Pre-K Farewell on

June 2nd. Cantor Hayley joined us to sing some of our Shabbat favorites and our two younger classes had a sweet song prepared to sing to our Pre-K "graduates." Our Pre-K students learned a song in sign language and shared it with us. They were also presented with Pre-K Certificates which they received while wearing their homemade graduation caps. We ended our morning with a brunch reception

and families had the opportunity to peruse the ECC Art Show as well. We will miss our rising Kindergarteners

and wish them well in their new schools!

The ECC's Summer Fun Program has begun. We look forward to spending the summer with our little ones, exploring, gardening, laughing, making messes and more!

Sarah Denyer

"We look forward to spending the summer with our little ones..."



ECC END OF SESSION, SUMMER FUN BEGINS



JULY YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, JULY 7

Cecile Swedlin Berman
mother of Maddie Sobel
Lawrence Besserman
husband of Judith Besserman
Rose Kaplan Davis
mother-in-law of Elyse Davis
Dr. Marvin Henry Terry Grody
father of Erica Levens
Abe Lederman
father of Linda Lederman
Harold Margolis
father of Elise Aries
Herbert Markham
uncle of Richard Mishkin
Anita Mishkin
mother of Richard Mishkin
Joseph Orlan
father-in-law of Adrienne Orlan
Oscar Ratner
uncle of Judith Strom
Frank Roberts
father of Hal Roberts
Bessie Ross
grandmother of Karen Brenner
Alan Rubinfeld
father of Adam Rubinfeld
Mona L. Rymberg
aunt of Judith Strom
Annette Belsky
Milton Kempler

FRIDAY, JULY 14

Stanley Block
father of Mark Block
Helen Eydenberg
grandmother of Susan Westlake
Paula Fulton
mother of Shara Birn
Joseph Goldberg
father of Jacob Goldberg
Ellen Granat
mother of Lynne Stark
Carol Held
mother of Lindsay Held
Jean Jonisch
mother of Geroge Jonisch

FRIDAY, JULY 14

Diane Kalish
mother of Jonas Kalish
Lawrence LeVine
father of Linda Lebovitz
Katharine Reynolds
mother of Jean Haddon
Jacques Rich
father of Valerie Rich
Minnie Sherr
grandmother of Elyse Davis
Carl Sonnett
father of Meredith Sonnett
Minnie Fremed
Max Schattner

FRIDAY, JULY 21

Al Arenson
father of Linda Arenson
Seymour Barth
father of Edward Barth
Stanley Bergman
father of Michael Bergman
Paul E. Busch
friend of Barbara Manners
Laura Fiderer
wife of David Fiderer
Sam Ginsberg
grandfather of Jamie Garrett
Harold Hagen
father of Ellen Lipton
Norman Hirt
father of Judy Hirt-Manheimer
Shirley Lazarus
mother of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley
Fannie Rotenberg
grandmother of Elise Aries
Lola Staub
grandmother of Eric Staub
Robert Trachtenberg
father of Scott Trachtenberg
Hannah Vandervelden
daughter of Steven and Judy Vandervelden
Herbert Waldman
father of Alan Waldman
Susan Aufsesser
Richard Dutka

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Beatrice Alper
mother of Lonnie Shapiro
Rheba Alpert
grandmother of Karen Blum
Jerry Blum
father of Joshua Blum
Kenneth Bookspan
father of Dawn Roberts
David Brenner
father of Andrea Davis
Lenore Gorman
mother of Martin Gorman
Warren Isman
father of Ken Isman
Sarah "Sally" Kalem
grandmother of Beth Waldman
Charles Karsch
grandfather of Karen Blum
Henry Langer
grandfather of Karen Gerard
Joel Levitt
father of Audra Emmerich
Carole Sernick
mother of Tina Weinstein
John Swedlin
father of Maddie Sobel
Sadie Dutka

AUGUST YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Sam Feinleib
grandfather of Leslie Gottlieb
Milton Feldman
father of Stuart Feldman
Kathy Goodman
mother of Victoria Friedman
Edward Gray
father of Scott Gray
Philip Manners
father of Barbara Manners
Robert Sidney Mirkin
brother of Judith Strom
Jennie Mirsky
grandmother of Carlyn
Bergman
Kenneth Randel
father of Susan Randel
Joseph Salpeter
father of Michael Salpeter
Hugo Sternberger
grandfather of Alice Gottlieb
Matthew Weber
brother in-law of Barbara
Manners
Edward Joel Mendell

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Helga Allen
mother of Rona Salpeter
Paul Balbo
grandfather of Dana Neiman
Michael Brodsky
father of Karl Brodsky
George Brody
great uncle of Joan Isman
Pearl Feldman
mother of Stuart Feldman
Richard Glass
brother of Michelle Blum
Seymour "Bud" Sapadin
father of Brian Sapadin

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Belle Baier
mother of Shelby White
Pauline Binstock
relative of Moreton Binn
Jack Darvick
father-in-law
Charles Fremed
husband of Resa Fremend
Reuben Ginsberg
great uncle of Jamie Garrett
Colette Horvilleur
mother of Laurence Furic
Michael Kurtz
brother of Marshall Kurtz
Claire Markham
aunt of Richard Mishkin
Goldie Mitzelman
grandmother of Karen Taylor
and Lori Stalowicz
Helen Orlan
mother-in-law of Adrienne
Orlan
Betty Rettberg
mother of Valerie Rich
Stella Shapiro
mother of David Shapiro
Julius Goodman

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Rose-Mary Binstock
relative of Moreton Binn
Charlotte Broder
mother of Stanford Broder
Robert Hammer
father of Michael Hammer
Joseph Hodas
father of Elinor Darvick
Jacob Levine
grandfather of Stephanie
Herbstman
Mitchell Perrin
father of Charles Perrin
Perry Reynolds
father of Jean Haddon
Fred Schwartz
father of Vicki Yolen

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Rochelle Simson
sister of Andrea Jacobs
Justin Waithe
friend of Dana Harnett

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

The naming of her great grandson
Oliver Jonsson
Ruth A. Schwartz
Leon Antista becoming Bar Mitzvah
Rebecca and Chris Antista
Aiden Harry Aframe becoming Bar
Mitzvah
Derek and Jessica Aframe
The birth of Gabriel Reiner
Erin and Rachel Gorman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Eleanora Burgreen, z"l
Michael and Rona Salpeter
Lisa Kurtz's father, Richard
Buchwald, z"l
Michael and Rona Salpeter
Sherry Levy-Reiner, z"l
Eric Larson

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of:

Sue Isman, z"l
Karen Taylor and David
Kaminer
Walter Vendig, z"l
Richard and Linda Vendig
Helen Bergson, z"l
David and Phyllis Amerling
Max Burg, z"l
Judith Besserman

TOT SHABBAT FUND

Benjamin and Ashley Blackwood
Jessica and Gregory Brushett

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Bert Price, z"l
Terry and Bob Henry

In Honor of:

Asher Reiner's birthday
The Mika Family

RABBI HADDON EMERITUS FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Jon Haddon
Nina and Milt Primer

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.



In Memoriam

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

We extend condolences to:

Ken and Joan Isman on the death of Ken's sister, Sue Isman, z"l

Richard Miskin on the death of his friend, Stanley Resnicoff, z"l

Tammi Jacobs Shulman, and Samantha and Andrea Shulman, on the death of Tammi's mother, Margrit (Margie) Jacobs, z"l

Robin and Scott Soloff and their children, Avri and Greyson, on the death of Robin's father, George Mendick, z"l

May their memory be for a blessing.

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Day is Done. Gone the Sun.

Wishing you a warm and wonderful summer!