

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

Early Fall 2023 / Elul-Tishrei-Heshvan 5783/5784

HIGH HOLY DAYS 2023 / 5784

September 9	8:00 p.m.	Havdalah and Selichot Worship
September 15	7:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Worship
September 16		Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship
	3:00 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Youth Service
	4:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Tot Service
	5:30 p.m.	Tashlich at Lewisboro Town Park
September 17	10:30 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship
	2:00 p.m.	*Tashlich at Lewisboro Town Park
September 24	7:30 p.m.	Kol Nidrei / Erev Yom Kippur
September 25	9:30 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	3:00 p.m.	Yom Kippur Youth Service
	4:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Tot Service
	5:15 p.m.	Afternoon Worship / Mincha
	6:15 p.m.	Yizkor Memorial Service
	6:45 p.m.	Neilah
	7:15 p.m.	Break Fast
September 29	5:00 p.m.	Pizza in the Hut (Sukkot)
	6:00 p.m.	Erev Sukkot Worship
September 30	10:30 a.m.	Sukkot Morning Worship
October 6	5:00 p.m.	Erev Simchat Torah Dinner
	6:00 p.m.	Erev Simchat Torah Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Yizkor Memorial Service
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*When the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* falls on *Shabbat*, some choose to perform *Tashlich* on the second day of *Rosh Hashanah*.

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 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 1	6:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	Octobe
September 8	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	
September 9	8:00 p.m.	<i>Havdalah and Selichot</i> Worship	Octobe
September 10	9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	First Day of <i>B'Yachad</i> <i>Havdalah</i> Family Service	Octobe
September 15	7:30 p.m.	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> Worship	Octobe
September 16	9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship Rosh Hashanah Youth Service Rosh Hashanah Tot Service Tashlich at Lewisboro Town Park	Octobe Octobe
September 17	10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship *Tashlich at Lewisboro Town Park	Octobe PLEAS
September 22	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	Torah in Sept
September 24 September 25	7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Kol Nidrei/Erev Yom Kippur Yom Kippur Morning Service Yom Kippur Youth Service Yom Kippur Tot Service Afternoon Worship/Mincha Yizkor Memorial Service Neilah Break Fast	*When some o Rosh H Zoom servic Rosh H Your L
September 29	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Pizza in the Hut (<i>Sukko</i> t) <i>Erev Sukkot</i> Worship	
September 30	10:30 a.m.	Sukkot Morning Worship	

October 1	9:30 a.m.	<i>B'Yachad Sukkot</i> Family Activities
October 6	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Erev Simchat Torah Dinner Erev Simchat Torah Worship Yizkor Memorial Service
October 13	5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat 2.0 Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
October 14	9:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.	Torah 101 <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship, <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Alexa and Danny Tiktin
October 20	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
October 21	9:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.	Torah 101 <i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship, <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Abigail Brooks
October 27	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

PLEASE NOTE:

Torah 101 and our monthly Tot *Shabbat* will not be held in September and will resume in October.

*When the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* falls on *Shabbat*, some choose to perform *Tashlich* on the second day of *Rosh Hashanah*.

Zoom links for the livestream of our High Holy Days services will be emailed to all congregants prior to *Rosh Hashanah*.

Your link is unique to you and cannot be shared.

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM OF WESTCHESTER AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES 46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 203-438-6589 email: office@OurShirShalom.org OurShirShalom.org

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OFFICE HOURS / SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY EMAILS, PHONE, AND TEXTS

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



While I prepare for the High Holy Days (and throughout the year) a reading adapted from Rabbi David Teutsch is on my mind:

"In our everyday lives, we live with an illusion of control. We guard our health by eating well, exercising, and getting regular checkups. We get ahead professionally by working hard and building effective relationships...[During the High Holy Days] we are forced to admit how profoundly our lives can be altered by random occurrences over which we have no control... I cannot control the unexpected blows that will affect my family, my job, my health. But I can control how I live with them. *T'shuvah* (cultivating a spiritual life and returning to Torah), *t'filah* (cultivating gratitude and connecting with transcendent values), and *tzedakah* (cultivating generosity and pursuing justice)... will not stop stock-market crashes, lung cancer, or the other blows that come our way, but they can radically transform how we are affected by those blows."

– Mishkan HaNefesh, Rosh Hashanah Edition, page 173

Observing the High Holy Days is a fulfillment of *mitzvot* in the Torah: the commandments to mark and celebrate annually the creation of our world and the beginning of a new year. And there may be more to our celebrations than fulfilling ancient directives. Many in our midst find meaning in the rituals and prayers (which may be nearly identical to what our parents, grandparents and recent generations have performed and recited, and are certainly not the same rituals performed and prayers recited by our ancient ancestors). The voice of the shofar can awaken and inspire. Others are moved by music – traditional and contemporary – melodies and harmonies helping us find connection and meaning in the words and thoughts of our traditions.

"Observing the High Holy Days is a fulfillment of *mitzvot* in the Torah."

And the opportunity to return and gather with family, friends, and neighbors, to create and renew connections – especially after years of disconnection and loneliness – draws in many.

We may understand *teshuvah* as repentance, though (as Rabbi Teutsch explains) "teshuvah" encompasses more. Repentance and atonement imply wrongdoing, yet we know that suffering and "unexpected blows" are often unrelated to punishment or misbehavior. Witnessing a global pandemic over the past several years, we may have a newfound appreciation for "how profoundly our lives can be altered by random occurrences over which we have no control." While there is much we cannot control, the High Holy Days may prompt us to engage in cheshbon hanefesh - self reflection

or an accounting of our souls – to help us control how we live with and react to inevitable unexpected challenges and to consider (without fear) where we may have fallen short or what we may have done better in the year that has passed. Through it all, the voice of the shofar calls us, summoning us towards *teshuvah*, returning to Torah, to family, to friends, to Jewish community, to tradition.

May we find meaning and connection as we return to Congregation Shir Shalom, as we reflect on our lives, as

we reconnect with our traditions and texts, Torah and music.

With warm wishes for a happy and health-filled 5784,

Rabbi David L. Reiner

COMMUNITY AFTERNOON HAVDALAH

Join us for an engaging Community Afternoon *Havdalah* service on Sunday, September 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All are invited, no response required.



ALL PRAYER BOOKS ARE SACRED Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray



All prayer books are sacred, including those belonging to Women of the Wall.

Two years ago, a group

of fervent extremists felt they had the right to destroy 39 precious prayer books belonging to Women of the Wall, leaving torn pages scattered throughout the Kotel Plaza.

It is the seventh anniversary of the passing – *yahrzeit* – of my great teacher and mentor. Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, was a prophetic voice of the Jewish People and messenger of peace to all of humanity.

As a student in his classes at Boston University from 1976-1979, and then for the rest of his life, I learned many things that inspired me. One in particular, moved me, as I had never thought of it this way.

Wiesel explained that the mere act of holding a prayer book was a sacred privilege. Imagine if you were a concentration camp prisoner, even owning a prayer book meant instant death. Imagine the spiritual strength a prayer book could give you at that time. How many people imagined a prayer book and recited whole services from memory? My cousin Poldi led a service from memory and was punished in a camp for it. Owning a prayer book was forbidden and deadly dangerous.

Growing up in day school, and

teaching in religious schools, singing as a cantor, we take for granted the powerful impact of holding a prayer book in our hands. "Please turn to page 28 and rise for the *Kiddush*." We had a prayerbook in our hands and never thought how powerful it was and how lucky we were.

This all changed when I heard Wiesel describe the mere act of holding a prayerbook as a sacred privilege. I never forgot his words and have shared them with students for over 45 years as a cantor.

Two years ago, a group of fervent extremists felt they had the right to destroy 39 precious prayer

"Wiesel explained that the mere act of holding a prayer book was a sacred priviledge."

books belonging to Women of the Wall, leaving torn pages scattered throughout the Kotel Plaza. 150 police officers and Kotel security guards stood by and watched.

After two years of police inaction, after filing a complaint, notice was given that the case was officially closed. Meir Fahima added that one person with a questionable name was interviewed and released. No one has been charged. Case closed.

Imagine if a neo-Nazi had destroyed prayer books in front of worshipers, or a mob of non-Jews defiling 39 prayer books at the Kotel. There would be uproar and police would have jumped all over it. When it comes to Women of the Wall, there is silence and sometimes a gleeful passive wink, as if glad the incident occurred.

Recently, a Torah was confiscated, and the security guard seen on film said, "I was waiting for this moment!" Thrilled to take a Torah away from women who want to read from it; silent when prayer books are destroyed. This is not right; this cannot be tolerated.

While I do not live in Jerusalem, my heart is there along with Jews all over the world. I and many others would like to see this case reopened and the perpetrators prosecuted. The

original complaint said it was a hate crime, but the police excused it as "an expression of fervent religion." If expressions of fervent religion mean destroying prayer books, we are in serious trouble as a people.

If Elie Wiesel could speak to the religious extremists, I am sure he could make some progress in this situation. "Fervent religion" should be heartfelt prayer and song, raising voices, not fists and praying with our hearts, not with violent hands.

The Kotel Agreement

The Kotel Agreement was voted on January 31, 2016, and was approved with a government vote of 15-5.

"One Kotel for One People" meant an improved expanded Robinson's Arch connected to the main Western Wall Plaza. There would be separate sections, men only, women only, and a mixed gender site. The Orthodox would continue to run the men and women's sections, while the egali-

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ALL PRAYER BOOKS ARE SACRED (CONT'D) Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

tarian section would be run by a combined committee of government, Masorti, Reform, and Women of the Wall. It took three years of negotiating to get this agreement, and included the efforts of Natan Sharansky, then-chairman of the Jewish Agency and then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Sadly, the agreement was formally suspended after a year and a half due to pressure by religious extremists.

Sharansky who had suffered in the Soviet prisons for years, seen as a Jewish hero, was disrespected by these actions in my opinion. Who knows better than Natan Sharansky how important religious freedom is? Why should an extreme expression of Judaism control everyone? Shouldn't there be room for everyone as the Kotel Agreement so carefully and thoughtfully crafted?

When it is permissible to desecrate sacred prayer books by one group (imagine if Women of the Wall did that) with the law enforcement standing by, it is clear that there is no law protecting all of its citizens.

When a law is proposed that anything that angers or disturbs *haredi* prayer will be illegal, we have a real problem. A woman wearing a *tallit, tefillin,* reading from a Torah, and even leading prayer could be illegal?

Is this Iran or is this Israel? It is time someone stood up to the religious



bullies and said no. There can be room for everyone to pray as they wish.

All prayers should be welcome. Don't we have other things to worry about? We need prayer in all forms – one does not negate the other. My prayer does not interfere with or lessen others.

I am a proud founder of the Women Cantors' Network and the Women of the Wall Choir. The WOW Choir has been adding beautiful harmony and spirit to the monthly *Rosh Hodesh* services at the Kotel this year. I am thrilled to hear these young, devoted women surrounded by women who come from all over the world to pray together. If the Kotel Agreement were implemented, Robinson's Arch Plaza would be the location for these beautiful services.

> The violence against the Women of the Wall cannot be tolerated. Violence against prayer books can turn into violence against people.

Elie Wiesel reminded us that the act of holding a prayer book is a sacred act. We are privileged to hold a prayer book in our hands. No one has the right to destroy a prayer book. All prayer books are sacred.

Prime Minister Netanyahu – bring those who destroyed them back to court and treat them as criminals.

We are the People of the Book. Let's act like it.

Cantor Debbie

Cantor Debbie is founder of the Women Cantors' Network and cofounder of the Women of the Wall Choir.

Reprinted from the Jerusalem Post, June 25, 2023



CURRENT 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.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Jeff Gorelick



As the Summer slowly progresses and eventually leaves us only with wonderful memories of sun, fun, and family vacations, we

anticipate the Fall, 2023 and with it back to school and our High Holy Days. Larry Brooks and I along with the Board of Trustees including the Executive Committee hope you have had a wonderful Summer and wish to update you on our ongoing agenda for our sacred community. These are things that we have continued to discuss and address over the preceding months and will continue to see to completion in the months ahead.

Hopefully you have already seen the renovated synagogue pavilions and sanctuary. If you have not, you should, and will see it during the High Holy Days. It came out beautifully and within budget of the insurance proceeds! Included is all new carpeting, painting, flooring, and refinishing of pews and bimah furnishings. The work was overseen by executive director Mark Block and congregant Hal Wolkin over many weeks. Congregants Eileen Segalman (design) and Richard Lipton (construction) were instrumental in the wonderful outcome, and we thank them for their expertise and time.

Though we miss her daily, illuminating presence and singular talent, Cantor Debbie is doing well, and we all hope to see her and Scott as congregants over the holidays.

Please mark your calendars for a planned gala honoring Cantor Debbie and her memorable and amazing tenure as our Cantor planned for Sunday, June 23, 2024. Cantorial coverage for the holidays has been secured. In addition, a Cantorial Search Committee, co-chaired by congregants and board members Dr. Terry Henry and Elie Schecter, has been formed and is actively meeting and working on the process of securing a new cantor for the synagogue to begin serving our sacred community July 1, 2024. We thank them all for their time and commitment. We also extend our thanks to Rabbi Reiner who has shouldered added responsibility

"Our potential is unlimited, but it requires volunteerism, involvement, and *tzedakah.*"

during the cantor's absence with his usual professionalism and compassion.

Part of the Atid Campaign which, thanks to the generosity of so many at Shir Shalom, was designed to create programming and related services that would enrich our sacred community spiritually and educationally to benefit us all. In that pursuit, among others for our shared future, we have begun a strategic planning initiative. This process started with interviewing several recommended consultants in depth to align their skill set with the hopes and vision we have for our future at Shir Shalom. Once we decide upon a consultant, we will

form committees to move forward with this effort. More to follow but your help and involvement will be integral to a successful outcome for our congregation.

Through the leadership and initiative of vice-president Marc Sheridan, congregant Richard Priem, Mark Block, and Patrick Barry, a security task force has been formed. The purpose is to assess our present security policy and infrastructure and make any necessary changes required to always maximize the safety of our congregation and its members. Richard does this professionally through Community Security Service which specializes in security matters at synagogues

regionally and nationally. A committee has been formed and the process is underway. Our sincerest thanks to Richard Priem for donating his time as well as Marc, Mark, Patrick, and the congregant committee members.

I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to our wonderful, professional, and caring staff, Mark Block, Sarah Denyer, Cathy Deutchman, Kim Franz, Allyson Bellio, Patrick Barry, Susie Hamilton, and Maria and Lucy for the work they do for our community every day. While we all enjoy summer the active preparation for the High Holy Days goes on behind the scenes to ensure our congregation, visitors and guests have meaningful holidays and our students and youngsters transition to ECC and *B'Yachad* after Labor Day.

Lastly, as the High Holy Days approach, Larry and I want to remind everyone of our shared interest and

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TAKING ACTION Mark Block, Executive Director, FSA



As the profound waters of celebration, amazement, piety, and introspection surge closer with the approach

of the High Holy Days, it is easy to presume that this period is reserved only for mental and spiritual journey.

This season of repentance (returning, healing, forgiving) is not just about considering and feeling remorse – it is primarily a jumping off point for taking action.

It is beneficial to process repentance in our minds and to sense repentance in our hearts. It is salutary to promise to transform conduct that is not advantageous for us, others, or the world. It is imperative to create an aspiration to ask and bestow pardon. Although good, healthy, and right as our inner conversion might be, it is not full repentance unless it causes an effect where effect is achievable.

Jews are called to take action. Our holy forefathers reacted to Sinai's beckoning with *na'aseh v'nishma*: "We will do, and we will hear" (Exodus 19:8) – doing is preeminent. *Shabbat* does not occur naturally: "The Children of Israel will ... do *Shabbat* for all their generations as an eternal covenant." (Exodus 31:16) – doing generates *Shabbat*. Doing is our alliance. Doing is the goal of the inner return and renewal that we call repentance. The captivating High Holy Day *Avinu Malkeinu* entreaty pleads to God: *Aseh imanu tzedakah* *va'chesed* – "execute with us justice and lovingkindness." On *Yom Kippur*, we hear anew the instruction to copy God – "Be holy, for I [the Holy One] am holy" (Leviticus 15:2) – so this period beckons us to do the same. We must carry out the same justice and lovingkindness that we implore for ourselves.

What is an act of repentance? It relies on context, but commonly encompasses actions that are visible to others. It can entail uttering a sincere apology to individuals whom we have wronged (not

"We must carry out the same justice and lovingkindness that we implore for ourselves."

only reflecting on it). It can mean correcting gossip we propagated (even if we are unable to eradicate all of the mischief a rumor caused). It can mean sending a message to kick off repairing a relationship. It can involve communicating pardon that has been blocked by resentment for a long time. It can imply returning something that belongs to somebody else.

In all these examples, repentance is an act: contemplating and feeling are the nurturing soil of repentance, yet action is the purpose and completion.

Taking action is often daring, taking action jeopardizes denial and collapse. But in most scenarios, that is precisely the objective. Apart from in dangerous or abusive situations where fixing is not possible safely in this world, peril is part of what we must do to heed the plea of repentance. A real repentance of action needs nerve to take a chance on our hearts for the purpose of achieving legitimate restoration and convalescence. Our hearts and souls – and those of others – are deserving of this.

That is the appeal of this period – a repentance of action that is riskier – and significantly more restorative and emancipating – than simply musing or feeling.

Justice and compassion, community and divinity, kindness, and leniency, forgiving and fixing, Shabbat and Jewish life – all of these beckon us to act. So, in this season of repentance, what are you waiting for? Make the phone call. Send the email. Just do it. You'll feel better once you do.

L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu, may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Mark Block

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D) Jeff Gorelick

goal in strengthening and enriching our common religious home. We are working to make it a place where we meet all congregants' needs, physically, spiritually, and intellectually. As you can see from the report above, we have many projects and many to come. We need everyone to commit to this with generosity of time and resources. This becomes paramount during the High Holy Days Appeal, our largest single annual fund-raising effort. We both ask that you not only think about what our sacred community means to you now but what it can mean to you and your family and friends tomorrow. Our potential is unlimited, but it requires volunteerism, involvement, and *tzedakah*.

Larry and I wish you and yours peace, health, and happiness in the year to come.

L'Shanah Tovah!

Jeff Gorelock



PATTI'S CLOSET

PATTI'S CLOSET is a ministry for the United Methodist Church of Danbury. The closet provides FREE new and used clothing to inneed families who have small children. The clothing is between the sizes of newborns to toddler (4-T).

PATTI'S CLOSET is located at the United Methodist Church of Danbury, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, (lower level - around the back of the church)

It is open the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates: September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

SUMMER SUCCESS

As summer began to draw to a close, over 150 congregants of all ages gathered in late-August for an end of summer cookout at the synagogue. The event offered activities for young people, and there was plenty of delicious food to enjoy, making it an ideal way to begin bidding farewell to the season and turn our focus to the upcoming High Holy Days.



The Brotherhood deserves special recognition for their incredibly generous donation of the essential ingredients for a successful cookout, including hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, and their exceptional grilling skills. The Sisterhood members also made valuable contributions, generously offering their time to prepare an array of delicious accoutrements to complement our main dishes. Attendees further added to the festivities by bringing along a wonderful assortment of side dishes and desserts, filling our tables with a mouth-watering selection of treats.

Our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to ensure that every detail was taken care of and that everything ran smoothly, enabling everyone to truly enjoy their time together. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to making this event a resounding success.

SOCIAL ACTION

Our High Holy Day Food Drive is approaching – please donate a bag of non-perishable foods on *Yom Kippur*, or shortly thereafter. We will be supporting our local food pantries, Daily Bread in Danbury, the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah, and the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Please see the flyer on the next page if you want to donate online or with a gift card. These folks depend on us!

We want to congratulate our own Bobbi Cohlan for receiving a "Women of Distinction" award from local state leaders, given to women who have made a difference in their communities – Bobbi is a founding member of the stillbirth prevention nonprofit PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy and other related activities.

The SAFE WALK event will be held on Saturday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m. This fundraiser raises awareness for the Center for Empowerment and Education in our area, which provides no cost services to help lessen the trauma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and other major life crises, such as divorce and grief/loss. The walk will begin at Jesse Lee church on Main Street, Ridgefield. June Rubin and Elie Schechter are co-leading the Shir Shalom team. Please see the flyer for registration form link and more information.



Patti's Closet is an organization which collects gently used baby and toddler clothing in Danbury for those in need. Please see more information in this bulletin. Congregants can donate their baby and toddler clothing to this organization using the brown clothing bin in the lobby of our building. After the week of *Yom Kippur*, we will arrange for the drop-off of the donations in the bin.

Finally, we will be doing our Breakfast Run on Sunday morning November 12. This is an early morning event to help the homeless via the Midnight Run organization. We will be preparing breakfast for 40-60 homeless men and women and bringing it to one assigned spot in Manhattan, where we will 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 and adults are welcome. This is a very gratifying activity and a great parent-child experience together. This is an excellent opportunity for B'nai Mitzvah students for their social action/community service experience; also, for high schoolers wanting to do community service. We will also be doing our preparation and packing up on Saturday afternoon, November 11, when others may also participate. We would also appreciate donations of new socks and underwear (in the clothing bin in the lobby). Please email Debbie Lavin to volunteer at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org.

Thank You!

Debbie Lavin



TASHLICH

For countless generations, Jewish communities have gathered on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* at bodies of water to recite the *Tashlich* Prayer, a collection of specific chapters and verses from *Tehillim* (Psalms), symbolizing the desire to purge ourselves of sin and gain forgiveness from God. As part of the custom, some individuals scatter breadcrumbs into the flowing water to signify the act of casting away their sins. Our *Tashlich* ceremony is scheduled to take place at Lewisboro Town Park. Please refer to the holiday schedule for the exact time.

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM HIGHHOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE

OUR 2023/5784 FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS THE RIDGEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER, AND THE DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY!

FOODS NEEDED MOST INCLUDE • Dried beans • Rice (1 or 2-pound bags) • Cooking oil/ olive oil / avocado oil • Tea and coffee • Tuna • Soup • Canned fruit and vegetables • Canned Meats (chicken, tuna, sardines, salmon) • Mac & cheese • Pasta • Pasta sauce • Meals-in-a-can • Baby food • Healthy (or even not-so-healthy) snacks and treats for children (we will distribute responsibly!) • Breakfast cereal (hot or cold) • Shelf stable milk • Natural Peanut Butter (w/no added sugar) • Raw Nuts • Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayo, vinegar, and hot sauce • Cookies and crackers • Sugar, flour, baking items such as cake mix • Any little luxuries or oddball items you yourself might like as a treat.PER-SONAL CARE & CLEANING ITEMS • Shampoo • Deodorant • Toothpaste • Laundry detergent • Household cleaning products • Hand Sanitizer • Soap • PaperTowels • Toilet Paper • Feminine Hygiene Products Baby Diapers (Sizes 5 & 6).

Gift cards from Stop and Shop, ShopRite, and online monetary donations are also appreciated! Donation bags will be collected during the High Holy Days. Please contact our office to drop off bags of donations/gift cards outside of the High Holy Days if you will not be attending in person. These agencies rely on our generosity. Please check online for their donation times and links to make donations directly.

For any additonal information, please contact SocialAction@Our ShirShalom.org. Thank you!

RIDGEFIELD FOOD PANTRY 400 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877

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SAFEWALK

SAFE W@LK

The Center for Empowerment & Education (CEE) will hold its seventeenth annual SafeWalk on the weekend of Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1. **The in-person walk will begin at the Jesse Lee church on Main Street, Ridgefield at 3 pm on Saturday September 30.** You can opt to walk "virtually" at any time or location during that weekend. SafeWalk is our premier event uniting the community in our vision to end domestic violence and raise much-needed funds to support our no cost programs and services. The Registration fee is \$25 per person or \$75 per family to participate in the walk itself.

CEE provides NO COST and confidential services to prevent or lessen the trauma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and other major life crises, such as divorce and grief/loss. We serve Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, and Sherman and serve over 30,000 men, women, teen and children annually.

To participate, please register online at https://thecenterct.org/how-to-help-us/events/ or email:

Linda Cummins, Special Events Manager linda.c@thecenterct.org

If you will be doing the walk, please let June Rubin (junenycamb@gmail.com) or Elie Schecter (eschecter4@gmail.com) know.

Dear Fellow Congregants,

My name is June Rubin. My husband and I are new to both Ridgefield and Shir Shalom. It has always been paramount to me to advocate for victims of gun violence and domestic violence, which are statistically linked. Being one of the founding members of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, I have spent the last ten years involved in working to pass common sense gun legislation as well as working with survivors of gun violence in New York state and New York City.

Shir Shalom appealed to me as a caring and socially active congregation. For these reasons, the temple was approached, once again, to participate in the 2023 SafeWalk in Ridgefield. When I learned of this event, I was eager to help in whatever way I could.

I am so pleased to be a co-lead on this project with Elie Shechter, a Board Member of Shir Shalom. He is my guide to the shul regarding its various committees and its community involvement.

The purpose of our involvement in the 2023 SafeWalk is to urge as many volunteers from Shir Shalom to participate in the Walk itself as well as raise and/or donate funds in support of the Center. CEE provides NO COST and confidential services to prevent or lessen the trauma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and other major life crises, such as divorce and grief/loss. The Center serves Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, and Sherman and serves over 30,000 men, women, teens and children annually.

The Center also provides no cost education programs geared toward all ages. As we all know, domestic violence does not discriminate, it runs across racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and economic lines. It exists where we least expect it.

This is a perfect opportunity for Shir Shalom congregants to walk together down our beautiful Main Street in support of The Center. Shir Shalom is an integral and vibrant part of Ridgefield. Its robust participation in the SafeWalk will only serve to cement that.

Elie and I look forward to working with you in broadcasting this event to our congregants. I look forward to meeting you in person as well.

Shalom,

June Rubin junenycamb@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD NEWS

We were delighted to be able to return to our revitalized, lovely building after the completion of repairs, and replacement and refreshment of the main areas of the building following the flood. Many thanks to those who volunteered continued to support "access to connection" through Mah Jongg and Canasta (instruction and play), a summery "Dinner Out" at Eddie's in Ridgefield, Book Club, Knitting Circle and support to CHIRP concerts in the Park!



their expertise and time in relation to this project, making it beautiful as well as keeping everything in excellent financial parameters.

Over the summer, Sisterhood

Looking towards the Fall, Sisterhood expects to be represented at The Center for Empowerment and Education's Safe Walk on Saturday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m. with the start of the walk at Jesse Lee Church on Main Street in Ridgefield. The Annual Sisterhood Kick-Off

Event will take place in October. Also in the fall, Bobbie Cohlan has generously offered to do a Challah Baking demonstration. Be on the lookout for more information about these exciting upcoming events soon.

If you are interested in being a part of Sisterhood, please email sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org and join our Facebook group Shir Shalom Sisterhood. This is the best way to get all the information about the events and activities we will have throughout the year.

And by the way, many Sisterhood members are celebrating wonderful lifecycle events, too numerous to list here, but we wish a warm *Mazel Tov* to ALL!

Sisterhood wants to wish everyone at Shir Shalom a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

Margie Gorelick, Christina Gogish, and Laurie Wolkin

ADULT PROGRAMMING NEWS

Adult Programming committee took a break during the summer months. However, we are looking forward to many events and programs in the near future.

We are going to have a field trip to the Performing Arts Center at Purchase college to attend "Klezmatics" concert as a group on November 12. We were able to reserve group tickets, but you can still get tickets online (though they are selling very quickly).

We hope to have the famous Jewish Genealogist Artur Kurzweil back.

We are also planning to have Jewish author talks, Israel-related events with the Israeli Emissary Ofek Moscovich and other field trips that may include Jewish Museum in NYC and another fun historical tour with Brad Shaw. Last spring we had a delightful tour with him dedicated to history of the synagogues at the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

If you wish to volunteer at AP or you have an idea of a program please contact synagogue office or Adult Programming chair Serafima Dashevskaya at serafima@gmail. com.



RABBI REINER'S SUMMER ADVENTURES



Rabbi Reiner travelled to Israel this summer with his family including touring with our congregant Shelby White and her family. Rabbi Reiner and Shelby White hiked Ein Prat, a natural spring and nature preserve in the desert near Jerusalem. After returning from Israel, Rabbi Reiner served on the faculty at URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington supporting the staff and Jewish education program, tutoring and teaching, including a course on the history of kosher cheese. Here Rabbi Reiner enjoyed visiting with campers from Congregation Shir Shalom at Eisner Camp and Crane Lake Camp.









NEWS FROM THE B'YACHAD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Cathy Deutchman, Director



"Change is not threatening, so long as we keep firm hold of the values by and for which we live. We can travel with confidence

so long as we have a map. We can jump with safety knowing that there is someone to catch us as we fall". – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

We are in the month leading up to Elul when we celebrate both *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. This time of year is marked by changes for most of us. Many of you have children returning to their local

Summer is in full swing while Rabbi Reiner, the staff at Congregation Shir Shalom, and members of the Ritual Committee plan the High Holy Days. In the last few weeks of August, congregants submited ticket requests, supplies were ordered, and details ironed out. The High Holy Days always seem so far away in August but in just a few weeks we'll be wishing each other *L'Shanah Tovah* and dipping apples in honey!

Shir Shalom's Ritual Committee extends our wishes for health and happiness to all our congregant families in the upcoming New Year. We look forward to sharing the High Holy Days and the rest of the year's celebrations together.

The full schedule for High Holy Days

schools or going back to college. Some are starting new schools. Some of you have new jobs, or new roles in your previous positions. Some of you are moving or getting new neighbors.

"At B'Yachad, we are excited to get the school year started."

We are all saying goodbye to the longer warmer days and getting ready for the shorter cooler days of fall. How do you start something new? How do you say goodbye? As we all get ready to celebrate the new Jewish year together, we reflect on the past and consider the future. Reach out to others and do things to take care of yourself during this time of transition.

At *B'Yachad*, we are excited to get the school year started. I'd like to

work as partners to make Jewish learning together at *B'Yachad* a positive experience for you and your child. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says, may you and your child know that we are here to catch you if you fall. Please reach out to me: cathy@ourshirshalom.org if you'd like to have a conversation. I look forward to seeing you on opening day: Sunday, September 10!

Cathy Deutchman

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Services can be found on the front cover of this bulletin, the inside cover, and on the tickets you've received which should be brought



with you when you attend any of the services being held over the course of the holidays.

We look forward to seeing you and

your families at our services and on behalf of the clergy and the Ritual Committee we wish you a sweet New Year!

Shanah tovah,

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Sarah Denyer, Director



The Summer Fun Program at the ECC was enjoyed by 36 participants this year. Our Practically Preschool students, who

are accustomed to attending school with a parent or caregiver, moved

into our 2's program over the summer. They bravely learned to separate from their parents and join in on

the fun with the older children. Our mornings began with all the children gathering out front and, on the playground, where they had a variety of choices. We offered an array of activities such as washing riding toys and cars with excessive suds, blowing bubbles in a variety of ways, painting at the easel and on Plexi-glass, drawing with sidewalk chalk, arts and crafts, water play in basins and the sandbox, making and exploring with play dough, sliding, and splashing in the wading pool and tending to our vegetable garden. After morning play, we gathered in a shady spot on the parachute for a Song Circle and Snack time. Next, we split into small groups and went inside for stories and classroom play. This was a nice time to acquaint

"We had a lovely summer with our adorable little ones!" the students with their new classrooms for the upcoming school year. Most days the older two

> groups followed indoor play with time in the back garden for sprinkler play, obstacle courses and mud kitchen fun. We ended our mornings by changing into dry clothes and enjoying popsicles while waiting for grown-ups to arrive for dismissal.

> We had a lovely summer with our adorable little ones! We look forward

to seeing most of them at the ECC this Fall, and we wish our graduates a wonderful Kindergarten year at their new schools!

Sarah Denyer







2023 SUMMER FUN

















TO OUR NEWEST CONGREGANTS

Randolph and Bonnie Brooks, (Salem, NY) Carol Buchwald (Ridgefield, CT)

Kera Rennert and David Shuster, and their children, Ayala and Ezekiel (Redding, CT)

Dr. Karen Schrier and David Shaenfield, and their children, Alyssa, Noah and Jacob (South Salem, NY)

Emily Greenspan and Chris Willard ,and their children, Aaron and Sophie (Ridgefield, CT)

Wayne Goldman (Ridgefield, CT)

Misha and Jonathan Vayner, and their children, Dru, Sloane, and Rishi (South Salem, NY)

HIGH HOLY DAYS BABYSITTING

We are happy to offer complimentary babysitting for your children, ages two years and up, at Congregation Shir Shalom during *Rosh Hashanah* Morning worship and *Yom Kippur* Morning Worship from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., or until the conclusion of services.

Rosh Hashanah Morning: Saturday, September 16

Yom Kippur Morning: Monday, September 25

We will also have a family room upstairs where a parent can watch a livestream of our morning services, while entertaining a younger child (under 2 years)-toddler toys/activities will be available) as well as a separate room for your older child if they need a break from the sanctuary. No sign-up is needed to use these two rooms.

To sign up for Babysitting on site during our *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning services use the signup link in your email or contact the synagogue office.

YOM KIPPUR BREAK FAST

We hope you can join us to break your fast at Congregation Shir Shalom!

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please let us know how many people will be attending using the signup link in your email or contact the office.



SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Esther Gerard grandmother of Ira Gerard Lev Gogish husband of Serafima Dashevskaya, father of Ilya and Vlad Gogish Leonard Gordon grandfather of James Marks Selma Gordon grandmother of James Marks Dr. Herbert Kreevay father of Michelle Krellenstein Louis Karlin father of Roger Karlin Eugene Kaserman father of Wendy Meyer Lucille Levenson grandmother of Karen Brenner Samuel Levy step-father of Richard Burg Shirlev Needleman mother of Kenneth Needleman Alfred Pilch father of Alan Pilch **Stanley Slone** brother of Judith Shapiro Leopold Weisberg father of Marty Weisberg Donna Ellen Brown Dr. Jospeh Fried **Dorothy Himoff**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Irving Davis father of Mark Davis Jack Goldfish father of Roy Leonard 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 Ruth Lowy mother of Terry Henry

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Sol Pottish uncle of Richard Mishkin Ruth Siegel wife of Lewis Siegel Sally Tandet mother of Naomi Shapiro Dudley Emerson Westlake

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Milton Cobert grandfather of Dana Neiman **Deborah Darvick** daughter in-law of Elinor Darvick Arnold Friedlander husband of Diana Friedlander Herbert Jay Hodas brother of Elinor Darvick David Jonisch father of George Jonisch Cantor Theodore Katchko father of Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray Minna Lehrman mother of Lora Wishod Seymour "Sy" Schreckinger father of Jamie Kaplan William Schwartz relative of Moreton Binn Cathie Jo Raynor

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Sheila Barth mother of Edward Barth Sam Bronner father of Renee Pessin Norman Burg brother of Judith Besserman Sylvia Farber mother of Hildi Glicklich Harry Fergenson grandfather of Michael Bergman Jonathan Howard Gordon brother of Elaine Gordon Stanley Gottlieb father of Lawrence Gottlieb

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Jerry Granat father of Lynne Stark Monroe Hyman father of Lisa Pollack Mony Leichichman grandfather of Michael Neiman Larry Mirkin brother of Judith Strom Leonard Neiman grandfather of Michael Neiman Harold Redman father of Debra Lavin Irv Schneider uncle of Margie Gorelick Wendy Steinberg sister of Jay Walker Rebecca Szafir Holocaust Remembrance Alida Szafir Holocaust Remembrance Mary Taylor grandmother of David Taylor

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Murray Emmer father-in-law of Jane Emmer Sophie Felper grandmother of Margie Gorelick Abrahom Holson grandfather of Robin Heit Ethel Kurlander great aunt of Matt Herbstman Edythe Lipman mother of Steve Lipman Nathan Muchnick grandfather of Jason Muchnick Freda Silverman grandmother of Richard Burg Frieda Stern grandmother of Laurie Dubin Leonard Dutka Eddv Fuchs Leroy Ronald Levin **Joseph Meyer-Gordon** Anna Schattner

OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 Gerhard Bendix father of Alice Gottlieb Gerald Jay Berg father of Jeff Berg Ann Brodsky mother of Karl Brodsky Pearl Brown mother of Michael Brown Rabbi Marcus Burstein husband of Eric Larson Dorothy Dietzek mother of Alan Dietzek 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 David Kushner father of Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz Carol Lackow mother of Rhonda Lackow Lynn Levi aunt of Adam Rubinfeld Hattie Schwartz relative of Moreton Binn Sylvia Mininberg

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 Mitchell Cobert uncle of Dana Neiman Jack D. Burg brother of Richard Burg Germ Dashevskiv father of Serafima Dashevskaya, grandfather of Vlad and Ilya Gogish

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Seymour Epstein father of Andrea Jacobs Sam Friedlander Vladimir Gogish father-in-law of Serafima Dashevskaya, grandfather of Vlad 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 Maxyne LeVine mother of Linda Lebovitz George Orlan husband of Adrienne Orlan Dominic Romeo father of Harry and Sandra Rosenhouse's son-in-law Norma Sachs mother of David Sachs Sam Schmeltzer father of Resa Fremed June Shaplen mother of Jason Shaplen Stanley D. Waldinger father of Steven Waldinger **Doris Weiler** grandmother of Joshua Arnow Elaine Zimmerman grandmother of David, Aaron, Ezra and Joey Zimmerman **Molly Friedlander** Amy Friedlander **Gregory Friedlander**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Max Baker grandfather of Carlyn Bergman **Rose Bergman** grandmother of Michael Bergman

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

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 Jeffrey Gorelick Wolf Manheimer father of Aron Hirt-Manheimer Rae Michael great grandmother of Danielle, Caitlin and Lucas Winston Martha Ratner grandmother of Judith Strom Norman Weinstein father of Terry Weinstein **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

David Alper father of Lonnie Shapiro Joseph Emmanuel Brenner grandfather of Scott Brenner Martin F. Burg father of Richard Burg Gertrude Cohen grandmother of Matt Herbstman David Emmer husband of Jane Emmer Ioan Fine mother of Peter Fine Helen Garfiel grandmother of Karen Blum Jacob Goldberg grandfather of Jacob Goldberg Billie Hoffman mother of Larry Hoffman Harold Horowitz grandfather of Stacey Rubinfeld Irwin Krulwich father of Jeffrey Krulwich Frieda Stern grandmother of Laurie Dubin Arthur Klein **Richard Stanley**

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND In Honor of:

Nathan Gershner becoming Bar Mitzvah Matt and Debrah Gershner **In Memory of:** Helen Waldman, *z"l*

Alan and Beth Waldman Marcie and Jerald Rosenston

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of: Helen Waldman, *z"l* Karen Taylor and David Kaminer Stanford and Lynn Broder Goldie Mitzelman, *z"l* Karen Taylor and Lori Stalowicz Dorothy McCawley, z"l Karen Taylor and David Kaminer

In Honor of:

Aiden Aframe becoming Bar Mitzvah Mark and Donna Milberg

PRAYER BOOK FUND Joe Niola

TOT SHABBAT FUND

Benjamin and Ashley Blackwood Asaf and Rebecca Peres Dr. Melina Wald and family Steven and Andrea Waldinger

FB EDUCATION FUND In Gratitude:

Isaac Hirt-Manheimer and Gloria Manheimer

CARING FUND

In Memory of:

All of our beloved departed family Randolph and Bonnie Brooks

MAZEL TOV!



Noach ben Asher, Noah James Lipton was born July 7 at 7lbs, 3oz. Noah is the grandson of Richard Lipton and Ellen Lipton. Happy parents are Andrew and Meaghan Lipton, and thrilled Uncles Jordan and Zachary Lipton.

Robert and Barbara Bangser welcome their newest family member, grandson, Ethan Asher Goun, born Friday, August 11 at 11:01 p.m. at 9lbs, 7oz, 22". Rachel, Jeremy, and baby Ethan are all home and doing great.



In Memoriam The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

We extend condolences to:

Alan and Beth Waldman and family on the death of Alan's mother, Helen Waldman, *z"l*

Stacey Rubinfeld and family on the death of Stacey's grandmother, Sylvia Horowitz, z''l

Eve Siegel on the death of her sister, Jill Agonis, *z*"*l*

Ken Isman and family on the death of his mother, Dorothy McCawley, *z*"*l*

Brooks family on the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Fred Seiss, *z*"*l*

May their memory be for a blessing.

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.



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\$5 Donation Per Person.

Register directly online or send your check to the synagogue office!

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM



Join our Congregation Shir Shalom family as we celebrate Sukkot with a delicious pizza dinner in the Sukkah on **September 29th at 5:00 p.m.** Then join us for our **Erev Sukkot Service at 6:00 p.m.** Shake the lulav, hold the etrog and enjoy festival music. Registration is required for food preparation.

Please note that B'Yachad enrolled children eat free as part of the activity fee paid during registration.

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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