APRIL/MAY 2017 NISAN/IYAR/SIVAN 5777

our Shir Shalom

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26 5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Worship, April 1 Bat Mitzvah: Lucy Landzberg Shabbat Tzav, Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36 April 7 5:30 pm Pre-service nosh 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship Grade K-1 participating 7:00 pm Oneg Shabbat with a light dinner April 10 8:00 am Feast/Fast of the first born April 11 10:00am Pesach Service Shabbat, Chol Hamoed Pesach April 14 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship April 17 10:00am Pesach Service Shabbat Sh'mini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47 **Ruach Shabbat** April 21 7:30 pm April 22 5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Harrison Mazlish Shabbat Tazria-M'tzora, Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33 April 28 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship April 29 5:00pm Shabbat Afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Tyler Alexander

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Shabbat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim, Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27							
May 5	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship					
Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23							
May 12	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat 2.0					
	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship "Celebrate Israel in Song"					
May 13	10:30 pm	Shabbat Morning Worship Bat Mitzvah: Marley Bender					
Shabbat Behar-B'chukotai, Leviticus 25:1 - 27:34							
May 19	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship					
May 20	10:30am	Shabbat Morning Worship					
		Bat Mitzvah: Harley Zins					
Shabbat B'midbar, Numbers 1:1 - 4:20							
May 26	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship					
May 30	7:30pm	Shavuot Worship Service					



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FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK

Passover celebrates our exodus from bondage and the beginning of our ongoing journey as a people. Since the start of the ancient journey, we—Israelites, Jews, Israelis—have faced threats and attacks around the world and throughout history, in the

Diaspora, in America, in the modern state of Israel. Acts of vandalism and threats in recent weeks and months targeting synagogues and other Jewish institutions, prompt the familiar Passover question: Mah nishtana...Why should today be any different?

Congregation Shir Shalom aspires to be a warm and welcoming synagogue, a sanctuary for all our members, like the open tents where our ancestors gathered while wandering. We want our members and guests to feel welcome and comfortable and, in preparing for the High Holy Days this past year, our "Welcoming Task Force" trained greeters and helped to make our space feel more welcoming.

Years ago I celebrated Shabbat at the Great Synagogue in Rome. Upon arrival I was greeted by policemen with machine guns and airport-style security and was subjected to a brief interrogation by an armed guard because I was not a regular. It was the antithesis of warm and welcoming, though a perceived necessity.

It is challenging to find a balance between our aspirations and our need to ensure the security of our building and safety of members and guests. I am troubled and concerned by recent incidents of vandalism and antisemitism directed at Jewish institutions around the country. Our synagogue has not received any threats. The Anti-Defamation League encourages synagogues and Jewish institutions to regularly review security procedures in consultation with local police. While our staff has already implemented some no-cost or low cost changes recommended by the Ridgefield Police Department, a "Security Task Force" (chaired by Paul Amerling) has been formed to further review our procedures and consider options that may be more costly.

Most changes are unseen and cannot be shared. We have started to keep track of who is in the building during the week. Everyone (excluding parents during pick up and drop off) who enters the building will be asked to sign in and show identification, as you would when visiting a school or hospital.

The security and the safety of our members, guests, and staff is critical, even as we aspire to be a warm and welcoming synagogue. While we cannot put a price on ensuring the safety of our members and guests, the security task force is considering whether major investments will actually make us safer and still a welcoming space. I am grateful for your patience, concern, and consideration, as we continue a thorough review of our procedures. If you have any concerns or questions please let me know or reach out to our co-presidents or Paul Amerling (leader of our Security Task Force).

With warm wishes for a safe spring and a sweet Pesach,

Rabbi David Reiner

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE by Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin

Shir Shalom's Board of Trustees, together with Rabbi Reiner, dedicated most of a recent Sunday to organizing our collective energy in one critical area of "synagogue life". And while we have often focused attention on this area, we feel that the time is now to undertake a concerted effort toward engaging more of Shir Shalom's congregants in the activities and in the life of our community. We see it as critical that Shir Shalom become more of an epicenter for formation of meaningful relationships that evolve from sharing spiritual and learning experiences, from engaging in social action endeavors and from participating in community social activities.

We need to set the bar high to create the feeling of "home" for our congregants so that

each of you feel welcome and comfortable within our community and can benefit from making new connections and from deepening existing relationships with others. Community is about sharing and the more we share with each other, the more we each benefit. We can connect to each other in a much wider sense then we do today and what better way to connect than by sharing our passions, our experiences, our hobbies, and our talents.

One way to expand our connections to each other is by joining our "Friends of Shir Shalom" Facebook page where many are already sharing. Are you for example, a sailor with a boat looking for "crew"; do you need a 4th in your golf foursome this weekend; are you interested in sharing your recent experience at a great restaurant; do you need a referral to an electrician, painter, plumber, accountant lawyer,?

Of course we are a place of worship and learning, but we can be so much more! We hold a vital presence in Northern Westchester and Fairfield Counties and our synagogue is the vibrant focal point for our many functions and activities but that is not enough. We acknowledge that we all lead incredibly busy lives but notwithstanding, it is important to one's emotional wellbeing to take a break from the daily routine. Consider coming to a Friday evening Shabbat service, or to a Saturday morning Shabbat service to experience and help celebrate the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of a child in our community that you do not know (it is so interesting to watch and to listen), or come to a Saturday morning Torah study class or perhaps, to a weekday "lunch and learn" program (who knows, it can become a habit).

When you drop your kids off for religious school on Sunday morning, you might consider parking your car and joining your child's class or taking the time to visit our great Jewish library, have



THE CANTOR'S CORNER



More Cultural Arts at Shir Shalom

Friday April 21st at 7:30 PM, Spirited and Soulful Shabbat with Mark Fineberg and The Earthtones.

Mark Fineberg is active on the Broadway, pop, rock, blues and orthodox wedding scene.

His wailing clarinet, flute, and sax can be heard in bands from Billy the Band, Motown Review, Blues Brothers and Neshama Orchestra.

The Earthtones are a Westchester female acapella group. They are presenting a short program on Songs for the Earth. Our own choirs will also participate.

Sunday, April 23rd at 4:00 PM, The Danbury Music Centre and Shir Shalom will co-present a concert featuring the two of the country's top emerging musicians, cellists Julian Schwarz and pianist Marika Bournaki. The duo will present a program of works written by Jewish composers and in particular

by Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray

Jewish-American composers, including Paul Frucht, the Artistic Director of the Danbury Music Centre's Chamber Music Intensive, and Gerard Schwarz, Julian's father and a well-known national conductor.

Thursday May 4th at 12 noon-2:00 PM, Rich Cohen, best-selling author of *Tough Jews, The Sun and The Moon and the Rolling Stones* and more will discuss one of the many fascinating books he's written.

The Fish That Ate the Whale- The Life and Times of American's Banana King. Rich Cohen is a contributing editor of Vanity Fair and Rolling Stone magazines. A banana treat will be served. Please bring your lunch, there is no fee for this program.

Friday, May 12th at 7:30 PM, Celebrate Israel in Music Shlomo Shai, accordian. Shlomo Shai has been a fixture on the Jewish wedding and simcha scene. His sound and spirit are uplifting and exciting! We are thrilled to welcome him back again! The Israeli Teen shlichim/ leaders from Federation will be joining us for this service as well.

For programming information please contact Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray cantordebbie@ourshirhshalom.org

A Teen's Perspective...

My school was in the news! Usually, this would be something I, along with my peers, would think is cool and exciting. However, this time, I am embarrassed. My school, John Jay High School, has been on Lewisboro Daily Voice, News 12 Westchester, Lohud - a branch of USA Today, and other news sources. We did not make the news for anything to be proud of; rather, we made the news for the repeated incidents of vandalism involving swastikas found on our campus since January. There have been multiple incidents of this vandalism, the first being carved into a tree, then multiple in bathrooms around the school. In response to this, Judith Altmann, a Holocaust survivor, came in to speak to my student body to promote understanding of the horrific history behind this symbol, that surely our temple community is well aware of. Though the majority of my peers, myself included, saw her speech as very powerful and inspiring, some must not have gotten the message as a couple days later, there was yet another swastika drawn in a bathroom. So we've made it to News 12 Westchester with a report titled: "Swastika found after Holocaust survivor visits school," voicing the same disappointment that I personally feel. It is appalling to me that my peers could brand our campus with such an incredibly hateful symbol even after hearing a story of the brutal realities that surrounded it during the Holocaust. Though I don't think our school has done the best job handling this problem, as evident in its persistence, I understand the difficulty of figuring out how to stop this problem. If they give the vandalism too much attention, they will likely just be giving the culprits exactly what they want, but if they don't give it enough attention, it sends the message that this is not such a serious issue, which it most certainly is. After seeing that educating on the meaning behind the swastika was not successful in stopping the vandalism, surveillance has majorly increased, and I can only hope, along with the majority of my community, that the students behind this will be caught and reprimanded. Being "only teenagers" is no excuse, and they should know better regardless of their age.

by Laurel Levinsohn



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RITUAL COMMITTEE



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The signs of spring are finally here. Spring brings thoughts of renewal, gradual greening of lawns, buds on trees and plants and longer hours of light. Passover is just around the corner.

Every spring, Jews celebrate Passover, marking God sparing

the Israelites and delivering them from slavery in Egypt, as detailed in the book of Exodus. For seven days Jews abstain from leavened bread to mimic the deprivation of their forefathers as they left Egypt through the Sinai desert.

The scattering of the Jews around the world over the past 2,000 years, to nearly every con-

tinent, has meant that these traditions have evolved and been adapted to different settings. Here are some of the most unique Passover traditions from around the world as gathered from an article written by I. Carmon in Beliefnet.com

Jews in Gibraltar add the dust of real bricks to their charoset recipe. Hasidic Jews from the Polish town of Gora Kalwaria, re-enact the crossing of the Red Sea by pouring water on the floor, lifting up their coats, and naming the towns that they would cross in their region of Poland. Jews living in Afghanistan developed the tradition of lightly "whipping" each other's backs with scallions to re-enact the Egyptian slavemasters. Some Ethiopian matriarchs would destroy all their earthenware dishes and make a new set to mark a true break with the past. Ethiopian Jews also refrained from eating dairy during Passover. A Sephardic tradition has the seder leader walk around the table three times tapping

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter

the seder plate lightly on the head of each guest, as a blessing. In another Sephardic tradition, an elder member of the family poses in costume and enacts a skit depicting the exodus from Egypt. Placing the afikoman matzah in a bag and posing with a cane as a traveler, the head of the household in the Caucasus region, Iraq, Kurdistan, Yemen, would tell the story of the Israelites. Jews in the Syrian community broke Matzah into Hebrew letters with meaning attached to each letter. Hungarian Jews had a tradition of placing all their gold and silver jewelry on the seder table. Jews from the Indian state of Kerala prepare for Passover immediately following Hanukkah. Cochin's tiny Jewish population in India, scrub and paint their houses keeping their special Passover dishes in a separate room. Wells are drained and cleaned for fear of chametz (bread and any fermented grain) and every grain of rice is inspected for defects! Wow! Compared to that, bringing a dish to the Second Night Seder is a pleasure!

Celebrate the Feast of the Firstborn Monday morning April 10th at 8:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast sponsored by Michael Bergman. It is open to all temple members. Passover begins at sundown on Monday April 10th. Enjoy your family seders.

Please join us for the second night of Passover at Shir Shalom's Second Night Seder on April 11th. Last year's Second Night Seder was well attended so make your reservations early. Sign up information will follow in an e-mail blast.

Don't forget to sign up to sponsor a Shabbat Oneg. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor, remember, or celebrate someone special or something special in your life. Please share your special moments with us! Call Laura in the office for details.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin





FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Making Every Day at Shir Shalom Like the Purim Carnival

How do we make what we teach worthwhile to students? It is a question that should never go away. Educators need to keep material targeted to students'

developmental needs and connect curriculum goals to an approach that considers the specific learning audience. I believe our dedicated teachers continue to do an outstanding job of this; these dedicated individuals form the backbone of our success because they understand how to truly engage students. They help make every day fun and interesting—bringing the kind of joy we see on children's faces at events like the Purim Carnival.



Recently, a mother and her four-year old son attended our Tot Shabbat program and the Purim Carnival. Chase loved it so much that he told his mom, "I want to go 1,000 times," when asked what he thought of Shir Shalom. We need to capture that kind of excitement and wonder in our children—whether it is in our homes, at Religious School or at temple services or events. Real engagement is essential and we are given this rare opportunity by parents to make a difference in the lives of our children. Every class meeting is important.

Other institutions have to do a lot of soul-searching, too, in order to keep the commitment of their supporters. Recently, the Metropolitan Museum of Art took a good look at itself as it was transitioning from one chief executive officer to another. This moment gave the institution a chance to take a hard look at its failures and successes. In an article, How to Fix the Met: Connect Art to Life by Holland Cotter, we learn that even an art museum has to keep in step with its changing audience and the times in order for it to stay relevant and rewarding. We need to keep religious instruction germane and meaningful.

Cotter writes, "With the precipitous decrease in art and history education in schools, much of the museum's encyclopedic collection now means little to younger viewers. It feels foreign and remote and unsociable in a way that contemporary art, with its familiar references, does not. The Met has its own strong education program, but its effects seem to be uncertain and selective. A generation or two ago, the museum's Renaissance painting galleries were crowded places; today, even after a splendid refurbishment, they draw scant traffic."

We need to take the same concerned approach to teaching children in a congregational school setting. We need to create a caring audience every time we meet. We need students to feel that there is a point to what they are learning. Cotter continues...

What I can talk about is art, and how a museum can make people care about it. If historical art is now a hard sell, and it is, learn to sell it hard. That means, among other things, start telling the truth about it: about who made objects, and how they work in the world, and how they got to the museum, and what they mean, what values they advertise, good and bad. Go for truth (which, like the telling of history, is always changing), and connect art to life. Mix things up: periods, functions, cultures. (You can always unmix them.) Let audiences see that old is always new, if viewed through knowledge.

To present art this way — to pitch it, advocate it, make it snap to life — is to rethink the basic dynamic of a museum, turn it from passive to active, from archival to interactive, while letting it be all of these."

It seems strange to connect art appreciation to our goals at the Religious School, but there are definite overlaps. We need to go from passive to active learning-- and we reach for this objective all of the time. Teachers are infusing lesson plans with activities-- like asking students to create theme parks built around ideas presented in various Torah parashat. Project-based learning is very helpful in an emergent curriculum that takes off after established goals are considered. Going from the archival to interactive is also a useful approach. To pitch Judaism and make it snap to life for students creates palpable excitement in the classroom—as well as in museums.

Perhaps many of you reading this attended our very festive Purim Carnival last month. Thank you for supporting this event sponsored by our 7th grade families and supported by our youth groups and staff members. Something interesting occurred to me that afternoon. As I looked around I saw happy children whose very participation created the magic of the day. The enthusiasm in



by Jane Emmer



FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

We teach kindness. We teach our youngest children that we are responsible for one another, and we must model this for them. We teach kindness and inclusivity. Two of my favorite books that help illustrate the value that we all

can have a great impact on our world are:

Have You Filled A Bucket Today? A Guide To Daily Happiness For Kids by Carol McCloud

What It's About: This book introduces an idea that everyone has an "invisible bucket." These buckets are used to hold your good thoughts and feelings about yourself. When you do something kind, you help fill someone else's bucket.

Why It's Important: This provides kids with a visual representation of the importance of kindness. It focuses on social interactions and how our actions positively or negatively affect other people. This book would be especially beneficial as kids begin to develop empathy towards others.

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson

What It's About: Can one good deed from an ordinary girl change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary - an ordinary girl from an ordinary school, on her way to her ordinary house - who stumbles upon ordinary blueberries. When she decides to pick them for her neighbor, Mrs. Bishop, she starts a chain reaction that multiplies around the world.

One of our core values at the Early Childhood Center is that each and everyone one of us is important and can help make the world a better place. It's our job to show them that adults have the ability to listen to each other, to care for each other. Its our job to show them that we expect from ourselves what we hope for them.

Shir Shalom, and our Early Childhood Center here, is a safe space for you and your family. Our most important job is to ensure that you and your child are welcome and secure in our community. Our school community is a kind space for all of our students, parents, teachers, and all the other people that care for our children, no matter whether they belong to our faith community or not.

Our Jewish values are rarely unambiguous or without argument, but they are here. Every year in

our haggadah, we read that we must remember that we were wanderers in the land of Egypt. It is our job to provide safety and comfort for those who are in need of it most. In our school, we are committed to continue this tradition in our own way.

We are dedicated to providing our children with the opportunity to learn in an inclusive environment based on these values. We want to ensure that our children learn that they are safer and stronger when they work together and embrace their fellow students. We want them to learn that there is a future for them to inherit and know that we are going to fight for their right to live in a safe, peaceful, and clean world.





FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

OUR SHIR SHALOM

the room felt familiar. It is that excitement that we try to create in our classrooms all year long... whether it is a fun game created in grade 6 Hebrew or presentations on students' favorite famous Jews in grade 4... the learning has to be connected to children's real lives and interests.

Whether it is our Confirmation students in Grades 8 & 9 or our kindergartners, making students active learners is the key. Last month several students attended a weekend of events in Washington, D.C. at the Religious Action Center. It was the first time our synagogue participated — and we plan to participate every year going forward. Our students took their Jewish identities and connected themselves to the wider community. They took risks, spoke their minds, wrote speeches, prayed with 400 others their age, met with congressional leaders to discuss social action issues that concern them... and so much more. We are continuing to try more and more ways to make Judaism a lifestyle and mindset in which our students can

(continued from page 6)

(continued from page 3)

embrace. We also need RS families to support our goals by bringing students to as many Shabbat and special services as possible. This helps make all the right connections for them and is a great way to be involved in our Shir Shalom community.

Pirke Avot teaches that, "It is not incumbent upon [us] to complete the work, but neither are [we] at liberty to desist from it." We take that charge seriously at the school at Shir Shalom and know that we have been given a wonderful opportunity to engage our youngest Jews... who will one day reflect on this time of their lives. As they look backward in their lives, it is our hope that they will end their thoughts with a smile and a nod knowing they were treasured learners here once. Then it will be their time to teach the next generation.

Leslie Gottlieb Religious School Director

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

a cup of coffee and read a book. There are so many opportunities to bond and strengthen our community.

Another way to bond is to share with others in our community, the events in which you have participated and the events that you intend to participate in within the broader community – our Facebook page is a great place to share information. One of our congregants recently visited another synagogue in the area and heard a lecture on "Evolution of the Temple Structure" over the decades; another synagogue hosted Rabbi Joel Hoffman who spoke about his book "The Bible Doesn't Say That." What about sharing information on our Facebook page about what's happening at Ridgefield High School's great theater program, the local public library, WCONN, Fairfield University, Jacob Burns Film Center, the Performing Arts College at Purchase College, etc. so that others may participate. Recently, Bruce and Karen Winters, Vlad and Christina Gogish and Rabbi Jon Haddon attended the Israel Defense Forces' band concert at the Conservative Synagogue in Westport. Shir Shalom was a sponsor along with 16 other Jewish organizations in the area. There, the community came together to sing, celebrate Israel and youth and to hear about the IDF.

We invite you to become more involved in the life of Shir Shalom so that you will benefit in all these ways and more! "Hineni," (Here I am!) is how we can respond to one another in our Shir Shalom community as none of us can make it alone in the world; not physically, not emotionally.

What if you are not ready to become more involved right now? That's okay. You can drop in and visit whenever you feel like it because our welcome sign is ALWAYS out!

Your Co-Presidents, Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin





SOCIAL ACTION

by Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin



SAVE THE DATE!

Shir Shalom Mitzvah Day-Sunday, May 7th from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

We need VOLUNTEERS to help plan and/or lead an activity and lots of PARTICIPANTS to join us for this meaningful day of community service and community building. Mark your calendars and let us know of your interest!

In recent years, over 120 volunteers have participated and helped many local agencies such as Kids in Crisis, SPHERE, the Women's Center of Danbury, ASPCA of Westchester, Laurel Ridge Nursing Home,

Daily Bread Food Pantry and many more!

Please look for the Social Action Committee's blog on the Shir Shalom website for details about some of these worthwhile organizations! .

Midnight Run-

We will once again reach out to New York City's homeless this spring.

A group of volunteers will head to New York City to distribute clothing, toiletries and bagged dinners to several dozen homeless folks. Whether or not you are able to attend the run itself, we are in great need of the following donations to benefit this extremely needy group: Please place the following items in the collection box in the foyer:

- *Gently used hoodies, jeans, belts, shoes, sneakers
- *New men's underwear and socks *Please also let us know if you are able to prepare simple bagged dinners!

We would like to thank this month's partner agency volunteers:

Daily Bread Food Pantry:

Nancy Cavillones, Debbie Landzberg, Polly Schnell, Maddie Sobel, Lynne Stark, Vicky Yolen **Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen**: Jessica Brooks and Linda Hirschfeld

Federal Corrections Institute: Jean Haddon and Rabbi Jon Haddon

Laurel Ridge Nursing Home: Matthew Sherter

We need volunteers to sign up for shifts at these Partner Agencies each month – it is a mitzvah and much appreciated!

For more information contact:

Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin, Social Action Co-Chairpersons at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org

Please support one of our partner agencies, the Community Center of Northern Westchester

as they work to help young children and their families...

Without diapers, babies cannot participate in early childhood education. Without childcare, parents cannot go to work.

Please consider making a donation of formula, baby food, cereal, diapers or wipes.

To learn more about CCNW, call 914-232-6572 or visit our website at communitycenternw.org

EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

By Lewis Siegel

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT AND THE STRUGGLE FOR JEWISH SURVIVAL

Here are two questions:

1. What is Zionism?

2. Is the Zionist movement necessary for the survival of the Jewish people?

Long before the State of Israel existed, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis defined Zionism as the following:

1. Zionism seeks to establish in Palestine for those Jews who choose to go and remain there, and for their descendants, a legally secure home.

2. Zionism seeks to establish this home in Palestine because it feels that the underlying longing of the Jews for Palestine is a fact of deepest significance.

3. It is believed that only in Palestine can Jewish life be fully protected from the forces of disintegration.

4. Finally, ever since the destruction of the Temple, 2000 years ago, the longing for Palestine has been ever present with the Jew. It was the hope of return to the land of his fathers that buoyed up the Jew during persecution, and remains deeply ingrained in the prayers of the devout.

So, the Zionist movement has two major goals: to satisfy the yearning of the people to be able to return to the land of their biblical ancestors, and to create a state, able to defend itself against any outside forces, and be a safe haven for the Jewish people.

While the Zionist movement clearly had a purpose, was it really essential for the survival of the Jewish people? Consider the following chronology:

722 BCE— Tigleth-Pilesar and his Assyrian army conquered the Northern kingdom of Israel and banished the Jewish people from their homeland. As a people, they were never heard from again.

586 BCE— Nebukadnezzar and his Babylonian forces conquered the Southern Kingdom of Israel, and sent the Jews into exile. It wasn't until about 540 BCE when the Persians led by Cyrus defeated the Babylonians, and allowed the Jews to return.

164 BCE— Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Temple, built a Pagan alter to the Greek God Zeus, which led to the Hasmonean revolt, the victory of Judas Maccabeus and his forces over the Greeks, and the restoration of the Temple. 63 BCE- Pompey and his Roman armies conquered the Jewish nation and the people lost autonomy over their land for 2011 years.

70 CE— Titus conquered Jerusalem, the second Temple was destroyed, and at least 600,000 Jews were killed.

132 to 135— The Rebellion led by Bar Kochba against the Romans was suppressed, and over 500,000 men were killed or sent into slavery.

350— Emperor Constantine barred the Jews from Jerusalem and imposed the harshest restrictions on them.

379— St. John Chrisostom and St. Ambrose in Milan said, "Jews are the most worthless of men. They are lecherous, greedy and rapacious. They worship the Devil. It is essential that Christians hate them."

415— Antioch Jews were accused of ritual murders. Many synagogues were taken over by Christians, and the Jews were ousted.

1012— Emperor Henry expelled the Jews from Mainz. This was the beginning of Jewish persecution in Germany.

1066— 5000 Jews were massacred in Granada, Spain. This was during the Golden Age of Judaism in Spain, when Jews were for the most part treated better under Moslem rule than they were in Christian countries. 1144—This was the first recorded blood libel. In Norwich England, Jews were accused of torturing and killing a Christian child, and using his blood for a Passover ritual.

1190— All the Jews in York England were massacred, reminiscent of the last stand at Massada.

1290—The Jews were expelled from England

1298—There were multiple massacres of Jews in Germany.

1306 – The Jews were expelled from France

1348— Jews were blamed for the Black Death that killed 75-200 million people. It was claimed that they poisoned the wells to kill Christians.

1478— Pope Sixtus IV issued a Papal Bull ushering in the beginning of Spanish Inquisition. Jewish converts to Christianity were accused of perverting Christians and were put to death.



1492— The Jews were expelled from Spain.1510— The Jews were expelled fromBrandenburg, Germany.

1516—The first Jewish ghettos in Europe were built in Venice

1544— The Reformation began. Martin Luther's anti-Semitic writings encouraged persecution of the Jews.

1593— The Jews were expelled from Italy and Bavaria.

1648— Chmelnitsky and his Cossack army led the massacre of at least 100,000 Jews in 300 communities in Poland and the Ukraine.

1768 – 20,000 Jews in Poland were murdered

1840— Damascus was the scene of the infamous blood libel, where again Jews were accused of killing Christians and using their blood for Passover rituals. 1881— Pogroms began in Russia. 60,000 Jews were murdered.

1894— Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army, was convicted of treason, although the accusation against him was false. He wasn't exonerated until 12 years later. His trial led to violent outbreak of anti-Semitic activity in France

1903— The Protocol of the Elders of Zion appeared in Russia. This false malicious document tells of a Jewish conspiracy to rule the world and destroy Christianity. The Protocols spread all over the world. Henry Ford used it in his anti-Semitic publications.

1903 to 1906— Frequent pogroms against Jews in Russia, the worst one was in 1905 in Odessa, where about 2500 Jews were killed.

1920—The Arabs began multiple attacks on Jewish villages in Palestine

1929—There were wide-spread Arab attacks on Jews in Palestine, particularly in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Safed. Hebron and Safed suffered the worst, with a total of 85 Jewish deaths.

1936 to 1939 — The Arabs began a three-year rebellion in Palestine. Jewish villages were under constant attack during this period. The main military force, the Haganah, began the defense of Jewish towns, and the Irgun, a more militant group, began offensive activity against the Arabs.

1938 – November 9 (Kristallnacht)- Violent pogroms in Germany and Austria took place against Jewish homes, synagogues, and places of business. This was the beginning of the Holocaust. 1938 to 1945(The Holocaust period) — Six million Jews were murdered throughout Europe.

1939— British issued a White Paper, limiting Jewish immigration into Palestine. If the conditions set in that White Paper had succeeded, it would have negated any chance for a Jewish state in Palestine. However, the White Paper was never rescinded, and the British blocked Jewish immigration into Palestine, even after World War II.

1947, November 29— The British were unable to maintain any semblance of order in Palestine and were under constant military attack from Arabs and Jews. Consequently, the British relinquished their Mandate over Palestine, decided to leave the territory, and handed the problem over to the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states. The Jewish Agency of Palestine accepted the partition plan, while the Arab nations 1948 – On reject the offer. May 14, the British were gone from Palestine. That afternoon, David Ben Gurion addressed a group of Jewish leaders in the Tel-Aviv museum and spoke the following words: "...By virtue of our natural and historic right, and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael, to be known as the State of Israel..."

So is Zionism essential for the survival of the Jewish people? Jewish history seems to makes the answer obvious. While there are many examples in which the Jewish people have lived successfully in the Diaspora, one thing is unmistakable. If the State of Israel had existed in the 1930's, an enormous number of Jews could have survived the Holocaust. As far as the future is concerned, we can only hope that Israel will always be available as a safe home for Jews fleeing persecution.



"Excerpts in Jewish History" is a regular feature in our Shir Shalom newsletter, written by Lewis Siegel, who wrote a similar series for Focus, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury. He is also the author of A Brief History of Modern Israel and The Evolution of Zionism.



SISTERHOOD

by Susan Bard



Happy Spring ! Our first Sisterhood movie at the Jacob Burns Film Center for the Jewish Film Festival was a big success! Thanks for joining us! Our new spring event happens on Sunday, April 23rd- join us for an exciting morning of brunch and shopping at Wave in New Canaan (see back cover for details).

Also, please mark your calendars for Thursday evening, June 1st for our Sisterhood end-of-year dinner in Mt. Kisco at the trendy Little Drunken Chef at 7pm. Join us for sangria, tapas, salad and paella for \$30 per person. Please RSVP by May 15th by paying online at https://squareup.com/store/shir-shalomsisterhood/

Finally, our apologies that the March blizzard, Stella, forced us to cancel our Painting & Nosh. We hope to reschedule this fun night again soon!

This month's Sisterhood tzedakah donation will go to KIDS FOR KIDS: Youth Organization for the Recovery of Young Victims of Terrorism. KIDS FOR KIDS works to enrich the lives of Jewish children who have been direct victims of Arab terror in Israel. In addition, KIDS FOR KIDS encourages Jewish youth the world over to get involved in helping to relieve the suffering of their Israeli counterparts. The local Israeli chapters of KIDS FOR KIDS not only participate in projects to raise funds, they also are in a position for hands on activities and programs with the children directly affected by the violence. If you would like to make your own donation to this program, please contact Lynn Broder at 203-240-6413 or donate directly to:

> American Friends of Old City Charities: Kids for Kids, c/o Avery Gross 30 Bay Street Staten Island, NY 10301-2512

We hope to see all of you at an event soon! A reminder that Mitzvah Day is coming up on May 7th and it would be great to see a strong turnout from Sisterhood members. Bring your family and spend a day of service with your fellow Shir Shalom congregants.

Yours in Sisterhood,

Susan Bard





Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Congregation Shir Shalom

AUTHOR TALKS at Congregation Shir Shalom





Richard Cohen, author of The Fish That Ate the Whale

Thursday, May 4, 12–2 pm Richard Cohen, the author of The Fish That Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America's Banana King

Bring your lunch and learn! A special banana-flavored treat will also be served.

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ONGREGATION



Beth Kurland, author of The Transformative Power of Ten Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 12–2 pm Beth Kurland, the author of The Transformative Power of Ten Minutes: An Eight Week Guide to Reducing Stress and Cultivating Well-Being

Bring your lunch and learn! A special stress-reducing treat will also be served.

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APRIL/MAY BIRTHDAYS

Laura Agisim Tyler Alexander Neil Alexander Laila Alvarez Phyllis Amerling **Daniella Amerling David Amerling** Paul Amerling Alexandria Andrade Garrett Aries Jesse Baer **Rachel Bangser** Andy Baran Michael Bard David Baum Avery Baum Lynn Becker Lily Bender Harry Berger Max Berger Isaiah Blum Samuel Blum **Robert Bolgar** Lynn Broder Isaac Buls Lesly Burns Alexander Burns Joshua Burns Debra Bush Jonathan Bush **Richard Carter** Stella Cavillones Jamie Chang Logan Chang Nathan Cohen **Benjamin Bartley-Cohen** Adam Cohen Robert Colen John Conti Lynn Cotumaccio

Wendy Wallach-DeLucia Jason Del ucia William Dewar Alix Drawec Evy Drawec Lara Parker-Edson Ellen Elias Laura Fiderer **Amy Freidenrich** Abigail Friedlander Laurence Furic Jennifer Gelfand Lee Glicklich Vladimir Gogish Robert Goldman Danielle Gorelick Zachary Gottlieb Lawrence Gottlieb Daniel Greenberg Abe Hammer Ronni Hammer Zachary Heffler Morgan Held Lindsay Held Robert Henry Luke Hisiger Larry Hoffman Milton Hollar Julia Jolly Ruby Kalish Nathaniel Kaplan Sarah Kaplan Rebecca Kaufman Jake Kessler Dawn Kessler Karen Kipnes Kyle Kipnes Sheryl Knapp Jonathan Knapp Allen Kopfstein

David Kramer Braden Kurtz David Kurzweil Marc Kutscher Rhonda Lackow Dr. Rita Landman Lucy Landzberg Lawrence Lapine Susan Lapine Eric Larson Maia Leibowitz Philip Levens Gavin Levi Jordana Levine Susan Levine Samson Levine Wendy Lipp Ethan Lipper Alison Llewellyn Alison Lustig Marlee Lustig Susan Mald Harrison Mazlish Skylar Lazarus-Morley Lorraine Lazarus-Morley Menashe Murad Marcia Needleman Stacey Neumann Adam Ozols Donna Ozols Debra Paget Robert Quasha Forrest Rappaport Andrew Rappaport Allyson Rappaport **Ronald Ripps** Hal Roberts Emma Rosenfeld Adam Rubinfeld **Brian Sapadin**

Eileen Segalman Jordan Segalman Emma Sherter Craig Sherter **Christopher Shore** Justin Showstead Peter Showstead Samantha Shulman Michael Silva Molly Silva Andrew Stark Zachary Stark Jessica Stark Ali Stein Paul Stevelman Allison Stockel Cole Stockel Amy Stoogenke Rebecca Stoogenke Milo Sussman Stacey Sussman Jill Teich Steven Vandervelden Linda Vendig Matthew Waldman Lindsey Walker Evan Walker **Alexander Wattles** Susan Westlake Zachary Wetchler Miriam Wetchler **Danielle Winson** Caitlin Winson **Karen Winters** Eugene L. Wishod Lora Wishod Peter Zeitz Michael Zeitz **Rachel Zins**



APRIL/MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Max & Tara Axler Robert & Barbara Bangser Michael & Gale Berman Scott & Karen Brenner Stan & Lynn Broder Michael & Lauren Caplan **Richard & Jennifer Carter** David & Andrea deLange Bryon & Victoria Friedman Len & Jackie Goldner Donald & Janine Gordon Jay & Arlene Heffler Jeffrey & Kimberly Knispel Kenneth Kurzweil & Suzanne Sunday Graeme & Catherine Lipper Warren and Karen Lustig David & Amy Margulies Mark & Diane Parson Rabbi David Reiner & Ashley Heller Eric & Meredith Rudin Howard & Luda Samuels Paul & Judith Stoogenke







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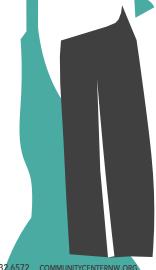
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It's a girl! Congratulations to Larry and Leslie Gottlieb on the birth of their first grandchild, Remi Elizabeth Gottlieb. Remi was born on March 8th, weighing in at 7 pounds and is the first child of Zachary and Valerie Gottlieb. Mom, dad and baby are all doing fine!





APRIL/MAY YAHRZEITEN



Irwin Bassett Mary Benjamin Jack Berkowitz Sarah Buchman Marilyn Cohen Arnold Eydenberg Norma Friedman

Friday, April 14, 2017

Alan Bangser Millie Bernstein Isadore Cohen Leah Fergenson Lillian Gordon Rita Katchko Cyril Lesser Belle Lubetsky

Friday, April 21, 2017

Edward Carroll Murray Fischberg Charles Gantwerker Phyllis Goldfield Harvey Haddon Murray Haddon Annette Holson

Friday, April 28, 2017

Ruth Auerbach Ruth Fox Nathalie Alexander Rose Gantwerker Joseph Hubsher Debbi Jacobs-Eckert James Jolly Cipa Kupterberg

Friday, May 5, 2017

Rae Arenson Emilia Custodio Selma Gimple Paul Harris Klare Heller Andrew Krulwich Joseph Price brother of Annabel Schwartz

grandfather of Stephen Heit aunt of Donald Gordon mother of Susannah Altman grandfather of Susan Westlake wife of Joshua Friedman

brother of Robert Bangser aunt of Alan Pilch grandfather of Gail Henner grandmother of Michael Bergman

mother of Cantor Katcho-Gray father of Diana Friedlander mother in law of Joshua Friedman

father of Jim Carroll

father of Scott Gantwerker mother of Laurie Wolkin brother of Rabbi Jon Haddon father of Rabbi Jon Haddon grandmother of Robin Heit

mother of Michelle Auerbach-Sherr mother of Barbara Hisiger

mother of Scott Gantwerker grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher former member and RS teacher father of Robert Jolly grandmother of Margaret Sapir

aunt of Linda Arenson grandmother of Frank Andrade mother of Debra Bush uncle of Ian Harris mother of Paul Heller brother of Jeffrey Krulwich grandfather of Terry Henry Bernie Gerard Wallace Kalter Meyer Katz Ted Krulwich Arthur Margolis Thelma Reichenthal Isidore Resnick

Adolph Ratner Patricia Ravitch Mary Salpeter Mark Shapiro Ben Stern Natalie Weinstein Isaac Weintraub Fay Weisberg

Rose Leitner Esther Oks-Ponczyk Joshua Ponczyk Lilyan Simels Lisa Stoll Hilda Vendig

Lillie Landsberg Edward Modest Ruth Muchnick Rose Pecker Sol Saleem Rebecca Shimkin Louis Warton

Diane Ravitch Dora Resnick Henrietta Ringler Florence Rubin Marvin Stark Harold Teich father of Ira Gerard step-father of Marcia Needleman father of Claire Katz brother of Jeffrey Krulwich father-in-law of Robi Margolis mother of Sandra Rosenhouse father of Anita Quasha

grandfather of Judith Strom

mother of Michael Salpeter husband of Naomi Shapiro brother of Barbara Manners mother of Ted Weinstein grandfather of Karen Gerard

grandmother of Ian Leitner

mother of Toba Stutz sister of Susan Andrade mother of Richard Vendig

great-aunt of Karen Gerard father of Betsy Brand grandmother of Jason Muchnick mother of Sunnie Colen grandfather of Kate Alvarez grandmother of Janine Gordon father of Gale Berman

aunt of Michael Gitlitz mother of Anita Quasha grandmother of Elyse Arnow grandmother of Susan Dufner father of Andrew Stark father of Matt Teich

April/May 2017





APRIL/MAY YAHRZEITEN (CONTINUED)

Friday, May 12, 2017

Art Arenson **Ruth Cohen** Robert Greenberg Gerald Held Andrew Hyman Irving lpp Therese Levinsky Rosalyn Levitt

Friday, May 19, 2017

Ruth Bromberg Fred Dietzek Hyman Ellis Sadie Hankin **Regina Henry Evelyn Levine** Edith Redman Murray Rose Josephine Fuchs

Friday, May 26, 2017

Philip Abrams **Pauline Block** Eileen Brody Marilyn Eslofsky Mildred Geller Samuel Gerard Abraham Goldfield Indy Goldman Anne Gordon

father of Elyse Davis grandmother of Barbara Manners cousin of Joan Isman mother Ellen Barth grandmother of Jamie Garrett grandfather of Ira Gerard father of Laurie Wolkin

mother of Elaine Gordon

uncle of Linda Arenson

father of Lindsay Held

wife of Ron Levinsky

aunt of Ted Weinstein

father of Alan Dietzek

father of Joseph Ellis

mother of Robert Henry

mother of Debra Lavin

father of Andrew Rose

mother of Susan Stillman

grandmother of Andrew Bodner

grandmother of Andrew Levine

friend of Richard Mishkin

mother of Bonnie Dietzek

father of Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke

grandmother of Steven Kaye brother of Adrienne Orlan

Sherry Levy-Reiner

Jeanette Moskowitz **Evelyn Rubinfeld** Sheldon Schatten Leib Varticovsky Walter Vendig Gisela Warton

Janice Seligman Leon Shimkin **Della Speckman** Dov Stern Ludwig Sternberger James Sullivan **Ruth Teich** Mary Varty

mother of Rabbi David Reiner & wife of Rabbi Fred Reiner great-grandmother of Stacey Rubinfeld grandmother of Adam Rubinfeld uncle of Mitch Rapoport grandfather of Gail Henner father of Richard Vendig mother of Gale Berman

mother of Maggie Seligman grandfather of Janine Gordon mother of Emily Nossan step-father of Barbara Manners uncle of Alice Gottlieb friend of Congregation Shir Shalom mother of Matt Teich mother of Gail Henner

Diana Kalter **Claire Levens** Alan Levinsohn Irene Moskowitz Max Moskowitz Thomas B. Newman **David Showstead** Samuel Silverman

mother of Marcia Needleman mother of David Levens brother of Kenneth Levinsohn grandmother of Jordana Levine cousin of Stacey Rubinfeld father of Kelly Lash father of Peter Showstead grandfather of Richard Burg

We extend condolences to ...

The Howard family, following the death of our congregant, Emelie Howard z"l. The Klebanow family- on the death of our pianist, Marcia Klebanow z"l. The Hoffman family, following the death of Steve Abraham z"l, brother of Vivian Hofman.



SHIR SHALOM'S

Sunday, May 7th, 12:30 pm — 4:30 pm

Spend the afternoon with old friends and new ones too!

Work at Shir Shalom or as a member of an off-site team to help people and organizations in need

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!

Members and non-members of all ages welcome! Perform a mitzvah as a family, individual, or for a bar/bat mitzvah! Enjoy a pizza lunch and an Ice Cream Sundae Wrap-up Party with a slide show montage of our volunteers in action!

Please **RSVP as soon as possible** to help with event planning and to secure your spot Registration requested by April 23rd.

> To sign up contact Social Action Chairpersons Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org Or sign up online: http://signup.com/go/44XZYu



We Appreciate Your Generosity

Donations

in memory of Steve Margolis

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in memory of Herman & Gertrude Quasha in memory of James Taylor

in memory of Marvin Fine in support of the Breakfast Run

in memory of Ellen Seligman in honor of Andrew's Bar Mitzvah

in honor of Cantor's birthday in honor of Allison's Bat Mitzvah in honor of Andrew's Bar Mitzvah

in memory of Rita Bergman

in honor of Jane Emmer

General Fund

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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Margaret Seligman Jeffrey & Kim Knispel

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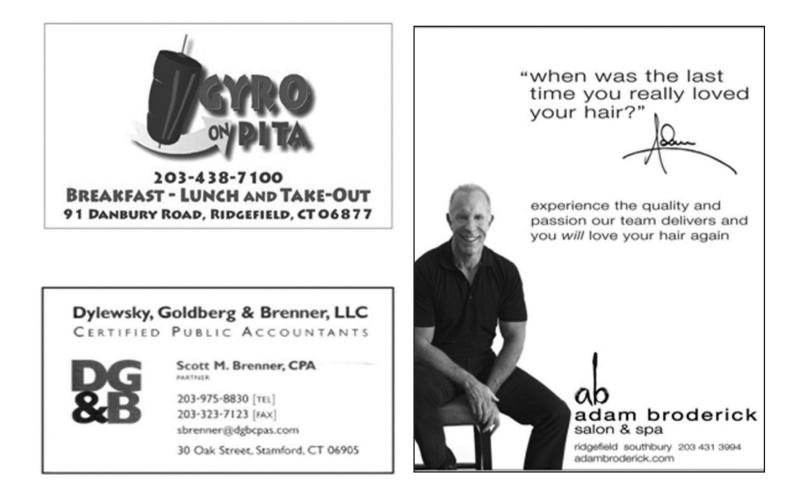
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API	RIL 2017		NISAN/IYAR 5777				
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1	
2 Hebrew School	3	4	5 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School	6 Hebrew School	7 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm Pre-service nosh 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Grade K-1 7:00 pm — Oneg Shabbat + dinner	8	
9 No Hebrew School	10 8:00 am Fast/Feast of the First Born Office CLOSED Erev Pesach No ECC	1 1 10:00 am Passover Service Office CLOSED No ECC 6:00 pm 2nd Night Seder	12 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers No ECC No Hebrew School	13 No Hebrew School	14 No ECC 7:30 pm — Kabbalat Shabbat	15 9:00 am Torah 101	
16 No Hebrew School	17 10:00 am Passover Service w/Yizkor Office CLOSED Pesach- last day No ECC	18	19 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School	20 Hebrew School 7:15pm- Board of Directors meeting	21 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm— Ruach Shabbat w/ the Earthtones & Mark Fineberg	22 5:00 pm Afternoon Shabbat service- Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Mazlish "If I Forget" theatre outing	
23 Hebrew School 4:00 pm Chamber Music Concert w/ dessert reception Yom HaShoah ser- vice @ St. Stephen's in Ridgefield 10:00 am-12 noon Sisterhood Shop- ping at WAVE, New Canaan	24 Yom HaShoah	25	26 Hebrew School Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	27 Hebrew School Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	28 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm— Kabbalat Shabbat	29 9:00 am Torah 101 5:00 pm Afternoon Shabbat service- Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Alexander	
30 Hebrew School							

The deadline for submission for the June 2017 Shir Shalom is Monday, May 1, 2017. Thank you.

Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5777





MA	MAY 2017			IYAR/SIVAN 5777			
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1 Yom Hazikaron	2 Yom Haatzma'ut	3 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School	4 12 Noon- 2:00pm "Author Talk" with Rich Cohen	5 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	6 9:00 am Torah 101	
7 Hebrew School- LAST DAY MITZVAH DAY! 12 noon-4pm	8	9	10 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers	11 7:15 pm- Board of Directors meeting	12 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:30 pm Tot Shab- bat 2.0 7:30 pm Ruach Shabbat "Celebrate Israel in Song"	13 10:30 am Morning Shabbat service- Bat Mitzvah of Marley Bender	
14 Lag B'Omer	15	16	17 12 Noon-2:00pm "Author Talk" with Beth Kurlander	18	19 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm— Kabbalat Shabbat	20 9:00 am Torah 101 10:30 am Morning Shabbat service- Bat Mitzvah of Harley Zins	
21	22	23	24 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers	25	26 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm—Kabba- lat Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Sivan	27	
28	29 Memorial Day: Building Closed No ECC	30 Erev Shavuot Service with Yizkor- 7:30 pm	31 Shavuot Building Closed No ECC				

The deadline for submission for the June 2017 Shir Shalom is Monday, May 1, 2017. Thank you.



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