

FEBRUARY 2017  
SH'VAT/ADAR 5777

# Our Shir Shalom



Religious School students collect food for Food Pantry donation



Fun outdoors at our Early Childhood Center



Gigi Van Dyke and choir at the Martin Luther King day celebration

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Shabbat Bo, Exodus 10:1–13:16

February 3    6:00 pm    Kabbalat Shabbat  
Worship

### Shabbat Shirah, Exodus 13:17–17:16 Parashat B'shalach

February 10    5:30 pm    Tot Shabbat 2.0  
7:30 pm    Kabbalat Shabbat  
Worship followed  
by Tu B'Shvat Seder

February 11    10:30 am    Shabbat morning  
worship  
Bar Mitzvah: Jacob  
Hellinger

### Shabbat Yitro, Exodus 18:1–20:23

February 17    7:30 pm Kabbalat  
Shabbat Worship

### Shabbat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1–24:18

February 24    7:30 pm Kabbalat  
Shabbat Worship



**CONGREGATION  
SHIR SHALOM**  
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Phone: (203)438-6589 • Fax: (203)438-5488  
Email: [office@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:office@OurShirShalom.org)  
Website: [www.OurShirShalom.org](http://www.OurShirShalom.org)



## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK

On Friday, January 13th, our congregation gathered for the fourteenth annual Musical Shabbat honoring the life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the Serendipity Chorale leading Black Spirituals during and after our Shabbat worship. It was a musically magnificent service and I am especially grateful to Cantor Katchko-Gray for her efforts in planning this special celebration.

The narrative of Dr. King bears special relevance this year, after an especially divisive national election, at a time when our nation, our community, and even our congregation are divided along political, religious, and ideological lines. One of Dr. King's greatest legacies was his ability to bring people together from different backgrounds in his peaceful struggle for civil rights; some of my favorite pictures of Dr. King are when he was marching, surrounded by rabbis and leaders of the Jewish community.

The weekly Torah portion on MLK Shabbat, Vayechi, told of the final days of our patriarch, Jacob. There had been significant conflict among Jacob's sons. Joseph's brothers resented that he was the favorite of their father and they conspired to kill Joseph, ultimately selling him into slavery. Over time the brothers are able to resolve their differences and live peacefully together in Mitzrayim (what we now call Egypt). After Jacob dies, Joseph's brothers are afraid that he will bear a grudge and seek revenge for the crime they had committed against him. But Joseph reassures his brothers and the family is able to live together in harmony.

The death of Jacob was a tenuous moment with significant potential for conflict. And the tension was not spontaneous—it evolved over many years. Joseph defuses the tension by making clear his commitment to living peacefully together, with the words “Although you intended me harm, God intended it for good, so as to bring about the present result—the survival of many people...” (Genesis 50:20).

The tension in our nation was not spontaneously created with the announcement that Donald Trump would be our next president. As a whole, the presidential election brought out some of the worst elements in our United States. But people did not suddenly wake up with racist thoughts and feelings, even if the election awakened the yetzer harah—evil inclination—in so many.

Since the election we have hardly seen the discord dissipate. While many are elated by the results of the election, many are also despondent and unsure of how to proceed. A challenge for me as well as our Board of Directors, has been to think about how we can respond to the election as a sacred congregation and as an inclusive community. Ultimately, as Jews, we bear a sacred responsibility to work for a day when all people will be treated equally, when love and justice will spread throughout the earth, when (as we say in the Aleinu prayer), “corruption and evil shall give way to integrity and goodness,” when (as the prophet Amos foresaw) “justice will roll down like water; righteousness a mighty stream.” The Executive Committee of our congregation began a conversation about responding to the election in a productive and inclusive way. That conversation led

*(continued on next page)*

## CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street Ridgefield, CT 06877 Phone: (203)438-6589 Fax: (203)438-5488

### Rabbi

David L. Reiner MAHL

RabbiReiner@OurShirShalom.org

### Cantor

Deborah Katchko-Gray

CantorDebbie@OurShirShalom.org

### Religious School Director

Leslie Gottlieb

Leslie@OurShirShalom.org

### Early Childhood Center Director

Jane Weil Emmer

JaneEmmer@OurShirShalom.org

### Rabbi Emeritus

Jon Haddon D.D.

RabbiHaddon@OurShirShalom.org

### Administrator

Laura Morris

Laura@OurShirShalom.org

### Controller

Lori Stalowicz

Lori@OurShirShalom.org

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Gale Berman, Co-President*

*Hal Wolkin, Co-President*

**president@OurShirShalom.org**

*Josh Blum, Vice President*

*Lou Haber, Vice President*

*Karen Taylor, Chief Financial Officer*

*Robyn Cohen, Treasurer*

*Lynn Broder, Secretary*

**secretary@OurShirShalom.org**

*Paul Amerling, Trustee*

*Bobbie Cohlman, Trustee*

*Dr. Terry Henry, Trustee*

*Dr. Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke, Trustee*

*Steve Landzberg, Trustee*

*Robi Margolis, Trustee*

*Richard Mishkin, Trustee*

*Lauren Sugar, Trustee*

*Suzanne Sunday, Trustee*

*Alan Waldman, Trustee*

*Emily Wein, Trustee*

**board@OurShirShalom.org**

### Shir Shalom Editor

*Laura Morris*

**Laura@OurShirShalom.org**

## CONTENTS

<i>Rabbi Reiner's Desk</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Co-Presidents' Message</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Religious School</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>Early Childhood Center</i>	<i>page 7</i>
<i>Ritual Committee</i>	<i>page 8</i>
<i>A Teen's Perspective</i>	<i>page 8</i>
<i>Social Action</i>	<i>page 9</i>
<i>Excerpts in Jewish History</i>	<i>page 10</i>
<i>Sisterhood</i>	<i>page 12</i>
<i>Celebrations</i>	<i>page 14</i>
<i>Yahrzeiten</i>	<i>page 15</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>page 19</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>page 23</i>

## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK (continued from page 2)

to the drafting of a statement by one of our Vice Presidents, Josh Blum, which was eventually discussed by our Board of Directors as well. This statement was shared during our MLK Music Shabbat on January 13th, and I am proud to share it with our entire congregation now. Though it takes the form of a declaration, I read it as a starting point for a substantive and meaningful conversation within our congregation about how we, as a sacred congregation and inclusive community, can come together after a divisive election. In the weeks ahead I hope that you will join me at one of two gatherings to share your thoughts and reactions to this statement. Do you share these principles? Is this a commitment you would like to make?

**"That which is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor.  
This is the whole of the Torah; the rest is  
commentary."**

—Rabbi Hillel

We, the leaders of Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties,

### EMBRACE

- the democratic process.
- the opportunities democracy provides and the responsibilities it requires.
- the safe and stable transition of power democracy ensures.

### CHERISH

- diversity as an essential component of our community and country.
- the freedom to peacefully disagree on issues important to us all.
- the ability to stand side-by-side with those who share these values.

### REJECT

- hate, discrimination, and bias in any and all forms.
- language that divides, discriminates, or demeans.
- behavior that incites hatred or promotes fear.

### PLEDGE

- to oppose bigotry, bias, bullying of all kinds and at all turns.
- to provide comfort, support, and strength for those who fear or face such bias.
- to be vigilant in protecting these values.

Please join me on Sunday, February 12th at 10:45AM and Thursday, February 16th at 7:30PM to share your response. I look forward to hearing from you soon.





## THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE by Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin

Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday that we welcomed in 2016 and now, here we are in 2017! The past year or so has been chock full of emotions; bringing together our two communities to form Congregation Shir Shalom introduced the need to deal with change and all that comes with it; hesitation, enthusiasm, inspiration, and many other feelings...all rolled up into one.

We have come to a new place in Shir Shalom's short history, one in which we are "settling in." We find ourselves at the next plateau asking, what are the next steps

to strengthen this community that we have built and to ensure that we can be successful for generations to come? These are some of the important questions that our clergy, lay leadership and staff are focused on and likely some of the questions that concern our congregants.

We understand that the synagogues of yesterday were primarily houses of worship. Today, thriving synagogues recognize the importance that an organized Jewish community can play in other aspects of congregants' lives. Clearly, prayer and observation of holidays are the foundation, but providing a place for learning, gathering, socializing, and for pursuing social action initiatives is also critically important. We need to be thoughtful about how we model our Shir Shalom home to meet these objectives. To build upon this theme, one of our objectives for 2017 is to offer new and exciting programs that will stimulate congregants to become more involved and more

engaged in the Shir Shalom community.

It is up to each of us, individually and collectively, to build our community. With the Union behind us and the foundation in place, if we work together, we can build upon our successes. Doing so will require that we continue to enhance our organizational structure and efficiencies. As we recently advised you, we have made some changes in our office staffing in order to enhance the service that we provide to our members and, in time, you will begin to see the results. We have a dedicated lay leadership team and clergy team and many dedicated volunteers but we need more of our congregants to volunteer their time on committees and for projects. With our people strength, when we pull together, we can accomplish great things! As Hillel says, "If I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, when?" This is the time for you to help make a difference while deriving the reward that comes from doing so; become part of the collaborative framework that is Shir Shalom; become part of the fabric of who we are.

Let 2017 be the year of engagement, involvement, and volunteerism in this community, one like we have never seen before! We want to enhance your experience by identifying our community's needs. We want to engage and continue to be inclusive by welcoming all ideas for programming and invite ALL to volunteers to engage in these initiatives! We want to encourage our congregants to serve worthwhile causes within our Congregation and in the broader community. WE WANT YOU! With our people strength, when we pull together, we can and will accomplish great things. Be a part of this exciting time at Shir Shalom!

Your Co-Presidents,  
Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin



5:30 pm Pre-service Nosh

6 pm Service

7 pm Oneg Shabbat & Kugel Competition

*The following letter to the editor was published in the Ridgefield Press following our Martin Luther King, Jr. Service*

To the Editor:

There are some experiences that fit the times we live in perfectly. One such occurred this past Friday at the main evening service at Reform Jewish Congregation Shir Shalom on Peaceable Street.

In some respects, it was a continuation of a fourteen-year tradition for observance of the weekend devoted to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each of those years on the Friday of that weekend, the Congregation's musical director Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray has invited the Serendipity Chorale of Southwestern Connecticut — regularly augmented by members of the Ridgefield Chorale and the Ridgefield Congregational Church's choir — to join the Congregation's own singers and other musicians in a program that blends Jewish Shabbat-observance music with Spirituals and Gospel-style praise music in a joyous and uplifting service that honors the differences in both traditions while it also underscores their striking similarities. The Serendipity Chorale celebrated its 40th anniversary this past year and is directed by the cantor's very good friend Gigi Van Dyke.

For both Jews and African-Americans, the experience of slavery has been a seminal part of community life and heritage, and for both, the cry of freedom and struggle for justice resonates strongly. And it is surely the case that the powerful and transformative speeches of Dr. King as well as the lyrics of many soul-stirring Spirituals echo with the words of the Hebrew Bible: "Let freedom roll down like a river, and righteousness like a mighty stream"; "Go down, Moses, way down to Egypt land; tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!"; "Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, then why not every man?"

And in the Shabbat music lexicon of Shir Shalom, whose very name is translated "Song of Peace", are a host of deeply moving pieces both ancient and as modern as the 21st Century that, just like Spirituals, can encourage clapping and dancing as well as deep reflection. Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray comes from one of the world's most distinguished cantorial families, and her knowledge of, and facility in, a huge repertoire flows directly from that proud tradition. Likewise, Director Van Dyke's familiarity with the vast Spiritual and Gospel repertoire is legendary in this area, and the combination of the two and their choirs and instrumentalists assures a remarkable experience each year.

This year especially, the importance of coming together has been underscored by the deep fissures that this past national election revealed and exacerbated. After a warm and joyous welcome to all, Shir Shalom's Rabbi David Reiner candidly and courageously addressed those issues in his sermon, underscoring the importance of finding common ground, engaging in reconciliation, and restoring a sense of community.

He referenced the principles recently enunciated by the leadership of his Congregation in four guiding precepts that include embracing "the opportunities democracy provides and the responsibilities it requires"; cherishing "the diversity [that is] an essential component of our community and our country" and "stand[ing] side-by-side with those who share those values"; rejecting "hate, discrimination, and bias in any and all forms, language that divides, discriminates, or demeans, and behavior that incites hatred or promotes fear"; and finally, pledging "to oppose bigotry, bias, bullying of all kinds and at all turns, to provide comfort, support, and strength for those who fear or face such bias, and to be vigilant to protect these values."

That is a remarkable statement. And the responsive readings compiled by Rabbi Reiner from multiple sources that formed a powerful part of the liturgy for this service included this striking sentence: "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

So his sermon's message was one of peace and reconciliation but also of challenge: to be our best as we do our best, as we listen to one another with respect and openness, and as we model the Congregation's four guiding precepts in our own lives.

That is a message that would have resonated strongly with Dr. King, and he would undoubtedly conclude — as Rabbi Reiner himself did, quoting Dr. King — with a vision for a future in which formerly bitterly divided people ("the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners") "will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." That is a result we all need to accomplish across political divides, racial differences, ethnic and national-origin differences, and all of those amazingly diverse attributes of America that are, and have always been, its great strength. This service offered a huge and much-needed beacon of light pointing in that direction.

*Wilton resident Stephen Hudspeth submitted this letter to the Press and its sister paper, the Wilton Bulletin, after a service he attended at Congregation Shir Shalom on Friday, January 13th.*



## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

As Religious School registration kicks off this month for the 2017–18 school year, several school parents offered to share their reflections as to how the program has made a difference for their families.

Please go to the synagogue website to register your children as soon as possible. The early discounted rate period runs from February 15–June 15.

Thanks to all of our Religious School families and others at Shir Shalom for your continuing support. It is a privilege for our teaching staff to partner with parents as we work hand in hand to offer a comprehensive and meaningful Jewish education.

Amy Fishkin...

We have been fortunate to have both our children (grades 1 and 4) in religious school at Shir Shalom. My fourth grader has picked up Hebrew so quickly and is beginning to participate in Hebrew prayers and songs during services. It's been amazing to watch him learn Hebrew and become an active participant in our congregation. His teachers communicate regularly with us and work to ensure his unique needs are met in the religious school environment. Last year, during her kindergarten year, our daughter enjoyed bringing home the Shabbat box with her K-1 class. Our family enjoyed lighting the candles together on Friday night, breaking into the challah, and writing about how our family celebrated Shabbat to share with the rest of her class. We appreciate the way Leslie and the teachers go above and beyond to make sure that our children have an enjoyable, enriching, and meaningful religious school experience. Leslie, Karen, Laura, Stephanie, Rona, and Jamie have all been absolutely amazing teachers and religious school leaders. We are so grateful for their dedication and passion for learning and celebrating our Jewish culture.

Lynne Stark...

My daughter Amy is in 7th grade - Bat Mitzvah year! She really loves her teachers this year because she thinks they are fun and so nice. She likes other languages but really enjoys learning Hebrew. In addition to language and culture, she told me she's learned manners—can't complain about that! She is part of a very tight group of girls—most of them have been friends since the 2s program at Maimonides. It's so nice that they get to share this journey together.

Jen Carter...

My daughter Ellie is currently in 8th grade, and just had her Bat Mitzvah this past summer. I was so impressed with how prepared she was, and I am so thankful for her Religious School teachers and her Bat Mitzvah tutor for this. Ellie's tutor Ruth not only taught her the Hebrew of her Torah portion, she also discussed the meaning of the portion. They would often go over their allotted time because they were so involved in their conversations. Ruth kindly attended Ellie's service, even though it was an afternoon service (and she likely had been to the morning service that same day!) Ellie is still very involved at the temple; she attends confirmation class, she belongs to one of the youth groups, and she also volunteers on Sunday mornings with the K/1 and 2/3 classes. Her ongoing involvement is due to the caring and supportive environment at CSS, and I know that she feels a strong connection to Judaism that has been fostered by all of their teachers throughout the years.

Jessica Aframe...

Our son is in first grade and we signed him up for Hebrew school this year to learn more about Jewish values, history and language, as well as grow his circle of Jewish friends. He really looks forward to going each week. His enthusiasm is a testament to his wonderful teacher Laura who is so kind and engaging with the students. She makes it fun for them to learn. He loves the creative and crafty projects and stimulating discussions within the small classroom. We couldn't be more pleased with his first year at Shir Shalom Hebrew school, and I'm sure he would agree!

Leslie Kramer...

As a parent of a 7th grade student soon to be a Bat Mitzvah, I'd like to thank you for working so hard to incorporate numerous essential elements necessary to run a successful, energized and informative RS program that students want to attend! The Rabbi, Cantor and fabulous 7th grade teaching staff including Michael Salpeter and Gerry Hecht have helped to build both fun and safe bonds while students prepare for their Bar Mitzvahs. The staff, coupled with creative programming including an outside lecturer, a Holocaust survivor, has helped to build a community of students interested in pursuing their Jewish connection beyond

*(continued on bottom of following page)*





## FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer

**I**t's a new year, and as always, our year in this part of the world means snow and cold. While sometimes this makes us want to stay in and enjoy the artificial heat, we at the early childhood center still love to play outside. Just because it's cold,

doesn't mean that our students don't still need the stimulation that outdoor play offers.

One of the major benefits of our time outside is the mental and physical exercise they gain through the unstructured activity. Their mind are able to experience and process even more options and possibilities than in a classroom setting. In the winter, playing in snow allows our children the chance to discover the wonders of nature in a tangible way. They see how the trees adapt to the change of season. They find ways to shape the snow and use it to enhance their play, solving problems and observing new things along the way.

When we use the winter as an excuse to stay inside, we deprive ourselves and our children of an experience unique to our place in the world. We are lucky enough to be able to enjoy the snow and appreciate the change in season as something positive and essential to our relationship with the rest of the world.

Fun on a snowy day at the Early Childhood Center!



With so much uncertain at the beginning of the year, our Jewish tradition teaches us to look to the changes of the seasons to mark time and find hope and eternity within the challenge that the new year brings. Soon, we will celebrate tu b'shvat, the celebration of the trees. Leading up to this celebration, we enjoy our time in nature and take extra care to show our appreciation for the beauty of the winter.

*Jane Emmer*

Early Childhood Center Director

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

(continued from previous page)

religious school as they become eligible to participate in Confirmation and BBYO. My older children have taken on leadership roles within BBYO further strengthening their friendships with Jewish teens throughout the region and country as they assist in coordinating programming at regional and national conventions. This is due to the continued efforts put forth from leaders and teachers within our community. I appreciate and applaud your efforts.

Emily Wein...

I have four children who participate happily in the religious school program and confirmation. The program has the flexibility to engage all learners--those who are really looking for an intellectual challenge, those who enjoy the more social aspect, and those who may need more support with learning Hebrew. The Hebrew instruction is solid, but the culture and history of Judaism are well addressed too. I always enjoy hearing recaps of

the conversations at Confirmation, which seems to be a forum for exchanging ideas that is not offered at school at this level. I have always found the teachers to be approachable, and Leslie is always willing to problem solve and make the experience better and more convenient. The program has been a great constant for us amid changing schedules and activities year to year—a true home base.



FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



While attending a recent Friday night service, Cantor Katchko-Gray sang and played a version of the “Adoration” which was sung in my temple back when I attended religious school. Aside from some gender neutral alterations of the lyrics, hearing this older version of the prayer inspired reflection on what were the rituals and practices I grew up with and how are they different today.



Throughout Jewish history ritual invention is a practice, liturgy or object that comes about because something has changed,

something is missing, or something needs marking or remembering. Some “newer to me” rituals I’ve

participated in at Shir Shalom include enjoying a Tu B’shvat Oneg of biblical fruits, a Second Night Passover Seder, placing an orange on a Seder plate next to Miriam’s cup, Adult Purim Celebrations, Summer Food themed Oneg Shabbats, unrolling the Torah on Simcha Torah, sharing names out loud during the Mi shebeirah prayer. Have you celebrated or participated in any rituals which were meaningful to you either at Shir Shalom or somewhere else? Please share them with the Ritual Committee.

Upcoming holiday celebrations include a special Oneg Shabbat on February 10 for Tu B’shvat . Celebrations of Purim and the Second Night Seder are just around the corner. Further details will appear in the next Shalom.

If you are interested in joining the Ritual Committee, please drop up an e-mail or let us know when you see us at Shabbat services.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin

### A TEEN’S PERSPECTIVE by Alex Ozols

As a junior in high school, I have become a Hebrew school alumnus. As a student, I vividly remember sitting a class room filled unique Judaica. Hebrew school was something I really enjoyed because I met great people and learned a ton of great information about the culture and traditions of Judaism. In addition I learned how to read and write Hebrew. The information I learned in Hebrew school has stuck with me for a long time and has helped me as a student in high school in many ways. Although Hebrew school takes away from you and your child’s Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings, it is worth every minute of it. I believe and so do many others that He-

brew school is great, this includes my brother who is still in Hebrew school. The other day, I asked him if he could tell me why he likes Hebrew school, he responded enthusiastically, “I love Hebrew school because I love the teaching environment and parties!” So, as you may notice, he really loves Hebrew school. Lastly, I asked my brother if Hebrew school is something that he will always remember fondly of with good memories and happy times. The response was, “Definitely yes!”. Overall, Hebrew school is something that doesn’t just teach you about a religion, it also teaches how to live and function in this world, which is something no other school can teach you.





## SOCIAL ACTION

by Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin

**We had a successful Blood Drive on December 18.**

We had 22 people come to donate, resulting in 19 units of blood donated. This is a life-saving mitzvah – our donated blood can save up to 57 lives. Thank you to all who came to donate. This year was unusual as we had the Blood Mobile in our own parking lot. It was a source of fascination for the Religious School students and we made a brief presentation to the students explaining how this is such a life-saving mitzvah.

**Thank you to this month's Partner Agency Volunteers:**

**Daily Bread Food Pantry:** Polly Schnell, Cantor Debbie, Debbie Landzberg, **Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, prepping and serving a meal to clients:** Shari and Harley Zins, Lori Bean, **Federal Corrections Institute, conducting Torah study and bringing the joy of Shabbat to the Jewish men and women:** Jean Haddon and Rabbi Jon Haddon, **Danbury Overflow Shelter:** Jean Haddon

We need volunteers to work at these Partner Agencies each month—it is a mitzvah and much appreciated. Please let us know if you want to sign up for a shift at the Daily Bread Food Pantry or the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.

**Overflow Shelter in Danbury:** Our area temple group is once again looking for volunteers to man the Danbury Overflow Shelter at the First Congregational Church—a life-saving service during the cold winter months. Our group will man a week later this month. Most of the clients are regulars, so they know exactly what is expected. They are very respectful

and very appreciative to have a warm place to spend the night! Volunteers who are not able to spend the night can send socks, long johns, gloves and hats, toiletries and personal care items including tissues and feminine hygiene products. Small water bottles, clementines and granola bars are always appreciated. Please let us know if you can help!

**Mitzvah Day planned for Sunday, May 7th:** We need volunteers to become involved with our annual Shir Shalom Mitzvah Day which is a “day of community service and community building”. This great day will be held on **Sunday, May 7th**. We have had over 120 volunteers involved in recent years. It is a gratifying day for all. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!** We need volunteers to run the projects on the day, requiring little or no prep – please let us know if you are willing to help out. AND we need people who are willing to be involved in the planning process starting soon!

**Midnight Run:** We are planning a Midnight Run for a date in the Spring. Please email us to volunteer. This is a great parent-B'nai Mitzvah student activity to do together. This involves going in the evening in a caravan to NYC to distribute gently used clothing, toiletries and bag dinners to upwards of 60 homeless folks. We do return in the wee hours of the morning. People can also volunteer to make bag dinners if you cannot attend the run.

**Donate gently used clothing for the Midnight Run:** A donation box is in the synagogue foyer for the following clothing: hoodies, jeans, belts, shoes, sneakers. ALSO donate NEW MENS UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS.

**HELP US HELP OTHERS THIS YEAR!**

One-time and ongoing opportunities are available for everyone—please contact:  
SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org

*Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin*

## 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

# A MAN CALLED ALBERT

*Two roads diverged in the wood and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*  
Robert Frost

Albert was born in 1895 in a suburb of Berlin. He had four older siblings, two brothers and two sisters, but this story is only about Albert and the brother who was five years his senior. Albert's brother, who was a rebellious child, was sent to a military school, and eventually served in the air force during World War I. In 1923 he heard a speech by Adolph Hitler and was enthralled by it. He joined the young Nazi Party and participated in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, which was a failed attempt to overthrow the Bavarian Government. Hitler was arrested and imprisoned, and Albert's brother was seriously wounded. After being treated with morphine, he became addicted, and that addiction lasted for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, he continued to follow Hitler, and remained deeply involved in the Nazi Party until the very end of World War II.

Albert, on the other hand, chose to live a life diametrically opposite to his brother. He was trained as an engineer, had high-level jobs, and made profitable investments which made him a very wealthy man. Albert quickly developed a hatred for the Nazis and everything they stood for. He warned his brother that he was associating with a dangerous and corrupt mob of criminals. After the Nuremberg laws of 1935 were enacted, followed by the tragedy of Kristallnacht of 1938, Albert could not bear watching and hearing about the unjust treatment of the Jews.

It was amazing that despite the totally opposite morality, it never adversely affected the fondness the brothers felt for each other. In fact, it was their brotherly relationship that was to be crucial in enabling Albert to eventually save many lives.

Albert turned his hatred of the Nazis into action. One day he saw the police forcing a group of elderly Jewish women to scrub the streets. Albert grabbed the brush from one of the women and began to scrub the street himself. The police were horrified and were about to arrest him until they saw his name, an already well-known one. They immediately released him along with the women, but gave Albert a warning that he was never to heed. On another occasion after the Nazis had annexed Austria, Albert walked by a paint shop in Vienna, and saw Nazi Storm

Troopers tormenting a 75 year-old Jewish woman being forced to wear a sign saying, "I am a dirty Jew". Albert removed the sign from the woman and got into a scuffle with two Storm Troopers. He was about to be arrested, but as soon as Albert identified himself, he was able to walk away unscathed, and lead the woman to safety. His name was a useful weapon, but it wasn't always this easy. Before the war was over, Albert was arrested four times. Each time he survived, either because of his name, or his brother's assistance.

As the situation became more desperate for the Jews of Germany and Austria Albert's mission now was save as many as he could from the Concentration Camps, or better yet, keep them from being interred. One such person was Sophie Lehar, the Jewish wife of the famous composer Franz Lehar, who wrote the operetta "The Merry Widow". Albert urged his brother to use his influence to have Frau Lehar designated an "Honorary Aryan". His brother did so, thereby saving her life. Albert went on a campaign rescuing Jews and other potential victims of the Nazis. He rescued his doctor Max Wolf just before he could be sent to the Dachau Concentration Camp. In a last minute operation, Albert took his friend Oscar Pilzer, to the Austrian border, thus eluding the Nazis. Albert, at this time was director of an arms manufacturing company in Prague (he looked the other way when some employees were obstructing production). He heard that his friend, Dr. Joseph Charvat was imprisoned in Dachau. Using stationery with his brother's letterhead and a forged signature, he had Charvat released and brought to safety.

During the war, Albert accompanied his brother on inspections of the concentration camps, and would randomly point out Jewish prisoners and say, "There is a good Jew, use your influence and have him released?" His brother would accommodate Albert's wishes. It was surely not altruism, but a demonstration of fondness for his brother, and perhaps to massage his ego, showing that he had such influence. Dozens of Jews were transported to safe havens. It was bizarre that a Nazi, committed to the annihilation of six million Jews, would allow dozens to be saved at his brother's behest. Not only that, but the powerful Gestapo, who had already compiled a dossier on Albert's crimes against the Third Reich, did nothing about it.

Albert's solid financial position and his ability to procure funding, allowed him to provide safe transport out of the country, and to open Swiss bank accounts for numerous escapees. Albert found many ways to save people

from the Nazis. Once, he was on a train when he encountered a young Jewish couple trying to escape. Albert provided them with enough Swiss francs and Italian lira to use as bribes to make their way to freedom. He later learned that they were safe in Argentina. One day, while talking with friends about the tragic plight of the Jews Albert broke down and cried, as he spoke about the tortures people were being subjected to in the concentration camps. He knew he had to do more and be more aggressive. So he conceived of a plan to save large numbers of prisoners. He sent a convoy of trucks into the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp with phony orders to provide a labor force for a nearby munitions factory. He had the trucks filled with prisoners, then drive them away to a place where they had an opportunity to make their way to safety.

Every one of Albert's daring and courageous life-saving missions could have resulted in Albert's demise. It was only his name or his brother's help that saved him, but there was never any guarantee. Finally, after four arrests, his brother told him that the pressure was building, and he could no longer help him. That ended Albert's activities, because the Gestapo had him in their sights and were closing in.

As the war was ending and it was apparent that Germany had lost, Albert compiled a list of 34 very prominent individuals whose lives he had saved. There were likely a few hundred whose names he never knew. At least some of those 34 could probably be located after the war and serve as witnesses to Albert's exploits if he was to be arrested for war crimes. Because of his name, this was a real possibility. Sure enough, Albert was arrested in 1945, and held in an Allied prison for repeated interrogations that continued for two years. His interrogators showed no interest in interviewing any of the 34 people who could attest to Albert's anti-Nazi activities. But, by a sheer stroke of luck, Albert was interrogated by Major Victor Parker who happened to be the nephew of Franz Lehar's wife. Parker was aware of the rescue of his aunt by a German. When he saw her name on Albert's list of 34, Major Parker immediately sent a report requesting Albert's release from prison. But then Albert suffered another setback. The Czech Government wanted Albert extradited to Prague to stand trial. This was based on Albert's directorship of Skoda Works in Czechoslovakia, a German munitions plant used during the war. It was assumed that he was providing weapons for the Nazis. Fortunately, they discovered a Gestapo dossier on Albert, listing his crimes against the Third Reich. It was apparent that Albert was no war criminal, and he was finally released from prison in March 1947.

Instead of being able to live in peace and comfort, post-war de-Nazified Germany dealt Albert a nasty blow. He was now a pariah. His name was now a curse. The name that allowed him to save several hundred people from the Nazis, was now the same name that would destroy Albert's life. He was shunned from all aspects of society. Albert's modesty, his unwillingness to promote his courageous deeds, and his refusal to change his name, became his downfall. He could no longer obtain meaningful employment and had to survive with menial jobs and assistance from people whose lives he had saved. Albert died in 1966 at the age of 71.

So who was Albert, and who was his brother? Albert's brother was the most powerful man in Nazi Germany, second only to Adolph Hitler. His name was Hermann Goering.

### A Final Note

Reference: William Hastings Burke; *Thirty Four*; Wolfgeist Limited, 2015.

Burke has been lobbying intensely to have Albert Goering's name enshrined in the Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem, as one of the *Righteous of the Nations*. As of 2016, the word from Yad Vashem is that there was not enough first-hand proof for Albert Goering's name to be admitted. However, one can't help being reminded of the final words of Giuseppe Verdi's opera, *Rigoletto* – "Ah la maledizione! (Ah that curse!)"

William Hastings Burke provided his own tribute to Albert Goering as he stood at his Goering's gravesite. These are the final words of Burke's book, *Thirty-Four*:

*He is the patriarch of an enduring family of hundreds of survivors and descendants scattered across the globe. It is then, looking at his gravestone, that this isn't really the end.*



*"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 and Tesa Baum



Dear Sisterhood Members,

**B**rrrrr! Hope everyone is staying warm! Shir Shalom Sisterhood is excited to have another great night coming up on March 15th at Paint, Draw and More in Georgetown. Last year we had a blast and it was really a nice change of pace to enjoy the night together doing something fun and different. Special thanks to Stephanie Herbstman and Jill Teich for organizing these events! Please see invitation in this newsletter and your email. SPACE IS LIMITED so do not wait to sign up!

If you are interested in participating in a Sisterhood Book Club, please email us at [sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org). Also, we are seeking a volunteer to lead a new hike location for an early Spring Hike. Susan Bard has led a few groups in The Devil's Den Conservatory in Redding and we would like to offer a new location. Our hikes have been energetic and well-attended! Please email us! Finally, since most of our Sisterhood events cover just the cost of the event, we are highlighting for you the donations made by Sisterhood which come from our raffle ticket sales and a portion of Sisterhood dues. Every month, Shir Shalom Sisterhood makes a donation to a different charity, in the spirit of tzedakah, on behalf of our Sisterhood members.



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM

In January, the Shir Shalom Sisterhood made a donation to American Friends of Magen David Adom. This organization provides support to the entire nation's pre-hospital emergency needs, including medical, disaster, ambulance and blood services. The MDA National Blood Services Center, located in Ramat Gan, provides 100% of the blood requirements of the IDF and 95% of the blood needs for Israeli hospitals and the general population. For more information about AFMDA and to make your own donation, visit their website: <https://afmda.org/>



In February, the Shir Shalom Sisterhood will make a donation to the Jewish Women's Archive. The JWA is an organization dedicated to uncovering, chronicling

and transmitting the rich legacy of Jewish women in North America and their contributions to our families and communities, to our people and our world. Their award-winning website, [www.jwa.org](http://www.jwa.org), has the most extensive collection of material on American Jewish women on the web, and includes exhibits featuring more than 50 women, information on over 700 archival collections, some 500 biographies, over 800 digitized images, and lesson plans and essays. For more information about JWA, and to make your own donation, visit their website: <https://jwa.org/>

The Shir Shalom Sisterhood would also like to thank the donors who contributed items to the Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner raffle, the proceeds of which went towards donations to our chosen charities:

Susi Manheimer, Susi Laura Massage Therapy  
Lonnie Shapiro, Realtor, Coldwell Banker  
Laura Freed Ancona, Tusk & Cup  
Adam Broderick Salon  
Carrie Kulawitz, Queen's Beads  
Danielle Goodman Munk, Dinner Is At The Door  
Lisa Kurtz, BeautyCounter  
Pilates Barre

To join the Shir Shalom Sisterhood, or renew your membership, visit our payment site: <https://squareup.com/store/shir-shalom-sisterhood/item/sisterhood-membership>

The Sisterhood calendar follows the school year calendar, and dues are paid in September. Dues are \$55 for temple members, and \$118 for non-members.

For more information about the Shir Shalom Sisterhood, email [sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org) or visit us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShirShalomSisterhood/>

Mark your calendars for some great events coming up soon: Painting & Nosh on March 15th.

*Best wishes, Susan & Tesa*



**It's Time to Register!**

**Congregation Shir Shalom  
Religious School 2017-18**

**EARLY REGISTRATION**

**Discounted Tuition from  
Feb. 15 - June 15, 2017**

*Registration forms are available  
in the office and online*

*<http://ourshirshalom.org/education/rs>*



**New to our Shir Shalom Religious School?**

**APRIL IS OPEN HOUSE MONTH!**

Join us Thursday, April 6 for our Student Seder or  
when school is in session:

Thursdays 4:15-6pm, Sundays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For info or to RSVP,  
email [Leslie@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:Leslie@OurShirShalom.org)



**CONGREGATION  
SHIR SHALOM**  
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Phone: (203) 438-6589 • [ourshirshalom.org](http://ourshirshalom.org)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Amerling	Margie Gorelick
Sadie Baran	Kylee Harris
Karina Barth	Sklyer Harris
Tesa Baum	Iliana Hellinger
Ian Beck	Jacob Hellinger
Paul Behar	Howard Henner
Blake Berg	Isaac Hirt-Manheimer
Lowell Berg	Drew Hoffman
Brian Besterman	Calvin Hollander
Dylan Bloch	Lauren Hubsher
Joshua Blum	Sierra Hubsher
Zander Bolgar	Willow Hubsher
Rebecca Brand	Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray
Evan Brenner	Caleb Kaufman
Carrie Broder	Zachary Kessler
Jeffrey Burns	Adam Kirker
Jeff Butchen	Ryan Kirker
Ellie Carter	Hannah Klotz
Jennifer Carter	Hanna Kurtz
Daylin Chess	Jacob Lash
Jillian Chipman	Dr. Lauren Leong
Samara Cotumaccio	Catherine Lipper
Ross Davis	Andrew Lipton
Julie deLange	Robi Margolis
Alan Dietzek	David Margulies
Danielle Dietzek	Oliver Moore
Eliza Craw	Joseph Niola
Andrew Dufner	Charlotte Omin
Leah Friedman	Sophie Omin
Victoria Friedman	Johanna Perlman
Joshua Gardos	Adam Portnoy
Ilya Gogish	

Joel Portnoy	Rebecca Stadlen
Alix Rosenbaum	Ella Stark
Elana Rosenbaum	Eli Tubbs
Aviva Salpeter	Pia Vandervelden
Joel S. Segalman	Zachary Waldman
Alan Sheptin	Dr. Michael Wein
Zachary Sheptin	Laurie Wolkin
Elliot Sherling	Ezra Zimmerman
Jacqueline Sherling	Shari Zins
Spencer Shore	

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Jureller & Rena Bruckman  
 Todd and Karen Kipnes  
 Ronald and Barbara Ripps

# MAZEL TOV!

Have you considered celebrating significant birthdays and anniversaries with a leaf on our Simcha Tree of Life?

Call the Shir Shalom Office for details.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Shabbat  
ACROSS AMERICA

FRIDAY  
evening  
MARCH  
3

5:30 pm Pre-service  
Nosh

6 pm Service

7 pm Oneg Shabbat  
&  
Kugel Competition



## FEBRUARY YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, February 3, 2017**

William Drucker	father of Janine Gordon	Norman Levitt	father of Bonnie Dietzek
Judith Eydenberg	mother of Susan Westlake	Marcy Daniels	
Adolph Goldner	father of Leonard Goldner	Theodore Mallon	father of Linda Krulwich
Diana Hirt	sister of Judy Hirt-Manheimer	Gertrude Quasha	mother of Robert Quasha
Hannah Hirt	mother of Judy Hirt-Manheimer	David Siegel	father of Lewis Siegel
Ruth Kahn	mother of Leslie Gottlieb	Arthur Stoll	father of Susan Andrade
Esther Kalb	grandmother of Dayna Kaplan	Albert Strom	father of Robert Strom
Jacob Kaplan	grandfather of Steve Kaye	Joseph Warmund	grandfather of Jillian Chipman
Nathan Kaplan	grandfather of Susannah Altman	Anna Weintraub	grandmother of Karen Gerard
Frances Klotz	mother of Jeffrey Klotz		

**Friday, February 10, 2017**

Hannah Drucker	grandmother of Janine Gordon	Michael Robinson	
Reveka Gogish	grandmother of Ilya Gogish	Hubert Ryan	father of Eve Siegel
Miriam Isaacs	grandmother of Ian Leitner	William Shoff	grandfather of Jeffrey Hubsher
Charlene Lavin	mother of Mark Lavin	Millicent Stark	mother of Andrew Stark
Stephen Margolis	husband of Robi Margolis	Jeannette Walker	mother of Jay Walker
Betty Mirkin	aunt of Judith Strom		

**Friday, February 17, 2017**

Carole Alexander	mother of Neil Alexander	Solomon Lichtbach	uncle of Ian Leitner
Cantor Kerry Ben-David		Eric Spencer Morley	father of Larry Morley
Charlotte Cincotta	cousin of Gail Henner	Sam Munsart	uncle of Joan Isman
Lucille Colville	mother in law of Ronni Colville	Joseph Rosenhouse	father of Harry Rosenhouse
Mollie Darvick	mother of Murray Darvick	Morris Rymberg	uncle of Judith Strom
Gregory Davis	son of Elyse & Jay Davis	Diane Silverman	grandmother of David Margulies
Robert Felper	grandfather of Margie Gorelick	Rose Vayda	
William Frankel	grandfather of Scott Brenner	Brett Winson	husband of Liz Winson
Bessie Friedman	mother of Joshua Friedman	Benjamin Wishod	father of Gene Wishod
John Grzymala	father of John Grzymala		

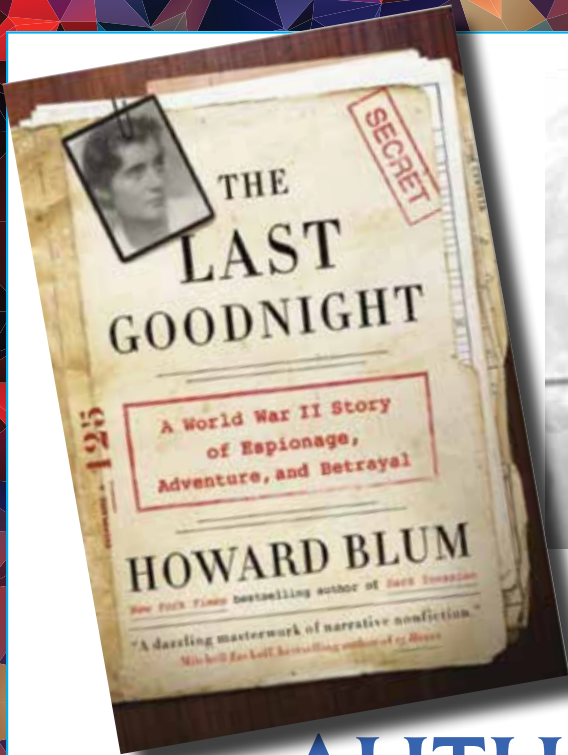
**Friday, February 24, 2017**

Bernard Baker	father of Carlyn Bergman	Edward Shade	uncle of Arnold Friedlander
Sandra Elkin	mother of Stephanie Herbstman	Anna Shapiro	grandmother of Laurie Dubin
Alex Gelbart	father of Mindy Hoffman	Nancy Sherter	mother of Craig Sherter
Sydney Kopfstein	father of Allen Kopstein	Rose Shoff	grandmother of Jeffrey Hubsher
Norman M. Lash	father of Joseph Lash	I. William Simels	father of Toba Stutz
Dorothy Martin	grandmother of Dawn Kessler	Morton Tucker	
Rose Robinson		Rae Weissman	aunt of Arnold Friedlander
Rose Schneider	grandmother of Margie Gorelick	Burt Yolen	father of David Yolen

*We extend condolences to...*

The Bergman family—Michael and Carlyn, following the death of Michael's mother, Rita Bergman z"l.  
The Shalett family—Michael and Karen, following the death of Karen's father, Thomas Garvett z"l.

# Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Congregation Shir Shalom



Howard Blum, author of  
*The Last Good Night*

## AUTHOR TALK at Congregation Shir Shalom

Thursday, March 2, 12–2 pm

Howard Blum, the author of *The Last Good Night:  
A World War II Story of Espionage, Adventure  
and Betrayal*

Bring your lunch and learn!

A special “top secret” snack will also be served.

Co-sponsored by  
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County

BRING YOUR  
FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY



CONGREGATION  
SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

PRIZES

COME  
IN COSTUME

Presented by Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School

# PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 12,

Congregation Shir Shalom

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT

ADMISSION  
\$10 A CHILD  
Adult admission  
FREE

All are invited to our fun and upbeat

Congregational Purim Service at 10:15-11am

Event bracelets will be available to service participants  
for early Carnival entry

11:00 am-12:00pm

Religious school students and service participants only

12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Open to the Public

CONTACT  
203-438-6589  
FOR MORE INFO

Carnival Games

Face Painting by  
Enchanted Garden Studios

Indoor Archery

Magic and  
Balloon Twisting  
by Danny Diamond

Inflatable Twister

BBYO—Sabbaba Dress Sale

Food & Drinks for Sale

Body Art

Free Popcorn & Cotton Candy

Sponsored by  
EST. 1952  
**Kiwi**  
COUNTRY  
DAY CAMP





Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donations will be acknowledged in our monthly newsletter and are tax deductible

#### Contributions of Any Amount

General Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Caring Fund

Early Childhood Center Fund

Education Enrichment Fund

Music Fund

Rabbi Burstein Memorial—Scholar in Residence Fund

Youth Program Scholarships

#### Contributions of Designated Amounts

\$54 HHD Prayer Book

\$180 Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat

\$360 Memorial Board Plaque

\$180 Leaf on Tree of Life

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

On the Occasion of: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the honor, please send an acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

On the Occasion of: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the honor, please send an acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

On the Occasion of: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the honor, please send an acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Congregation Shir Shalom" and mail with this form to:

Congregation Shir Shalom, 46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM!

# We Appreciate Your Generosity

## Donations

### **General Fund**

Rabbi Reiner & Ashley Heller  
 Harvey Gordon in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Roger and Margot Milliken  
 Roberta Margolis in memory of Bernard Shuler  
 Dr. Elana Bernstein & Mr. Geoffrey Bauer in memory of Rabbi Burstein  
 Wendy Lipp & Fulvio Segalia in memory of Rabbi Burstein  
 David & Leslie Kramer in memory of Martin Lipton  
 Richard & Ellen Lipton in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Joel & Jan Mesh  
 Karen Taylor & David Kaminer in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Jeff & Margie Gorelick in memory of Julius Fuchs  
 Susan Stillman  
 Ian & Sigal Leitner in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Michael & Karen Shalett in memory of Norm Levitt  
 Alan & Bonnie Dietzek  
 Jay & Eileen Walker in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Jay & Elyse Davis in memory of Rita Bergman  
 Daniel & Jo-Ann Weiss in memory of Rita Bergman

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Jeff & Lauren Sugar in memory of Rabbi Burstein  
 Michael & Karen Shalett in memory of Thomas Garvett

### **Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Larry & Vivian Hoffman

### **Building Fund**

Jeff & Lauren Sugar in memory of Rabbi Burstein

### **Education Fund**

Ellen Sleight & Barbara Homback in memory of Benjamin Strauss  
 Ellen Sleight & Barbara Homback in memory of Winnie Strauss

### **Scholar in Residence Fund**

Jeffrey Berg & Debra Paget in memory of Rabbi Burstein  
 Susan Stillman in memory of Rabbi Burstein

## EZ MOVING

**Ezra Zimmerman owner/operator**

- Local and long distance moving
- Tree work
- Junk removal
- Snow plowing and removal

Phone: 203-448-7342 • email: EZservicesnow@gmail.com

**www.ezmovingct.com**

## DeCicco Rebate Program

When shopping at DeCicco's (on North Salem Road, Cross River, next to John Jay High School) mention Congregation Shir Shalom before your order is complete. DeCicco's will credit us with shopping points and mail Shir Shalom a check every quarter. Contact the office with any questions.

What an easy way to raise funds!



## **Looking for a fun evening to “uncork” your creativity? Bring out your inner Gauguin?**

Please join the Congregation Shir Shalom Sisterhood  
for our Painting and Nosh Party at the  
Georgetown School of the Arts. No artistic ability necessary!!

Wine and snacks provided by Sisterhood.

The School will provide paint supplies and instruction.



Wednesday, March 15, 2017 • 7:00 P.M.  
Georgetown School of the Arts  
25 Old Mill Road, West Redding, CT 06896

Cost \$35

Space is limited, please sign up quickly so you won't miss this event!!! Checks can be made out to Congregation Shir Shalom Sisterhood and sent to the temple.

Any questions:

Stephanie Herbstman— [steph1herbstman@aol.com](mailto:steph1herbstman@aol.com)

Jill Teich— [Jill@halprince.com](mailto:Jill@halprince.com)



(203) 438-6597 **DANIEL P. JOWDY**  
Director

**KANE FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

P.O. Box 459  
25 Catoonah Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877-0459



**Party Creations**  
of Connecticut, LLC

*Custom Party Décor  
And Balloon Designs*

(203) 740-8233  
[www.gotopartycreations.com](http://www.gotopartycreations.com)

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs  
Baby/Bridal Showers  
Quinceaneras  
Corporate Events

Weddings  
Sweet 16s  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries

**Cindy Greenfeld**  
[cindy@gotopartycreations.com](mailto:cindy@gotopartycreations.com)

**Eric Greenfeld**  
[eric@gotopartycreations.com](mailto:eric@gotopartycreations.com)

**DANIEL P. JOWDY**  
Director

**JOWDY-KANE FUNERAL HOME**

9-11 Granville Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 748-6262  
Fax (203) 748-6490

God Bless America! Life is Beautiful

**DIMITRI'S**  
Family Restaurant



Open 7 Days A Week


[www.dimitrisdiner.com](http://www.dimitrisdiner.com)

16 Prospect Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Phone: 203-438-5338 • **FREE DELIVERY**




**203-438-7100**  
**BREAKFAST - LUNCH AND TAKE-OUT**  
**91 DANBURY ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877**

"when was the last time you really loved your hair?"



experience the quality and passion our team delivers and you *will* love your hair again



**ab**  
**adam broderick**  
salon & spa

ridgefield southbury 203 431 3994  
[adambroderick.com](http://adambroderick.com)

**Dylewsky, Goldberg & Brenner, LLC**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**DG & B**

**Scott M. Brenner, CPA**  
PARTNER

203-975-8830 [TEL]  
203-323-7123 [FAX]  
[sbrenner@dgbcpas.com](mailto:sbrenner@dgbcpas.com)  
30 Oak Street, Stamford, CT 06905

**Relax** your body,  
**calm** your mind,  
**renew** your spirit...

**RHONDA S. LACKOW**  
 Licensed Massage Therapist



Rhonda has a diverse private practice, providing a nurturing, healing experience to clients of all ages. She has been practicing therapeutic massage since 2005 and helps clients manage stress, loss, illness, and life transitions. She is trained and experienced

in Swedish, Deep Tissue, Reflexology, trauma treatment, pregnancy and post-natal massage, Myofascial Release, and Reiki.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

📍 158 Danbury Rd. Suite 3, Ridgefield, CT  
 ☎ 203-733-7198 ✉ [rlackow@gmail.com](mailto:rlackow@gmail.com)

**PSAT, SAT, and  
 ACT Tutoring  
 (Reading,  
 Vocabulary,  
 Grammar, and  
 Essay Writing)**

**College Application  
 and Essay Review**

**Susan Westlake**  
**Educator and Attorney**  
**914-232-4152**  
**[susan123westlake@gmail.com](mailto:susan123westlake@gmail.com)**

*The Best of Old World Elegance, Rural Beauty and Modern Amenities*

*Located in a country setting, the newly renovated clubhouse features a stunning ballroom windowed throughout, with panoramic views of a spectacular golf course and surrounding hills.*



*Parties of all sizes welcome  
 One affair per day  
 Kosher catering available*



**SALEM GOLF CLUB**

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914\*669\*5485 [www.salemgolfclub.org](http://www.salemgolfclub.org)

FEBRUARY 2017

SHEVAT/ADAR 5777

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers  Hebrew School	2 Hebrew School	3 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat  6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat	4 9:00 am Torah 101
5 Hebrew School  Sandwiches for service	6	7	8 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers  Hebrew School	9 Hebrew School  7:15pm—Board of Directors meeting	10 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat  5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 2.0  7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat	11 9:00 am Torah 101 Tu B'Sh'vat  10:30 am Shabbat Morning Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Hellinger
12 Hebrew School Family Education grade 4	13	14	15 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers  Hebrew School	16 Hebrew School	17 No ECC  7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	18
19 NO Hebrew School	20 Office Closed Presidents' Day  No ECC	21	22 12 Noon— Shir Shalom Stitchers  Hebrew School	23 Hebrew School	24 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat  7:30 pm— Kabbalat Shabbat	25
26 Rosh Chodesh Adar  Hebrew School	27 Rosh Chodesh Adar	28	1	2 12–2 Lunch & Learn with author Howard Blum	3 Shabbat Across America 5:30 pm Pre-Service Nosh 6 pm service 7 pm Oneg Shabbat & Kugel Kompe- tition	4

*The deadline for submission for the March 2017 Shir Shalom is Thursday, February 2, 2017. Thank you.*

*Inclement weather policy:*

*In case of inclement weather, a decision to postpone/cancel will be made 2 hours before the scheduled start of a program. An email will be sent, an announcement will be posted on our website, and the outgoing message on our voicemail will be updated.*



## GOING GREEN AT SHIR SHALOM

### Izzy Bard's Bat Mitzvah project—New recycling program

We are thrilled to start recycling and grateful to Izzy Bard for starting this program at Congregation Shir Shalom for her Bat Mitzvah project! You may have noticed the blue recycling bins in the classrooms, common areas, and kitchen. Starting in February, our garbage company is going to collect recycled trash as well.

During the month of February we will be holding a contest for religious school students to create a poster for Shir Shalom's recycling program. Look for more details coming soon!

Thank you, and please remember to place all of these items into the blue bins. Your cooperation will make a difference!

Things that can be put in the bins are:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic

**NO PIZZA BOXES AND NO FOOD  
CONTAINERS PLEASE!!!!**

"As a Congregation we should be trying to give back to the world around us. Every effort, even small, can help!"

—Izzy Bard

