

MARCH 2017
ADAR/NISAN 5777

Our Shir Shalom



Hand puppet fun at our Early Childhood Center



Religious School students hard at work

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Shabbat T'rumah, Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

March 3	5:30 pm	Pre-Shabbat nosh
	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship with 2nd & 3rd grade
	7:00 pm	"Shabbat Across America"—Kugel Kontest and extended Oneg Shabbat with light dinner

Shabbat T'tzaveh, Exodus 27:20 - 30:10

March 10	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat 2.0
	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 11	5:00 pm	Shabbat afternoon Worship Bat Mitzvah: Allison Kramer

Shabbat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11 - 34:35

March 17	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
March 18	10:30am	Shabbat morning Worship Bar Mitzvah: Andrew Knispel
	12:00pm	Kiddush Luncheon in honor of Andrew Knispel

Shabbat Vayak'heil-P'kudei, Exodus 35:1 - 40:38

March 24	7:30 pm	Music Shabbat: "A Suite Shabbat"
March 25	5:00pm	Shabbat afternoon Worship Bar Mitzvah: Adam Portnoy



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK

In this era of “fake news,” the holiday of Purim is a reminder of separating reality from fiction. Celebrations of Purim often involve turning reality backwards, doing the opposite of the ordinary. Where our worship services are usually semi-serious

affairs, worship on Purim is filled with frivolity. We celebrate Purim by blurring fact and falsehood.

I am pleased to share that some immediate family members of a President of the United States of America are considering the possibility of joining our congregation. The presidential family has a home in our area, and, as you may know, the son-in-law of a President of the United States is Jewish. And while there are a few synagogues closer to their home, in Bedford or Chappaqua, the family has shared that they really liked the warm, friendly, and intimate feeling of our smaller and closely connected congregation, as well as the personal connection I have been trying to cultivate with the family.

You may notice increased security around our synagogue, especially during the high holy days, and the Secret Service has suggested that we may need airport style security--including metal detectors and bag checking--during the High Holy Days. We may also need the social security numbers of all congregants and your guests (to run background checks) and everyone will need to have a valid, government issued photo identification AND a ticket in order to enter our worship services. Firearms will not be permitted at the

synagogue, even if you possess a concealed carry permit.

Growing up in Washington DC during the Clinton administration, our family had many connections with the first family both through my father's congregation and the prep school I attended. There were a few Cabinet members at the synagogue and Chelsea Clinton and I attended rival high schools. We had a few friends in common and occasionally crossed paths at athletic competitions. It has been very nice to reconnect and I hope that she and her family will feel comfortable calling our congregation their spiritual home.

The Clinton family is also exploring the possibility of enrolling their children at our excellent Early Childhood Center, and we are exploring the possibility of renovating the former caretaker apartment/attic, which would be rented to the Secret Service as a mobile command center.

Chelsea and her family may also join us at Tot Shabbat 2.0 services in the months ahead, and Bill and Hillary have generously offered to speak (at no charge) as part of an adult education program we are currently developing. They may also deliver an occasional sermon.

I will also be starting a monthly Torah Study and/or adult education program in Midtown Manhattan; the former first family has also generously offered to host these sessions at the Clinton Foundation offices.

If you are still reading at this point, I want to clarify that this column is a great example of “Fake News.” There is also a Purim tradition of pranks and rabbis perpetrating “alternative facts” as truth. Happy Purim!

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of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE by Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin



It was May of 1939, when the German ocean liner, *LMS St. Louis*, set sail from Hamburg, Germany to Havana, Cuba. On board, were over 900 Jews fleeing from the Third Reich. Over 75 years later, we all know how this tragic story turned out. Entry was denied by The Cuban government in spite of issuing landing permits. The ship then headed for the United States, but Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, advised President Roosevelt not to grant entry to the Jews. Canada refused as well.

The ship sailed back to Europe; Belgium, France and the Netherlands accepted 619 of the passengers, and Great Britain accepted 288 of the passengers, but as the war swept across Western Europe, it is estimated that 85% of the passengers who remained in Europe were sent

to various concentration camps where ultimately 254 died.

Gale's father and uncle lived in Cuba in 1939, as members of a refugee camp, "Finca Paso Seco," established by and under the protection of American Quakers, while awaiting legal entry to the United States. Over the years, Gale had heard about the fate of the *St Louis* from her dad who recalled seeing the ship anchored in the harbor with its passengers desperately in need of a haven. Gale's father and uncle eventually emigrated to the U.S. and never forgot their immense gratitude for the safe haven they were granted, initially in Cuba and later in the United States and for the Quakers who provided for them and the many other young German Jews during their time in Cuba.

Today, there are millions of refugees living in temporary housing or "camps" with little hope for the future. Many have been granted temporary safe haven by countries that are far smaller than the United States. The United States has set relatively low quota levels for acceptance of such refugees and this was before the recent "executive order" barring entry to the United States of travelers (including refugees) from seven countries.

We, like you, have our own perspectives on this matter and on so many other challenging developments in our country and around the world. Perhaps it is not our place and perhaps this is not the forum to share how we feel or to suggest how others should feel or conduct themselves, however we are a nation of immigrants. No matter your political perspectives, it is undoubtedly the case that you, like us, are experiencing a higher than usual level of anxiety and concern for the future. Anxiety and concern has come to permeate our lives and while this may not define who we are, this likely defines how we feel.

With that said, Shir Shalom can be a "safe haven" where

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THE CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray



Words, Blessings and God's Name

Recently, I attended a fascinating lecture while visiting my cousin Isabelle Szneer in Westlake Village, CA. Rabbi Moshe Bryski spoke about the third commandment, not taking God's name in vain: What is the proper respect for

God?

What distinguishes animals from human beings is speech- Mi-daber, which means to speak, also, the speaker. Our speech, our words can do so much good and or can do so much harm. We see this today in our political landscape and in our relationships either flourishing or deteriorating. Words can penetrate the heart and soul. Today we are mindful of bullying and mockery leading to suicide in tragic cases. Words can heal; words can kill.

The third commandment says not to carry God's name in vain. History has shown that false prophets, even terrorists uttering Allahu Ackbar, are murdering in the name of God. This is one commandment that God does not forgive when transgressed because it can literally cause death. We are told to carry God's name, but carry it well. We should understand the responsibility to "Love God with all your heart." If we can cause others to love God and speak honestly, with integrity and gentleness, we are honoring God's name.

Kiddush Hashem, literally the sanctification of God's holy name, has been associated with martyrs' deaths over the millennia, but it can also mean bring-

ing holiness by our actions and words. We all carry God's name with us wherever we go. We represent the Jewish People everywhere we travel. When we pray for someone, embrace, show kindness, when we behave as we should, we are sanctifying God's name. Zion Tziyon means a lamppost. We are literally a billboard with a message to the world.

Lastly, Rabbi Bryski taught that the Kaddish means to sanctify, with no words about death. It's our job to sanctify God's name. When someone can no longer fulfill that, we do it, to continue the tradition.

My cousin Isabelle honored her husband, Cantor Leopold Szneer with a major donation to the Cedar Sinai Hospital. The plaque in his honor said "In memory of the million and a half Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust". Both were survivors with many speaking and teaching engagements at universities around the LA area. She wanted to remember the Jewish children murdered simply because they were Jews. The hospital initially balked at the wording, but eventually gave in. Kudos to my cousin Isabelle at age 92 for standing up for what is right. The children died because they were Jews, and for no other reason. Her honoring their memories will be a reminder for generations to come. That's being a Tziyon- a lamppost- with a message to the world. We will not forget, and yet we still sanctify God's name, especially for those who no longer can.

Our words, our prayers, our actions can bring holiness into this world. It seems we can use a lot more of it these days.

Shalom,
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

Congregation and Religious School Directory

In response to many requests, we will be distributing, electronically, a Membership Directory and a Religious School Directory in the upcoming weeks. These directories will contain your name(s) and those of your children (where applicable) as well as your home address, e-mail address and primary telephone number (usually a land line).

While these directories are intended (and will be labeled as restricted) to be used to help facilitate communication within the Shir Shalom community, we recognize that some members may prefer not to have their personal contact information distributed and we are therefore offering an opportunity to "opt-out". If you choose to "opt-out", your name and other information will not be included in these directories as it is not practical to include some information while excluding other information.

Ideally, all of our members would be included in the directory, however, if you wish to "opt-out", please send an e-mail to "office@OurShirShalom.org" or call our office to let us know.



FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



On Friday evening January 20th we read Parsha Shmot, the first 6 chapters of the second book of the Torah – Exodus. We learned that a new king arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph and who felt uneasy about the ever growing population of Israelites who were living in Egypt. This is the setting for the Israelites to become enslaved and the birth and developing life of Moses.

The beginning of Exodus also acts as a reminder to the members of the ritual committee that it is time to begin planning our Congregational Second night Seder. The second night

of Passover this year occurs on Tuesday April 11. If you have attended in the past, or if you wish to be a “first-timer”, we hope you can join us this year. We

supply all the ritual foods, set-ups and wine. Each family is asked to choose from a prescribed list of main course items or desserts to bring to be used in a shared meal format. The last few years we have gotten overwhelmingly positive feedback as guests are able to share in a variety of foods with an even wider variety of family recipes.

So here are the details:

- Where? Congregation Shir Shalom pavilion
- When? Tuesday April 11, 2017 @ 6:00pm
- Who? People of ALL ages
- What? Joyful singing, community spirit, delicious foods
- Cost? \$18 per adult, \$10 per child , \$54 family maximum

Be on the lookout for additional information on how to sign up for the Seder

The clergy and the members of the ritual committee look forward to having you join us for this joyous and meaningful celebration of Pesach.

Michael Salpeter and Laurie Dubin

Religious School Program: Holocaust Survivor Presentation

Hungarian born Elizabeth Deutsch will share her own story of living through the Holocaust.

Sunday, March 19, 10:30 am- noon, Pavilion rooms, 1st floor.

For students in grades 6 and older, parents and congregants.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

What is public art and how can we use this medium to express our connection to Judaism and to our spiritual community at Shir Shalom? Last month, our Family Education Program for Grade 5 featured artist and congregational schoolteacher, Liza Freed who spends her days at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn. At this

synagogue, Liza and others helped teens to create a permanent mural that captured the essence of that community. We were lucky to have her make a presentation last month to our students and their parents; she will return this month to help students transfer their ideas about how they see our community as it relates to specific mitzvot—and then create a piece of public art for all to enjoy at Shir Shalom.



Public Art: Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem

Over the past months, the Religious School has twice hosted The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect for Family Ed programs: Art & Propaganda and From Bystander to Ally. Last year they presented, *Conversations with Anne* which began with a dramatic presentation and then an in-character Q&A session for parents and students.

This month, our Grade 4 family program will focus on Israel, a curriculum component featured in every grade. Cantor Debbie will teach Israeli dancing; there will be a collaborative Israel map activity; and then we will have a special Israeli-born and raised presenter who will answer questions to be prepared by students and their parents on specific topics that relate to life in Israel. Also this month, a grade 7 parent who is writing a book with her mother and sister will, together, present a program to grade families that will feature primary resource material comprising personal letters to their father/husband... from David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan... and Nazi architect, Albert Speer. Later this month, we will have a Sunday Passover program for Grades 2 & 3 (for students from both weekend & weekday sections) that will include making a collaborative quilt and other activities.

These are just some of the ways we are attempting to create smaller learning communities to include parents, grandparents and siblings. Students love this setting where they get to share a meaningful educational experience that relates to their Jewish learning with their families. We are grateful for all of the parents who are scheduling to attend these events; we count on members of the family to support what we are teaching at the Religious School. It is a combined effort, and the learning that takes place in the home, the sanctuary and at school helps to reinforce all of our sacred values and traditions.

With the upcoming Purim congregational service and Carnival (Sunday, March 12) to be hosted by Grade 7 families, we count on all of you to participate. These family programs and celebrations-- appearing regularly on the school and congregational calendars-- are a way to keep everyone engaged. We realize that everyone is busier than ever with endless activities scheduled for our children, and that is why your involvement is more important than ever. Besides all the good messaging parent participation engenders, it is simply a lot of fun, too.

And you can't have more fun than on Purim at this time of year. A recent post and photo on Twitter from The Onion, read: "Man spends whole day dreading fun activity he signed up for." We promise you will not regret it if you volunteer to make popcorn or cotton candy for the carnival—or help in another capacity. It is our hope that his will be a day the whole family will recall forever!

Besides family programs, there are so many ways to get involved with our school. There are an endless number of volunteer opportunities. Soon we will be looking for help with our school model seders, and then we will be asking for help with a Mitzvah Day (Sunday, May 7) Pancake STARS Party event. We welcome challah and hamantaschen bakers to our school -- and offers of help as our students make sandwiches for the Dorothy Day House in Danbury each month. You are most welcome to read a story to your child's grade or class. Perhaps you have a special talent that relates to our instructional program? Maybe you can help our students learn a piece of original Jewish music you have written-- like Sarah Larson (Rabbi Burstein's daughter) did for Grade 4. We welcome your ideas and initiatives. Whatever it is, if it can enrich and enhance our students' learning, we would be thrilled to have you step forward to volunteer.

Thanks for all you are doing to make our school community special—and for all of the many ways you plan to help in the future. As we are in the Early Registration period for the 2017-18 school year (February 15-June 15), please register your children knowing that we are a much stronger school because of all of our wonderful families who participate... way beyond the enrollment process. Thank you!

"During worship services, no matter how beautiful, I sometimes find myself distracted. While I feel a sense of community, I often don't feel the presence of God. Yet if God is in this place, as *Parashat Vayeitzei* suggests, I need to pay closer attention. I need to focus more completely on the words of prayer and take



FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer

At our Shir Shalom Early Childhood Center community, we like to give our young learners as many choices as possible. We make sure that there is always time for unstructured play in our daily schedule and try to include

elective activities whenever we can. We change the classroom frequently to present new options during free play.

Too often, our kids exist in educational environments in which they are simply plugged into a schedule of lessons and activities, moving from one planned program to the next. When students don't have control over their learning, school can feel like a chore. They start to learn that their thoughts and feelings don't matter, or don't have consequences. By providing choices, even before kindergarten, we allow our children to feel ownership and responsibility over the act of learning.

It is central to our goals that even our youngest students gain an appreciation for the experience of education and learning. Offering children choices shows them that they can be the leaders of their own learning and that their interests and passions matter. By fostering a healthy sense of curiosity, we help them develop a life-long motivation for seeking truth and fact. The focus is always on the process of this search and not necessarily the product.

Giving our students choices also allows them to practice the skill of making decisions on their own. They are able to see the power of the benefits of their actions in a safe and supportive environment. By exercising their sense of judgement, they gain confidence and learn that they are capable and deserving of control.

Not only do they gain confidence in their abilities, they also learn how to take responsibility for their actions by receiving appropriate consequences for their decisions. When a student chooses to play with blocks and the block area is left a mess, they learn how others are affected by their actions and how they can respond effectively to the feelings and responses of their peers and teachers.

It is always important to remind our children and ourselves that our voices and our choices matter and have power. When we give

our children the chance to take safe risks and make decisions on their own, we reaffirm our own ability to choose our own future, and shape the future of our communities.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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in more fully the beauty of the sanctuary, the music, and the congregational chanting. Wrapping myself in a tallit on Shabbat mornings helps me to do so, as does hearing the Torah chanted or read." Dr. Ellen, M. Umansky, the Carl and Dorothy Professor of Judaic Studies at Fairfield University, Director of the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies wrote these words.

Umansky's words resonate as I, like you, often find myself in a situation or place where I feel a sudden sense of holiness. It comes on like a glare of light or an inner vibration—and then it is gone as quickly as it comes. But there is a special glow left behind each time. These flashes set us apart as much as they bring us together when we experience holiness together. We are alone as individuals experiencing things as single units, so to speak. Then there is this beautiful, ineffable, unspoken connection we experience—sometimes in the sanctuary and even in places like the synagogue kitchen or the temple office! These feelings of specialness or holiness are intangible but feel very real. Dr. Umansky is quite clear that she would like these moments to happen more often during worship services and reveals a common ambition.

Maybe it is that we have to be ready to receive holiness. As students in the Religious School practice their prayers, drill down on their Hebrew reading skills and study culture and history—it is often in the momentary shared smiles or funny "bloopers" moments, if you will, where a strong sense of community and understanding is felt—a feeling that may elude us while practicing our religion in more formal ways. Setting up for an event like the Purim Carnival, with those of all ages working hand in hand to find wall outlets, making sure the food in the oven is warming just right or deciding where to hang posters, are times that seem to bond us and offer glimpses of something lofty. It offers such happiness to work with others of all ages to achieve so many goals—all at once. Is that a kind of holiness?

Understanding and defining holiness is a mystifying challenge. Secular schools are not expected to engage in this kind of goal-setting experience for their charges. At the Religious School, we are teaching such sensitive and personal lessons. Prayers are not words strung together for purposes of mindless recitation. We need to ask ourselves each time we teach about Gd and Judaism: What is the point of what we are doing exactly? What are the lingering effects of our lesson plans?

Each child may have a different point of view—and of course they do. That is where the shared beauty of mutual understanding enters the scene at the school. After class, and during the rest of the week including Shabbat, students have time to reflect on their studies, to grow, mature and re-interpret their assessments from prior weeks of learning. It is not something we can easily record in a progress notice for each child, but our teachers—given small classes so that real relationships exist and students can really share their ideas—can register a maturity and growth in each student.

This school year has brought us many special moments of holiness. Our clergy helps us to see the big picture when we come together. Whether a sense of holiness comes during a worship service or on a walk in the woods with friends or your dog... it is something wonderful to behold every time.

It isn't always easy to sense the Divine. According to the simple words of the great Elie Wiesel, z"l, "This isn't instant coffee. There is no instant mysticism."

Leslie Gottlieb

Religious School Director

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

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members of our community can share their perspectives during challenging times, and also find an environment that is focused on peace and tranquility. Spending some time at Shir Shalom can help one to feel rejuvenated; and, while doing so may not eliminate the anxiety and concerns, it can help to provide you with an opportunity to become better connected to the Shir Shalom community.

We close by sharing with you a photo taken by Nuccio DiNuzio, a photographer from the Chicago Tribune, at O'Hare Airport, Terminal 5, the arrivals terminal for international travelers. In this image, a Muslim girl and a Jewish boy sit atop their respective fathers' shoulders, looking and smiling directly at one another, holding signs, one that reads "Love" and the other, "Hate Has No Home Here."

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 Dan-

bury, 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!

Thank you to 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

A YIDDISH POET AND HER SON-IN-LAW, THE FOLK SINGER

Aliza Waitzman (later, Greenblatt) was born in Bessarabia in 1885. Bessarabia was part of the former Soviet Union, and is currently the territory encompassed by the independent state of Moldova. After her father died, her mother re-married, and Aliza, her stepfather, and three stepbrothers came to America in 1900. Aliza worked in the garment industry to help support the family until 1904, when her stepfather was able to bring her mother to this country. They settled in Philadelphia where Aliza worked in the garment industry and went to night school.

In 1907, Aliza married Isidor Greenblatt, also from Bessarabia, and they had five children. Aliza, even with responsibility of caring for her five children and maintaining her home, engaged herself in charitable work. When her family moved to Atlantic City, she formed a Yiddish Socialist charitable organization. After the British issued the Balfour Declaration showing their support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, Aliza formed a local branch of the Zionist Organization of America. She also became a fund-raiser for the Jewish National Fund. In addition, she was an active member of Hadassah, and became president of Pioneer Women, the Jewish Labor Organization formed in the 1920's.

In 1952, Aliza and her husband moved to Israel, but they found the living conditions after the War of Independence difficult, and they were homesick for their children and grandchildren. They decided to return to the United States and settle in Brooklyn. Now in her 60's, Aliza, interested in Yiddish poetry, began to devote her time to writing her own poems. She published five volumes of poetry, as well as many songs. Other well-known Yiddish poets praised her work, and even Theodore Bikel recorded some of her songs. Various Jewish women's organizations sponsored readings of her poetry. Aliza Greenblatt also became well known as a major activist, working towards the establishment of the State of Israel, and enlisting the support of Jewish women for that cause. Aliza's husband Isidor, also an ardent Zionist, supported a rug company in Israel for many years, with the hope that it could provide opportunities and resources for needy families. He died in 1960. Aliza died in 1975 after celebrating her 90th birthday.

Aliza's daughter Margorie had married a folk-singer/songwriter, and the couple moved into in a building across the street from Aliza in Brooklyn. Although Aliza's son-in-law was not Jewish, he was intrigued with Yiddish music and Judaism, and spent considerable time learning about the religion. He even took courses in Judaism at Brooklyn Community College. Aliza and her son-in-law had more in common than Judaism and music. They both had a strong feeling about the need for social justice and workers rights, while their mutual interest in music encouraged them to collaborate, writing songs about Jewish history, the Holocaust, and many Yiddish songs. They included several songs for Hanukkah such as: Hanukkah flame, Hanukkah Gelt, Spin Dreydl Spin, and Do the Latke Flip-Flip, The Hanukkah dance, and others.

Aliza's son-in-law also wrote other types of songs such as: I Ain't Got no Home, Deportees, Do Re Mi, The Sinking of the Reuben James, Roll on Columbia Roll On, So Long, It's been Good to Know You, Oklahoma Hills, and over 300 hundred more, including one of the most spiritually emotional American songs with verses like this one:

In the squares of the city, in the shadow of the steeple,

By the Relief Office, I saw my people,
As they stood there hungry, and I stood there asking,

Is this land made for you and me?

And this one:

Nobody living, can never stop me,
When I go walking down freedom's highway,
Nobody living, can make me turn back,
Because, this land belongs to you and me.

Aliza Greenblatt's son-in-law was the legendary folksinger, and the greatest writer of American folk music- **Woody Guthrie**.

Final notes-

Woody Guthrie's Yiddish songs had been lost for 30 years after his death until his daughter Nora discovered the lyrics. She was so intrigued with them that she asked the musical group, The Klezmatics,

to write new music for the lost lyrics. A recording, Woody Guthrie's Happy Joyous Hanukkah, containing twelve of these songs, is currently available on a CD.

Woody Guthrie and his wife Margorie had four children including Arlo Guthrie, the famous folk singer. Woody and Margorie eventually divorced but were re-united years later. Margorie devoted Woody's final years caring for him after he contracted a debilitating and terminal neuromuscular disease, Huntington's Chorea. After Woody died, Margerie founded an organization to help combat Huntington's Chorea.

Arlo talked about how he grew up in a Jewish home. His rabbi at his Bar Mitzvah was Meir Kahane, before he became the founder of the Jewish Defense League. Arlo reminisced about those Friday night Shabbat dinners at Grandma Aliza's house and how she made those unbelievable blintzes. The children called her "Bubbe". Despite all of this, at the age of 30, Arlo decided to convert to Catholicism. Apparently, his current religious activity is non-denominational, because he purchased a former church in Great Barrington, Mass., and converted it into the Guthrie Center for spiritual, educational, and cultural activities. According to his daughter Sarah Lee, the

theme of the religious activity of the Guthrie Center is, "All are welcome, bring your own God".

Reference

1. Holly Snyder, Adinia Anflück, Rachel S. Harrison; Guide to the Papers of Aliza Greenblatt, American Jewish Historical Society, 2016.
2. Suzanne A. Shavelson; Aliza Greenblatt, Jewish Women's Archive, 2009
3. Saul J. Singer; Woody Guthrie: Jewish Family, Jewish Music, Jewish Press.com, 2016
4. Tom Tugend; A Jewish Visit to Guthrie's Land, Jewish Journal.com, 2004



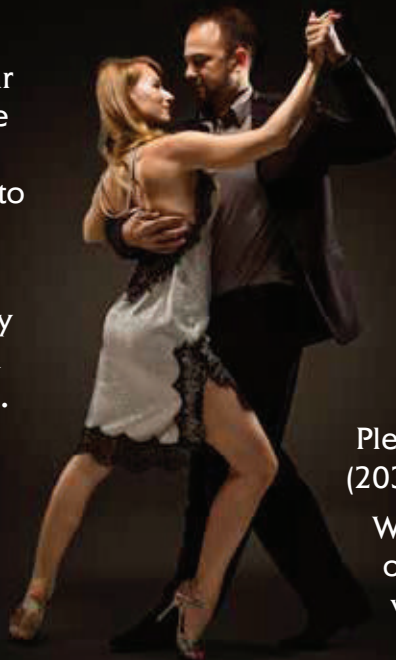
"Excerpts in Jewish History" is a regular feature in our Shir Shalom newsletter, written by Lewis Siegel, who wrote a similar series for Focus, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury. He is also the author of A Brief History of Modern Israel and The Evolution of Zionism.

Get Ready to Rumba!

Are you attending a bat/bar mitzvah or a wedding in the near future?

Get ready by learning how to Rumba and Foxtrot!

We will have an instructor from Dias Dance, a company renowned for excellence in teaching ballroom dancing. This ballroom dance class will be offered at Shir Shalom on Sunday, March 26 from 9:15 to 10:15 am, while Religious School is in session.



Bagels and coffee will follow from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Cost: \$10 per couple, \$5 per individual.

Registration in advance is required.

Please call the temple office at (203) 438-6589 to register.

We especially hope that parents of our religious school students will participate!

SISTERHOOD

by Susan Bard and Tesa Baum



Happy March! We are on the tail end of winter now, and we have some fun events to look forward to as we head into spring. A

good time was had by all who came to Adam Broderick night for some pampering, noshing and kibitzing.

If you didn't make it to Adam Broderick night, be sure to come out for Painting & Nosh on March 15th! This fun event will be held at Georgetown School of the Arts at 7pm. Wine and cheese served. This event is limited to 20 people, so email steph1herbstman@aol.com to sign up! The \$35 fee is payable by check or credit card. (If you'd like to pay by credit card, please indicate that in your RSVP and someone will be in touch with an online payment link.)

We'd also like to make a plug for Mitzvah Day, organized by the Social Action Committee! Put May 7th on your calendar and join your fellow congregants for our annual day of service for the whole family.

In Sisterhood tzedakah news, our charity for March is World Jewish Relief. As a UK based international Jewish charity, WJR is committed to meeting the needs of individuals and communities living in poverty, assisting them in the transformation of their lives and livelihoods.

For more information and to make your own donation, visit <https://www.world-jewishrelief.org/>.

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 or visit us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShirShalomSisterhood>.



Religious School

Grade 5

Family Education Project

2017

Stop by the synagogue to see this beautiful, new piece of artwork!



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



CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM
of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Abby Aframe	Robin Heit
Holly Alexander	Richard Hellinger
Craig Altman	Emily Herbstman
Max Axler	Alexander Herbstman
Jason Bangser	Judith Hirt-Manheimer
Alexis Barrett	Jesse Hisiger
Robin Bartley-Cohen	Taylor Hoffman
Jaime Bartley-Cohen	Laurel Honig
Harley Baum	Carter Hughes
Tracy Benson	Terry Kalter
Julia Besterman	Jamie Kaplan
Jacob Bodner	Dayna Kaplan
Joshua Bolgar	Jeffrey Klotz
Kevin Brand	Julia Knispel
Ethan Broder	Dr. Jeffrey Knispel
Andrew Carter	Lisa Kurtz
Aaron Cohen	Kelly Lash
Ellen Conti	Terrence Levens
David deLange	Jeffrey Levi
Lana Dubin	Kenneth Litwin
Blake Edson	Amy Margulies
Andrew Emmer	Asher Meister-Aldama
Zachary Fischman	Josh Meyer
Amy Fishkin	Wendy Meyer
Deborah Gantwerker	Austin Omin
Scott Gantwerker	Jessica Pollack
Michael Gilbert	Lisa Pollack
Andrew Glicklich	Michael Portnoy
Mark Glicklich	Harrison Rappaport
Maxine Gorelick	Rabbi Fred Reiner
Leslie Gottlieb	Noah Rose
David Gottlieb	Andrew Rose
Rannon Gray	Ari Rosenbaum
Jeremy Haber	Sophie Rudin
Jay Heffler	Julie Sacks

Dylan Salpeter	Benjamin Voellmicke
Howard Samuels	Kurt Voellmicke
Wynter Schnell	Beth Waldman
Jordan Schwartz	Bennett Wattles
Fulvio Segalla	Dr. Emily Wein
Alexa Stevelman	David Yolen
Murray Tarnapoll	Will Yolen
Alisa Trachtenberg	Jane Zeitz
Seth Levi Tubbs	Lily Zezula
Isabel Voellmicke	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Edward and Ana Barth
 Ken and Ellen Elias
 Bryan and Jamie Garrett
 Paul and Barbara Heller
 Martin and Hanky Kutscher
 Steven and Deborah Landzberg
 Robert and Judith Strom

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!





Federation for Jewish Philanthropy



Friends of the IDF Invite You To
A Connecticut Community Concert Featuring

THE IDF BAND

Meet Active Duty IDF Soldiers

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 • 7:00PM

The Conservative Synagogue of Westport

30 Hillspoint Rd, Westport, CT 06880

Community Partners

(List in Formation)

Beit Chaverim Synagogue

Beth Israel of Westport/Norwalk

Chabad of Westport

Congregation Beth El of Norwalk

Congregation B'nai Israel

Congregation Shir Shalom

Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of
Upper Fairfield County

Hadassah of Westport

Schneerson Center for Jewish Life

Staples High School FIDF Club

Staples High School Israeli Culture Club

Temple Shalom of Norwalk

Temple Sinai of Stamford

The Conservative Synagogue

Free Concert.

Open to the Community.

Due to security, registration
is **REQUIRED**.

For further information please
contact Ali Picheny at

646-274-9645

ali.picheny@fidf.org

Due to heightened security, all attendees
must present photo ID at registration. We
reserve the right to refuse admission to
the event or remove patrons from the
venue for any reason at our sole
discretion.

Their job is to look after Israel.
Ours is to look after them.



MARCH Yahrzeiten

Friday, March 3, 2017

Blanche Agisim	mother of Elliot Agisim	Maurice Kupersmidt	grandfather of Karen Winters
Leonard Brodnick		Lottie Mirkin	grandmother of Judith Strom
Ada Dolin	grandmother of Rachel Bender	Melvin Moss	father of David Moss
Marcelle Goldstein	cousin of Margery Wallach	Irving Reichenenthal	father of Sandra Rosenhouse
Marcelle Goldstein	cousin of Wendy Wallach-DeLucia	Max Rifkin	
Sadye Hisiger	mother of Miles Hisiger	Freda Salmon	grandmother of Jillian Chipman
Felicia Israel-Mucciolo		Max Schenk	stepfather of Allan Gottlieb
Richard Klein	father of Dayna Kaplan	James Taylor	father in law of Karen Taylor

Friday, March 10, 2017

Harvey Alterman	husband of Rhonda Manus	Moses Fergenson	uncle of Michael Bergman
Samuel Auerbach	father of Michelle Auerbach-Sherr	Florence Fine	grandmother of Peter Fine
Pauline Berkowitz	grandmother of Stephen Heit	Herman Rosenthal	grandfather of Susan Westlake
Elliot Bernstein	father of Meredith Rudin	Aida Ryan	mother of Eve Siegel
Amy Cohen	sister of Adam Cohen	Louis Sapir	father of Margaret Sapir
Seymour Drucker	grandfather of Janine Gordon	Douglas Schwartz	brother of Vicki Yolen
Frederick Eisenberg	father of Arlene Burg	Douglas Schwartz	son of Annabel Schwartz
Albert Elkin	grandfather of Stephanie Herbstman	Irvin Slotnik	father of Jacqueline Goldner
Sam Farber	father of Hildi Glicklich	Beatrice Strom	mother of Robert Strom

Friday, March 17, 2017

Lyubov Dashevskaya	grandmother of Vladimir Gogish and Ilya Gogish	Gloria Margolis	mother of Elise Aries
Anne Elias	mother of Ken Elias	Fred Murad	brother of Menashe Murad
Maurice Hankin	grandfather of Andrew Bodner	Bernard Paskin	grandfather of Karen Winters
Ben Hecker	grandfather of Bruce Winters	Jeanne Perrin	mother of Charles Perrin
Morris Heller	father of Paul Heller	Betty Ravitch	grandmother of Michael Gitlitz
Jerome Howard	father of Laurie Dubin	Charles Warton	brother of Gale Berman

Friday, March 24, 2017

Michael Davis	brother of Jay Davis	George Levenson	uncle of Karen Brenner
Eva Engel	grandmother of Robin Heit	Leon Levy	husband of Shelby White
Morton Eydenberg	father of Susan Westlake	Esther Mirkin	mother of Judith Strom
David Adam Hagen	brother of Ellen Lipton	Helen Pilch	mother of Alan Pilch
David Adam Hagen	son of Renee Hagen	Elsie Rudy	
Anna Jacobson	grandmother of Karen Conti	Sam Schmeltzer	
Anna Jacobson	father of Laura Steinhorn	Tillie Schmeltzer	mother of Resa Fremed
Milton Kamler	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld		

Friday, March 31, 2017

Bernard Benjamin		David Leitner	father of Ian Leitner
Daniel Berlin	brother of Ruth Ossher	Dr. Allen C. Peyser	grandfather of Jennifer Castelha-
Ellen Cohen	mother of Rich Cohen	Anne Elizabeth Raynor	

Harry Cohen	grandfather of Steven Kaye	Mollie Sapir	grandmother of Margaret Sapir
Alvin Farans	father of Danielle Finke	Louis Rubinfeld	grandfather of Adam Rubinfeld
Richard Ruo	father of Eileen Segalman	Kenneth Henry	father of Robert Henry
Barbara Gray	aunt of Scott Gray	Robert Sigman	friend of Michael and Gale Berman
Eleanor Salzman	aunt of Mitchell Rapoport	Francis Horvilleur	father of Laurence Furic
Louis Grayson	friend of Donald Gordon	Emmy Sternberger	grandmother of Alice Gottlieb
Harry Sapir	grandfather of Margaret Sapir	Mary E. Keleher	mother of Catherine Mishkin
Eva Greenberg	mother of Adrienne Orlan	Barbara Traynor Stoll	mother of Susan Andrade

We extend condolences to...

Larry Morley and family—following the death of Larry's mother, Zelda Morley

Celebrate Jewish Arts and Culture at Shir Shalom



Richard Cohen, author of
The Fish That Ate the Whale



AUTHOR TALK at
Congregation Shir Shalom
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.



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

Jill Teich— Jill@halprince.com

We Appreciate Your Generosity

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Roberta Margolis

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We are in regular contact with the Ridgefield Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League and review our security procedures regularly. In recent weeks there have been a number of threats to Jewish Community Centers around the country including JCCs in Westchester and Connecticut. All threats are taken seriously, though none have been deemed credible and no devices have been found. Our exterior doors are kept locked during office hours and all visitors are now required to sign in at our office and show a valid photo id. Our building is also swept regularly by our staff. The Ridgefield Police have been very helpful in advising us and our synagogue is included in the patrol route. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office (office@OurShirShalom.org; 203-438-6589).

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of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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

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

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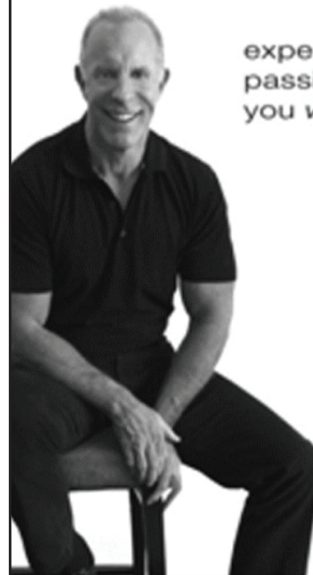
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MARCH 2017

ADAR/NISAN 5777

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Hebrew School	2 12 Noon- "Lunch & Learn" with Howard Blum Hebrew School	3 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 5:30pm- Pre-service nosh 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ grades 2 & 3 "Kugel Kontest"	4 9:00 am- Torah 101
5 Hebrew School <i>Sandwiches for service</i>	6	7	8 12 Noon-Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School	9 Hebrew School 7:00pm- Sisterhood Comedy Night 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 5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Worship, Bat Mitzvah: Allison Kramer
12 Hebrew School- Purim Carnival 10:15 am- Purim Service PURIM	13	14	15 12 Noon-Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School 7:00pm- Sisterhood painting event 7:00pm-FIDF Concert	16 Hebrew School	17 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	18 9:00 am Torah 101 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Andrew Knispel 12:00 pm Kiddush luncheon in honor of Andrew Knispel
19 Hebrew School- Gr.6- Holocaust speaker	20	21	22 12 Noon-Shir Shalom Stitchers Hebrew School	23 Hebrew School	24 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm A Suite Shabbat	25 5:00pm Shabbat Afternoon Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Adam Portnoy
26 Hebrew School <i>Family Education Grades 2 & 3</i> 9:15-10:15 am Rumba class	27	28	29 Hebrew School 6:15pm- Religious School staff mtg.	30 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Haddon Hebrew School <i>Sandwiches for Service</i>	31 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	

The deadline for submission for the April 2017 Shir Shalom is Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Thank you.



**CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM**

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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SAVE THE DATE!

SHIR SHALOM'S MITZVAH DAY

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 center 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!

**For more information or to sign up contact our Social Action Committee
at SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org**