

NOVEMBER 2017
CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5778

Our Shir Shalom



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 3 | 6:00 pm | Kabbalat Shabbat Worship |
| Nov. 4 | 10:30 am | Shabbat Morning Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Zachary Amerling |
| Nov. 10 | 5:30 pm 7:30 pm | Tot Shabbat 2.0 Ruach Shabbat |
| Nov. 11 | 10:30 am | Shabbat Morning Worship, Bar Mitzvah: Kyle Leitner |
| Nov. 17 | 7:30 pm | Kabbalat Shabbat Worship |
| Nov. 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
Website: www.OurShirShalom.org



Celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah!



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

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

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

David L. Reiner MAHL
RabbiReiner@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 Cohan, Trustee

Terry Henry, Trustee

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>Co-Presidents' Message</i> | <i>page 3</i> |
| <i>Cantor's Corner</i> | <i>page 4</i> |
| <i>Ritual Committee</i> | <i>page 5</i> |
| <i>Early Childhood Center</i> | <i>page 5</i> |
| <i>Religious School</i> | <i>page 6</i> |
| <i>Excerpts in Jewish History</i> | <i>page 7</i> |
| <i>Sisterhood</i> | <i>page 9</i> |
| <i>Social Action</i> | <i>page 10</i> |
| <i>Celebrations</i> | <i>page 13</i> |
| <i>Yahrzeiten</i> | <i>page 14</i> |
| <i>Donations</i> | <i>page 16</i> |
| <i>Calendar</i> | <i>page 19</i> |

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE by Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin



Following the High Holy Days, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah, our congregation has been bustling with new activities, recognition, and social action initiatives. We are delighted that congregants are becoming more engaged and hope, if you have not yet done so, you will find an opportunity to do so in the near future.

Sisterhood, chaired by Nancy Cavillones, has begun a new "season" and had a wonderful, well attended, kick off dinner hosted by Nicole Rose. Gale participated and had a fun evening, as did all the women who attended. On October 18th, Sisterhood began a new knitting class which is open to all, from beginners to accomplished knitters. This group will be meeting periodically throughout the year. There are

many other wonderful activities planned for Sisterhood this year so stay tuned.

Social action led by Debbie Lavin and Debbie Landzberg continues to have an important positive impact on the community beyond Shir Shalom. The recent High Holy Days food drive was a great success thanks to all of you who contributed and allowed us to support three local food banks in Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Our annual coat drive is currently underway, and you will find the collection box in our temple lobby. Our Chanukah Gift Drive will focus on collecting gifts for children in November for "Chasdei Bracha" which holds their annual Chanukah party where they distribute these gifts to Jewish children living in poverty in Brooklyn. Our "Breakfast Run" is looking for volunteers to help bring food, clothing and toiletries to NYC's homeless on November 19th. We need extra "hands" at the temple on November 18 and 19 to help pack and cook breakfast, respectively. To help us purchase hats, gloves, scarves, sweat-shirts and thermal underwear which is distributed during the Breakfast Run, we are asking for monetary donations. The Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, which we visit once monthly, can always use a few volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to folks in need. There are many other wonderful mitzvah opportunities, and we encourage you to join in with our Social Action Committee.

"Neirot", which is geared toward the active adult/empty nester members of our community (although all are very welcome), led by Jackie Goldner and Resa Fremed has kicked off the year with a dinner and documentary about Theodore Bikel, followed by a discussion and impromptu Yiddish music by Rabbi Jon Haddon.

(con't. on page 9)

THE CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray



Please mark your calendars for these special musical services!
 Looking forward to a great year of music-
 Many thanks to Rabbi Reiner for all his guidance and support!
 Shalom,
 Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

SPIRITED AND SOULFUL SHABBAT AT SHIR SHALOM

2017-18 (5778) FRIDAYS

October 13 — **BETH STYLES**
7:30 PM

Composer of award-winning
new Jewish music
Vocalist, pianist, arranger



November 10 — **BETH STYLES AND
MARK FINEBERG**
7:30 PM

Reed artist—saxophone, flute,
clarinet, veteran of Broadway,
blues, pop, R and B, jazz and
klezmer!



December 15 — **CHANUKAH RUACH**
7:30 PM

A Musical Celebration!

January 12 — **MUSIC SHABBAT
SPIRITUALS FOR
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**
7:00 PM

Gigi Van Dyke and the
Serendipity Chorale sing spirituals
in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



February 9 — **MARK FINEBERG**
7:30 PM

March 9 — **BETH STYLES**
7:30 PM

March 23 — **MUSIC SHABBAT
A SUITE SHABBAT**
7:30 PM

Julian Schwarz, cellist,
Marika Bournaki pianist,
Paul Frucht, composer



April 13 — **BETH STYLES**
7:30 PM

April 27 — **MUSIC SHABBAT
LEON SHER**
7:30 PM

Cantor, music director,
composer



**Celebrating Cantor
Debbie's 18th year!**

May 11 — **MUSIC SHABBAT
ISRAELI SONGS**
7:30 PM

Teen Emissaries

May 25 — **MARK FINEBERG**
7:30 PM

June 8 — **BETH STYLES**
7:30 PM



FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer

Childhood is the ideal time to teach your child about justice. From the Jewish perspective this is why we teach about tzedakah.

Children of all ages understand that justice helps to even out the playing field between people, and that fair treatment is preferred to favoritism. So children naturally understand the Jewish ideals behind tzedakah.

As parents and teachers we know our children best. We try to help each child understand that in the end, one of the best ways to help make our world a more just, fair place is to share the resources we have with others who don't have them. For every child who has ever fought over a toy, this concept makes complete sense.

Putting a penny in a jar is fun. But putting a penny into a can painted and decorated by your your class is much more fun. Each class at The Early Childhood Center made a class tzedekah box. On Fridays we carry the coins to our Congregation Shir Shalom community tzedekah box. Did you know we have one?

We sing: "Give a penny, give a penny, give a penny one or two.. To help out other children who don't have as

much as you."

The excitement lies not just in the collecting but in the determination of the worthiest cause. In December and again in May we empower the children in our school to choose where the money will be donated. Everyone in our ECC community has the opportunity to have a voice.



A heavy tzedekah box is a sign of "mission accomplished." Part of accomplishing that mission, however, is determining how much is actually in the box. We sort and count the contents of our tzedekah box.... And then we start over again. Just like everything else in our Jewish calendar, collecting and donating is part of our cycle of the year.

SAVE THE DATE -

SUNDAY 12/17 3:00-4:30

A Magical Hanukkah Celebration

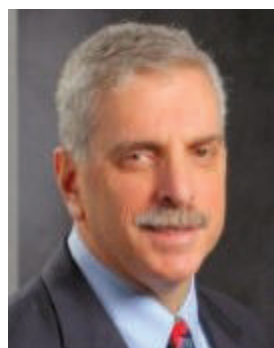
Priority Registratation for all ECC programs (2018/19 school year) begins 11/1/2017

RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



When the month of Tishrei begins with the first day of Rosh Hashanah we look forward to the joy of the new year. Just 14 days later we celebrate the fall harvest with the festival of Sukkot. Here at Congregation Shir Shalom we hosted our annual "Pizza in the Hut" evening where our younger children helped welcome in Sukkot by decorating our sukkah with their



own art projects, having their fill of pizza, followed by a festive Shabbat service. On October 13 Cantor Katchko-Gray presented the first musical Shabbat featuring Beth Styles, a service which also contained a moving tribute to Rabbi Marcus Burstein z"l. On October 21 on the secular calendar we ushered in the month of Cheshvan, also historically called Marcheshvan. Some say that the prefix "mar" refers to the Hebrew word for bitter, hence referring to the month as bitter Cheshvan, as it is the only month in the Hebrew calendar which does not contain a major festival. There may be no festivals in Marcheshvan but that doesn't stop us at Congregation Shir Shalom from making an exciting month for ourselves.

(con't. on page 8)



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

Why talk about Jewish summer camp now?

Last month, URJ Camp Director of Operations, James Gelsey, came to Shir Shalom and visited with Religious School families at our Sunday student service to talk about life at Eisner Camp-- and other fine URJ sites. Then we held an informational meeting for parents who are seriously considering this as a new option for their families. To them I say, register as soon as possible! As a parent of a former Eisner camper, I see now that I held off for too many years-- but luckily we did not miss this once in a lifetime chance for our daughter.

Those who attend Jewish summer camps—and their parents—will talk about how camp can be a life-changing experience, if you show any interest. As a former camp parent, I am glad I listened to others whose influence led our family to enroll our daughter in Eisner Camp when she was eleven. Well over a decade ago, Jane Emmer, Director of our wonderful ECC, tried to convince me that Eisner Camp would change the lives of my children. I'm sorry it took a few years for me to act on this decision.

As children, our two sons attended golf and nature camp programs. Their little sister had a negative experience at a week-to-week overnight program and she decided she would never try another sleep away camp—ever. Thank goodness she put her trust in Eisner as her experience as a camper and counselor made an enormous impact on her life—to this date. She is twenty-four now, a third year special education teacher living and working in NYC and also attends graduate school part-time for her Masters degree in education. And I believe her Eisner Camp life guides her every day, still.

Over the past few months, our daughter and her half-dozen adult Eisner friends have: traveled to Portland, Oregon to watch the lunar eclipse, been honored as an alumni group at camp over a summer weekend for having had the strongest participation in raising funds for the Camp Scholarship Fund (this group traveled to Israel together for a month as part of the camp experience while in high school-- and I was fortunate to visit them there), shared Shabbat dinner in NYC with dozens of alumni young adults at an Eisner Reunion, enjoyed a homespun Yom Kippur break-fast in Brooklyn hosted by two Eisner friends who are roommates... and the list goes on.

All of her camp friends have deep Jewish connections to this day; one friend who worked after college as a synagogue school teacher full-time--and who led a Family Ed program for grade 5 last year at Shir Shalom and created

the framed artwork near the steps of the school-- now works for Repair the World, an organization that tries to place twenty and thirty year-olds together for social action projects. Camp made all the difference for these young people. It shows in their everyday lives so many years later.

Shir Shalom sends close to thirty youngsters and counselors to URJ summer camps (check out: <https://urjyouth.org/programdirectory-type/overnight-camp/>) each summer. This list includes: Harlam, Eisner, Crane Lake, Six Points Sci-Tech/ Sports/Creative Arts Academies, and many others (see list below for some specialty programs).

Rabbi Reiner and his family go to camp each year, too! Our rabbi becomes part of the camp staff for a week each summer-- and we visit our students on another date with gifts on hand. It is important for us to support this effort as Jewish camping is a super fun way to reinforce all that we try to teach and instill during the school year.

With nearly twenty new Religious School students this year, we are hoping to engage more families to consider camp for their youngsters. The leadership, provided by staff rabbis, educators and well-trained counselors-- and Machon (leaders in training) helps to make the Jewish camp experience deeply and uniquely meaningful. Jewish values are a living thing at camp and lessons follow campers onto the ball fields and into their bunks. Sharing, caring and making moral decisions all day long are part of very fun and active summer days.

As a mother of a former camper, I can say that camp lives inside our daughter to this day every day— and the values and friendships experienced at Eisner inform who she is as an adult. I can say this about many of our college age congregant counselors, too. In fact, more than friendships, relationships of campers become a lot more like those of brothers and sisters. They are richer people because of camp. That's so much more than eight weeks of fun... all these years later.



EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

By Lewis Siegel

MUSLIM -JEWISH RELATIONS; THE BAD, THE GOOD AND THE BEST

Muslim-Jewish relations have alternated between good and bad from the inception of Islam in the 7th century C.E. to the present time. In 624-627 CE, when Mohammad was rejected by the Jews of Medina (Yathrib) to be their prophet, he turned his wrath on them and banished two tribes from the city, the Banu Nadir and the Banu Qaynuqa. The third Jewish tribe, the Banu Qurayza, was accused of conspiring with Mohammad's enemies from Mecca, and the men were slaughtered or forcefully converted to his beliefs, and the women and children were enslaved.

However, there were occasions when Muslims showed good will towards Jews. In 638 CE, Caliph Omar al-Khattah, head of the Umayyad dynasty, respected the Jews and called them "people of the book". He urged them to return to Jerusalem after about a 500-year absence due to Roman oppression. Another example of Muslim good will toward the Jews was around 1190 CE, when Caliph Saladin, founder of the Ayubbid dynasty, also urged those Jews who had been forced out by the Crusaders, to return to Jerusalem.

From the 10th through the 12th centuries, life for the Jews under Muslim rule in Spain was relatively good. Many scholars refer to that period as the Golden Age, though others question that description. Despite generally good relations, there was an occasional pogrom, most notably the one in Granada in 1066, in which about 4000 Jews were killed.

The very best Muslim-Jewish relations occurred in Albania during World War II. This story was suppressed during the entire Soviet Union occupation of Albania in the latter part of the 20th century. In 2002, noted photographer Norman H. Gershman heard a remarkable story while he was conducting research on righteous gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Mordechai Paladiel of the Yad Vashem Righteous Department notified Gershman about how Albanian Muslims who, along with Christians, saved almost all the Jews in Albania during World War II. Gershman, along with fellow photographer Stuart Huck, launched a six-year study that included many trips to Albania to piece together this material. This led to a book by Gershman entitled, *Besa: Mus-*

lims Who Saved Jews in WWII (Syracuse University Press, 2008). The book preceded a documentary film in 2012 entitled, *Besa, the Promise**.

Just prior to World War II, the Muslims in Albania comprised about 70% of the population. In those pre-war years, Jews experienced very little anti-Semitism in Albania. In fact, in 1937, the Jewish community was given official recognition by the government. British journalist Leo Elton, had suggested to the president of Hebrew University in Jerusalem that Albania would be an excellent homeland for the Jews. The Jewish population of Albania at the beginning of World War II was about 600, including about 400 refugees. In 1939, Italy invaded and then annexed Albania. Jewish refugees entered Albania because it was reputed to be a safe haven. Most found refuge in the interior of the country. They assimilated into Albanian society aided by the humanity of the Albanian people, Muslims and Christians.

In 1943, Germany conquered Albania from Italy. By then, about 2000 Jews were living there, resulting from an influx of well over 1000 refugees who had escaped from other European countries. Albania at that time was an unusual choice for refugees for it was now a German occupied country, and the Germans demanded that Albanian officials turn over the names of all the Jews and known refugees. The Albanian officials refused. The Albanians, Moslem and Christians responded magnificently by taking virtually all of the Jews into their homes, where they remained protected until the war was over. The Jews lived in disguise by receiving Albanian clothing and names, and essentially made members of their host families. Because of the extraordinary unselfish, and in fact courageous action by the Albanian non-Jewish population, there were almost no Jews captured by the Nazis. At war's end, Albania had a much greater Jewish population than it did at the beginning, despite the Nazi occupation. 69 Albanians are enshrined among the righteous in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. There were probably several hundred more who should have been included, but whose names were lost during the 45 years of Soviet suppression of information.

(con't. on next page)

It should be pointed out that not all Albanians were the type of heroes described here, particularly the ones living in Kosovo. In 1941, the Germans invaded and essentially dismembered Yugoslavia. They forced the Kosovo region, with its large ethnic Albanian population, to be annexed to Albania. Some Kosovo Albanians formed a military unit called the Skenderbeg Division. They joined the Nazi Waffen SS, and engaged in ethnic cleansing of the Serbs of Kosovo. Thousands of Serbs were killed or sent to concentration camps. Among them were several hundred Jews who did not survive the war.

But despite the despicable behavior of those Kosovo Albanians, the courage shown by hundreds of other Albanians, mostly Muslims who risked their lives to save Jews, was the most remarkable example of how Jews and Muslims could live together.

**Besa is an Albanian word derived from a set of laws written about 600 years ago, by an Albanian prince, Leke Dukagjini. It means "promise" but has an expanded meaning that indicates a sacred oath that an Albanian takes to care for those in dire need.*

References:

1. Cama, Aida; Top Stories; Albanians Saved Jews from Deportation in WW II, December 2012.
2. Scheib, Ariel; Albania; Jewish Virtual History Tour; 2011
3. History of the Jews in Albania; Wikipedia; 2012
4. Lolja, Saimir; The Albania Besa- The Golden Rule, Prishtina Press 2011 or 2012.



"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.

RITUAL COMMITTEE (con't.)

On November 3 our Shabbat service at 6 pm includes our 6th grade religious school students presenting an interesting project based on that evening's Torah reading. November 10 sees the return of tot Shabbat at 5:30 pm which includes dinner and a brief musical service geared to children under the age of 6. Later that evening at 7:30 is our Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring two of our favorite musicians, Beth Styles and Mark Fineberg which promises to be a spectacular musical service. Looking ahead a little bit the December 1 service at 6 pm includes a presentation by the 5th grade religious school students. In addition, we have Shabbat morning services on November 4 and 11, which include Zachary Amerling and Tyler Leitner becoming B'nai Mitzvah respectively on those days. If you feel a lit-

tle down with daylight becoming shorter, if you feel the bitterness of no major festivals, come feel the spiritual warmth of our ritual activities this month at Congregation Shir Shalom.



SISTERHOOD

by Nancy Cavillones



Happy fall, Sisters. I hope everyone had a sweet New Year. It was wonderful to see you at High Holiday services.

The Sisterhood Kick-Off was held at the home of Nicole Rose on Tuesday, October 10th. The event was free and open to members and prospective members of Sisterhood. We enjoyed an evening of delicious food, good wine, great music and an opportunity to come together as a true sisterhood.

On Friday, October 20th, the Sisterhood sponsored the oneg Shabbat. We were glad to have so many of you join us for services!

Save the date for our Chanukah dinner! By popular demand, the dinner will be held at Bernard's in Ridgefield, on Thursday, December 14th. More details to come!

Every month, the Sisterhood makes tzedakah. Your Sisterhood dues help support our charitable efforts. In addition to making a monetary donation, the Sisterhood is exploring service projects, both locally and internationally. If you would like to help spearhead the service project initiative, please get in touch!

In September, the Sisterhood made a donation to American Jewish World Services, which provides aid all over the world. To learn more about AJWS, or to make your own donation, visit

<https://ajws.org>.

This month, in honor of Breast Cancer Month, a donation was made to The National Breast Cancer Coalition. To learn more about NBCC, or to make your own donation, visit <http://www.breastcancerdeadline2020.org/>.

Fall is a great season for hiking, and learning to knit! If you are interested in either, please get in touch at sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org and we'll send you the information.

Please join us on Facebook! Just search for Shir Shalom Sisterhood. Hope to see you soon!

Nancy Cavillones

Sisterhood President

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE (con't.)

Hal participated and reported that it was a wonderful evening and he confirmed that Rabbi Haddon does indeed sing in Yiddish and that he was awesome, even if Hal could not understand a word. We hope that many of you will consider attending future Neiroi activities during the year. The next dinner / film event is on Saturday evening, November 11. You can refer to the weekly e-blast for more information or contact Jackie and Resa at Neiroi@OurShirShalom.org.

There are so many other exciting activities going on but so little space in this column to write about them. Please be sure to check our weekly e-blasts for upcoming events.

We would be remiss if we failed to close this column without telling you about our very special memorial Shabbat Service held on October 13th, the first yahrtzeit of our beloved Rabbi Marcus Burstein. The sanctuary was filled with beautiful music when Beth Styles accompanied Cantor Debbie. Our congregants, Michelle Blum and Michael Salpeter, who were

especially close to Rabbi Burstein, spoke eloquently of Rabbi Burstein's impact on them and on others. Rabbi Burstein was deeply committed to social justice and advocacy and it was so appropriate to have Rabbi David Saperstein, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and a colleague of Rabbi Burstein (during his years working for the Union For Reform Judaism), join us for Shabbat. Rabbi Saperstein offered a very special sermon, speaking often of how very special Rabbi Burstein was.

When you next come to Shir Shalom, take notice of the beautiful dogwood tree that has been planted as a memorial in memory of our beloved Rabbi Marcus Burstein. An appropriate plaque with inscription has been placed at the base of the tree. The tree and plaque were formally dedicated during the October 13 Shabbat service but we will be arranging additional opportunities around this memorial tree to honor Rabbi Burstein.

SOCIAL ACTION

by Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin

**Our High Holy Day Food Drive Was a Success!**

We collected and donated well more than 275 bags of food and \$225 in gift cards
to three local food pantries:

The Community Center of Northern Westchester, The Daily Bread Food Pantry, Ridgefield Food Pantry

A big thank you to

- Our congregants, whose generosity will benefit many hundreds of people in need!
 - Our religious school students, who handed out bags after HHD services
 - The 7th grade class who delivered, sorted and shelved many dozens of bags of food at the Community Center in Katonah.
 - Our parent chaperones Laura Fiderer, Betsy Higgins, and Karen Lustig who joined us at the Community Center along with Debbie Lavin, our dedicated teachers Ruth Ossher and Michael Salpeter and our devoted religious school principal Leslie Gottlieb
 - Miguel Cardenas, Laura Morris, Lorilee Palazzo and Leidy Restrepo whose help is always greatly appreciated!
- And to Trader Joe's of Danbury who generously donated several hundred paper bags!

Thank you to this month's volunteers:

- Cantor Debbie, Nancy Cavillones, Meredith Eichner, Bonnie Pazer, Polly Schnell, Lynne Stark and Vicky Yolen for their work on behalf of Daily Bread Food Pantry
- Carrie Chanin and Jeremy Haber who helped prep and serve a meal to hungry clients of Dorothy Day Hospitality House
- Resa Fremed, Polly Schnell and Rabbi Haddon for bringing the joy of Shabbat to the Jewish women of Danbury's Federal Corrections Institute.
- Matthew Sherter for presenting the meaningful volunteer opportunities at Laurel Ridge Nursing Home during our religious school service.

Volunteers needed...

for our upcoming Breakfast "Run" to bring food, clothing and toiletries to NYC's homeless
Sat., 11/18, 12 pm – 3 pm: Packing Day and Food Prep
Sunday, 11/19, 6 am – 12 pm: Caravan to NYC
Participate in this meaningful effort with other dedicated volunteers!

And the Blood Drive is Coming!

(date to be determined)

Let us know of your interest in making outreach phone calls, hanging posters and helping out during the event!

Help us help others this year!

One-time and ongoing opportunities available for everyone

(...also project co-leaders needed to help oversee any of these important programs as a team!)

Contact SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org

Come join the program at Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School!



Free Introductory Sessions!

Sunday, October 15 at 9–9:45 am OR

Wednesday, October 18 at 4:30–5:15 pm

4 Sunday Classes

9:15 am–12:15 pm

11/19, 12/10, 1/7, 2/4

Together we can raise our children to be

RESPONSIBLE RESPECTFUL & RESOURCEFUL

Positive Discipline of Connecticut introduces a program that will provide you with the tools and skills necessary to create a home environment built on encouragement, cooperation, communication, and mutual respect.

Join us in learning the Positive Discipline way. For information, or to sign up for classes, please visit:



www.positivedisciplinect.org

Cost: \$199 individual, \$339 couple for 4 sessions.

Make checks payable to Positive Discipline of Connecticut
P O Box 103, Brookfield, CT 06804, or use PayPal link.

Preregister and payment by 11/5.

For more information, contact carol@positivedisciplinect.org



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

46 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
203-438-6589 • www.OurShirShalom.org

CHANUKAH GIFT DRIVE

Our tradition continues....

For many years, our temple community has donated thousands of gifts to needy children at Chasdai Bracha, a Jewish social services organization in Brooklyn, NY.

If you would like to participate in our gift drive this year, please pick up a Chanukah Gift Tag located in our temple lobby and purchase a gift for a child of a specified age and gender.

Toys, games, sports equipment, stuffed animals, jewelry or even gift cards to major chain stores (for older children), make great gifts and are enormously appreciated!

Any dollar amount you are comfortable spending is fine.

Wrap your gift, affix the gift label, and bring it to TSI where we will have a collection box in the temple lobby between

November 13th and November 28th

Thanking you for your generosity!

(Please contact Gale Berman with any questions at mgdanny@aol.com)

There was no kvetching at Neiro's recent screening of "Theodore Bikel: in the Shoes of Sholem Aleichem. It was a thoroughly Jewish event; we ate, we sang, we talked, we qvelled!, we felt a little ferklept. Don't miss our next event: "Above and Beyond", a film by Nancy Spielberg on November 11th. (see the back cover for all the details)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Joe Altman | Hildi Glicklick | Joseph Lash | Gabby Rendon |
| Rafael Alvarez | Dylan Gottlieb | Harrison Lavin | Noah Ripps |
| Barbara Bangser | F. Scott Gray | Larry Leibowitz | Harry Rosenhouse |
| Sandra Barrett | Rachel Greenberg | Sigal Leitner | Callie Sacks |
| Rick Barrett | Louis Haber | Emily Levi | Rayn Schnell |
| Lori Bean | Robin Harris | Warren Lustig | Maya Schwartz |
| Evan Bender | Stephen Heit | Elijah Hirt-Manheimer | Laura Steinhorn |
| Emily Brand | Allison Hermon | Hannah Hirt-Manheimer | Jessica Strom |
| Ryan Brand | Jason Hermon | Jake Margulies | David Strom |
| Jessica Brookes | Kenneth Hoffman | Steven Meyers | Adam Sussman |
| Eve Chipman | Kenneth Isman | Curt Murad | Barbara Tendler |
| Reyna Cohen | Benjamin Kalish | Wendy Murad | Judy Vandervelden |
| Bobbie Cohan | Aaron Kaplan | Jordan Neumann | Jay Walker |
| Murray Darvick | Joel Kaplan | Harold Ossher | Sebastian Wallach |
| Bonnie Dietzek | Evan Kaye | Joel Ossher | Sloan Wasserman |
| Matthew Emmer | Lucas Kaye | Daryl Pazer | George Wasserman |
| | Maxwell Kaye | Taylor Pazer | Miranda Wein |
| Peter Fine | Felice Kempler | Suzie Rabinowitz | Calvin Wein |
| Kiley Finke | Colby Kipnes | Noah Rappaport | Penelope Wein |
| Stacie Gardos | Asher Kipnes | Andrea Reiter | Trudy Wood |
| Nina Gitlitz | | | |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brian & Sari Benson | Michael & Betsy Brand |
| Jeff & Heather Butchen | John Grzymala & Linda Lederman |
| Rabbi Jon & Jean Haddon | Barry & Marla Kay |
| Jeff & Linda Krulwich | Erric Sherr & Michele Auerbach-Sherr |

MAZEL TOV!

Please join us for Shabbat morning worship during the month of November. On Saturday, November 4th at 10:30am, Zachary Amerling will be called to the Torah to help lead services as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah. Zach is the son of Paul and Elizabeth Amerling and lives in South Salem, NY.

Our celebrations continue on Saturday, November 11th at 10:30am when Kyle Leitner will lead Shabbat morning worship and become a Bar Mitzvah. Kyle lives with his parents, Ian and Sigal, and two older brothers in South Salem, NY.

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITEN

**Friday, November 3rd, 2017**

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jack Bergson | father of Phyllis Amerling | Mayer Blum | brother-in-law of Sandra Rosenhouse |
| Esther Fenster | sister of Murray Darvick | Bebee Garcia | sister of David Fiderer |
| Helen Garfiel | grandmother of Karen Blum | Ruth Glick | aunt of Maggie Seligman |
| Helene Howard | stepmother of Laurie Dubin | Meyer Joseph | father of Barbara Tendler |
| Sidney Klein | father of Karen Taylor | Harriet Mazlish | mother of Douglas Mazlish |
| Yale Ossher | father of Harold Ossher | | |

Friday, November 10th, 2017

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Howard Cohan | father of Rick Cohan | Sheila Gitlitz | mother of Michael Gitlitz |
| Harold Heffler | father of Jay Heffler & Jill Teich | William Keleher | father of Catherine Mishkin |
| Irwin Krulwich | father of Jeffrey Krulwich | G. Leonard Lazarus | father of Lorraine Lazarus-Morley |
| Horst Leffkowitz | | Fannie Levy | mother of Richard Burg |
| Mordecai Lewittes | Matthew Meister & Dafne Sanchez-Aldama | Samuel Mofson | grandfather of Bonnie Pazer |
| Sheila Ravitch Gitlitz | | Marvin Schattner | |
| Hannah Schochet | mother of Sari Benson | Freda Shuler | mother of Robi Margolis |
| Edgar Strauss | father of Ellen Strauss | Jack Weiler | grandfather of Ellen Strauss |

Friday, November 17th, 2017

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Herbert Abraham | father of Vivian Hoffman | David Hoffman | father of Drew Hoffman |
| Adele Kleinbaum | grandmother of Stacey Rubinfeld | Ruth Kurzweil Rothwax | aunt of Ken Kurzweil |
| Seth Lawrence | brother-in-law of Adrienne Orlan | Philip Levine | uncle of Joan Isman |
| Gloria Maron | sister of Resa Fremed | Rachel Rosenhouse | mother of Harry Rosenhouse |
| Anita Sax | mother of Liz Winson | Mae Wishod | mother of Gene Wishod |

Friday, November 24th, 2017

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Morton Birnbaum | | Esther Eber | grandmother of Lynn Becker |
| Ruth Fine | mother-in-law of Karen Fine Shalett | David Kay | father of Barry Kay |
| Gladice Levenson | aunt of Elaine Gordon | Joseph Meister | relative of Matthew Meister |
| Freda Ossher | mother of Harold Ossher | Jack Rosenstein | father of Ronni Colville |
| Norman Silverman | father of Marsha Antkies | Pauline Silverman | grandmother of Marsha Antkies |
| Bernice Strauss | mother of Ellen Strauss | | |

We extend condolences to...

The Kurtz family, following the death of Phil Kurtz, father of Marshall Kurtz.

The Jolly-Gelfand family, following the death of Michael Gelfand, father of Jennifer Gelfand.

YOGA

with Jewish chanting, prayer and insights

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15

in the Pavilion

Oct. 29

Nov. 19

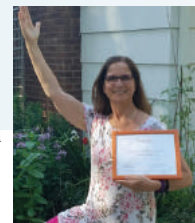
Dec. 10

Jan. 28

Bring a yoga mat and any props you like to use.

Our teacher: Cantor Niema Hirsch

Niema is a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher RYT-200. In her practice she connects the postures of yoga with Jewish chants and blessings. She is teaching Yoga and meditation at the Merkaz Jewish high school and at her congregation. She believes in the healing power of yoga and a lifelong exploration of the connection between body and mind. Niema is the cantor of Rodeph Sholom in Bridgeport. She has a BA in Psychology and MA in Business and Software Engineering. She is married with two grown sons.



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
Website: www.ourshirshalom.org

We Appreciate Your Generosity

Donations

General Fund

Suzanne Sunday & Ken Kurzweil
Suzanne Sunday & Ken Kurzweil
Michael & Rona Salpeter
Karl & Barbara Brodsky

in memory of Rabbi Marcus Burstein
in memory of Morris Glass
in memory of Rabbi Marcus Burstein
in memory of Ann Brodsky

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Karl & Barbara Brodsky
Maggie Seligman
Ilya Gogish
Ira Hanauer

in honor of the naming of our 2 grandchildren
in memory of Ruth Glick
with thanks
with thanks

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Ross & Julie Kaplan

in memory of Charles Schwartz

Education Fund

Charles & Resa Fremed

in honor of Michael & Ronni Hammer

Music Fund

Allan & Alice Gottlieb

with thanks

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!

(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

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Baby/Bridal Showers
Quinceaneras
Corporate Events

Weddings
Sweet 16s
Birthdays
Anniversaries

Cindy Greenfeld
cindy@gotopartycreations.com

Eric Greenfeld
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
DINER
Family Restaurant



Open 7 Days A Week

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**Dylewsky, Goldberg & Brenner, LLC**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**Scott M. Brenner, CPA**
PARTNER

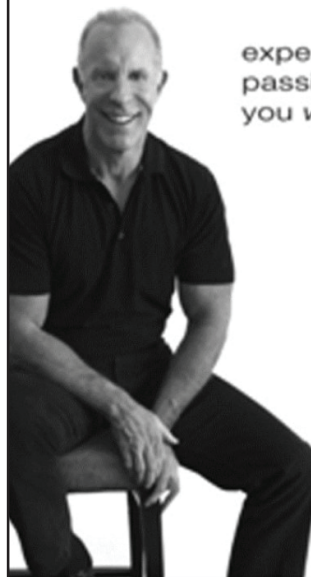
203-975-8830 [TEL]

203-323-7123 [FAX]

sbrenner@dgbcpas.com

30 Oak Street, Stamford, CT 06905

“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 & sparidgefield southbury 203 431 3994
adambroderick.com

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

**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

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

NOVEMBER 2017

CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5778

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Religious School | 2 Religious School Consecration | 3 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 6:00 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat | 4 10:30 am Shab- bat Morning Worship- Bar Mitzvah of Zach- ary Amerling |
| 5 Religious School | 6 7-9 pm Sisterhood Cooking event | 7 | 8 Religious School | 9 Religious School 7:15 pm Board of Directors meeting | 10 NO ECC 5:30 Tot Shabbat 2.0 7:30 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat | 11 10:30 am Shab- bat Morning Worship- Bar Mitzvah of Kyle Leitner Neirot 6pm- Din- ner & Movie Veteran's Day |
| 12 NO Religious School | 13 | 14 | 15 Religious School | 16 Religious School | 17 11:30 am Young Community Shabbat 7:30 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat | 18 |
| 19 Religious School | 20 | 21 | 22 NO ECC NO Religious School 5:30 pm NFTY Youth Group | 23 NO Religious School Thanksgiving Day- Office Closed | 24 NO ECC Office Closed 7:30 pm Kabba- lat Shabbat | 25 |
| 26 NO Religious School | 27 | 28 | 29 Religious School | 30 Religious School | | |

The deadline for submission for the December 2017 Shir Shalom is Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017. Thank you.



**CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM**

of Westchester and Fairfield Counties

46 Peaceable Street • Ridgefield, CT 06877

*Non Profit
Organization
Postage
PAID*

*Danbury, CT
Permit No. PI 2008*

NEIROT

Join Neirof for a screening of the film that tells the story of
WWII Jewish American pilots who fought for Israel in 1948

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Veterans' Day, November 11th at 6:00 PM
at Congregation Shir Shalom.

Light dinner followed by documentary film, discussion and dessert.

Cost \$18

For reservations contact Neirof @ OurShirShalom.org by November 6th

Send check to Congregation Shir Shalom, with Neirof in memo line

The film was produced by Nancy Spielberg (sister of Steven) and tells the story of
Jewish-American WWII pilots who risked life and liberty to fight secretly in
Israel's 1948 fight for independence. The film draws on interviews with historians,
surviving pilots, re-enactments by George Lucas, and archival footage.