

SEPTEMBER 2017  
ELUL/TISHRI 5778

# Our Shir Shalom



Fun at Summer Camp: Eisner and ECC



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Sept. 8	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Sept. 9	5:00 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Worship, Bat Mitzvah: Amy Stark
Sept. 15	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Sept. 16	7:30 pm	Dessert
	8:00 pm	Film & Discussion
	9:00 pm	Selichot Service
Sept. 20	7:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Worship
Sept. 21	9:00 am	Rosh Hashanah Worship
	11:30 am	Rosh Hashanah Worship
	2:30 pm	Tot Service
	5:30 pm	Tashlich (off site)
Sept. 22	10:00 am	Rosh Hashanah 2nd day
	7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Sept. 29	7:30 pm	Kol Nidre Worship
Sept. 30	9:00 am	Yom Kippur Worship
	11:30 am	Yom Kippur Worship
	2:30 pm	Tot Service
	3:15 pm	Music & Meditation Service
	4:00 pm	Afternoon, Yizkor, and Neilah Services
	6:50- ish	Congregational Break Fast



## FROM RABBI REINER'S DESK

The Hebrew month of Elul leads into the Jewish New Year, and offers an opportunity for practical and spiritual preparation. There are many practical preparations that our staff and lay leaders are working hard to complete: learning new melodies and rehearsing the old, practicing Torah chanting, writing and editing sermons, printing High Holy Day tickets, and practicing our greeting techniques. These all need to be ready so that our celebration will be special and meaningful and uplifting. The preparations for a wedding or other celebration are an apt analogy: a rabbi or cantor must be arranged, venues booked, caterers and bands/DJs hired, flower arrangements designed, guest lists pared down, invitations ordered, the perfect dress/suit/tuxedo found and altered.

When I work with a couple preparing for marriage, we spend a fair amount of time discussing details of the ceremony: the chuppah, ketubah, kippot, rings, and Kiddush cup. And while ensuring that a wedding ceremony is special and a reflection of the couple, we also spend time preparing to enrich their marriage. There are many practical preparations that need to be completed for the wedding day, and there are also spiritual and interpersonal preparations for the rela-

tionship that will continue on the days that follow.

As much time as we spend focused on the practical details of the High Holy Days, it is also important for us to engage in some spiritual preparation.

The wedding/marriage analogy is not a coincidence! Many great rabbis have explained that the name of the Hebrew month leading up to the High Holy Days, Elul, is an acronym for a phrase found in the Biblical book, Song of Songs (6:3): Ani l'dodi v'dodi li—I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine. This expression of shared love are spoken at many weddings and inscribed in many ketubot. Song of Songs is written as the words shared by lovers and interpreted by many commentaries as a metaphor for the relationship between the God and the Jewish people. The High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur can then be understood as an annual recommitment ceremony, an opportunity for us to return to synagogue, return to the Jewish community, and return to God. The details of our celebration are important, and it is also important for us to prepare spiritually, in this month, for our wedding and our marriage.

May the year 5778 be filled with the sweetness and joy that we wish upon every bride and groom! Shanah Tovah U'Metukah!

Rabbi David L. Reiner

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



It's August and with the High Holy Days quickly approaching, many volunteers and our professional and administrative staff are very busy preparing so that our members and guests will have a meaningful experience during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We are enormously grateful for all the extra time and energy that these individuals dedicate at this time each year.

In addition to his many other responsibilities, Rabbi Reiner is applying considerable effort toward writing relevant and inspirational sermons for these High Holy Days that he hopes will be meaningful to each of us. Walking through the synagogue over the coming weeks, you may hear Cantor Katcko Gray and the choir rehearsing the beautiful prayers that are unique to these special days. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our Ritual Committee, Co-Chaired by Laurie Dubin and Michael Saltpeter, which orchestrates the many necessary details beginning with the

information packets that you received several weeks ago. Lauren Sugar, our Housing Chair, expends enormous energy coordinating a myriad of details related to our facility that Miguel Cardenas and Leidy Restrepo, our temple "porters", and Lorilee Palazzo together with others, implement. Laura Morris, our Temple Administrator and Lori Stalowicz, our Controller, work tirelessly to support the activities of our Clergy, Ritual Committee, Housing Committee and others to ensure that every detail is addressed.

We can't forget Ronnie and Michael Hammer and the "Break Fast" team which spends days grilling, chopping and much more, to provide a delicious feast for our members and guests directly following our concluding Yom Kippur service. Please consider attending this amazing "Break Fast" and don't forget to sign up for the annual Kugel contest!

Directing the traffic flow in our parking lot is something that we cannot take for granted and we are thankful that we can count on Jeff Gorelick and our team of volunteer "attendants" who each year, take the time to direct you to a parking spot or to a remote parking lot—it's difficult and frustrating work so please be nice to them.

We are also grateful to those dedicated volunteers who work "behind the scenes" to manage a myriad of additional details. There are far too many individuals to mention and we would surely overlook one name or two and so, for our own "personal safety", we think it best to leave them nameless for now but it surely does not go unnoticed nor unappreciated!

Last but not least we would like to acknowledge the members of our Board of Trustees, each of whom dedicate enormous numbers of hours to our community throughout the year and still find the time each year to sponsor the erev Rosh Hashanah oneg.

All of the preparation that goes into creating the most meaningful experience possible during the High Holy Days is really a family affair; all of us working together to help create special connections. As the sound of the shofar blast reminds us of the importance of reflection during this important period of time, it is our sincere hope that our collective observance of the High Holy Days will inspire personal awareness and meaning for each of us and that they resonate with all who will be walking through our doors during these ten days!

Gale Berman and Hal Wolkin  
Co-Presidents

## THE CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray



**I**t is hard to believe, but I began at Temple Shearith Israel in July of 1999. It was the best career decision of my life, and I will always be grateful to Rabbi Jon Haddon and Dr. Terry Henry for their overwhelming support and encouragement. I was very close to accepting a contract

at a large Reform congregation in New Haven, when Rabbi Haddon insisted I audition for the job. “I’ve moved mountains for you!” How could I not? Clearly it has been and continues to be the best musical and spiritual home for me. Many of you may know I grew up in a traditional, conservative/orthodox home and traditional cantorial family. My mother was the organist and accompanist for my father, a Conservative part time cantor. He learned from his father, a master cantor and composer whose music is still taught as curriculum at cantorial schools, Cantor Adolph Katchko. His “Avot” is sung in most synagogues all over the world, including ours! I love showing the music to my students—many think it’s just “traditional.”

After being a conservative cantor since 1981 in Norwalk (the second female Conservative cantor in the USA at the time), Westport and briefly Buffalo, I was ready for some changes. I really wanted to be in a place where I could be creative, use the guitar and work with a rabbi who loved music and respected cantors. When I met Rabbi Haddon I knew I was in luck— not only was he a caring rabbi, he was the past director of the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College and was a cantor— who better to understand the pressures and issues of being a cantor!

Now, I am also incredibly fortunate to work with Rabbi David Reiner, a son of a prominent rabbi, Rabbi Fred Reiner— it is a wonderful unspoken language when you understand what it is to grow up in a clergy household, being the child of a cantor or rabbi,

and carrying on a tradition with your own input. I could not be more fortunate to be in such an environment with a gifted rabbi, a caring rabbi emeritus and a growing merged congregation who has continued to make me feel so appreciated and respected. The leadership has been nothing but positive and generous since day one—I never take that for granted.

For this 18th year, after being honored so beautifully on my 10th and 13th anniversaries, my husband and I would like to give back to the congregation. We are sponsoring a special Musical Shabbat with Mark Fineberg and Cantor Leon Sher, a college friend, and gifted composer on April 27, 2018. Leon has written some gorgeous songs—Heal Us Now in particular—our choir will be conducted by him and learn a few of his gems, while he shares the bima that evening with me. The following fall we will sponsor Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, renowned composer and dear childhood friend for a special service.

In lieu of the synagogue doing a big bash, please consider a donation to the Music Fund so we can continue to present special services with outstanding musicians. There is no particular budget for music, and these donations allow us to enjoy a full calendar of musical services that are unique and uplifting.

18 represents CHAI—life—I am so grateful for this life with Congregation Shir Shalom, with my growing family and friends.

I’d like to conclude with a quote from my college days conductor of the Boston Zamir Chorale of Boston, Prof. Joshua Jacobson. He recently shared this at the North American Jewish Choral festival I attended:

Why teach music?

It allows us to be human, more sensitive, to appreciate beauty, it gives us something to cling to, more compassion, it brings more joy and more life—

L’chaim—to music and life!

Shalom,  
Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray



## FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

by Jane Emmer

After a wonderful and fun summer at the Early Childhood Center we are looking forward to another fabulous year of school at Congregation Shir Shalom. We can't wait for the sounds of our children to fill our

school with joy again. We are especially excited about some new programs.

This year we will have a monthly visit from Israeli emissaries, learn Jewish music with Cantor Debbie, sing weekly with Alana, practice Yoga with Stephanie, spend lots of time in the garden and visit the Katonah Museum of Art, Gossett Nursery and some surprises! We will greet many special guests and continue to learn, grow and have fun together.

We welcome Sarah Denyer and Alana Peck to our staff. Sarah will be a teacher in the blue room and will share her love of science and hands on learning with our after school enrichment class. Alana will teach our weekly music class and lead our new Practically Preschool program (designed for toddlers and an adult partner as an introduction to our school).

- Meet My Teacher Day & Welcome Back Brunch: Thursday, Sept. 11, 9:30-11:30 AM
- First Days of School: Tuesday, Sept. 12

We still have room for a couple of new students in some of our classes. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our fabulous school. We welcome all!

Jane Emmer  
*Early Childhood Center*

## RITUAL COMMITTEE

by Laurie Dubin and Michael Salpeter



The High Holy Days. What do they mean and what emotions should they provoke?

Traditionally the term refers to the Days of Awe, that is Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the ten days in between. For some this also includes the month of Elul which precedes the New Year and continues through Sukkot when final judgment is made. More recently there have been other congregational and family traditions which have been added.

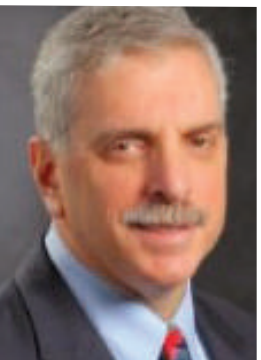
No matter what your feelings are about the High Holy Days we have included you into our celebration plans. If you wish to attend a

traditional service with musical accompaniment and choir participation then our 11:30 am services on the

first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning are available. For those who like a shorter format the 9:00 am service on those days are for you. The music and meditation service on Yom Kippur afternoon provides a serene atmosphere where the attendees can engage in self-reflection. Many people enjoy food and camaraderie as a means to celebrate any Jewish holiday so we offer an Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg, Second Day Rosh Hashanah luncheon and Yom Kippur Break Fast. Sounding of the shofar is one of those parts of the service which I have found moving since childhood and it will be heard on both days of Rosh Hashanah as well as during Shabbat services in the month of Elul. Most importantly we will all have the opportunity to participate in moving and meaningful ritual and to hear sermons which are enlightening and thought provoking.

Members of the ritual committee are available to welcome you and answer any questions you may have during the High Holy Days. Along with our clergy we wish you a sweet and peaceful 5778. L'shanah tovah tikatevu.

Laurie Dubin  
Michael Salpeter  
*Ritual Committee*







## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Leslie Gottlieb

### Two New Religious School Program Programs

After a childhood mishap causing her to fall from her horse at summer camp, adult author Wendy Mogel considered titling her book published in 2001, *Blessing of a Broken Leg*. She decided to call it *Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children*, a more tame title and approach for her famous parenting guide used far and wide by Jews--and non-Jews.

Lured by the offerings presented by Jewish thought and texts, Mogel created a pathway using these guidelines for parents living in a changing fast-paced world in where parents, to her, became overachievers, in a sense. Teaching parents to let go in an attempt to create resilience in their children goes a long way toward making them whole and self-reliant.

"Jewish wisdom holds that our children don't belong to us. They are both a loan and a gift from God, and the gift has strings attached. Our job is to raise our children to leave us. The children's job is to find their own path in life. If they stay carefully protected in the nest of the family, children will become weak and fearful or feel too comfortable to want to leave."

Creating a positive experience for our children is a constant challenge at every stage of life. Successful outcomes in families can fill our lives with much reward and joy. It is with this in mind that Shir Shalom Religious School is making a strong connection this year with the Positive Discipline of CT organization. We will hold two introductory workshops for congregants and friends of Shir Shalom--and four three-hour sessions to help train individuals and/or couples—all during Religious School hours! Additionally, our teaching staff will make this the major focus of our professional instructional time this year. Take a look below at some of the promotional material remarks below-- and be sure to check out the flier included in this newsletter for dates and times. You can register now!! Contact me by email at [leslie@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:leslie@ourshirshalom.org)—or by phone at 203-438-6589.

### Positive Discipline of Connecticut

Choose one of these Free Introductory Sessions at Shir Shalom:

Sunday, October 15, 9:00-9:45 AM

OR

Wednesday, October 18, 4:40-5:15 PM

4 Sundays classes- 9:15AM-12:15PM

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

Cost: \$199 individual, \$339 couple

Preregister and payment by 9/11/17

Positive Discipline of Connecticut inspires and promotes the development of life skills and respectful relationships in families, schools, and businesses in our local communities. We provide classes, training and support to parents, caregivers, educators and youth development workers to

help strengthen relationships with children, encouraging them to be responsible, resourceful and self-reliant.

Positive Discipline of Connecticut, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity with a mission to promote and encourage the development of life skills and respectful relationships in families, school and businesses. We are run by a volunteer Board of Directors and have no paid staff.

We provide classes to parents, caregivers, educators, and youth development workers to help strengthen relationships with children, encouraging them to be responsible, respectful, and self-reliant. There is a fee for each class. Parenting classes are facilitated by Certified Parent Educators. Staff development work, educator classes and other school programs are facilitated by Certified Classroom Educators. All of our facilitators donate a portion of their class fee towards operating costs, and many choose to provide scholarships to class participants. All of our Board members also make a financial contribution to Positive Discipline of Connecticut each year.

All of our facilitators have been trained and certified by the Positive Discipline Association. The PDA is a global membership organization for Positive Discipline that includes hundreds of people from around the world. Positive Discipline professionals are bringing this work to over 50 countries.

To register, email one week prior to the instructional and/or regular session classes. Contact Carol Does, instructor, at [carol@positivedisciplinect.org](mailto:carol@positivedisciplinect.org).

We hope our school parents, especially, will consider enrolling in this program.

Another new program from the Religious School for this year is being called...

### Practically Religious School (PRS)

The new program will run on Sunday mornings once a month. Congregant, RS parent and PJ Library Rep, Jessica Aframe will be its instructor and will have a musical leader for much of the course, as well. This program is designed to attract parents with two, three and four year olds in order for them to get a foundation in Jewish learning before entering our kindergarten program at age five. Families can join our school service on Sunday mornings following the class. This will be a fun way to engage the whole family and the low fee includes households and is not a per child tuition. Both or one parent, grandparent or friend of the family can join in (two and three year olds require an adult to be present). Please see the flier included in this newsletter and register as soon as possible (before August 31).

Use RS registration forms to register for Practically RS (PRS). See information on flier for details.

I look forward to seeing new and returning faces at the start of school in mid-September (check out our single page calendar for a quick check of school meeting dates). Please call the RS office or email me if I can be helpful to your family in any way. Thank you.

Leslie Gottlieb  
Religious School Director



## 2017-2018 Religious School Program Schedule

### Grades K-6 One Day a Week Program

#### **Early Tuition Rate Deadline: June 15, 2017**

#### Grades K/1:

Thursdays 4:15-6:00 pm (includes service/music) **OR** Sundays 10:15-12:00 pm (includes service/music)

#### Grades 2, 3 and 2/3 Sunday Experience: (both sections include service/music)

Thursdays 4:15-6:00 pm **OR** Sundays 9:00 am-10:45 pm

#### Grades 4-6:

Sundays 9:00 am-12:00 pm (includes service/music)

#### Enrichment Day Option, Grades 4-7 - Additional Class Meeting Day – Combined-Grade Classes- no fee

**New Day: Thursdays 4:15-6:00 pm** (same meeting time as K-3 Thursday option)

#### Grade 7 (B'nai Mitzvah): 2 days-a-week program plus tutoring

Wednesdays 4:15-6:00 pm (includes service) plus

Sundays 10:15 am-12:00 pm (includes service/music) plus

20 half hour private B'nai Mitzvah tutoring sessions & rehearsals/ arranged individually plus

Additional attendance required at several Friday & Saturday Shabbat services

#### Confirmation I & II: (Confirmation is a 2 year program)

Grade 8/Confirmation I Class: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm

Grade 9/Confirmation II Class: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm.

- Includes 5:15-5:30 pm pizza weekly for Confirmation Students attending Wed. Youth Group 2X/month

- Includes Wed., 5:30-6:30 pm & Thurs., 1X/mo, 7:15-8:15 pm NFTY Youth Group

#### Student Mentor Program (SMP): Teaching Training Program:

New Grade 9 (& up) students enroll

Weekly assistant teaching participation (Sunday, Wednesday or Thursday) plus pedagogy class

(year one only), Class meets Sundays 9:45-10:15 am

#### Student Volunteer Program (SVP): Grades 8-12- Participation to be arranged individually

#### Student Leaders Program (SLP): Grades 9-12- Participation to be arranged individually

#### **Grade 9 Student Mentors (SMP) & Leaders (SLP):**

SMP students continue in Grades 10-12 after one year of Grade 9 instructional class -- and assist teachers or co-lead classes as instructors. SLP students arrange their participation individually with the school director on days classes meet, but members do not take an instructional class to participate.

#### **NFTY/NAR/BeSSTY (Be... Shir Shalom Temple Youth) & BBYO Youth Group –**

-Each Grs. 8-12 YG program meets several times a month- see calendars for meeting times & dates

- NFTY/BeSSTY meets Wednesdays, 2X/mo, 5:15-6:30 pm with pizza & Thursdays, 1X/mo, 7:15-8:15 pm

- BBYO meets on Sundays and runs independently of the Religious School

Confirmation students are all BeSSTY/NFTY members

Membership payments to BBYO & NFTY are made directly to these organizations

## EXCERPTS IN JEWISH HISTORY

By Lewis Siegel

## THE FUGU PLAN THAT FAILED, AND HOW ONE JAPANESE MAN SAVED THE JEWS FROM THE NAZIS

Until the early 1930's, the Japanese had little knowledge of the Jewish people. What they had heard was that the wealthy financier, Jacob Schiff, lent the Japanese the extraordinary sum of 200 million dollars to help finance the Russo-Japanese war in 1904. The Japanese also believed the hoax described in a forged document, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion", that first appeared in Russia in 1903, alleging that Jewish Elders met and conspired to plan for Jewish world conquest. The Japanese hoped that those highly intellectual, influential, yet potentially dangerous Jews might be of great value to the Japanese Empire. They devised a plan between 1934 and 1938, to urge large-scale immigration of Jews to the Japanese puppet state of Manchuria or to Japanese-controlled Shanghai, to provide the Japanese with Jewish finances and industrial expertise. It was called the Fugu Plan, named after a blowfish that could be a tasty delight, but contained highly toxic organs that had to be removed before it could be safely eaten (which was the way the Jewish people were viewed by the Japanese). The Fugu Plan had the added advantage of encouraging influential American Jews to urge their country to increase trade with Japan.

The Nazi threat that began to envelope the Jews of Germany and Austria, added another dimension to the Fugu Plan. It would help create a safe haven for any European Jews who were able to successfully escape from the Nazis. Lew Zikman, a Jewish industrialist in Manchuria, asked Rabbi Stephan S. Wise, President of the World Jewish Congress (and probably the most influential American Jew), to help promote the program. Rabbi Wise refused. He said, "I think it is wholly vicious for the Jews to give support to Japan, as truly fascist a nation as Germany and Italy." By 1940, it was too late. Japan had signed a tripartite agreement with Germany and Italy, and the Fugu Plan was officially dead. One can only wonder how many Jewish lives could have been saved if the Fugu Plan had been implemented.

There are no great men. Just challenges that ordinary men are forced to meet.

—William F. Halsey; Admiral, USN

The year was now 1940, and far away from Japan in Kaunas, Lithuania, the vice-consul of the Japanese Consulate was a man by the name of Chiune Sugihara.

The Soviet Union occupied Lithuania until 1941, when the German army took over. Thousands of Polish Jews escaping Poland found a temporary safe haven in Lithuania, but knew that their situation was precarious. They desperately needed visas to get them to any safe country that would take them. If they could get visas to Japan, they might have several options for permanent locations such as Curacao or the Caribbean countries that required no visas. Probably, because of the Nazi-Japanese relationship, the Jewish refugees didn't meet the requirements for visas, and Sugihara was ordered not to issue them. However, realizing how desperate the situation was for the refugees and the Lithuanian Jews, he made the bold decision to disobey his superiors. That defiant act could have been punishable by the death penalty, but he began issuing the visas anyway. Sugihara worked furiously many hours a day, producing visas, (later estimated to be by Sugihara's widow and her son to be about 6000). Sugihara used his influence and money he raised, to urge Soviet officials to arrange passage for the refugees to travel the Trans-Siberian Railway to the sea, where they could take ships to Kobe, Japan. Before he was able to issue enough visas to meet the needs of the refugees, Sugihara was ordered to leave Lithuania for another assignment in Czechoslovakia, so time was of the essence. Right up to the time he had to depart, he was still writing visas. Witnesses claimed he was throwing them out of the train window as it departed.

Most of the 6000 Jews who left Kaunas made their way to Kobe, Japan. Sadly, some didn't leave Lithuania in time and were captured by the Germans. Some didn't make it across the Soviet Union. Those



who made it to Kobe were lucky to get visas to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Jewish Ghetto in Shanghai. Miraculously, Sugihara never suffered the ultimate punishment for his actions although he was forced to resign from the government. In the early postwar years he had no knowledge about the fate of the refugees. Sugihara went on to hold a variety of odd jobs in Japan. He had a brief position in a clothing store, whose owner had been one of the leaders of the Kobe Jewish community who looked after the "Sugihara refugees". Being the humble person he was, he never let on that he was the one who issued those visas. He later accepted employment in the Soviet Union where he remained for 16 years.

Although he tried, Sugihara could not keep his past quiet. In 1985, he was enshrined in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, as one of the "Righteous of the Nations". Because he was too ill to travel, his wife received the honor for him. Chiune Sugihara died in 1986. It was only when the Israeli ambassador to Japan showed up at his funeral with a large Jewish delegation, that his story became publicized. Sugihara received many honors posthumously. In 2002, a memorial honoring him was built in Los Angeles' "Little Tokyo" section. It shows him sitting on a bench holding a visa, with a quote from the Talmud that said, "He who saves one life, saves the entire world". A memorial had already been built in the year 2000 at Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, with help of a "Sugihara survivor". The Japanese had also honored Sugihara in 2000 on the centennial of his birth. He also received

posthumous awards from the Polish and Lithuanian governments.

In 1998, when Sugihara's widow visited Israel, she had an emotional meeting with tearful "Sugihara survivors" who showed her their aged yellow visas that saved their lives. By the year 2013, The Simon Wiesenthal Center estimated that there were about 40,000 descendants from the "Sugihara Refugees".

When Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, co-author of the book, "The Fugu Plan", (Gefen Books, 1979), met with Chiune Sugihara, he asked the question, "Why did you do it?" Sugihara replied, "I just did what we as humans should do. One of my teachers in Harbin (in Manchuria) once told me: "You do the right thing, not for gain, not for recognition, but just because it is the right thing". The refugees were people who needed my help. I could give it to them. It was the right thing to do. That's all".

Tens of thousands of descendants of the "Sugihara Survivors" can verify that it was indeed the right thing to do.



*"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.*



## SEPTEMBER BAT MITZVAH

This is an exciting month for Amy Stark who will become a Bat Mitzvah on September 9th. Amy has a never ending love of dance—it's what she enjoys doing more than anything else and she aspires to become a professional dancer. Her mitzvah project this year focused on helping underprivileged Chinese orphans by sending them dance tutorials.

Amy is excited to take this first step towards becoming an adult, and welcomes the responsibility that goes along with it. She enjoyed learning to read Hebrew and her favorite Jewish holiday is Passover because of the family traditions she hopes to someday pass along.

## SISTERHOOD

by Susan Bard



And just like that, September is here! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I'm really excited to work with Sisterhood members to introduce some new programming, and bring back favorites.

I sent out a survey in August to the membership, and will be using that information to guide our planning for the year. If you didn't get the survey, just shoot me an email at [sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:sisterhood@ourshirshalom.org) and I'll

send it to you. The more input I have, the better.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the kick-off dinner on Tuesday, October 10th! We'll come together to build community with our Sisterhood sisters. (PS We'll be collecting Sisterhood dues at this event, so bring your checkbooks. You can also renew dues online at <https://squarespace.com/store/shir-shalom-sisterhood/>.)

Are you on our mailing list? Sign up on the website! <http://ourshirshalom.org/get-involved/sisterhood>

Please join us on Facebook, too! Just search for Shir Shalom Sisterhood.

Wishing you a sweet L'Shana Tova,  
Nancy Cavillones

## HELP ?

YOU MAY NOT NEED US BUT FAMILY & FRIENDS MAY  
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREATER DANBURY/PUTNAM  
PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL, NO-FEE RESOURCE SERVICE

Here is just one of the many categories we can help you with:

**Senior issues for you and your aging relatives**

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- Senior Housing and Long Term Care options
- Medical-related and mental health matters
- Caregiver support

We have the answers...all you need do is ask

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141 Deer Hill Ave., Danbury, CT 06818  
(203) 794-1818  
[jfsdanbury@gmail.com](mailto:jfsdanbury@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL ACTION

by Debbie Landzberg and Debbie Lavin



## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

*Help us help others this year!*

One-time and ongoing opportunities available for everyone  
 (...also project co-leaders needed to help plan any of these important programs.  
 Your help will be greatly appreciated and will help us to make a difference!)

### HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

Begin collecting non-perishables to donate to our neighbors in need!  
 (7th graders needed for food drive preparation, flyer distribution, food collection at services etc.)

### THE DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY TEAM

Help man this Danbury pantry with our enthusiastic volunteer crew as needy clients shop.  
 (Designated Mondays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.; join us when it works for you!)

### DOROTHY DAY HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Serve meals to guests of this Danbury soup kitchen. We'd love your help. Ages 12 and up.  
 (First Sunday of every month/volunteer only once or as much as you'd like)

### DANBURY FEDERAL CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

Co-facilitate Shabbat discussion group with Jewish female inmates.  
 (Last Friday evening of each month/volunteer only once or as much as you'd like)

### SANDWICHES FOR SERVICE

Volunteers needed to help make sandwiches for clients of the Dorothy Day soup kitchen.  
 ....and to donate some of the fixings!

### DISTRIBUTE FOOD FOR THE NEEDY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Help the Daily Bread Food Pantry prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas

### "RUNS" TO BRING FOOD AND GOODS TO THE HOMELESS

Reach out to New York City's homeless this coming fall and spring

### PARTICIPATE IN OUR BLOOD DRIVE

Date and time to be announced

### SHIR SHALOM MITZVAH DAY

Join our temple family for a day of community building and community outreach on Sunday, May 6th!

We'd love to include you in our programs!  
 Contact [SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:SocialAction@OurShirShalom.org)



# 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

While watching the series "Orange is the New Black" I was drawn to the lives of the women in the prison. Piper, the main character, was an inmate at the Federal Corrections Institute (FCI) in Danbury. A friend told me about a volunteer program she participated in at FCI celebrating the Sabbath with the Jewish women in the camp and when the need arose for additional volunteers I eagerly responded. Emelie Howard, of blessed memory, and I partnered and monthly gathered some Torah commentaries and lead an abbreviated service for the women. Rabbi Jon Haddon and Jean Haddon lead services the last Friday and we covered the second Friday of the month. With Emelie's passing and a request from the Mitzvah Committee Jackie Goldner and Polly Schnell volunteered to join us.

On Friday, August 18th, we visited FCI for a Sabbath service. It was a perfect night for Jackie Goldner's inaugural visit, hot, humid and heavy rains. There were four women in attendance. Fortunately, some of the Jewish women were recently released. Rabbi Haddon shared a commentary of the week's Torah portion with us, and when I read Rabbi Reiner's "A Response to Charlottesville" I thought it timely to share with the women. A lively discussion followed after reading Rabbi Reiner's response. Apparently the women spend as much time watching CNN and are up to date on the troubling events. The women had questions about justice and expressed their anger with the prosecutors who have no regard for justice. Once they point a finger at someone the road to prison is wide open.

At sundown we recited the blessings for lighting the candles, drinking the wine (juice) and eating the delicious challah that was prepared by the prison baker they befriended. With Chaplain Thompson's permission I purchased

a portable CD player and brought Cantor Debbie's CD "Spirited and Soulful Songs for Shir Shalom" along with some song sheets. What a pleasure it was singing along with the Cantor. Oseh Shalom reminded one of the inmates of her bat mitzvah. Rabbi Haddon has the advantage of guitar and cantorial training but when I solely lead the service in July the women remarked that every tune I sang sounded like Adon Olam.

A concern the inmates have is what is the public's perception of them. Does the punishment fit the crime? They don't want to be labeled as "criminals". They are normal people who were caught in a web or made bad choices. One of the women asked Jackie, "Did you tell your children you were going to a prison tonight and what did they say?"

One of the inmates described the prison as a "warehouse of women". The most difficult thing they have to deal with as prison inmates is time. They work and earn about 14-17 cents an hour but most of the day is spent waiting for each meal. They are prepared for retirement and the early bird meals (they eat dinner at 4:30 PM). Time passes slowly and there is much boredom. The women expressed their gratitude to us for sharing the Sabbath with them and bringing some joy to their lives. Just the fact that we were not wearing prison garb one said gave her cheer. Jackie's comment "the visit was quite enjoyable and the women were very polite and seemed concerned for our welfare. As we walked through the prison, inmates smiled and greeted us." Yes, indeed it is a Mitzvah and we welcome others to join us.

Resa Fremed

## 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*

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P O Box 103, Brookfield, CT 06804, or use PayPal link.

Preregister and payment by 11/5.

For more information, contact [carol@positivedisciplinect.org](mailto:carol@positivedisciplinect.org)



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

The Early Childhood Center at Congregation Shir Shalom  
announces a new program:

# Practically Preschool

A program for Toddlers and a “Grown Up”  
Wednesdays from 9:15 to 10:30 A.M.

Children participate alongside their grown-up partners—taking the lead once they feel comfortable and have an understanding of the routine of the class. Singing, art projects, a sensory table, a read-a-loud, and even more are packed into this first class experience

Starting in January we will offer entry to our 2's program and/or a gentle separation component.



## PRACTICALLY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$180 TUITION 9/27/17–12/20/17**

For more information, please contact Jane Emmer at [JaneEmmer@ourshirshalom.org](mailto:JaneEmmer@ourshirshalom.org)



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# Introducing Practically Religious School



A **NEW** monthly program for preschool children ages 2–4. This program provides a great way for children to learn more about Jewish holidays and meet new friends! Enjoy music, movement, story time, crafts and more! Children 3 and under—and non-temple-member children of all ages participating—need to be accompanied by a parent. To register, complete RS registration forms (use program name) on our website. To register, complete RS registration forms (use program name) on our website.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jessica Aframe

Month	Sundays from 9:15–10:15 A.M. Families are welcome to stay for the Religious School service from 10:15–10:45 A.M.
September	17
October	22
November	5
December	3
January	21
February	25
March	4–Purim Carnival 25
April	22
May	6

**Program Fee (per household):**

Registered ECC or Religious School Families: \$ 100

Temple Members: \$ 118 / Non-Members: \$ 180

Please make your check payable to:

Congregation Shir Shalom

**CALL TO REGISTER:**

203-438-6589 or

Visit our website:

OurShirShalom.org

**Deadline: 8/31/17**



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

## NEIROT

Neirot's season opening dinner and film:

# Theodore Bikel

IN THE SHOES OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM

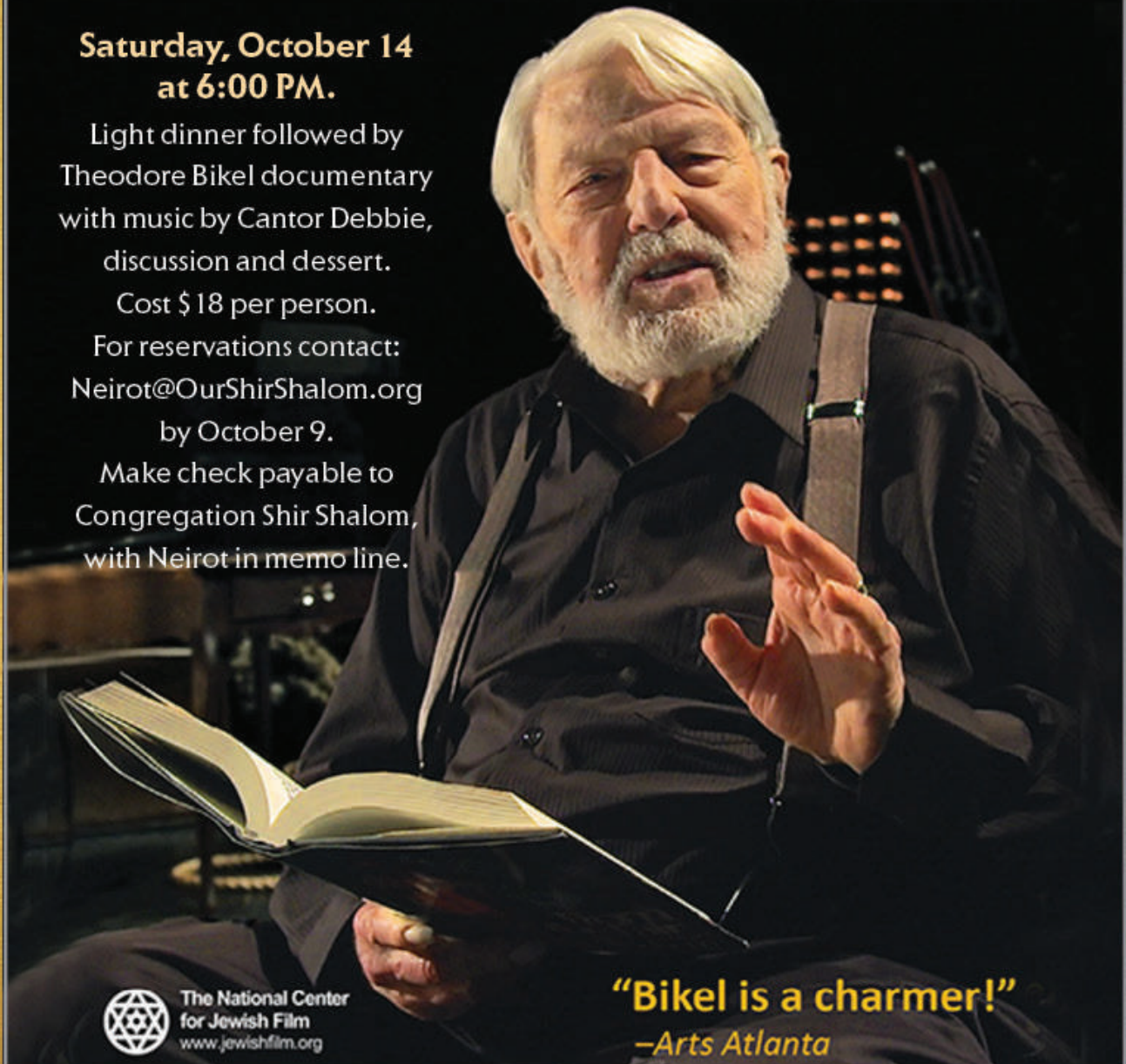
**Saturday, October 14  
at 6:00 PM.**

Light dinner followed by  
Theodore Bikel documentary  
with music by Cantor Debbie,  
discussion and dessert.

Cost \$18 per person.

For reservations contact:  
[Neirot@OurShirShalom.org](mailto:Neirot@OurShirShalom.org)  
by October 9.

Make check payable to  
Congregation Shir Shalom,  
with Neirot in memo line.



The National Center  
for Jewish Film  
[www.jewishfilm.org](http://www.jewishfilm.org)

**"Bikel is a charmer!"**

*—Arts Atlanta*



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Website: [www.ourshirshalom.org](http://www.ourshirshalom.org)



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Susan Andrade	Caroline Dewar	Leslie Kramer	Max Scanlon
Rachelle Axel	Nevin Dubin	Daniel Krampf	Ginger Schwartz
Everett Axel	Stephen Finke	Zoe Lash	Abby Segalman
Sarah Baer	Bryon Friedman	Ben Leibowitz	Jessica Sheptin
Heath Bender	Sean Gantwerker	Tyler Leitner	Michele Auerbach-Sherr
Brian Benson	Jacob Goldberg	Melanie Leitner	Andrea Shulman
Jeffrey Berg	Jacqueline Goldner	Richard Lipton	Robin Soloff
Michael Berman	Jeremy Gordon	Jessica Medoff	Amy Stark
Daniel Berman	Michael Gottlieb	Nancy Metzler	Jon Stockel
Dov Bloch	Hillary Haber	Bryce Lazarus-Morley	Lauren Sugar
Ella Blum	Arlene Heffler	Kenneth Needleman	Jeffrey Sugar
Eli Bovilsky	Regina Heit	Emily Nossan	Skyler Sugar
Zachary Brand	Paul Heller	Kory Nossan	Jackie Tarnapoll
Michael Brand	Nina Hisiger	Ruth Ossher	Nathaniel Tubbs
Betsy Brand	Gregory Hoffman	Mark Parson	Stu Tygert
Scott Brenner	Mindy Hoffman	Joshua Pilch	Jacob Voellmicke
Karen Brenner	Meryl Honig	Michael Pilch	Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke
Abigail Brooks	Allison Junquera	Amanda Roberts	Sherry Levin Wallach
Zoe Butchen	Arthur Jureller	Benjamin Rosenbaum	Bonnie Wattles
Michael Caplan	Elana Kaplan	Tyler Rowland	Jane Weinstein
Dana Carroll	Gregory Kaplan	Luda Samuels	Haydn Wilfinger
Lucas Castelhana	Zachary Kaplan	Aaron Sapadin	Sam Yolen
Elia Cohen	Todd Kipnes	Reed Sapadin	Sophie Zezula

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Richard and Elise Aries	Brian Besterman and Alison Ganis
Dov and Lisa Bloch	Michael Gitlitz and Rita Landman
Drew and Mindy Hoffman	Larry and Vivian Hoffman
Joel and Laura Kaplan	Peter and Jamie Kaplan
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Klotz	Matthew Meister and Dafne Sanchez-Aldama
Adam and Donna Ozols	Andrew and Nicole Rose
Joel and Eileen Segalman	Alan and Laura Steinhorn
Adam and Stacey Sussman	Kurt Voellmicke and Lisa Ipp-Voellmicke





## SEPTEMBER YAHREZEITEN

## Friday, September 1st, 2017

Melvin Baran	father of Andy Baran	Mabel Bright	mother of Margery Wallach
Donna Brown		Joseph Fried	
Esther Gerard	grandmother of Ira Gerard	Lev Gogish	husband of Serafima Dashevskaya
Dorothy Himoff			father of Ilya Gogish
Dina Leitner	mother of Ian Leitner		father of Vlad Gogish
Samuel Levy	stepfather of Richard Burg	Stanley Slone	
Leopold Weisberg			

## Friday, September 8th, 2017

Jean Haddon	mother of Rabbi Jon Haddon	Victor Hausner	father of Marcia Needleman
Sadie Hodas	mother of Elinor Darvick	Max Kalb	grandfather of Dayna Kaplan
Miriam Klein	mother of Dayna Kaplan	Lucille Levenson	grandmother of Karen Brenner
Ruth Lowy	mother of Terry Henry	Alfred Pilch	father of Alan Pilch
Sol Pottish	uncle of Richard Mishkin	Ruth Siegel	wife of Lewis Siegel
Dudley Westlake			

## Friday, September 15th, 2017

Deborah Darvick	daughter-in-law of Elinor & Murray Darvick	Arnold Friedlander	husband of Diana Friedlander
Ara Goodman	grandmother of Milton Hollar	Emanuel Hisiger	father of Miles Hisiger
Herbert Hodas	brother of Elinor Darvick	Cantor Theodore Katchko	father of Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray
Sidney Kirstein	grandfather of Joel Kaplan	Minna Lehrman	mother of Lora Wishod
Rose Margolis	mother-in-law of Robi Margolis	Cathie Jo Raynor	
Seymour Schreckinger	father of Jamie Kaplan	William Schwartz	relative of Moreton Binn

## Friday, September 22nd, 2017

David Bassett	father of Annabel Schwartz	Sylvia Farber	mother of Hildi Glicklich
Harry Fergenson	grandfather of Michael Bergman	Jonathan Gordon	brother of Elaine Gordon
Stanley Gottlieb	father of Larry Gottlieb	Jerry Grant	father of Lynne Stark
Monroe Hyman	father of Lisa Pollack	Larry Mirkin	brother of Judith Strom
Harold Redman	father of Debra Lavin	Irv Schnider	uncle of Margie Gorelick
Anita Stein	mother of Ellen Elias	Wendy Steinberg	sister of Jay Walker
Mary Taylor	grandmother of David Taylor	Lee Wallach	brother-in-law of Margie Wallach

# SEPTEMBER YAHREZEITEN (CON'T)

Friday, September 29th, 2017

Rabbi Marcus Burstein	husband of Eric Larson	Leonard Dutka	
Murray Emmer	father-in-law of Jane Emmer	Sophie Felper	grandmother of Margie Gorelick
Abraham Fox	father of Barbara Hisiger	Eddy Fuchs	father of Hanky Kutscher
Rabbi Alex Goldman	father of Robert Goldman	Sophie Goodman	grandmother of Marla Kay
Abraham Holson	grandfather of Robin Heit	Siegfried Karl	father of Roz Kopfstein
Ethel Kurlander	great aunt of Matt Herbstman	LeRoy Levin	father of Sherry Levin Wallach
Dora Lichtbach	grandmother of Ian Leitner	Joseph Meyer-Gordon	
Nathan Muchnick	grandfather of Jason Muchnick	Anna Schattner	
Freda Silverman	grandmother of Richard Burg	Frieda Stern	grandmother of Laurie Dubin

We extend condolences to...

The Sobel family, following the death of Cecile Swedlin Berman z"l, mother of Maddie Sobel.

The Bluestein family, following the death of our congregant, Rokki Bluestein z"l.

The Kessler family, following the death of Stanley A. Simpson Jr. z"l, father of Dawn Kessler.

The Wolkin family, following the death of Laurie Wolkin's aunt.

## Good News!

Mazel Tov to Tammy Strom on the birth of her son, Emory Joseph, on Tuesday, August 1st! Tammy is a member of our choir and a daughter of our members Robert and Judith Strom.

Mazel Tov as well to our members Christina and Vlad Gogish on the birth of their daughter, Lila Hope, on Thursday, August 3rd! Christina has taught in the Hebrew School and Vlad is also a son of our member Serafima Dashevskaya and the brother of our member Ilya Gogish.

Mazel Tov to Jay and Eileen Walker on the birth of their granddaughter.

What a blessing to have these families add a third generation of members in the same month!

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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!

## We Appreciate Your Generosity

## Donations

## General Fund

Karen Taylor & David Kaminer  
Andrew & Lynne Stark  
Abigail Ahlert  
Len and Jacki Goldner

in memory of Goldie Mitzelman  
in honor of Amy Stark's Bat Mitzvah  
in memory of Lynn (Uchetel) Cotumaccio

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Karen Taylor  
Andrew Klein  
Hal & Laurie Wolkin  
Andrew & Lynne Stark  
Margaret Seligman  
Michael & Rona Salpeter  
Michael & Rona Salpeter  
Bob & Terry Henry  
Jeff & Margie Gorelick

in memory of Emelie Howard

in honor of Amy Stark's Bat Mitzvah

in memory of Jesse Seligman

in memory of Joseph Salpeter

in memory of Helga Allen

in memory of Lynn Cotumaccio

in memory of Everett Felper

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Andrew & Lynne Stark

in honor of Amy Stark's Bat Mitzvah

## Education Fund

Charles & Resa Fremed

for the support & friendship of the Osshers

## Rabbi Emeritus Fund

Jeff & Margie Gorelick

in memory of Everett Felper

## Early Childhood Center

Cantor Katchko-Gray

in honor of Jane Emmer

## Music Fund

Michael & Gale Berman  
John & Sally Cotumaccio  
Timothy & Susan Lamothe  
Michael & Wendy DeLucia  
Scott & Desiree Bookstein  
Deborah Mungavin  
Brienne Pantalone  
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SEPTEMBER 2017

ELUL/TISHRI 5778

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	2
3	4 OFFICE CLOSED- Labor Day	5	6	7	8 5:30 pm- Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm— Kabbalat Shabbat	9 5:00 pm Afternoon Shabbat service- Bat Mitzvah of Amy Stark
10 7:00 pm- choir rehearsal	11 10:30 am- ECC "Back to School" picnic	12	13 RS - 1st day of Religious School  6:15 pm- RS staff meeting	14 Religious School 7:00 pm- Choir	15 7:30 pm— Kabbalat Shabbat	16 7:30 pm- Selichot dessert 8:00 pm- Film & Discussion 9:00 pm- Selichot service
17 Religious School	18	19	20 NO Religious School  Erev Rosh Hashana 7:30PM service	21 NO Religious School  Rosh Hashana 9:00AM service 11:30AM service	22 Rosh Hashana day 2 10:00AM service  7:30PM- Kabbalat Shabbat	23
24 NO Religious School	25	26	27 Religious School  7:00 pm- Choir	28 Religious School  7:15 pm- BOD meeting	29 7:30 pm— Erev Yom Kippur service	30 9:00 am- YK service 11:30 am YK service (refer to your HHD packet for add'l afternoon service times & break fast)

*The deadline for submission for the October 2017 Shir Shalom is Friday, September 1, 2017. Thank you.*





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*Early Childhood Center Year-end Celebration 2017!*