

Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President Jane Freeman Moore

Vol. 15 No. 7

March 2017

Services held at the *Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Route 55 and Stringham Road, LaGrange*

MARCH CALENDAR Online at www.shir-chadash.org

- 3 Kabbalat Shabbat**
Music Shabbat
- 4 Sharing Shabbat**
9:00am
Becoming Bar or Bat
Mitzvah 11:45am
- 7 Adult B'n't Mitzvah**
Class 6:30pm
- 10 KABBALAT SHABBAT**
7:30PM
PURIM SPIEL!!
HOMEMADE HAMANTASCHEN
- 13 Board Meeting**
7:00pm
- 17 Kabbalat Shabbat**
18 Sharing Shabbat
9:00am
- 18 Sweet Sixteen**
Celebration Dinner
followed by
Annual
Auction 
- 24 Kabbalat Shabbat**
31 Kabbalat Shabbat
Honoring New
Members Please
come and show our
newest members what
our community is all
about!

Looking Ahead **April 2017**

- 4/7 Sharing Shabbat**
- 4/10 First Night of**
Passover
- 4/22 Sharing Shabbat**



From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

What are we to make of Purim? Clearly it is a holiday unlike any other on our calendar. It is a foolish holiday. We celebrate it with a complete absence of seriousness or sobriety. It is has no connection to the cycle of nature or to the agricultural calendar. It is the only one of our festivals that celebrates purported events which are wholly unconnected to the land of Israel. It is a diaspora celebration.

And it resonates with events that Jewish communities around the world have experienced too many times. Its story is of a community of Jews secure and integrated as a minority in the land they called home who suddenly find themselves destabilized, their very presence begrudged them and their lives threatened. Dark forces rise in power, gain the ear of the king, and are filled with malice towards them. Now the Jews are in peril. The ground has shifted beneath their feet. Well could they tremble. And perhaps we should tremble as we read of their plight.

And yet the story of Purim is not told to incite self-pity or fear. Quite the opposite. After all, look at the way we celebrate it. It is a story of assurance. In the end, the dark forces do not triumph. Indeed, by the conclusion of the story they are hoist on their own petard. The evil they had intended for the Jews now befalls them. Facing the threat, the Jews, as would be expected, engage in religious acts, calling for divine protection. But also they know that their salvation can come "from another place". That Jewish community survives because they take matters into their own hands. Rather than wait passively to be saved, they act. And in acting they redeem themselves. By their own deeds they save themselves from destruction and tragedy. The happy ending that we celebrate on Purim is the fruit of their own effort.

As I said, Purim is all foolishness. Surely nothing about this story relates remotely to the realities of our own experience.

B' Shalom
Rabbi Daniel Polish



Notes from Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

MUSIC SABBATH ON MARCH 3rd- “HOT OFF THE PRESSES”

So many of us attend synagogue for comfort and solace. I like to think that the musical renderings of our liturgy add to one's ability to find Sabbath 'peace' and introspection. Many of us find that very comfort in familiar tunes. It can be jarring to hear new melodies and there is not a Cantor in existence that hasn't heard, "why can't we just sing the 'regular' tune?"

So, what about those 'regular' tunes? Yes, there is a great deal to be said for that which we know. It is easy, it washes over us and through us, like an old friend. We know how it goes, we know how it sounds in our voice and, we know we like it that way. It can be hard to learn another melody to the same text, and, you may ask yourself, why should I?

I am here to tell you that the vast treasury of Jewish music exists because throughout the generations Jews have always utilized new melodies and compositions. From art music to folk tunes, Jews have continually incorporated the music of their surroundings and lent it to the experience of the synagogue. I have to chuckle at how many of you recently sent me the U-Tube video of the *Adon Olam* prayer sung to the tunes of the Broadway hit, "Hamilton".

However, this is a long standing Jewish tradition. The songs of the synagogue should not be stale. Just as our Rabbis continue to grow through their new interpretations of sacred texts, so do we in learning the newest iterations of Jewish melodies. Our Reform movement is particularly adept in fostering and publishing new melodies for the synagogues. Many of those melodies come from the widely successful Reform Jewish camping movement, but others are more complex compositions that come from Jewish musicians and composers primarily from the US and Israel.

On **Friday night, March 3rd**, we hope to bring you some of these new tunes. Some of the tunes have been slowly introduced into our congregation but we will take the opportunity to teach them to you (slowly!). I hope you will join us and have an open heart and mind to what's new and contemporary in Jewish prayer today.

L'Shalom,
Cantor Gail Hirschenfang



A Message from Vice President William Anshen

28 days and counting.....

I am writing this after another snow storm. The calendar reads February, but you will be reading this in March. Spring begins in this month, and we celebrate carnival, a.k.a. Purim, this month. I have always thought what a great juxtaposition: the end of a cold and dreary winter and the chance to let it all hang out. I remember the first time as a child that I noticed adults let loose. I was attending a children's service downstairs, and the adults were stomping on the floor above. I was not sure if the ceiling would hold. As a teenager, I and my three friends tested the limits of Purim. One friend brought a cap pistol and the other a trumpet. It soon became a contest between the rabbi and the four of us. The rabbi attempted to swallow the word Haman and we attempted to drown out the name each place it appears in the Megillah. Two of us, I and the third friend, scouted ahead to be ready for each mention. Suffice it to say that if looks from a rabbi could kill, there would have been four dead teenagers that evening in shul.

After Purim ends this March, we begin what I call the "dreaded 28 days" leading up to the next holiday. As they go by, I sometimes feel like Capitan Hook, listening for the approach of the dreaded crocodile with the sound of tick tick, tick tick, tick tick. At times, I have wished that I was a modern day Rip Van Winkle and could sleep through these 28 days and awake by the time the Seder table has been set. Ah, before I deal with the 28 days there will be the Purim spiel, the auction and the sweet sixteen Shir Chadash dinner. Please make time to attend all of these, as well as our regular Kabbalat Shabbat services and our sharing Shabbats.

B' Shalom
Bill Anshen
223-1076

bill903@frontiernet.net



Refugee March in Poughkeepsie

Filling Esther's Basket

Jewish Family Service Emergency Fund Purim Campaign Starts Anew for 2017

Last year, Congregation Shir Chadash raised close to a stunning \$1273 in gifts to the JFS's Emergency Fund for Jewish Families. All of the Poughkeepsie area's five synagogues raised close to \$3000 in total. This special emergency fund has been used to supply local Jewish families with needed help for rent, food, heat, transportation and other essentials on a short term basis. In fact, one the of the recipients donated back over \$400 when he got "back on his feet" and was able to obtain work.

We cannot stress too much the importance of replenishing this fund to help other needy Jewish families through some difficult times. For the month of March prior to Purim til Saturday, April 1, we will be putting out our Esther's Basket and asking that you bring a check for \$18 or more when you come to temple. Checks should be made out to **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE EMERGENCY FUND**. Checks can also be mailed to Wendy Bill, 5404 Chelsea Cove Drive, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. All donations will be acknowledged by JFS unless otherwise requested.

Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang thank you, in advance, for your kindness and generous support of our local Jewish community and as we enter this season of Purim!



Special Bar and Bat Mitzvah invitation from Cantor Hirschenfang

Dear Friends,

On Saturday morning, March 4, we will hold a special meeting for parents and children to explore the Bar and Bat Mitzvah process at Shir Chadash. This meeting will proceed immediately following our next Sharing Shabbat service, which concludes at approximately 11:45 AM. This meeting is open to our entire school and we certainly hope that you will attend. We will have the opportunity to discuss the entire process of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at our synagogue and how we go about choosing a date that is appropriate for you and your child. Even if you have gone through this process with an older child I recommend that you come with your younger child so that they have the opportunity to have their own questions answered.

I hope to see you March 4th at this special meeting and please bring all your questions and concerns. Pizza will be served so no one will be hungry!

Kindly RSVP to me at: Ghirschenfang@optonline.net.

L'Shalom, Cantor Hirschenfang

BAR & BAT
Mitzvah Guide



A Message from Sue Marcoe Education Enrichment Coordinator

March is the month our students will study the meaning of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. In addition, they will prepare for Purim, and for our fast approaching Passover program scheduled for April 1st.

In February our students were thrilled to receive letters from their pen pals and immediately wrote back. Hopefully they hear back from their new friends in March, and will continue to correspond with their pen pals.

Our Sharing Shabbats in March and April will definitely be fun, informative, and personal for our youngsters! So if your children haven't tried our religious school, March is a good time to take advantage and be guests for a day. For more information, please call 232-1029, email info@shir-chadash.org or check out our website at www.shir-chadash.org.

B'Shalom,
Sue Marcoe
sfmarcoe@gmail.com
(home) 845-723-4045

Help us tell the story of Purim
Friday, March 10th — 7:30pm

Bring Pasta, Canned Sauce and
Macaroni and Cheese Mix to
SHAKE and DONATE!



Mitzvah Day 2017



Mitzvah Day, the annual day of good deeds and charitable acts, is Sunday, May 7th! Join the Jewish Community of the Hudson Valley's effort to make the world a better place by volunteering your time to one of the various work groups.

Kickoff breakfast is at 9:00 AM at Temple Beth-El, 118 S. Grand Ave in Poughkeepsie. Help the greater community by bringing boxed cereal (Cereal

Counts!), packages of socks & underwear (Castle Point V.A. hospital), and cake mix, frosting & candles (Birthday Bag program at Morse School).

Help out by attending one of the projects sponsored by Congregation Shir Chadash:

1) Children's Home of Poughkeepsie – yard / garden / paint @ 10 Children's Way (off Fulton St. – 1/3 mile from Marist College), Town of Poughkeepsie.

2) Lunch Box – prepare & serve Sunday lunch @ Dutchess Outreach, 29 N. Hamilton (off the westbound arterial) City of Poughkeepsie.

Or attend any of the dozen different projects that suit your interest, including New Horizon's Briggs Farm, Gomez Mill House, Appalachian Trail improvement, Pershing Ave Cemetery cleanup, Elder home visits, etc.

See additional project details and sign-up on line beginning March 15th at WWW.JewishDutchess.org

Questions? Contact Steve Herschbein (Steve.Herschbein@gmail.com) or Kathy Walker

(kdshotland@aol.com)

Steve Herschbein

Steve.Herschbein@gmail.com

845-226-8031

IN SUPPORT OF SHIR CHADASH

Donations to Shir Chadash are a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one, honor a friend or celebrate a simcha while supporting the Congregation. We have the "General Fund", the "Building Fund", the "Clergy's Discretionary Fund" and the Sy Hirschenfang Scholar-in-Residence Fund. We will accept donations to any of our funds. The General Fund always needs your help to fund all our wonderful programs. Please send your donations to our Treasurer: Stacie Wogalter, 37 Patricia Drive, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569.



Congregation Shir Chadash Sweet Sixteen Celebration Dinner followed by Auction

Saturday Evening March 18, 2017

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 Route 55, LaGrangeville
in the new Social Hall
6:00pm for Home-Cooked Dinner
\$18 per person

Auction Starts at 7:30pm-No Charge
ALL Welcome for Desserts



Reservations, more information
or special needs: Liz Glassberg
845-242-3674
lizglass1@optonline.net

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Your auctioneers: Vic Feit & Jeff Lash
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Congregation  Shir Chadash

presents

Cantors' Cabaret

SPOTLIGHT ON BROADWAY



Cantor Claire Franco
Community Synagogue
Port Washington, New York

Cantor Jodi Schechtman
Temple Beth Emeth
Albany, New York

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang
Congregation Shir Chadash
LaGrangeville, New York

A Wonderful Celebration of Musical Favorites

ACCOMPANIED BY PIANIST TOM MCCOY AND
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SATURDAY • MAY 13 • 8 PM

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PayPal and Major Credit Cards accepted online • www.shir-chadash.org



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We are now selling **Tops Gift Cards**

PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDERS TO:

WENDY BILL,

5404 Chelsea Cove North,
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533



Calling all spielers for Purim Spiel 2017!

Maybe you've enjoyed it from your seat. Perhaps you danced in the aisles.
Maybe you've just heard tales of the fun and laughter.

Now you can experience it first hand and be a part of the 2017 Purim Spiel!

I'm told it will draw upon Broadway and is being written by an immensely talented playwright.
And, of course, there will be music. And singing. And dancing (but not in the rain).
So, if you have ever wanted to sing, act or just get together somewhat regularly with other fun
people from Shir Chadash, this is your chance.

Details such as scripts, theme, songs are limited to the cast. Rehearsal times are Sunday, February
26 and Sunday, March 6 at 5:00pm and early the night of the play, Friday, March 10 So, if you
want to be in the loop, email me at igoldberg@yahoo.com and please put "PurimSpiel cast" in the
subject line so it doesn't get sent to the trash. Please include the best phone number to reach you
at and whether it can accept texts.

I look forward to working with you on this year's extravaganza.

Irwin Goldberg
igoldberg@yahoo.com
520-465-6887



Saturday, May 13 at 8 PM

CANTORS' CABARET: Spotlight on Broadway

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church

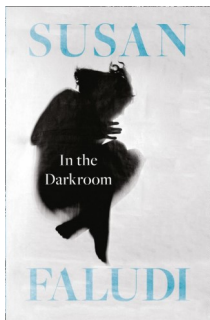
New Social Hall

Starring....

Cantor Claire Franco, Community Synagogue, Port Washington New York

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang, Congregation Shir Chadash, Lagrangeville, New York

Cantor Jodi Schechtman, Temple Beth Emeth, Albany New York



Calling All Readers—

Pot Luck Brunch & Discussion

Sunday March 26th 10:30am—12:30pm

At the home of Nicky and Lindsey Turner

43 Mac Ghee Road Poughkeepsie

845-462-2858 nltturner2@aol.com

The Rosh Chodesh Reading &

Discussion Group selection is the *New York Times* Bestseller:

“IN THE DARKROOM” by Susan Faludi

“In the summer of 2004 I set out to investigate someone I scarcely knew, my father. The project began with a grievance, the grievance of a daughter whose parent had absconded from her life. I was in pursuit of a scofflaw, an artful dodger who had skipped out on so many things—obligation, affection, culpability, contrition. I was preparing an indictment, amassing discovery for a trial. But somewhere along the line, the prosecutor became a witness.”

So begins Susan Faludi’s extraordinary inquiry into the meaning of identity in the modern world and in her own haunted family saga. When the feminist writer learned that her 76-year-old father—long estranged and living in Hungary—had undergone sex reassignment surgery, that investigation would turn personal and urgent. How was this new parent who identified as “a complete woman now” connected to the silent, explosive, and ultimately violent father she had known, the photographer who’d built his career on the alteration of images?

Faludi chases that mystery into the recesses of her suburban childhood and her father’s many previous incarnations: American dad, Alpine mountaineer, swashbuckling adventurer in the Amazon outback, Jewish fugitive in Holocaust Budapest. When the author travels to Hungary to reunite with her father, she drops into a labyrinth of dark histories and dangerous politics in a country hell-bent on repressing its past and constructing a fanciful—and virulent—nationhood. The search for identity that has transfixed our century was proving as treacherous for nations as for individuals.

Faludi’s struggle to come to grips with her father’s metamorphosis takes her across borders—historical, political, religious, sexual—to bring her face to face with the question of the age: Is identity something you “choose,” or is it the very thing you can’t escape?

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Susan Faludi is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and the author of *The Terror Dream*, *Stiffed*, and *Backlash*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. A former reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, she has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Harper’s*, and *The Baffler*, among other publications.

March Torah Readings

March 3 and 4 Terumah
Exodus 25:1-27:19
D'Var Torah Lisa Kerchman

March 10 and 11 Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10

March 17 and 18 Ki Tisa
Exodus 30:11-34:35
D'Var Torah Steve Berman

March 24 and 25 Vayak'hel/Pekudei
Exodus 35:1-40:38

March 31 and April 1 Shemini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
D'Var Torah Robert Goff



March Yahrzeits*

Friday, March 3, 2017	Wilma Buchanan	Mother	Kim Buchanan
Friday, March 3, 2017	Miriam Kerchman	Mother	Marc Kerchman
Friday, March 3, 2017	Seymour Ginsberg	Father	Ed Ginsberg
Friday, March 17, 2017	Ruth Reich	Aunt	Diane Light-Spiro
Friday, March 17, 2017	Donald Levy	Cousin	Sue Marcoe
Friday, March 24, 2017	Vivian Rothman	Aunt	Michael Rothman
Friday, March 10, 2017	Alfred Marr	Father	Bill Marr
Friday, March 24, 2017	Max Bill	Father	Stuart Bill
Friday, March 31, 2017	Howard Fredrick Wallach	Father	John Wallach
Friday, March 31, 2017	Sally Greenblatt	Grandmother	Daniel Kuriloff
Friday, March 31, 2017	Hope Coe Armer	Mother	Judi Brown
Friday, March 31, 2017	Marion Eisenstein	Maternal Grandmother	Helen Brandonisi
Friday, March 31, 2017	Barbara Brandon	Step-Mother	Alfred Brandonisi

*To update your Yahrzeit list, please complete the on-line form on our website www.shir-chadash.org

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, March 3	Angela and Butch Panzer
Saturday, March 4	Stacie and David Wogalter
Friday, March 10	Suzanne Neil
Friday, March 17	TBA
Saturday, March 18	TBA
Friday, March 24	Alice and Steve Press
Friday, March 31	TBA



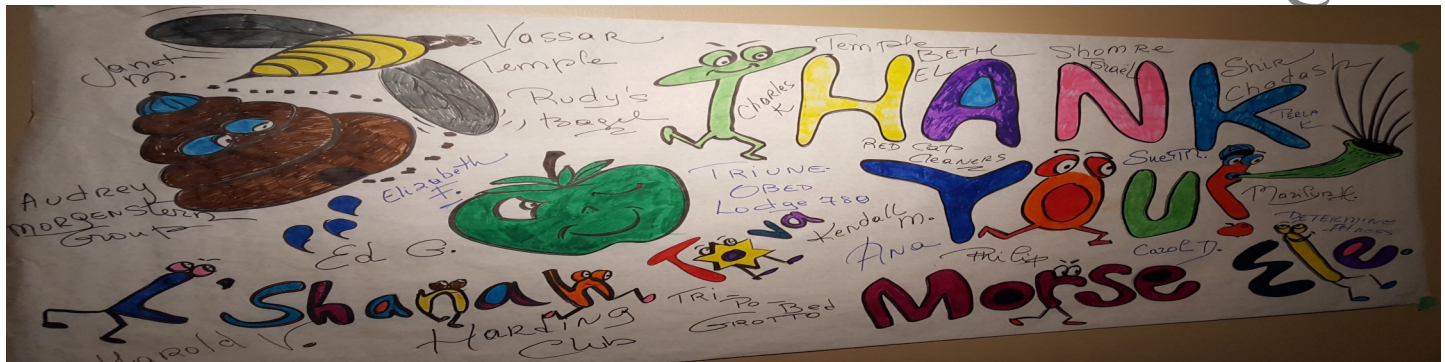
Oneg Coordinators: Gloria Goverman
gbwknits@yahoo.com
845-232-1029
Suzanne Neil
suzanneneil@mac.com
845-559-3123

Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizers :
Sara Rothman 223-5925
Stacie Wogalter 635-5101



**Weather Cancellations Visit WWW.CANCELLATIONS.COM and
WHUD RADIO 100.7. Friday evening SERVICES WOULD BE
CANCELLED BY 5:00pm Sharing Shabbat WOULD BE
CANCELLED BY 7:00am**

Morse School Tzedakah Project



Big Thank You banner from the Kids!

An Urgent Request from the Social Action Committee **Tzedakah for a Morse Elementary School Family**

We received a specific request for help this week from the social worker at the Morse School. A mother of 4 children attending the Morse School has just been able to reunite her family of 4 children. She is a single parent struggling with minimal hours in a minimum wage job and also trying to meet the care needs of her 4 young children. She has just found a 2-bedroom apartment. Mom sleeps on the couch in the living room. The 3 girls share a room and the son has his own room. They really need beds and dressers. A set of bunk beds would be ideal since 3 twin beds won't fit into the girls' room. They also need curtains for privacy, bed linens, towels and any household items.

The children and mom also need clothing. These are their sizes:

- for 6 year old girl- pants size 7, shirt medium, shoe size 3;
- for 8 year old girl- pants size 8, shirt medium, shoe size 4;
- for 9 year old girl- adult women's pants size 10, shirt xl, shoe size 9 women's.
- for 10 year old boy- pants size 12, shirt large, shoe size 8.

We still need to find out what mom needs but we know she wears a size small. She is really focused on her children's needs right now.

The steering committee of the Jewish Social Action Coalition is putting this out to each of our congregations hoping that we can provide this family with a new start. If you have any of these items in good condition that you can donate, this is a great way to recycle things you are no longer using and help a family create a home. Please contact Sandy Lash sjlash@optonline.net or Robbie Schiff veggierob@yahoo.com as soon as possible.



Congregation Shir Chadash

brings you "a new song"

Calendar 5777 (2016-2017)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services start Friday evening September 9th at 7:30pm
Sharing Shabbat starts Saturday morning, September 10th at 9:00am

All are welcome!

SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00 AM

September 10 and 17
October 1 and 15
November 5 and 19
December 3 and 17

January 7 and 21
February 4 and 11
March 4 and 18
April 1 and 22
May 6 and 20

Saturday, September 24th Selichot with Temple Beth-El at FPUPC 8:00pm

Saturday, October 1st Bat Mitzvah of Jayci Longin 10:30am

Sunday October 2nd Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm

Monday October 3rd Rosh Hashanah 10:00am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm

Tuesday October 11th Kol Nidre 8:00pm

Wednesday October 12th Yom Kippur 10:00am

Torah Study and Discussion 12:30pm

Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00pm

Yom Kippur Afternoon/Yizkor/Concluding Services from 3:00pm to BreakFast

Sunday October 16th Sukkah building and Family Sukkot Service time TBD

Friday October 21st lay led Sukkot Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday October 28th Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 7:30pm

Saturday November 5th Bat Mitzvah of Julia Rubinstein at 10:30am

Friday December 30th "Light Up the Night" Family Chanukah Service 6:00pm

Saturday February 11th Tu B'Shevat Seder

Friday March 10th Purim Celebration 7:30pm

Friday March 31st Honoring New Members 7:30pm

Friday April 21st Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday April 28th Joint Service with Temple Beth-El led by 3- 4th grade Hebrew class

Friday May 12 Joint Service at Temple Beth-El led by 5-7th grade Hebrew class*

Saturday May 20th Adult B'not Mitzvah at 10:30am

Friday June 9th Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm

Friday June 16th Board Installation at 7:30pm

**new date*



**hopewell
animal
hospital**
INTEGRATED VETERINARY CARE

Kim Buchanan, DVM, CVA
Jerry Scheck, DVM, CVA

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hopewellanimalhospital.com

To learn about more
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jewishveg.com

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Win/Win With Groceries UPDATE!



Join us in an easy fund-raising effort that will fit right into your weekly grocery trip. Just buy grocery GIFT CARDS from Shir Chadash. This is how it works: Buy gift cards in \$25 increments from Shir Chadash. Choose Tops, Hannafords, ShopRite, Adams Fairacre Farms or Stop & Shop. You can also purchase a gift card to support our programs to feed the hungry. When Shir Chadash has accumulated \$1,000 per store, you get your cards. A percentage of the money you spend comes back to Shir Chadash. Use PayPal to place your order - you can use a credit card even if you don't have a PayPal account. www.shir-chadash.org



Turn around time depends on you...the quicker I have complete orders, the quicker the cards come in. And you do not have to be a member of Shir Chadash to participate. Call or email me with any questions. Please order your cards now.....

Wendy Bill:

227-7236

bills1989@msn.com

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	2	3 Kabbalat Shabbat Music Shabbat 7:30pm	4 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am BECOMING A BAR / BAT MITZVAH 11:45am
5	6	7 Ivrit Hebrew School At Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	8 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	9	25 KABBALAT SHABBAT PURIM SPIEL!! 7:30PM	
12  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	13 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	14 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm	15 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	16	17 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	18 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Sweet Sixteen Dinner & Auction 6:00pm
19 		21 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm	22 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	23	24 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	25
26 Rosh Chodesh Reading Group 10:30am—12:30pm At the home of Nicky and Lindsey Turner 43 Mac Ghee Road Poughkeepsie 845-462-2858 nltturner2@aol.com	27	28 Ivrit Hebrew School At Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	29 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	30	31 Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring New Members 7:30pm	1 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am