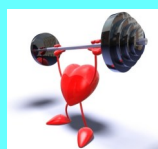




Socially Distanced



Stronger Together

Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

Vol. 18 No. 9

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



From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish: As long as we are in it.....

Dear Friends,

I imagine that if you are like me, you have been spending more time in your home than you are used to. As we enter a new month of self-isolation, we can begin to hope that this chapter will soon come to an end. Those of us who are “together” virtually at Shabbat services have, at least, the consolation of community. If you haven’t joined us yet, let me urge you to give it a try. Personally, it has sustained me through these arid times. I have no doubt that the experience of these last weeks have left an indelible impression on us that will remain with us throughout our lives. While we are still “in it”, let me share a few thoughts.

I hope that all of us have been extra gentle with the people with whom we are sheltering in place. I know that nerves can get frazzled by confinement. We are not used to spending this much sustained time with one another. This is a good time to practice Rabbi Akiba’s Hillel’s dictum, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. How much the more so when those neighbors are your loved ones.

And it is a good time to spend some good time with those loved ones, if we are fortunate enough to be isolated with people we love; and simply to enjoy being in their presence. Personal distance does not have to mean emotional distance. Make it a point to spend some intentional time together, doing something meaningful or fun.

We can also see this as a time to do those projects and tasks that we were waiting for just the right time to get to. The right time may have come to us.

In fact, this is a great opportunity for a Mitzvah. Call someone who you don’t know well, whom you fear might be lonely or feeling isolated. See how they are doing. Or if there is anything you can do for them. Or just get to know them a little better. You can brighten their day. After all, though we are by ourselves, we needn’t be worrying only about ourselves.

These days give us the opportunity to deepen our prayer lives. Even as we endure our discomforts, there are so many, so many, who are truly enduring ordeals of suffering, pain and loss. We have the time and the space to pray for them. And to pray for the heroes who care for the sick, tend to the grieving, or simply bear the burden of seeing that we continue to be fed and that the infrastructures of our communities continue to function

During these days when we become acutely aware of what we are missing, we can also become more attuned to what we do have, and what continues to be present in our lives. We can take stock of our good fortune and give thanks for that. Sometimes being forced out of our routines makes us miss people from our lives “outside”. Why not get in touch with them. You are rich with time to share with them. Why deprive yourself?

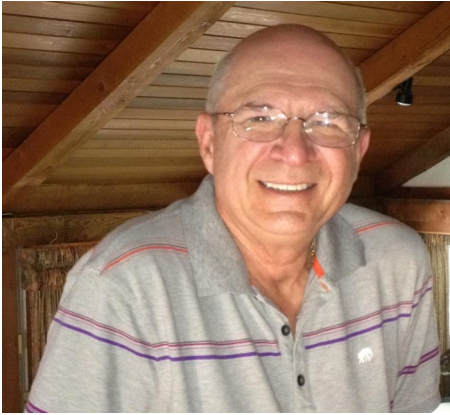
This can be a remarkable opportunity for growth. Now that our routines have been shattered, we have been stripped down to our essential selves. We have the chance to ask ourselves what we really value, what is really important to us, what we are missing and what we care about. Our self-isolation gives us the chance to discover who we really are, what we want our lives to be about. Though it comes wrapped in trial, that is a real gift. And as always, let us find strength in the great lesson of our people’s journey through history. With all we have endured through the millennia, we are a people who are inured to challenge, a people who have never given up hope, even in dark times. Let each of us embrace hope now as our world passes through a painful and frightening time.

So...no, we don’t know how much longer this trying time will last. But, as long as we are in it, let us make the most of it - and come out of it stronger when it ends.

In the words of our Torah, let us all “be strong and of good courage”. And please, take care of yourself and stay well.

B’ Shalom, Rabbi Daniel Polish

A Message from President Victor Feit **IN A NEW WORLD**



We are now living in a world where nothing is as it was, or as we want it to be. When Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, concerts, auctions, religious services and schools are all postponed, and when no-one knows when things will feel right again - we find ourselves in a new world.

The changes we make—wearing masks and gloves when we venture out; children going to school at home; millions of people out of work; isolation from our community, friends and families; hospitals filled with sick and dying people; religious services conducted through the internet—this has become our new reality.

Our Friday night services and Saturday Torah study are now more meaningful than ever. They are, in many cases, the only group communication we have with our friends and brethren. Forty to fifty people meeting for an hour of socialization is now our new normal. I would like to thank the Rabbi and Cantor for making these services more meaningful than ever, bringing us back to a sense of community and removing us from our daily boredom. It is great to see the faces of people we may have taken for granted a few months ago, even if it's only over Zoom. A special thanks, also, to Michael Rothman and Jim Thrasher for their major efforts in securing a federal loan to help us survive during this trying time.

Shir Chadash is a community that helps to maintain our reality, but we must remember that this community requires support from its members. Like many organizations and businesses today, we are struggling to pay our bills. I know that we are all having financial upheavals due to the world situation, but if you can afford to help the Temple survive, please do; any donation would help.

We are in the midst of designing an internet sale and auction. Please look around your home for quality items you feel other people would appreciate, and donate them to Shir Chadash. (contact Vic Feit at rebef2@cs.com or 914-474-0680). Please, watch for the sale and auction and buy what you can afford to support your Temple.

Our future is now! We will be heading toward a world complete with a new normal. It will resemble the past but will be different. The organizations that will survive will be those that adapt and stay strong together.

Be safe, and be careful.

B'Shalom, Victor & Sue Feit

Virtual Learning: Apart and Together



Once again, it was a pleasure watching our children participating in virtual classes. On April 4th Rochelle Bellach's students (grades preschool-3rd grade) listened to a story, and then played Bingo requiring them to answer questions about the Passover Seder. And on April 9th, Rochelle's students did a wonderful job of reading the four questions in English during our Congregational Passover Seder. They were so proud of themselves and they should be. Finally, on April 18th, these students learned a little about the history of Israel and why Israel is important to us. In May, they will be celebrating Israel, and learning about Shavuot.

On April 4th, our older students, taught by Cantor Hirschenfang, demonstrated their knowledge of people who played important roles in the history of Israel. They each took on a different role, and their parents interviewed them as if they were those historical characters. On April 9th, Talia Barnes did a beautiful job chanting the 4 questions in Hebrew at our Congregational Seder. And on April 18th, these students impressed Cantor Hirschenfang with their knowledge of the 6 Day war. There are only two more classes left this semester, May 2nd & May 16th, but you can be sure that Cantor Hirschenfang will fill them with fun activities and great information about Israel!

And even though we are apart in our homes while studying together, our Shir Chadash Religious School is growing. Welcome Justin and Lexi!

So, look for more exciting online experiences for your children coming up in May. Please note: If your children are not attending our Religious School, they may try out our Virtual school for free. Our Religious School will meet May 2nd & May 16th at 9:30a.m. for our Aleph Class, and 10:30 for our Gimmel Class. If you are interested, please call me at 845-723-4045 with any questions.

Also, try out our Friday night virtual Shabbat services. After all, what is important to you becomes important to your children!

Stay well and safe!

B'Shalom,

Sue Marcoe
sfmarcoe@gmail.com 845-723-4045



IN SUPPORT OF CONGREGATION SHIR CHADDASH

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**"; **the Adult B'nai Mitzvah Scholarship Fund; the Morse and Social Action Projects Fund; the Sy Hirschenfang Scholar-in-Residence Fund; and now we have the Wendy Bill Get it Done 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: Jim Thrasher, 31 Timberline Drive Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 or on our website; www.shir-chadash.org. The donation tab is on the home page and please remember to complete the message box.**

Congregation Shir Chadash gratefully acknowledges the following families that have donated to the Wendy Bill Get It Done Fund:

Barr	Hirschenfang-Polish	O'Herron-Pollock
Bellach	Kuriloff	Roth-Bordowitz
Coleman	Lang	Spiegel
Dritz	Lash	Stapholz
Freedom Plains	Light-Spiro	Temple Beth-El
United Presbyterian Church	Lox	Education Committee
Goldberg	Marcoe	Thrasher
Guerrero	Marr	Tracy
Haase	Mullins	Turner
Herschbein		Weber
Kerchman		

Congregation Shir Chadash gratefully acknowledges the following memorial donations:

Sue Marcoe, **in memory** of Helen Wallerstein Sue Marcoe, **in memory** of Doris Goff, Mother of Robert Goff
Sandy and Jeff Lash, **in memory** of Doris Goff, Mother of Robert Goff

Congregation Shir Chadash gratefully acknowledges the following for their contributions to the Mortgage Mensch (Real Estate) Fund:

Burshtyn	Lash	Marr
Dritz	Light-Spiro	Hirschenfang-Polish
Gleckman-Hayman	MacKay	Schiff
Goldberg	Marcoe	Thrasher
Herschbein		

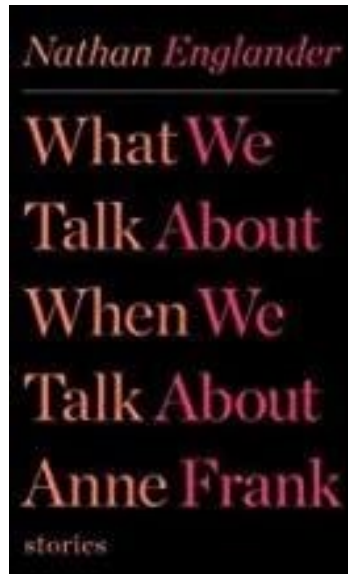
YOU'RE INVITED TO A ZOOM ROSH CHODESH!

May 3rd at 10am—Bring Your Own Brunch!

The selection is the Nathan Englander short story,

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank?”**

Gail Jaitin will be our discussion leader.



Some of us read this remarkable, funny and poignant story when it was first published in 2012. This is a perfect time to re-read it or read and discuss it for the first time. **And no worries about finding the selection.** Gail Jaitin has provided us with a pdf of the short story, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank”; and we also have a pdf of the Raymond Carver short story, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love”. The Raymond Carver story is alluded to in Englander’s short story and it is interesting to read as a companion piece, if you like.

****Email Sandy Lash for any questions , copies of the stories, and a link to our Zoom meeting.**

We also have “.....Anne Frank” in a Word document. If you prefer that format, please let me know and I’ll send it to you. sjlash@optonline.net

May Torah Readings



ACHAREI MOT/KEDOSHIM	May 2 2020	Leviticus 16:1-20:27
EMOR	May 9 2020	Leviticus 21:1-24:23
BEHAR/BECHUKOTAI	May 16 2020	Leviticus 25:1-27:34
BAMIDBAR	May 23 2020	Numbers 1:1-4:20
SHEN SHEL SHAVU'OT	May 30 202	Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

May 2020 Yahrzeits*

Friday, May 1, 2020	Robert Watsky, Father of Mana Watsky
Friday, May 8, 2020	Irving Lang, Father of Lois Lang
Friday, May 8, 2020	Alice Lisa Greenberg, Mother of Jackie Greenberg
Friday, May 15, 2020	Sophie Francomano, Aunt of Wendy Bill, Great-Aunt of Erica and Jeremy
Friday, May 15, 2020	Grace Selzer, Grandmother of Haniya Mee
Friday, May 22, 2020	Manuel Meltzer, Father of Suzanne Neil
Friday, May 22, 2020	Lillian Roth, Mother of Sara Rothman
Friday, May 22, 2020	Brendan Halligan, Ex-Husband of Lois Lang
Friday, May 22, 2020	Saralyn Schiff Blatt, Mother of Roberta Schiff
Friday, May 29, 2020	Jamie Marder, Sister of Karen Marder
Friday, May 29, 2020	Sarena Rothman, Cousin of Michael Rothman
Friday, May 29, 2020	Elizabeth Flapan, Mother of Jerry Scheck

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

Oneg and Sharing Shabbat Hosts for May B—Y—O—O and BB!



**Oneg Coordinators: Suzanne Neil suzanneneil@mac.com
845-559-3123**
**Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizer:
Sara Rothman 845-223-5925**

Shop with Shir Chadash at no extra cost to you!

Did you know that every dollar you spend at Adams Fairacre Farms, Hannfaord, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop or Tops could be helping Shir Chadash ... and it won't cost you anything extra?

It's true.

Through programs at each store, Shir Chadash is able to purchase gift cards and gets a percentage back while you get the full face value! It's a true Win-Win! Think about it, you probably shop every week and therefore would need cards every week, right?

In an effort to help stabilize some of the congregation's finances and make it easier for members to get cards as-needed, the board would like to be able to place regular monthly orders and have cards available for everyone as they need them.

So, here's how you can help. Several people have committed to contributing money to fund an initial order of cards so we'll have them for September.

If you can commit each week to purchasing gift cards totaling the amount you spend each week and paying treasurer Jim Thrasher either with cash or check (*PayPal takes too much out to make it cost effective*) two week's prior, you'll be able to pick up the cards at or before services in two weeks.

Of course, if you'd like to pay ahead for two, three or more weeks at once, that's OK too!

Either way, you'll be able to get your groceries that week and Shir Chadash will get a little bit of revenue on an ongoing basis, and we'll all be happy.

If you have any questions about the program, contact

Sue Marcocoe sfmarcoe@gmail.com 845-723-4045

ALSO: If you use Amazon, you can help generate ongoing revenue for Shir Chadash simply by shopping through Amazon Smile and selecting Shir Chadash. With every purchase you make, Amazon donates a small percentage to the congregation! All these small things add up, so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so today.



Member's Cooking Corner



Today I decided that something warm and creamy and comforting would be good.

In these 'new normal' times a bit of comfort can mean a lot. I made this up as I went along, so if you are a 'down to the last quarter teaspoon' type person regarding ingredients then you might be hesitant to try it- but be brave!

What You need:

1 large sweet potato

1 small butternut squash (yeah, that makes them about the same size)

1 32 oz. box unsweetened soy milk (or your favorite non-dairy milk)

1 32 oz. box vegetable broth

1 teaspoon sesame oil (olive oil OK too)

Seasonings: cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, cumin, black pepper, coriander (or use garam masala which has all of these)

Also: sea salt or Herbamare® (it is a sea salt and spice mixture) and turmeric

For garnish - sliced almonds or something you like, roasted pumpkin seeds?



What to do:

Put parchment paper on a baking sheet, poke some holes in the squash and sweet potato and bake in a 375 degree oven (convection setting if you have it) for about an hour and a half until both are very soft; this brings out their natural sweetness and makes them easy to work with - no peeling or chopping.

Remove from the oven, allow to cool until you can handle them. Cut the potato in half and the squash in thirds and scoop out the contents. Don't use the center of the squash with the seeds and fibers. Place in a bowl and mash with a fork until creamy. It will not get entirely smooth that way, but I like a bit of texture. You could put in blender or food processor if you want it really smooth. Transfer to a 3-quart pot and add the oil (I am reducing the amount of oil I use, but a small amount like this adds some flavor). Add the spices, start with small amounts and taste until you like the taste. Then add the non-dairy milk and vegetable broth a little at a time, stirring it in well until you like the consistency. You can always add more so don't get it thinner than you want. I did not use all of the soy milk or broth.

Taste, correct the seasonings, if necessary, and enjoy. Some thin sliced almonds make a nice garnish or use your imagination.

Snipped dill, chives or green onion tops work well.

Let's keep in touch with those we care most about and those who are most isolated. Use whatever means necessary. Phone, email, Facebook, Text, Skype, even send a handwritten note (yes, you do remember how to do that).

If you are still working, we appreciate your efforts to keep things going. If you are retired or have been deemed non-essential than make your time count. With love., Robbie Schiff

veggierob@yahoo.com

BE A MORTGAGE MENSCH-

HELP SHIR CHADDASH SECURE OUR LAND AND OUR FUTURE

Background: Many years ago, the congregation purchased property along Freedom Road in Lagrangeville with the intention of building a synagogue. After much money, time, and sweat equity it has been determined that for the foreseeable future we will be unable to utilize this land. We have some money to continue to pay the mortgage, however that money will be depleted soon.

The net liability is \$21,000. Possibly we could actually pay off the mortgage and in doing so, gain some added flexibility as to the disposition of the land. If each member family pays \$18 (Chai) until November 2021, we could easily pay off the mortgage.

So be a mortgage mensch.....

I/We hear by authorize Congregation Shir Chadash to withdraw monthly :

_____ \$18 per month until November 2021

_____ \$36 per month until November 2021. I/We would like to help those who can not.

_____ \$432 one-time withdrawal

Routing Number _____ Account # _____
(Please attached a voided a check)

_____ Enclosed is a one-time payment of \$432

_____ I/We will make monthly payments from my/our financial intuition

Signature

Date

For more information, please contact Jim Thrasher, Treasurer at 845-380-7221 or jdt845@yahoo.com or send your completed form to Jim Thrasher, Treasurer, 31 Timberline

Drive, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. **Thank you!!**

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for the
weekly email is
Tuesdays at
3:00pm. Thank you
for your
cooperation.

Wendy Bill

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Save on Taxes – Contribute Directly from your Retirement Account

If you are retired and drawing required minimum distributions (RMDs) from a retirement account, you may be able to avoid paying income taxes on your contributions to Shir Chadash up to the RMD limit by directing your financial institution to issue a check made out to Shir Chadash, and sending the check to our Treasurer, Jim Thrasher. Please consult your financial advisor to ascertain whether you are eligible to take advantage of this tax avoidance before making your contribution.

*Weather
Cancellations*

**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**





Congregation Shir Chadash

brings you "a new song"

Calendar 5780 (2019-2020)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services starting Friday evening September 6th at 7:30pm
Sharing Shabbat starting Saturday morning, September 7th at 9:00am

All are welcome!

SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00 AM

September 7 and 21
October 5 and 19
November 2 and 16
December 7 and 14

January 4 and 18
February 1 and 22
March 7 and 21
April 4 and 18
May 2 and 16

Saturday, September 21st Selichot Joint Celebration at Temple Beth-El 8:00pm

Sunday, September 29th Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm

Monday, September 30th Rosh Hashanah 10:00am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm

Tuesday, October 8th Kol Nidre 8:00pm

Wednesday, October 9th Yom Kippur 10:00am

Panel Discussion: Hate in the Bible Stories We Love: What If? 12:30pm

Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00pm

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

Sunday, October 13th Sukkah Building and Family BBQ and Service, 3:00pm

Friday, October 18th Sukkot Family Service 7:30pm

Friday, October 25th Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 7:30pm

Sunday, November 24th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 5:00pm

Friday, December 27th "Light Up the Night"

Family Chanukah Celebration 7:30pm

Saturday, February 1st Tu B'Shevat Seder 10:30am

Friday, March 13th Purim Spiel and Celebration 7:30pm

~~Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29 Shabbaton Weekend~~

~~Friday, April 10th No Services – Second Passover Seder~~

~~Friday, April 17 Joint Service with Temple Beth-El – at Shir Chadash 7:30pm~~

~~Friday, April 24th Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm~~

~~Friday, May 1st Yom Haastmaut Shabbat 7:30pm~~

~~Friday, May 8 Joint Service with Temple Beth-El – at TBE 7:30pm~~

~~Thursday, May 28th Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Time TBD~~

~~Friday, June 5th Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm TBD~~

~~Friday, June 12th Board Installation at 7:30pm TBD~~

May 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	2 Zoom Torah Study Adults 9:15am Children 10:30am
3 *Zoom Rosh Chodesh 10:00am	4	5	6	7	8 Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	16 Zoom Torah Study Adults 9:15am Children 10:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22 Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	30
31	<p>*For information contact Sandy Lash</p> <p>845.227.4650 sjlash@optonline.net</p>					