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Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Sirschenfang

President Lindsey Turner

December 2018

Vol. 17 No. 2

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR Online at www.shir-chadash.org

- 1 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
- 1 Annual Auction 6:00pm At FPUPC
- 2 First Night of Chanukah
   7 Light Up the Night Family Chanukah
- Board Meeting
  7:00pm
  Kabbalat Shabbat
  7:30pm
- 15 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Religious School Students Leading the Service 10:45am
- 21 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm

24 Annual December 25 Eve Dinner-More info to

28 Kabbalat Shabbat

Looking Ahead

6:30pm

- 1/13 Rosh Chodesh
- 1/19 Tu B'Shevat Seder



## From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

#### The Triumph of Light Over Darkness

There is a Chanukah story I have read in a number of places. Perhaps you have heard it too. I do not believe it is actually true. But numbers of people insist that it is. It is about

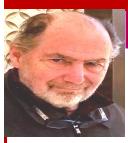
George Washington and the rough winter at Valley Forge. Washington is despondent at his dwindling resources and ebbing fortunes. Can he possibly prevail? Is the fruitless effort even worth it? He walks desolate through the encampment of his troops. In one of them he sees lights burning. Going inside, he asks the soldier about the unusual candelabra he is kindling. The soldier explains to Washington that it is a menorah that he is lighting in observance of the holiday of Chanukah. Washington asks the soldier what the holiday is all about. The soldier tells Washington about the Maccabees and their wondrous victory over the Syrian Greeks – and of the miraculous cruse of oil that burned for eight days. Washington tells this soldier that his faithfulness to his tradition and the story he shared have given him new courage to continue the struggle with renewed hope.

A fable? Perhaps. But its core captures what Chanukah can mean to us. It is no accident that Chanukah falls at the time of year when darkness seems sure to prevail. The days are shorter and colder and the nights less congenial. And just as we enter the nadir of the trough, we begin to kindle one and then progressively more candles until we have filled our home with warmth and brightness. We celebrate the victory of right over might. And we enact the triumph of light over darkness. It is something all of us need as we descend into winter.

And perhaps Chanukah is especially precious right now. We are living in dark times. The events of the world can weigh on us and oppress us. There may be times for each of us when things seem so chaotic, destructive and dangerous that the world can never be put alright again. We might even be tempted to give up hope. Like Washington in that story we may even question the viability of things we hold dear. The arrival of Chanukah can be an ensign for us that light can prevail; the good overcome all the dark and destructive forces; that, like the story of the Maccabees, right can triumph over might. At times like these the greatest gift we can receive is Chanukah itself. May it warm you and give you courage.

> B'Shalom, Rabbi Daniel Polish

## A Message from President Lindsey Turner FRIENDS: Silver and Gold



Dearest Friends,

I don't know about how you feel, but this morning I feel very encouraged.

I know we are now living in threatening times, but it's funny how a warm meal with good friends can make you feel better, even if you can't forget the dangers around.

We have had two occasions this week to absorb these good feelings along with some most delicious calories!





First, our Erev Shabbat dinner that we shared at each other homes. I know I renewed some friendships and hopefully started some new ones. Glad we are restarting this Shir Chadash tradition!

Then, last night we shared our Thanksgiving meal with our friends at FPUPC. First the really spectacular music with our Presbyterian friends and our combined choirs, then four good people who told us that they have much to be grateful

for and shared their happiness and thoughts with us, stimulating us to appreciate our own blessings. Then of course another meal, trading of stories and experiences all around.

Now, let's all head together to a warm candle-lit Happy Chanukah.



Friends—Silver and Gold—new ones are Silver – the old ones are Gold.

B 'Shalom Lindsey Turner

## A Smile for Shir Chadash

You can help Shir Chadash when you're shopping on amazon.com? Join the Amazon Smile program - Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice when you shop at smile.amazon.

So start by going to <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and when prompted, type in Shir Chadash as the worthy cause you'd like to support. Then choose the one in LaGrange NY because that's us!





## Annual Goods and Services Auction Saturday, December 1







PERFECT FOR UNIQUE GIFTS!

Your auctioneers: Vic Feit & Jeff Lash Silent Auction too for even more fun! Something for everyone, lots of surprises! Much, much more!

To donate items or be on the

# *committee contact Victor Feit at 914-474-0680*

Saturday, December 1 Friday, December 7 Friday, December 14 Saturday, December 15 Friday December 21 Friday, December 28 Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts Sara and Michael Rothman Lisa Roth and Rich Bordowitz Chanukah Oneg Andrea Ostwald Steve Moskowitz Goodies from the Shir Fridge and Freezer Amy and Jim Thrasher New Year's Oneg



Oneg Coordinators: Suzanne Neil suzanneneil@mac.com 845-559-3123 Wendy Bill bills1989@msn.com 845-227-7236 Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizers : Sara Rothman 845-223-5925

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# Member's Corner

## Why I Chose to Wear a Kippah

When I was asked to give this D'var, I expected to speak about this week's Torah portion Vayishlach. And so I will. In this parsha, Jacob sends emissaries to Esau in hopes of reconciliation but his messengers report that Esau is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob becomes frightened and decides to send gifts to Esau to appease his anger. While Jacob's family goes across the Jabbok River he stays behind and has a dream. In this dream he wrestles with an angel of G-d which may represent the spirit of Esau; it may also be his own soul chiding him for how he really treated Esau.

This made me think about my internal struggles with my expression of my own religion. For a while now I have considered wearing a kippah full time but I always had many reasons not to such as: I'm not religious enough; I don't know enough about Judaism; I don't observe Shabbat; what will my clients think; or even my family.

Then the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh happened. It made me think about what it is to be Jewish. Is it something that I do only on Friday night or every other Saturday. Do I think about my religion and my beliefs at other times? Am I afraid of being Jewish or embarrassed? Why not express my religious faith? Am I afraid of being attacked because of my religious beliefs?

So I thought about it and I ruminated (redundancy intended) and I came to the conclusion that we as a people should not be afraid, we should not feel that we are not Jewish enough to show our religion. In a way, I am daring those that are antisemitic to say something. In the United States, incidents of antisemitic attacks are up. The ADL's most recent report on antisemitic incidents in the United States showed a significant year-to-year increase: in 2017, anti-Semitic incidents surged nearly 60 percent, according to the 2017 ADL Audit of Antisemitic Incidents. This was the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since the ADL started tracking such data in 1979. The sharp rise was due, in part, to a significant increase in incidents in schools and on college campuses. Think about that, our children are being exposed to such violent incidents, incidents of hatred. These attacks nearly doubled for a second year in a row.

This spike controverts a much more positive trend: ADL has been taking the pulse of antisemitism in America since 1964 and has tracked a marked decline in anti-Jewish attitudes during that time. The **most recent surveys** showed a slight increase in antisemitic attitudes from 2014. Still, the vast majority of Americans do not have negative opinions of their Jewish neighbors.

That same survey, however, revealed a first: a majority of Americans are concerned about violence directed against American Jews. And more than 8 in 10 Americans believe it is important for the government to play a role in combating anti -Semitism, up from 70 percent in 2014.

One of the most disturbing recent manifestations of anti-Semitism in the U.S. was the **alt right "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia,** in August 2017, where hundreds of marchers threw Nazi salutes, waved swastika flags and shouted "Sieg Heil." The chaotic event **ended violently** with the death of a counter-protestor. We have seen prom pictures of high school seniors—the future of our country— giving the Nazi salute. And we have seen the largest attack on Jewish people ever in the United States happen in Pittsburg.

So, what do we do? Do we hide our religion? Do we go underground? Do we try to elect a government that cares about protecting the citizens that live here? How did we wind up with such a dysfunctional executive branch? Do we really live in a world where the alt right and hatred are the hall marks of our country?

I, for one, chose to embrace my religion more. The more frequent and the stronger the attacks, the more and stronger is my faith and my desire to show my support for others of all religions.

The more military we send to the border and attack strangers and aliens to our country, the more I remember the Torah that says, "You shall not wrong nor oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt". (Exodus 22:20) In fact this is a central theme in several books of the Torah. Leviticus tells us that, "When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I the Eternal am your God". In Deuteronomy it says that, "You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt". And on it goes. In fact, I think you can say that this is a central theme within Judaism.

So I think that my wearing a kippah is a dare, a challenge, to those who hate and espouse hate — do not try to instill your hate in others, let those who pretend to defend the United States remember the words of Abraham Lincoln from the Gettysburg address, "...that all men [and I believe he would include women] are created equal". Let us pray for a day when violence shall be no more and nations shall not learn war anymore and let us say Amen. Shabbat shalom.

D'var Torah by Jerry Scheck November 23, 2018

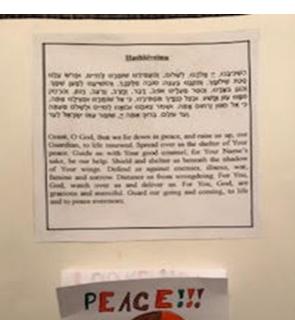


## A Message from Sue Marcoe Education Enrichment Coordinator

#### EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

November was a difficult month for all of us. To help deal with the sadness, our Bet class, taught by Rochelle Bellach, created a card for the children of the Tree of Life Synagogue's Religious School. They wrote notes of support and friendship, and inserted a prayer, the English translation of the Hashkiveinu prayer, asking G-d to watch over them and to grant peace to them.

All of our students have been working hard to understand the meanings of the key prayers of our Saturday morning Shabbat service. This is in preparation for December 15th, when our three classes will lead our Sharing Shabbat Service. Some of our students will be writing prayers of their own to be included in this service. All of our students will be participating in this service, with our youngest students saying the Sh'ma to our oldest students reading and leading some of the Hebrew prayers. As



faith

always, music will be an important part of this service.

 $\bigcirc X$ 

Please come and support our students on December 15th, and marvel at their thoughtful contributions to this service.

Also, a reminder to parents that it is important that all students are present in class on December 1st and December 15th, so that they will be prepared for this special service.

> B'Shalom, Sue Marcoe Religious School Coordinator <u>sfmarcoe@gmail.com</u> 845-723-4045

P.S. Parents please bring your children early for Bagel Time (8:45 before class in the old building). School begins at 9 a.m. Unfortunately no food is allowed in the classrooms. Students can finish their breakfast or get a nosh at Kiddush at 10:30am before services. Class time upstairs will be short, so come early for breakfast and time to socialize. What is important to you becomes important to your children.



Bring your Chanukah Menorah and candles! Friday, December 7th, 6:30PM Choir Chanukah Oneg All are Welcome-Bring your friends and family for a Chanukah to remember!

> At Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Route 55 and Stringham Road, LaGrange

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## **TIKKUN OLAM at Holiday Time**

The year 5779 is a great time to contribute to repairing the world—together we can make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors in need!



### Thanksgiving Baskets for the Morse School: THANK YOU!

Thank you so much ... for everything that you do! The baskets yesterday were so beautiful! Your kindness and concern for our students warms my heart. We appreciate you all so much! Happy Holidays! Elizabeth Clarke, Morse School Social Worker

Thank you to everyone who put Tzedakah into action and donated food and cash to help us fill 30 baskets!

#### Coats and Sweaters for the Cold Weather and Underwear too: THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to go through stuff and donate warm clothing that is so needed by the Morse School children and by the clients of the Dutchess Outreach Clothes Closet. The new underpants and socks that were donated are so colorful that we know that the Morse kids who need them will be delighted!

## Tzedakah at Holiday Time: HOW CAN WE HELP?

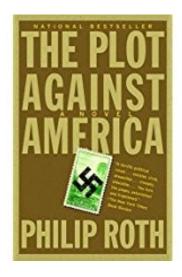
At December holiday time, there are poor families in our own community who struggle to provide a few gifts and a holiday meal for their children.

The staff at the Morse School hopes to give some gift cards from popular stores like Target, Price Chopper, Walmart, Marshal's, to families in need so they can select gifts for their children.

If you would like to help, pick up some \$25 gift cards from any of these stores and we will make sure they get to the families in need of help at this time of year. We'll be collecting donations of gift cards at any service or event through December 15<sup>th</sup> If you would like to arrange a pick-up or want us to shop for you,

please just let us know.

With much thanks from Robbie and Sandy Contact: Sandy Lash <u>sjlash@optonline.net</u> 845.227.4650 or Robbie Schiff <u>veggierob@yahoo.com</u> 845-876-2626 Watch for more opportunities to help repair the world! Calling All Readers— Pot Luck Brunch & Discussion Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30am—12:30pm At the home of Sandy and Jeff Lash 53 Rymph Rd., LaGrangeville <u>sjlash@optonline.net</u> 845.227.4650



In an extraordinary feat of narrative invention, Philip Roth imagines an alternate history where Franklin D. Roosevelt loses the 1940 presidential election to heroic aviator and rabid isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh. Shortly thereafter, Lindbergh negotiates a cordial "understanding" with Adolf Hitler, while the new government embarks on a program of folksy anti-Semitism. For one boy growing up in Newark, Lindbergh's election is the first in a series of ruptures that threaten to destroy his small, safe corner of America–and with it, his mother, his father, and his older brother. Penguin Random House

"A terrific political novel.... Sinister, vivid, dreamlike... creepily plausible.... You turn the pages, astonished and frightened." — The NYT Book Review

"Huge, inflammatory, painfully moving. . . . Far and away the most outward-looking, expansive . . . book Roth has written." – *The Washington Post Book World* 

"Roth's most powerful book to date. Confounding and illuminating, enraging and discomfiting, imaginative and utterly–terrifyingly–believable." -- San Francisco Chronicle

"It's not a prophecy; it's a nightmare, and it becomes more nightmarish—and also funnier and more bizarre—as is goes along. . . . [A] sinuous and brilliant book, with its extreme sweetness, its black pain, and its low, ceaseless cackle." —The New Yorker

November 30 & December 1 Vayes Genesis 37:1-40:23 D'var Torah TBA	ecember Torah Readi shev December 21 and 22 Genesis 47:28-50:26	2 Vayechi	
December 7 and 8 Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17	December 28 and 29 Exodus 1:1-6:1	9 Shemot	
December 14 and 15 Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27 D'var Torah TBA			
	December Ya	hrzeits*	
Friday, December 7, 2018	<b>December Ya</b> Janet Kerchman	h <b>rzeits</b> * Sister	Marc Kerchman
Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018			Marc Kerchman Sylvia Buccelli
	Janet Kerchman	Sister	
Friday, December 7, 2018	Janet Kerchman Steve Schmidt	Sister Husband	Sylvia Buccelli
Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018	Janet Kerchman Steve Schmidt Melvin Moskowitz	Sister Husband Father	Sylvia Buccelli Steve Moskowitz
Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018	Janet Kerchman Steve Schmidt Melvin Moskowitz Rachel Luckin	Sister Husband Father Grandmother	Sylvia Buccelli Steve Moskowitz Steve Hirschbein Jackie Levine Lisa Roth
Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018 Friday, December 14, 2018	Janet Kerchman Steve Schmidt Melvin Moskowitz Rachel Luckin Irwin Greenberg	Sister Husband Father Grandmother Father	Sylvia Buccelli Steve Moskowitz Steve Hirschbein Jackie Levine

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

## 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", the Adult B'nai Mitzvah Scholarship Fund, the Morse and Social Action Projects 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: Jim Thrasher, 31 Timberline Drive Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 or on our website; <u>www.shir-chadash.org</u>. The donation tab is on the home page and please remember to complete the message box.

Sandy and Jeff Lash **in honor** of our Leadership and the Board Members who so graciously opened their homes for us to share Shabbat at Home. Sue Marcoe **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Ann Teller **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Kim Buchanan and Jerry Scheck **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Wendy and Stuart Bill **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Natalie Scheuer **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Nicky and Lindsey Turner **in honor** of Grace Bass' birthday Lori and Ron Dritz **in memory** of Sol Dritz, father of Ron Manny Strumpf **in memory** of Sol Dritz, father of Ron Lois and Harold Weber **in memory** of Sol Dritz, father of Ron Wendy and Stuart Bill **in memory** of Sol Dritz, father of Ron





## brings you "a new song"

Calendar 5779 (2018-2019)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services start Friday evening September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Sharing Shabbat starts Saturday morning, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

> All are welcome! Saturday Morning Sharing Shabbat 9:00 am

September 8 and 22	January 5 and 19
October 6 and 20	February 2 and 9
November 3 and 17	March 2 and 23
December 1 and 15	April 6 and 27
	May 4 and 18

Saturday, September 1st Selichot Joint Celebration at Shir Chadash 8:00pm Sunday, September 9th Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm Monday, September 10th Rosh Hashanah 10:00am Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm Tuesday, September 18th Kol Nidre 8:00pm Wednesday, September 19th Yom Kippur 10:00am What Brings us Together: A Discussion with Rev. Paul Lent; Moderated by Rabbi Polish 12:30pm Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00pm Yom Kippur Afternoon/Yizkor/Concluding Services from 3:00pm to BreakFast Sunday, September 23rd A Booth-Day Party for Sukkot- PJ Library Event 2:00pm Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> Sukkah Building and Family BBQ and Service, 3:00pm Friday, September 28th Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 6:30pm Saturday, October 6th Bat Mitzvah Sadie Krueger 10:30am Saturday, October 20th Bar Mitzvah Zachary Wogalter 10:30am Sunday, November 18th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 5:30pm Friday, December 7th "Light Up the Night" Family Chanukah Service 6:30pm Saturday, January 19th Tu B'Shevat Seder 11:30am Friday, March 15th Purim Celebration 6:30pm Saturday, March 23rd Bar Mitzvah Ryan Freedman 10:30am Friday, April 20th No Services – First Passover Seder Friday, May 3rd Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm Saturday, May 4th Bat Mitzvah Lia Malley 10:30am Friday, May 10th Yom Haastmaut Shabbat 7:30pm Saturday, May 18th Bat Mitzvah Samantha Rubinstein 10:30am Saturday, June 8th Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Time TBD Friday, May 31st Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm Friday, June 14th Board Installation at 7:30pm

## Board of Trustees 2018-2019

- President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Immediate Past President Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee
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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.



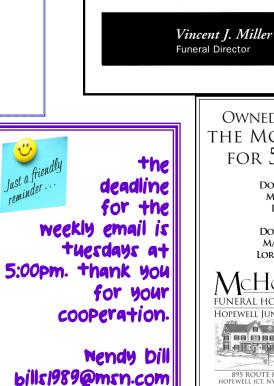
Use PayPal to place your order - you can use a credit card even if you don't have a PayPal account.

<u>Www.shir-chadash.org</u>

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 <u>bills1989@msn.com</u>



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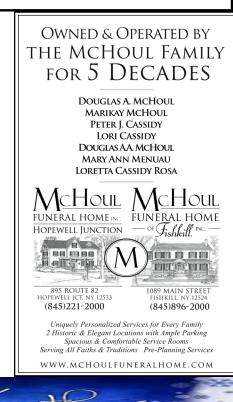
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Weather Cancellations Visit WWW.CANCELLATIONS.COM and WHUD RADIO 100.7. Friday evening SERVICES WOULD BE CANCELLED BY



5:00pm Sharing Shabbat WOULD BE CANCELLED BY 7:00am

cellations





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<sup>1</sup> Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Annual Auction 6:00pm
	3	4	5	6	LIGHT UP The Night Chanukah Celebration 6:30PM	8
9	10 Board Meeting 7:00pm	11	12	13	<sup>14</sup> Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	<sup>15</sup> Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
16	17	18	19	hello winter	21 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	22
23	24 Annual December 25th Eve Dinner	25	26	27	28 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30pm	29
30		Welc	ome	2019	4 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	5 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am