



Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President William Anshen

Vol. 16 No. 4

December 2017

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Online at www.shir-chadash.org

- 1 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 2 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study 9:15am
- 3 **Congregational Meeting 2:00pm**
FPUPC
- 8 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 9 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study 9:15am
- 10 **Pre-Chanukah Dinner & Party**
Crooked Rooster 4:00pm
- 11 Board Meeting
7:00pm
- 12 First Night of Chanukah
- 15 **Light Up the Night**
Family Celebration Service 6:30pm
- 22 Kabbalat Shabbat
Lay-Led Service
New Time: 7:30pm
- 24 **Annual December 25th Eve Dinner 5:30pm**
- 27 Dinner at the Homeless Shelter
- 29 Kabbalat Shabbat
6:30pm

Looking Ahead—

1/6 Sharing Shabbat
1/20 Sharing Shabbat

From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish



Dear Friends,

Welcome to December, the month that reminds Jews how truly marginal we are to American society. This is the time of year that our mailboxes are inundated with catalogues that don't seem to recognize that we are here at all, stores deluging us with music that does not talk to our own experience and public spaces decorated for a joy we do not share. We receive the message from the highest levels of government that we should be saying "Merry Christmas", though we might prefer to say "Happy Holidays". And no one in any store wishes us a Happy Chanukah. I write this not in anger, or even sorrow—merely objectively noting that December calls our attention to what it means to be less than 2% of the population. Most of the time we feel fully integrated into American life. For this one month we feel a little bit marginal.

On the other hand Christmas is, among other things, the way that Christians respond to the fact that the days are getting shorter, the weather colder, and people are drawn more to the comfort and warmth of their homes. And they are not the only ones. We respond to that reality too. Which is one of the reasons that at this very same time we come together in our homes and light lights—progressively more each night—and are drawn together by shared memories and joys.

Two holidays with very different stories and very different ideologies. But one part of each of them is a shared human response to the reality that is December. So make the most of it. I am told that here at Shir Chadash one of the things that people enjoy and remember the most is our celebration of what has come to be called "Light Up the Night". I for one wouldn't miss it. As it happens I will be spending the previous week in Rome. And my friends in the Vatican have suggested that I stay a little longer. But I would not give up the opportunity to be here with you. So I will say "Merry Christmas" to them, turn around and say "Happy Chanukah" to you and rejoice in lighting up the night together.

It is a great night. Each of us brings our Chanukiah from home and for this one night we share them all with our community—our extended family. We rejoice in the beauty of the light and the warmth of community. Despite the new federal decree, we say, "Happy Chanukah" to one another, gorge on latkes of so many different kinds (Jelly donuts too), play dreidel games, and we defeat the frostiness of December. I invite you to come be part of that. And if you have friends who need a little Chanukah lift, bring them along with you. I look forward to celebrating with you December 15 at 6:30pm.

*B' Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel Polish*



A Message from President William Anshen

December Moments

The month of December offers many important moments for our congregation.

A special meeting will be held **December 3rd at 2:00pm** in the church's social hall. I will present the Board of Trustees' plan to "**burn the mortgage**". Meeting this goal will help to strengthen our future and is part of our strategic planning for a strong Shir Chadash. You will have an opportunity to question me and other members of the Board as to the plan and express your views about our future. I know you are interested in our future and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

On December 10th we will get together for an early celebration of Chanukah. We will be gathering at the **Crooked Rooster**. There will be wonderful companionship and delightful seasonal fare. We have set the time for 4 pm, early enough for our young children to attend the party.

Then on **December 15th** comes our most spectacular Chanukah celebration, **Light Up the Night** at Shir Chadash. Come for the beauty and the warmth of candlelight and community and come for the latkes.

Hear Ye Hear Ye, the time for services on December 22nd has been changed to 7:30 pm. This service will be led by members of our accomplished B'not Mitzvah class.

I trust you are looking forward to Shir Chadash's December—I know I am!

B'Shalom

Bill Anshen, President

bill903@frontiernet.net ; 845-489-6911



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 3
2:00pm
FPUPC– New Social Hall
Update on Building our Future
A Proposal from the Board
on the Next Steps



A Message from Sue Marcoe Education Enrichment Coordinator

EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



I hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe that it is December already.

December will be another exciting month in our Religious School, as students study various Bible Stories. They will use role playing, crafts, storytelling, and other creative ideas to find meaning in each of these stories.

Also, watch for a special Tzedakah program coming in December or January. As our youngsters go through their daily activities, learning from books, reading and writing, sharing family meals, and playing outside with athletic equipment or inside with crafts, we hope that they will stop and think about others who don't have the same opportunities. There are families with children here in the Poughkeepsie area who do not have food, school supplies, nor even warm clothes for the winter. Our Social Action committee has been working on helping these families, and we will be doing so soon in our Religious School.



Please do remember that on Sharing Shabbats, teaching time is very limited. Please, please bring your children early for *Bagel Time (8:45am before class in the new building)*. School needs to begin promptly at 9:00am upstairs in the old building. No food is allowed in the classrooms. Students can finish their breakfast or get a nosh at Kiddush at 10:30am before services at 10:45am. Also please do join us after class for Sharing Shabbat services. What is important to you becomes important to your children.

Wishing you all a Happy Chanukah and a good secular new year!

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



Pre-Chanukah Dinner and Party

Crooked Rooster

Sunday, December 10

4:00pm

**Chanukah
Songs and
Games**

**At
The Crooked Rooster
399 Manchester Road—
Route 55
Poughkeepsie,
\$36 pp
\$10 children
Reservations: Victor Feit at
914-474-0680 or
rebe2@cs.com**



Happy Chanukah

Light up the Night



Bring your
Chanukah Menorah
and candles !

Friday,
December 15th, 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

***JOIN US for our annual fun-filled
'December 25th Eve'!***

**Please join us on Sunday evening December 24th for a
sumptuous dinner at Kobe, Hudson Plaza, 2585 Route 9,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Reservations:
Victor Feit at
914-474-0680 or rebe2@cs.com.**



***Congratulations to
our member, Nancy Barr, who was
elected Westchester County
Legislator in District 6!!***

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 smile.amazon.com 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!



Member's Corner

'Sermon' on Shabbat, November 24, 2017

Shabbat Shalom.

Last week the Rabbi asked me to use the time for tonight's sermon to give an update about our Morse Elementary School Project so I'm going to do that this evening.

As most of you know, we have been helping the Morse School on Mansion St. in Poughkeepsie for the past 2 years. **A brief history:** About 2 years ago, 4 local synagogues joined together to form the Hudson Valley Jewish Social Action Coalition—Beth-El, Vassar Temple, Schomre Israel and Shir Chadash, and then the Harding Club, a local social and philanthropic Jewish Men's club joined as well. The mission has been to form a functioning, cooperative venture with the belief that the Coalition can take on meaningful and larger social action programs because we are stronger together.

Since October 2016, the Jewish Social Action Coalition through each of its partners has been supporting the Morse School Food Pantry. The Morse School is one of the poorest elementary schools in the Poughkeepsie school district. 100% of over 600 kids in grades 1 through 5 receive free or subsidized lunches. Staff at the school were aware of very poor families and sometimes also dysfunctional families who were stressed past the breaking point by illness, death, substance abuse, fires, evictions, job loss, crime, and so on. And they were aware of children in these families who went hungry, particularly over weekends and vacations, sometimes only eating as little as 1 can of corn or soup for an entire weekend.

We were very moved by the incredible dedication of the administration and staff of the school who converted a closet into a pantry and were using their own pay checks to buy food to sustain these very vulnerable children. Using donated funds and grant money, we started to order food at greatly reduced prices from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. Shir Chadash was instrumental in making this possible by applying for and receiving agency status with the Regional Food Bank. So far in 2017, we have provided nearly 9,000 pounds of food for the neediest Morse School kids and their families. As well as the thousands of pounds of food you donated during the High Holy Days and at other times as well. We also delivered 30 overflowing Thanksgiving Baskets to the Morse School—made possible by your donations, donations from the Poughkeepsie Farm Project and purchases from the Food Bank.

This year we learned that 3 years ago, the Morse School librarian position, as well as others in the district's elementary schools, had been eliminated and that there had been **no library services** for all this time. Several of the Coalition synagogues' members as well as others in the community, spent the summer sorting and shelving library books at the Morse School. Just a week ago, the Library was open to some classes for a few hours—open for the first time in over 3 years—thanks to our volunteers. The plan is to open the library every Monday and Thursday morning, all staffed by volunteers. Kids will be able to take out books and there will be special reading, storytelling and holiday-related programs as well.

Roberta Tracy is volunteering in the library and I was very moved to hear her description of the experience. Please check-in with her during the Oneg and let her tell you what it was like. (Or contact her if you would like to know more about volunteering tracyajrs@aol.com)

But, to continue to do all this and succeed what do we need?

Consider how Shir Chadash could undertake a special project that could help these kids. Consider volunteering to spend a couple of hours on a Monday or Thursday morning at the Morse School Library helping kids find and take out books.

This is a brief overview—we have done a lot—donated lots of school supplies and kids' clothing, as well as so many pounds of food. In thinking about this I did some personal reflection. I know that we have all heard a lot about Tzedakah over the years and that we know that Tzedakah is different from charity, those who are more fortunate giving to those who are poorer. Tzedakah is about Tikkun Olam, working for justice and fairness in the world.

Continued

Member's Corner

continued

Most of you know that I'm a social worker, and you may think that I grew up learning all about charity and Tzedakah but you would be wrong about that. For me, it's a journey. In my childhood home, my 1st generation, economically-stressed working class parents were fond of saying that "God helps those who help themselves" and "charity begins at home". I've surveyed some family and friends, and I know that some of you grew up with the family "pushke" and the little blue and white Jewish National Fund boxes and were encouraged to make contributions. My Russian grandparents belonged to a group called the Telechana- Svenskavoya Sick Benevolent Association, formed in the days before Social Security, to help families in need, families like them.

I've been thinking that for many of the immigrant and first generations of Jews (and other groups as well, I'm sure) family survival was paramount, closely followed by the survival of the tribe, from Jews in the community and in Israel to those in need in places like the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

There has also been a tradition of championing the cause of justice, of downright fairness, for those outside the Jewish community as well. The 1960's Civil Rights Movement in the US is a good example.

But we can ask ourselves, how do we relate today to the lack of justice and fairness just 7.9 miles from where we are right now? Imagine, 14 minutes away live children and families without sufficient food and kids who walked through their school library, just last week, for the first time in over 3 years.

I'll end by noting that on Thanksgiving morning the Poughkeepsie Journal published a story about a Thanksgiving dinner that was held at the Morse School this past Tuesday, for 130 1st grade students and 1 guest for each student. The 1st grade teachers cooked all the food for the 260 guests. The school has been doing this for the past 7 years because the teachers discovered that when they taught their classes about the history of the first Thanksgiving, many of their students had no idea what a feast was and had never attended a dinner like most of us have every year. This year, just this past Tuesday, kids were asked what they were thankful for. Kids responded that they were thankful for food, for furniture, for their mommy, for their daddy. Worth thinking about.

Sandy Lash

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: Stacie Wogalter, 37 Patricia Drive, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569 or on our website; www.shir-chadash.org. The donation tab is on the home page and please remember to complete the message box.

Michael Feinman **in appreciation of** Shir Chadash

Mark and Barbara Salz **in appreciation of** Shir Chadash

D'Arcangelo & Co **in memory of** Doug Moore, husband of Jane Freeman Moore

George Whalen III and Susan Whalen **in memory of** Doug Moore, husband of Jane Freeman Moore

Suzanne Neil **in memory of** Larry Blankenbaker, her brother-in-law

Sue Marcoe **in memory of** Nancy Barr's Dad, Louis Barr

Rita Freeman **in memory of** Doug Moore, husband of her daughter, Jane Freeman Moore.

Gloria Goverman **in memory of** Doug Moore, husband of Jane Freeman Moore.

Roberta Schiff **in honor of** Nancy Barr's election to the Westchester County Legislature

Lois Lang **in memory of** her mother, Rose Lang

Phyllis Ostrowsky **in memory of** Jeanette Hoffman, Sue Marcoe's mother

Supporting our FPUPC Friends—Feeding the Homeless



We received a request to help out our FPUPC friends by taking their turn providing dinner for 70 guests at the Webster House Homeless Shelter in Poughkeepsie (co-located with Hillcrest House) on Wednesday, December 27th. And we said yes!

We're going to do the chili dinner they had planned. Kevin Kaswer, with the assistance of

Rebecca and JoJo, will be making all that chili!

Please help us do a great job by donating some ingredients for a warm and cozy chili dinner.

Here's what we still need (items with a ✓ have been donated):

Yellow onions (8)

Small jar of minced garlic

Bell peppers, different colors (20)

Crushed tomatoes in puree 112 oz total (28 oz. cans x 4)

V-8 juice (32 oz. jar - 1)

Assorted canned beans (pinto, black, white, garbanzo, etc.) - 15oz cans (44)

Frozen corn - 16 oz bags x 4

Tortilla chips (four large bags)

~~✓ Toppings (hot sauce - few bottles, grated cheese - 20-30 cups, sour cream)~~

~~✓ Corn muffins (80)~~

~~✓ Bananas (80)~~

~~✓ Cookies (3 per person x 70 = 210)~~

Please let us know ASAP what you would like to contribute! Donations can be brought to services on December 1, 2, 8, 9 and 15 or ask for pick up. No time? Let us know and we'll shop for you.

Contact: Ilene Kaswer ikaswer@optonline.net

December Torah Readings

December 1 and 2 Vayishlach

Genesis 32:4-36:43

D'var Torah Gail Jaitin

December 8 and 9 Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

D'var Torah Heidi Krueger

December 15 and 16 Miketz

Genesis 41:1-44:17

December 22 and 23 Vayigash

Genesis 44:18-47:27

December 29 and 30 Vayechi

Genesis 47:28 -50:26



December Yahrzeits*

Friday, December 1, 2017	Melvin Moskowitz	Father	Steve Moskowitz
Friday, December 8, 2017	Rachel Luckin	Grandmother	Steve Hirschbein
Friday, December 15, 2017	Irwin Greenberg	Father	Jackie Levine
Friday, December 15, 2017	Myron Goverman	Father	Steve Goverman
Friday, December 15, 2017	Paul Roth	Father	Lisa Roth
Friday, December 22, 2017	Tillie Turkenkopf	Mother	Leonard Turkenkopf
Friday, December 22, 2017	Joseph Baltrush	Cousin	Michael Rothman

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

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, December 1	Jane Freeman Moore
Saturday, December 2	Stacie and David Wogalter
Friday, December 8	Nancy and Adam Belok
Saturday, December 9	Religious School Parents
Friday, December 15	Lisa Roth and Richard Bordowitz
Friday, December 22	Sandy and Jeff Lash
Friday, December 29	Amy and Jim Thrasher



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

Heidi Krueger

845-677-4711

heidijoykrue@gmail.com

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 5778 (2017-2018)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services start Friday evening September 8th at 7:30pm

Family Services begin at 6:30pm

Sharing Shabbat starts Saturday morning, September 9th at 9:00am

All are welcome!

SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00 AM

September 9 and 23

October 7 and 21

November 4 and 18

December 2 and 9

January 6 and 20

February 3 and 10

March 3 and 17

April 7 and 21

May 5 and 19

Saturday, September 16th Selichot Joint Celebration at Temple Beth-El 8:00pm

Wednesday, September 20th Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm

Thursday, September 21st Rosh Hashanah 10:00am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm

Friday, September 29th Kol Nidre 8:00pm

Saturday, September 30th 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 1st Sukkah Building and Family Pot Luck Dinner 3:00pm

Friday, October 6th Sukkot Family Shabbat 6:30pm

Friday, October 13th Simchat Torah Family Shabbat 6:30pm

Sunday, November 19th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 5:00pm

Friday, December 15th "Light Up the Night" Family Chanukah Service 6:30pm

Saturday, February 3rd Tu B'Shevat Seder 11:30am

Friday, March 2nd Purim Celebration 6:30pm

Friday, March 30th No Services – First Seder

Friday, April 13th Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday, April 20th Yom Haastmaut Shabbat 7:30pm

Saturday, May 19 Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Time TBA

Friday, June 1st Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm

Friday, June 15th Board Installation at 7:30pm



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Vincent J. Miller
Funeral Director

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

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	2 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
3 Congregational Meeting FPUPC 2:00pm	4	5	6	7	8 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	9 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
10 Crooked Rooster "Pre-Chanukah" Party 4:00pm	11 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	12 	13	14	15 LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION 6:30PM	16
17	18	19	20	21 	22 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	23
24 Annual December 25th Eve Dinner Kobe 5:30pm	25	26	27 Dinner at the Homeless Shelter Ilene Kaswer ikaswer@optonline.net	28	29 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30pm	30
31 	Welcome 2018				5 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	6 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am