





Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President Lindsey Turner

Vol. 16 No. 7

May 2018

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

MAY CALENDAR

Online at www.shir-chadash.org



From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

Pop Quiz!

Shavuot will be with us this month. Probably the least celebrated and least understood of the major Jewish festivals. Time for a pop quiz. The answers will be given elsewhere in this newsletter. See if you can come up with the answers on your own. No fair peeking.

- ◆ How many weeks does Shavuot come after Pesach?
- ◆ What does Shavuot celebrate?
- ◆ What is Lag B'Omer and what does it have to do with all this?
- ◆ Why do we read Pirkei Avot/Sayings of the Fathers in the weeks between Pesach and Shavuot?
- ◆ Why is it customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot?

Extra credit will be given for neatness, originality and aptness of thought.

The answers can be found on **page 5** of this newsletter*. Good luck with your exam.

*B'Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel Polish*

**4 Kabbalat Shabbat
Honoring New
Members 7:30pm**

**5 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study
9:00am**

**6 Mitzvah Day
New Horizon
Resources
10:00am**

**11 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm**

**14 Board Meeting
7:00pm**

**18 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm**

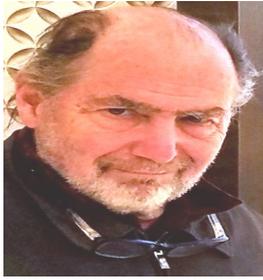
**19 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study
9:00am**

**19 Tikkun Leyl
Shavuot
More information
to follow**

**25 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm**

Looking Ahead
**6/1 Kabbalat Shabbat
Honoring our
Teachers 7:30pm**
**6/3 Annual Meeting at
the home of Lori
and Ron Dritz
11:00am**
6/10 Rosh Chodesh
**6/15 Kabbalat Shabbat
Board Installation
7:30pm**

A Message from President Lindsey Turner



Thank you Uncle Max

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday morning I had the honor of carrying a rescued Torah from the Ark to be read. It was part of our wonderful weekend with author Anita Diamant.

At this service Shir Chadash shared with Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El, I wore the tallit that my dear Uncle Max had given me many years ago. This Torah, like the one we cherish at Shir Chadash, was rescued from Europe, saved from destruction by a terrible evil.

Standing on the bimah, holding this beautiful Torah, I realized that this Torah and my Uncle Max's tallit had crossed paths in a very special way.

Before these sacred texts came to America, they had to be liberated. And so for them to be rescued, Uncle Max's tallit had to go to England in the duffle bag of a G.I. from New York, land in France, somewhere near Calais around Christmas 1944, and suffer through the terrible cold of that year with only summer uniforms. It had to go into Belgium, where my Yiddish speaking Uncle Max became his unit's interpreter, interrogating prisoners, getting directions and information from local people, then finally into the heart of Germany. And then it came home to America and Uncle Max honored me with this tallit that I will continue to wear.

We know how many Jews served, and we know how many Jews died, but this one story is the reason I was so proud to carry that Torah last Saturday!

*B' Shalom
Lindsey Turner*



A Special Thanks!

Wow - what a tight window ...

Our Presbyterian friends finished their coffee hour and an army of volunteers were at their heels producing a minor miracle—setting up brunch while Anita Diamant was signing books.

Then, Anita gave the best of her three talks. I know, because I went to all three.

I was very happy when, during her talk, Anita said that she had been to hear Asefa and that they were great and that gave me hope that the hard work that all of you were doing would be realized by us having a great concert. And lo and behold we did.

*So thank you one and all!
Lindsey Turner, President*

SHIR CHADASH NEEDS YOU!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A TRUSTEE FOR CONGREGATION SHIR CHADASH?

The Board of Trustees is searching for people to serve as trustees beginning in July 2018. Those elected will be involved in making important decisions concerning the Congregation's policies, finances and future.

The Nominating Committee is now in the process of interviewing potential candidates to recommend to the Board. The slate of candidates will be presented to the Congregation for a vote at our Annual Meeting.

Contact Jane Freeman Moore at janefmoore@gmail.com or 914-475-9302 for more information



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 3

11:00am

Pot Luck Dairy Brunch

At home of

Lori and Ron Dritz

3 Cleveland Drive

Poughkeepsie, NY

* Answers to the Rabbi's [extraordinarily challenging]

Pop Quiz

49 days – that is seven weeks in my book.

This is a little tricky. The Torah itself does not talk about the giving of the Torah. It does talk [a lot] about the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. But later Jewish tradition talks about Shavuot as celebrating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. So I guess you get credit for either answer. And double points if you mentioned both.

The period between Pesach and Shavuot is called S'firat Ha'Omer/ the Counting of the Omer. Omer is the term for the sheaves of grain that were harvested during this period. In the Jewish mystical tradition each day of the 49 days has a special association. Since Hebrew uses letters to designate numbers, the 33rd day of the omer is called Lag [lamed is 30 and gimel is 3] B'Omer. It is set aside as a time of special celebration. Various reasons are given for this celebration: maybe it is the anniversary of the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai; maybe it commemorates a terrible plague that broke out among the students of Rabbi Akiva and ended abruptly on this day. In any event the rest of the period of S'fira is a period of semi-mourning – why? Who knows [no that is not a question it is a rhetorical assertion.] Lag B'Omer represents a break in that mourning. People can do fun things, like go on picnics.

Probably because it begins with the words "Moses received the Torah at Sinai"—which anticipates the central idea of Shavuot. Also because it is a short book and we can read one chapter each week as we move from Pesach to Shavuot.

Who knows. [Again, not a question. Another rhetorical assertion]. I personally credit the ancient dairy farmers' lobby.

Give yourself 22 points for each correct answer. This way some of you can score more than 100 and brag to your less-informed friends. You deserve it.

Shir Chadash Joins the Annual Dutchess County-Wide Boxed Cereal Drive

Every summer, children lack access to school-based free breakfast programs. Families really need breakfast food. Daily breakfast has potential physical and mental health benefits for everyone!!!

CEREAL COUNTS!!! is a boxed cereal drive that now occurs each spring. The goal: To work together and reduce breakfast hunger. We are running a drive to support CEREAL COUNTS!!!! Please bring new boxes of cereal to a Shir Chadash Shabbat Service or event or to Mitzvah Day on May 6.

Once the boxes are collected, they will be brought over to Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 6th and added to the community collection for CEREAL COUNTS!!! 2018. The boxes will then be delivered to pantries and area food distribution sites in Dutchess County. This includes: Dutchess Outreach; Zion Baptist Church pantry; the Reach Out Pantry; St. Paul's; Beulah Baptist Church Pantry; Community Action Partnership pantries in Poughkeepsie, Dover, Beacon and Red Hook; Hudson River Housing/Hillcrest Shelter; the Department of Social Services; and the Interfaith Senior Housing Site. The project is a wonderful way to reduce breakfast hunger in our community.



Hungry summers are coming...

CEREAL COUNTS!!! 2018

**From the box to the bowl to the belly—
It's a truckload of good morning health!!!**

**A Living Tzedakah Program of the
Shir Chadash Social Action Committee**



**A Message from Sue Marcoe
Education Enrichment Coordinator**

Our year is winding down but with only two more classes to go (May 5th & May 19th), the excitement will rev up as our students work on their culminating project, summarizing what they have learned these past few months. These hands-on projects will be displayed at our final Sharing Shabbat service on May 19th, and at our Friday night Shabbat service on June 1st. On June 1st we will also honor our Religious School teachers. So parents do plan to have your children present for these classes, and bring your whole family, grandparents included, for our June 1st service at 7:30pm

As the year ends I do want to thank the Turners again for their donation of a brand new laptop for the Religious School. Rochelle Bellach's class used the computer to watch the story of Rebecca and the musical version of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". In addition for Passover, the class watched [The Adele/Bieber Passover Mashup](#) (a musical version of the telling of the story of the Exodus). Technology is bringing alive the bible stories that were read and discussed in class. Todah Rabah —Thank you very much Nicky & Lindsey.

Finally, please do remember that on Sharing Shabbats, teaching time is very limited. Please, please bring your children early for *Bagel Time* (8:45 before class). School needs to begin promptly at 9 a.m. upstairs at 9:00 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. Also please do join us after class for Sharing Shabbat services. *What is important to you becomes important to your children.*

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

Mitzvah Day 2018

Sunday, May 6th

Join the Jewish Community of the Hudson Valley's effort to make the world a better place! www.jewishdutchess.org

Kickoff breakfast: 9:00 AM @ Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave, Pok.

Help your community by bringing the following to breakfast:

- Boxed cereal for hungry neighbors in need.... Cereal Counts!!
- Cake mix, frosting & candles for the Birthday Bags drive.
- Jewish War Vets: Non-perishable food and toiletries.



Attend the projects sponsored by Shir Chadash:

New Horizons Resources – yard / garden / minor repair

Serving those with developmental disabilities for over 40 years. We'll be working at one of their residential homes, 19 Hickory Hill Rd, Clinton Corners, less than a mile off the Taconic Parkway. **15 people needed. Begin @ 10:00 AM.**

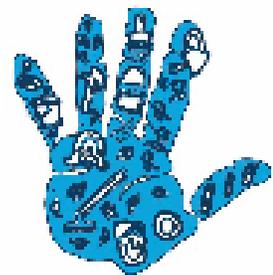
Bring yard & garden hand tools, painting/work clothes, sunscreen

- Clean out, plant & mulch beds and gardens, light repairs
- Possibility of indoor painting in the event of rain

**PLEASE
PRE-REGISTER!
@ JewishDutchess.org**

Or attend any of 18 different projects that suit your interest, including:

- Renaissance & The Pines elder home visit
- Pershing Ave Cemetery cleanup Gomez Mill House
- Appalachian Trail improvement/cleanup
- Children's Home of Poughkeepsie
- Gomez Mill House cleanup
- Grace Smith House
- River Haven Youth Shelter
- Poughkeepsie Public & PJ Libraries
- Baking/Crafts for various agencies
- Dutchess Outreach Lunch Box
- Car Wash fund raiser



See additional project details & register online at:
www.jewishdutchess.org

מיצוה
עולם



The Jewish Federation
OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County, a division of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, and donations from various agencies & community organizations.

Questions? contact Steve Herschbein at steve.herschbein@gmail.com

RABBIS IN CONVERSATION

A FIVE-WEEK LEARNING SERIES FOR THE OMER

Five Tuesdays at 7:00pm
April 10 - May 15, no class 4/24
at Boardman Road Branch Library
141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

Join rabbis from the Dutchess County Jewish Community as we explore some of the "Big Ideas" of Jewish faith and practice. Each week, two rabbis from different Jewish institutions will discuss a topic they find essential to living a Jewish life. This series is in observance of the *omer*, a seven-week period of reflection and learning between Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot (Pentecost).

April 10th Sacred Memory

Rabbi Eliezer Langer, Congregation Schomre Israel and
Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Vassar Temple

April 17th Practices of Jewish Time & Jewish Eating

Rabbi Paul Golomb, Vassar Temple and
Rabbi Neal Loevinger, Vassar Brothers Medical Center

May 1st Teshuvah--Repentance and Forgiveness

Rabbi Brent Spodek, Beacon Hebrew Alliance and
Rabbi Paul Golomb, Vassar Temple

May 8th Imitation of God

Rabbi Daniel Polish, Congregation Shir Chadash and
Rabbi Daniel Victor, Temple Beth-El

May 15th Theodicy: God and the Problem of Evil

Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Temple Beth-El and
Rabbi Michael Fessler, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

May Torah Readings



May 4 and 5 Leviticus
Emor 21:1 – 24:23
D'var Torah Lori and Ron Dritz

May 18 and 19 Numbers
Bamidbar 1:1 – 4:20
D'var Torah TBA

May 11 and 12 Leviticus
Behar 25:1 – 26:2
Bechukotai 26:3 – 27:34

May 25 and 26 Numbers
Naso 4:21 – 7:89

May Yahrzeits*

Friday, May 4, 2018	Robert Watsky	Father	Mana Watsky
Friday, May 4, 2018	Irving Lang	Father	Lois Lang
Friday, May 11, 2018	Alice Lisa Greenberg	Mother	Jackie Levine
Friday, May 11, 2018	Seymour Stone	Father	Michele Brettholtz
Friday, May 11, 2018	Sophie Francomano	Aunt	Wendy Bill
Friday, May 18, 2018	Manuel Meltzer	Father	Suzanne Neil
Friday, May 18, 2018	Lillian Roth	Mother	Sara Rothman
Friday, May 18, 2018	Brendan Halligan	Ex-Husband	Lois Lang
Friday, May 18, 2018	Saralyn Schiff Blatt	Mother	Roberta Schiff
Friday, May 25, 2018	Jamie Marder	Sister	Karen Marder
Friday, May 25, 2018	Sarena Rothman	Cousin	Michael Rothman
Friday, May 25, 2018	Sarah Weber	Mother	Harold Weber

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

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; www.shir-chadash.org. The donation tab is on the home page and please remember to complete the message box.

Anonymous **in support** of Shir Chadash
 Mara and Richard Goldstone **in support** of the Jewish Family Service Emergency Fund
 Three Arts Bookstore **in appreciation** of Shir Chadash

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!

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, May 4	Barbara Stapholz
Saturday, May 5	TBA
Friday, May 11	TBA
Friday, May 18	Susan and Victor Feit
Saturday, May 19	Nancy Barr
Friday, May 25	TBA



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
 Heidi Krueger
 845-677-4711
heidijoykrue@gmail.com



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 23rd Joint Service with Temple Beth-El at FPUPC 7:30pm

Friday, March 30th No Services – Pesach – First Seder

Friday, April 13th 7:30pm at Vassar Temple with Anita Diamont

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

Friday, April 27th Joint Service at Temple Beth-El 7:30pm

Saturday, May 19th Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Time TBA

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

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

Board of Trustees 2017-2018

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Immediate Past President
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Trustee
Trustee

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TBD
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Adam Belok
Sue Marcoe

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Cantor Gail Hirschenfang
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard A. Schoolman



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**the
deadline
for the
weekly email is
tuesdays at
5:00pm. thank you
for your
cooperation.**

**Wendy Bill
bills1989@msn.com
845-227-7236**

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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



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



May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring New Members 7:30pm	5 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
6 Mitzvah Day New Horizon Resources 10:00am Steve.herschbein@gmail.com	7	8	9	10	11 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	12
Happy Mother's Day	14 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	15	16	17	18 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	19 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Tikkun Leyl Shavuot More information to follow
 Shavuot	21	22	23	24	25 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	26
27  MEMORIAL DAY		29	30	31	1 Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring our Teachers 7:30pm	2