





# Congregation Shir Chadash

*Rabbi Daniel Polish*  
Vol. 14 No. 6

*President Dr. Victor Feit*  
February 2016

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

## From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online at [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org)

- 2** Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 5** Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30pm
- 6** Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
- 8** Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 9** Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 12** Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm
- 16** Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 19** Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm
- 20** Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
- 21** REGINA JONAS - POETIC DOCUMENTARY 2:30pm
- 23** Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 26** Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm

### Looking Ahead

- 3/5** Sharing Shabbat Bat Mitzvah Hannah Wogalter
- 3/12** Sharing Shabbat
- 3/25** Family Purim Service
- 3/1, 8, 15 & 29** Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm



### It's Leap Year

Doesn't Pesach seem awfully late this year? And what about the High Holy Days next Fall. If you are one of those people who plans far ahead you have already exclaimed, "October!?! How can Rosh Hashanah be in October?" Hardly a mystery.

Our Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. And lunar calendar have months that match precisely the migration of the moon around the earth. Thus featuring months of twenty-eight days, they do not match up perfectly with solar calendars, which are keyed to the orbit of the earth around the sun. Left to their own devices, any given month in a purely lunar calendar would move through the different seasons of the solar calendar. For example, the month Ramadan on Islam's lunar calendar falls sometimes in the winter, sometimes in the summer, etc. For us this would mean that we could be celebrating Pesach in the winter.

The rabbis were insistent that each of our holidays be kept in its appropriate season (who would want to celebrate Chanukah in the middle of the summer?). So they developed a calendar which is a modified lunar calendar. Seven times every nineteen years our Jewish calendar drops in a second month of Adar to keep the lunar calendar aligned with the seasons of the solar calendar. And that is what has happened this year. The first of two Adars falls this month. The second Adar will come in March and it is then that we will celebrate Purim.

By the way, this is why Pesach and Easter are a month apart this year. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox. Pesach is normally keyed to the Spring Full moon as well—except for when we drop in an extra month. So that in those years—like this one—there is a month between these two religious celebrations. A leap year can cause all kinds of dislocations. And we are in one.

But this is a special leap year. Because in addition to the additional Adar, we will also be sharing a solar leap year. It doesn't take precisely 365 days for the earth to travel around the sun. So adjustments have to be made in solar calendars too. That is why we will have a February 29<sup>th</sup> this year as we do every four years. I wonder what the statistical probability is to have both leap years on the same year. Has this ever happened to us before in our lifetime? A reminder that time is precious. This year we get an extra measure of time and an extra extra measure. I hope you use it well.

*Rabbi Daniel Polish*

# A Message from President Victor Feit

## Great Start to 2016



It's February, the home stretch of the year 2015-2016. We have had a great year so far, but much still needs to be done. We start with Purim. Sue Marcoe has accepted the position as Director of this year's Purim spiel on March 25<sup>th</sup>. She needs actors, singers and helpers to make this great fun. Rehearsal starts soon, so please e-mail her at [suem@quixnet.net](mailto:suem@quixnet.net). And may the creative force be with Rabbi Polish as he puts the finishing touches on his Purim Spiel!

Our final events are beginning in April and will be going through May. On April 9, we will be holding our Annual Auction. This is not a task for a few, but a job for many. Is there a service you could provide that others would be happy to bid on? Please go through your closets, attics, garages, etc. to find exceptional, new or gently used, items that you are willing to donate so that they can be auctioned off. We may find a good home for them and be able to give you a tax deductible letter for your contribution. If you dine at a good restaurant, shop at a quality store, or go to a health facility that is interested in new clients, ask for a certificate that can be auctioned off. Most importantly, please plan on being there! We need you, your family and friends to make this event a success. It has always been a fun-filled evening led by yours truly and Jeff Lash. Sometimes I think that we are so entertaining that we should take our act on the road!

Our Annual Concert will take place on Sunday, May 15 at 5pm at the Poughkeepsie Day School, Thanks to the efforts of Cantor Hirschenfang, we have been able to secure the fantastic group, **The Klezmatics**, for a return engagement! We must start to advertise this event now; spread the word to the community. We need to begin selling tickets soon and, most importantly, sell ads in the evening's program guide. We need a great deal of help to make this program a success. A few people can do a lot of work, but a lot of people helping can each do some work to make this a huge success. Please contact me if you have any questions or want to help in any way.

I would like to finish by thanking Barbara Stapholtz for the fundraising activities she has so successfully led. She has been excellent in facilitating the Paddle Auction and Paint Party—adding two great, fun-filled events to our fund raising efforts this year.

Last Friday's Tu B' Shevat dinner was an excellent event. Sorry that the snow forecast for Saturday, January 23 caused its postponement and didn't make it possible for Robbie Schiff, the event planner to attend. But, the event went over well, despite these issues. I would like to thank the chefs, organizers and set-up people who made this dinner a great success and thank you to Robbie for the inspiration and dedication that makes Tu B'Shevat an annual joy. I would especially like to thank Suzanne Neil and her Shabbat set-up committee for being there to make sure the event went well.

Thanks again for all your help in making this a great year so far and I look forward to all of the events to come. With your help, we can make this a fantastic year.

Shalom,  
Vik Feit

[Rebels20ks.com](http://Rebels20ks.com)

914-474-0680

# March Bat Mitzvah



*The Spiritual Life Committee invites  
members and friends of Shir Chadash  
to join with us on*

**Saturday, the 5th of March  
at 10:15am when**

*Hannah Wogalter*

**daughter of**  
*Stacie and David Wogalter,  
is called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah.*

*Join us as we celebrate this joyous milestone  
in the lives of our Bat Mitzvah, her family  
and our Shir Chadash family.*

**\*YOU ARE INVITED\***

## **REGINA JONAS—A POETIC DOCUMENTARY**

By Diana Groo

**Discussion led by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Vassar Temple**

**Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 2:30pm**

**at**

**Adriance Memorial Library**

**93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie**



Rabbi Regina Jonas, although traditionally observant in her upbringing, was the first female rabbi ordained by the head of the Liberal Rabbis' Associations of Offenbach am Main, Germany.

Living in Nazi Germany, she was ultimately sent to the concentration camps where she served the spiritual needs of the captives to the best of her ability until she was murdered in Auschwitz at the age of 42.

Her writings and much of the history of her life were hidden from the world until papers stored by the SS in East Berlin were found and researched in the 1990's. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination.

In celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination, Rabbi Jonas' life will be commemorated with the showing of the movie *Regina* followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz of Vassar Temple.

**The community is invited to come and learn about this remarkable Jewish figure.  
Refreshments will be served.**

**Annual Joint Meeting  
Vassar Temple Sisterhood, Congregation Schomre Israel Sisterhood,  
Temple Beth-El Sisterhood and Congregation Shir Chadash**

**For more information (914) 456-3524**

פזמונים וקטעים קומיים !

Help us tell the story of Purim with Comedy and Song!



on Friday, March 25th

Casting and Rehearsals will start soon

Actors and Helpers Needed –All Ages!!

Contact Sue Marcoe for more information  
845-723-4045 or [suem@quixnet.net](mailto:suem@quixnet.net)

## Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, February 5 Andrea Ostwald

Saturday, February 6 TBA

Friday, February 12 Angela and Bernard Panzer

Friday, February 19 TBA

Saturday, February 20 Liz and Harold Glassberg

Friday, February 26 Cheryl O'Herron and Ken Pollock



Oneg Coordinator: Suzanne Neil  
[suzanneneil@mac.com](mailto:suzanneneil@mac.com)  
845-559-3123

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





# Member's Corner

## The Coming Home Program

On Tuesday evening January 12<sup>th</sup>, a small group of members of the Shir Chadash Social Action prepared and served a dinner and interacted with participants in the Coming Home Program, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Poughkeepsie. Participants in the program are people who have been released from prison and are now transitioning back to a productive life. The Coming Home program offers communal meals, socialization and mentoring. Roberta Schiff, Sarah Willis (a welcome member of our new B'nai Mitzvah class), Kathy and Tom Walker and John Wallach came to meet and socialize with participants. Some snow that evening did not get in the way of Tikkun Olam!

Providing support to the Coming Home Program is a project of our new Hudson Valley Jewish Social Action Coalition. This was Shir Chadash's first experience with the program and it was a chance for us to see how the program worked and whether it offered a good opportunity for us to help advance social justice. All who contributed felt that it was a very worthwhile and satisfying experience and were happy to help our Unitarian friends make this program a success. As we get future requests for help with meals and socializing, we will make this mitzvah opportunity available to everyone. If you would like to be contacted when help is needed, let us know. Please contact Robbie Schiff at [veggierob@yahoo.com](mailto:veggierob@yahoo.com) or Sandy Lash at [splash@optonline.net](mailto:splash@optonline.net)

### **Here's some information about the Coming Home Program from the Poughkeepsie Unitarian Fellowship:**

*The Unitarian Fellowship in collaboration with the Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty is excited to present to you the Coming Home Life Skills Empowerment Program.*

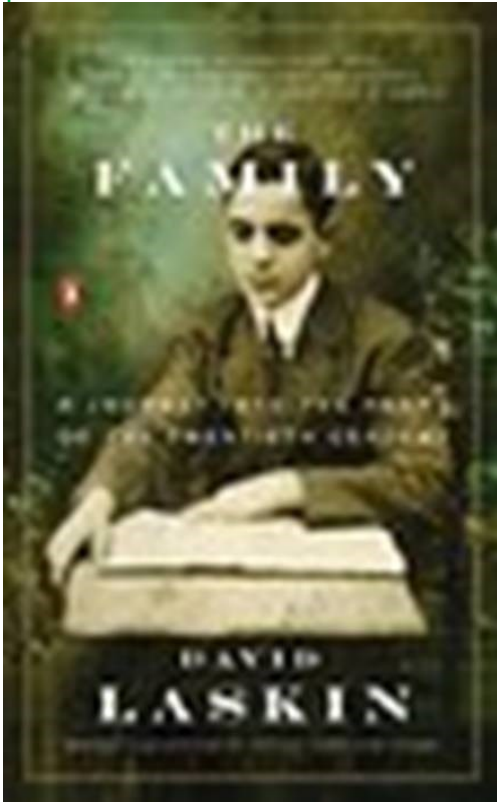
*Coming Home seeks to empower men and women who are returning citizens and is based on an evidence-based replicable model with a track record of success and over a thousand graduates in the New York Metropolitan area in the past two decades. Participants work with facilitators and mentors to support personal healing and growth, skill development, and reintegration into the community.*

*Participants engage in weekly evening meetings over the course of the 17 weeks. Each session begins with a group meal, followed by a session on life skills, the sharing of personal stories in the context of a supportive group process, and one-to-one mentoring. Coming Home is limited to approximately 12 participants per semester. Over the course of the semester a family-like community is formed through the creation of an environment based on trust, support and respect.*

*Coming Home works to restore social justice by fostering communal accountability and care of all persons while encouraging congregational involvement by providing opportunities for education and awareness, community welcoming and celebration, and volunteer opportunities such as mentoring, meal preparation and community outreach. The Beck Institute provides support as well as documenting the program through the gathering of research spanning a ten month period. Through increased data from this research the Beck Institute continues its commitment to developing, supporting and providing support for all programs.*

# Calling All Readers

## Pot Luck Brunch & Discussion



**Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am—  
12:30pm**

**At the home of  
Sandy and Jeff Lash  
53 Rymph Road,  
LaGrangeville  
845-227-4650**

**[splash@optonline.net](mailto:splash@optonline.net)**

## **The Rosh Chodesh Reading & Discussion Group selection is: “The Family: A Journey into the Twentieth Century”**

**by David Laskin**

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, October 2013: Every writer, established or aspiring, has at one time or another looked around and decided, “My life would make a great book.” Some of them are sadly mistaken. But journalist David Laskin’s life—or rather that of his forbears, three generations of a Russian Jewish family originally named HaKoen—has made a fantastic book. Despite its name, *The Family* is not about the Mafia, or the Mansons, but really about one particular, ordinary/extraordinary twentieth century shtetl clan. But you don’t have to be Jewish to be fascinated by the six children of a Torah scribe on the western fringe of the Russian empire; they, like people everywhere, were buffeted by political and social and economic upheavals of their times. One branch of the family ended up in America as the prosperous founders of Maidenform lingerie; another repatriated to Israel; the third suffered the Holocaust. While I tended to favor the stories about the American branch (how can you not love a 4’ 11” Russian revolutionary, who, with her husband Wolf, invented the brassiere in 1924 and got filthy rich in ladies underwear in the depression?), the other HaKoen-turned-Cohens provided plenty of educational entertainment as well. You think you know about the Russian revolution? Try seeing it through Laskin’s ancestors’ eyes. Likewise, WWII and Zionism. This is a great, big-hearted book about how time and place modifies family, whatever or wherever its roots. -- *Sara Nelson*



## 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: Wendy Bill, 5404 Chelsea Cove North, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

Lois Lang **in memory** of my grandfather, Benjamin Gottesman  
 Lois Lang **in memory** of my grandmother, Betty Gottesman  
 Lois and Harold Weber **in memory** of Marcia Been, sister of Ed Ginsberg  
 Lois and Harold Weber **in memory** of Steve Schmidt, husband of Sylvia Buccelli  
 Lois and Harold Weber **in memory** of Rose Lang, mother of Lois Lang  
 Wendy and Stuart Bill **in memory** of Marcia Been, sister of Ed Ginsberg  
 Jeff and Sandy Lash **in memory** of Marcia Been, sister of Ed Ginsberg  
 Diane Light-Spiro **in memory** of her mother, Gertrude Sonnenstein

2015 was a good year for Congregation Shir Chadash. The following people made year-end donations so that we can continue our efforts and do more in 2016:

Diane Light-Spiro	Jane Freeman Moore	Wendy and Stuart Bill
Sandy and Jeff Lash	Susan Marcove	Ginny and Robert Goff
Helen and Al Brandonisi	Roberta Wiener	Miriam and Burt Gold
Susan and Victor Feit	Kezia Gleckman-Haymann	

## February Yahrzeits\*

Friday, February 5, 2016	Tillie Herschbein	Grandmother	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 5, 2016	Morris Roth	Father	Sara Rothman
Friday, February 5, 2016	Esther Roth	Mother	Rochelle Bellach
Friday, February 5, 2016	Bernard Herschbein	Grandfather	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 5, 2016	Sergie Joseph Blatt	Father	Roberta Schiff
Friday, February 12, 2016	Dorris Lang	Sister	Lois Lang
Friday, February 12, 2016	Robert Brown	Brother	Helen Brandonisi
Friday, February 12, 2016	Gina Peluse	Mother	Joe Bertoluzzi
Friday, February 12, 2016	Meyer Saranga	Father	Sandy Lash
Friday, February 19, 2016	Diane Pollock	Mother	Ken Pollock

\*To update your Yahrzeit list, please contact Wendy Bill 227-7236 or [bills1989@msn.com](mailto:bills1989@msn.com)

## February Torah Readings

February 5 and 6 Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18

**D'var Torah Jane Freeman Moore**

February 12 and 13 Terumah

Exodus 25:1-27:19

February 19 and 20 Tetzaveh

Exodus 27:20-30:10

**D'var Torah Roberta Schiff**

February 26 and 27 Ki Tisa

Exodus 30:11-34:35



### Congregation Shir Chadash and Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church are considering a second interfaith journey to Israel in June 2016.

Two years ago a group from both congregations experienced a moving and exciting trip together. Many people have asked that we do it again. It was a deeply moving experience, showing Jews parts of Israel that they never would have seen; and showing our Christian friends the Israel that is so dear to us. It was a deeply moving experience. Many of the travelers called it life changing.

Now some of the "pilgrims" who traveled two years ago want to travel to Israel a second time. And some members of both congregations who did not come with us wish they had come the first time. In response to these requests we are exploring a second joint trip. Non-members who are interested in the trip are welcome too. The itinerary will be tailored to the needs of the group that is traveling.



Weather Cancellations Visit [WWW.CANCELLATIONS.COM](http://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 5776 (2015-2016)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services start Friday evening September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
Sharing Shabbat starts Saturday morning, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

All are welcome!

## SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00AM

September 12 and 19  
October 3 and 17  
November 7 and 21  
December 5 and 12

January 9 and 23  
February 6 and 20  
March 5 and 12  
April 2 and 16  
May 7 and 21

## SPECIAL DATES:

Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 pm

Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> Rosh Hashanah 10:00 am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00 pm

Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> Kol Nidre 8:00 pm

Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Yom Kippur 10:00 am

Study and Panel Discussion 12:30 pm

Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00 pm

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

Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> Family Sukkot Shabbat 7:30 pm

Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 7:30 pm

Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Bar Mitzvah of Mason Moskowitz at 10:30 am

Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> Musical Shabbat -Songs of the Brit-Entering into the Covenant

Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> "Light Up the Night" Family Chanukah Service 7:30 pm

Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Tu B'Shevat Seder

**Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Wogalter at 10:30 am**

**Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> Purim Shabbat 7:30 pm**

Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Service with Temple Beth-El led by Hebrew Student

Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> Passover First Seder (no Kabbalat Shabbat service)


Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Service with Temple Beth-El led by Hebrew Student

Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> Yom Haatzma'ut Shabbat 7:30 pm

Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Kaswer at 10:30 am

Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> Tikkun Leil Shavuot with Temple Beth-El






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 Cantor Gail Hirschenfang  
 Rabbi Emeritus Leonard A. Schoolman

Mid-Hudson Vegetarian Society  
 38 East Market Street  
 Rhinebeck NY 12572  
 845.876.2626  
[mhvs.org](http://mhvs.org)



Roberta Schiff  
 coordinator

for the planet, the people & the animals

[hudson.valley.vegans](http://hudson.valley.vegans.meetup.com/hudson-valley-vegans)  
[meetup.com/hudson-valley-vegans](http://meetup.com/hudson-valley-vegans)

## 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 Hannaford, ShopRite, Adams Fairacre Farms or Stop & Shop. When Shir Chadash has accumulated \$1,000 per store, you get your cards A percentage of the money you send 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](http://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](mailto:bills1989@msn.com)

# February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm FPUPC 	3	4	5 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30PM	6 Sharing Shabbat Tots & Everyone 9:00am
7 	8 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	9 B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm FPUPC	10	11	12 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30PM	13
14 	15 	16 B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm FPUPC	17	18	19 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30PM	20 Sharing Shabbat Tots & Everyone 9:00am
21 Rabbi Regina Jonas - POETIC DOCUMENTARY 2:30pm Adriance Memorial Library 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie 914-456-3524	22	23 B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm FPUPC	24	25	26 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30PM	27
28	29 	1 B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30pm FPUPC	2	3	4 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30PM	5 Sharing Shabbat Tots & Everyone 9:00am Bat Mitzvah Hannah Wogalter 10:15am