



Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President Jane Freeman Moore

Vol. 15 No. 4

December 2016

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Online at www.shir-chadash.org

- 2 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 3 Sharing Shabbat
9:00am
- 6 Adult B'not Mitzvah
Class 6:30pm
- 9 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 12 Board Meeting
7:00pm
- 13 Adult B'not Mitzvah
Class 6:30pm
- 15 **January Newsletter
Deadline**
- 16 **Kabbalat Shabbat
"Musical Prelude to
Chanukah" with
Choir 7:30pm**
- 17 Sharing Shabbat
9:00am
- 17 **Chanukah Party
11:30am**
- 23 **Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00pm**
- 30 **Light Up the Night
Family Celebration
Service
6:00pm**

Looking Ahead January 2017

- 7 Sharing Shabbat
- 14 **West Point Hockey
Game 7:00pm**
- 15 **Rosh Chodesh Group
Meeting**
- 16 **Lunch Box Dinner**
- 21 **Sharing Shabbat**



From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

From Darkness to Light?

Dear Friends,

What does that seasonal chestnut say? "It's the most wonderful time of the year". No doubt the composer was thinking about Chanukah (actually that is not impossible, given that the composer was Jewish). This year I really am looking forward to Chanukah with special eagerness. We are accustomed to calling Chanukah the Festival of Lights. Actually it is the festival of darkness. You may remember that last year Chanukah fell on Thanksgiving. It felt all wrong. This year it falls exactly where it belongs. We will be celebrating it right at the Winter Solstice. Chanukah needs to come just when things are getting dark. The days around Chanukah are the shortest of the year, the light the most limited. And Chanukah is about that.

Things do get dark, just like the days of late December. And Chanukah gives us the courage to get through that. Its lesson is that the darkness that seems pervasive will not prevail. The dark will succumb to the light. It just takes time. So for eight days we work at becoming messengers of light. Slowly, gradually, first one candle and then more and more until our homes are filled with light and warmth

And not just our homes. Traditionally we are told to put our Chanukiot in our windows. Kind of a message to the world. Darkness may have descended. But light can prevail—if we work at it. So, yes, Chanukah, we need Chanukah very much this year. And maybe, just maybe it might be "the most wonderful time of the year".

I hope Chanukah cheers you. We will be cheering one another and lighting up the night on Friday evening, December 30th at 6:00pm. I hope you will join us. You just might need it.

*B'Shalom
Rabbi Daniel Polish*



Notes from Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

A Musical Prelude to Chanukah— Friday December 16th Going Beyond “I Have a Little Dreydl”

This year Chanukah falls quite late on our calendar with the lighting of the first candle on the evening of December 24th and our Light Up the Night Family Celebration on the evening of December 30th. However, these extra weeks in December provide an opportunity for us to more fully examine the rich history and customs that surround the festival of Chanukah. I hope to do this with the music of this joyous holiday.

On Friday night, December 16th, I will be joined by the Shir Chadash Choir to present our congregation with some of the rich repertoire of music and texts to celebrate Chanukah. Most of us know, in Hebrew and/or English, the familiar hymn of “*Maoz Tzur/Rock of Ages*”, but were you aware that there are many other melodies for this text besides the one that has become most familiar in American settings? This music Sabbath will give us an opportunity to explore Chanukah musical traditions that are sung in the Sephardic tradition as well as our own, better known melodies in the Ashkenazic tradition.

The environment of America has put a new and creative face on Chanukah traditions with its proximity to other winter holidays. Although traditionally a minor holiday in Judaism, Chanukah in modern western culture has led to some wonderful English settings about this holiday. Although many of the songs are composed for children there are also many wonderful settings to enjoy for a more sophisticated musical palate. On the evening of December 16th, we will present a varied and exciting program to you entitled, “A Musical Prelude to Chanukah”. We all enjoy singing, “I Have a Little Dreydl” but there is SO much more. We hope you will join us on FRIDAY, DEC 16th for a special evening to usher in the wonderful festival of Chanukah.

L'Shalom,

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

Happy Chanukah

Light up the Night



Friday,

Bring your
Chanukah Menorah
and candles !

December 30th, 6:00PM

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



A Message from President Jane Freeman Moore

Tikkun Olam

In all my ~~29+~~ ~~39+~~ ~~49+~~ years, never has Tikkun Olam (literally “Repair the World”, acts of kindness and social justice) been so at the forefront of my thoughts. The political season has driven a point home: so many people in this world need help. Why? How did we get here? I will leave that to your personal study and evaluation of news and rampant hypotheses on that topic.

Shir Chadash offers something different from more analysis, and much simpler. Together we can and *do* make things better, starting in our own community, one neighbor at a time.

Just a sampling of the recent good done by our members and friends: At least 17 of us shopped, cooked, baked and served dinner for 70 Hillcrest House Shelter guests on a chilly, rainy night in October. We have joined the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley in our ongoing commitment to supply the food pantry for Morse School families. We have donated school supplies and Thanksgiving food baskets complete with turkeys to the Morse School, together with our partners Temple Beth El, Schomre Israel, Vassar Temple and The Harding Club, and are now collecting warm winter clothing for the school and for the Dutchess Outreach Clothes Closet. One of our Geshur high school students, Andrew Scheck, is leading efforts to collect warm clothing as part of the Bright Nights program with Temple Beth El. Our Yom Kippur collection provided car loads of food to the Morse School Food Pantry and Dutchess Outreach, and we even donated the leftovers from Dinner at the Diner to the Lunch Box, thanks to two of our members who saw the opportunity to share.

We have joined the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance to provide help for refugee families coming to the Hudson Valley. Coming up, we will be preparing and serving dinner on January 16th, Martin Luther King’s birthday, at the Lunch Box. We are organizing support again for the Coming Home Program for newly released prisoners hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess Interfaith Council. Our Rosh Chodesh reading group is studying “The New Jim Crow”, a book by Michelle Alexander, while we consider joining with other groups in this area looking to fight racism.

There is no beginning, middle or end to the challenge of Tikkun Olam. Whether or not you have been involved in these projects before, can make an ongoing commitment, or just want to do something to help here and now, we welcome your assistance and will continue to help people together. Sandy Lash (sjlash@optonline.net) & Robbie Schiff (veggierob@yahoo.com) are our social action chairs and Ed Ginsberg (ginsberg@edwnewhomes.com) leads our participation in the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance. Yasher Koach to them and all our participants.

As 2016 draws to a close, please consider making a donation to Shir Chadash to support not only our tzedakah project planning but also so that we can continue to be a strong community in all aspects of Jewish life for ourselves and our children. Please mail your check payable to Congregation Shir Chadash to Treasurer Stacie Wogalter, 37 Patricia Drive, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

L'Shalom

Jane

janeffreemore@gmail.com

914-475-9302



A Message from Sue Marcove, Education Enrichment Coordinator

OUR STUDENTS EXPLORE ISRAEL

On November 19th, the Aleph class students “took off” for Israel, with Julia Rubinstein as their pilot and Jeremy Bill as their steward. Both classes explored Eilat on that day, the Aleph class with a “ride” on a glass bottom boat; and the Bet class with a look at some interesting facts about Eilat and Israel. For instance, did you know that Eilat has dolphins?

Thank you to Julia and Jeremy, and to all the parents and teachers who helped make the program a success.

Students should look forward to more exciting lessons and activities as they “travel” to all the different cities. We will observe Chanukah “in Jerusalem,” where our Chanukah story takes place. Also please do come to our Chanukah Party where there will be a story, some games and/or crafts, and, of course latkes! We could never have a party without food.

B'Shalom and Happy Chanukah ,
Sue Marcove
sfmarcoe@gmail.com
(home) 845-723-4045



NOTE: Once again we will start each session promptly at 9a.m. in the sanctuary. With limited time for all that is scheduled for our students this year, please do come at 8:45 for breakfast and time to socialize, or make a plate for you child(ren) to eat when we do the Kiddush and HaMotzi. Thank you!



Chanukah Party

*Saturday, December 17th
immediately following Sharing Shabbat*

*There will be games for the children to play, crafts,
food, music and, of course, lots of latkes!
& a special story from PJ Library*

*Something for the young & old alike. Goody bags
and chocolate gelt! Join us for a fun filled afternoon
for the whole family.
All welcome.*

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: Stacie Wogalter, 37 Patricia Drive, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569.

John and Donna Murphy **in memory** of Herbert, Selma and Steven Marks
Manny Strumpf **in honor** of his daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Ron Dritz
Lois Lang **in memory** of Rose Lang's first Yahrzeits
Alan and Gail Gamble **in appreciation** for welcoming their son Jeffrey into our Services
Cantor Gail Hirschenfang and Rabbi Daniel Polish **in support** of the Morse School Project

PLEASE DONATE
BRIGHT NIGHTS
WINTER COAT DRIVE
For Homeless Families
In Dutchess County



Andrew Scheck will be Collecting Donations at Services
through December 7 - Thank You!

Winter Coats for Men, Women, and Children
Hats, Gloves, Scarves
Boots
Blankets
Warm Sweaters and Sweatpants
Backpacks
New Socks, Toiletries

All donations are tax deductible.

Contact ascheck1130@gmail.com

Congregation Shir Chadash

Presents

The West Point Black Nights

Hockey Team

Vs.

Mercyhurst University Lakers

Saturday, January 14, 2017

7:00pm at West Point

Bleacher seating

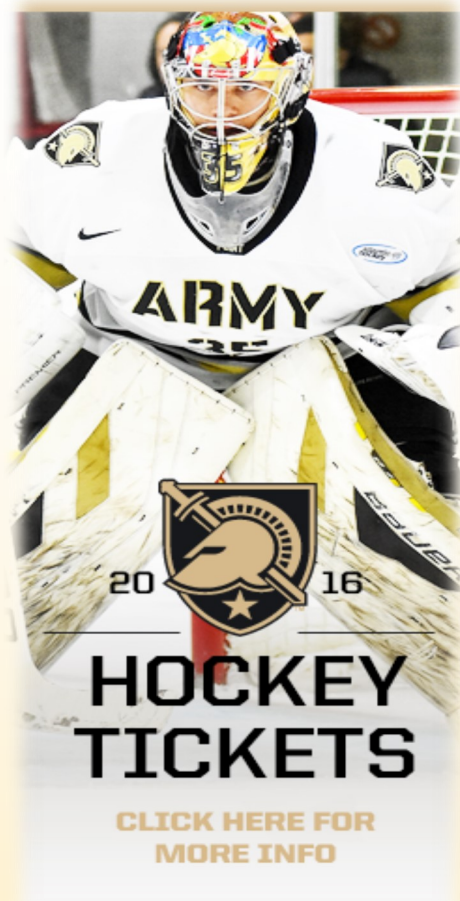
Concession available

\$15.00 per ticket

More information:

Wendy Bill

bills1989@msn.com or 845-702-8645



Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Number of Tickets _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

or to use Pay Pal www.shir-chadash.com

Please mail to: Congregation Shir Chadash, Wendy Bill, 5404 Chelsea Cove North, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533



Tzedakah in Action at Shir Chadash

We Need You—help us feed the hungry!
On Monday, January 16th
we will be providing a chili dinner for 150 people at
the Lunch Box at Dutchess Outreach.

Could you...

donate some ingredients please? We need:

- *large cans of crushed tomatoes (864 oz. total)
- *red, black, white canned beans (420 oz. total)
- *red, green, etc. sweet peppers (10 lbs. total)
- *yellow onions (10 lbs. total)
- *peeled garlic (2 large jars)
- *Tortilla Chips (6 large bags)
- *apple cider (4 gals. total)
- *Fresh Golden Pineapple (6 total)

***bake—recipe provided?**

***cook at the Lunch Box on 1/16 at 2 pm?**

***help serve on 1/16 from 5—6:30 pm?**

(Kids are welcome!)

*** Let us know if you want us to shop for you!?!?**

**FOOD DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO ANY SHIR CHADASH
SERVICE OR EVENT OR CONTACT US.**

Please contact Social Action co-chairs:

Robbie Schiff

veggierob@yahoo.com

876-2626

or

Sandy Lash

sjlash@optonline.net

227-4650



[illegible]

New flag being raised and dedicated



A photograph showing various food items, including bags of rice and boxes of bananas, stacked on a wooden pallet. The rice bags are blue and white, with 'Premium' and 'Golden' labels. The banana boxes are brown and green, with 'JUM BANANAS' and 'CAO' labels. The items are arranged in a neat stack on a wooden pallet.

158 LBS. of Food from the
HV Food Bank Thanks to
Shir Chadash Donations



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Recipe Corner

Andrea's Mocha Shortbread contributed by Andrea Ostwald

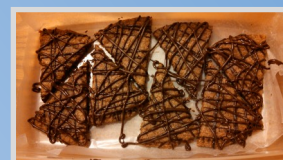
Makes 2 dozen

1 1/4 cups all purpose flour	1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temp
1/4 cup cornstarch	1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	3 oz. good quality white chocolate (chopped)
3/4 tsp instant espresso powder (or instant coffee powder)	3 oz. bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate (chopped)
1/4 tsp salt	Optional: crushed macadamia nuts

1. Position racks in top third & bottom third of oven. Preheat to 325°. Line 2 large bake sheets w/ parchment.
2. Sift first 5 ingredients into medium bowl. Using electric mixer, beat butter in large bowl, 'til fluffy. Beat in powdered sugar. Add dry ingredients & beat 'til well blended.
3. Gather dough into ball; divide into 3 equal pieces. Place two dough balls on 1 prepared baking sheet, each one towards the end of the sheet. Place the third dough ball in the center of the second prepared baking sheet. Using moist fingertips, press each dough ball into a 7" diameter round. Using a small sharp knife, mark each round into 8 wedges. Press fork tines around edge of each to make notched design.
4. Bake 12 minutes. Reverse sheets on the racks. Bake until shortbread looks dry & feels firm to the touch (about 12 minutes more).
5. Cool on baking sheets on racks. Cut shortbread into wedges along marked lines.

Chocolate Drizzle

1. Heat white chocolate in microwave safe bowl at 30 second intervals, stirring quickly with fork after each interval, until melted. Repeat process in separate bowl with bittersweet chocolate.
2. Spoon white chocolate into ziplock bag and then cut off a small tip of the corner, Seal bag. Pipe decoratively over cookies. Repeat using bittersweet chocolate. Let stand until chocolate sets, about 1 hour.
3. Shortbread can be made 2 days ahead. Store airtight in single layers between wax paper. If freezing, defrost completely before drizzling with chocolate. Top with crushed macadamia nuts for extra appeal.



Sparkled Ginger Cookies contributed by Robbie Schiff

Makes 1 1/2 to 2 dozen cookies

4 Tablespoons turbanado sugar	1 cup organic sugar – use the regular or half regular and half turbanado
2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour	1/2 cup grapeseed oil (can use 1/3 cup)
1 tsp baking soda	1/4 cup molasses
1/4 tsp sea salt	1/4 cup rice or soy milk
2 1/2 tsp ground ginger	1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp each ground cloves and cinnamon	

Pre-heat the oven to 350°. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Put the 4 Tbs. turbanado sugar on a small plate and reserve.

1. Mix together the 7 dry ingredients. In a separate bowl mix everything else. Combine the ingredients well.
 2. With damp hands, roll into balls, flatten, press lightly into the sugar on the plate and place, sugar side up, on the cookie sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes, cool for three to five minutes on sheets and place on wire cooling rack. They will seem soft but will harden up after a few minutes.
 3. For a little pizzaz, press a few bits of crystallized ginger into the center of each cookie before baking.
- This recipe is adapted from "Vegan With A Vengeance" by Isa Chandra Moskowitz
They are gingery, chewy, and crunchy on top. Especially good in the fall and winter.



This is a new edition to our monthly newsletter. We started with two desserts but all types of recipes are welcome. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please send it to Sandy Lash at sjlash@optonline.net



Member's Corner



Dear Shir Chadash,

Thank you so much for supporting me for my Bar Mitzvah.

Thank you for the wonderful gift!
-Jayci



Weather Cancellations Visit WWW.CANCELLATIONS.COM
and [WHUD RADIO 100.7](http://WHUD.RADIO.100.7). Friday evening SERVICES WOULD
BE CANCELLED BY 5:00pm Sharing Shabbat WOULD BE
CANCELLED BY 7:00am



December Torah Readings



December 2 and 3 Toldot
Genesis 25:19 – 28:9
D'var Torah Jerry Scheck

December 23 and 24 Vayeshev
Genesis 37:1-40:23

December 9 and 10 Vayetzei
Genesis 28:10-32:3

December 30 and 31 Miketz
Genesis 41:1-44:17

December 16 and 17 Vayishlach
Genesis 32:4-36:43
D'var Torah Robbie Schiff

December Yahrzeits*

Friday, December 2, 2016	Frances Goodman	Mother	Susan Goodman
Friday, December 2, 2016	Steve Schmidt	Husband	Sylvia Buccelli
Friday, December 2, 2016	Melvin Moskowitz	Father	Steve Moskowitz
Friday, December 2, 2016	Ruth Brown	Mother	Helen Brandonisi
Friday, December 9, 2016	Rachel Luckin	Grandmother	Steve Herschbein
Friday, December 9, 2016	Lara Pearson	Daughter	Eric and Melinda Pearson
Friday, December 9, 2016	Irwin Greenberg	Father	Jackie Levine
Friday, December 16, 2016	Judith Brandon	Mother	Alfred Brandonisi
Friday, December 16, 2016	Paul Roth	Father	Lisa Roth
Friday, December 16, 2016	Tillie Turkenkopf	Mother	Leonard Turkenkopf
Friday, December 16, 2016	Joseph Baltrush	Cousin	Michael Rothman
Friday, December 23, 2016	Herman Bordman	Grandfather	Donald Poretz
Friday, December 30, 2016	Benjamin Gottesman	Grandfather	Lois Lang

*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 2 Lisa and Marc Kerchman
Saturday, December 3 Susan Goodman and Ed Ginsberg
Friday, December 9 Gloria Goverman
Friday, December 16 Katherine Duke and David Karten
Saturday, December 17 Sara and Michael Rothman
Friday, December 23 TBA
Friday, December 30 Chanukah Oneg



Oneg Coordinators: Gloria Goverman
gbwknits@yahoo.com
914-419-9403
Suzanne Neil
suzanneneil@mac.com
845-559-3123
Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizers :
Sara Rothman 223-5925
Stacie Wogalter 635-5101



Congregation Shir Chadash

brings you "a new song"

Calendar 5777 (2016-2017)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services start Friday evening September 9th at 7:30pm
Sharing Shabbat starts Saturday morning, September 10th at 9:00am

All are welcome!

SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00 AM

September 10 and 17
October 1 and 15
November 5 and 19
December 3 and 17

January 7 and 21
February 4 and 11
March 4 and 18
April 1 and 22
May 6 and 20

Saturday, September 24th Selichot with Temple Beth-El at FPUPC 8:00pm

Saturday, October 1st Bat Mitzvah of Jayci Longin 10:30am

Sunday October 2nd Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm

Monday October 3rd Rosh Hashanah 10:00am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm

Tuesday October 11th Kol Nidre 8:00pm

Wednesday October 12th 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 16th Sukkah building and Family Sukkot Service time TBD

Friday October 21st lay led Sukkot Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday October 28th Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 7:30pm

Saturday November 5th Bat Mitzvah of Julia Rubinstein at 10:30am

Friday December 30th "Light Up the Night" Family Chanukah Service 6:00pm

Saturday February 11th Tu B'Shevat Seder

Friday March 10th Purim Celebration 7:30pm

Friday March 31st Joint Service at Temple Beth-El led by 5-7th grade Hebrew class

Friday April 21st Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm

**Friday April 28th Joint Service with Temple Beth-El led
by 3- 4th grade Hebrew class**

Saturday May 20th Adult B'not Mitzvah at 10:30am

Friday June 9th Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm

Friday June 16th Board Installation at 7:30pm



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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 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 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	3 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
4	5	6 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	7 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	8	9 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	10
11	12 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	13 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	14 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	15 January Newsletter Deadline	16 Kabbalat Shabbat Prelude to Chanukah 7:30pm	17 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Chanukah Party 11:30
18	19	20 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm	21 Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	22	23 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30 LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION 6:00PM	
						31 