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Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President Lindsey Turner

Vol. 16 No. 6

February 2018

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online at www.shir-chadash.org

2 Kabbalat Shabbat

**3 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study
9:15am
Tu B'Shevat
Seder 11:30am**

9 Kabbalat Shabbat

**10 Sharing Shabbat
Torah Study
9:15am**

**11 Rosh Chodesh
Reading Group
10:30-12:30pm**

**12 Board Meeting
7:00pm**

16 Kabbalat Shabbat

**23 KABBALAT SHABBAT
PURIM SPIEL
6:30PM
NOTE NEW DATE**

Looking Ahead—

**3/2 Kabbalat
Shabbat 7:30pm**

**3/23 Joint Service
with Temple
Beth-El at
FPUPC 7:30pm**

From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

Some Thoughts on Presidents' Day



Americans have not had a king since we severed ourselves from Britain in 1776. And yet we have always regarded our elected presidents with a kind of veneration that is not all that different from the affection royal subjects lavish on their sovereigns. We have even designated a day in February to honor them as a class. Why February? It began as two separate celebrations of birthdays: Abraham Lincoln on the 12th and George Washington on the 22nd. But then we decided that all of our presidents—every single one of them—deserved a display of reverence.

I have been thinking about presidents lately. We Jews take special note of George Washington. He took the trouble to respond to a letter of congratulations from the Jewish synagogue of Newport Rhode Island. In it he described his vision of the government of the new nation as, “a government which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance—but generously affording to All liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship: deeming every one, of whatever nation, tongue or language equal parts of the great Governmental Machine....”. What a remarkable promise. At the very beginning of the American enterprise, the president embraces tolerance and understanding. He welcomes people of all backgrounds to this land to which he had helped give birth. What a meaningful yardstick for all who would succeed him in that exalted office. Let us keep it in mind as we celebrate Presidents' Day.

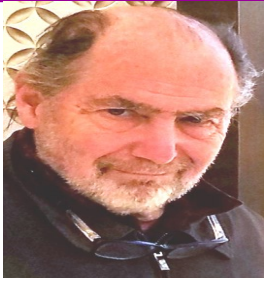
Very recently I had the privilege of walking through the home of that other giant of American History. I traveled to Springfield Illinois to commune with Abraham Lincoln. I stood in the room where he received the delegation of representatives of the Republican Party sent to inform him that he had received their nomination for president. As I stood by Lincoln's desk I reflected on the trajectory of that party. Created out of the failed husk of the Whig party it began its life as a progressive movement dedicated to the ideal of human equality—the dignity and worth of every human being. It was born to resist oppression and strive to create a more just and caring society. That is what Lincoln stood for. That is why, in the end, he received the nomination. And that is why we honor him to this day. As we celebrate his birthday it is not unfair to speculate on the current condition of the party in whose birth he was so instrumental. How would he see his party today? Indeed, we cannot but ask, would his party have nominated him today? Has it been a worthy steward of his ideals and those of its founders? As we honor Lincoln we are called to take his ideals and his values seriously. Anything else makes Presidents' Day a hollow sham.

Presidents' Day is not just about white sales and no mail. It is a day that summons every American to reflect on the state of our union and the condition of our political life.

B'Shalom, Rabbi Daniel Polish

A Message from President Lindsey Turner

Dear Friends



Dear Friends,

Notice how the nice days this past weekend gave everyone a boost! The “January thaw” usually pops in around this time of the month or sometimes slips over into early February.

These little respites from winter seem to be islands we stop at and make port on the long voyage to spring.

Our next port of call, Tu B'Shevat, is the New Year of the Trees, which is the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the flowering that will start to bear fruit.

So, let's enjoy the fruitfulness of the season—please join us for our special Seder on February 3rd! The children will be leading us on this wonderful day. Just come, enjoy the food and the togetherness of your Shir Chadash family.

B 'Shalom

Lindsey Turner

Our most sincere thanks go to our generous members and friends who respond to our fundraising appeals all year long. These contributions enable us to offer membership to each and every person who wants to join us, regardless of ability to pay. Thank you all for allowing us to be the open and welcoming congregation that we strive to be. We are very grateful for the contributions to our year-end and "burn the mortgage" appeals from:

Amy and Jim Thrasher

Sandy and Jeff Lash

Sue Marcoe

Wendy and Stuart Bill

Iris and Len Turkenkopf

Norm MacKay

Roberta Weiner

Nicky and Lindsey Turner

Gloria Goverman

Alice and Steve Press

Andrea Ostwald

Kezia Gleckman Hayman

Michael Feinman

Cantor Hirschenfang and Rabbi Polish

Sara and Michael Rothman

Roberta Schiff

Alan and Gail Gamble

Amanda Thornton and John Wallach

Lisa Roth and Richard Bordowitz

Hilda Bezaris and Bill Anshen

Todah Rabah!

Let Us Celebrate Tu B'Shvat

the new year of the trees

The sap is rising in the trees in Israel,
the renewal of spring is coming.

Join us

Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 11:30am

at Congregation Shir Chadash for a
Tu B'Shvat Seder featuring Israel's ancient crops.
The Seder will begin immediately after services.
Please RSVP.

almonds
dates
pomegranates

figs
carob
grapes

olives
wheat
barley

family friendly festivities, delicious food, much singing
and hot soup too - it's not quite spring yet!

RSVP: Roberta Schiff 845-380-2200 or: veggierob@yahoo.com

not a potluck - but if you would like to bring something - ask



A Message from Sue Marcoe Education Enrichment Coordinator

EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We might have missed a Sharing Shabbat the beginning of January, but that didn't stop the excitement for our Religious School. First, I'd like to thank Nicky & Lindsey Turner for donating a brand new laptop to the school. This will allow teachers to take students on "adventures" in a way that couldn't be done before. Students can also be shown videos relating to their content, and can learn how to research questions, as the class looks for answers about their Judaism together.

Also, our Aleph and Tot's classes didn't let the missed Sharing Shabbat from getting their parts and practicing for the play which they will present as part of our Tu B'Shevat festivities on February 3rd. Scripts were emailed and students have been reading over their parts since the beginning of January. Our Junior Choir has also been practicing their songs for this event. **So everyone come join us for Sharing Shabbat, (Religious School and Torah Study), followed by services, and then our Tu B'Shevat Seder and lunch. NOTE: Please RSVP for the seder/lunch to sfmarcoe@gmail.com so that we have enough food and drinks for everyone.**

Again, we are excited about our Tots class (k-1st grade) under the tutelage of Leah Polish! These students will be participating in the play, and when they are not rehearsing for the play, they will be learning about the symbols and meanings of the Jewish holidays through crafts and stories. If you know of any children who could benefit from the program, please let their parents know that whether or not they are members of Shir Chadash, for this year only, there is no charge for this program, although a donation would be appreciated to cover the cost of materials.



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 in the OLD building)*. School needs to begin promptly at 9:00am upstairs with the Rabbi visiting classes between 9:00 and 9:15am. 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!

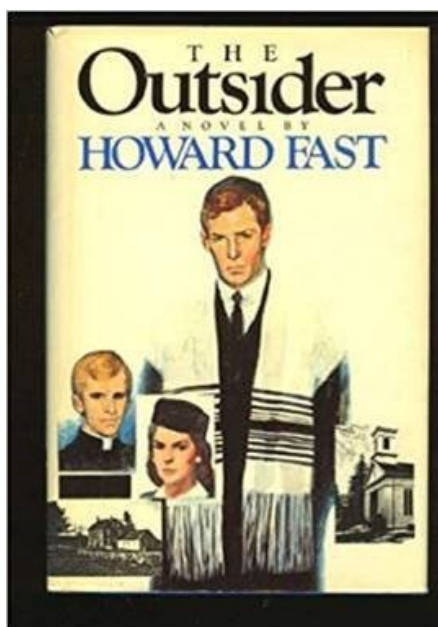
B'Shalom
Sue Marcoe
sfmarcoe@gmail.com
(home) 845-723-4045

Calling All Readers—
Pot Luck Brunch & Discussion
Sunday
February 11th 10:30am—12:30pm

At the home of
Sandy & Jeff Lash
53 Rymph Rd. LaGrangeville
845-227-4650 sjlash@optonline.net

Our hosts will provide bagels and spreads and beverages
The Rosh Chodesh Reading & Discussion Group selection is
the *New York Times* Bestseller:

The Outsider



A Novel by Howard Fast

Fast's "New York Times" bestseller traces the lives of Rabbi David Hartman and his family through the postwar turmoil of mid-century America. David Hartman returned from the Second World War to the small New England town of Leighton Ridge. Rabbi to the fourteen Jewish families in his small community, Hartman, along with his town, spends the years after the war facing the major political and social upheaval of the time. From McCarthyism and nuclear spies, to civil rights and Vietnam, Hartman, along with his best friend, a Congregational minister, helps lead the town through the chaotic changes sweeping the nation.

CASTING CALL!!!

Maybe you've enjoyed it from your seat. Perhaps you danced in the aisles. Maybe you've just heard tales of the fun and laughter.

Now you can experience it first hand and be a part of the 2018 Purim Spiel!

I'm told it will draw upon Broadway and is being written by an immensely talented playwright. And, of course, there will be music. And singing. And dancing. But you don't need to be a singer (or a dancer) to participate.

So, if you have ever wanted to sing, act or just get together somewhat regularly with other fun people from Shir Chadash, this is your chance.

So, if you want to be in the loop, email us at sfmarcoe@gmail.com or sarajrothman@gmail.com please put "PurimSpiel cast" in the subject line so it doesn't get sent to the trash. Please include the best phone number to reach you at and whether it can accept texts.

We look forward to working with you on this year's extravaganza.

Sue Marcoe and Sara Rothman

I will be sending out year end summaries of contributions for 2017 in a couple of weeks, once I am able to go through all the records.

Meanwhile, I am sending out acknowledgments of contributions made in the last 30 days.

Thank you for understanding.

Jim Thrasher
Acting Treasurer

Changed
DATE!

PURIM SPIEL

**FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 23
6:30PM**



Filling Esther's Basket

Jewish Family Service Emergency Fund Purim Campaign Starts Anew for 2018



Last year, Congregation Shir Chadash raised close to a stunning \$1273 in gifts to the JFS's Emergency Fund for Jewish Families. All of the Poughkeepsie area's five synagogues raised close to \$3000 in total. This special emergency fund has been used to supply local Jewish families with needed help for rent, food, heat, transportation and other essentials on a short term basis. In fact, one of the recipients donated back over \$400 when he got "back on his feet" and was able to obtain work.

We cannot stress too much the importance of replenishing this fund to help other needy Jewish families through some difficult times. For the month of February prior to Purim til Saturday, March 4, we will be putting out our Esther's Basket and asking that you bring a check for \$18 or more when you come to temple. Checks should be made out to **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE EMERGENCY FUND**. Checks can also be mailed to Acting Treasurer: Jim Thrasher, 31 Timberline Drive Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 . All donations will be acknowledged by JFS unless otherwise requested.

Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang thank you, in advance, for your kindness and generous support of our local Jewish community as we enter this season of Purim!

Purim is only 3 weeks away (yes!). Think about picking up some pasta to shake, you know when, and maybe throw in a few cans of tomato sauce too (no glass jars, please). All pasta and sauce will be donated to the Morse School Food Pantry to feed kids in need.



*Vassar Jewish Studies Program and
Vassar Jewish Union and
Congregation Shir Chadash
Present.....*

ASEFAMUSIC

**Mediterranean Encounters:
Judeo-Islamic Soundscapes**



SUNDAY • APRIL 22 • 5 PM

PRE-CONCERT TALK AT 4 PM

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE CONCERT

AT VASSAR COLLEGE

VILLARD ROOM, MAIN BUILDING

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**VASSAR STUDENTS
AND FACULTY ARE
COMPLIMENTARY**

Congregation Shir Chadash presents: *ASEFA*, in
Mediterranean Encounters:
Judeo-Islamic Soundscapes



Sunday April 22, at 5pm (pre-concert talk at 4pm)
Villard Room, Main Building, Vassar College, Raymond Ave.
Poughkeepsie, NY

AD RATES

Concert Sponsor	\$2500	Full page plus recognition in all publicity and a <i>Thank you</i> on concert night
Underwriter	\$1000	Full page plus a <i>Thank you</i> in the concert program
Inside Front or Back Cover	\$650	8.0" high x 5.0" wide
Full Page*	\$350	8.0" high x 5.0" wide
Half Page*	\$180	4.0" high x 5.0" wide
Third Page	\$100	2.6" high x 5.0" wide
Business Card	\$50	1.5" high x 2.5" wide
Congratulations	\$25	Not available for business

Company Name & contact person _____

Company email & phone _____

Make out check to "Congregation Shir Chadash" and mail to: Michael Rothman, 6 Tower Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. Email ad copy (jpg preferred) to: mrothman@earthlink.net . You may also send paper ad copy or business card (please no staples) to the above address.

Special Incentive to those purchasing half or full page ads - for an additional \$250 you get *fifty* more ads. We will put a business card sized ad in our monthly newsletter *and* a link to your web page in our weekly emails for a full year!

www.shir-chadash.org

Phone 845-232-1029

Tax ID# 14-1824163



Member's Corner

Tu B'Shevat

When the Shir Chadash Newsletter lands in your mailbox we will be a few days away from celebrating Tu B'Shevat, also known as The New Year of the Trees.

Most of us did not grow up celebrating this holiday, but now have embraced it as meaningful and enjoyable.

Even though winter is still here, the sap is rising in the trees, especially in Israel, and the renewal of spring is coming closer.

The Seder at this holiday features the seven species of crops grown in ancient Israel. They are grapes, figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, wheat and barley. Almonds are featured as they are in bloom in Israel at this time. Also carob, to commemorate the story of the old man, Honi, who was chided for planting a tree whose fruit he would not see, but replied that he was planting for others, as had been done for him. Carob, in the pod is inedible and also hard to find. For the past two years we have been using tamarind, also in a pod, easy to open, and tasty. At my other synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom in San Juan Puerto Rico, a Seder is held at a member's home and tamarind trees are planted. (Culture in transition!)

I savor not only the meaning of this holiday, but that all the foods are vegan. Genesis 1:29 "every seed bearing plant that is upon the earth and every tree that has seed bearing fruit they shall be yours for food". Yes, after Noah permission is given to eat animal foods, but nowhere is it required. It is possible to be strong and healthy and meet all our nutritional requirements on a plant-based diet. And much variety is possible. Even for those who consume meat and dairy, it is not possible to have optimum health if vegetables, fruits and whole-grains are not consumed. And we are taught not to support unnecessary cruelty to animals (T'Zar Ba'alei Chayim). It is impossible to produce meat, milk and eggs to meet the demand without cruelty to the animals. We can vote with our forks to take better care of ourselves, the animals, and the only planet we have. Showering for a month uses about the same amount of water as producing a hamburger. Better to give up a hamburger than stop showering to save water (you get to keep your friends). If going vegan is not something you are considering, you can change something, maybe give up dairy (meant to grow a calf to 800 pounds – not so good for us) and/or reduce egg use (easy to bake without them) and truly eat less meat.

If you have not kept your New Year's resolutions, try a new one, to consume fewer animals and their products. Check out these two websites. JewishVeg.org and OneGreenPlanet.org, for lots of information and recipes. You may always contact me.

I hope you and your family will celebrate with us at Shir Chadash on Saturday, February 3, right after services. It is not a potluck, but some of you are bringing either one of the seven species or a soup or a dessert. Much appreciated! We are welcoming spring, but hot soup is still very much enjoyed. In addition to all the food and the Seder, our young people will present a play. Come be part of this festive occasion.

Robbie Schiff

veggieroba@yahoo.com

845.380.2200

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 Acting 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.

Lois Lang **in memory** of her grandfather, Ben Gottesman

Lois Lang **in memory** of her aunt, Betty Gottesman

Sadie Herschbein **in honor** of Sara and Michael Rothman

Sandy and Jeff Lash **in memory** of Sandy's father, Meyer Saranga

Wendy and Stuart Bill **in memory** of Aaron Goldberg, father of Irwin

Sandy and Jeff Lash **in memory** of Aaron Goldberg, father of Irwin

Save
the
Date

ASEFA: Music of Jews
from Arab Lands
Sunday, April 22 — 5:00pm
Villard Room
Vassar College

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!

February Torah Readings



February 2 and 3 Yitro
Exodus 18:1—20:23
D'var Torah Barbara Stapholtz

February 16 and 17 Terumah
Exodus 25:1 – 27:19

February 9 and 10 Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1—24:18
D'var Torah Jim Thrasher

February 23 and 24 Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20 – 30:10

February Yahrzeits*

Friday, February 2, 2018	Tillie Herschbein	Grandmother	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 2, 2018	Morris Roth	Father	Sara Rothman
Friday, February 9, 2018	Bernard Herschbein	Grandfather	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 9, 2018	Esther Roth	Mother	Rochelle Bellach
Friday, February 9, 2018	Sergie Joseph Blatt	Father	Roberta Schiff
Friday, February 9, 2018	Dorris Lang	Sister	Lois Lang
Friday, February 9, 2018	Gina Peluse	Mother	Joe Bertoluzzi
Friday, February 16, 2018	Meyer Saranga	Father	Sandy Lash
Friday, February 16, 2018	Jeanette Shapiro	Mother	Beth Herschbein
Friday, February 16, 2018	Diane Pollock	Mother	Ken Pollock

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



Any financial questions should be directed to
Acting Treasurer, Jim Thrasher, at jdt845@yahoo.com.
Payments should be mailed to 31 Timberline Drive
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, February 2	Jackie and Stuart Levine
Saturday, February 3	Roberta Schiff
Friday, February 9	Steve Moskowitz
Saturday, February 10	Wendy and Ian Freedman
Friday, February 16	Angela and Bernard Panzer
Friday, February 23	Larry Kraus



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, FEBRUARY 23RD PURIM CELEBRATION 6:30PM

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

Friday, March 30th No Services – First Seder

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

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

Friday, April 27th Joint Service at Temple Beth-El 8:00pm

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

President	Lindsey Turner
Vice President	TBA
Secretary	Wendy Bill
Acting Treasurer	Jim Thrasher
Immediate Past Presidents	Victor Feit/Jane Freeman Moore/ Bill Anshen
Trustee	Steve Moskowitz
Trustee	Lori Dritz
Trustee	Adam Belok
Trustee	TBD

Clergy

Rabbi Daniel Polish
Cantor Gail Hirschenfang
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard A. Schoolman



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hopewellanimalhospital.com

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



371 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845.485.0241 Fax: 845.452.8601

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Weather Cancellations Visit
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SERVICES WOULD BE CANCELLED BY
5:00pm Sharing Shabbat
WOULD BE CANCELLED BY
7:00am



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm 	3 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Tu B'Shevat Seder Lunch 11:30am
	5	6	7	8	9 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	10 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
11 Rosh Chodesh Reading Group at the home of Sandy and Jeff Lash 227-4650 10:30-12:30pm	12 Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	13 	14	15	16 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	17
18 		20	21	22	23 KABBALAT SHABBAT PURIM SPIEL!! 6:30PM	24
25	26	27	28 		2 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	3 Sharing Shabbat 9:00am