

Let Us Celebrate Tu B'Shevat (the new year of the trees)

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

Join us
Saturday February 1

at Congregation Shir Chadash for a
Tu B'Shevat Seder featuring Israel's ancient crops.

The Seder will begin at 10:30am
following Torah Study, please RSVP.

almonds dates figs carob olives
pomegranates grapes barley wheat

Family friendly festivities, delicious food, and hot soup too!

RSVP: Roberta Schiff 845.380.2200 or veggierob@yahoo.com
not a pot luck, but if you would like to bring something, ask



Congregation Shir Chadash

Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

President Wendy Bill

Vol. 18 No. 6

February 2020

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Online at
www.shir-chadash.org

1 Sharing Shabbat
9:00am
Tu B'Shevat Seder
10:30am

7 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm

8 Havdalah in
Jammies 4:00pm
RSVP Required

11 Board Meeting
7:00pm

14 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm

21 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm

22 Sharing Shabbat
9:00am

28 Kabbalat Shabbat
7:30pm

29 Line Dancing
7:00pm



Looking Ahead

3/13 Purim Spiel &
Family Celebration
7:30pm

3/21 Annual Auction
7:00pm

3/27-29 Shabbaton
Weekend

From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish



Tu B'Shevat 2020: The Trees are Burning

Australia is on fire. (A friend of mine wrote about how total the devastation was. And how sad.) The rainforests are burning. This year Tu B'Shevat has a different feel to it. We used to regard this holiday as quaint, or incidental. A new year of the trees? Well, yes, we spoke about fruits, and nuts, shade, paper, and so forth. But the holiday hardly had any deeper significance or relevance.

Today, Tu B'Shevat arrives with a special urgency. It talks to us of the trees that are put in peril by climate change. All those burning trees serve as a symbol of the world that is literally transforming around us—to our detriment. As we celebrate our Tu B'Shevat seder this year we are doing more than engaging in some esoteric ritual. It serves us as a much-needed herald.

Our human species does not exist divorced from the world of nature around us. Our fate—the fate of the human race, of our children and grandchildren—is bound up with that of the planet. If we continue to take it for granted and abuse it, more than trees will suffer.

Everything on the earth will be compromised, and experience lives less pleasant than the ones we have known. We have been poor stewards of creation. Rather than regard it as a precious gift, we have been careless and ungrateful. Tu B'Shevat can help renew a sense of awe and gratitude. This year we can find it rich in meaning. This year it can challenge us.

As we eat our grapes, and pomegranates; drink our various combinations of “wines” let us feel ourselves moved to embrace the challenge of saving the trees we celebrate—rescuing our planet from the jeopardy of our own creation.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel Polish

A Message from President Wendy Bill

Thinking of February.....



Dear Friends:

The first thing that comes to mind is Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day and Black History month. Whether it's how many weeks of winter are ahead, hearts, chocolates and flowers or African American achievements, it's February.

And there are other month-long events to consider like American Heart Month, International Friendship Month, Responsible Pet Owners' Month and Parent Leadership Month.

For us, February starts with our Tu B'Shevat Seder on February 1st. Please join us for the Shabbat morning seder, starting at 10:30am. The celebration of Tu B'Shevat has a long and varied history and today the theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday is the environment. Tu B'Shevat is a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy, and thankfulness for creation in anticipation of the renewal of the natural world. During this festival, we recall the sacred obligation to care for the world, and the responsibility to share the fruits of the earth with all. What an important message to share with your family and friends.

And this February ends on the 29th with Country Line Dancing, FUN for everyone! Temple Beth-El is joining in with us this time for even more fun. It's Leap Year, so don't hold back—Boot Scoot Boogie your way down and dance the night away!

For a "short" month, lots is happening—be part of it!


*B'Shalom
Wendy Bill*

845-227-7236;

bills1989@msn.com

Purim is days 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.





**Shir Chadash &
Temple Beth-El Present**

**Leap Year
Boot Scoot Boogie**

Country Line Dance FUN!

February 29th @ 7pm

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
1168 Freedom Plains Rd LaGrangeville, NY



^SCAN TO REGISTER^
or email sfmarcoe@gmail.com
Cash Only.

Beginners Welcome!!
RSVP by 2/22 \$10. \$12 @ the door
Families welcome!!



A Message from Sue Marcove Education Enrichment Coordinator

Fun at Religious School? Yes!

Coming February 1st, a Tu B'Shevat play, "**Save the Lofty Trees**" presented by our Religious School students as part of our Tu B'Shevat celebration! Be sure to come to support our youngsters. Karen Marder helped our older students edit and prepare for the play but all students will participate. And in anticipation of Tu B'Shevat, Rochelle's class is getting their hands dirty, planting just in time for the holiday, hoping to see great results in time for Passover.

On February 22nd, we will begin our unit on Israel with the younger students "traveling" to the land of milk and honey, and our older students getting a preview of what they might see, and what foods they might taste, when they travel to Israel with Birthright or any of the other programs available for teens. There are exciting plans ahead that your child(ren) won't want to miss.

But we do need parents and/or Shir Chadash members who can offer one or two Sharing Shabbats to work with these students, from 9:00am-10:10a.m., as they learn more about their Judaism. If you enjoy working with children/teenagers, I can provide a lesson plan. If you have some talent or knowledge that you would like to share with these youngsters, your help would be greatly appreciated, especially if you have been to Israel. We need teachers for February 22nd, March 7th and 21st, as well as for April and May. Please let me know if you are available and willing. Thank you!

As always school begins promptly at 9:00am with bagels and juice in the classroom. Bring your children a little earlier and they can prepare a plate of healthy food to bring upstairs. Plan to stay for Shabbat services and enhance your child's Shabbat experience. What is important to you becomes important to your children.

B'Shalom Sue Marcove

sfmarcoe@gmail.com; 845-723-4045



BE A MORTGAGE MENSCH-

Help Shir Chadash Secure Our Land And Our Future

Background: Many years ago, the congregation purchased property along Freedom Road in Lagrangeville with the intention of building a synagogue. After much money, time, and sweat equity it has been determined that for the foreseeable future we will be unable to utilize this land. We have some money to continue to pay the mortgage, however that money will be depleted soon.

The net liability is \$21,000. Possibly we could actually pay off the mortgage and in doing so, gain some added flexibility as to the disposition of the land.

If each member family pays \$18 (Chai) until November 2021, we could easily pay off the mortgage.

So be a mortgage mensch.....

I/We hear by authorize Congregation Shir Chadash to withdraw monthly :

_____ \$18 per month until November 2021

_____ \$36 per month until November 2021. I/We would like to help those who can not.

_____ \$432 one-time withdrawal

Routing Number _____ Account # _____
(Please attached a voided a check)

_____ Enclosed is a one-time payment of \$432

_____ I/We will make monthly payments from my/our financial intuition

Signature _____

Date _____

For more information, please contact Jim Thrasher, Treasurer at 845-380-7221 or jdt845@yahoo.com or send your completed form to Jim Thrasher, Treasurer, 31 Timberline

Drive, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. **Thank you!!**

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.

Sue Marcoe, **in honor** of Ron Dritz's 60th Birthday

Sue Marcoe, **in memory** of Myrtle Herschbein, mother of Steve Herschbein

Amy and Jim Thrasher, **in memory** of the Yahrzeit of James Thrasher, Sr., father of Jim Thrasher

Jinny and Robert Goff, **in memory** of Myrtle Herschbein, mother of Steve Herschbein

Sandy and Jeff Lash **in memory** of the Yahrzeit of Meyer Saranga, father of Sandy Lash

Thank you for the generous donations to the Be a Mortgage Mensch Campaign:

Norm Mackay

Rochelle and David Bellach

Lori and Ron Dritz

Jeff and Sandy Lash

Roberta Schiff

Kezia Gleckman Hayman

Steve Herschbein

Amy and Jim Thrasher

Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang

Roberta Burshtyn

Sue Marcoe

Would you like to see your name on this list? Contact Jim Thrasher, Treasurer at jdt845@yahoo.com or 845-380-7221.

Shop with Shir Chadash at no extra cost to you

Did you know that every dollar you spend at Adams Fairacre Farms, Hannfaord, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop or Tops could be helping Shir Chadash ... and it won't cost you anything extra?

It's true.

Through programs at each store, Shir Chadash is able to purchase gift cards and gets a percentage back while you get the full face value! It's a true Win-Win!

Think about it, you probably shop every week and therefore would need cards every week, right?

In an effort to help stabilize some of the congregation's finances and make it easier for members to get cards as-needed, the board would like to be able to place regular monthly orders and have cards available for everyone as they need them.

So, here's how you can help. Several people have committed to contributing money to fund an initial order of cards so we'll have them for September.

If you can commit each week to purchasing gift cards totaling the amount you spend each week and paying treasurer Jim Thrasher either with cash or check (*PayPal takes too much out to make it cost effective*) two week's prior, you'll be able to pick up the cards at or before services in two weeks.

Of course, if you'd like to pay ahead for two, three or more weeks at once, that's OK too!

Either way, you'll be able to get your groceries that week and Shir Chadash will get a little bit of revenue on an ongoing basis, and we'll all be happy.

If you have any questions about the program, contact Wendy Bill at 227-7236 or bills1989@msn.com

ALSO: If you use Amazon, you can help generate ongoing revenue for Shir Chadash simply by shopping through Amazon Smile and selecting Shir Chadash. With every purchase you make, Amazon donates a small percentage to the congregation! All these small things add up, so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so today.



**Help us tell the
story of
Purim with
Comedy and
Song!
Friday, March
13th**



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Filling Esther's Basket

Jewish Family Services Emergency Fund Purim Campaign Starts Anew for 2020

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 the 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 16, 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 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!

February Torah Readings

January 31 and February 1 Bo
Exodus 10:1-13:16
Tu B'Shevat Seder 10:30am

February 21 and 22 Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1-24:18
D'var Torah Lori Dritz

February 7 and 8 Beshalach
Exodus 13:17-17:16

February 28 and 29 Terumah
Exodus 25:1-27:19



February Yahrzeits*

Friday, February 7, 2020	Bernard Herschbein	Grandfather	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 7, 2020	Sergie Joseph Blatt	Father	Roberta Schiff
Friday, February 7, 2020	Esther Roth	Mother	Rochelle Bellach
Friday, February 14, 2020	Dorris Lang	Sister	Lois Lang
Friday, February 14, 2020	Gina Peluse	Mother	Joe Bertoluzzi
Friday, February 14, 2020	Meyer Saranga	Father	Sandy Lash
Friday, February 14, 2020	Ira Herschebein	Father	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 14, 2020	Jeanette Shapiro	Mother	Beth Herschbein
Friday, February 14, 2020	Diane Pollock	Mother	Ken Pollock
Friday, February 28, 2020	Wilma Buchanan	Mother	Kim Buchanan

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

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Saturday, February 1	Robbie Schiff
Tu B'Shevet Seder	
Friday, February 7	Marion and Irwin Goldberg
Friday, February 14	Clean out the Shir Chadash Freezer
Friday, February 21	Lisa and Marc Kerchman
Saturday, February 22	Dana and Chris Zivica
Friday, February 28	Jackie and Stuart Levine



Oneg Coordinators: Suzanne Neil
suzanneneil@mac.com
845-559-3123
Wendy Bill
bills1989@msn.com
845-227-7236
Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizer:
Sara Rothman 845-223-5925



Congregation Shir Chadash

brings you “a new song”

Calendar 5780 (2019-2020)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services starting Friday evening September 6th at 7:30pm
Sharing Shabbat starting Saturday morning, September 7th at 9:00am

All are welcome!

SATURDAY MORNING SHARING SHABBAT 9:00 AM

September 7 and 21
October 5 and 19
November 2 and 16
December 7 and 14

January 4 and 18
February 1 and 22
March 7 and 21
April 4 and 18
May 2 and 16

Saturday, September 21st Selichot Joint Celebration at Temple Beth-El 8:00pm

Sunday, September 29th Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm

Monday, September 30th Rosh Hashanah 10:00am

Family Rosh Hashanah Celebration Service 3:00pm

Tuesday, October 8th Kol Nidre 8:00pm

Wednesday, October 9th Yom Kippur 10:00am

Panel Discussion: Hate in the Bible Stories We Love: What If? 12:30pm

Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00pm

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

Sunday, October 13th Sukkah Building and Family BBQ and Service, 3:00pm

Friday, October 18th Sukkot Family Service 7:30pm

Friday, October 25th Family Simchat Torah Shabbat 7:30pm

Sunday, November 24th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 5:00pm

Friday, December 27th “Light Up the Night”

Family Chanukah Celebration 7:30pm

Saturday, February 1st Tu B'Shevat Seder 10:30am

Friday, March 13th Purim Spiel and Celebration 7:30pm

Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29 Shabbaton Weekend

Friday, April 10th No Services – Second Passover Seder

Friday, April 17 Joint Service with Temple Beth-El – at Shir Chadash 7:30pm

Friday, April 24th Yom HaShoah Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday, May 1st Yom Haastmaut Shabbat 7:30pm

Friday, May 8 Joint Service with Temple Beth-El – at TBE 7:30pm

Thursday, May 28th Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Time TBD

Friday, June 5th Honoring Our Teachers at 7:30pm

Friday, June 12th Board Installation at 7:30pm

Board of Trustees 2019-2020

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Immediate Past President
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

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Victor Feit
Sue Marcoe
Jim Thrasher
Lindsey Turner
Rochelle Bellach
Lori Dritz
Robert Tracy
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Rabbi Daniel Polish
Cantor Gail Hirschenfang
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard A. Schoolman



371 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
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59 Montgomery Street
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Plan Ahead for April 2021 Save on Taxes – Contribute Directly from your Retirement Account

If you are retired and drawing required minimum distributions (RMDs) from a retirement account, you may be able to avoid paying income taxes on your contributions to Shir Chadash up to the RMD limit by directing your financial institution to issue a check made out to Shir Chadash, and sending the check to our Treasurer, Jim Thrasher. Please consult your financial advisor to ascertain whether you are eligible to take advantage of this tax avoidance before making your contribution.



**the
deadline
for the
weekly email is
tuesdays at
3:00pm. thank you
for your
cooperation.**

**wendy bill
bills1989@msn.com
845-227-7236**

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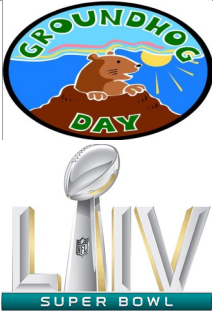

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*Weather
Cancellations*

**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**



February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 SHARING SHABBAT 9:00AM TU B'SHEVAT SEDER BRUNCH  10:30AM
	3	4	5	6	7 KABBALAT SHABBAT 7:30PM	8
9	10	11 BOARD MEETING 7:00PM	12	13	14 KABBALAT SHABBAT 7:30PM	15
16 		18	19	20	21 KABBALAT SHABBAT 7:30PM	22 SHARING SHABBAT 9:00AM
23	24	25	26	27	28 KABBALAT SHABBAT 7:30PM	29 Leap into Line Dancing 7:00pm - 9:00pm