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Rabbi Daniel Molish

Vol. 15 No. 7

Cantor Gail Sirschenfang

Nresident Jane Freeman Moore

Lebruary 2017

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR Online at www.shir-chadash.org

- 3 Kabbalat Shabbat4 Sharing Shabbat
- 9:00am 7 Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 10 Kabbalat Shabbat Our Fragile Planet by Ed Ginsberg
- Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Tu B'Shevat Jewish Earth Day Seder 11:45pm
- Dinner at Daddy O's Hopewell Junction 5:30pm
- Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 14 Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 16 March Newsletter Deadline
- 17 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 21 Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm
- 24 Kabbalat Shabbat
- 28 Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm

Looking Ahead March 2017

- 4 Sharing Shabbat
- 10 Purim Celebration 7:30pm
- 18 Sharing Shabbat
- 18 Sweet Sixteen
 Celebration Dinner
 followed by Annual
 Auction



From the Desk of Rabbi Daniel Polish

A Mathematical Puzzle

Dear Friends,

There is so much we can learn from our Torah. Of all the subjects we probably expect not to find in it, however, is economics. And yet, it seems to me that there is a clear economic perspective to be

found there. In so many ways its teachings seek to create a community of rough economic equality. Its vision is a leveling one. It seems to do everything it can to eliminate the possibility of some people having a great deal and others having far less. This is a question very much before American society these days. We call it the income gap. In really it is a wealth gap. It is about the disparity between the resources and quality of life of the very few and that of the many. Despite our pride in the notion that America is a society that can be a light to the world ("a shining city on the hill", President Regan called us), we have the dubious honor of leading the world in this category.

The month of January puts me in mind of this because it was exactly thirty years ago, on January 8, 1987, that the Dow Jones market index passed the 2,000 point for the first time. As I write this toward the end of December it looks like that index may well pass the 20,000 point in January 2017. The value of the American stock market has risen ten times in the past thirty years. Which brings me to my mathematical question. Are you ten times better off than you were thirty years ago? There is a good chance that you might not be. But if you are not, then we might want to ask, "who is". Has that great increase in wealth been shared equally through our society? Or has the windfall been reserved for a privileged few? (I guess that was a rhetorical question. We all know the answer.)

Which circles us back to the Torah perspective of how the economic life of a community ought to be structured. Our Bible clearly advocates for a significant measure of economic equality. America is said to be the most religious country on earth. It is a nation in which we hear a great deal about "Judeo-Christian values". It is a nation where religious groups seek to interject religious teachings into every dimension of the life of our society (public subsidy of religious schools, abortion rights, gay marriage, the list goes on and on). And yet on this very fundamental issue—how our economy is structured—there is deafening silence. For a nation filled with "Bible believers" this is a striking incongruity. I would wish that our religious discourse was as obsessed with economic justice as it is with who could use what bathroom. Does this sound naïve? It is new year's. I am entitled to my new year's wish.

Along with the wish that this (secular) new year is one of health and contentment for you and your loved ones.

B'Shalom Rabbi Daniel Polish



A Message from Secretary Gloria Governan

Where Is My Place as a Jewish Woman in America in 2017?

For most of my adult life I've grappled with being a Jewish woman in America. The awareness that there were some who didn't like Jews unfolded as I was growing up — perhaps some of you had similar experiences - being dropped as a friend or told that you are different. I laughed off the kid who told me I killed Christ because it was so utterly nonsensical — did I LOOK like I was over 2,000 years old? Come on!

I had a college friend who was concerned for my eternal soul once she figured out that Judaism wasn't just another denomination of Christianity. She spent all of our time on the train and walking to class trying to convince me that I needed to accept Jesus into my life or I'd burn in Hell. I told her that if Jesus is half the man she thinks he is, if I meet him after I die and he wags his finger at me, I'll apologize, he'll forgive me, we'll hug, and we'll all hang out in Heaven together. Because forgiveness. And then I stopped hanging out with her.

But I was always a bit angry which I didn't realize until one day some years later a friendly co-worker asked me what I was doing for Christmas and 30 minutes later the walls were still vibrating with the aftershock of my response. I was tired of everyone assuming that I was Christian – or worse, knowing that I was Jewish and assuming that I celebrated Christmas anyway.

It got harder after I had children and realized how entrenched cluelessness was in the Carmel School District and I'm pretty sure that I got a reputation as that really annoying Jewish woman who will never be happy. In a meeting that I was invited to along with the other oddball, a Christian Science mother who didn't want her child participating in any holidays at all, I was told that we live in a democracy and the majority rules so I just had to suck it up. (Insert dropped jaw here.)

Eventually I realized that it wouldn't change and I needed to get my children into an environment which would give them their own traditions and sense of Jewish identity. And in doing so, found my own.

Having my own place to come to every Friday night gives me a small bubble of peace. I love the familiar rhythm of the service combined with the fresh insight from Rabbi Polish and the always beautiful everchanging music of Cantor Hirschenfang. I love seeing what will show up on the Oneg table and I love the quiet race between the distribution of our sips of "wine" and the end of the Kiddush. (Fund-raising idea – a pool of bets on which happens first). I love Torah study, the analytical brilliance in the room, and having a space where I can make my own contributions even when they're totally off the mark.

Over the years I've been lucky enough to have loving accepting friends of color and beliefs different from mine. We've talked about all manner of things including religion and we've done it in a thoughtful respectful way. I have largely gotten over the anger of those who are determined to stay stuck in their belief that we live in a Christian nation – partly because I acknowledge that we sort of do. But that's okay; I'll be the stranger in my own land because I have peeps. And it's good.

L'Shalom Gloria Goverman

A Land Without Trees Thinking About Tu B'Shevat and Greenland

Can you imagine a land without trees? Greenland is such place. It is the largest island in the world covered almost entirely in ice. Susan and I spent two weeks in August on a tour of this remote part of the world spending most of our time above the Arctic Circle. Greenland is "ground zero" for the study of climate change and the impact of human activity on earth. Our visit included approximately 10 hours of lectures and visits to some of the most remote areas on earth. I learned about the impact of human activities on the earth's geology, climate, and ecology. I look forward to sharing this experience our at Tu B' Shevat service on February 10th.

Edward Ginsberg

<u>Ginsberg@edwnewhomes.com</u>

845-440-3463



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.

Robert & Jinny Goff **in memory** of her father Benjamin Yaver Lois Lang **in memory** of her mother, Betty Gottesman Lois Lang **in memory** of her grandfather, Ben Gottesman Steve Herschbein **in honor** of Michael & Sara Rothman Marc & Lisa Kerchman **in appreciation** of Cantor Hirschenfang Jeff & Sandy Lash **in memory** of her father, Meyer Saranga Our most sincere thanks goes 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.

This month, we are very grateful for the contributions to our year-end appeal from:

BILL ANSHEN & HILDA BEZARIS

WENDY & STUART BILL

RON & LORI DRITZ

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LINDSEY & NICKY TURNER

JOHN WALLACH

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Lois Weber

ROBERTA WIENER

DAVID & STACIE WOGALTER

TODAH RABAH

Morse School Tzedakah Project



An Urgent Request from the Social Action Committee Tzedakah for a Morse Elementary School Family

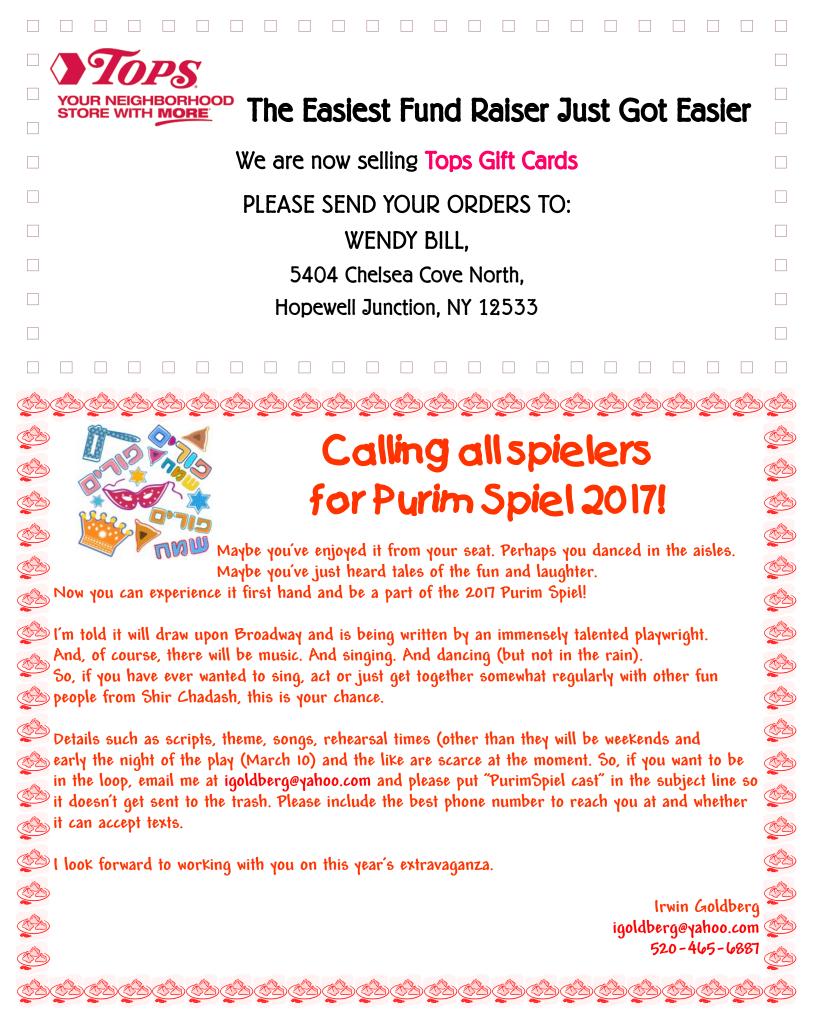
We received a specific request for help this week from the social worker at the Morse School. A mother of 4 children attending the Morse School has just been able to reunite her family of 4 children. She is a single parent struggling with minimal hours in a minimum wage job and also trying to meet the care needs of her 4 young children. She has just found a 2-bedroom apartment. Mom sleeps on the couch in the living room. The 3 girls share a room and the son has his own room. They really need beds and dressers. A set of bunk beds would be ideal since 3 twin beds won't fit into the girls' room. They also need curtains for privacy, bed linens, towels and any household items.

The children and mom also need clothing. These are their sizes:

- -for 6 year old girl- pants size 7, shirt medium, shoe size 3;
- -for 8 year old girl- pants size 8, shirt medium, shoe size 4;
- -for 9 year old girl- adult women's pants size 10, shirt xl, shoe size 9 women's.
- -for 10 year old boy- pants size 12, shirt large, shoe size 8.

We still need to find out what mom needs but we know she wears a size small. She is really focused on her children's needs right now.

The steering committee of the Jewish Social Action Coalition is putting this out to each of our congregations hoping that we can provide this family with a new start. If you have any of these items in good condition that you can donate, this is a great way to recycle things you are no longer using and help a family create a home. Please contact Sandy Lash sjlash@optonline.net or Robbie Schiff veggierob@yahoo.com as soon as possible.





It's Lincoln's Birthday — Don't Cook!

Have dinner with your Shir Chadash Friends At



3 Turner Street, Hopewell Junction (at the start of Hopewell Trail)

Sunday, February 12, 2017
5:30pm
\$28pp
Buffet Menu
Salad
Bread and Butter
Pasta Primavera
Chicken Marsala
Pot Roast
Soda, Coffee, Tea
Dessert

Reservations, more information or special needs Wendy Bill, 5404 Chelsea Cove North, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 bills1989@msn.com — 845-702-8645





A Message from Sue Marcoe, Education Enrichment Coordinator

TRIP TO TEL AVIV AND RETURN FLIGHT DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY 4th.

Due to so many of our students and parents participating in the March for Women's Rights in New York City and on the Walkway, we delayed our "trip" to Haifa, and our return "flight" home until February 4th. On that day, students in our Aleph class will be coming in beach clothes as part of their trip to Haifa. Both classes will complete a project that describes their "visit" to Israel.

Then on February 11th, students will begin the second half of the year with the Jewish life cycle, starting with Jewish rituals for baby boys and girls. In the spring they will study the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, traditional marriage ceremonies, the Jewish home and, for the older students, shiva rules and burial rites. All will be taught with the understanding that different families observe these traditions in different ways.

February 11th, students will also review Tu B'Shevat, and get ready for our Tu B'Shevat Seder which will follow our Shabbat Service. All are welcome, young and old, as we share special foods, provided by Robbie Schiff, in celebration of Tu B'Shevat. This seder will be extra special because our students will be helping us lead the service.

Our Sharing Shabbats in February will definitely be fun and informative! So if your children haven't tried our religious school, February is a good time to take advantage and be guests for a day. For more information, please call 232-1029, email info@shir-chadash.org or check out our website at www.shir-chadash.org.



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







Help us plant the Shir Chadash Grove in Israel!

Each tree is \$10.00 and can honor a loved one.

To purchase trees in the Shir Chadash Grove please complete the following:					
Your name and address					
Number of trees x \$10.00/tree = \$					
Optional:					
In honor/memory of	(circle one)				
In honor/memory of	(circle one)				
In honor/memory of	(circle one)				
In honor/memory of	(circle one)				

Please send a check payable to Shir Chadash for \$10.00 per tree and mail to Jerry Scheck 18 Colette Dr. Poughkeepsie NY 12601.

Proceeds to benefit JNF & Shir Chadash



Congregation Shir Chadash Sweet Sixteen Celebration Dinner followed by Auction

Saturday Evening March 18, 2017

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church 1168 Route 55, LaGrangeville 6:00pmfor Home-Cooked Dinner \$18 per person

Auction Starts at 7:30pm-No Charge ALL Welcome for Desserts





Reservations, more information or special needs: Liz Glassberg 845-242-3674 lizglass1@optonline.net

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Your auctioneers: Vic Feit & Jeff Lash
Silent Auction too for even more fun!
Something for everyone, lots of surprises!
Much, much more!



Saturday, May 13 at 8 PM

CANTORS' CABARET: Spotlight on Broadway

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church

New Social Hall

Starring....

Cantor Claire Franco, Community Synagogue, Port Washington New York Cantor Gail Hirschenfang, Congregation Shir Chadash, Lagrangeville, New York Cantor Jodi Schechtman, Temple Beth Emeth, Albany New York



Calling All Readers—
Pot Luck Brunch & Discussion
Sunday March 26th 10:30am—12:30pm
At the home of Nicky and Lindsey Turner

43 Mac Ghee Road Poughkeepsie 845-462-2858 <u>niturner2@aol.com</u>

The Rosh Chodesh Reading &
Discussion Group selection is the New York Times Bestseller:
"IN THE DARKROOM" by Susan Faludi

"In the summer of 2004 I set out to investigate someone I scarcely knew, my father. The project began with a grievance, the grievance of a daughter whose parent had absconded from her life. I was in pursuit of a scofflaw, an artful dodger who had skipped out on so many things—obligation, affection, culpability, contrition. I was preparing an indictment, amassing discovery for a trial. But somewhere along the line, the prosecutor became a witness."

So begins Susan Faludi's extraordinary inquiry into the meaning of identity in the modern world and in her own haunted family saga. When the feminist writer learned that her 76-year-old father—long estranged and living in Hungary—had undergone sex reassignment surgery, that investigation would turn personal and urgent. How was this new parent who identified as "a complete woman now" connected to the silent, explosive, and ultimately violent father she had known, the photographer who'd built his career on the alteration of images?

Faludi chases that mystery into the recesses of her suburban childhood and her father's many previous incarnations: American dad, Alpine mountaineer, swashbuckling adventurer in the Amazon outback, Jewish fugitive in Holocaust Budapest. When the author travels to Hungary to reunite with her father, she drops into a labyrinth of dark histories and dangerous politics in a country hell-bent on repressing its past and constructing a fanciful—and virulent—nationhood. The search for identity that has transfixed our century was proving as treacherous for nations as for individuals.

Faludi's struggle to come to grips with her father's metamorphosis takes her across borders—historical, political, religious, sexual--to bring her face to face with the question of the age: Is identity something you "choose," or is it the very thing you can't escape?

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Susan Faludi is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and the author of *The Terror Dream*, *Stiffed*, and *Backlash*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. A former reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, she has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, and *The Baffler*, among other publications.

February Torah Readings

February 3 and 4 Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16

D'var Torah Jane Freeman Moore

February 10 and 11 Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16

D'var Torah Adam Belok

February 17 and 18 Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

February 24 and 25 Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

Shabbat Shekalim



February Yahrzeits*

Friday, February 3, 2017	Morris Roth	Father	Sara Rothman
Friday, February 10, 2017	Jeanette Shapiro	Mother	Beth Herschbein
Friday, February 10, 2017	Bernard Herschbein	Grandfather	Steve Herschbein
Friday, February 10, 2017	Sergie Joseph Blatt	Father	Roberta Schiff
Friday, February 10, 2017	Dorris Lang	Sister	Lois Lang
Friday, February 10, 2017	Gina Peluse	Mother	Joe Bertoluzzi
Friday, February 10, 2017	Meyer Saranga	Father	Sandy Lash
Friday, February 10, 2017	Esther Roth	Mother	Rochelle Bellach
Friday, February 17, 2017	Diane Pollock	Mother	Ken Pollock
Friday, February 24, 2017	Robert Brown	Brother	Helen Brandonisi

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

Oneg and Bagel Break Hosts

Friday, February 3 Wendy & Stuart Bill Saturday, February 4

Friday, February 10 TBA

Saturday, February 11

Seder Lunch 11:45am

Friday, February 17 **TBA** Friday, February 24 **TBA**

Deb Mullins

Robbie Schiff



gbwknits@yahoo.com 845-232-1029 Suzanne Neil suzanneneil@mac.com 845-559-3123 **Sharing Shabbat Bagel Organizers: Sara Rothman 223-5925** Stacie Wogalter 635-5101





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**

TIKKUN OLAM Shir Chadash Style Together we make things better.

Coats and Sweaters and Hats and Gloves and Sweatshirts, and Blankets, oh my!

Shir Chadash members donated heaps of cold weather clothing to give our neighbors in need. Our members worked with the Beth-El based Bright Nights program to collect and distribute the needed clothing. On December 9th, Shir Chadash members helped transport many bags of clothing for kids to Morse Elementary School. Tables were set up and clothing was sorted by a volunteer group of teens so some very happy and discerning kids could pick out their favorites.

On December 11th, Shir Chadash members worked with volunteers from other Jewish Social Action Coalition synagogues to bring warm clothing to our homeless neighbors. Twenty or so volunteers met at Temple Beth El and loaded up 12 cars with collected winter outerwear and blankets early Sunday morning. They set up a circle in the parking lot of the 'soup kitchen' in the City of Poughkeepsie to distribute to the homeless, then moved the operation to the family emergency shelter (the old Edison Motel complex) in the afternoon. Those in need made looked everything over with great interest and made their selections with care.









Chili Dinner at the Lunch Box for Over a Hundred Guests

Over 20 members of Congregation Shir Chadash prepared and served a delicious chili dinner at the Lunch Box on Monday, January 16, 2017. It was especially meaningful to our congregation to be feeding over 100 people a fresh cooked and nutritious dinner on Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Included in the group serving the guests were our children from early elementary school to college age, performing this mitzvah on their time off from school.

The many ingredients for the dinner (crushed tomatoes, beans, onions, garlic, corn, peppers, greens, spices, tortilla chips, salsa, hot sauce, fresh pineapple, apple cider and homemade cookies) were all donated by members

TODAH RABAH!





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 Services from 3:00pm to Bro

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 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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	2 OUNDING	Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	Sharing Shabbat 9:00am
HOUSTON TO SUPER BOWN	6	7 Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah	Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	9	Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	Sharing Shabbat 9:00am Tu B'Shevat Seder Lunch 11:45am
Dinner at Daddy O's Hopewell 5:30pm Wendy Bill bills1989@msn.com 845-702-8645	Board Meeting 7:00pm FPUPC	Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	16	Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	18
19	HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY!	Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm	Gesher High School Class at Temple Beth-El 6:30pm	23	Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30pm	25
26	27	Ivrit Hebrew School at Temple Beth-El 4:30pm Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 6:30pm				