

NOVEMBER 2019

Cheshvan • Kislev

5780



Sing at Shir Shabbat

Friday, November 22

Don't miss our first of 4 musical Shir Shabbat experiences this year.

SEE PAGE 7

Interested in Biennial?

December 11-15 Chicago, Illinois

SEE PAGE 7

7 URJ BIENNIAL 2019

Family Fun Shabbat

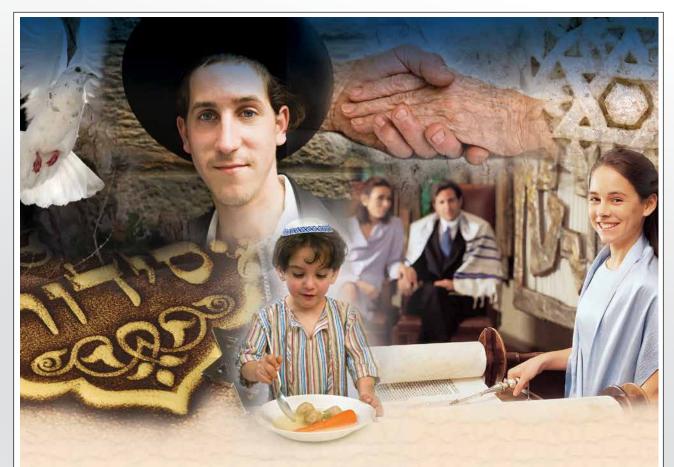
Saturday, November 2

Learn about Noah and celebrate Shabbat at the zoo. Great family event!

SEE PAGE 12

ZOO





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Where Tradition Meets Compassion

Remembering the Blessings in Our Lives

RABBI CHARLES BRISKIN

herself.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

coincides this year with the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, also known as Marheshvan. Unique among all the Hebrew months, Marheshvan is the only one that does not contain an annual holiday.

Kislev has Hanukkah, Adar has Purim, but Marheshvan has . . . nothing. In fact, the "mar" of Marheshvan comes from the Hebrew word which means "bitter" (think of maror on Passover). Our rabbis suggest that not having a holiday during this month is a cause for bitterness or sadness.

However, Marheshvan, provides us with the opportunity to return to the regular rhythms of Jewish life. Shabbat comes every week without additional sacred days like Yom Kippur or Sukkot to interrupt this weekly journey. After the intensity of Tishrei with its High Holy Days and Sukkot, it is nice to have a quiet Hebrew month.

While Marheshvan is quiet, November is not. This is a month to celebrate civic pride and engagement. We exercise our right to vote, on Tuesday, November 5. Even during this "off year" election, the presence of many lawn signs posted at major intersections will remind you that several local candidates are running for county and township seats. We have a civic responsibility to learn about the candidates, then vote for those who will best represent you.

On November 11 we mark Veteran's Day by honoring all those who have defended our country and have protected many of our rights and freedoms. During our Friday night service on November 8, the Shir Ami choir will sing songs that honor the service of our military men and women and honors our country.

Finally, on November 28, many of us will travel near and far to gather with family and friends around the Thanksgiving table. One blessing for which I am most grateful since returning to the East Coast is being able to celebrate Thanksgiving with my family in Boston. Our time in my hometown is precious, and I am able to show my children what a true New England Thanksgiving looks like.

(With apologies to Southern California, bike rides on the beach and

wearing shorts to dinner, while pleasant, really isn't Thanksgiving.)

When we gather at the Thanksgiving table, I am especially grateful for life's simple pleasures that, sadly, not all share. I have a roof over my head, warm clothes to wear, nutritious food to eat, and decent medical care should I fall ill. It is easy to forget how lucky most of us are.

For many years, every Thanksgiving week, I used to volunteer at a center that helped homeless families. One year, I overheard a conversation between two of the center's clients. As they stood in line chatting, patiently awaiting their turns to collect a bag of food and a turkey for Thanksgiving, one spoke to the other about the volunteer work she had done earlier that morning. She had spent a few hours packing boxes of food that would be delivered to other needy members of the community. Here was a person waiting her turn for her food a couple of hours after helping others prepare to

enjoy Thanksgiving. It reminded me of the lesson that teaches that

even a person who receives tzedakah is obligated to give tzedakah

Our sages teach in Pirke Avot, the Wisdom of our Ancestors; "Who is rich? The one who is content with his lot." At this season, we should be especially grateful for the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Many of us may not be materially rich, but most of us are spiritually enriched with the blessings of family, friends and a loving community and our basic needs are met. We should always be grateful for that which we have in our lives. It will make us happier and more content. It may not be more than our neighbor, but it may be more than enough for ourselves.

During this month of Marheshvan and November, may you enjoy the rhythms of Jewish life with Shabbat each week; may you celebrate freedoms that our veterans fought long and hard to preserve for us; and may you enjoy the bounty of a Thanksgiving table, always being reminded of the blessings in our lives that come more clearly into view when we open our eyes to them.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 9:30 -10:30am

Please join us for another of Rabbi Briskin's popular monthly coffee talk programs on November 21, 2019. No RSVP needed -- just drop by the community room of Newtown's Corner Bakery Cafe for an interesting, informal chat over snacks and beverages. Mark your calendar and be a part of something very interesting.

Location: 3 West Road | Newtown, PA



TODAH RABAH

To Kate Bernstein, Sue and Ken Bieber, Neil Dayen, Sara Ettinger, Lou Oltman, and Barbara Roth for helping to fold and mail the October Shiron.

To Ken Bieber, Essie Cherkin, Neil Dayen, and Debbie Stevens for helping to dedicate the High Holy Day Mishkan HaNefesh Machzors.

To those who offered to help deliver Rosh Hashanah bags- Barbara Cohen, Emily Elkin, Ken and Susan Bieber, Iris Frank, Donna DeSantis, Andy Lasner, Anita Rubin, Ilana Hessing, Helen Berman, Ivy Pearlstein, Eve Lefkowitz, Alan Sheinberg, Marilyn and Sheldon Halpern, Kaye Paletz, and Bill Spitz.

For more Todah Rabahs from the High Holy Days, please see pages 8 and 23

MAZEL TOV

Toby and Michael Slomovitz on the birth of their granddaughter Amaya Blake Slomovitz

NEW MEMBERS

Shir Ami welcomes the following families to our congregation:

Charles Benkert Elaine Jancourtz Eugene, Felina, Ilana, and Leah Kremer Peter, Kim, and Samantha Korda Michael, Elyse, Nola, an Oren Ramos



CONDOLENCES

To Mark Kopins on the passing of his mother, Janice Kopins
To Ellie Short on the passing of her step-mother, Gladys Maharam

REFUAH SHLEIMAH

Jay Baronoff Sharon Baronoff Bunny Barschi Chava Liba bat Dov Ber v'Deborah Carol Cherson Eric Cherson Alan Cohen Stacy Curry Barbara Denkin Moshe Dovid Ben Ada Marty Dubin Tim Egan Mason Flanagan Fred Gates Mollie Goldberg Rabbi Paula Goldberg Bonnie Goldstein **Bradley Goodman** Susan Gorgas Charles Hudes

Jim Johnson Albert Jones Rena Karlin Mel Kravatz Amy Lasner Estelle Lasner Gloria Lemonick Ann Levitt Nina Bat Vara Harriett Obus Chana Rafaella Harris Rawicz Steve Rosofsky Marci Rubin Matthew Sandman Larry Schaeffer Harriet Schnitzer Dan Surkin Karin Surkin **Audrey Winston**

WEEK OF

NOVEMBER 1

FRIDAY 11/1

Shabbat Service w/Torah Reading

7:30pm Abraham-Swerdlow

Sanctuary

SATURDAY 11/2

Shabbat Worship

GOLDBERG Bar Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Chevrat Torah Service

Led by Cantor Flo Friedman

10:15am Chodorow Family Life Center

WEEK OF

NOVEMBER 8

FRIDAY 11/8

Veterans Day Shabbat Dinner

(see page 6 for more info)

6:30pm Shalom Hall

followed by

Veterans Day Shabbat

featuring our Choir

7:30pm Abraham-Swerdlow

Sanctuary

SATURDAY 11/9

Shabbat Worship

EDER Bat Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Chevrat Torah Service

Led by Rabbi Greg Litcofsky

10:15am Chodorow Family Life Center

WEEK OF

NOVEMBER 15

FRIDAY 11/15

Family Shabbat Service led by 6th Grade

featuring visual t'filah and guitar

6:30pm Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

followed by a pizza dinner

Shalom Hall

(see page 7 for more info)

SATURDAY 11/16

Shabbat Worship

Chevrat Torah Service

Led by Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

10:15am Chodorow Family Life Center

WEEK OF

NOVEMBER 22

FRIDAY 11/22

Pre-Shabbat Meditation Service

7:00-7:25pm

Rabbi Elliot Strom Chapel

SHIR Shabbat Service w/Shir Klez!

7:30pm Abraham-Swerdlow

Sanctuary

(see page 7 for more info)

SATURDAY 11/23

Shabbat Worship

GOLD Bat Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow

Sanctuary

Chevrat Torah Service

10:15am Chodorow Family

Life Center

WEEK OF

NOVEMBER 29

FRIDAY 11/29

Shabbat Service

6:30pm Rabbi Elliot Strom

Chapel

SATURDAY 11/30

Shabbat Worship

KLEIN B'nai Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow

Sanctuary

Chevrat Torah Service

Led by Cantor Flo Friedman

10:15am Chodorow Family Life Center



If you would like to read torah with us at a future Friday evening Shabbat service, please contact Cantor Kohlbrenner

cantorkohlbrenner@ shiramipa.org

NOVEMBER B. MITZVAH



Quinn Goldberg

Son of Lydia and Josh Goldberg **November 2, 2019** 4 Cheshvan 5780 Parashat *Noach*



Nora Eder

Daughter of Melanie Cutler and Jeff Eder

November 9, 2019 11 Cheshvan 5780 Parashat *Lech-lecha*



Gavriella Gold

Parashat Chayei Sara

Daughter of Galit and Michael Gold November 23, 2019 25 Cheshvan 5780



Hunter Klein

Son of Mindi and Neil Klein November 30, 2019 2 Kislev 5780 Parashat *Toldot*



Sierra Klein

Daughter of Mindi and Neil Klein November 30, 2019 2 Kislev 5780 Parashat *Toldot*

Community Events



the Philadelphia Zoo

Saturday, November 2 | 9:30am

Shir Ami Families with children of all ages are invited to join us at the Philadelphia Zoo. Celebrate Shabbat while learning about the story of Noah! See Rabbi Goldberg's article for more information (page 12). RSVP requested.

Veterans Day Shabbat and Dinner

Friday, November 8

6:30pm Dinner | Shalom Hall **7:30pm Service** | Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Join us for a special Shabbat service featuring the choir in which we honor and bless those who served our country. We will also mark the 81st Anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Dinner will be \$15 per person for ages 13+, \$10 per person ages 5-12, free under 5. We will be serving chicken, meatloaf, a vegetarian option, along with salad and sides.

RSVP to jafriedman@shiramipa.org by Monday, November 4



Voices of the Jewish Soul

Sunday, November 10 | 3:00pm

Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA

Come to a concert to benefit the URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy presented by the Reform Cantors of Philadelphia, including: Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner, Cantor Neil Schnitzer, Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, Cantor Faryn Rudnick, Cantor Jamie Marx, Cantor Jordan Franzel, Cantor Lauren Goodlev, Cantor Elena Zarkh, Cantor Rhoda Harrison and Cantor Naomi Hirsch.

Tickets are \$18, purchase online at www.6pointscreativearts.org/concert

Family Shabbat Pizza Dinner

Friday, November 15

After an earlier 6:30pm Shabbat service, stay and join us for a pizza and salad Shabbat dinner.

Everyone is welcome!

We will also have our regular oneg following services.

Cost is \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per family).

RSVP to jafriedman@shiramipa.org



Friday, November 22 7:30pm

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Klezmer Shir Shabbat

A SPECIAL SHIR AMI EVENT COMING NEXT MONTH:

An Evening with Rachel Levy Lesser



Local author Rachel Levy Lesser discusses her newly released book, "Life's Accessories: a Memoir and Fashion Guide," and reflects on the significance and sentimentality of accessories she acquired throughout her life.

Join us for a special wine and dessert reception | \$36/personFor info: Eden Aaronson (609-987-8100 ext. 113) or EdenA@JFCSonline.org



URJ Biennial

December 11-15, 2019

Join thousands of Jews from across North America and around the world to learn, pray, share ideas, dance and sing, hear from inspiring speakers and the leaders of our Movement; reunite with old friends, create new connections, and make decisions about the policies of the Reform Movement.

Held in Chicago, Illinois - featuring: worship, exhibitors, networking, inspirational speakers, and great Jewish entertainment.

FOR MORE INFO: urj.org/urj-biennial



DECEMBER 11 - 15 CHICAGO, IL

ir

JON STEVENS Shir Ami President

Todah Rabah for our Members' Commitment and Dedication!

Conducting High Holy Days services takes creativity, energy, attention to detail, and occasionally, a tad of improvisation. It's not like the sun goes down, the stars come out and bang(!) it's a new year! Ok, that's exactly how it happens.

Celebrating the Shir Ami way means creating a variety of personally meaningful, collectively inspiring worship opportunities. Shortly after the last break fast dish is washed and stacked, the planning starts. Our clergy, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers consider everything that worked, and moments which didn't, beginning preparations for next year.

This creativity and imagination kicks in with brainstorming and discussions outlining the ten days of services. How can we provoke our community to account and act? What music will move us? How can we clear the parking lot safely, respectfully, and quickly to make *tashlikh*?

Too soon after creative mode, we switch to preparation mode (always with an eye to add a special something). There's writing, revision, and writing again. There's song selecting, arranging, and rehearsing. There's volunteer recruiting, training, and coordinating. There's slide making, service scripting, and kids' activity planning. There's brochure drafting, proofing, and printing. There's oneg treat mixing, baking, and decorating. There's logistics arranging, ticket management, and safety drills, and - what if - (when) the president's speech runs long?

So, I am grateful for everyone's contribution making our Shir Ami High Holy Day celebrations inspirational, provocative, and heartwarming. From my vantage, I know we were touched, disturbed, and embraced (virtually and IRL!) All made possible by our friends' dedication to sustaining our Jewish community, and commitment to connecting with each other.

To all of you Todah Rabah!

(FOR ADDITIOINAL THANK YOU'S, PLEASE SEE PAGE 23)

words of thanks from Becky Markowitz

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped, supported, sponsored, donated and attended our 10th Anniversary Community Rosh Hashanah Oneg - it was, in a word, spectacular! What a way to begin 5780!

SPECIAL THANKS to Linda Idleberg who has been my oneg partner for 10 years - thank you for everything.

WELCOME Karen Briskin who will join me for our 11th Community Rosh Hashanah Oneg on Friday, September 18, 2020.

THANK YOU TO

- Phil Nordlinger, Jodi Friedman and Julie Hershgordon for always having my back, and for your constant support.
- Shir Ami's incredible maintenance staff (Dean Siegel) and team led by Shanika Johnson you are wonderful.
- To our sponsors, bakers, helpers and donators A big thank you!!

Jon & Meri Stevens	Melissa Caplan	Amy Buondonno	Eve Lefkowitz
Sharon & Jack Benoff	Stephanie Kravatz	Mindy Eisenthal	Hallie Rubin
Paula & Harvey Goldberg	Helen Berman	Stacey Salsman	Lorrie Riggs
Joshua McCoy	Debbie Weinstein	Meryl Reis	Ivy Pearlstein
Heather Boatman	Debbie Shain	Corinne Austein	Diane Dienstman
Susan Luttrell	Emily Elkin	Wendy Sosky	Janet Frimet
Rebecca Weinreich	Barbara Blumberg	Iris Frank	Hope Vitcov
Debbie Schorr	Melody Rosenberg	Janis Kritzer	Michael Smolen
Marilyn Halpern	Karen Briskin	Margie Kopins	

Guiding Lights: Lifelong Learning 2019/2020

Four "Guiding Lights" will mark our path through the Lifelong Learning year. Each light corresponds to a Jewish value or theme, reflects Shir Ami's mission statement and provides multiple points of entry to learn about, and deepen connections to, Judaism/living a Jewish life.

- 1. Text Learning (Torah)
- 2. Israel (Yisrael)

- 3. Social Justice (Tzedek)
- 4. Culture (Tarbut)

In November, we have the following Adult Education offerings.

For a complete list of offerings, please check out our Shir Ami Lifelong Learning adult education brochure, available throughout the synagogue.

Freedom Song (Social Justice)

Sunday November 3 • 2:00-4:00pm

NJHA Conference & Event Center, Princeton, NJ (In partnership with Jewish Children and Family Services)

Freedom Song is a transformative musical that shatters the myth of Jews being immune to addiction. The cast of Freedom Song are actual addicts in recovery that are affiliated with California's Beit T'Shuvah's treatment program. Using song and dance, tears and laughter, Freedom Song will open your eyes to the real-life struggle against the 'bondage of self' that we fight every day.

Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue (Text)

Tuesdays November 12&19 • 7:15-8:30pm

with Rabbi Elliot Strom

A wealthy member offers a large sum of money to help the congregation build a new sanctuary. The congregation needs the money. But congregational leaders know this member has amassed his wealth as a slum landlord. What should they do? The president of the synagogue threatens to resign unless her son-in-law is named to the board. What should the board do? A synagogue member has asked for and received dues relief. Some time later, the synagogue's president meets this member in the parking lot of an upscale restaurant. The member is driving an expensive car he purchased that day. What should the president do? These are the kinds of ethical dilemmas synagogues deal with every day. The way we resolve these dilemmas says a great deal about who we are, the community we want to create, and the kinds of Jews we want to be.

In this course, we'll have an opportunity to talk about ethical decision-making. We'll learn about how such decisions ought to be made. We'll look at Jewish texts that will help us decide the right thing to do. We'll learn about how an ethical community is built, and in the process, learn a little more about ourselves.

Immigration Justice

Thursday, November 7 • 7:00-8:30pm

with Rabbi Chuck Briskin

The Torah speaks about the treatment of the stranger over 30 times. In Leviticus we are taught: "You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike: for I, Adonai, am your God" (24:22). In Exodus we read: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress them, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (22:20). Using texts, both ancient and modern, we will investigate what Jewish tradition has to teach on issues connected to immigration and how we can use those teachings in our lives each and every day.

iEngage (Israel/Culture)

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm

November 21, December 19, January 16, February 13, March 19, April 30, May 14, and June 11

with Rabbi Chuck Briskin

Tribes of Israel: A Shared Homeland for a Divided People

The Tribes of Israel is a video lecture series and discussion, created by the Shalom Hartman Institute, (www.hartman.org.il). This course confronts the challenge of creating a Jewish and democratic public space in the modern State of Israel -- a shared common space for a people divided along "tribal" affiliations: religious, ideological, national, and geographic. *The Tribes of Israel* begins a conversation to restructure the relationship between the collective and the individual tribes that comprise Israel.

There will be nine iEngage classes throughout the year.

Cost is \$36 for materials.



WORLD'S BEST LATKES!™

ORDER YOUR LATKES IN TIME FOR CHANUKAH

It's that time of year again - **E.LC.'s Latke Fundraiser!** Place your order before November 22 to participate. All proceeds benefit the Shir Ami Early Learning Center.

\$10 PER BOX/24 LATKES PER BOX \$100 PER CASE/12 BOXES PER CASE

Name		
Phone		
Email		
Teacher/Year/Room #		
Quantity Desired:	Boxes	Cases
Total amount due: \$		

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SHIR AMI

Available pick up times: PICK UP IS IN THE ELC LOBBY

Sunday, December 8, 9:00-11:30 Monday, December 9, 9:30-10:30

*Check off your desired pick-up time to have your order ready

Sunday, Dec. 8 9:00-11:30	Monday, Dec. 9 9:30-10:30
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IF YOU CANNOT MAKE ANY OF THESE TIMES, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS:

Alyssa Kresman at ACR920@hotmail.com Wendy Lebovic at wlebovic@gmail.com Melissa Caplan at melcap@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed

Our Tikkun Olam committee needs your skills in the areas of technology, social media, advertising, fundraising, communications, project planning, and event planning and to support the Tikkun Olam Committee's social action and social justice efforts. Every bit of your involvement, large or small, helps heal the world. To sign up, email Ellie Short at ellenshort1@gmail.com

Help with JRA's Food Drive

Sunday, November 15 | 9:30am

LOCATION: 10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia, Pa 19154

Help our synagogue help others with food insecurity. Come pack and/or deliver food boxes in Northeast Philly - just 10 minutes from the warehouse. For info:

Andrew.lasner@foxroach.com | 215-275-4433

Senior Brunch Volunteers

PLEASE HELP US PREP FOR NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING

Friday, November 1st | 10:00am - 12:00pm Sunday, November 3rd | 9:30am

To sign up: contact Barbara Cohen | ronbarco@aol.com

Caring for Friends Initiative

Help us feed locals who are unable to help themselves by packaging up leftovers or planning out some extra meals. Trays and information are available in the Shir Ami kitchen.

It's simple to help:

- 1. Take a package of 5 foil trays from the Shir Ami kitchen
- 2. Fill large section with a protein (i.e. chicken)
- 3. Fill small sections, one with a vegetable and one with a starch
- 4. Cover tightly with tin foil and fill out the Caring for Friends form
- 5. Cover top with foil, put it in plastic bag and use twist tie
- 6. Put it in your freezer for 3 or more days
- 7. Bring it to the Shir Ami kitchen and put in Caring for Friends freezer

We're Learning A Lot Together

As we entered the month of October, Yom Kippur taught our Kindergarten and PreK children the meaning of being sorry. It made for very interesting discussions. Kindergarten got to perform the mitzvah of "tashlich" with Rabbi Goldberg and myself. We talked about things that we can do better in the new year.



SHARI BECK-NAHMAN ELC Director, Shir Ami



We then moved right into Sukkot. Each age group visited the sukkah and celebrated with family and friends. Our little guys had snack in the sukkah, the 3's had breakfast with someone special in the sukkah, PreK celebrated Simchat Torah in the sukkah, and kindergarten had lunch with a family member in the sukkah.



Cantor Kohlbrenner sang songs with us and Rabbi Briskin taught us how to shake the lulav and etrog. All while they admired the beautiful decorations they made. Now...close your eyes and imagine our entire school marching with Torahs and flags to celebrate Simchat Torah. PreK had a wonderful program of hands-on learning about the holiday. We unrolled a real Torah and got to see the words inside. We learned that a *sofer* writes the words on parchment paper in sections. Miss Susan played music as we sang and danced around with Torahs and flags. The yummiest part was making an edible Torah out of lettuce, cheese, and pretzels. A great time was had by all!



October was also safety month. First, we learned all about bike safety. Did your child teach you to always wear a helmet, always be careful near driveways, always watch where you are going, and never ride in the street? We culminated our unit with a Trike-a-Thon to raise money for sick children at St. Jude's Hospital. A double mitzvah of giving tzedakah! At the end of the month we had a visit from the fire truck. The fire fighters came to talk to us about fire safety. We got to put on a fire fighter's uniform and sit in the truck!

It was wonderful to see all the preschool families get together to share a snack and enjoy a puppet show about kindness. It was the first of other opportunities for us to come together as a community and get to know each other better.

As we look ahead to November, we will begin learning about Thanksgiving and preparing for our yummy feast. Briarbush Nature Center will come and teach us about the Lenape Indians. Just another day in the life of children at Shir Ami ELC!

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES

11/4 - 11/10 - Learning Express Fundraiser

11/5- Teacher Inservice - No School

(Infant Center Open / Enrichment Available)

11/19 - Briarbush Nature Center visits

11/22 - Thanksgiving Feasts

11/27, 28, 29 - Thanksgiving - No School



It's a Zoo Out There

"AND OF ALL THAT LIVES...YOU SHALL TAKE TWO OF EACH INTO THE ARK TO KEEP ALIVE WITH YOU..." (GENESIS 6:19)

RABBI ERIC GOLDBERG
Religious School Director

We read in the story of Noah that human beings have a special responsibility towards animals. We are commanded to take care of animals even in the most difficult of times (like a flood). Just like Noah, who loaded his ark with animals of every kind, from the smallest bug to the largest elephant, we have animal friends living with us that we love from the depths of our hearts.





In November, we have a chance to show our love of all animals on two special occasions:

ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND,

we invite Shir Ami family members of all ages to join us at the Philadelphia Zoo for a Shabbat celebration and reading of the story of Noah. We will meet just outside the zoo's main entrance at 9:30am, sing and pray together, and then head into the zoo for a day of fun and excitement. (Families will pay for their own admission to visit).

THE NEXT DAY, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3RD, is our annual "Blessing of the Pets" at 11:00am in Shir Ami's back/sanctuary parking lot. We hope that you and your family will join us for a celebration of our pets and please know that any and all pets are welcome so long as they are properly restrained.

At the end of the story of Noah we read that God made a rainbow appear in the sky as a sign of the covenant between God and the Jewish people. May this month be filled with rainbows for you, your family and our brothers and sisters across the globe. May we always remember our sacred relationship with the special animals in our

life and our obligation to make sure they are kept safe and protected. May we never forget our special relationship with God, and always look for hints and glimpses of that covenant in the world around us.





Find Meaning in Experiences

Happy Fall! This is a very exciting time for our 9th-12th graders to experience NFTY-PAR's Fall Kallah at beautiful Camp Harlam. Kallah is a weekend created by teens, including inspiring and fun peer-led programming, meaningful spiritual experiences and social opportunities. This is a great way to make new friends as there are over 100 Jewish teens from Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware areas participating.



FERNE LEVY
Youth Director, Shir Ami

In addition, November will be fun-filled with trips to Funzilla, roller skating, and our second K2Club event of the year. This is a great month for our kids to be thankful for all the opportunities given to them!

Sr. SHAFTY (9th- 12th grade)

Nov 15-18, Fall Kallah

Nov 23, Escape the Room/dinner

J.Crew (7th & 8th grade)
(next event in January)

Bonim (5th & 6th grade) Nov 10, Funzilla

Chalutzim (3rd & 4th grade) Nov 17, Rollerskating

K2Club (K-2nd grade)
Nov 24, Arts & Crafts theme







Women of Shir Ami

Thanks a million to Linda Brown and her crew (Dara Dayan, Nancy Axler, Ricki Tafflin, Andrea Lichtman, and Shelley Cohen (not pictured)) for a wildly successful mah jongg tournament. The room was beautiful, the food was delicious, and the play ran smoothly - resulting in 64 happy players.



If you're anything like me, holiday dinners might revolve around tradition, but there's always room for innovation - so planning for the Thanksgiving feast begins as soon as the Rosh Hashanah dishes have been put away. I stay on the lookout for new side dishes or a twist that can be put on the turkey or something different to do with the usual ingredients. Sometimes what I find gets rolled into our annual menu, and sometimes not. I guess, in a way, experimentation has become its own tradition.

So let us honor experimentation! WOSA is doing that by trying something new for our annual Membership Appreciation Event. Sure, it'll be on a Wednesday night (November 13 - mark your calendars!) at Shir Ami, and there will be plenty of delicious food and drink... and that's all I'm going to tell you! Gather your friends, pay your dues, and get ready for something a little bit different.

Then, four days later, we're partnering with Men's Club to put on a TAILGATE when the E-A-G-L-E-S play the Pat... that team from Boston, you know, the one we beat 41-33 in our last meeting. Bring your best tailgate food and win bragging rights by having the crowd favorite in Snacks and Nibbles, Entrees, and Desserts. Save Sunday, November 17 for a night of fun!

Are there any experiments that YOU want to try, but need someone to take the plunge with? Let WOSA have your back! Contact Amy Buondonno at **womenofshiramiprez@gmail.com**.

To become a member of WoSA, you can pay online at our web portal.

Membership forms available: www.womenofshirami.com

Men's Club of Shir Ami

Upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

November 17: Eagles/Pats watch party with brisket

(and other items) cook-off

December 3: Paid-up Membership Dinner

December 18: Happy hour/Social event at Shir Ami during

SHAFTY's Channukah Hop

January 4: Hypnotist

February 23: Sweetheart/Special Person dance (4pm-7pm)

April 18: Post-Pesach axe throwing event/beer and pizza

May 17: NYC Jewish heritage trip

June 7: BBQ (off premises) - Tyler State Park

For questions: contact Mike Markowitz: 215 680 6778 mike.markowitz@gmail.com.

Senior Brunch Program

A Morning of Jazz at Shir Ami

Sun., November 3, 2019 | 10:30am | Shalom Hall

Don't miss the Katie Eagleson jazz trio performing "The Great American Songbook and Beyond." KATIE EAGLESON is a profesional singer who has been performing for over 30 years. Her work has ranged from a cabaret duo to a 16-piece Jazz orchestra. She performs regionally, and has released four full-length CDs to date. Joining Katie will be LENNY PIERO and MADISON RAST. Lenny is a faculty member in the music department at Bucks County Community College, has also performed professionally for over 30 years. Madison graduated from the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts. He is one of the area's most indemand sidemen and is currently a faculty member at Temple University.



After RSVP date: Members \$13.00, Non-Members \$15.00

Shir Ami Women's Trip to Israel

MARCH 18-27, 2020

Shir Ami women will be travelling to Israel as a community this coming March. If you've never been to the Holy Land, or if you're looking for a reason to return, this is your year! Highlights of the trip include:

- · Rosh Chodesh with Women of the Wall
- · Meeting with Anat Hoffman, IRAC
- Machane Yehuda Chef Tour with Dinner
- · Dead Sea and Masada
- · Opportunity to become a Bat Mitzvah
- Visit to Yad L'Kashish
- · Yad Vashem Guided Visit
- · View Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital
- · Golan Heights Jeep Tour
- Wine tasting and dinner in the Golan
- · Visit Agamon HaHula
- Tasting tour at Levinsky Market and so much more...

We depart the U.S. on March 17, 2020 for arrival in Israel on March 18, 2020. Itinerary includes 5 nights in Jerusalem, 2 nights in the Galilee and 2 nights in Tel Aviv. Best of all, this trip is the off-season - enjoy great weather and fewer crowds. Cantor Kohlbrenner will be adding her beautiful voice, songs and music to make this a trip not to be missed!

Deposits will be due in NOVEMBER. If interested, contact Sharon Benoff:

215-454-2086 | sharon.benoff@gmail.com

Registration: secure.ayelet.com/ShirAmilsrael2020.aspx



TOUR PRICING Price per person (double occupancy)	Discounted Rate (Payment by Check)	Full Cost (Credit Card)
LAND TOUR	\$4,999	\$5,149
Additional Cost for Single Occupancy	\$1,389	\$1,431

What Shir Ami Means to Me as submitted by Robin Firestone

It was the summer of 2007. The kids and I were at Kids Kuts in Newtown, and I ran into Nancy Siderits. Our family had been fairly new members of Shir Ami, and I had joined Sisterhood the year before. Nancy and I chatted, and she asked me if I would be interested in helping out with decorating the sukkah that fall. I hadn't participated much in Sisterhood, and I thought that spending 2 hours on a Sunday morning wrapping mums in paper and hanging corn stalks would be a fun and easy way for me to meet other ladies and get involved a little. So I said yes to Nancy. I would like to help decorate the sukkah.

Well, you can imagine my surprise when I found out a couple of months later that I wasn't just "helping out" with the sukkah decorating, I was chairing the committee! It was then that I learned how "volunteering" works at Shir Ami.

I didn't know what was involved in decorating the sukkah, and suddenly I was in charge of it. I must have looked a little panicked, because I was quickly comforted by the ladies around me who told me not to worry, they would teach me what I needed to do, and they would help me out.

I ended up enjoying the experience so much that I chaired the Sukkah Committee for 3 years. Every Sukkot since then, I reflect on how grateful I am of the opportunity that was given to me. I made friends, accomplished something beautiful, and I felt like I really belonged here at Shir Ami.

A sukkah symbolizes the temporary shelters G-d provided the Israelites on their 40 year journey through the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt.

I recently looked back at my pictures from my sukkah decorating days, and I found a picture of my youngest, Jessica when she was 3. Jessica would help me water the plants in the sukkah, and on the bima (back then we decorated the bima also). In the picture, Jessica is sitting on the bima next to the mums and pumpkins with her curly hair and adorable smile. About 12 years after that picture was taken, Jessica was up on that same bima chanting Torah at this year's Rosh Hashanah service. This made me think about how Shir Ami has been like a sukkah for my kids.

For the limited time the kids will be living with us as they make their journey from child to adult, Shir Ami has been a place where my kids have felt safe and comfortable. It is a place where they have come to learn, pray and socialize with their friends and extended Jewish community.

During the week of Sukkot, we should all take some time to reflect on what has been a sukkah for each of us in our lives. Where and who have we gone to at times when we needed some temporary shelter while traveling along our journeys of life.

Be a Part of Circle of Giving in 2019

Last year, Shir Ami members donated over \$121,000 to the Circle of Giving Fund. These generous donations enabled Shir Ami to provide innovative and meaningful ritual, educational, justice and social engagement opportunities throughout the year. For example, our food pantry supported local families in need, 39 b.mitzvah students were called to the Torah and benefited from additional tutoring and training, and Shir Ami provided ten Congregational Shabbat dinners at little or no cost to attendees.

We know you are passionate about sustaining and growing Shir Ami, and we invite you to choose the Circle of Giving fund as one of your tzedakah recipients this year. We are grateful for donors like you who include Shir Ami in their philanthropic plans. We hope that this year you will increase your gift by a level, or join the Shir Ami Circle of Giving for the first time.



With increased participation, we aspire to raise an additional \$140,000 to enable creative innovations to our worship services, fund intergenerational programming, enhance educational programs, and ensure that anyone can be a member regardless of financial means. **To date, we have raised \$75,000 toward our goal.** Thank you to the following, who have already supported this year's Circle of Giving Fund:

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2019-2020 "CHALLENGE GIVERS" Johanna and Joseph Dimedio Johanna and Joseph Dimedio

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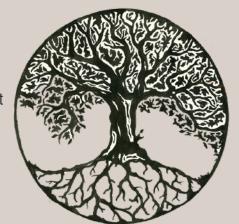
SHIRON | NOVEMBER 2019 Donate to the Circle of Giving Fund YES, I would like to be a member of Circle of **Giving** for the fiscal year July, 2019 through June, Name: 2020. I pledge, in addition to my full Shir Ami dues, the following contribution to the Circle of Giving: **\$7,200** – Tzedek (Righteousness) **\$5,400** – Chesed (Kindness) Please make checks payable to Shir Ami and mail to: 101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA 18940 **\$3,600** – Ahava (Love) Donors at all levels will be recognized monthly in the Shiron and in our **\$2,500** – Chaver (Friend) High Holy Day handout. **\$1,800** – Simcha (Joy) Enclosed is my check (payable to "Shir Ami") **\$1,000** – Kavod (Honor) Please bill my account (in accordance with my current payment plan) **\$720** – Shalom (Peace) Please have the office contact me to discuss payment arrangements **\$540** – Beracha (Blessing) **\$360** – Chai (Life) FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT CIRCLE OF GIVING: (other amount) 215.968.3400 pnordlinger@shiramipa.org

Be a "Keeper" of Jewish Excellence

Shir Ami is pleased to present our Keepers of Jewish Excellence program, allowing all members the opportunity to study throughout the year. Please consider becoming a "Keeper" at Shir Ami. Your donation supports all of the important mitzvot of learning and prayer that we share, and what's more, allows us to continue our Shir Ami Lifelong Learning programs. All "Keepers" will be recognized in the Shiron for their participation and gnerosity. THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING "KEEPERS":

Susan and Kenneth Bieber Paula and Arthur Krauss Debbie and Larry Schorr

I'd like to support Lifelong Learning at the following level: \$250 \$500 \$180 \$100 Other Enclosed is my check (payable to "Shir Ami") Please bill my account



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from Marilyn Halpern IMO Samuel Halpern

from Ellen Nelson to Carol and Eric Cherson IMO Isabel Boxman

from Allen Leboff IHO Hilary Leboff

from Sharon and Jack Benoff to Rick Siderits IHO full and speedy recovery

from Marilyn and Sheldon Halpern IMO Alice Eudene

from Ellen and Paul Rawicz IMO Grace Schlenker

from the Shir Ami Board of Directors to Fran Jonas IMO Hilda Jonas

from Meri and Jon Stevens to Fran Jonas IMO Hilda Jonas

from the Shir Ami Board of Directors to Jerry Wexler IMO Hilda Jonas

from Meri and Jon Stevens to Jerry Wexler IMO Hilda Jonas

from the Shir Ami Board of Directors to Toby and Michael Slomovitz

IHO birth of Amaya Blake Slomovitz

from Meri and Jon Stevens to Toby and Michael Slomovitz

IHO birth of Amava Blake Slomovitz

from the Shir Ami Board of Directors to Mark and Margie Kopins IMO Janice Kopins

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from Judith and John Blumnethal to Arlene Buchman IMO Miles Buchman

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from Jeanne Winerip IMO Walter Lorchak

from Lenore Weissberg IMO Norman Weissberg

from Melvin Kreiner IMO Clare Kreiner

from Joy and Harold Kurtz IHO the High Holy Days

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from Debra and Larry Schorr IMO Marc and Audrey Bell

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from Lois Wilcox IMO Kevin Wilcox

Sponsor a Shabbat oneg for only \$54.00.

Just tell us the date you'd like, and if it's in honor or memory of someone Call the office for further details. NOVEMBER 2019 YAHRZEITS SHIRON | NOVEMBER 2019

TO BE READ **NOVEMBER 1**

November 2

Edward Rovner Meyer Zeplowitz

November 3

Wayne Cohen William Cohen Minnie Goldberg Frank Jacobs, Jr. Anne Klein Arthur Maharam Seldon Winston

November 4

Tillie Diamond Doris Greenberg Michael Scupari Marvin Toland

November 5

Sidney Meyers Sharyn Snyderman

November 6

Dolores Amodei Alexander Aron Rose Belkin Morris Hoffner Rachel Katz Jerry Spinell Yvonne Winegrad

November 7

Leona Feldstein Benjamin Moses Bernard Rigefsky Tillie Rosenthal Sheila Sklar

November 8

Ida Finkelstein Edward I. Fischman Deborah Manges Henenfeld Ethel Kosovske Warren Krasna Morris Miller Livia Salomon Hyman Simcovitch

TO BE READ **NOVEMBER 8**

November 9

Riva Gross Sheldon Levine Sylvia Rosenberg Mayer Stutman

November 11

Lorraine Cohen Helen Goldner Rebecca Lazarus Stuart Leon Roz Pearlstein Freda Roth

November 12

Frank Auerbach Lillian Friedman Kathryn Gardner Marilyn Rosenberg Al Stéinman

November 13

Minnie Feiser Judith Gaynor Frada Talis

November 14

Irvin Cohen Yetta Cohen Fannie Hoffman Charlotte Koblenz

November 15

Samuel Bailin Ilene Fried Fina Fulk Sol Gitkind Arnold Lasner Irving Meltzer Beatrice Wasserman

TO BE READ NOVEMBER 15

November 16

Henry Boim Kenyon Love Stanley Moldwin Irving Sack Caroline Somerstein

November 17

Donald Berman Fannie Buster Lester Garber Harvey Laster Arnold Saltzberg Harriett Saltzman Lynn Schlezinger

November 18

Sidney Candeub David Gordon Bernice Hudes Bertha Jacobs

November 19

Carlos Aguero Ida Bishop Sylvia Gomberg Bruce Hoffman

November 20

Carol Norkin Leonard Shapiro Paul Stein

November 21

Samuel Finkelstein Abe Loev Richard Zallen

November 22

Irene Biddle Herman Bishop Isabella Blaustein Beryl Price Samuel Rosenfield Bernice Ross Sarah Rothman Fanny Shoengood Harry Shoengood

George Waltzer Irvin Weissman Thelma Weston

TO BE READ NOVEMBER 22

November 23

Abraham Kaplan Morrie Kaufman Arthur Pollocl Irving Steinberg

November 24

Tama Rosenstock Arnold Schwartz Louis Tankin

November 25 Manuel Lomas

November 26

Louis Shavel Jacob Zwick

November 27

Fran Cohen Allen Kutner Muriel Moore Thurlow

November 28

Marvin Goren

November 29

Alan Cohen Laurel Hessig

TO BE READ NOVEMBER 29

November 30

Ed Anderson Bronia Gersten Eli Goldberg William Olinsky Eugene Schultz Alvin Schwartz

December 1

Bernard Cobert Louis Kauffman David Koenig Lawrence Lessinger Jack Sachs

December 2

Eleanor Cobert Donald Cohen Anna Gever Sylvia Lewis

December 3

Lorraine Paul Gary Schwartz Gerald Thomas

December 4

Gertrude Bellin Michla Gertner Dorothy Goldberg Norty Goldberg Richard Goodman Alfred Jones Nathan Kranberg Barry Richmond Jean Zaretzky

December 5

Beatrice Badner David Samuel Bernstein Frank Fisher

December 6

Evelvn Liebman Eleanor Losben Trigher Marion Schwartz

Lighting the Yahrzeit Candle

On the anniversary (yahrzheit) of the death of your loved one, it is customary to light a candle in memory of that person. The yahrzheit candle burns for twenty-four hours serving as a sacred and somber symbol of your mourning while framing this period of remembrance (yizkor). Before lighting the candle, you may choose, on your own or with family and friends, to recall the everlasting gifts that your loved one left behind for you to cherish and protect.

As you prepare to light the candle, you may choose to recite this benediction to help you focus your attention and to create an intention for this solemn moment:

"Ner Adonai nishmat adam; The light of God shines in our soul." (Proverbs 20:27)

[I/we] give thanks for the blessing of life, for companionship, and for memory.

Our tradition teaches us that we never lose those we love, for love is stronger than death. So [I/we] kindle this light now, and as it burns, so may the memory of continue to be an inspiration.

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If you would like to receive regular Shir Ami emails, contact Julie at jhershgordon@shiramipa.org. It is possible you may have accidentally unsubscribed from one, which unsubscribes you from all of our emails. Just let us know and we can resume for you.

DO YOU SEE OUR TEXTS?

If you would like to receive text messages from Shir Ami about upcoming programs and events (and do not already) please text "SHIRAMI" to **80123**



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E.L.C. Director

Shari Beck-Nahman - sbnahman@shiramipa.org

Preschool Administrator

Cheryl Primola - cprimola@shiramipa.org

General Info: synagogue@shiramipa.org

NFTY website: NFTY.org/par

Women of Reform Judaism: www.wrj.org Union of Reform Judaism: www.URJ.org

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* (z'l) zichrono livracha "of blessed memory"

AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Men's Club Women of Shir Ami SHAFTY Michael Markowitz Amy Buondonno Sophia Levy We extend our sincere appreciation and todah rabah to all of those who participated and assisted throughout this year's High Holy Days. This includes all of our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur service greeters, Torah readers, program leaders, choir singers, and everyone at Shir Ami who shared music, personal stories, and were simply here for each other during these holiest of days. Thank you.

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We are **committed** to connecting with each other, cultivating spiritual growth, creating a just and compassionate society, and supporting larael and our Jewish family worldwide.

We are **devoted** to educating all who seek a greater understanding of our tradition, values, and practices.

We are **dedicated** to sustaining and growing a vibrant and diverse Jewish Community.

Shir Ami is the hub of Reform Judaism in Bucks County, PA

Our Mission

101 Richboro Road | Newtown, PA 18940

Many voices. One song.



Around Our Shir Ami Community













