

# SHIR AMI

Many voices. *One song.*

SHIR EDUCATION 5780 • 2019-2020

## PATHWAYS TO A MEANINGFUL *Jewish Life*

**5780** is going to be an exciting year for Lifelong Learning at Shir Ami! We are expanding in new and different directions, cognizant of the fact that there are many pathways to deepen our connections to Jewish wisdom individually and collectively. Whether you take one, two or all of these pathways, we wish you an amazing adventure and look forward to learning both with you and from you along the way!



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**SHIR AMI**

101 Richboro Road • Newtown, PA 18940  
(215) 968-3400 • [www.shirami.org](http://www.shirami.org)

## Our Guiding Lights

Shir Ami's four *Guiding Lights* mark our Lifelong Learning path throughout the year. These *Guiding Lights* reflect Shir Ami's mission statement and provide multiple points of entry for people to learn about, and deepen their connection to, Judaism/living a Jewish life. A partner text corresponds to each *Guiding Light* providing insight into why each one was chosen. We hope that the year ahead will be brightened by our learning together as one Shir Ami family!

### (Text) Learning – Torah

בֶּן בָּג בָּג אוֹמֵר, הֵפֵךְ בָּהּ וְהֵפֵךְ בָּהּ, דְּכֻלָּא בָּהּ

Ben Bag Bag says: Turn Torah over and over, for you will find all in it.

(Pirke Avot 5:22)

### Israel – Yisrael

As long as in the heart, within,  
A Jewish soul still yearns,  
And onward, towards the ends of the east,  
an eye still gazes toward Zion;

Our hope is not yet lost,  
The hope two thousand years old,  
To be a free nation in our land,  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

-HaTikvah, Naftali Herz Imber

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְךָ פְּנִימָה  
נִפְשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמֶיָה,  
וְלִפְאַתִּי מִזְרַח קוֹדֵמָה,  
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפֶיָה;  
עוֹד לֹא אֲבָדָה תְּקוּמָתִנוּ,  
הַתְּקוּהָ בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלֵפִים,  
לִהְיוֹת עִם חֻפְשֵׁי בְּאֶרֶצֵנוּ,  
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

### Social Justice – Tzedek

צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּרְדֹּף

"Justice, Justice, you shall pursue..." (Deuteronomy 16:20)

### Culture – Tarbut

"There are other cultures, other civilizations, other peoples, other faiths. Each has contributed something unique to the total experience of mankind. Each, from its own vantage point, has been chosen. But this is ours. This is our faith, our people, our heritage". (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Radical Then, Radical Now*)

## Calendar at a Glance

Thurs, Oct 24 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Sun, Nov 3 – **Arts and Culture Series: *Freedom Song*** - 2pm  
 Thurs, Nov 7 – **Social Justice Series: *Immigration Justice*** - 7pm  
 Tues, Nov 12 – **Ethics Series: *Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue Pt. 1*** - 7:15pm  
 Tues, Nov 19 – **Ethics Series: *Doing the Right Thing in the Synagogue Pt. 2*** - 7:15pm  
 Thurs, Nov 21 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Dec 5 – **Arts and Culture Series: *Life's Accessories*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Dec 19 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Jan 9 – **Social Justice Series: *Reproductive Justice*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Jan 16 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Tues, Jan 28 – **Arts and Culture Series: *The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 1*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Feb 13 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Tues, Feb 18 – **Arts and Culture Series: *The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 2*** - 7pm  
 Tues, Feb 25 – **Ethics Series: *Ethics of Honesty Session #1*** - 1pm  
 Thurs, Mar 5 – **Social Justice Series: *Racial Justice*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Mar 12 – **Social Justice Series: *Gun Violence Prevention/Justice*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, Mar 19 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Tues, Mar 24 – **Ethics Series: *Ethics of Honesty Session #2*** - 1pm  
 Thurs, Mar 26 – **Arts and Culture Series: *In Search of Israeli Cuisine Pt. 1*** - 6pm  
 Fri, Mar 27 – **Slomovitz/Hudes Scholar-in-Residence – Rabbi Andrea Weiss** - 7:30pm  
 Thurs, Apr 2 – **Arts and Culture Series: *In Search of Israeli Cuisine Pt. 2*** - 6pm  
 Thurs, Apr 23 – **Arts and Culture Series: *Beneath the Helmet*** - 7pm  
 Tues, Apr 28 – **Ethics Series: *Ethics of Honesty Session #3*** - 1pm  
 Thurs, Apr 30 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Tues, May 5 – **Arts and Culture Series: *The Music of Kabbalat Shabbat Pt. 3*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, May 7 – **Social Justice Series: *Environmental Justice*** - 7pm  
 Thurs, May 14 – **iEngage** - 7pm  
 Thurs, May 21 – **Arts and Culture Series: *Killing a King*** - 7pm  
 Tues, May 26 – **Ethics Series: *Ethics of Honesty Session #4*** - 1pm  
 Thurs, June 11 – **iEngage** - 7pm

Dates and times subject to change

## Arts and Culture Series

### 'Freedom Song' (*Social Justice*)

Sunday, November 3 – 2:00-4:00pm

NJHA Conference & Event Center, Princeton, NJ

- in partnership with Jewish Family and Children Services

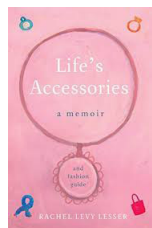


*Freedom Song* is a transformative musical that shatters the myth of Jews being immune to addiction. The cast of *Freedom Song* are actual addicts in recovery that are affiliated with California's Beit T'Shuvah's treatment program. Using song and dance, tears and laughter, *Freedom Song* will open your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

### *Life's Accessories* Book Event with Rachel Levy Lesser

Thursday, December 5 – 7:00-9:00pm

- in partnership with Jewish Family and Children Services



Shir Ami's own Rachel Levy Lesser can relive almost every significant life event through an accessory. A scarf, a pair of earrings, a bag, even a fleece pair of socks - each contains the elements that put together the story of a life. *Life's Accessories* is a funny, sad, touching, relatable, shake-your-head-right-along-as-you-laugh-and-wipe-away-tears, coming-of-age memoir. In fourteen essays, Lesser tackles sensitive issues like anxiety, illness, and loss in a way that feels a bit like having a chat with a good friend.... *Life's Accessories* is a window into the many ways in which Lesser has come to understand life - in all of its beauty, its joys, its sorrows, its heartaches, its challenges, and its absurdity.

### Welcoming Shabbat: A Musical Adventure (*Israel/Social Justice/Text*)

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm

January 28, February 18, and May 5

Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

Each Friday evening, services begin with a series of psalms and songs collectively known as *Kabbalat Shabbat* (*The Welcoming of Shabbat*). Developed in Tzfat, *Kabbalat Shabbat* melodies have spread throughout the world and have been influenced by the wide and varied experiences of Jews throughout history. Please join us on our musical adventure as we sing, learn and pray together!

## Arts and Culture Series

### *In Search of Israeli Cuisine (Israel)*

Thursdays – 6:00-8:00pm

March 26 and April 2

Rabbi Eric Goldberg



In this film, award-winning chef Michael Solomonov goes on a journey *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*. Profiling chefs, home cooks, farmers, vintners, and cheese makers drawn from the multitude of cultures that make up Israel today - Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze - a rich, complex human story emerges.

On both evenings, participants will have the opportunity to watch part of the film and make one recipe from the award-winning book *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking*, written by Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook.

### *Beneath the Helmet (Israel)*

Thursday, April 23 – 7:00-9:00pm

Dave Clark; Rabbi Eric Goldberg; Ken Levine; Rebecca Weiss



This documentary tells a coming of age story that highlights five young Israeli high school graduates who are drafted into the army to defend their country. At the age of 18, these young individuals undergo a demanding journey, revealing the core of who they are and who they want to be.

Following the film, we will have the opportunity to hear from Shir Ami members who have and/or are currently serving in the United States or Israeli military. Our speakers will share their experience and answer questions from the audience.

### *Killing a King Book Discussion (Israel)*

Thursday, May 21 – 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg



THE ASSASSINATION OF YITZHAK RABIN  
AND THE REMAKING OF ISRAEL

DAN EPHRON

The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin remains the single most consequential event in Israel's recent history, and one that fundamentally altered the trajectory for both Israel and the Palestinians. In *Killing a King*, Dan Ephron relates the parallel stories of Rabin and his stalker, Yigal Amir, over the two years leading up to the assassination, as one of them planned political deals he hoped would lead to peace, and the other plotted murder.



## iEngage

### iEngage (*Israel/Culture*)

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm

October 24, November 21, December 19, January 16,  
February 13, March 19, April 30, May 14, and June 11

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

#### **Tribes of Israel: A Shared Homeland for a Divided People**

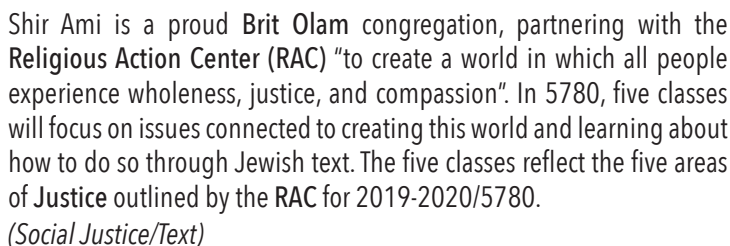
*The Tribes of Israel* is a video lecture series and discussion, created by the Shalom Hartman Institute, ([www.hartman.org.il](http://www.hartman.org.il)). This course confronts the challenge of creating a Jewish and democratic public space in the modern State of Israel—a shared common space for a people 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.



SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE מכון  
OF NORTH AMERICA שלום הרטמן



**Thursday, November 7 - 7:00-8:30pm**  
**Rabbi Chuck Briskin**

## Reproductive Justice

**Thursday, January 9 – 7:00-8:30pm**  
**Rabbi Eric Goldberg**

At the beginning of the Torah, one human being (Adam) was created. This idea has spawned many important teachings in Jewish tradition, not the least of which is that every human life is of infinite value. But when does life begin? How do we determine the value of life should challenges arise during pregnancy? These questions, and many others, will be addressed and investigated through the use of sacred and rabbinic texts.



## Social Justice Learning Series

### Racial Justice

Thursday, March 5 – 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

In a speech given in 1963, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said: "The Bible does not say, God created the plant or the animal; it says, God created different kinds of plants, different kinds of animals (Genesis 1: 11-12, 21-25). In striking contrast, it does not say, God created different kinds of man, men of different colors and races; it proclaims, God created one single man. From one single man all men are descended. To think of man in terms of white, black, or yellow is more than an error. It is an eye disease, a cancer of the soul."

Please join us as we explore issues connected to race through Jewish sacred texts, words of wisdom that have guided our people and personal anecdotes.

### Gun Violence Prevention/Justice

Thursday, March 12 – 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg

"[T]hey shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not take up sword against nation; They shall never again know war" (Isaiah 2:4). The prophet Isaiah is speaking about his vision for a perfected world. A world in which weapons are put down and war is replaced by peace. How does this text (and many others in Jewish tradition) inform our view on gun violence in America and throughout the world? Does the Torah and/or Jewish tradition permit or forbid Jews to own guns? These questions (and many others) will be addressed, investigated and discussed in a meaningful, modern way.

### Environmental Justice

Thursday, May 7 – 7:00-8:30pm

Rabbi Eric Goldberg and Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

In the Midrash, we read that after God created Adam, God led Adam through all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you" (Kohelet Rabbah 7:13).

Human beings are commanded to watch over the world. But what does it mean to not *corrupt* or *destroy* it? Are there specific commandments and values that should guide how and in what measure we direct our efforts? Join us for an evening of text study, song and discussion on this timely and topical issue.

## Slomovitz/Hudes Scholar-in-Residence

### Rabbi Andrea Weiss

Friday, March 27 – 7:30pm



Dr. Andrea Weiss is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Dr. Weiss was ordained at HUC-JIR and received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008). She also created a highly innovative response to the emerging political landscape known as *American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters*.

Dr. Weiss' leadership has helped reshape curriculum for the rabbinical program across HUC-JIR's campuses. She developed the Worship Working Group in 2003 and has continued to oversee this group of students and faculty who work together to reflect on and improve worship there. She has played a leadership role in major initiatives such as the Spirituality Initiative of the New York School, the Mandel Initiative in Building Capacity for Visionary Leadership, and the annual New York *Kallah*.

Join us for Shabbat evening services and words of wisdom and inspiration from Dr. Weiss.

The Lifelong Learning committee and clergy of Shir Ami invite you to be inspired and rekindle your knowledge and love for Jewish Learning.

### Course Registration

Registration is requested so that adequate space and material can be prepared. Courses are free for Shir Ami members. A donation is requested from non-members.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Be A "Keeper Of Jewish Excellence"

"Get yourself a teacher, find someone to study with, judge everyone favorably."  
- Pirke Avot

We extend an invitation for you to become a Keeper of Jewish Excellence. Supporting all of the important mitzvot of learning and prayer allow us to continue our Lifelong Learning commitments.

☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$180    ☐ \$100    ☐ other

Please make checks payable to Shir Ami

Mail to: Shir Ami - Lifelong Learning • 101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA 18940



