

Upcoming Events

Bingo is on Monday Nights at 7:30pm

Doors open at 6:30pm. Refreshments available for purchase. **Volunteers are always needed.** Contact Phil Herzbrun at 633-6279 or philip.herzbrun@shirshalombuffalo.org.

Queen of Hearts is now \$5,622

JRT Performance

Friday, January 19th at 7:00pm

Directory Saul Elkin and JRT cast members will perform scenes from its production of "Rose". The play presents the inspiring story of a feisty, Jewish woman's journey from Russia to Miami Beach with many stops along the way. The production of "Rose" runs from February 1st-25th at the Jewish Community Center.

Sisterhood Movie Night

Saturday, January 20th at 7:00pm

The group will gather to watch the film, "Hidden Figures" and enjoy some snacks. A children's movie will also be shown so the little ones are welcome to attend. Donations of cleaning supplies are requested for the Jewish Family Service immigrants program.

Hawaiian Shirts & Winter BBQ

Friday, February 2nd at 6:00pm

Join us for a picnic menu with a taste of summer. Take a break from winter with a fun mix of Hawaiian and Shabbat melodies. Tasty tropical drinks will be served at the Oneg Shabbat. Reservations for the BBQ are due by January 31st by calling 633-8877.

1st Annual Georg Iggers Memorial Speaker

Friday, February 9th at 7:00pm

Rev. Mark Blue, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Lackwanna and President of the local NAACP Chapter will be the guest speaker. He will talk about the history of the NAACP, an organization that Georg worked to support.



"A Country Purim-The Nashville Megillah"

Wednesday, February 28th at 7:00pm

The evening begins with a complimentary pizza dinner at 6:00pm. Cantor Frank and her CSS cast will present the story of Esther in "Old Tyme Country Style". Reservations are required by February 23rd by calling the Temple Office.

Chai Club Tickets are Available

Thirteen weekly drawings will be held with three prizes awarded each week (\$18, \$36 and \$54) and a grand prize will be awarded during Purim. Tickets are \$18 and there is no limit to the number of times you can win.

Super Bowl Squares Now for Sale

Add interest to the "big game" on February 4th by purchasing squares for \$10 or \$20 per square. Squares are for sale in the Temple office and during Religious School in the Religious School lobby.

Events This Week

Tonight's Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by Joanne Marquisee and Howard Rekoon in honor of Aden Rekoon becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Saturday, January 13

9:00 AM Torah Study
10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Aden Rekoon

Sunday, January 14

No Religious School

9:15 AM Men's Group Meeting with Blaine Schwartz speaking on the JFS Refuge Relocation Program.
6:30 PM Purim Spiel Rehearsal

Monday, January 15

Office Closed-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
10:00 AM Interfaith Day of Service for Religious School Students at Calvary Episcopal Church
7:30 PM Bingo (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Tuesday, January 16

1:00 PM Rabbi Alex at Amberleigh
4:30 PM Religious School
6:00 PM Temple Gift Shop Open
7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting
7:00 PM Tizmeret House Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 17

11:30 AM Sisterhood Bible Study
12:00 PM Chai Club Drawing
6:30 PM Hebrew High at JCC

Thursday, January 18

10:00 AM Braille Group Class
10:30 AM Women's Torah Study at Weinberg Campus Forest Creek Game Room
1:30 PM Meet with Rabbi Alex by appointment
1:30 PM Meet with Hope Bongiorno by appointment
1:30 PM Meet with Cantor Frank by appointment
7:00 PM Sisterhood Meeting
7:00 PM Buffalo Jewish Federation-Israel @ 70 Committee Meeting

Friday, January 19

6:00 PM Temple Gift Shop Open
7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service with performance by Jewish Repertory Theatre of scenes from "Rose"

Office Hours for Congregation Shir Shalom

Monday—Closed
Tuesday through Friday—9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Erev Shabbat Service Shabbat Shalom, Mr. Dylan

January 12, 2018/ 26 Tevet
7:00pm



TWO TRADITIONS
ONE CONGREGATION,
MANY VOICES,
ONE SONG

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein
Cantor Arlene Frank
Religious School Director Hope Bongiorno
Executive Director Joanne Marquisee
President Todd Sugarman

PARASHAT VA'ERAH

The new Pixar movie, *Coco*, is amazing. It takes place on the Mexican Day of the Dead and is about a boy trying to uncover the place of music within his family heritage, and find himself in the process. As an aspiring musician, he has always been treated as an outsider in a family that hates music. As part of the movie he actually travels into the afterlife to meet his relatives, spending the night with his great grandparents and great aunts and uncles. According to Mexican tradition, on the Day of the Dead Mexican families put pictures of their relatives alongside food that the relatives used to love in life in order to bring them back at least for that one night. It is a true celebration of the power of memory in keeping the souls of the dead alive. In short, it is very Jewish.

What is also very Jewish is this is longing to find a true identity buried in our ancestral past. I can't tell you how many conversations I have had over the years with people raised Christian who know or believe they have Jewish roots within their family. Almost every time the person will describe how he or she gravitated toward Judaism without knowing why, feeling at home within our faith, and then discovering along the way that they had parents or grandparents that were in fact Jewish all along. Many, many families hid their Jewish identities going all the way back to the expulsion from Spain in 1492, but also more recently in response to anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. We often call these Jews conversos, Jews that had been forcibly converted and yet, still retain Jewish practice to this day.

In many ways, Moses was the first converso. His journey down the Nile marked a separation from his family of birth. Only in this week's Torah portion, Vayerah, does he finally come to terms with this past, traveling back from Midian to meet with the Hebrew slaves. In his conversation with God at the burning bush he fears that he will not be accepted, and in deed he is not. He does not speak their language or know their customs and as it says in Exodus Chapter 6, verse 9, the Israelites did not listen to Moses because, the Torah tells us, "of shortness of breath and hard work." So overwhelmed by their enslavement, they cannot physically take in what Moses is telling them. The Hebrew slaves do not realize that it is someone from the outside, a converso, will be the one that brings them to freedom. Both the movie *Coco*, and Moses' story, remind us that help can come from unexpected places, and that our family network can be wider than we ever imagined.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Alex

Ma'Amad Sinai

Candle Blessing: page 23

Mi Shebeirach: page 185

Mourner's Kaddish: page 194

Music provided by:

Tizmeret House Band

In Memoriam

Shiva

Edna Silber, mother of Ellen (Robert) Reis

Sheloshim

Elaine Cheiffetz

Doreen Ginsberg

Norman Friedman, father of Alan Friedman (Donna Massimo)

Audrey Gratien

Joel Hittleman

Milton Weiser

Yahrzeits

Elaine Adler
 Herman Axelrod
 Henrietta Bellow
 Sadie Berliner
 Jerome Bloomberg
 Richard S. Bluestone
 Maer Samuel Bunis
 Helen Chimera
 Joel Cohen
 Hyman DeBruin
 Esther Fogelbaum
 Edith Gevirtzman
 Charles Gilden
 Janet R. Glickman
 Isadore S. Goldenberg
 Harry Goodman
 Sheridan Helfant
 Elaine Herzbrun
 Ina G. Hoffman
 Herman Kahn
 Bernard Kaufman
 Irving Klein
 Franklin Krohn

Goldie Krone
 David Levy
 Abe L. Marquisee
 Sharon B. Maybach
 Ruth S. Miller
 Sherwin S. Miller
 Tillie Mindell
 Lucille Morris
 Mirel Puius
 Lisa Rubinstein
 Gertrude Scholl
 Clara Schwartz
 William Shapero
 Sidney Shucard
 Morris Solodky
 Freda Stein
 Inez Stein
 Samuel Suchman
 Audrey Trinca
 Leo Ullman
 Lillian Weinstein
 Emanuel Weiser

**Our Mission Statement, as a congregation,
 is to be a welcoming community and to enhance all aspects
 of Jewish life.**

The Board of Trustees of Congregation Shir Shalom
 COMMITMENT STATEMENT

We, the Board of Trustees, pledge to unite and
 to enrich the lives of our congregation.

We will proceed in our commitment to Congregation Shir Shalom,
 to create an inclusive and open environment for the entire congregation.

Rabbi-Alex Lazarus-Klein
 Cantor-Arlene Frank
 Religious School Director-Hope Bongiorno
 Executive Director-Joanne Marquisee
 President-Todd Sugarman
 VP Administration-Bruce Corris
 VP Membership-Marina Finkelstein
 VP Finance-Larry Posses
 VP Worship-Mindy Weinman
 VP Education-Shari Jo Reich
 Treasurer-Joseph Glickman
 Secretary-Michael Frisch
 Sisterhood Representative-Jean Messinger
 Men's Group Representative-Daniel Kester
 Youth Group Advisor-Shiri Kester
 Rabbi Emeritus-Irwin A. Tanenbaum, D.D.
 Immediate Past President-Jill Hamilton

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Balsom	Rella Corris	Rob Lederman	Marc Slonim
Jan Berg	Micky Farber	Larry Posses	Todd Sugarman
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Jackie Block	Michael Frisch	Shari Jo Reich	Betsy Zappia
Gary Bluestein	Joseph Glickman	Diane Safir	
Bruce Corris	Jill Hamilton	Stuart Shapiro	

Prayer for those who lead our congregation

O God, this congregation has honored us with the task of leading them,
 and of serving You with them.
 May we strive to be fit for this sacred task.
 May we lead well and may we serve well.
 May we hear the quiet as well as the active voices,
 and may we heed the call and follow the paths of what we,
 after honest searching, feel to be the right things to do.
 May we listen to each other, and may we listen to You,
 as all of us together make this synagogue a *kehillah kedusha*,
 a Holy place.

Video Stream Broadcast

Erev Shabbat Services are available to watch live and recorded on your computer, iPad or smartphone. The camera is stationary facing the Bimah. If you are attending services, once you enter the sanctuary, you are giving your permission to be included in the video stream broadcast. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Marquisee, our Executive Director.

**Congregation Shir Shalom is Affiliated with the Union for
 Reform Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities.**



Please silence all electronics. Thank you.