

*Torah Thoughts, Leviticus 9.1-11.47*

“Mourning the Loss of a Child”

I was in Israel for the first time in 1989, a few years after the Children's Memorial opened at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem. Approximately a million and a half children were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. To capture the immensity of that number, the artist filled the darkened interior with thousands of mirrors, each reflecting and refracting the light of five candles creating the illusion of millions of lights. The first time I visited I was still a child, and was overwhelmed by grief. The loss of one child is horrific, the loss of many millions is unimaginable.

This week’s Torah portion Shemini tells the story of a tragic sacrificial accident that took the lives of two of Aaron’s children Nadav and Abiyhu. The ages of the sons are not given in the text, but just the hint that they may have been teenagers intensifies their loss. The later deaths of Miriam and Aaron do not feel as heavy as the loss of these two relatively obscure biblical characters. When a child dies, it breaks our confidence in the world and the promise of a long life we feel we deserve.

A week ago, a six-year-old named at Shir Shalom, whose family connections in our community go back several generations, was taken from us way too soon. Hannah St. Cyr was a bright shining light for her parents Ashley and Doug, her younger brother Henry, her grandparents Bruce and Marianne, and her extended family and friendship group. As her father Doug bravely offered in his eulogy last Friday, she was sheltered in a cocoon of love throughout her too short life. The question, he so lovingly said, was not why God took her from us, but why we were given such a blessing in the first place. Sometimes it is our children taken from us too soon, that teach us how to truly live. May the memory of Hannah St. Cyr always be for a blessing!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Alex

“Hannah Sunshine”  
we all have held a six year old  
have raised a six year old  
or have been a six year old  
old enough to leave our mother’s lap  
only to fall back into her arms  
it is the age of magic potions and fairy houses  
when a lost tooth can be a pirate ship  
and a butterfly an endless supply of dreams  
oh to be six again and so trusting of the world that you would could slip  
through its fingers like a brush through hair  
you are your full self even without knowing your full self  
your future self standing at a faraway shore waving as you inspect the beach for shells  
you who will never be seven or nine or twenty nine  
wrap your whole soul around us  
squeeze out a smile if only for a moment  
remind us we have all been a six year old  
or raised a six year old  
or have held a six year old  
inside our hearts dancing bringing a measure of joy  
in an otherwise bleak world

-Alex Lazarus-Klein

*In Memoriam*

*Shiva*

Stuart Peck  
  
Elinor Tepper  
  
Hannah St. Cyr  
  
Renata Lefcourt

*Sheloshim*

Arlene Guttenberg  
  
Dr. Elias Kaufman  
  
Marilyn Elkin Leeds, cousin of Jay (Rebecca) Mesnekoff  
  
Suzanne Lefcourt  
  
Michelle Polonski  
  
Eva Rubinstein  
  
Marsha Grass  
  
Francziska Kowal

*Yahrzeits*

Mitchell Benson  
Sylvia Berger  
Bernard Brown  
Walter S. Collin  
Zelda Feldman  
Jack Felstein  
Mary Freedman  
Victoria Gambitsky  
Ethel Gerstel  
Leonard Goodman  
Rose Gordon Hirschorn  
Donald Horowitz  
Lillian Hurwitz  
Keith H. Kaufman  
Ruth Kleiman  
Samuel Korus  
Bessie Lesses  
Albert Mandelkern  
Rose Meyer  
Abbey Perlman  
Sylvia Perletz  
Samuel Rubin

Julian R. Safir  
Julius Schepart  
Martha Schneider  
Richard Seitz  
Samuel Slepian  
Morry Sugar  
Rexford Vosburgh  
Milton Weinstein  
Esther Yallof

*Erev Shabbat Service*  
*Friday, April 25 2025/19 Nisan, 5785*  
*7:00 pm*



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein  
Cantor Arlene Frank  
Executive Director Joanne Marquisee  
Community Religious School Director Rabbi Einav Symons  
President Todd Sugarman

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM  
In Person Events & Virtual Services

**Saturday April 26th**

9:00 am Torah Study in person offsite and via Zoom  
10:45 am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon-offsite  
6:00 pm Murder Mystery Dinner Theater (reservations required)

**Sunday April 27th**

9:00 am CRS  
10:15 am Confirmation Class  
12:00 pm Yom HaShoah event at Roswell Park  
2:00 pm Earth Day Celebration

**Monday April 28th**

Office Closed  
7:00 pm Women of Shir Shalom Meeting via Zoom

**Tuesday April 29th**

4:00 pm Chiavetta’s Chicken BBQ  
6:30 pm Yom HaZikaron Community Service at Shir Shalom

**Wednesday April 30th**

Yom HaZikaron  
7:00 pm Mussar Class

**Thursday May 1st**

Yom HaAtzmaut  
8:00 pm Talmud Study via Zoom

**Friday May 2nd**

7:00 pm Baby Naming of Celeste Zucker  
7:00 pm Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast, Facebook, and YouTube  
7:00 pm Jews of All Hues Celebration  
8:00 pm Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Michael Berger

UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Passover Haggadah Project** is now open to participants. Join the Worship Committee and a subcommittee of the Adult Education Committee, the Passover Haggadah Committee, to write our very own CSS Passover Haggadah for next year’s Seder. If you are interested in participating in the Passover Haggadah Project, please email Joanne Marquisee at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

**Earth Day Celebration** will be on Sunday, April 27th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm with a service at 4:30 pm. There will be activities for all ages. Bring your family and friends.

**The Community Yom HaZikaron** will be on Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Shir Shalom. Please join us to honor the soldiers who have fallen in Israel’s wars and those who have died in the terror attacks.

**Families Havdalah and Game Night** will be back om Saturday May 3, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

**The Philadelphia Trip** organized by Niagara Service Tours will be from July 7th to July 10th. Please see Debra Fine for questions. Join us and see some Jewish sites led by Rabbi Alex.

*Oneg Shabbat Sponsored by Robert Altman in honor of  
his birthday and Bar Mitzvah*

**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.

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Cantor-Arlene Frank  
Executive Director-Joanne Marquisee  
Community Religious School Director-Rabbi Einav Symons  
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Immediate Past President-Bruce Corris

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Micky Farber	Tara Karch Cross	Rebecca Shaw	

**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.

**Congregation Shir Shalom is Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism and Reconstructing Judaism.**