

Torah Thoughts, Lech Lecha, Genesis.12.1-17.27

“One Step in Front of Another”

The Erie Canal was not built in a day or two or three. The idea for it was generated in the 1780s. Construction officially started in 1817 and went until 1825, but the canal continued to be developed until 1918. 363 miles of terrain, which included differences of 570 feet in elevation, along with rapids and other natural obstacles. The problems had to be solved step by step, how to navigate through forests and mountains, along with raging rivers. It was a technological marvel at the time and helped make Buffalo the third largest American city at the turn of the 20th Century.

Monotheism similarly wasn’t created overnight. While Abraham and Sarah received God’s call at the beginning of this week’s Torah portion, Lech Lecha, the journey actually began at last week’s Torah portion with Abraham’s father Terach leaving Mesopotamia. In this early period, our ancestors worshiped one God, but did not fully discount Gods of other nations. That would take time, lots of it, maybe upwards of a thousand years, until Roman times when monotheism was fully in place.

We are in the shadow of millions of years of human ingenuity, each generation expanding knowledge from the last. When faced with an impossible task, the only thing we can ever do is put one step in front of another and another and another, until we reach where we were hoping to go. This was the secret to the Erie Canal, as well as Abraham and Sarah’s journey, and any of our journeys today. May we continue to strive as individuals, as communities and as a world, never knowing exactly where our paths will lead.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Alex

In Memoriam

Shiva

Milton S. Dudek

Karl Jonathan Iggers

Sheloshim

Tillie Lazerson

Jake Lipshin

Betty Markette Milligan, aunt of Ben Poremski

Yahrzeits

Vivian Berkowitz

Roy Jacobson

Sam Serotte

Debra Cohen

Jennie Kaufman

Carl Silber

Bloomberg

Anne Kayton

Lee Singer

Aaron Broder

Jack Kayton

David Paul Sipes

Charles Cassover

Ezry Kramer

Herbert Slater

Belle Chasen

William Lesser

Philip Slepian

Esther Cytryn

Jack Mackler

Fannie Slonim

Felix Dudek

William Oehlbert

Leah Tepper

Rose Eisgrau

Marvin Organek

Bacie Tsypenyuk

Isobel Epstein

George Oved

Irving Weiner

Hannah Fishman

Lynn Reich

George Weinrub

Nancy Frankfort

Martin Robinson

Ann Weinstein

Lewis Glaser

Harry S. Rubin

Reuben Weinstein

Gladys Hanford

Harold S.

Dora Welner

Leonard Horowitz

Ruslander

Benny Wiseman

Maximillian

Sylvia Adler Safir

Mildred Ziller

Huttner

Jeanette Schonfeld

Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, October 31, 2025/9 Cheshvan, 5786
7:00pm



Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein
Cantor Arlene Frank
Executive Director Joanne Marquisee
B’COL Religious School Director Rabbi Einav Symons
President Joseph Glickman

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM
In Person Events & Virtual Services

Saturday November 1st

9:00 am Torah Study-offsite and via Zoom
11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service– Canterbury Woods

Sunday November 2nd

9:00 am B’COL Religious School
11:30 am B’COL Junior Choir

Monday November 3rd

Office Closed
9:30 am WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
2:00 pm WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff

Tuesday November 4th

9:30 am WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
2:00 pm WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff

Wednesday November 5th

9:30 am WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
2:00 pm WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff

Thursday November 6th

9:30 am WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
2:00 pm WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
8:00 pm Talmud Study via Zoom

Friday November 7th

9:30 am WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
2:00 pm WSS Rummage Sale Dropoff
7:00 pm Erev Shabbat Tots to Teens Family Service
8:00 pm Oneg Shabbat co sponsored by Larry and Gayle Kerman in honor of the naming of their granddaughter, Hazel Schifferle, Pam & Dana DiBernardo in honor of the naming of their grandsons, Murphy and Granger Kelly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Thanksgiving Basket Project will return this year with a joint effort from Congregation Shir Shalom, North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville East High School and Temple Beth Zion to provide food to needy families in our community. Donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets can be dropped off any time that the temple is open. For questions, contact ccohan@buffalo.edu or 716.430.6029.

The B’COL Junior Choir led by Morah Zahava Fried and Cantor Arlene Frank will be on most Sundays after Religious School at 11:30 am. Please RSVP using the Junior Choir contact Form. Junior Choir performances will take place at both synagogues. There is a session on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

The WSS Paid up Luncheon will be on Saturday November 1st at 12:30 pm. All women of Shir Shalom who have paid their Membership Dues by 11/1/25 are invited to a special luncheon that will feature our guest speaker, Ronnie Dubrowin, gift vendors, and door prizes. RSVP is now closed.

The WSS Rummage Sale returns on Sunday, November 9th starting at 9:00 am. No Rummage will be accepted until Monday, November 3rd from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Admission is \$1 If you would like to volunteer, please visit <https://signupschedule.com/shirshalomwss>

The 50’s High School Dance and Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre will be on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The Murder Mystery takes place in the 50’s so please dress for the occasion. The cost is \$45 per person and will include a dinner buffet, wine, beer, soft drinks and an Ice Cream Bar sponsored by Cantor Frank. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com by 11/3 at 5 pm or visit our website to pay online.

Chiavetta’s Chicken BBQ returns on Tuesday, November 18th from 4:00 pm until sold out. Preorder online and save \$1. See you in the drive thru line! Thank you to everyone who supports this important fundraiser. This will be our last event until the Spring.

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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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.