

December 2025

Kislev - Tevet 5786

TOY STORY 8

(NIGHTS OF
HANUKKAH!)

FRIDAY, December 19TH

AT 7:00PM

6:00PM COMPLIMENTARY PIZZA DINNER

7:00PM HANUKKAH SERVICE

8:00PM ONEG SHABBAT

FEATURING CANTOR FRANK'S UKULELE BAND!

Please RSVP To Joanne Marquisee,
Executive Director at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM



**OUR MISSION IS TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY
AND TO ENHANCE ALL ASPECTS OF JEWISH LIFE.**

WE ARE:

- ◇ Reform and Reconstructionist
- ◇ Diverse
- ◇ Multigenerational
- ◇ Inclusive and Interfaith

WE SHARE:

- ◇ Joy in Judaism
- ◇ Compassion and support
- ◇ Lifelong learning
- ◇ Traditions with flexibility

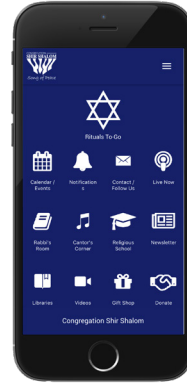
WE AFFIRM:

- ◇ Reinterpreting our heritage
- ◇ Repairing the world
- ◇ Embracing uniqueness and unity
- ◇ Recognizing the relevance of Israel



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Williamsville, NY 14221

SHIR SHALOM APP



**CHECK OUT THE
CONGREGATION
SHIR SHALOM APP**



The Congregation Shir Shalom mobile app is designed to keep you connected with us while you're on the go.

For anyone that has our App, it will still work. For anyone that has not downloaded it yet, it needs updating and is not available right now. Thank you for your patience.

FEATURES:

Rituals To Go • Calendar/Events • Notifications
Contact/Follow Us • Live Now • Rabbi's Room
Cantor's Corner • Religious School • Newsletter
Libraries • Videos • Gift Shop • Donate

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From Rabbi Lazarus-Klein	Page 3
Upcoming Services	
Meet with the Rabbi	
Buffalo Community of Learners	Page 4
Library Corner	Page 5
Executive Director	
Chai Club	
Life & Legacy	
Women of Shir Shalom	Page 6
Men's Group	
Membership Committee	Page 7
College Connection	
Shir Shalom Gift Shop	
General Programming & Announcements	Page 8-9
Recent CSS Events	Page 9-10
New Carpet	Page 10
2026 Mah Jongg Cards	
Environmental Column	Page 11
Donations	Page 12
Memorial Plaques	
Yahrzeit Date Change	
Memorial Anniversaries	Page 13
In Memoriam	
Video Streaming	
Staff & Officers	Page 14
Shir Shalom Funds	
Calendar of Events	Page 16

FROM RABBI LAZARUS-KLEIN

“Hanukkah in Toy Land”



Three decades ago, Toy Story burst into the scene telling the story of a collection of toys led by an iconic cowboy named Woody, and his ragtag team of a slinky dog, a T-rex, Little Bo Peep, and Mr. Potato Head, who must rescue a space ranger named Buzz Lightyear from the clutches of a troubled boy who loves to torture

toys. There are dangerous hijinks including escapes from arcades, jumps onto moving vehicles, and a dramatic rescue through a window.

This Hanukkah in honor of the movie's 30th anniversary, as well as the upcoming release of the 5th installment this coming summer, Congregation Shir Shalom is using this beloved Pixar franchise as our holiday theme. While not intentionally Jewish, Toy Story certainly has a Yiddishe Neshamah, with wonderful teachings on values like *Hachnasat Orchim*, welcoming guests like Buzz Lightyear, *Bikur Cholim*, visiting the sick, or in this case broken toys, and in creating a *Kehillah Kedoshah*, a holy community.

But, given we are bringing this to our synagogue, I started thinking about what it would look like if it were actually Jewish? If it were, what toys and games would be included in the new version of the movie? First on my list would be the dreidel, an oldy but a goody in our annual kids' gift bags. Adding to that, I would include the Purim grogger, a toy Torah, perhaps a Mensch on a Bench, and perhaps a dancing rabbi for good measure.

While I am not sure if Abraham and Sarah ever played with toys, kids' activities have been part of our tradition from our earliest days. Did you think Miriam was playing her timbrel only for an adult audience? In the original Passover Seders, Rabbi Akiva gave out roasted grains and nuts to keep the kids occupied (Pesachim 108b).

Regardless of whether you have ever seen these delightful movies, I encourage you to come out to our Toy Story 8 Friday Night celebration, December 19th, to sing traditional melodies, eat latkes, and to watch Woody and crew put together their very own Menorah.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Alex

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 2025

Parashat Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43)

Friday, December 5, 2025

6:00pm Erev Shabbat Family Service and via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00am Torah Study in person and via Zoom at Temple Beth Tzedek

11:00am Shabbat Morning Service at Canterbury Woods

Parashat Vayeshev (Genesis 37:1-40:23)

Friday, December 12, 2025

7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:00am Torah Study in person and via Zoom at Temple Beth Tzedek

10:45am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon at Temple Beth Tzedek

Parashat Miketz (Genesis 41:1-44:17)

Friday, December 19, 2025

7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Saturday, December 20, 2025

9:00am Torah Study in person and via Zoom at Temple Beth Tzedek

10:45am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon at Temple Beth Tzedek

Parashat Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)

Friday, December 26, 2025

7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube

Saturday, December 27, 2025

9:00am Torah Study in person and via Zoom at Temple Beth Tzedek

10:45am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon at Temple Beth Tzedek

MEET WITH THE RABBI

For private conversations, call or email Rabbi Alex directly at rabbi.lazarusklein@shirshalombuffalo.org.

BUFFALO COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Mah Koreh B'COL?

(What's Happening at Buffalo Community of Learners)

As we move through this vibrant season of learning and celebration, our B'COL students and families have been joyfully engaged in programs, electives, and community events.



Recently, parents joined their children in meaningful Family Education programs led by Rabbi Rich and Rabbi Alex. These sessions offered opportunities for shared learning, thoughtful discussion, and strengthening family connections through Jewish values and tradition. One 6th-grade student shared, *"I liked learning with my parents because we talked about things we never really talk about at home."*

Our Hanukkah celebrations are being planned by our amazing and creative team of Madrichim—our dedicated high school student leaders. This year's festivities will include hands-on crafts, opportunities for learning, and a meaningful *tikkun olam* project. As part of this effort, students collected Hanukkah candle boxes and created heartfelt cards to send to Jewish men and women serving in the military around the world. A 7th-grader commented, *"It felt good to do something for someone far away who might be celebrating Hanukkah alone."* One Madrich added, *"We wanted to make sure every soldier knows we are thinking of them and sending light."*

We are also pleased to share updates from our Hebrew One-on-One Remote Learning Program. After another cycle of review and evaluation, results continue to demonstrate strong student progress in Hebrew skills. This program supports diverse learning styles and allows us to adapt instruction when remote learning or in-person engagement is more beneficial. A parent recently noted, *"My child's confidence in Hebrew reading has grown so much this year."* A student shared, *"I like learning at my own pace—it helps me feel successful."*

As always, we are grateful for our students, families, faculty, teen leaders and Education Committee who bring energy and meaning into our community. We look forward to the weeks ahead as we continue learning, celebrating, and growing together.

Chag Urim Sameach — wishing everyone a warm and joyful and meaningful Hanukkah!



Rabbi Einav Symons
Religious School Director
symons.einav@gmail.com
716-574-6016

Our email is buffalocommunityoflearners@gmail.com

For more information call Rabbi Einav Symons at (716) 574-6016.

B'COL



B'COL Havdalah

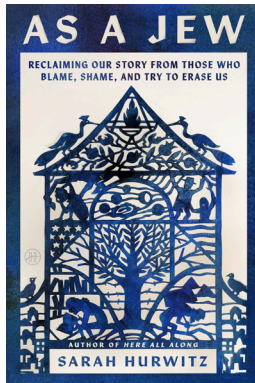


B'COL Junior Choir



LIBRARY CORNER

In 2021, Sarah Hurwitz published *Here All Along*, the story of her discovery that Judaism had far more depth than the stripped-down version she had imbibed in Hebrew school and from her family's occasional synagogue attendance and had viewed with a certain embarrassment, if not contempt. Her new book, *As A Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us*, while addressing the more serious (and sadly, timely) issue of antisemitism, exhibits the same passionate belief that our tradition is worth studying, celebrating, and passing on.



As with *Here All Along*, *As a Jew* is informed by Hurwitz's own personal experiences, including her decision to train as a chaplain despite her discomfort with the Christian bias of the program, as well as her realization that she often fell into the trap of internalizing the negative views of Jews and Judaism that still permeate our culture, such as the "vengeful 'Old Testament' God." She follows the history of these views from ancient times through the Middle Ages and the Enlightenment, right up to the present, while also recognizing the positive aspects of these cultures. Interestingly, she traces the demonization of "Zionism" that we see so much of today to the Soviet Union, which helped spread it to an already receptive Arab world. She also provides an understandable and nuanced overview of the *actual* Zionist movement and the history of Israel.

Throughout, despite confessions of occasional despair and pessimism, Hurwitz maintains a positive outlook, recounts her interactions with thoughtful, engaged Jewish students at the colleges where she has spoken, and encourages all of us to lean in and embrace the beauty and wisdom of Jewish tradition and culture.

Leslie Jaszczak

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is a fun time of year. We are looking forward to celebrating Hanukkah with you on Friday, December 19, 2025. There will be a complimentary Pizza Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by our Erev Shabbat Hanukkah Service at 7:00pm.

Our theme is Toy Story 8 (8 Nights of Hanukkah). The Oneg Shabbat will feature a Latke Bar and Sufganiyot. We will also have a communal Hanukkiah Lighting and the Dreidel Game.

Come eat with us. Come pray with us. Come sing with us. Come Celebrate With Us!!!

CHAI CLUB

The Shir Shalom Chai Club is Back!

Fourteen weekly drawings will be held. Three prizes are awarded each week; first prize is \$18, second prize is \$36 and third prize is \$54. Each ticket purchased gives you several chances to win, since the winning tickets "go back in the hat." That's right, you have a chance to win every week and CSS is also a winner, as all profits from the ticket sales goes to the Temple. Join in the weekly fun!



The first drawing will be on December 5th. During Hanukkah (December 19th) prizes will be doubled! The grand prizes will be drawn during Purim on March 2nd. They are: \$180, \$360 and \$540. The top ticket sellers will also win prizes of \$18, \$36 & \$54.

Tickets are \$18 each and can also be purchased at the Temple Office. Thank you for participating!

We thank Sandy Seide for bringing the Chai Club idea to us!!!

LIFE & LEGACY

On behalf of the Life & Legacy program, I would like to thank everyone who helped Congregation Shir Shalom meet AND surpass our goals for the past year. The total commitment for the future of the Temple has now passed \$1 million! Thank you for your generous support and helping to secure the Temple's financial security for future generations!

If you would like more information, please contact me: lansman54@gmail.com

Tom Lansing
Chair - CSS Life & Legacy

WOMEN OF SHIR SHALOM

Our first Women's Discussion Group of the year will be on Monday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. Based on the success of last year's program, we will continue to discuss chapters from Biblical Women Speak by Rabbi Marla Feldman. At the request of last year's participants, this year we will discuss two lesser known women of the Torah. The December 1st discussion will focus on the chapter "Keturah: Abraham's Last Wife." Whether you participated last year or not, you are welcome to join the discussion! The book is available through the temple library, or can be purchased on Amazon or from the Jewish Publication Society. Watch your email as the date gets closer, for a Zoom link or information on how we will be meeting. Robin Raphael has agreed to co-chair this group, so if you are unable to reach Jill Hamilton (psydocmom@outlook.com or 716-418-2307), you can reach out to Robin.

Then, on Saturday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m., we will be holding our Havdalah/Game Night/pre-Hanukkah party at temple. Nancy McGory will be there to run Bunco – no experience needed, but there is a \$5 charge to play. You can also bring any board games/table games from home that you've been looking for people to play with. We will serve donut holes in honor of Hanukkah, but feel free to bring any snacks or drinks you would like to consume or share. Please RSVP to Jill Hamilton or Julia Cohan (text/call 716-430-6026 or julia.cohan@shirshalombuffalo.org.)

Jill Hamilton

Please join us for our *Women of Shir Shalom*

Women's Discussion Group

This year, we will reading from the book Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash by Rabbi Marla Feldman. This book looks at the women of the Torah, and discusses them in greater depth through midrash – a mode of Biblical interpretation that not only engages with the text, but looks behind and beyond the text by considering the possible "back story" not told in the Torah. Each chapter of the book contains four sections – the Biblical text, a modern midrash telling the woman's story in her own voice, classical midrash and commentary exploring historical interpretations by Medieval and/or Hellenistic scholars, and insight by the author.

In consideration of everyone's busy lives, we will meet twice this year and cover one chapter each time. Each chapter is about 15 pages long, but there is a lot to unpack. As last year's group requested, this year we will cover two of the lesser-known women in the Bible.

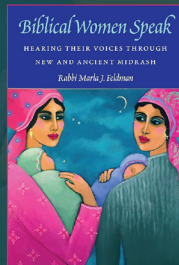
Monday, December 1st, 2025

Keturah, Abraham's last wife

– and –

Monday, April 27th, 2026

Shelomith Bat Dibri - the blasphemer's mother



MEN'S GROUP

**Help the Men's Group!!
Time to Join!**

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It is time to renew your Men's Group Membership, or please join us if you haven't joined before. You can join or renew your membership online. This year there are three levels of Membership Dues:

Basic - \$36.00

Growth - \$50.00

Sustaining - \$100.00

Let me also say that I have big shoes to fill in that I am taking over the President position from Dan Kester who handled this for more than 10 years. **Thank you Dan!!!**

I am Robert Altman and my parents were part of the wonderful group that founded Temple Beth Am in 1955. We just celebrated the Temple's 70th anniversary with services at the Amherst Community Church where the early Services were before the construction of the Sheridan Drive building.

Many of the Friday night Service attendees also know me as the maker of coffee, tea and supplier/ filler of silverware and napkins.

In addition, and the best part is, that I am engaged to Joanne Marquisee, our Executive Director.

Men's Group programs in the past include:

- Building Sukkahs at Temple, at The Amberleigh retirement home, and at the home for Jewish Women's Group Home.
- Guest speakers on Sundays from a variety of backgrounds including our members and many others.
- Video Streaming of services.

What is most needed is your input for planning programs, fundraising and activities that appeal to our members.

Please take a moment to join or renew your membership by visiting our website, shirshalombuffalo.org, Community, Men's Group. You are also welcome to send a check, **Attention: Men's Group**, to the Temple Office. Watch your emails for upcoming Men's Group events.

Robert Altman

robertaltmanrealtor@gmail.com / 716-812-3021

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Congratulations to everyone who participated in The Great Cookie Challenge. The winners:

1. Sean Polen
2. Marina Finkelstein
3. Gwyn Lowinger

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we want to welcome our new members:

Laura Anders	David Seide
Marla Greenberg	Scott Sroka
Joshua & Amanda Jones	Roxanne Tabar
Joshua Kershner	Elizabeth Strong-Tallman
Lauren & Mike Klenosky	Laurie Valvo
Amy Kushner	Rachel Weiss
Joshua Malik	Brittany & John Whalen
Anna & Anastasia McCarthy	Yibing Zhang
Benjamin & Molly Poremski	Brett & Ilana Zieglersmith
Todd Robinson	James & Maria Zuccaro

ANNUAL GIVING campaign

ENSURING OUR FUTURE.



THE CROSS FAMILY 2025 CHAIRS

Please participate in our 2025 Giving Campaign. It is through our members that we will continue to be a loving and giving Community and serve not only each other but our greater community as well. L'Shanah Tovah!

COLLEGE CONNECTION

The Women of Shir Shalom will be sending out two holiday packages to our college students away from home. The first one will be sent at Purim time, and the second will be sent out at Passover. These packages will include food items, holiday candy, study items, etc. If you would like your child included in this wonderful Sisterhood project, please mail the following information to Amy O'Donnell by January 15th, at the email address listed below.

STUDENT'S NAME:

STUDENT'S MAILING ADDRESS:

NAME OF SCHOOL:

YEAR IN SCHOOL (*Freshman, graduate student, etc.*):

LIVING ON OR OFF CAMPUS:

PARENT(S) NAME(S):

PARENT(S) PHONE NUMBER(S):

This is a wonderful way for our Temple family to keep in touch with our students away from home. Amy's contact information:

odnn825@aol.com



SHIR SHALOM GIFT SHOP

Temple Office: 716-633-8877

Don't forget to like us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute info @GiftShopAtShirShalom

THE GIFT SHOP IS REORGANIZING. STOP IN AND SEE US!

Call the Temple Office to make an appointment or check out the Gift Shop on our website!!

GENERAL PROGRAMMING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

Erev Shabbat Family Service

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2025
6:00PM

We will use Mishkan
T'filah for Youth with
original art based on the
Hebrew alef-bet.

Oneg Shabbat to follow.



Parents Coffee Klatch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
9:15AM

We will have coffee, tea and Conversation.
This is for parents of ALL age groups - please
join us!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

6PM Complimentary Pizza Dinner
7PM Erev Shabbat Family Service
8PM Oneg Shabbat featuring a Latke Bar

RSVP by 12/15/25 to Joanne at
joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

BUFFALO CORNER READING SERIES



Light, Hope, Peace

Thursday, December 18, 2025
7:00pm - 8:30pm



LIZ
MARIANI
POETRY ORGANIZER



RABBI ALEX
LAZARUS-KLEIN
FEATURED POET



VONETTA
t. rhodes
FEATURED POET



EKAETE
BAILEY, MBA
FEATURED POET

Join us as we celebrate Hanukkah and build community:

Poetry Readings organized by Liz Mariani
Hanukkah Candle Lighting • Wine and Cheese Reception

RSVP to Joanne Marquisee at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

BUFFALO COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS (B'COL)

Hanukkah Bazaar

Sundays, December 7th and 14th, 2025
9:00am to 11:30am

SPONSORED BY THE CSS GIFT SHOP

Come and shop with us!!! There will also be lower priced items
for students to purchase for their families.

CHECK OUT OUR TABLES

CHILDREN:

Books, DIY Menorahs, Dreidels, Games, Stickers, Stuffed Bears, Toys and more

KITCHEN:

Cookies Cutters, Oven Mitts, Tablecloths, Paper Goods for parties

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE:

Jewelry, Masks, Nick Knacks, Socks, Ties and more

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Joanne Marquisee, Executive Director, at 716-633-8877.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS
4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
716.633.8877 • www.shirshalombuffalo.org



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM Consecration

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025
7:00PM



Join us as we welcome and honor your child as one of our
new CSS students to the Buffalo Community of Learners at the
Erev Shabbat Family Service on Friday, December 19, 2025 at 7:00pm
using our Family prayer books, Mishkan T'filah For Youth.
(There will be a **Pizza Dinner at 6:00pm** prior to service.)

And celebrate the 6th Night of Hanukkah with your Shir Shalom Family,
Toy Story 8 (Nights of Hanukkah) style!!!



Latke Bar and Oneg Shabbat to follow.



Bring your favorite Menorah for a
Communal Hanukkah lighting!

A Consecration picture will be taken immediately after the
service in the sanctuary.

Please RSVP by 12/14/25 to Joanne Marquisee
at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.





HANUKKAH STORYTIME!

Sunday, December 21, 2025 • 11:00am
at Barnes & Noble Booksellers
 1565 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY 14228

HANUKKAH IS COMING!!!

Join us for a Hanukkah Storytime at Barnes & Noble!!! We will gather on Sunday, December 21st at 11:00am in the Children's Department. Enjoy the stories and sing Hanukkah songs with Rabbi Alex and Cantor Frank.

We hope to see you there!!!
 Questions? Please email Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.

BARNES & NOBLE



SHIR SHALOM
 CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM
 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
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POP STAR PURIM Pandemonium



SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 2, 2026

CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM

Torah Mussar

CO-FACILITATED BY RONNIE DUBROWIN AND EVIE WEINSTEIN

Every other Wednesday night starting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
7:00pm - 8:30pm

January 7th & 21st • February 4th & 18th • March 4th & 18th
 \$36 per participant

Join Others Who Have Enjoyed Learning About Mussar


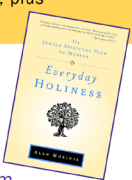
New students must take "A Taste of Mussar" offered by The Mussar Institute and purchase and read "Everyday Holiness" by Alan Morinis, plus "The Mussar Torah Commentary."

Questions?

To learn more about this exciting program, please contact:

Ronnie Dubrowin ronmidwife@gmail.com **Evie Weinstein** evieweinstein115@gmail.com

Please sign up at shirshalombuffalo.org to reserve your spot.
 Meeting of the va'ad will take place in the Temple Library in person.

SHIR SHALOM
 CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM
 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
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RECENT CSS EVENTS

1950s Murder Mystery Dinner



NEW CARPET!

Check out our
new carpet in the
Religious School
wing!!!



2026 MAH JONGG CARDS

Please send in your order(s) for 2026 Mah Jongg cards. Don't forget to ask your friends and family to order from us too! They don't have to be a member of Hadassah.

Standard Print Card: \$14 | Large Print Card: \$15

Complete the form & mail with your
check payable to **BUFFALO HADASSAH** to:

Helene Kershner

353 Fruitwood Terrace, Williamsville, New York 14221

I must receive your order form no later than JANUARY 3, 2026. For more information please contact Helene at 716-481-6068 or helenekershner@gmail.com

MAH JONGG CARDS ORDER FORM

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Hadassah Chapter _____ Buffalo

Region _____ Northern New England

of Standard Cards _____ x \$14.00 each = \$ _____

of Large Print Cards _____ x \$15.00 each = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

RECENT CSS EVENTS

1950s Murder Mystery Dinner Continued



ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN

Extinctions and Climate Change

by Joseph Morris

I have often written about a Goldilocks Earth—where everything is just right. Distance from a right-sized sun. Atmosphere. Temperature. Water. Oxygen. Everything balanced just right. But that balance wasn't always the case. Five times in Earth's history, the planet burped and life was nearly wiped out. Five moments when the balance was violently upset. Sometimes the trigger was dramatic—a cataclysmic volcanic eruption, an asteroid strike, or both. Other times, the cause was slower, more subtle: continents drifting, ice advancing, oceans acidifying, or a flourishing species changing the chemistry of the air.

That's the thing about equilibria—systems in balance. They might seem stable for generations, even eons, and then suddenly the balance is upset. Lots of energy is contained in the Earth's ecosystem. Therefore, it takes something significant to upset it. This is not the case of a straw breaking the camel's back, but of an asteroid smashing it or millions of tons of volcanic ash burying it.

The most famous extinction occurred at the end of the Cretaceous Period, sixty-five million years ago, when an asteroid the size of Mount Everest slammed into what is now the Yucatán Peninsula. The impact darkened the skies for years, shut down photosynthesis, and ended the reign of the dinosaurs. Yet, from that devastation came a new chapter of life—mammals, and eventually, us.



Today, scientists warn that we are living through a sixth extinction, this time of our own making. The triggers are not from space but from our own hands: carbon emissions, deforestation, habitat destruction, overfishing, and pollution. We have become the asteroid. The changes are rapid, measurable, and accelerating.

And yet, unlike the dinosaurs, we can see it happening. We have knowledge, tools, and moral awareness that no previous species ever possessed. Our tradition teaches Bal Tashchit—"do not destroy." It reminds us that creation is not ours to waste. The concept of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, extends beyond human society to the web of life itself.

Some say that after God destroyed the world in the flood, God promised never to do so again. And perhaps God has kept that promise. God isn't destroying the world—we are. Our actions, our everyday choices, and our willingness to look away while others, for their own gain, call climate change a hoax or deny scientific truth, make us complicit. Our acquiescence is as dangerous as their denial.

If Earth truly is a Goldilocks planet, then it is also a fragile one—balanced not just by physics and chemistry but by the choices of its most powerful species. The question is whether we can learn from the last five mass extinctions before we make ourselves part of the next.

SUBSCRIBE

Join Our Email List

Do you want to stay informed of all of the services and events that happen at Temple?

Then please join our EMAIL LIST.

We send out a weekly broadcast on Wednesdays. We also send out special events and death notices. It is an easy way to get information quickly.

Please call Joanne Marquisee at 716-432-2995, or send her your email address at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

FOLLOW



Congregation Shir Shalom
– Buffalo, NY



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@shirshalombflo



@shirshalom.bsky.social

CONNECT



Wireless Internet available
at Shir Shalom.

No password necessary.

**Vist Our Congregation Shir
Shalom Website!**

www.shirshalombuffalo.org

DECEMBER 2025 DONATIONS

(those received by
November 1, 2025)

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Edith Froehlich, *by Carol Froehlich*
Florence Kaplan, *by Michael Kaplan*
David Wagner, *by Orna McNamara*

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein, *by Carol Froelich*
Rabbi Alex and Shabbat Services at Canterbury Woods,
by Gertrude Schwab

Donation by:

Rose Metzger
Liz Sloan and Family

The Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of:

Anne Gellin, *by Robin Raphael and Alan Gellin*
Jeanette K. Schonfeld, *by Barry Schonfeld*
Cecile Jegler, *by Karen Wiseman*

In Honor of:

Mark Kneitingers Bar Mitzvah, *by Marlene Wessel*

The Chesed/Caring Fund

In Memory of:

John S. Fine, *by Edward J. Fine M.D.*
Joseph Kluge, *by Jill Kolaga*
Lionel Nosenchuck, *by The Nosenchuck Family*

In Honor of:

Ruth Spivack's complete healing, *by Joanne Marquisee and Robert Altman*
Faige Fox's 90th Birthday, *by Joanne Marquisee and Robert Altman*
Vickie Rubin, *by Ellen Daly*
Sandy Seide's 85th Birthday, *by Harvey Horowitz*

Donation by:

Rabbi Yonina Foster

The Education Fund

In Memory of:

John S. Fine, *by Edward J. Fine, M.D.*

The General Operating Fund

In Memory of:

Truffle Freid, beloved family dog of the Freid Family,
by Congregation Shir Shalom

The Library Fund

In Memory of:

Max Schmeidler, *by The Schmeidlers*
Anne Freid, *by Wayne and Barbara Freid*

The Music Fund

In Memory of:

Betty B. Schuster, *by Debroah A. Draman*

The Rabbi Daniel E. Kerman Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Judy Scherlitz, *by William Scherlitz*

The Sherri & Aubrey Abelson Memorial Education Fund

In Memory of:

Harvey Weiner, *by Gary and Marjorie Abelson*

The Social Action Fund

In Memory of:

John S. Fine, MSW, PhD, *by Edward J. Fine, M.D.*

The Thanksgiving Baskets Fund

In Memory of:

Morris Katz, *by Diane Church*
Mary Shevat, *by Liz and Josh Sloan and Jessica, Adam and Ber, Hannah, Penina Cunningham*
Ruth Malek, *by Ron and Flossie Ziolkowski*

In Appreciation of:

Chris Cohan for his tireless, yearly work, *by Tobi and Larry Horwitz*

The Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory of:

Myra Horowitz, *by Harvey Horowitz and Family*
Leonard Horowitz, *by Harvey Horowitz and Family*



Thank you for your donations!

NOTE: Writing a separate check for each donation allows us to credit the full amount of your donation to the fund you specify for your gift.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one, you may purchase a bronze memorial plaque to be placed on one of our memorial boards.

Congregation Shir Shalom • Temple Beth Am Temple Sinai

It can be comforting to see and touch their name when you enter the sanctuary and for Yahrzeit. The plaques are \$575 and take approximately 12 weeks. To place an order, please contact our Executive Director, Joanne Marquisee.

Yahrzeit DATE CHANGE

If you have an upcoming Yahrzeit and you are not able to attend Erev Shabbat Services on that day, please call the Temple Office and let us know if you would like your loved one's name read and included at a different Erev Shabbat Service. Please note that the name will be read on the original date and the newly selected date. May their memories always be for a blessing. You are also welcome to attend our Shabbat Morning Service. Just check our calendar to see the location where we will be meeting.

MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARIES

December 5, 2025

Abraham Bates, Laya Berdichewsky, Sidney Birzon, Adele Bronsky, Joe Brown, Sadie Bunis, Harry Cantor, Meyer Cantor, Abraham Isaac Cassover, Jacob Chasen, Tessie Cohen, Monroe D. Edelman, Louis Fagin, Christopher Brown Fazio, Marge Feldman, Jay Frey, Boris Y. Gelfer, Lewis Leonard Glick, Alice Gordon, Raphael Jacoby, Jason Kaiser, Henry Kaplan, Alla Kaplin, Albert Klein, Morris Ladis, Ted Lane, Bella Lesser, Samuel Levit, Morris Markel, Howard Mitofsky, Leslie Morris, Benjamin Neiman, Russel Nisengard, Bernice Paige, Mary Peisachow, Samuel Portin, Rita B. Ray, Marion Schieff, Maurice Schmidman, Sylvia Schulefand, Lillian Schwartz, Olivia Seldis, Joseph Simon, Arthur Slonim, Florence Summer, Lillian Weiss

December 12, 2025

David Atkin, Joseph Baker, Shifra Berdichewsky, Arthur Bloom, Burton Cohen, Sidney Colbert, Alva Finkelstein, Abraham Fudeman, Sarah Furash, Gertrude Grass, Jack Horowitz, Ezra Hurwitz, Henry Kahn, Sadie Klein, Berna Koren, Joseph Kozower, Fred Landau, Robert M. Lewis, Thomas Markel, Dr. Lewis Pierce, Miriam Raiken-Kolb, Edgar C. Rivo, Max Ruben, Ruth Sachs, Max J. Safir, Ben Schack, Samuel Schonfeld, Gladys "Gigi" Sperry, Sidney Steinhart, Leonard Vogel, Irving Weinstein, Aaron Weintraub, Arnold Weiss, Sidney Weiss, Ruth G. Wolkind

December 19, 2025

Sophie Berman, Joseph Eisgrau, Rose Fertig, Mary Franke, Delores Frawley, Norman Friedman, Albert Gold, Paul Gold, Joseph Greenberg, Ida Haas, Patricia Horowitz, Jack Kareff, Jonathan Leiter, Jacob Lipsitz, Charlotte R. Majeski, Dr. Alex Morrison, Eirin Muentner, Paula Helene Nisengard, Gerald Oehlbert, Rosalind Posterman, Pauline Rosenbloom, Sam Schaeffer, Jennie Segal, Ruth Seide, Sandra Schweitzer Siegal, Donald M. Silverberg, Anne Slonim, Dr. S. Mouchly Small, Sten Theander, Abraham Saul Weinstein, Dinah Yood

December 26, 2025

Mildred Bennett, Sherwood Brown, Samuel Burstein, Yitzhak Burstein, Albert Callistein, Louis Chertoff, Nathan Cohen, Pierson L. Cohen, Gilbert Corris, Samuel Fagin, Anita Foster, Rosalyn Gabin, Eva H. Gale, Daniel Gelman, Dr. Jacob Gilden, Benarta Glickman, Max Gross, Anne Hoffman Fine, Jacob Herr, David H. Hersch, Henrietta Hersh, Bertha Horowitz, Ada Kareff, Mary Kempner, Tonia Kozower, Joseph Krasner, Sophie Ladis, Ralph W. Levinson, Toni Lillen, Judith Landau Liss, Rachel Marks, Nathan Neiman, Mathilda Noznisky, Barba Organek, Hyman Pleskin, Maurice Resler, Mollie Roth, Harry Rubin, Belle Schapiro, Adolfa Scheyer, Carl Seide, Elliot Shapiro, Nathan Siegel, Bess Sokalsky, Anna Steinberg, Sarah Swartz, Selim Terzi, Dorothy Bernstein Wabnick, Isadore Weiss, Gregory Wolpin, Icek Zysman

February 2026 Chai Notes Deadline

The deadline for articles to be submitted for inclusion in the February 2026 issue of Chai Notes is January 1st. Please submit articles to joanne.marquisee@shirshalombuffalo.org

IN MEMORIAM

Our Congregation extends its sympathy to the families of:

Milton S. Dudek

Husband of Sheri (Chavi); father of Bryan Dudek, Sean and Jaclyn Cohen, and Jacob Dudek; brother of Sam Dudek and Paula and Mike Volk; uncle to many nieces and nephews

Karl Jonathan Iggers

Son of the late Georg and Wilma Iggers; brother of Jeremy (Carol) and Daniel (Janet) Iggers

Julian Lindsay Kaufman

Brother and step brother of Amelia Lindsay-Kaufman and Ellie Andrews; son and stepson of Lisa Lindsay, Matt Andrews, Jay Kaufman, and Isabelle Petit; half-brothers of Sol and Louis Petit Kaufman; grandparents in Baton Rouge and Buffalo; aunts, uncles, and cousins around the US



VIDEO STREAMING

Erev Shabbat Services, Festival Services, and B'nai Mitzvah Services

Live video in our Sanctuary and in other locations at Shir Shalom are available to anyone with a computer, iPad, tablet or mobile device and an internet connection.

To access it, simply go to the Temple's website, www.shirshalombuffalo.org and click on the "Watch our services live" link.

The video streaming is a joint project of the Women of Shir Shalom, Men's Group and Communications Committee, with the goal of making services available for those unable to get to Temple, especially our ill and/or immobile congregation members. Please note that we occasionally experience technical difficulties that are beyond our control. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

STAFF AND OFFICERS

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Nick Scalese

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Rebecca Shaw
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Sheila Bernard Tucker
Evie Weinstein
Betsy Zappia

SHIR SHALOM FUNDS

If you wish to honor those whose memories are dear to you, or express your gratitude for a joyous occasion, you are invited to make a contribution to Congregation Shir Shalom. Below is a list of funds available for your donations:

Congregation Shir Shalom Endowment Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Cantor's Discretionary Fund
Executive Director's Discretionary Fund
Bimah Furniture Fund
Building Fund
Capital Repair Fund
Cemetery Fund
Chesed/Caring Fund
Fight Hunger Fund
General Operating Fund
General Education Fund
Green Fund
Landscaping Fund
Library Fund
Music Fund
Sanctuary Fund

Security Fund
Sisterhood Fund/Women of Shir Shalom Fund
Social Action Fund
Thanksgiving Baskets Fund
Yahrzeit Fund
Youth Group Scholarship Fund
Rabbi Daniel E. Kerman Memorial Fund
Cantor Susan Wehle Memorial Caring Fund
Cantor Susan Wehle Memorial Garden Fund
Abe and Shirley Marquisee Memorial Fund
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Rabbi Steven and
Patty Mason Israel Scholarship Fund
Robert Unher Memorial Fund
Spivack Youth Library Fund
Sherri & Aubrey Abelson Memorial Education Fund



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December

Kislev - Tevet, 5786

For the most current information, visit our website. Our calendar is prepared in advance of publication and is subject to change.
www.shirshalombuffalo.org/calendar.html

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Chai Notes Due 1	2 1:30pm Rabbi Alex and Rev Bill Hennessey at The Amberleigh 2:30pm Tikkun Olam Coommittee Meeting w/ Rabbi Alex via Zoom 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	3 7:00pm Mussar Class	4 8:00pm Talmud Study via Zoom	Chai Club Drawing 5 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Family Service via Boxcast, Facebook & YouTube 7:00pm Oneg Shabbat	6 9:00am Torah Study offsite and via Zoom 11:00am Shabbat Morning Service at Canterbury Woods
7 9:00am B'COL Religious School 9:15am Parents Coffee Klatch 10:00am Hanukkah Bazaar 1:00pm Purim Speil Rehearsal	8 6:30pm Annual Giving Big Donors Dinner offsite Office Closed	9	10	11 8:00pm Talmud Study via Zoom	Chai Club Drawing 12 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service via Boxcast, Facebook & YouTube 8:00pm Oneg Shabbat	13 9:00am Torah Study offsite and via Zoom 10:45am Shabbat Morning Service & Kiddush Luncheon - offsite 6:30pm Women of Shir Shalom Hanukkah Havdalah/Game Night
14 9:00am B'COL Religious School 9:00am RS-Hanukkah Celebration 9:15am Ganainu Preschool Program 10:00am Hanukkah Bazaar 1:00pm Purim Speil Rehearsal	Hanukkah (Day 1) 15 Office Closed	Hanukkah (Day 2) 16 7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom	Hanukkah (Day 3) 17 7:00pm Mussar Class	Hanukkah (Day 4) 18 7:00pm Buffalo Corner Reading Series 8:00pm Talmud Study via Zoom	Hanukkah (Day 5) Chai Club Drawing 19 6:00pm Complimentary Pizza Dinner 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Family Service and Consecration via Boxcast, Facebook & YouTube 7:00pm Hanukkah Celebration 8:00pm Oneg Shabbat	Hanukkah (Day 6) Rosh Chodesh Tevet 20 9:00am Torah Study offsite and via Zoom 10:45am Shabbat Morning Service & Kiddush Luncheon - offsite
Hanukkah (Day 7) 21 9:00am B'COL Religious School - CLOSED 11:00am Barnes & Noble Hanukkah storytime -offsite	Hanukkah (Day 8) 22 Office Closed	23	24	25 8:00pm Talmud Study via Zoom Office Closed	Chai Club Drawing 26 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service via Boxcast, Facebook & YouTube 8:00pm Oneg Shabbat Office Closed	27 9:00am Torah Study offsite and via Zoom 10:45am Shabbat Morning Service & Kiddush Luncheon - offsite
28 9:00am B'COL Religious School - CLOSED 1:00pm Purim Speil Rehearsal	29 Office Closed	Assarah B'Tevet (Tenth of Tevet) 30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	<p>The Temple office will be closed from 12/25/2025 through 1/1/2026</p>		