

Torah Thoughts, Bo, Exodus 10.1-13.16

“What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been”

When Bob Weir, of Grateful Dead fame, wrote the song “Truckin” he was thinking of the immense toll being a rock and roller can have on a person’s body and soul. As he told the Wall Street Journal: “[Our touring schedule] was relentless. We’d play a gig, stay up late and then fly to our next gig first thing in the morning. Most of the time, our equipment was trucked overnight to the next destination.” The song describes visits to Chicago, New York, Detroit, Houston, Dallas, and, of course, Buffalo.

When he passed last week, I thought of his journey in comparison to our people’s journey through the wilderness. This week’s Torah portion, Bo, is most definitely a long strange trip, as we encounter the push and pull between Pharaoh and Moses, culminating in the final plague, the Death of the First Born, and our eventual release next week in the Song of the Sea. While not rock and rollers, our ancestors knew what it meant to have our souls tested. And, like the Grateful Dead, how to survive. From 1965 to 1995, the band wandered far and wide, developing a following all over the world, including many in our own community. Good bye Bob, hoping you are still Truckin’ in the world beyond.

Shabbat Shakom,
Rabbi Alex

In Memoriam

Shiva

Fred Leyland, friend of Rich Logalbo

Sheloshim

Elaine Cohen

Dr. Kenneth Krackow

Nancy Nitka, mother of Jennifer (Jason) Perri

Peter Solender, Father of Lisa (Jack) Flick and Max (Gretchen) Solender

Yahrzeits

Edwin Ackerhalt	Edward Gerstel	Ruth Israel Schuller
Robert L. Altman	Joseph Goldman	William Schweitzer
Edward Ballin	Donna Heitner	Hannah Seitz
Paul A. Bongiorno	Greta Kaplan	Gershon Shik
Eva Bronshteyn	Melvin Kaplan	Nathan J. Shine
Bella Buch	Esther B. Haber	Morris Spivack
Samuel B. Cohen	Kranitz	Norman Steinberg
Evelyn Cowen	Nanci Krieff	Marabelle C. Sultz
Betty Davigner	Ruth Kushner Cohen	Jacob Swartz
Evelyn Ehrenzweig	Marjorie Levey	Charlotte Vogel
Betty Ellis	Sadie Lieberman	Benjamin Weinstein
Isabella Farewell	Sarah Longberg	Ruth Weiss
Norman Fertig	Pearl Martin	Jeanet Wolfson
Frederick Fink	Samuel Mitchell	Isadore Ziller
Betty Friedan	Irene O. Pessar	Paul Zimmerman
Ruth Gafter	Elizabeth Prisaznuk	
Sylvia Gaynor	Leah Reich	
Philip Genco	Dianne Schlanger	

Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, January 23, 2026/6 Shevat, 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 January 24th

9:00 am Torah Study– offsite and via Zoom
10:45 am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon– offsite

Sunday January 25th

9:00 am B’COL Religious School– CANCELED
11:30 pm Junior Choir– CANCELED
1:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal– CANCELED

Monday January 26th

Office Closed

Thursday January 29th

8:00 pm Talmud Study via Zoom only

Friday January 30th

7:00 pm Blue Jean Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast, Facebook and YouTube
7:00 pm Israel Trip Presentation– Rachel Sugarman and Brooke Kibrick
8:00 pm Oneg Shabbat

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. The next session is on Sunday, January 25th at 11:30 am.

Resetting the Table will be on Sunday, February 1st at 12:30 pm at Panera Bread on Transit Road. Join Rabbi Alex and Pastor Eric Farley in discussion to transform political divides and build a shared future. Everyone is welcome

Religious Traditions in Creation will be on Wednesday, February 4th at 11:00 am. Join Rabbi Alex Lazarus- Klein and Pastor Bill Hennessy for a joint class at North Presbyterian Church as they discuss Religious Traditions on Creation. Both sessions are open to the community. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com. The second session will be on Wednesday, February 11th at 11:00 am at Congregation Shir Shalom

L'Chaim- A Celebration of Jewish Life will be on Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Join us for a special service in which Rebecca, Lillie and Ella Greene will discuss their B'nei Mitzvah experience based on their segment of Rebecca's podcast, Whinypaluzza, along with Harvey Horowitz, B'nei Mitzvah Tutor extraordinaire. The Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by Michael Berger and catered by The Bloom and Rose

The Families Havdalah and Game Night will be on Saturday, February 28th at 5:30 pm. The evening will start with a Havdalah Service followed by a Complimentary Pizza Dinner. Activities will include Pickleball, Fooseball, Ping Pong and Board Games. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

The Pop Star Purim Pandemonium will be on Monday, March 2, 2026. A Complimentary Pizza Dinner will be provided at 6:00 pm followed by the Purim Spiel and Megillah Reading at 7:00 pm and an Oneg with Hamantaschen at 8:00 pm. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.

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.