Torah Thoughts, Exodus. 30.11-34.35

"The Death of a Great Man"

I first met Jonathan Dandes when I was on the board of Jewish Family Services. He was the president of the organization at the time and he warmly welcomed me to the organization. Being new to Buffalo, I knew very little about him, other than he was a commanding leader, whose heart was clearly in the right place. While our lives drifted away from one another after he completed his term, I continued to follow him in the news watching the masterful job he did steering ECMC into financial stability. I celebrated for him when his daughter married and mourned for him when his wife died. He had been so supportive of me, I wanted the best for him and his family.

I was therefore devastated to learn of his passing last week. I knew it was a big loss for our Western New York area, but I had no idea how much of a loss until I saw the dozens of notices on Facebook from the many organizations he had served over the years. In addition to ECMC and JFS, there was Rich Foods, the Bisons, Major League Baseball, UB, and Temple Beth Tzedek, to name just a few. He had contributed so much to Western New York, selflessly and often with little fan fare.

This week's Torah portion, Ki Tisa, begins with the collection of the half-shekel, a requirement for all Israelites above the age of twenty. A small amount for some, a large amount for others, but one both rich and poor were responsible equally. As the Torah tells us, "The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel" (Exodus 30:15). Everyone regardless of socioeconomic status has an obligation to contribute. Jonathan Dandes, in his life, epitomized this principle, encouraging everyone he encountered, including myself, to do our part. May his memory always be for a blessing.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Alex

In Memoriam

Shiva

Marcia Bettigole

Sheloshim

Carol Bauda

Louis Bernstein

Bev Stever

Marion Tasman

Henry Zeve

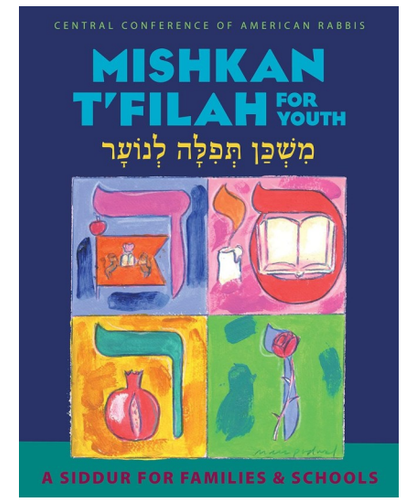
Yahrzeits

Roslyn Barth
Sarah Berman
Julius Berger
William Berger
Joseph Bink
Samuel Block
Reinie P. Bongiorno
Joseph Cantor
Evelyn Ehrenreich
Betty Eisen
Benjamin James Ellis
Maxwell Ellis
Harold Epstein
Aaron Fine
Marvin Fox
Hubert Gerstman
Morris Glazer
Joseph Goldberg
Blanche Greenman

Leonard Grotte
Jack Herzbrun
David Jacobs
Sally Jadd
Leonard Kaplan
Theodore Kaplan
Aaron Klein
Marvin Kranitz
Charlotte Krebs
Bella Kremer
Rose Kutzman Kushner
Arthur Lesman
Sarah Levow
Shalom Levy
Edith Liebeskind
Dr. Erwin Lindenfeld
Ida Lipman
Marjorie Longberg
Frank Massimo

Ralph Morris
Carol Oleshansky
Roma Beth Olin
Evelyn Perlmuter
Clara Picker
Henry Pohl
Judith Polakoff
Dexter Rosen
Jack Saks
Jules Saltman
Pamela Schunk
Gussie Spivack
Bertha Strauss
Louis Tanski
Arnold Tarner
Lillian Ungerleider
Pesa Lea Weiss
Joseph Wohl
Isidor Zimmerman

Erev Shabbat Family Service
Friday, March 6, 2026/18 Adar, 5786
6:00pm



CONGREGATION SHIR SHALOM
Song of Peace

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 March 7th

9:00 am Torah Study– offsite and via Zoom

11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service—Canterbury Woods

Sunday March 8th

9:00 am B'COL Religious School

9:15 am Parents Coffee Klatch

11:30 am Confirmation Class

11:30 am Junior Choir

Monday March 9th

Office Closed

5:30 pm Women of Shir Shalom Cooking Event with Robin Kurss

Tuesday March 10th

1:30 pm Rabbi Alex and Rev Bill Hennessy at The Amberleigh

Thursday March 12th

6:00 pm JFS Matzoh Ball– Offsite

Friday March 13th

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

7:00 pm Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Sean Polen in Honor of his One Year Anniversary with Shir Shalom

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, March 8th at 11:30 am.

The CSS Second Night Seder will be on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Join your Temple family and friends for our Passover Second Night Seder Conducted by Rabbi Alex Lazarus Klein and Cantor Arlene Frank and will be catered by the Bloom & Rose. The Seder dinner will include wine or grape juice, brisket and chicken or vegetarian, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Kosher is available upon request for an additional fee. Reservations are due by March 20th.

Springfest will be on Saturday, March 14th at 7:00 pm. Join us for a fun evening of Bowling, Dancing and Dinner. There will be a Cash Bar, a DJ and a Buffalo themed Dinner Buffet. The cost is $40 per person plus a cash bar. Please rsvp to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.

Broadway Mensch-ionables A Jewish Songbook Cabaret featuring Susan King and John Patrick Patti will be on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Join us for the performance of music from a variety of Jewish composers including Sondheim, Schwartz, Schonberg, Rodgers, Hammerstein and others. A Dessert and Champagne Reception sponsored by the Women of Shir Shalom will be included. The entertainment is sponsored by Shari Jo Reich. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.

The Buffalo Corner Reading Series wil be on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 pm. Join us to celebrate the release of Gunilla Kester's new poetry book, "Hold Me Still." A wine and cheese reception will follow. This event will be in person or via Zoom. 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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Cantor-Arlene Frank
Executive Director-Joanne Marquisee
Religious School Director-Rabbi Einav Symons
President-Joseph Glickman
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Micky Farber	Tara Karch Cross	Carol Schmeidler	Betsy Zappia

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.