

Torah Thoughts- Behar-Bechukotai
Leviticus 25.1-27.34

“The Blessing of Old Fruit”

Fruit in Israel is different than the fruit we are used to in Western New York. Instead of apples and oranges, there are thick, yellow pomelos that look from the outside like giant grapefruits, but inside are sweet and juicy. Acorn shaped persimmons, orange and compact, that can be eaten like apples. Figs, dates, and grapes that delighted our ancestors, and continue to delight tourists and natives alike. More than the majestic mountains and deep seas, it was the fruit that brought us there in the first place and it is the fruit that has kept us coming back year after year after year.

So being told in this week’s Torah portion Behar-Bechukotai to eat from “old fruit” during the sabbatical cycle hits hard. Luckily, Israeli fruit is also delicious dried or in preserves. By holding back from the bounty of the land every seven years we acknowledge our gratitude to God, and we discover new ways to find substance.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Alex

Shiva

Gerald Corris
Tina Meyers
Aaron Schneider
Michael Schreiber

Sheloshim

David Bondrow
Edna Cash Crewson
Milton Ehrenberg
Sydonie Gelman
Anita Klinger
Kurt Kowalksi
Harvey Podolsky
Larry Rosen

Yahrzeits

Bessie Baker
Maurice Baker
Harry Barron
Ruth C. Bauer
Doris Lenobel Brody
Shirley C. Bronstein
Drena Buch
Abraham Cohn
Elizabeth Eisner
Susan Feller
David Freed
Donald Fox
Blanche Gische
Judith S. Goldberg
Samuel Gottesman
Dr. Murray Hurwitz
Julia Kanner
Frank Kranitz
Ida Lawrence
Sam Levine

In Memoriam

Samuel Mittleman
Samuel Moscato
Jerry Raiken
Percy Roth
John Schierlitz
Seymour A. Schonfeld
Minnie Schreiber
Sam Segal
Marilyn Sneiderman Frank
Philip Shapiro
Beatrice Stein
Marilyn Steinhart
Samuel Treger
Aron Tsypenyuk
Morris Unher
Fern Kayla Waterman
Estelle Weitzner
Mark H. Yellen
Bella Zysman

Erev Shabbat Service
Cantor Frank’s 10th Anniversary
L’Chaim-A Celebration of Jewish Life
Friday, May 8, 2026 /22 Iyar, 5786



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

Happy 10th Anniversary Cantor Frank!

*Tonight's Oneg Shabbat is sponsored
by Michael Berger*

Saturday, May 9th

9:00am Torah Study offsite and via [Zoom](#)

10:45am Shabbat Morning Service & Kiddush Luncheon -
offsite

Sunday, May 10th

Happy Mother's Day!

B'COL Religious School is closed

Monday, May 11th

Office Closed

Tuesday, May 12th

4:00pm Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

Wednesday, May 13th

10:00am Rabbi Alex at Brookdale Kenmore

7:00pm Haggadah Committee Meeting via [Zoom](#)

Thursday, May 14th

8:00pm Talmud Study via [Zoom](#)

Friday, May 15th

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

8:00pm Oneg Shabbat sponsored by The Men's Group and
Sean & Brooke Kibrick in honor of their daughter,
Shea Kibrick

“Circle Chant” by Linda Hirschhorn

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ will be Tuesday, May 12th from 4:00pm until sold out. Preorder online and save \$1.00. See you in the drive thru line! Thank you to everyone who supports this important fundraiser, especially our volunteers.

The Annual Sisterhood Shabbat will be Friday, May 15th at 7:00pm. The WSS members plan and lead the service. The Kippot Quilt created by the Judi Stern and the Women of Shir Shalom will be dedicated that night. The Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by the Men's Group in honor of Sisterhood Shabbat.

Resetting the Table will be Sunday, May 17th at 1:00pm at Panera Bread, 8200 Transit Road in Williamsville. This is an ecumenical gathering where people of different faiths come together to gain a better understanding of each other. Rabbi Alex and Pastor Eric Farley from Fieldstone Church lead the discussion. All are welcome.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00pm. Board of Trustee Members will be elected at the meeting and reports about important Shir Shalom topics will be presented by CSS Board Members. The President's Award recipient will be also be honored.

Shavuot Morning Service and Yizkor will be Friday, May 22nd at 10:30am. Join in community for the special Yizkor memorial prayers on Shavuot. A luncheon will follow.

The CSS Confirmation Class Service will be at the Erev Shabbat Service on May 22nd at 7:00pm. Ber Cunningham and Marc Rosen will be honored at the service.

Scout Shabbat Service will be Friday, May 29th at 7:00pm. Join us in the sanctuary as we celebrate together in worship and song. The Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by the WNY Jewish Committee on Scouting.

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.

Rabbi-Alex Lazarus-Klein

Cantor-Arlene Frank

Executive Director-Joanne Marquisee

Religious School Director-Rabbi Einav Symons

President-Joseph Glickman

VP Administration-Marina Finkelstein

VP Membership-Tara Karch Cross

VP Finance-Larry Posses

VP Worship-Shari Jo Reich

VP Education-Evie Weinstein

Treasurer-Todd Sugarman

Secretary-Amy O'Donnell

Women of Shir Shalom Representative-Amy O'Donnell

Men's Group Representative- Robert Altman

Family Engagement Coordinator- Jessica Cunningham

Rabbi Emeritus-Irwin A. Tanenbaum, D.D.

Immediate Past President- Todd Sugarman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bruce Corris	Kirstie Henry	David Safir	Evie Weinstein
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 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**