

Torah Thoughts-Matot-Masei
Numbers 30.2-36.13

“God Helps Us”

Tell me if you've heard this one before: a righteous person goes on top of their roof to escape the waters of a flood, all the time praying to God for assistance. When a small boat comes by, he brushes it away saying God will save him. When a larger boat comes, he does the same. Now as the water threatens to consume him, a helicopter arrives. Still convinced God will save him, he stays on the roof until the waters fully consumes him. In Heaven, he asks God why he hadn't been saved, to which God replies, "I sent a boat and then another boat and then a helicopter.. "

This week we conclude the book of Numbers, a book where week after week everything that can go wrong does go wrong. We are attacked by enemies near and far, we are our own worst enemy, Aaron and Miriam die, and worse still, we end up stuck in the wilderness for forty years. And, yet, here in the last two portions, Matot and Masei, life goes on. Nothing symbolizes this determination to persevere than the presence of Eleazar, Aaron's oldest surviving son who must carry the mantle of the High Priest in the absence of his father. With little fanfare or recognition, he stands by his Uncle Moses to fulfill the sacred duties of the Jewish people. Eleazar's name means "God helps," a name I particularly like because it is the backbone of my family name, Lazarus. To anglify it, my great grandparents added "us" to the end when they arrived in the country, thus creating the meaning, "God helps us." But unlike the poor fellow in the joke, I don't believe our ancestors believed God would help us, without us pitching in as well. We need people like Eleazar to step in when everything has gone wrong and in order to move on we need to rely on one another. That is when our people are at our strongest, when we understand that the blessing of God only arrives when we open our hearts to let it in.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Alex

In Memoriam

Shiva

Alice Dobozi
Abe Lerman
Betty Smith

Sheloshim

Ira Bash
Neil Bluestein
Dr. Paul Davis
Helen Erkill
Jane Freer
Noel Greenspan
Steven Gross
Bradley Hunt

Yahrzeits

Doriene Baker
Samuel A. Barish
Phyllis Cohen Bleichfeld
Daniel Charles Brownstein
Steven Bugyi
Barbara S. Burwick
Jay M. Cavior
Anne Chase
Raphael Dubrowin
Ruth D. Ellis
Grace L. Elmy
Ida Epstein
Martin W. Fagin
Leon Farhi
Helene Fudeman
Milton Gabin
Charles Giller
Lottie Grossberg
Max Hellmann
Henry Heubusch
Janet Hohenstein
Rabbi Daniel E. Kerman
Irving Konovitz

Dorothy "Dot" Landers
Howard Lesman
Fred Lippa
Lalena MacDonald
Daniel McNamara
Mildred Nathan
Harry M. Newman
Nathan Pritikin
Irwin Rovner
Sally G. Safir
Mary Sandel
Ruth Schack
Sidney Schiller
John Schreiber
Mary Taylor
Benjamin Wallins
Sara Weinstein
Sarah Bunis Weiss
Abraham Winiger
Irwin Wolf
Tyler Joseph White

Erev Shabbat Service Under the Tent

**Friday, July 10, 2026 /26 Tamuz, 5786
6:30pm**

Olam chesed yibaneh

I will build this world from love
And you must build this world from love
And if we build this world from love
Then God will build this world from love
- Rabbi Menachem Creditor



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

*Tonight's Oneg Shabbat is co-sponsored
by Liz Mariani*

Saturday, July 11th

9:00am Torah Study offsite and via [Zoom](#)
10:00am Shred-it Event
10:45am Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush
Luncheon-offsite

Sunday, July 12th

10:00am Rabbi Alex at Hallaway Memorial Chapel
12:30am Women of Shir Shalom Donors Luncheon
2:00pm Resetting the Table-offsite
5:00pm Interfaith Picnic-offsite

Monday, July 13th

Office closed

Tuesday, July 14th

4:00pm Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ
7:00pm Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting via [Zoom](#)

Wednesday, July 15th

12:00pm Mah Jongg Class-registration is closed

Thursday, July 16th

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

Friday, July 17th

6:30pm Erev Shabbat Service and via Boxcast,
Facebook & YouTube
7:30pm Oneg Shabbat

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW SERVICE TIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVED SERVICE TIME CHANGES BEGINNING ON 7/1/26. ALL EREV SHABBAT SERVICES WILL BEGIN AT 6:30PM YEARROUND EXCEPT THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE WILL BE AN EREV SHABBAT FAMILY SERVICE AT 6:00PM. HIGH HOLY DAYS WILL FOLLOW A SEPARATE SERVICE TIME SCHEDULE

If you have any questions, please call Joanne Marquisee, Executive Director, at 716-432-2995.

The **Shred-it** paper shredding event will be held at CSS on Saturday, July 11th from 10am-1pm. Cost is \$10 per Bankers Box an \$30 per large box or plastic garbage bag. Shredding services are cash only. Drive up service will be provided. Customers should remain in their vehicles. Staff will unload the materials.

The **WSS Donor's Luncheon** will be Sunday, July 12th at 12:30pm at CSS. It will feature a brunch, basket auctions and a silent auction. Reservations are now closed.

Join us for a **Life & Legacy Feedback Session** on July 24th at 5:30pm. Complimentary pizza will be served. Help shape the future of our congregation. **Noah Budin** returns to perform at the Erev Shabbat Service that follows at 6:30pm. This singer/songwriter with a Jewish sensibility is a favorite at CSS. RSVP to [joanne.marquisee@gmail.com](mailto:tojoanne.marquisee@gmail.com).

When you Wish Upon a Star will be the theme of the Erev Shabbat Service on Friday, July 31st at 6:30pm. Music from Disney classics will be featured. RSVP to 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
VP Administration-Tara Karch Cross
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Women of Shir Shalom Representative-Amy O'Donnell
Men's Group Representative- Robert Altman
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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 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**