

“Shedding the Garments of Captivity”

With clothes ready to get dirty and a determination to make a difference, I joined fourteen other Jewish Federation employees to paint the second floor of the Cornerstone Manor on North Street in Buffalo. A dedicated shelter for women and children, it provides long term assistance for dozens of families in need. As it celebrates its twentieth anniversary this summer, a fresh coat of paint was just what the doctor ordered. Of course, none of the Jewish professionals had much in the way of painting experience, so a professional painter was brought in to show us the ropes. Andrew demonstrated how to cut the top and bottom sections of the wall, how to lather paint on a roller and not drip, and how to properly tape the molding. Far from experts we dove in and in four hours had completed the entire floor.

The beginning of this week’s Torah portion, Ki Teitzei, describes the abduction of a woman in war. And as awful as the situation is, the Torah commands that she be treated fairly. Her hair cut, her nails cleaned, her dress of captivity removed and she had to be given a month to mourn her losses. Despite her cruel circumstances, the Torah commands that she be treated as a human being.

While it was not much, I like to think that our efforts at Cornerstone Manor helped brighten the day of the residents there. It was our way of demonstrating care and compassion to these families who had gone through so much in their lives. It is little things like this that help all of us feel like human beings. I am grateful to have done my small part to improve the lives of all those who make their homes there.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Alex

Sheloshim

Babette “Babs” Hirschorn

Dr. Thomas Langan

Mark Rodman

Yahrzeits

Philip Ackerhalt

Joseph Comi

Eva Gilden

Joel Giller

Benjamin Glaser

Abe Greenberg

Ernest Grosser

Rubin Katz

Rubin Kellick

Kenneth Kneitingner

Abraham Kushner

Doris Kushner

Ruth Meyer Lewis

Barney Marks

Melvin Martz

Jack Millman

Sarah Mitchell

Bessie A. Mitnik

William Ostroff

Abraham Pearlman

Isadore Platt

Stella Starsky

Doreen Tubin

Elaine Weis

Boris Weisbrot

Shabbat Under the Tent with Sean and Friends & Marriage of Rick Mahler & Deb Cohen

***Friday, August 21, 2026 /9 Elul, 5786
6:30pm***



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

Rick Mahler and Deborah Cohen have sponsored tonight's Oneg in honor of their wedding vows.

Saturday, August 22nd

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

Monday, August 24th

Office closed
6:30pm Make Clay Candlesticks with the Women of Shir Shalom

Tuesday, August 25th

4:00pm Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

Thursday, August 27th

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

Friday, August 28th

6:30pm Erev Shabbat Service Under the Tent (last one) and via Boxcast, Facebook & YouTube
7:30pm End of Summer BBQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make Clay Candlesticks with the Women of Shir Shalom will be Monday, August 24th at 6:30pm. Cost is \$18.00. A second session will be announed at a later time. RSVP to Amy O'Donnell at odnn825@aol.com.

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ will be Tuesday, August 25th 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 last outdoor Erev Shabbat Service will be Friday, August 28th at 6:30pm. A closing summer cookout will follow the service. Please make a reservation at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.



Coming in September:

Ice Cream Social at Sweet Jenny's on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:00pm for families of the Buffalo Community of Learners. Clergy, Staff and Leadership will join in the fun. Everyone will be treated to free ice cream sponsored by Rabbi Alex and Rabbi Sara. Buffalo Bills attire is encouraged.

A Selichot Service co-hosted by Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Tzedek will be held on Saturday, September 5th at CSS. The program will begin at 8:30pm with Havdalah. It will be followed by a discussion between Rabbi Alex and guest speaker, Mohammed Darawshe. The Selichot Service will begin after the discussion followed by a dessert reception. RSVP to joanne.marquisee@gmail.com.

Congregation Shir Shalom and North Presbyterian Church invite you to attend a service featuring guest speaker, Mohameed Darawshe on Sunday, September 6th at 9:30am at North Presbyterian Church.

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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Executive Director-Joanne Marquisee
Religious School Director-Rabbi Einav Symons
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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