

“May your memory be a blessing”

When someone we love passes we offer the words Zichrono Livracha or Zichona Livracha, May his or her memory be for a blessing. The genesis of those words come from this week’s Torah portion Lech Lecha, where God tells Abram: “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

But what does it mean to be a blessing? In Abram’s case it means he would be remembered and celebrated not just in his generation but all the way to ours. Billions of humans alive today still see our patriarch as the progenitor of monotheism. If that is not being a blessing, I’m not sure what is.

However, I don’t think we need to reach such lofty heights to be a blessing. When we are remembered for the good we have done in this world we are a blessing. When the lessons we have taught others continue to reverberate, we are a blessing. When the stories about our lives continue to bring smiles to those we loved, we are a blessing. More than financial gain or life successes, being a blessing is the highest honor we can give anyone. When Abram first set out from Haran on the way to Canaan, he knew he had a long and arduous journey ahead of him. What he needed from God was not a reassurance that it would be easier than he expected, only that it would be worthwhile. As fellow travelers, may all of our lives be as well. May they **all** be for a blessing.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Alex

In Memoriam

Shiva

Judith Bluestone
Sam Weintraub

Sheloshim

Frida Akman
Helene Barish
Martin Brecher
Freda Brody
Hon. Judith Gishe
Linda Gleckel
John Lavelle
Abraham Rosenberg

Yahrzeits

Louis Altman	Elinore Baumler Gordon	Arthur Reichard
Martin Ashare	Bernard Green	Martin Robinson
Seymour Berger	Gladys Hanford	Richard Ruslander
Virginia Bergman	Lois Heil	Cindy Seide
Vivian Berkowitz	Daniel Seth Holmlund	Helen J. Silver
Gloria Birzon	Leonard Horowitz	Sylvia Simon
S. Steven Block	Anne Kayton	Lynne Slater
Michael Burwick	Jack Kayton	Dr. Barnett Slepian
Rebecca Cohen	Marian Tasman Klein	Fannie Slonim
Esther Bytryn	Ezry Kramer	Rebecca Snitzer
Theresa Baumler Deutsch	Anita Bernstein Lanard	Stephen E. Sweet
Isobel L. Epstein	Marilyn Levin	Cecelia Tanenbaum
John S. Fine	Marvin Organek	David Wagner
Lewis Glaser	George Oved	Ann Weinstein
Edward Glazer	Sarah Pliss	Dora Weiner
Elliot Goldman	Lynn Reich	

Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, October 23, 2026/13 Cheshvan 5787

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

*Tonight's Oneg Shabbat is sponsored by
Dianne and Walter Gordon
in memory of Elinore Baumler Gordon*

Saturday, October 24th

9:00am: Torah Study via Zoom and offsite
10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush Luncheon-offsite
3:00pm: Bar Mitzvah of David Finkelshtein

Sunday, October 25th

9:00am: B'COL Community Religious School
9:00am: Ganainu Preschool Program
9:30am: Men's Group Meeting
11:30am: B'COL Junior Choir

Monday, October 26th

Office closed
7:00pm WSS Discussion Group via Zoom

Tuesday, October 27th

2:00pm: Mah Jongg with Ronnie (registration closed)
4:00pm: Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

Wednesday, October 28th

7:00pm: Women of Shir Shalom Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, October 29th

8:00pm: Talmud Study via Zoom

Friday, October 30th

6:30pm: Erev Shabbat Service/Blue Jean Shabbat and via Boxcast,
Facebook, and YouTube
7:30pm: Oneg Shabbat

UPCOMING EVENTS

The B'COL Junior Choir practices on Sundays at 11:30am following Religious School. Junior Choir performances will take place at both Temple Beth Tzedek and Congregation Shir Shalom (dates to be announced). Sign up at arlenefrank123@gmail.com.

The Next Men's Group Meeting will be Sunday, October 25th at 9:30am. The guest speakers will be Walter Gordon and Mark Ables who will discuss "Jewish Pilots Serving in Desert Storm". Men and women are welcome. Bagels and lox will be served. Please RSVP to Joanne at joanne.marquisee@gmail.com

The Women of Shir Shalom Women's Discussion Group will be Monday, October 26th at 7:00pm via Zoom. This year the book to be read is "Biblical Women Speak: Hearing their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash" by Rabbi Marla Feldman. Chapter 10 will be discussed at the first meeting. You will need to purchase your own book. Text Jill Hamilton at 716-418-2307 if you plan to attend.

A Blue Jean Shabbat will be October 30th at 6:30pm. You are welcome to wear bluejeans or other casual clothing. Check out the blue food and drinks at the Oneg Shabbat.

The Women of Shir Shalom Becker Farms Fundraiser is now in progress. Tasty fudge and pies can be ordered on the Shir Shalom website. Orders are due by November 11th. Goodies can be picked up on Sunday, November 22nd from 12:00-3:00pm or Tuesday, November 24th from 4:00-6:00pm.

The Annual Pulpit Exchange with North Presbyterian Church will be on Sunday, November 15th, when Rabbi Alex speaks at North Presbyterian at 10:15am and Friday, November 20th when Rev. Bill Hennessey will be speaking at CSS at 6:30pm.

The Annual Joint Thanksgiving Basket Project with North Presbyterian Church will be on November 21st and 22nd starting at 9:00am both days. Volunteers are needed for food sorting and food distribution. Food, turkey and monetary donations are also needed. Call Chris Cohan at 716-430-6029 to sign up or for more information.

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
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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.**