



SHIR EDUCATION 5782 • 2021-2022

Really Makes Me Wonder

‘Wonder rather than doubt is the root of knowledge... Spiritually we cannot live by merely reiterating borrowed or inherited knowledge. Inquire of your soul what does it know, what does it take for granted. It will tell you only no-thing is taken for granted; each thing is a surprise; being is unbelievable.’

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man is Not Alone*

Rabbi Heschel’s words are the perfect introduction to our Lifelong Learning Program for 5782. Through a multitude of avenues and topics we will learn more, get to know each other better and explore Jewish tradition, values, laws and customs in new and exciting ways! We will not merely ‘reiterate’ or ‘borrow’ knowledge that has been given to us. We will not take the wisdom that has been passed down to us for granted.

Our goal is to engage, inspire, surprise, expand minds and experience our peoples’ amazing history and tradition in a new light and through new lenses. From music to movies to text study to book groups to learning from some of the most accomplished scholars of our time, there is truly something for everyone! (And, if there’s something you don’t see that interests you, please be in touch with Rabbi Eric).

It’s going to be a great year and we look forward to learning with, and from, you!

SHIR AMI

101 Richboro Road • Newtown, PA 18940
215.968.3400 • www.shirami.org

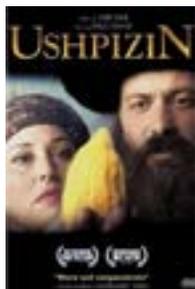
Calendar at a Glance

- Thursday, Sept 23 • **Feed Your Mind and Soul** • *Ushpizin* • 7pm
- Tuesday, Oct 5 • **Lunch and Learn**: *When Judaism Meets Science* with Roger Price • 12pm
- Tuesday, Oct 12 • **Shir Ami Record Club** • *Born To Run* led by Craig Silverman • 7:30pm
- Thursday, Oct 21 • **Speaker Series** • *Chutzpah to Chidush* with by Dr. Sarah Bunin Benor • 7:30pm
- Thursday, Oct 28 • **READS** • *The Mapmaker's Daughter* by Laurel Corona
- Tuesday, Nov 2 • **Lunch and Learn** • Remix Judaism presented by Roberta Kwall • 12:30pm
- Thursday, Nov 11 • **Feed Your Mind and Soul** • *Deli Man @ The Borscht Belt* • 5pm
- Sunday, Nov 14 • **Racial Justice Book Group** • *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson • 9:30am
- Thursday, Nov 18 • **Speaker Series** • *From Gratitude to Blessings* with Marilyn Price & David Teusch • 7:30pm
- Tuesday, Dec 7 • **Lunch and Learn** • My Israeli Story with Romi & Josh Sussman • 12pm
- Thursday, Dec 16 • **Speaker Series** • An Evening with Cantor Barbara Ostfeld • 7:30pm
- Tuesday, Dec 21 • **Shir Ami Record Club** • No Sleep 'Til Brooklyn with Ezra Briskin • 7:30pm
- Thursday, Jan 13 • **Feed Your Mind and Soul** • In Search of Israeli Cuisine • 7pm
- Sunday, Jan 23 • **Speaker Series** • Get to Know Israeli Author Ayelet Tsabari • 12pm
- Wednesday, Jan 26 • **Racial Justice Book Group** • *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander • 7pm
- Thursday, Feb 3 • **READS** • *The Orchard* by David Hopen
- Tuesday, Feb 8 • **Shir Ami Record Club** • *Billy the Kid* led by Brett Cohen • 7:30pm
- Thursday, Feb 17 • **Speaker Series** • Mental Healthy Monologues with Rabbi Laurie Katz Braun • 7:30pm
- Tuesday, Feb 22 • **Lunch and Learn** • My Jewish Story 2 **details coming soon*
- Thursday, Mar 3 - **Shir Ami Record Club** • *You've Got a Friend* led by Andi & Jay Miller • 7:30pm
- Thursday Mar 10 • **Speaker Series** • The New Antisemitism with Steve Windmueller • 7:30pm
- Wednesday Mar 23 • **Racial Justice Book Group** • *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith • 7pm
- Tuesday, Mar 29 • **Lunch and Learn** • My Jewish Story 3 **details coming soon*
- Thursday, Apr 7 • **Feed Your Mind and Soul** • Gefilte Fish • 7pm
- Tuesday, Apr 12 • **Shir Ami Record Club** • *Runnin Down a Dream* with Matt Hoffman • 7:30pm
- Thursday May 12 • **READS** • *About the Night* by Anat Talshir • 7:30pm
- Tuesday, May 24 • **Shir Ami Record Club** • *Bouncing Around the Room* with Jeff Eder • 7:30pm
- Tuesday, Jun 6 • **Lunch and Learn** • My Jewish Story 4 **details coming soon*

Feed Your Mind and Soul

Our *Feed Your Mind and Soul* series meets at the intersection of Jewish holidays, pop culture, Jewish texts and the foods that define our people. As the name suggests, we hope that participants will come 'hungry' and leave with their minds enlightened, souls lifted and bellies full. Join us as we watch, listen, eat and learn together!

Ushpizin • Thursday, September 23 • 7pm

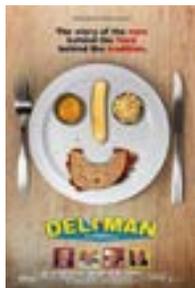


Moshe and Mali, who live in Jerusalem, are struggling financially and dream of having children of their own after trying for many years. Suffering another financial setback, they cannot pay their bills, much less prepare for the upcoming Jewish holiday of *Sukkot*. They console themselves by recalling a saying of Rebbe Nachman; difficult times are a test of faith.

Moshe and Mali are visited by a pair of escaped convicts, one of whom knows Moshe from his earlier, non-religious, life. During *Sukkot*, Jews are commanded to invite *ushpizin* (guests) into their sukkah, so Moshe invites them to stay, creating many conflicts and straining Moshe and Mali's relationship.

We kindly ask participants to watch *Ushpizin* in advance. Join us in the sukkah (weather-permitting) as we show selected scenes, learn more about *Sukkot* observance and *ushpizin* in Jewish law. We will shake lulav and etrog and enjoy a special *Sukkot* treat!

Deli Man at The Borscht Belt • Thursday, November 11 • 5pm



For some, delicatessen food is close to a religious experience. A tender, crumbling cut of corned beef steeped in its juices. A full-bodied garlic dill pickle. Spicy brown mustard with grain.

The story of the American deli is the story of Jews – their immigration, migration, upward mobility, and western assimilation. It's the history, anecdotes and humor that once made one's local delicatessen the virtual epicenter not only of food, but of family, laughter and community. *Deli Man* has visited meccas like the Carnegie Deli, Katz's, 2nd Avenue Deli, Nate'n Al's, and Langer's. He has also interviewed some of the great mavens, comedians and connoisseurs of deli, including Jerry Stiller, Alan Dershowitz, and Larry King.

*Please join us for a very special *Feed Your Mind and Soul* as we join together for a viewing of *Deli Man*, along with delicious deli treats at: The Borscht Belt •19 Bridge Street •Stockton, NJ

In Search of Israeli Cuisine • Thursday, January 13 • 7pm



In Search of Israeli Cuisine is a portrait of the Israeli people told through food. It puts a literal face on the culture of Israel. Profiling chefs, home cooks, farmers, vintners, and cheese makers drawn from more than 100 cultures that make up Israel today; Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze, a rich, complex and human story emerges.

The chef/guide of *In Search of Israeli Cuisine* is Michael Solomonov, the James Beard award winning chef/owner of Zahav, and a number of other restaurants in Philadelphia. Mike enters peoples' lives and their kitchens to discuss their roots, inspirations, what their grandmothers cooked, how they're preserving traditions and updating recipes with global influences.

Join us for an evening of learning more about Israeli cuisine and why Israel is often called a "salad bowl" as compared to a "melting pot". In celebration of *Tu B'Shevat*, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the *shivat minim* (7 Species) that are considered to most represent Israel, and to create a special recipe in which one of those species is the star! We kindly ask participants to watch *In Search of Israeli Cuisine* in advance.

Feed Your Mind and Soul

Gefilte Fish • Thursday, April 7 • 7pm



Billed as “a documentary about an endangered species”, *Gefilte Fish* introduces us to Karen Silverstein, her family and their dedication to making gefilte fish from scratch each and every Passover. How do you make their family recipe? Where did the recipe come from? Will future generations continue to make gefilte fish from scratch or serve gefilte fish from the jar? What is the special connection between this family and our Shir Ami family?

Join us as we watch the film, answer these questions (and more), reminisce about Passover traditions in our own families, learn a little more about preparing for Passover according to Jewish law/text and maybe even get the chance to meet a ‘star’ from the film!

FEED YOUR MIND AND SOUL RESOURCE GUIDE:

[Ushpizin](#) can be seen on Amazon Prime

[Deli Man](#) trailer can be seen on YouTube and the movie can be purchased through [Amazon](#)

[In Search of Israeli Cuisine](#) can be seen on Amazon Prime

[Gefilte Fish](#) can be viewed on Vimeo

“Every cuisine tells a story. Jewish Food tells the story of an uprooted, migrating people and their vanished worlds. It lives in people’s minds and has been kept alive because of what it evokes and represents”
- Claudia Roden

Lunch & Learn

Our Lunch and Learn Series is an opportunity for Shir Ami family members to get together, share a nosh, learn something new and enjoy each other's company. Topics will cover the gamut, from "The connection between Religion and Science" to "Life in Israel" from those who live there! Lunch and Learn sessions are sure to put a smile on your face, make you think, and provide new perspectives on living a meaningful Jewish life.

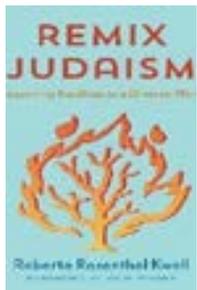
When Judaism Meets Science • Tuesday, October 5 • Time TBD presented by Roger Price



Join Roger Price in conversation with Rabbi Briskin about his book, *When Judaism Meets Science*. In the book, Price seeks to determine how Judaism and science can inform each other with respect to a broad range of contemporary issues, from abortion and allergies, to vaccinations, and violence with firearms. Finally, it peeks into the future to address issues that Judaism and science are just now beginning to discuss.

Roger Price was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received a juris doctorate degree from The University of Chicago Law School.

Remix Judaism • Tuesday, November 2 • 12:30pm presented by Roberta Kwall



Join us as Professor Kwall discusses her widely acclaimed new book, *Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World*. *Remix Judaism* demonstrates how developing a richer set of culturally religious norms can provide the foundation for a transmissible Jewish tradition, even if some of the conventional requirements of Jewish law are "remixed."

Roberta Rosenthal Kwall is the *Raymond P. Niro Professor* at DePaul University College of Law. She graduated from Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Kwall is an internationally renowned scholar and lecturer and has published over 30 scholarly articles and book chapters on a wide variety of topics including Jewish law and culture, authorship rights, and intellectual property.

My Israeli Story • Tuesday, December 7 • 12pm presented by Romi & Josh Sussman



Romi Sussman, who heads the content writing department for a technology and digital consulting company, is a teacher and writer. Originally from Los Angeles, California, she made Aliyah from Potomac, MD and is raising six boys in the hills of Gush Etzion. Romi frequently blogs about life in Israel and her experiences over the last decade, and many of her thoughts and ideas can be found on her [personal blog](#).

Josh Sussman is the Senior Events Manager for *Nefesh B'Nefesh*. After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Josh spent a year in Israel on a social service program where he met Romi. Josh worked for the Orthodox Union on Capitol Hill for six years prior to making *Aliyah*. Josh, Romi and their entire family love outdoor activities of all kinds and are currently hiking the Israel Trail as a family.

LUNCH AND LEARN RESOURCE GUIDE

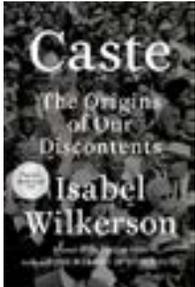
[When Judaism Meets Science](#) can be purchased on Amazon

[Remix Judaism](#) can be purchased on Amazon

Racial Justice Book Group

As we support the Religious Action Center's commitment to issues of Racial Justice in 5782, the *Tikkun Olam* Committee will be featuring three book discussions over the course of the year. Each of these books address important issues as we work to better understand issues of race and identity as Jews and as allies of people of color.

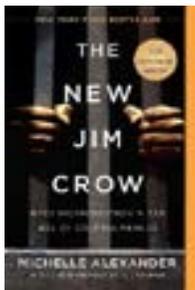
***Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson • Sunday, November 14 • 9:30am**



Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilization. Using riveting stories about people, including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige and Wilkerson herself, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews. Isabel discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against. She writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics.

Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

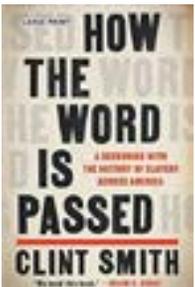
***The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander • Wednesday, January 26 • 7pm**



Seldom does a book have the impact of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Since it was first published in 2010, it has been cited in judicial decisions and has been adopted in campus-wide and community-wide reads. It helped inspire the creation of the Marshall Project and the new hundredmillion dollar Art for Justice Fund. The book has been the winner of numerous prizes, including the prestigious NAACP Image Award, and it has spent nearly 250 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Most important of all, it has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander's unforgettable argument that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it."

***How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith • Wednesday, March 23 • 7pm**



Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks that offer an intergenerational story, of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves.

How the Word Is Passed illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view. Whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods, like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted.

Informed by scholarship, and brought to life by the story of people living today, Smith's debut work of nonfiction is a landmark of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country, and how it has come to be.

RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP RESOURCE GUIDE

[Caste](#) can be purchased on Amazon

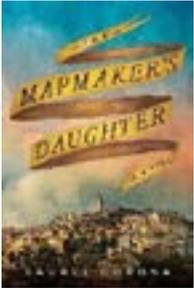
[The New Jim Crow](#) can be purchased on Amazon

[How the Word Is Passed](#) can be purchased on Amazon

READS

Join Cantor Kohlbrenner for Shir Ami READS (Reading, Engaging And Deepening Social connections)
What is READS? A book group that focuses on great books by Jewish authors and/or with Jewish themes and provides opportunities for Shir Ami family members to connect in a fun, social way!

***The Mapmakers Daughter* by Laurel Corona • Thursday, October 28 • 7:30pm**



Spain, 1492. On the eve of the Jewish expulsion from Spain, Amalia Riba stands at a crossroads. In a country violently divided by religion, she must either convert to Christianity and stay safe, or remain a Jew and risk everything.

It's a choice she's been walking toward her whole life, from the days of her youth when her family lit the Shabbat candles in secret. Back then, she saw the vast possibility of the world, outlined in the beautiful pen and ink maps her father created. But the world has shifted and contracted since then.

The Mapmaker's Daughter is a stirring novel about identity, exile, and what it means to be home.

***The Orchard* by David Hopen • Thursday, February 3 • 7:30pm**

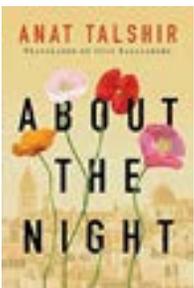


Ari Eden's life has always been governed by strict rules. In ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn, his days are dedicated to intense study and religious rituals, and adolescence feels profoundly lonely. So, when his family announces that they are moving to a glitzy Miami suburb, Ari seizes his unexpected chance for reinvention.

Enrolling in an opulent Jewish academy, Ari is stunned by his peers' dizzying wealth, ambition, and shameless pursuit of life's pleasures. When the academy's golden boy, Noah, takes Ari under his wing, Ari finds himself entangled in the school's most exclusive and wayward group. These friends are magnetic and defiant, especially Evan, the brooding genius of the bunch, still living in the shadow of his mother's death.

Influenced by their charismatic rabbi, the group begins testing their religion in unconventional ways. Soon Ari and his friends are pushing moral boundaries and careening toward a perilous future; one in which the traditions of their faith are repurposed to mysterious, tragic ends.

***About the Night* by Anat Talshir • Thursday, May 12 • 7:30pm**



On a hot summer day in 1947, on a grandstand overlooking Jerusalem, Elias and Lila fall deeply, irrevocably in love.

Tragically, they come from two different worlds. Elias is a Christian Arab living on the eastern side of the newly divided city, and Lila is a Jew living on the western side. A growing conflict between their cultures casts a heavy shadow over the region and their burgeoning relationship. Between them lie not only a wall of stone and barbed wire, but also the bitter enmity of two nations at war.

Told in the voice of Elias as he looks back upon the long years of his life, *About the Night* is a timely story of how hope can nourish us, loss can devastate us, and love can carry us beyond the boundaries that hold human beings apart.

READS RESOURCE GUIDE

[*The Mapmakers Daughter*](#) can be purchased on Amazon

[*The Orchard*](#) can be purchased on Amazon

[*About the Night*](#) can be purchased on Amazon

Shir Ami Record Club

Shir Ami Record Club is a chance for Shir Ami family members to discuss their favorite bands, singers, songwriters and albums...with a twist! At least one member of the band must be Jewish, and in sharing what they love about the band and/or album (including playing some of their favorite songs), each presenter will also share a little bit about the Jewish journey of the member(s) of the band they love. We hope you will join us for evenings of music, friendship and great stories.

***Born To Run* • Tuesday, October 12 • 7:30pm** **led by Craig Silverman**



In Bruce Springsteen's own words "Max...anticipates my thoughts as they come rolling full bore toward the drum riser. It's a near telepathy that comes from years of playing and living together. With Max at my back, the questions are answered before they're asked". (*Born to Run*)

Join us in learning more about the life and music of Bruce Springsteen and Max Weinberg from a member of the Shir Ami family who has been to 35+ Bruce shows, and has more than a few Bruce albums in his musical collection. Craig Silverman will lead us on a musical journey that is intensely personal and we can all relate to at the same time.

***No Sleep 'Til Brooklyn* • Tuesday, December 21 • 7:30pm** **led by Ezra Briskin**



According to Tablet Magazine, when Adam Yauch, Michael Diamond and Adam Horovitz released their 1986 album, *License to Ill*, on Def Jam, they created a space for themselves in popular music that hadn't existed in a meaningful way since before World War II, a space for Jews to coexist with black music meant to subvert assumptions. And while their behavior may have been viewed as "oh-so-unbecoming of well-to-do New York Jews", they created some of the most enduring rap albums of the era.

The list of Jews who are rappers and/or have been involved in the production and promotion of rap music is long and storied. From the Beastie Boys and Drake to Lyor Cohen and Rick Rubin. Join Ezra Briskin as he leads us on a musical adventure exploring the most influential figures both in front of the mic and behind the scenes.

***Billy the Kid* • Tuesday, February 8 • 7:30pm** **led by Brett Cohen**



In 2017, Billy Joel walked on stage at Madison Square Garden wearing a bright yellow star sewn onto his suit jacket. It was shortly after events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the usually non-political Joel was asked why he chose to wear that bright yellow star on this particular night. He replied: "My old man, his family got wiped out. They were slaughtered at Auschwitz. Him and his parents were able to get out."

How did Billy Joel's family history play, or not play, a role in his upbringing, his music, his lyrics?

Join Brett Cohen, Billy Joel aficionado and attendee of an uncountable amount of Billy Joel concerts, as he shares some of his favorite Billy Joel songs, why those songs mean so much to him, and how Billy's Jewish history influenced the music he created.

Shir Ami Record Club

***You've Got a Friend* • Thursday, March 3 • 7:30pm** **led by Andi and Jay Miller**



they were given at birth).

From Burt Bacharach to Neil Diamond to Carole King and countless others, Jewish singer songwriters have been at the top of the charts and on the radio airwaves for decades. Their songs are timeless, and have been played at weddings, birthdays and lazy Sunday afternoons throughout our lives. But what do we really know about their 'Jewish' stories? How did their family history and their own view of being Jewish have an impact on their lives – from the music they played to the stories they told and the names they used onstage (as compared to the ones

Join Andi and Jay Miller for an evening of wonderful memories, personal stories and a look into the mind, heart and soul of those singer songwriters who have changed the musical landscape of the past, present and future.

***Runnin Down a Dream* • Tuesday, May April 12 • 7:30pm** **led by Matt Hoffman**



When Howie Epstein, bassist for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers passed away in 2003, the band issued the following statement: "It's difficult to put into words how much we loved him and will miss him. The world has lost a great talent and a kind soul."

Epstein appeared on six Heartbreakers albums — from 1982's "Long After Dark" to 1999's "Echo", and his bass and backing vocals can be heard on "Learning to Fly" and "You Got

Lucky." He also recorded with Bob Dylan, Stevie Nicks and Warren Zevon, in the '80s, and received a Grammy for producing John Prine's album "The Missing Years".

Join us as Matt Hoffman, Shir Ami member and big fan of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, teaches us more about a 'nice Jewish boy' from Milwaukee who became the bassist for one of the biggest rock bands in the world and created music that changed our lives forever.

***Bouncing Around the Room* • Tuesday, May 24 • 7:30pm** **led by Jeff Eder**



The first ever academic conference on the jam band Phish was held on the campus of Oregon State University in 2019. On Sunday afternoon May 19th, there was a Panel Session entitled "People of the (Helping Friendly) Book: Jews, Judaism, and Phish". Led by Rabbis and scholars, the session focused on Phish's connection to, and development of, Jewish cultural identity, clergy spiritual development and the Jewish community.

The connection between Judaism and Phish runs deep. Join us as Shir Ami family member, Jeff Eder leads us on journey that begins in Vermont, makes its way through many of our summer camp experiences and continues to travel around the world!



Speaker Series

Shir Ami Speaker Series seeks to introduce Shir Ami family members to great thinkers, teachers and artists from throughout the Jewish world. Speakers will share personal stories, insights into the Jewish community and knowledge that will inspire and make you think.

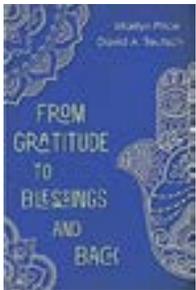
Chutzpah to Chidush • Thursday October 21 • 7:30pm presented by Dr. Sarah Bunin Benor



Dr. Sarah Bunin Benor is Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at HUC-JIR where she teaches in the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management and undergraduates at the University of Southern California. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Linguistics in 2004. She is the author of *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* and *Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps*, as well as many articles about Jewish languages, Yiddish, and American Jews.

Dr. Benor will show how Yiddish has influenced the English of Jews (and non-Jews) in the U.S. In addition to words like *shlep*, *klutz*, and *maven*, Yiddish also affects English grammar and phrases like “be well” and “enough already”. Yiddish has an impact both on the “Yinglish” of the Ashkenazic immigrant generation, and on the “Yeshivish” English spoken by Orthodox Jews today. Songs by Mickey Katz, Seymour Rechtzeit, and contemporary Orthodox bands demonstrate how Yiddish has had similar but different influences in various spheres of American Jewish life.

From Gratitude to Blessings • Thursday November 18 • 7:30pm presented by Marilyn Price and David Teusch



Marilyn Price is an international storyteller, puppeteer, educator, and author. A specialist in creativity training, she heads a not-for-profit foundation, TriBraining, Inc., which teaches how to reach multiple learners within formal and experiential venues

Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D is Professor Emeritus and Senior Consultant for the Center for Jewish Ethics at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote PA. He is the author of several books, and is the senior editor of *Kol Haneshema*, the siddur of the Reconstructionist movement. He and Marilyn Price are the co-authors of *From Gratitude to Blessings*, which the two of them will explore with us.

An exquisite combination of Judaism’s common blessings, stories from everyday life, and tales and wisdom from Jewish tradition. *From Gratitude to Blessings* is a source of inspiration and a cause for self-reflection. Seeing opportunities for blessings can lead the way to seeing the beauty in our lives. The authors, a storyteller and a scholar who are long-time friends, have brought their diverse skills, insights, and experiences to help people discover the blessings in their own lives and connect afresh to their religious paths.

An Evening with Cantor Barbara Ostfeld • Thursday, December 16 • 7:30pm



Barbara Ostfeld didn’t become obsessed by singing until she was two. At age 17 she cracked through a ‘stained glass ceiling’ and was admitted to Hebrew Union College’s School of Sacred Music. At age 22 she became the first woman ordained as a cantor in 3,000 years of Jewish history. She served for more than 27 years as cantor of congregations in New Jersey and New York, and then for ten years as the placement director of the American Conference of Cantors.

In addition to writing articles and essays, Cantor Ostfeld’s very personal book, *Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim*, tells the story of an insightful, opinionated eight-year-old growing up plump, nerdy and Jewish in a Chicago suburb. Three things make her happy: singing, reading books, and going to Temple. Ridicule makes her afraid to open her mouth...but her love of singing propels her. Overcoming her own crises and the challenges of finding her way in a male profession, Barbara Ostfeld shows us that we are all brave pioneers at becoming our true selves.

Speaker Series

Get to Know Israeli author Ayelet Tsabari • Sunday, January 23 • 12pm



Ayelet Tsabari was born in Israel to a large family of Yemeni descent. She graduated from, and taught at Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio and the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph. She is the author of *The Art of Leaving*, winner of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, and an Apple Books and *Kirkus Review* Best Book of 2019.

Her first book, *The Best Place on Earth*, won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction. The book was a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, and has been published internationally to great acclaim.

Ayelet will be joining us from Israel to share her family's personal story, a series of readings from her books, and a brief for participants to ask questions.

Mental Health Monologues • Thursday, February 17 • 7:30pm presented by Rabbi Laurie Katz Braun



The Youth Mental Health Project is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate, empower, and support families and communities to better understand and care for the mental health of our youth.

Their movie, *Mental Health Monologues*, is based on true stories written by young people who are struggling or have struggled with mental health challenges during childhood or teen years.

The movie is powerful, thought-provoking and very real for so many of our teens at this time in history.

We invite adults and teens to join us to watch for a screening of the film followed by an open and honest discussion with Laurie Katz Braun; rabbi, writer, parent, mental health advocate and Shir Ami family member. Rabbi Braun has provided spiritual guidance and mental health advocacy for families and youth since her first professional role on the Religious and Cultural Support Team at a Residential Treatment Facility in California. She has served communities in New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Michigan.

The New Antisemitism • Thursday, March 10 • 7:30pm presented by Dr. Steven Windmueller



Dr. Steven Windmueller served as the Dean of the Los Angeles Campus of HUC-JIR and directed the School of Jewish Communal Service (now the Zelikow School of Jewish Non-Profit Management) from 1995-2006. He specializes on political issues and American Jewish affairs and holds a doctorate in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Windmueller has written extensively on the Middle East, Jewish public and civic affairs, and global social trends. Currently, he is writing about Jewish political behavior, having released several studies on Jewish voting patterns, including a major study entitled "Are American Jews Becoming Republican?".

As a result of his research on Jewish Political affairs, he is frequently quoted in such publication as the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, and eJewishphilanthropy, a daily web-publication. The Wind Report, an interactive website, serves as a repository of Dr. Windmueller's extensive writing.

SPEAKER SERIES RESOURCE GUIDE

- [*Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*From Gratitude to Blessings and Back*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*The Art of Leaving*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*The Best Place on Earth*](#) can be purchased on Amazon
- [*Mental Health Monologues*](#) can be seen on YouTube

The Lifelong Learning committee and clergy of Shir Ami invite you to be inspired and rekindle your knowledge and love for Jewish Learning.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration is requested so that adequate space and material can be prepared. Courses are free for Shir Ami members. A donation is requested from non-members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- I am interested in:
- Feed Your Mind and Soul
 - Lunch & Learn
 - Racial Justice Book Group
 - Reads
 - Shir Ami Record Club
 - Speaker Series

Be a “Keeper of Jewish Excellence”

“Get yourself a teacher, find someone to study with, judge everyone favorably.”
-Pirke Avot

We extend an invitation for you to become a Keeper of Jewish Excellence. Supporting all of the important mitzvot of learning and prayer allows us to continue our Lifelong Learning commitments.

\$500 \$250 \$180 \$100 Other

Please make checks payable to Shir Ami
Mail to: Shir Ami - Lifelong Learning • 101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA 18940

