SHIRWN

Nov. | Dec. 2023 - Chesvan / Kislev / Tevet 5784



FROM OUR RABBI'S STUDY

A Time to Give Thanks; A Time to Shine Brightly | Rabbi Charles Briskin



RABBI CHARLES BRISKIN

Since October 7, 2023, the day that forever changed Israel, I've been living in two worlds. One world is continually filled with despair, anguish, pain, anger and sadness. Every story I read about the suffering that those murdered by Hamas terrorists, every story about the fate of the hostages, every image that shows empty place settings, empty lecture halls, and even empty strollers stirs up these aforementioned emotions. Sometimes just making it through the day is challenging.

The other world is filled with joy and (relative) normalcy. A few weeks ago our parking lot was filled with mostly dogs (and a couple of cats) for our annual Blessing of the Pets ritual that we do on the week that we read the story of Noah and his ark. Conversations about the Phillies and the Eagles remain ever present. I've celebrated

with b.mitzvah families and wedding couples, and I've led some baby naming ceremonies. I've gone to a couple of concerts and the movies as I continue to live my life (relatively) normally.

Thoughts of what is happening in Israel never leave my mind, however, sometimes I am able to push them back a little bit and allow for some joy and gratitude to come to the forefront.

As we continue through the autumn and towards winter, the days will become shorter, the air cooler. We do not yet know what these next couple of months will bring to Israel, Gaza, the worldwide Jewish community and the world as a whole. Sadly, I believe that it is going to get much worse before it begins to get better again, God willing, very soon.

However, we know that at the end of this month, Thanksgiving will come. We will gather at our tables, surrounded by close family and friends, expressing our gratitude for all of the blessings that we continue to experience in our lives—health, happiness, contentment, the support of community and family, relative stability in our lives.

I am looking forward to being with Karen's family in San Francisco this year for the first time in at least fifteen years. I usually loathe getting on a plane during the week of Thanksgiving. However, in recent years, as my Boston family's Thanksgiving has changed, the need to be with a larger gathering of family became more pronounced. Hopefully by flying on Monday night and returning Friday we will avoid the worst of it. As I celebrate around a full table, I know that I will also be thinking of Israelis who no longer have full tables for Shabbat, Passover, and other holiday celebrations. This is how both of my worlds collide continually.

Two weeks after Thanksgiving, we will light the first candle for Hanukkah. And in between, at Shir Ami, we will have a wonderful celebration to install Cantor Julie Berlin as our newest clergy. These opportunities will enable us to shine our lights brightly. Not only will we put a spotlight on some beautiful changes that Cantor Berlin is bringing to all facets of our congregation, we will also increase the light, night by night, as we add a new candle to the Hanukkah menorah.

Hannukah is important and needed for that exact reason. In a world that is physically and existentially dark, the flames of the Hannukah menorah remind us of the bright spots in our lives that we can overlook in times of trouble and despair.

I will likely continue to live in two worlds for a long time. However, I cannot allow the despair of this extended moment to completely consume me. I urge all of us to look for moments when we can offer praise and thanks to those who bring meaning to our lives. I urge all of us to find the lights that pierce the darkness. We will remember the pain while also lifting up the light and blessings in our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, and may peace descend upon Jerusalem and all Israel.

MEDITATIONS & MORNING BLESSINGS w/ Rabbi Briskin

Wednesdays and Fridays | 8:45am-9am | via ZOOM

Did you remember to take your Morning Meds?

15 minutes of mindfulness meditation can be a great way to jumpstart your day. Join Rabbi Briskin for a short morning ritual that includes mindful meditation, music and more. Every Wednesday and Friday from 8:45-9:00 a.m. on Zoom. No previous experience with meditation is necessary.

**Zoom links can be found on calendar and in weekly Shir Happenings email.



Rabbi Chuck Briskin was recently selected to be part of the 18Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship on Interfaith Outreach. He is one of 27 rabbis chosen from across the country and across the denominations to explore deep issues related to interfaith inclusion in our congregations and communities.

18Doors is an entry point to Jewish life for interfaith couples and families, and a catalyst for connection.

18Doors cultivates belonging and inclusion in Jewish spaces for people in interfaith relationships and meets people "where they're at" - recognizing that there's no "one size fits all" approach to anyone on their personal journey, or to any couple on their journey together. To learn more about 18Doors, check out their website.

As part of this 18-month fellowship, Rabbi Briskin will be part of a cohort that meets monthly on Zoom to explore a wide range of issues related to interfaith inclusion, participate in two in-person retreats and create a capstone project.

By participating in the Fellowship, Rabbi Briskin will be continually exploring how to best serve members of Shir Ami in interfaith relationships in a way that is authentic to his rabbinate and to the Shir Ami community. Rabbinic colleagues in his cohort and the 18Doors staff who work with the Fellowship, will serve as thought partners, throughout the fellowship and beyond.

If you are interested in talking to Rabbi Briskin to learn more about this fellowship or to discuss your interfaith family's journey, please contact him directly to set up a time to meet.

Friday, Nov. 3

7pm Intergenerational Shabbat Service with Shir Ami Clergy and Michael Smolen featuring November birthday and anniversary blessings.

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Nov. 4

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Rabbi Briskin Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Burstein B'nai Mitzvah

4:00pm

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Friday, Nov. 10

7pm Veteran's Day Shabbat w/ Choir and Special Oneg.
Lt. Becca Weiss, United States Navy will offer reflections on her years of service. We will also honor each branch of the service with a musical medley of their songs. Active or retired service people, please feel free to wear your uniform.

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Nov. 11

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Ruth Schapira Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Eder Bat Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

7:00pm Etz Chaim Hi - It is a Tree of Life Night of Learning Ohev Shalom

Sunday, Nov. 12

9:30am Shir Sprouts Sunday w/ Cantor Berlin Geared towards Children ages 0-4. Siblings Welcome! For ELC families & Shir Ami families with toddlers) Elson Auditorium

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER-WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 17

6:00pm K-2nd Grade Family Shabbat Experience REGISTER HERE

7:00pm Shabbat Service w/ Torah Reading Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Nov. 18

Chevrat Torah w/ Cantor Julie Berlin Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Luber Bat Mitzvah

4:30pm Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Friday, Nov. 24

7:00pm Shabbat Services
Join us from the comfort of your
home for a service on *Zoom only*.

Saturday, Nov. 25

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Rabbi Paula Goldberg Zoom Only

Friday, Dec. 1

7:00pm Shabbat Service
w/ Cantor Berlin Installation
A festive Shabbat service featuring
the Installation of Cantor Julie Berlin.
We will share a special ceremony for
her installation as we welcome Rabbi
Barry Block, Senior Rabbi of
Congregation B'nai Israel in Little
Rock, Arkansas, one of Cantor Berlin's
mentors, to officiate at the Installation Ceremony and to offer some
words of Torah. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow.

See details on Page 6
Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec 2

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/Cantor Flo Friedman Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Lee Bat Mitzvah

10:15am Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Friday, Dec. 8

7:00pm Hanukkah Rock Shabbat featuring the Shir Ami band. We rock the house on this second night of Hanukkah with a creative Shabbat service accompanied by the Shir Ami band. Bring your Hanukkah menorah for a community wide candle lighting during the service. Earplugs will be provided.

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 9

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Ruth Schapira Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Dalewitz Bat Mitzvah

4:30pm

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Friday, Dec. 15

5:30pm Shir Sprouts Hanukkah, honoring PreK

7:00pm Shabbat Services w/ Choir Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 16

URJ 150 Anniversary in DC

Friday, Dec. 22

7:00pm Shabbat Service w/ Torah Reading

Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 23

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Cantor Julie Berlin Chodorow FLC & Zoom

Friday, Dec. 29

7:00pm Shabbat Service Zoom Only

Saturday, Dec. 30

10:15am Chevrat Torah w/ Rabbi Paula Goldberg Zoom Only

PLEASE NOTE

All Services that are held in the **Abraham-Swerdlow Sanctuary** are streamed and can be viewed by clicking the LIVESTREAM link on the top of our website's

Services and programs that are offered via Zoom will have links in our weekly Shir Happenings email.

home page.

B.mitzvah

Mia & Samuel Burstein

children of Sarah & Mark Burstein

November 4 2023 20 Cheshvan 5784 Parashat Chayei Sarah



Abby Eder

daughter of Melanie Cutler & Jeff Eder

Nov 11, 2023 27 Cheshvan 5784 Parashat Chayei Sarah



Natalie Luber

daughter of Jacklyn & Marc Luber

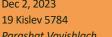
Nov 18, 2023 5 Kisley 5784 Parashat Toldot



Rebekah Lee

daughter of Kate & Michael Lee

Dec 2, 2023 Parashat Vayishlach



Madison Dalewitz

daughter of Alison & Mike Dalewitz

Dec 9, 2023 26 Kisley 5784 Parashat Miketz (Hanukkah)



Join us! Friday, November 10th for a special Veteran's Day Shabbat 7 PM at Shir Ami with special guest speaker, Shir Ami's own Becca Weiss, Navy Lieutenant, who will THANK YOU share her story on "Pirates and Patriotism." With deep gratitude, the Shir Ami community This oneg is sponsored by the Eder and Weiss families in honor of Abby

Eder's bat mitzvah and Veteran's Day.

INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

STARRING

OPENING ACT

Friday, December 1 5:30pm Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service w/ Oneg



ENCORE Tikkun Olam Family Project

Sunday, December 3 9:00am

CANTOR JULIE BERLIN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 7:00PM

CHECK OUT
THE EVENT LIST
HERE

Crossing Vineyards & Winery 1853 Wrightstown Road Newtown DRESS TO PARTY

WINE & COCKTAILS • DJ & DANCING • FOOD & FRIENDS

RSVP here by November 17

Condolences

- John Allred on the death of his wife Marcy Schaeffer Allred
- Andrea Silverman on the death of her mother Helene Evans
- Andrew Rothman of the death of his father David Rothman

Welcome New Members

- Sara & Elan Levy and Benny
- Samantha & Zachary Silverberg
- Ashley & Zachary Bencan
- Felicia Wagman
- Lana & Matt White
- Jessica & Jason Levy
- Sarah & Evan Kleiman
- Terry & Marc Weisberg
- Lynn & Scott Rubin
- Amanda & Joel Freedman
- Nicole & Gregory Gilston
- Lisa & Jordan Reiss
- Chelsey & Matthew List * As of 10.23.23



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHIR AMI WELCOMES THE JAFFE FAMILY



FAMILY MEMBERS AND OCCUPATIONS, AGES/GRADES OF CHILDREN, PETS:

Jordana: CEO of Your Happy Helpers, Virtual Assistant Agency

Gena (pronounced Jenna): Entrepreneur Parker: 6.5 Josie: 3.5 Blue: cat, 2

NEW HOME: Newtown, Pa (Goodnoe Elementary)

WHY YOU JOINED SHIR AMI: To be a part of a close-knit community that offered lots of activities for kids

HOW YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME/HOBBIES: Game & movie nights and hanging out with family

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Bethany Beach, Delaware (the last trip we took)

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Oishi and Jules SPORTS TEAM: Eagles and Phillies

FUN FACT: We met on the NYC subway, we both happened to get on the Bryant Park stop - years later, we named our son Parker Bryant to memorialize that moment

FAVORITE MUSIC: Imagine Dragons FAVORITE FOOD: Mexican

FAVORITE QUOTE: Live as though your prayers have already been answered

REFUAH SHLEIMAH

We Pray for Healing of Body, Mind and Spirit for:

Jay Alexander
Arlene Applebaum
Joshua Banner
Bunny Barschi
William Berger
Ken Bieber
Laurie Braun
Carol Cherson
Eric Cherson
Barbara Paley
Cohen

Mary Dayen
Diane Dienstman
Claudia Digesu
Mona Feldman
Arthur Fisher
Elaine Geiger

Rylee Gersten Howard Jordan Goldberg Irv Goldfinger Zachary Hirsh Albert Jones Marvin Kalafer

Richard Kaplan Steven Katz Karen Katz Ruth Kranetz Adam Kritzer Nancy Lever Amy Lasner

Loralee Love

Miriam Necowitz

Kaye Paletz Meryl Paletz Ann Pollock Linda Pura

Ronit Rackowski Robert Rosen Mark Rothbardt Larry Schaeffer Arthur Schimmel

Rick Shelly

Marilyn Sheniak Lidia Solomonov Karin Surkin

Anne Timmons

Ira Tabas

Susan Weisberg Susan Westheimer Rabbi Eric Wisnia

Please take a moment to review the Refuah Shleimah list. If there is anyone who should be added or removed, please email

jodie.levinson@shiramipa.org

KADDISH LIST IS AVAILABLE ON THE SHABBAT HAPPENINGS EMAIL THAT IS SENT OUT ON THURSDAYS

On the anniversary (yahrzeit) of the death of your loved one, it is customary to light a candle in memory of that person. The yahrzeit candle burns for twenty-four hours serving as a sacred and somber symbol of your mourning while framing this period of remembrance (yizkor). Before lighting the candle, you may choose, on your own or with family and friends, to recall the everlasting gifts that your loved one left behind for you to cherish and protect. As you prepare to light the candle, you may recite this benediction to help you focus your attention and to create an intention for this solemn moment.

"Ner Adonai nishmat adam; The light of god shines in our soul." (Proverbs 20:27)

[I/we] give thanks for the blessing of life, for companionship, and for memory.

Our tradition teaches us that we never lose those we love, for love is stronger than death.

So [I/we] kindle this light now, and as it burns, so may the memory of ______continue to be an inspiration.

(From the CCAR Rabbi's manual;2015)

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 CIRCLE OF GIVING DONORS

Chazak (Strength

Joseph & Johanna DiMedio Jon & Meri Stevens

Tzedek (Righteousness)

Daniel & Karin Surkin

Chesed (Kindness)

Jack & Sharon Benoff Bob & Donna DeSantis Harvey & Paula Goldberg Ed & Ellie Short

Ahava (Love)

Anonymous Donor
Eric & Geri Golberg
Mark & Margie Kopins
Alan & Stephanie Kravatz
Jerry & Harriet Paley
Yale & Erin Saltzman
Steven & Lindye Shechtman
Scott & Debbie Stevens
William Spitz & Meryl Reis

Chaver (Friend)

Leonard & Risa Kane Kenneth Lipton Marc & Jackie Luber Sandy Luber

Simcha (Joy)

Ron Abraham
Helen Berman
Charles & Karen Briskin
Brett & Randi Cohen
Bruce & Pamela Dick
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Norm & Linda Idleberg
Howard & Janis Kritzer
Michael & Beth LaPat
Marvin & Marlene Laster
Neil & Rachel Lesser
Judy Mazess
Steve & Myrna Pressman
Steve & Elaine Rovner

Kavod (Honor)

Bob & Debbie Dunn Jarad Fingerman Allan & Susan Goodman Peter Koe Dennis & Phyllis Malinger Lowell & Judy Mann Steve & Dee Rodos

Shalom (Peace)

Robert & Flora Day Neil & Dara Dayen

Beracha (Blessing)

Adam & Diane Dienstman Mitchell & Elizabeth Jacobs Paul & Ellen Rawicz Michael & Rachael Smolen Chai (Life) Harvey & Marjorie Abramson Marshall & Karen Asner Ken & Susan Bieber Daniel & Barbara Blumberg Arlene Buchman Jason & Natalie Cohen Nicholas & Claudia Digesu Kevin & Bronnie Fiely Jack & Diane Fein Richard & Lynne Fiorelli Glen & Robyn Firestone Gene & Iris Freyer Scott & Jodi Friedman Mark & Beverly Goldberg Brett & Shawn Goldberg Nathaniel & Joanna Holzman Arlene Illiesco Elaine Jancourtz Jeffrey & Rachel Lyons Becky Markowitz James & Beth McAleese George & Ellen Rifkin Steve & Debbie Rosenberg Brian & Melissa Rubenstein Alex & Rachel Sigman Ron & Ann Smolow Elliot & Susan Strom Harold & Diana Turek-Gever Jeremi & Rachel Tyler Philip & Eileen Weinstein Brandon & Rebecca Weiss Marc & Lisa Weiss

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^{**}Donations as of 10.20.23

To donate to the Circle of Giving Fund:

	Giving for the fiscal
Name:	2024. I pledge, in a
	dues, the following
Phone:	Giving:
	\$10,000 - 0
E-Mail	57,200 – T
	\$5,400 - 0
Please make checks payable to Shir Ami and mail to:	\$3,600 - A
101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA 18940	\$2,500 - (
Donors at all levels will be recognized monthly in the Shiron.	\$1,800 - 9
	\$1,000 - 1
Enclosed is my check (payable to "Shir Ami")	\$720 - 9
Please bill my account (in accordance with my current payment plan)	\$540 - B
Please have the office contact me to discuss payment arrangements	\$360 - 0
FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT CIRCLE OF GIVING:	
215.968.3400 pnordlinger@shiramipa.org	

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Stephanie Kravatz

It was so nice seeing so many of you during the High Holidays. In my Yom Kippur speech, I challenged everyone to become more engaged, to see the power of our community and to help grow and sustain our synagogue.

People often ask me what is the value of synagogue membership. You and I know that the answer to that question evolves as we do. During the years when their children are young you will find families participating in preschool gatherings, religious school programs or intergenerational shabbatot. As the children grow older and leave the home, many "empty-nesters" try to find a new connection to the synagogue that doesn't revolve around their children.

When I began my Presidency, my first task was to assign our board members to the various Shir Ami committees. It's not just board members who populate these committees though. They should be populated by members from all sections of our congregation. Are you interested in Education?

Join our preschool, religious school or youth com-STEPHANIE KRAVATZ tion to the Circle of Giving this year. mittee. Do you have a financial background? Join our finance or philanthropy committees. Is engagement your cup of tea? We have membership, communications and marketing, inclusion and the chesed/caring committee. Shir Ami prides itself on our Tikkun

Olam initiatives. We don't just collect food on Yom Kippur, but rather our food bank serves the Bucks County community all year long. Join us for food sorting events on Sunday mornings. Help out with our Code Blue efforts as we house and feed the homeless in December or help all year round as we prepare bagged lunches for the Reach Out Foundation. Engage with others as we tackle social justice and advocacy issues as part of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center. Please don't forget that our congregational auxiliaries; Women of Shir Ami, Men's club and Shaak are always looking for people who are interested in socializing and advancing Tikkun Olam efforts. If joining a committee feels like too much of a commitment, join our book club or come to a lifelong learning event. Play Mah Jongg or canasta. Sing in the choir, play in the band, pray at Chevrat Torah Shabbat morning minyan. Meditate with Rabbi Briskin, join our baking group, or send

cards to fellow congregants who are ill. Make a dinner for a meal train. Help us plan the Cantor's Installation Party or Purim or Chanukah or the golf tournament.

There's soooo much to do! You just need to take the first step!

In order to support all of these programs we rely on your generosity beyond your affiliation fees. The Circle of Giving Fund enables Shir Ami to provide robust educational experiences for learners of all ages and meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth. It helps us to create a lasting impact on our community

> through Social Justice initiatives and to connect with each other through dynamic so-

cial activities. Thank you to those who have made contributions in the past year and a special thank you to those who have recommitted themselves to helping our community thrive this year. If you want to help sustain and grow our congregation, I ask you to consider making a dona-

This year, my pledge for 5784 is to grow Shir Ami and make everyone feel welcomed.

This year, I challenge you to embrace the power of our community, to cherish it and to support Shir Ami.

This year, pledge to be present, committed and engaged. You'll know what the value of synagogue membership is and I know you will find it to be meaningful and rewarding.



Past Presidents' Torah Processional Kol Nidre 5784

LIFELONG LEARNING NOV | DEC

Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel Led by Rabbi Eric

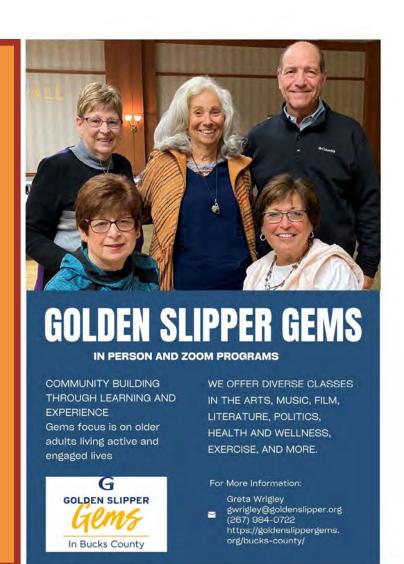
Thursday, November 2 | 7pm Stevens Atrium REGISTER HERE

Introduction to Judaism Series: presented by Bucks County Clergy and Miller Introduction to Judaism

Thursday, November 2 | 7pm via Zoom

REGISTER HERE

Etz Hayyim Hee—It is a Tree of Life:' A
Night of Jewish Learning
Sponsored by the Bucks County Clergy
Council and hosted by Ohev Shalom
Saturday, November 11 | 7pm
REGISTER HERE





Contact
Meryl Reis
if interested:
msmeryl23@gmail.com

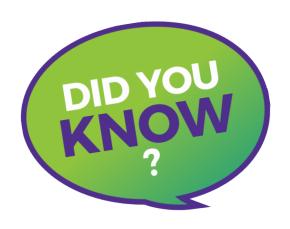
NIGHTTIME BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS Open to All

We read contemporary fiction and have engaging discussions, led by our readers. Yes, we talk about the book.

Join us on the second Monday of every month 7:30 pm | Main Office Conference Room

Monday November 13
The Town of Babylon by Alejandro Varela

Monday December 11
Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton



HOW TO ACCESS REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) FOR SHIR AMI DONATION

At what age do the required minimum distribution rules apply?

If you are at least 73 this year you must continue to make annual minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA.

If you turned 72 last year and delayed taking RMD until this year, your first RMD had to be taken by 4/1/23, and your second RMD must be taken before 12/31/23.

If you turned 72 this year, your first RMD needs to be taken in 2024.

Your RMD is treated as ordinary taxable income. Failure to make RMD will result in a 25% tax penalty on the amount not withdrawn.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

You can avoid tax on an RMD by causing your IRA custodian/trustee to pay the funds directly to Shir Ami. A QCD amount, up to \$100,000, will count towards a required minimum distribution. The QCD paid directly to Shir Ami is not treated as taxable income, nor is it characterized as a deductible charitable contribution.

While above discussion deals with interplay of RMDs and QCDs, you can commence taking QCDs at age 70 ½, i.e., before RMD rules apply to you.

Benefit of QCD

Tax savings using QCD is achieved at multiple levels depending on your amount of adjusted gross income and amount of deductions claimed. At minimum, if taking the standard deduction, QCD savings is the amount of distribution at your marginal income tax bracket. Absent the QCD amount, Medicare Parts B and D premiums could be higher depending on level of adjusted gross income. The 3.8% surtax on net investment income would also be impacted if the threshold on income would otherwise be reached if RMD was included in income absent utilizing QCD.



Why are the Jewish Why are the Jewish Why are the Jewish and Jewish which the Jewish times every year? times every year? What do we believe about life after death?

Explore the answers to these questions and more with

INTRO TO JUDAISM

A community learning program presented by the clergy of Bucks County

Classes take place
Thursday evenings via Zoom
starting November 2
7pm
(18 sessions with breaks for holidays)

REGISTER HERE

\$180 / person \$250/ couple

This class is for people who are Jewish and not, who want to learn more about Judaism, its holidays,traditions, history, and more.

Whether you are rediscovering your heritage, converting to Judaism, or want to understand your partner's traditions, this class is for you.

PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

Beth El Yardley Brothers of Israel Kehilat HaNahar Kol Emet Ohev Shalom Shir Ami Temple Judea Tifereth Israel



Use phone to register





Table Feud- Spinner Of Fortune - PA Says 3 Games, Tables vs. Tables, with... Real Prizes!!!

Free Dinner and Show for Paid Members

Bring feminine products to donate to "I Support Philadelphia Girls."

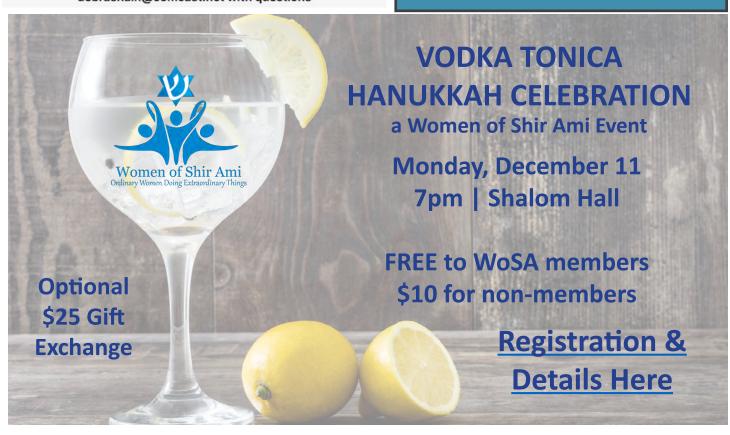
After paying your membership dues, RSVP by 11/8 on the Shir Ami website:

https://www.shirami.org/event/wosa-paid-up-membershipevent.html

Contact Amy Kirsh at 215.593.4711 or Debra Shain at debrashain@comcast.net with questions

I'ts not to late to join Women of Shir Ami and attend our Paid-Up Membership Game Show Night

Join WoSA Here



WOMEN OF SHIR AMI

Happy New Year, Happy New Start | Nancy Axler



It's that time of year! Our big

membership drive has been in full force, and now it's time to celebrate together. In barely two weeks we are hosting our paid-up membership dinner, and we're excited to entertain you with Bob Scott's Game Show Night!

NANCY AXLER

Gather with us for an evening of Italian Food while playing alternate versions of Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud, and PA Says. It's all FREE if you've paid your membership dues so go to the Women of Shir Ami page of the website to RSVP. Let us know if you want us to reserve a table for you with specific women or if you're looking to meet a few new friends.

At the event, we will be collecting donations of feminine products to be donated to "I Support Philadelphia Girls." Please feel free to bring copies of a few well-loved recipes, too, that we can include in a cookbook of our favorite foods.

We also invite you to join members from the Women of Reform Judaism for a luncheon and tour of the Marie Laurencin exhibition at the Barnes Foundation. Join your friends from other local synagogues to enjoy over 50 works being presented from this French artist. If you have the time, you can come with us on the way there to help at the Jewish Relief Agency, preparing food packages for delivery to those in need. It's a great opportunity to be compassionate and appreciative all in one day, and you won't even have to miss an Eagles game.

Then we'd love for you to attend our annual Hanuk-kah party on December 11. The theme is Vodka Tonica for Hanukkah. Share some snacks, enjoy a pleasing beverage, participate in our gift exchange, and make some fun memories as we celebrate the Festival of Lights together. Cooking oils will be collected at this event to be donated to Shir Ami's food pantry.

So mark these dates on your calendar:

- Now through November 26 Hanukkah Candle Sales (benefits Shir Ami Food Pantry)
- November 12 Marie Laurencin Exhibition at The Barnes Foundation with WRJ
- November 15 Game Show Night (Free Paid-Up Membership Dinner)
- December 3 Pre-ordered Hanukkah Candles Pick-up
- December 11 Vodka Tonica for Hanukkah (with Holiday gift exchange)
- November 12 and December 17 JRA Food Packing

Many more events are in the works. Are you interested in learning to play mahjong? We'll be offering lessons for a few Sunday mornings later in the year. Don't forget to order your 2024 mahjong cards from our Gift Shop. Then, we'll be getting ready to help at the ELC Sweetheart Dance, Purim Carnival, and our annual Women's Seder so there are plenty of opportunities to have some fun. Keep your eyes out for social events and pop-up happy hours, too. If you're interested in helping, we'd like to design an event for younger tykes to enjoy time with their significant Women of Shir Ami members. Your ideas would be welcome. Contact me, and I'll connect you with our events committee.

As a member, don't forget that you can appreciate a 15% discount on most items in our gift shop, located across from the main office in the center of the building. That's where you can pick up your pre-ordered Hanukkah candles while you find a great gift for friends and loved ones. Choices include traditional holiday items, picture frames, jewelry, candlesticks, mezuzahs, books, tallit, child-friendly items, and more. Contact Cari Sacks-Witten to make an appointment on days when the gift shop might not be open.

In the meantime, the Women of Shir Ami--ordinary women doing extraordinary things—hope that your Thanksgiving celebrations are filled with joyous family time and special memories.



Shir Ami Theatre Club Sunday, November 19, 2023 | 3pm Harmony with music by Barry Manilow.

\$179 for the limited amount of center orchestra seats

Please contact Andee Losben | ALosben@aol.com or 215-803-2020









LIGHT 🌣 PEACE 🔯 LOVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

7pm Whole Latke Love: Intergenerational Rock Shabbat in Shalom Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

11:30am SHAFTY K2Club Hanukkah Event in Shalom Hall 1pm-3pm Hanukkah in the Borough on State Street and Hamilton Street, Doylestown, PA [by the big Dreidel] 4pm-6pm ELC Hanukkah Party in Shalom Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

5pm-6pm Bucks County Kehillah Hanukkah Celebration at Shady Brook Farm, Yardley

7pm WoSA Vodka Tonica Hanukkah in Shalom Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

6pm Menorah lighting following Religious School w/ treats provided by WoSA

6pm-8pm Hanukkah Hop (3rd-6th grades) in Shalom Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

12pm Hanukkah Themed Lunch & Learn

DETAILS & REGISTRATION HERE





Women of Shir Ami Canuckan Canale Fundraiser Beautiful selection of handmade candles from Israel \$16/box All proceeds go to the Shir Ami Food Bank ORDER HERE Deadline to order is November 26 Candle pickup starts December 3 Contact Cari Sacks-Witten: csackswitten@yahoo.com | 215.579.1667

Banana Menorah Snacks

These Banana Menorah Snacks are simple to make, and they include some of kid's favorite foods!

Bananas, pretzels, and vegan chocolate chips make a fun and seasonal salty-sweet treat.



This Banana Menorah snack is one of the easiest Hanukkah-themed treats, and it's fun for kids to help assemble.

This one has a banana menorah, pretzel candlesticks, and mini vegan chocolate chips.

You can use a dollop of almond butter as "glue" to hold the flames in place. Make sure that one slice of banana is longer for the middle shamash candle!

Check out our Pinterest Page for other fun holiday ideas!

SHIR AMI **DISCOUNT CARDS**



Non-transferrable. Does not discount tax/gratuity. Offers subject to change. Exp 10/31/24

HANGER BOUTIQUE **LEARNING EXPRESS** Newtown/Richboro

10% OFF excl Lego's & Squishmallows 10% OFF reg price/S

MARCO'S PIZZA Newtown 10% OFF total order

NEWTOWN BAGEL **NEWTOWN PIZZA** Buy 1 doz bagel, get 3 free 10% OFF total purchase

PIZZA PIE II PLAYA BOWL Langhorne, Pine Watson Shopping Cente 10% OFF total order RICHBORO CAR WASH

\$3.00 OFF any car wash TRE FRATELLI

nit Square Shopping Ctr. 10% OFF dine-in only

MOISH & ITZY'S Newtown 10% OFF excl dell counter

10% OFF your purchase

RITA'S 10% OFF total order

VILLA ROSA 10% OFF total order MANNY'S DELI

10% OFF excl deli coi

NAKED CHOCOLATE 10% OFF total purchase

PARTY FAIR 10% OFF exci balloons/c

> **PLAYPAD** 10% OFF open play

STEAK & HOAGIE FACTORY 10% OFF total order

YARDLEY BAGEL CAFE Yardley Buy 1 doz bagel, get 3 free

Save money at dozens of local businesses throughout the year, while at the same time helping to raise money for Shir Ami

ORDER YOURS HERE



Help us honor **FERNE LEVY**

for her outstanding leadership as Shir Ami's Youth Director by supporting our Youth Lounge revitalization project.

For many years our youth lounge has served as a comfortable space for Shir Ami's kids. It is now time to reinvigorate and modernize the lounge.

We plan to install new flooring, new furniture and cabinets, upgrade the technology, and brighten the room with a fresh coat of paint.

DONATE HERE

TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



NOV. & DEC. Reach Out Foundation Wednesday Lunches

We are happy to support the Reach Out Foundation, a drop-in center, located in Penndel. They provide a place for the

homeless to come Monday - Friday from 7:00am - 7:00pm. While at the center, folks can warm up, receive services, shower, do their laundry, watch TV and receive three meals a day.

Shir Ami is proud to offer our continued support of the homeless by providing lunch every Wednesday.

We ask that you select and provide 20 of each from the suggested items listed below:

- Sandwiches in ziploc baggies or Casseroles (that serve 20), in a disposable tin
- Fruit
- Desserts
- Juice Box or Water

Please do the food prep at home and deliver to Shir Ami's kitchen by 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

We also need 1 volunteer to deliver our collection to the Penndel facility by 12 noon on Wednesday. (152 Monroe Avenue in Penndel)

We hope you will participate by joining us in this important mission. Your contributions as well as your time and support are greatly appreciated.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE

If you have any questions you may contact us.

Barbara Roth - <u>bsroth66@yahoo.com</u> | Essie Cherkin - <u>echerkin27@yahoo.com</u>

BE A "KEEPER" OF JEWISH EXCELLENCE THIS YEAR

Shir Ami is pleased to present our Keepers of Jewish Excellence program, allowing all members the opportunity to study throughout the year. Please consider becoming a "Keeper" at Shir Ami. Your donation supports all of the important mitzvot of learning and prayer that we share, and what's more, allows us to continue our Shir Ami Lifelong Learning programs. "Keepers" will be recognized in the Shiron for their generosity.

I'd like to support Life Long Learning at the following level:

\$500 \$180 \$100 Other

Enclosed is my check (payable to "Shir Ami") Please bill my account

Name:

Phone:

Please make checks payable to Shir Ami and mail to: 101 Richboro Road, Newtown, PA or donate via our website @ www.shirami.org/payment.php.



During our most recent
Shir Sprouts, we proudly
dedicated the new
playground renovations
to
Shari Beck-Nahman,
our former
ELC Director.

A great time was had by all!

Thank you, Shari!

CIRCLE OF GIVING

by Nina Orr

by Natalie Standig and Clif Cino

by Dawn Levine

by Cheryl Primola

by Laura and Marc Feller

by Ronnie Gersten

IN MEMORY OF

Fanny Idleberg

by Linda and Norman Idleberg

Kevin McCoy

by Joshua McCoy

Edward Glinski

by Debra Glinski

Beloved Members of Temple Shalom who passed this year

by Susan and George Rosenberg

Aunt Sally

by Rachel and Neil Lesser

Jim Levy

by Felice and George Katsanos

by Meri and Jon Stevens

by Shir Ami Board of Directors

by Joanna and Nate Holzman

by Sandy and Peter Borowsky

John Francis Byrne

by Clare Finkel

Gloria Langer

by Iris Freyer

Benjamin Heimerling

by Marian Weintraub

Marie

by Sarah Rosenman Sharma

Helene Evans

by Meri and Jon Stevens

by Shir Ami Board of Directors

by Sandy and Peter Borowsky

Jerry Ostro

by the Cohen and Ostro Families

IN HONOR OF

Sierra Cohen becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Stacey and Jeffrey Cohen

Sarah Fiely chanting Torah on Rosh Hashanah

by Bronnie and Kevin Fiely

Allie Cohen becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Gail Hersh

Spencer Behrend becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Marla and Ethan Kose

Sam Burstein becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Meri and Jon Stevens

Mia Burstein becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Meri and Jon Stevens

Abby Eder becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Meri and Jon Stevens

Natalie Luber becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Meri and Jon Stevens

Rebekah Lee becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Meri and Jon Stevens

Madison Dalewitz becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Meri and Jon Stevens

Allie Cohen becoming a Bat Mitzvah

by Mark and Ricki Libeskind

RABBI CHARLES BRISKIN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

by Randi and David Necowitz

IN MEMORY OF

Peter Patman

by Andy Patman

Ben Berman

by Melvyn Berman

Norman Weissberg

by Lenore Weissberg

Isadore Newborne

by Sandy Luber

David Sosky

by Columbo Sosky

David Rothman

by Shari Orenstein

IN HONOR OF

Dakota Blumberg becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Barbara and Daniel Blumberg

the birth and naming of Henry Pledger by Marissa Baldari and Zachary Pledger

Reed becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Melissa Riskin and Colin Chambers

CANTOR JULIE BERLIN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

Reed becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Melissa Riskin and Colin Chambers

RABBI ERIC GOLDBERG'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Charles Blizzard

by Ricki and Dennis Tafflin

Marcy Schaeffer-Allred

by Nancy and Lee Levitt

Stan Luber

by Marc and Jackie Luber

Matthew Shavel

by Cyril Levitt

David Rothman

by Howard and Barbara Polinksy

IN HONOR OF

Reed becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Melissa Riskin and Colin Chambers

Support for Israel

by Karen Gold

by Beth and Glenn Del Signore

by Lynn Furness

by Deb Gates-Maten and Mark Maten

by Eliana Levitt

by Lea and David Surrey

by Chari and Paul Cohen

by Eliot and Betsy Rosenfield

by Barbara and Sam Gitler

by Linda and Norman Idleberg

by Ilyssa and Seth Rabin

by Melody and Alan Rosenberg

by Melanie Cutler and Jeff Eder

by Dara and Neil Dayen

by Lauren and Jarrett Handell

by Fran Jonas

by Susan and Ken Bieber

by Felice and Howard Shapiro

by Helen Berman

by Susan Cohen and Barry Bloom

by Rachel and Neil Lesser

by Erin and Yale Saltzman

by Karin and Dan Surkin

by Dana and Howard Friedfeld

by Nina and Ryan Orr

by Randi and Brett Cohen

by Pam and Bruce Rapoport

by Ilana Hessing and Steve Ginsburg

by Eileen and Philip Weinstein

by Janis and Howard Kritzer

by Andrea Miller

by Rona and Ralph Sarne

by Steve Rosenberg

by Jen and Jake Nyman

by Sandy Luber

by Mark and Leslie Fisher

by Shelley and Michael Shavel

by Iris and Gene Freyer

by Michelle and Steven Cohen

by Emily and David Elkin

by Marc and Jackie Luber

by Elaine Jancourtz

by Rabbi Paula and Harvey Goldberg

by Linda Kanner

by Darcy and Bob Golden

by Joanna and Nate Holzman

RABBI PAULA GOLDBERG'S HONORARY CHEVRAT TORAH FUND

RABBI STROM, EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Alma and Sam Rosenblum, and Virginia and Bert Hall by Neil Hall

CANTOR ELSON, EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

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IN MEMORY OF

Jay Miller

by Donna and Bob DeSantis

BEVERLY SPIEGLER SPEC. EDUCATION LIBRARY FUND

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IN MEMORY OF

Marcy Schaeffer-Allred

by Robin and Jason Weiss

BOB MCGARRY ADULT EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Stephanie Robin Mann

by Judy and Lowell Mann

Olene and Stanley Gale

by Judy and Lowell Mann

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CLAIRE AND JERRY MILLER CAPITAL FUND

FOOD BANK

IN MEMORY OF

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by Phyllis Bloom

Harriet and Jerry Paley

by Lana Ehrlich

IN HONOR OF

High Holy Day Food Drive

by Jocelyn Kravitz

by Tabitha Zoltak

by Shelley and Michael Shavel

by Pamela and Bruce Dick

by Brooke and Ben Hoffman

by Gene and Iris Freyer

by Lenore Weissberg

by Ellen and Paul Rawicz

by Amy Kirsh and Family

by Risa Morris

by Janice Zoltak

by Judy Mazess

by Elaine Shubin

by Sarah Burstein

by Sarah Kleiman

by Patti Anolik and Jason Hart

by Transcend Fitness

by Sandy Luber

by Alan Speert

by The DiMedio Family

by Sandy Borowksy

by Marc Weiss

by Andrea Silverman

by Lawrence Moses

by Glen Freedman

by Michael Kanoff

by Alison and Matt Smith

by David Fein

by Michelle Love

by Susan and Ken Bieber

by Rabbi Elliot and Susan Strom

by Ken and Julie Standig

by Sue Ellen Schimmel

by Linda and Norman Idleberg

by Andrea and Robert Nissenbaum

by Ron and Nan Smolow

Natalie Luber making the Volleyball Team

by Sandy Luber

Ethan Kritzer becoming a Bar Mitzvah

by Sheila and David Auslander

ISRAEL CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Sylvia Rosenberg

by Steve Rosenberg

ISRAEL TIYUL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Jean Stevens

by Jon and Meri Stevens

Rhonda Dorfman

by Beverly and Mark Goldberg, Shelly and Barry Kincus

KAY SWERDLOW BUILDING FUND

KEEPER OF JEWISH EXCELLENCE

by Deb Gates-Maten and Mark Maten

by Becky Markowitz

MARCIA ABRAHAM FUND FOR JEWISH LIFE

MEN'S CLUB YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PRAYERBOOK DONATIONS

PRESSMAN LIBRARY FUND

SAFETY AND SECURITY FUND

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IN MEMORY OF

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SENIOR ENDOWMENT

SHARING IS CARING FUND

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SIMCHA

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STAN AVERBACH BIBLICAL GARDEN FUND

TEMPLE SHALOM SISTERHOOD CHILDREN'S FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Corinne "Corky" Austein

by Donna and Bob DeSantis

(*Donations current as of October 18, 2023)





DO YOU GROCERY SHOP? If you answered YES, then why not support Shir Ami while shopping?

All you have to do is pre-purchase supermarket cards (in \$50 increments) and Shir Ami will receive 5% back from each card! We sell about \$20,000 every month, which in turn provides an extra \$1000 to Shir Ami.

Participating markets include:

SHOPRITE, ACME, GIANT, MCCAFFREY'S and REDNER'S

*If you are local to Shir Ami, we will deliver the cards right to your door. If you live further away, such as New Hope, Doylestown or New Jersey, we will be happy to find a convenient meet-up location.

For more information or to order your cards, simply FOLLOW THIS LINK or email shirgiftcards@gmail.com





Gift Shop

Gift Shop Hours

Tuesdays from 4:15pm to 6:15pm and 1-2 Fridays/month, prior to Shabbat Services & by appointment.

Gift Shop Needs Volunteers

Our beautiful gift shop cannot run without our wonderful volunteers. We are looking for volunteers for any day/time, but especially for Sundays, any time between 9am to 11:30am and Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

Contact csackswitten@yahoo.com | 215-579-1667 to schedule appointments and/or for info on volunteering opportunities



Here is a convenient way to get rid of unwanted clothes.

All items will be donated to JFCS (Jewish Family and Children's Services) and Code Blue

We are collecting CLEAN, WEARABLE unwanted clothing. (free of stains & tears) for Men, Women Children & Infants

No Shoes or Accessories (except winter boots)

No Formal Wear

Please drop off in tall, kitchen type garbage bags

Drop-off bins located in main office lobby

Shir Ami | 101 Richboro Road | Newtown | 215.968.3400



SHIR AMI'S PASTORAL CARE TASK FORCE / CHESED COMMITTEE

We are looking for a group of volunteers that are willing to commit to supporting members of our community who are in need.

Some of the tasks we need help with are:

- Phone Calls
- Notes for Simchas, Deaths & Illness
- Shiva Support
- · Visits to Homebound / Seniors
- Mealtrain Coordination
- · Delivery in your neighborhood
- Bakers & Cooks
- · Rides (occasionally)
- · Deliver small synagogue gifts to congregants
- · Mail out kid's birthday acknowledgements

If you are interested, please contact:

<u>Harriet Paley</u> | hpaley_rwaldoe@yahoo.com
or
<u>Helen Berman</u> | helen@hlberman.com



Why not advertise with us?

PLACE YOUR AD HFRF

Call office for details

MAKE MEALS | CARING FOR FRIENDS

It's more important than ever not to let food go to waste. If you find yourself with extras, have some Caring for Friends packaging on hand in order to immediately freeze leftovers and drop off at Shir Ami. We have been a longtime supporter of the Caring for Friends initiative. Help feed locals who are unable to help themselves simply by packaging your leftovers or planning out some meals in their foil tray system. It's easy to help us provide meals for seniors, kids, etc.



TO SUPPORT CARING FOR FRIENDS

- 1. Contact the Shir Ami office for foil trays (215) 968-3400
- 2. Fill large section with a protein (i.e. turkey or veggie protein)
- 3. Fill small sections, one with a veg and one with a starch
- 4. Cover tightly with foil and fill out Caring for Friends form
- 5. Put it in your freezer for 3 or more days
- 6. Volunteers will transport frozen meals from the Shir Ami freezer to the Caring for Friends warehouse, for distribution to those in need.

The **Elder Law** Office of

SkarlatosZonarich

Harvey P. Abramson, Of Counsel



Member of Shir Ami

- Medicaid Planning
- Asset Protection
- Estate Administration
- Wills and Trusts
- Guardianship
- Long Term Care
- Estate Planning
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Trevose, PA

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215-355-7260



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PLACE YOUR AD HERE

Call office for details

SHIR AMI

www.shirami.org

Main Office: 215.968.3400 **Religious School**: 215.968.3254

E.L.C.: 215.968.6255

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Phil Nordlinger, Executive Director

Rabbi Eric Goldberg, Director of Education

Nina Orr, ELC Director

Cheryl Primola, Preschool Administrator

Ferne Levy, Youth Director

Natalie Standig, Programming & Engagement Coord.

Jodie Levinson. Communications Director **Jodi Friedman,** Executive Assistant Elliot M. Strom. Rabbi Emeritus Mark Elson, Cantor Emeritus

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(z'l) zichrono livracha "of blessed memory)

OUR MISSION

Shir Ami is the hub of Reform Judaism in Bucks County.

We are **DEDICATED** to sustaining and growing a vibrant and diverse Jewish Community.

We are **DEVOTED** to educating all who seek a greater understanding of our traditions, values, and practices.

We are **COMMITTED** to connecting with each other, cultivating spiritual growth, creating a just and compassionate society, and supporting Israel and our Jewish family worldwide.