Help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of Congregation Shir Hadash, and begin honoring Rabbi Melanie Aron in her retirement year.

To participate in any of the following activities, simply visit our Gala Website at fab40.shirhadash.org, where you will find a complete menu of activities, with a schedule and links to access the fun.

- **Shir Hadash History Trivia Quiz.** Test your knowledge about Shir Hadash’s 40 year journey, by taking our Trivia Quiz.

- **New Song Relief Fund.** During this time of isolation and quarantine, Shir Hadash has found new and creative ways to carry our community, and has maintained a robust offering of programs to serve and comfort our community during this crucial time. We could not maintain these efforts without your generous support. We ask that you lend your voice to the melody of Shir Hadash by donating to the New Song Relief Fund.

- **Many Thanks Drawing.** Guests who donate to the New Song Relief Fund before May 30, or who submit bids in the online auction, will be entered in our drawing for a $50 gift certificate to Flights of Los Gatos.

- **Online Auction.** Our Online Auction will open for bidding from May 18 to May 30.

- **Share Your Memories.** Send in photos, short videos, or writings to help us build our tribute video honoring Rabbi Aron and Shir Hadash (by May 15).

- **May 30 Gala Finale.** This will be the day to join us virtually for the May 30 Gala Finale, beginning at 5:00 pm.
“All of this waiting we are being asked to do and all of this living with unanswered questions is difficult…”

Patience

Usually while we are counting the days of the Omer, from Passover up to Shavuot, the younger people in the congregation are at the same time impatiently counting down to the last day of school. This year of course, nothing is normal. Without regular summer vacations and possibly camp to look forward to, I am not sure if the end of the school year carries the same promise. Instead we are all practicing patience as we wait for it to be safe enough to participate in our regular activities.

The Hebrew word for patience, savlanut, is very revealing. It comes from the root סבל (S-V-L), meaning to carry, to endure, even to suffer. In that, it is not so different than the English word which finds its origin in the Latin where a patient was one who endures. Normally, we moderns are not patient people; we are used to being able to accomplish what we want speedily and without delay. In Israel, in fact, there is a special hand gesture that accompanies asking someone to wait a moment—and it is in itself demanding.

When we have to be patient about something that is difficult for us, we are often told to think, “that’s not so bad,” but repressing the difficulty of waiting often leaves us feeling resentful or angry. The cost to us is not being acknowledged. People tend to do better when they can instead reframe the experience so that they can bear something unpleasant without increasing their suffering. All of this waiting we are being asked to do and all of this living with unanswered questions is difficult and, as in the Torah when God has to bear the limitations of the Israelites, we may become angry and want to lash out. Moses’ role quite frequently is to convince God that this is not in God’s self-interest nor appropriate to previous commitments made and we too are asked to rise to our better selves.

Counting the days of the Omer this year may help us in various ways. It makes more concrete the passage of time and helps us feel we are heading somewhere. With its stress on character and learning, the Omer counting can remind us that each day can matter and that we can accomplish things even while remaining in place. With savlanut (patience) and sovlanut (tolerance), we can better move through this rough patch in our lives.

Challah Pick Up!

Order by Thursday morning and pick up on Friday between 9 and 11 am at the preschool entrance. Contact robin@shirhadash.org if interested.
Engaging in Our Community... One Smile at a Time

Introducing Porch Portraits

As we navigate these unusual times of Sheltering-In-Place and Zoom-based Shabbat Services, our need to “see” one another grows. To share our smiling faces and greet one another personally is seemingly valued more now than ever before.

In marking our 40th anniversary, we reflect on our roots and thank our Founders; we assess our strengths and measure our successes; and we look to our future with hopes of a vibrant, just and meaningful synagogue existence. We will look to continue Shir Hadash as a strong and vital Synagogue with deep relationships in the greater Jewish and Interfaith communities. We will build on our role as a key player in the social justice fabric of Silicon Valley. We will continue the programs and services that are fundamental to our Judaism and identity. I believe that many will agree that these are our strengths and they are due in large part to Rabbi Aron’s leadership. While her retirement will certainly have an impact on Shir Hadash, it is her leadership that has positioned us to be most successful going forward into our future.

Pierre Trudeau, former Canadian Prime Minister said, “The past is to be respected and acknowledged but not worshipped; it is our future in which we will find our greatness.” I believe this to be true for Shir Hadash. It is time to look to our next 40 years with anticipation, hope and excitement—to continue the legacy of community and connection, to build on the foundation of social justice and to remain a pillar of Jewish identity and education—this is the Shir Hadash of the future!

I would like to ask each of you to help grow Rabbi Aron’s legacy of community and connection. Building that strong future can start with a single step today. We now have the capability to include a photo of each member household alongside your member information in our secure online Member Directory. If every member had a photo in our directory, that simple step would increase our sense of community and strengthen our bond of connection.

With the help of a small group of our talented and caring members we are introducing Porch Portraits.

Porch Portraits are scheduled for a specific date & time; a Shir Hadash member photographer arrives at the appointed time; the individual, couple, or family emerge from their home and remain on their porch or balcony. The photographer takes the photos from a safe social-distancing 10 feet with a large lens, and the photo is uploaded to our secure online Member Directory, thereby enhancing our community and allowing us to “see” one another easily.

This is a wonderful opportunity to build community while commemorating this time in our lives. The Porch Portrait is free. If you would like a digital copy of your Porch Portrait, we are suggesting a small donation to the New Song Relief Fund at Shir Hadash (learn more about the New Song Relief Fund at my.shirhadash.org/porch/donate).

Porch Portraits are a way of celebrating our community and to virtually join together with our smiling faces!

Join me in knowing your neighbor, welcoming each other with kindness and building community well into our next 40 years!

BEGINNING MAY 10
SCHEDULE YOUR PORCH PORTRAIT

1. Go to my.shirhadash.org/porch.
2. Sign up with your name, address, phone, and email. Select an appointment time.
3. Be ready at the appointed time to emerge from your home.
4. You may have a sign or other props if you prefer.
5. Your porch portrait will be uploaded to your profile on the Shir Hadash Member Directory.
6. Email porchportraits@shirhadash.org If you would like digital copies for your personal use.
7. We suggest a small donation to the New Song Relief Fund at my.shirhadash.org/porch/donate for additional digital copies.
Confirmation & Shavuot
Thursday, May 28

Confirmation Service, 6:00 pm [zoom]
The 10th grade Hebrew High class will be honored for their years of study by leading the Shavuot Evening Service and sharing their insights.

The 2020 Confirmation Class
Kelsey Doerner      Jason Schwartz
Brody Feigin        Maya Shaffer
Josh Freeman        Henry Stern
Eleanora Ginsborg   Jamie Talmor
Lily Mintz          Jackson Weinger
Norman Resner

Shavuot Study, 8:30-12:00 pm [zoom]
We explore outstanding women in the Bible, in history, and in our own families. We will begin with a short study of Naomi and Ruth, the important characters in the Biblical story we read on Shavuot.

At 9:15, we will watch a one-hour film, The Redeeming Angel. Esther Frank-Matz, an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor from Israel, travels with her three sons to the Netherlands, where she was born, and lived during her childhood and the period of the Holocaust. It is a story about a fascinating journey of closing circles in Esther’s early life stations—childhood in Zandvoort, the Amsterdam ghetto, and the hiding place in the fishermen’s village of Edam. We will watch the film together, and then discuss with the producer, Gil Matz.

At 10:30, we will hear from British scholar Gillian Perry, author of The Legacy of Anne Frank, which explores the various legacies of Anne Frank’s influence and shares new insights into the real Anne Frank.

At about 11:30, we conclude the traditional late night study and end at midnight with cheesecake at your own home.

May Services

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<tr>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>7:00 pm</th>
<th>Family Shabbat Service with 4th &amp; 5th Grade Hebrew School Students [zoom]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service [shirtv]</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study [zoom]</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Jr. [zoom]</td>
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<td>Shir Shabbat Service [shirtv]</td>
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<td>Special Shabbat Message [shirtv]</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service with Rabbi Aron and Cantor Felder-Levy, &amp; Sermon by Rabbi Schwartz [zoom]</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service with Sermon by Rabbi Aron [zoom]</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SAT    | 9:30 am  | Torah Study with Rabbi Aron [zoom]                                          |
| 16     | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service [shirtv]                                               |
|        | 10:30 am | Special Shabbat Message [shirtv]                                            |
|        | 10:30 am | Bonim Class Service [zoom]                                                 |
| FRI    | 7:30 pm  | Shabbat Service [zoom]                                                     |
| 22     |          |                                                                            |
| SAT    | 9:30 am  | Last Torah Study with Rabbi Aron [zoom]                                    |
| 23     | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service [zoom]                                                |
| THU    | 6:00 pm  | Confirmation Service [zoom]                                                |
| 28     | 8:30 pm  | Shavuot Study [zoom]                                                       |
| FRI    | 6:00 pm  | Yizkor & Healing Service [zoom]                                             |
| 29     | 7:30 pm  | Shabbat Service [shirtv]                                                   |
|        | 7:30 pm  | Special Shabbat Message [shirtv]                                            |
| SAT    | 10:30 am | Informal Shabbat Service [zoom]                                            |
| 30     |          |                                                                            |

[zoom] Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar.
RETIREES LUNCH & LEARN

Jewish Folksong: The Language of the Soul

Tuesday, May 12, 11:30 am  zoom

Descended from an Ashkenazi mother and a Sephardi father, Mark Levy combines the beautiful melodies of both traditions together with Hebrew and Israeli songs in a versatile performance that transports the listener to another time and place.

Mark Levy has performed and taught in the San Francisco Bay area for 40 years at temples, synagogues, JCCs, Lehrhaus Judaica, Workmen’s Circle, and other Jewish groups. He specializes in older Judaic folk music, Klezmer history and theory, and Jewish music history in general. He has released a fourth album of Jewish music entitled Bin Ikh Mir A Shnayderl: Yiddish Work Songs, in commemoration of the 100th birthday of Workmen’s Circle, a fraternal order of Jewish workers.

To sign up, please go to the online calendar at hadash.link/folksong or call Cindy at (408) 358–1751 x5.

Omer Study of Pirkei Avot

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm  zoom

Join us every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm for a 30-minute exploration of one chapter of Pirkei Avot, a section of the Mishnah traditionally studied during the weeks between Passover and Shavuot. Each week, a different member of our staff will be teaching.

May 6    Chapter 4: Rabbi Schwartz
May 13   Chapter 5: Rabbi Aron
May 20   Chapter 6: Gary Geller
May 27   Concluding Thoughts: Rabbi Aron

MEALS FOR LOCAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Feed Our Heroes

Feed Our Heroes is a campaign, led by our Los Gatos Education community, to supply free meals to local healthcare workers fighting the coronavirus.

The campaign has already raised money for over 3,250 meals, but more are needed. All meals are sourced from Los Gatos restaurants, providing local businesses much-needed support during these tough times.

A simple meal at the end of a long shift is well-deserved thanks to our healthcare worker’s dedication and service.


All donations are tax-deductible and 100% of the funds go towards purchasing meals.

Friday, May 29, 6:00 pm  zoom

Join us on Shavuot afternoon before Shabbat begins for a Minchah Yizkor Service with Healing Prayers. This is the last of the four recitations of the memorial prayers in the Jewish Year.

Yizkor & Healing Service
Welcome Our New Executive Director

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired a new Executive Director, Gary Geller. Gary comes to Shir Hadash after spending five years as the Executive Director of Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City. Gary officially started in his new role on April 20.

To reach out and welcome Gary, feel free to email him at gary@shirhadash.org.

Gary and his wife Caroline relocated from Stamford, Conn., to the Bay Area five years ago to join their son Josh, who works for Facebook. Josh then married Paige, and they have since moved to Seattle where Josh continues to work for Facebook and Paige is an attorney at Perkins Coie.

During his professional career, Gary has sat on both sides of the board room table. For ten years he led the fundraising efforts of two Connecticut Jewish Federations: Stamford and New Haven. He also held leadership roles at Temple Beth El in Stamford, including Treasurer for four years and two years as chair of the Religious School Committee. In addition, Gary had an 11-year career on Wall Street; prior to that ran Roundtable PAC, a pro-Israel political action committee, for 8 years.

Thanks go to the Executive Director Search Committee who worked tirelessly to find an outstanding candidate with a background ideally suited to serve Shir Hadash now and into the future. Our deepest gratitude to chair Sheldon Gilbert, and committee members, Josh Bernstein, Aaron Feigin, Aviva Paul, and Denise Pringle.

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Stanford Blood Center

Stanford Blood Center Is Returning to Shir Hadash

Let’s Save Lives Together—Schedule an Appointment Today!

Sunday, May 17, 9:00 am–2:00 pm
Oneg Room

To register online, please go to hadash.link/giveblood. While it is best to make an appointment, walk-ins are welcomed too.

Please be assured that Stanford Blood Center is taking extra safety precautions and following them rigorously so as to ensure the continued health of donors. In particular, increased distancing between donors as well as extreme sanitation procedures are in place at donation locations.

Every donor who registers at the drive will receive a $10 Amazon gift card as a thank-you for saving lives.

Make your appointment today!

For more information, call (888) 723-7831, or visit stanfordbloodcenter.org.

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Do You Know Who Made This Torah Cover?

In 1987, someone with the initials SWB made this beautiful Torah cover for Shir Hadash. We would love to know more about who made the cover and their inspiration. If you know who the artist was, please let us know at office@shirhadash.org.
Shir Hadash at the beginning of 2010 was a thriving, mature congregation. Aviva Paul, who gave the “Fourth Decade” talk, is well positioned to tell this story. Aviva’s parents joined Shir Hadash in its founding year, and her baby naming took place here. After growing up outside California, Aviva and her husband re-joined the congregation, and have been members for the last 13 years. As a past board member for Membership Engagement, her experiences highlight Shir Hadash as a multi-generational congregation.

We started our affiliation informally by attending the interfaith couples group led by Rabbi Aron and Eleanor Intrator, where we experienced Shir Hadash’s desire to welcome the diversity of its membership. The temple had started offering “New Song Memberships” to appeal directly to our age demographic, and Rabbi Joel Fleekop, the assistant Rabbi at the time, gently suggested that we actually join before he officiated at our wedding in 2007. Meanwhile, we had been making friends with other 20-something couples through an Introduction to Judaism class and the young adults group.

With strong friendships in place and newborn in arms, I was recruited to join the Shir Hadash membership committee in 2011, where I met a dedicated demographic of long-time temple volunteers. With them, I was involved in the early days of Shir Fun (now Shir Family), our programming for children aged 0–5 years. The goal was to foster the connections between preschool and temple families.

Our focus on youth beyond the early years has been recently reinvigorated by the creation of a board position for Youth and Family Engagement. Convened by Rabbi Schwartz, I joined a task force to conceptualize and support our youth’s engagement with Judaism. My sub-committee wanted to know: What do parents want for their children in terms of education, social opportunities, and a commitment to tikkun olam? We led breakout groups with religious school parents and thought about how building on the success of our teen madrichim program might facilitate youth mentorship and camaraderie within the generation. We will also soon celebrate one year since the creation of SALTY, our senior youth group.

The membership committee concentrated not only on youth, but on connectedness and engagement for all. Adult members already had diverse opportunities for experiences at Shir Hadash, ranging from educational to ritual. But the membership committee thought we needed more opportunities to socialize for socializing’s sake: “Happy Hour and Havdalah” events became one solution. I somehow ended up on the winning team of one of the trivia nights, and enjoyed multiple comedy nights!

I also participated in efforts to expand our “culture of philanthropy”: capital campaign, fundraising galas, and leadership development. We all have something to give to Shir Hadash to ensure its vitality: labor, financial support, skills, time, or kindness. We are a people connected by our active participation and hard work to make a kehillah, a sacred community. With these tenets in mind, I hope you join me in looking forward to what the next decade holds for us!

Based on Aviva Paul’s Yom Kippur talk, edited by Dafna Talmor.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Fourth Decade of Shir Hadash

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**Highlights of the Fourth Decade**

- First Celebration Classic Golf Tournament
- Rabbi PJ Schwartz starts
- Celebrated Cantor Felder-Levy’s 20th, Rabbi Aron’s 25th, and the congregation’s 36th anniversaries
- 586 households