

Dear Friends,

This year will be an incredible year at Shir Chadash.
This will be a year of energy for Shir Chadash, fueled by each of you.
Our way to tap into the great ideas of the congregation is through committees.
So that you know, the chairs of the committees, as set so far, are:

Lisa Roth – Adult Education and Programming – rlbordo@verizon.net
Melinda Pearson – Membership – melindapearson@optonline.net
Victor Feit – Fundraising – rebef2@cs.com
John Wallach – Social Action – jwallach@hunter.cuny.edu
Jodi Wolff – Family & Education – jiwolff@verizon.net
Jerry Scheck – Spiritual Life – jerryscheck@optonline.net
Ed Ginsberg – Building and Liaison to Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church –
ginsberg@edwnewhomes.com
Ed Ginsberg (acting) – Finance
TBA - Publicity
TBA - Concert

If you are interested in bringing a matter to a committee or joining a committee or just finding out what the committee will be working on, send an email to the committee chairperson. All are nice folks who will be glad to hear from you.

Read further on about the 2 events coming up in August.

See you soon,
Michael Rothman
President – Congregation Shir Chadash
mjrothman@earthlink.net

There are two events coming up in August:

1. **Picnic and “Of Thee I Sing” at Bard College, August 3rd.** The picnic is a “bring your own food”, and a little extra if you want to share, and starts at 5:00PM, at Blithewood Manor at Bard. Check out a campus map to see the location. At 7:00 is the wonderful Gershwin show “Of Thee I Sing” at the Fisher Theater (Theater Two). We’ll plan to get to the theater (it’s on the other side of campus from Blithewood) by 6:30, which is when the doors open. Our seats are general admission. The show has been sold out for a long time, but **we have exactly 1 ticket left, for \$36 (a 20% discount). It’s possible that we may be able to get 1 or 2 more.** The ticket is first-come first-served, so send me an e-mail if you would like to come along.

2. **Pizza and a Film at the Rothmans’** August 20th 6:00PM, LOCATION: 6

Tower Road, Hopewell Junction, NY (223-5925)

We have acquired two film series, *The Jewish Americans* and *The Bible Unearthed*.

We'll show an episode, eat, discuss, repeat. All good stuff. We'll supply the pizza and drinks. And we'll see how it goes. The films are provocative and fun (read below). **PLEASE CALL 223-5925 to let us know if you're coming so we know how much pizza to buy!**

The Jewish Americans - Originally broadcast on PBS, *The Jewish-Americans* covers 350 years in the lives of Jews who have struggled to maintain their religious identity and still be fully accepted as Americans. It is a story at once specific and universal, one that can be appreciated by any ethnic or religious minority who tests whether "democracy, like America, can find room for everyone." Beginning with 23 Jewish exiles seeking safe haven in New Amsterdam in 1654, writer-director David Grubin does an admirable job of charting the often rocky and treacherous course for Jews in this country, and their personal "tug of war between being American and being a Jew." Do they consider themselves Jewish-Americans, or American Jews? Carl Reiner, Mandy Patinkin, Sid Caesar, Jules Feiffer, playwright Tony Kushner, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg are among the more recognizable personalities who offer illuminating commentary and bittersweet reminiscences. But Grubin presents what he calls "an ensemble of voices" rather than "a star-studded parade." Authors, historians, sociologists, academics, and rabbis share a rich personal and cultural history.

http://www.amazon.com/Jewish-Americans-David-Grubin/dp/B000Y7U9A0/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1217446479&sr=8-1 <http://www.amazon.com/Jewish-Americans-David-Grubin/dp/B000Y7U9A0/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1217446479&sr=8-1>

The Bible Unearthed is a balanced, thoughtful, bold reconsideration of the historical period that produced the Hebrew Bible. The headline news in this book is easy to pick out: there is no evidence for the existence of Abraham, or any of the Patriarchs; ditto for Moses and the Exodus; and the same goes for the

whole period of Judges and the united monarchy of David and Solomon. In fact, the authors argue that it is impossible to say much of anything about ancient Israel until the seventh century B.C., around the time of the reign of King Josiah. In that period, "the narrative of the Bible was uniquely suited to further the religious reform and territorial ambitions of Judah." Yet the authors deny that their arguments should be construed as compromising the Bible's power.

http://www.amazon.com/Bible-Unearthed-Archaeologys-Vision-Ancient/dp/0684869136/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1217446534&sr=8-1 <http://www.amazon.com/Bible-Unearthed-Archaeologys-Vision-Ancient/dp/0684869136/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1217446534&sr=8-1>