

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,
Welcome to letter #23 (long but pithy).

As I write this note I look out at the arch of palm trees and feel a balmy breeze. I'm in Sarasota working, but undeniably enjoying as well. I send you all warm thoughts.

But on to IMPORTANT THINGS...

1. WE DON'T HAVE SALES ?!?
2. After all how can you put a price on being part of a vibrant Jewish community? How can you put a price on having one of the senior rabbis of the Reform Movement, a rabbi who speaks to the Pope? And a cantor who can electrify a congregation? And teachers who love their students? And actively supporting our neighbors?
3. BUT, it is halfway through our year and so the BASIC MEMBERSHIP for the rest of this year is just \$650. There are many out there who are on-the-edge of joining. This is a great opportunity to jump in to see how it feels to BE A PART OF SHIR CHADASH, rather than be a friend of

Shir Chadash.

4. We need you to make this work. We really do. Here's the pledge packet. Print it, and mail it with a check. You will be warmly welcomed.
5. <http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form%202008-2009.pdf>
6. It's a mitzvah.
7. CALL for SHIR CHADASH PURIM PLAYERS!!!
8. Each year we have THE BEST Purim Spiel (play) anywhere.
9. We have a director, Mana Watsky, and a co-director, Suzanne Neil, and a script "Jew-sy Boys" (based on a play by roughly the same name) by Rabbi Polish. BUT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN UNLESS WE GET PLAYERS!
10. Do you have a yen for the stage?
11. Do you sing in the shower?
12. Maybe you'd get a kick out of painting scenery.
13. NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.
14. IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS, WE WILL NOT PUT ON A SHOW.
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16. Respond to this e-mail NOW. The first rehearsal will be next week (hopefully!).
17. Help us carry-on this wonderful tradition. Everybody loves the show.
18. Friday, Jan 30th at 7:30 - A SPECIAL MUSICAL

SHABBAT - with Cantor Hirschenfang and the Shir Chadash Choir - the theme is Renewal as we are reminded of in the holiday of tu bish vat (the new year of the trees).

19. Here's a sample of our choir... http://www.shir-chadash.org/chanukah_video.asp
20. Sign-up for our Jewish History Series - to start on Tuesday 2/17 at 7:30
21. The first lecture is titled, "History of the Jews: the First 5768 Years"

2. _Jeff Lash will answer many of the questions you may have about our people:

➤ How do we know that the Creation happened 5769 years ago?

➤ How many dinosaurs were on the Ark?

➤ When did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah live?

➤ When did we live in exile in Babylonia? By the way, where the heck IS Babylonia???

➤ When was the modern state of Israel born?

No homework or tests will be given, but we'd like to know who'll be attending, so please phone Jeff @ 227-4650 or e-mail

jlash10136@aol.com. This is the first of 4 classes on Jewish History.

Topics for the following 3 lectures will be announced shortly.

NOTE... the class in Biblical Poetry will NOT be given this month as previously scheduled. We paid attention to the survey results.

1. A letter about cooking and serving dinner for 60 homeless people on Feb. 26th

2. Dear Michael,

3. I was at the shelter last Thursday and you are scheduled for Feb 26 so I wanted to give you an up-date on how things are there. It was a cold night,

53 people showed up and we served soup, bread (which I picked up at Panera the night before) and sandwiches. The folks were very grateful for the hot soup and everything was eaten. It can be a more unruly crowd than we are used to, I'm sure the numbers have something to do with that, but no unpleasantness, just cold, tired, hungry people. Be prepared to bring lots of food, I had 5 other volunteers prepare food besides us, it is an awesome number to feed. I also asked my volunteers to donate a box of cereal each for the morning, If you are interested in more about Panera let me know and pls bring some hot food, soup, or chili, or pasta dishes are some suggestions, the kitchen is not well stocked with pots so we brought our own for heating the soup, any other questions feel free to ask,

4. Judy Harkavy
5. We have some cooks but need more. Respond to this email if you want to help...
6. Adult Hebrew Class is continuing on Wednesday nights at 6:30. This is a very successful endeavor. If you want to jump-in and learn some Hebrew, you still gotta chance.

SO, IF YOU HAVE READ THIS FAR AND AREN'T A MEMBER YET... WHY AREN'T YOU?

YOU SHOULD BE. YOU CARE ENUF. I know times are hard. That means that it's harder for us together to continue. We have the soul. We have the energy. We need some bucks.

Shabbat Shalom,
Michael