

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,  
Welcome to letter #29

Names are important. In the time of the writing of the Torah it is clear that names had a magical quality. Getting names right is still important. Thank you Debbie Leibler for your help!

If we could bottle Purim and sell it, we wouldn't have to be looking for money. Last week was wonderful. The Shir Chadash Purim Players put on a real rock opera. And of course there was that great cameo(?).

For those of you who missed the show, I will post some video and some stills in the next few days. The oneg was also a treat, and not only the Hamantaschen. Almost 90 people came. And it was more enjoyable than many a Broadway evening.

WHO WILL BE THE 10th new member? Will it be you? YOU are our future. Just send in the form. A Bargain? Join in the 2nd half of our year (our year runs from July-June) and you only have to pay for half the year. If you're thinking about joining "next" year, why wait? Really why? LIFE IS TOO SHORT.

And there are no do-overs.

<http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form%202008-2009.pdf>

## EVENTS and so on:

1. Today, Friday, March 13th at 7:30pm - Shabbat Services... It's not Purim, but it is what we all need. If you're thinking of plopping down on the couch and saying "Thank G-d it's Friday" why not actually do it? But seriously... taking a moment... having a pause in the chaos... making a friend. It's worth the time. Will I see you tonight?
2. Wednesday March 18th at 6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class continues...
3. Friday, March 20th at 7:30pm - Shabbat Services... **LOOKING TO NEXT SHABBAT**
4. Rabbi Polish will be speaking about "Living in Trying Times: What Judaism can offer us to help us through this challenging moment."
5. Monday March 23rd at 7:30pm... the fourth and final session in our Jewish History Series. Rabbi Polish will present "The Event that Changed Judaism Forever" - bring your Bible.
6. By the way, thanks to Jim Thrasher for a great lecture on Rome & Judea & the Destruction of the 2nd Temple.
7. Sunday March 29th at 2pm... "What would

it mean to join the URJ?"

8. Rabbi Rex Perlmeter and Michael Steinlieb from the Union of Reform Judaism will come to Shir Chadash to answer this question. What are the pros and cons of joining this association of 893 American synagogues? Please come and be informed. There will be a Shir Chadash vote sometime after the meeting (not on the 29th itself). <http://urj.org/>

9. **To make an informed vote, you need to learn about the URJ and this Sunday meeting is the easiest way to learn. It costs money in dues to join. We should know how much by next week.**

0. Sunday April 26th, Our First Annual Shir Chadash Flea Market - MORE DETAILS SOON.

1. Save your treasures for this huge outdoor market.

2. Saturday June 13th, OUR SPRING CONCERT  
**AND MORE:**

➤ **MONEY - We are trying to collect \$400 for Rebuilding Together. So far I have \$50. Can you help Shir Chadash meet its commitment? Send a check to Victor Feit, 83 King George Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Write the check to Shir Chadash, but BE SURE TO MARK THE CHECK "For**

## Rebuilding Together”.

➤ FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS! --- The JCCDC and The Jewish Federation proudly announce that we have become implementing partners for the PJ Library in the Hudson Valley. The PJ Library, created by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, has been fully funded in the Hudson Valley for three years. If you know a child between the ages of 6 months and 7 years who would enjoy receiving quality Judaic children's literature and music in the mail each month, free of charge, please contact Melinda Margulies at 845-471-0430 or jebmar400@aol.com.

## AND EVENTS ELSEWHERE...

➤ Thursday, March 26th 8pm at Vassar College (2nd floor auditorium in Sander's English).

Religion in the Middle East: A Force for Violence or Peace? An interactive question-and-answer discussion about the roles of religion and religious leaders in the Middle Eastern Conflict. How can religion ease the tension in the Middle East?

Sponsored by Vassar Jewish Union, Vassar Islamic Society, Religion, Political Science, Africana Studies, and Religious and Spiritual Life.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear a fresh perspective on this age-old conflict. Imam Hendi and Professor Landau offer a message of hope, and suggest that religion can be used as a force of peace rather than violence. In these troubling times, now more than ever, this is a message that all of us need to

hear. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!**

➤ April 19-21 at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC  
What do President Clinton, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Senator Russ Feingold, Vice President Al Gore, and Elie Wiesel have in common? They have all been speakers at the Consultation on Conscience, Reform Judaism's flagship social justice conference. Join us, Reform Jewish leaders, and public policy decision makers to bring social justice insight to your community!

<http://rac.org/confprog/consult> This is an inspiring conference held every 2-years at the start of a new Congress. I am planning on going. Let me know if you would like to travel together.

➤ Mitzvah Day 09 - May 3, 2009 promises to be a day of friendship, caring and hard work. To volunteer on Mitzvah Day, participants can now sign up online at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org). For questions, please e-mail Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County at [jfs@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:jfs@jewishdutchess.org), or call at 845-471-9817.

## ONE LAST THING

More about Money. Here's the deal. We count on the Spring Concert as part of our budget, but we won't get this money until June. So we need some of you to pay all your dues now. If you're paying monthly, that's fine. Please continue. BUT if you are not paying monthly and you've paid half or three

quarters of your annual pledge, please send in the remainder  
asap.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael