

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,  
Welcome to letter #4.

Lots of news!

**The “Pizza and a Movie” night** was fun and intellectually challenging. Hmm... did 2,000,000 Israelites really cross the Sinai Desert? You should have been there to hear the answer. Were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob really related, ditto, you should have been there. We'll have another night, which is to be announced, maybe in October.

**Last week, as you'll read** in your September newsletter, your Board of Trustees spent a day thinking about and planning for this upcoming year. A year which will be amazing for Shir Chadash. One result of our work is a full-year calendar of Shir Chadash Events. No longer will our schedule be a continuing surprise. You'll know today, for example, that there will be FOUR incredible musical programs produced by Cantor Hirschenfang and our dedicated Shir Chadash Choir (singers always welcomed!) on Nov. 11th, Feb. 13th, April 3rd and May 22nd. Contact the Cantor if you want to sing

[ghirschenfang@optonline.net](mailto:ghirschenfang@optonline.net)

We are also working on putting all events into our online calendar

<http://www.my.calendars.net/shirchadash/d01/09/2008?display=M&style=B&positioning=A>

<<http://www.my.calendars.net/shirchadash/d01/09/2008?display=M&style=B&positioning=A>>

By The Way, please check our website frequently.

[www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org) <<http://www.shir-chadash.org/>>

In addition to news and schedules, we have been posting photos on it. Check out our group which visited the Castle Point VA Hospital, this past Spring...

[http://www.shir-chadash.org/social\\_action/sa\\_page4.asp](http://www.shir-chadash.org/social_action/sa_page4.asp)

More exciting news about the website to come.

**“How to Raise a Jewish Child”** – a class taught by Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang, will be held each Thursday night, at 7PM at the Daily Planet Diner, just down the street from FPPC. The class is free and open to all; you need not be a member. The classes will cover: holiday celebrations, talking about Jewish values, the December Dilemma, and talking about G-d. You must call 223-5925 to register, so we can prepare.

We welcome all kinds of families:

traditional / non-traditional, single-parent, families with two Jewish parents or just one, anyone interested in raising a Jewish child.

**Torah Procession – Sept 5th starting at 6:20.**

Here's the plan. A group of us will meet at about 6:20 at the Meeting House. We will listen to Rabbi Polish reflect and we'll pray and then after an 8-year residence, take our Torah from the Meeting House, and out onto Hooker Avenue. We will walk slowly down Hooker to Grand, then down Grand to the Arterial. Then we will drive to Arlington HS in the Town of LaGrange to meet a 2nd group. This group will walk to the parking lot at FPPC where the rest of the congregation, including Cantor Hirschenfang and the Shir Chadash Choir, will welcome all of us and the Torah to our new transitional home.

For this to work, we need to know who will be where.

SEND an e-mail to Jerry Scheck if you want to be part of the group at the MH or at AHS [jerryscheck@optonline.net](mailto:jerryscheck@optonline.net). Thanks to Lisa Kerchman (chair of the Publicity Committee), The Poughkeepsie Journal will likely be covering the event as a news story.

AND, you should have received your copy of our monthly newsletter today. Fantastic job. Thanks to Sandy & Jeff Lash, Wendy Bill and all those who contributed content. So much is going on!

**Book of Remembrance.** I don't know why, but

it means something to put the names of loved ones down on paper and share it with the congregation. It will be a simple book with words from Rabbi Polish, and prayers, and a listing of names. See your newsletter for details.

**Many people have asked me for a Temple directory.** The directory contains: name, address, phone number, e-mail address.

We do plan to send out the Directory. It's a way for people to learn each other's names and be able to reach each other. It is, of course, forbidden to use the information for any commercial purpose.

If you do NOT want your contact information included, please send me an email by Sept. 12th. Thanks.

**Everyone should have received their pledge letters by now.** Yes they went out late. Our fiscal year began on July 1st. They were late because illness sidelined me for almost a month and a half (I'm fine now!). BUT, it means that we are short. SO, please send in your pledges asap. Some people pay upfront for the year. That's great. Others pay monthly. That's fine as well. The important part is to get started.

THANKS!

## **Let's live our values...**

There is a food bank emergency. Dutchess Outreach provides a three-day supply of groceries to families once per month...they require an application to DSS for public assistance/food stamps, but provide food aid whether or not the application is approved). Dutchess Outreach received requests for aid from 30 new families last month, a huge increase in the number of new applicants for their services.

They are facing a decrease in food supplies from the regional food bank, which is having difficulty due to the increase in the cost of food and transportation. Dutchess Outreach notes that their shelves are quite empty, and that they do not have the staples they need at this time. **THEY NEED:**

Peanut Butter \*\*\*\*\* (Most important item)

Canned High-Quality Protein (Tuna Fish, Chili, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, etc.)

Spaghetti Sauce

Mac and Cheese in a box

Canned Soup

Canned Fruit

Jelly (For PB & J sandwiches)

They have plenty of cereal and pasta.

**SO... please bring a food item to each service in September.** We'll have a collection bin.

We will still be having our normal collection at Yom Kippur, but the need is here today.

Our neighbors are under a strain. This is a great way to show your kids (and ourselves) that we are our brother's

keeper.

**The move OUT of the Meeting House** took place on Thursday night, August 28th. Thanks to the crew: Irwin Goldberg, Liz Glassberg, Jim Thrasher, Wendy Bill and Jeff Lash.

As I walked into the Meeting House after a summer of absence, I could see what we are leaving. I could see the excitement and happiness, the Purim Spiels and B'nai Mitzvahs and baby-namings. I could see the grieving families coming after a death. I could see the High Holy Days and the Chanukahs and lots of kids and noise. I could hear the music from the silent grand piano. It made me sad.

Two hours later, sweaty after working with the crew pulling our supplies out of the basement, I had a different feeling. I felt ready to move on. When we got to the church, hereafter FPPC, we unloaded the cars. And then we took a moment to look at the solid Torah cabinet that FPPC built for us, and then to sit in their beautiful sanctuary. It is a great place. It is peaceful and fresh. They have a gorgeous chandelier and fresh paint on the walls.

We will make this our own. Come on Sept 5th to the first service, or on Sept 6th to the first Sharing Shabbat, or on Sept. 19th to the first of our monthly Shabbat dinners and see for yourself! Meet lots of new people. Be a new person!

**The 1st day of school is Sept 6th.** Please bring and register your kids. The teachers have

been planning and working hard for a year of books and experiential learning. If you have a friend with school-age kids, have them come as well. The 6th is an open-house.

**FOR REFERENCE here are YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS and COORDINATORS:**

Lisa Roth – Adult Education and Programming –  
[rlbordo@verizon.net](mailto:rlbordo@verizon.net)

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TBA - Concert

Fern Lox - Oneg Coordinator – [phlox@optonline.net](mailto:phlox@optonline.net)

Roberta Tracy – Shabbat Dinner Coordinator  
– [tracyajrs@aol.com](mailto:tracyajrs@aol.com)

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If you are getting this weekly e-mail in error, please send a note to [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org) and you will be removed from the mailing list.