

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,
Welcome to letter #7.

Five *HOT* Items...

1. ON Thursday (today), Sept 25th, at 7pm. "How to Raise a Jewish Child" - Last class in this series.

Topics to include "The December Dilemma - or the Jewish child and Christmas in America".

Last time...I got to meet a few of you and heard a bit of the discussion which included the important role of grandparents in raising a Jewish child.

We will meet upstairs at the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, which is just west of the Taconic Parkway, on Route 55. Babysitting will be provided.

Come to the class even if you have not come to others! Learn, but also meet the other families in the class, who are enjoying getting to know each other.

Let us know that you're coming... simply call 223-5925 or send an e-mail to info@shir-chadash.org.

2. ON Friday (tomorrow), Sept. 26th, at 7pm. Our 4th Friday night service.

Yes, I know the High Holy Days are coming, in fact Rosh Hashanah starts Monday night, but there is a special joy in Shabbat itself. It comes every week, but especially in hard times we need a sense of peace and beauty and a sense of community. If you are not in the habit of coming on Friday night, it's hard to start. But if you do come you'll find something precious.

3. ON Monday, Sept 29th, at 8pm. Rosh Hashanah evening services.

ON Tuesday, Sept 30th, at 10am. Rosh Hashanah morning services.

ON Tuesday, Sept 30th, at 3pm. The Family Celebration Service - experience Rosh Hashanah through the senses.

Last night I heard the professional quartet and our Shir Chadash choir rehearsing in our new sanctuary. This year our High Holy Day services will be incomparable. Come early and bring your friends. There is an overflow parking lot on

Stringham Road.

4. Prove me right, really, read this.

People tell me that an e-mail will not be enough to get our members to send in pledges. I, however, think (naively?) that you actually read these e-mails and will act. But here's the story, our first quarter ends Tuesday. That means each family must have sent in 25% of their annual pledge. If you are a family who has not, or who has in fact buried their pledge letter under a stack of old newspapers or coloring books and not sent us anything (even though this year we supplied return envelopes!) then please do so right away. We actually need more than 25% of pledges in the first quarter because of the expenses of the High Holy Days.

If you need a pledge form, you can download it from our website: <http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form%202008-2009.pdf>.

Now, one of the wonderful members of your Board of Trustees will be calling each family soon to wish them "L'Shanah Tovah" , a "Happy New Year", and we don't want the call to also

have to be a reminder.

So, send your check TODAY, right now, to our treasurer, Victor Feit, 83 King George Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

He'll be checking his mailbox on Shabbat morning to see if this appeal worked. Please fill Victor's mailbox!

Surprise him! Shir Chadash works only if you make it work. There is no one else. If each of us does his or her part, it's easy.

5. Book of Remembrance. Act now.

Deadline is Tuesday, Rosh Hashanah Day.

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. A poem will grace the bottom of the pages. See your newsletter for details. Each listing is of the form "*Sidney Rothman, father of Michael Rothman.*"

You can just send an e-mail to info@shir-chadash.org with your name, your loved one's name, and the relationship.

Did you know that the newsletter is on our

website? <http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/newsletters/sept08.pdf>

UPDATE: We have now gotten about 60 names.

News.

Our sign is up! It is a visual knock-out. For the first time in our congregation's life, we have our name in front of our home. It is generous of our new friends, the Presbyterians, to let us put up a sign. Thousands of people, who drive on Route 55, will now know not only that we exist, but where we exist.

Also, the sign has a place for two lines of changeable letters. So we will have a new message up each week! Look this Friday for our first.

Our second Torah Study and Sharing Shabbat was popular. We had to keep adding chairs to the table. By the time we were through we had 22 people crowded around the table with Rabbi Polish, engrossed in the story 'my father was a wandering Aramean who went down into Egypt... and G-d with a mighty arm and an outstretched hand ... brought us to this place... a land flowing with milk and honey.' These words define the geography of

Judaism and are in fact the seeds of the Haggadah.

IN school news, the Aleph class made shofars. I saw Ashley's, which was very colorful. I'll try to report on other classes next time.

Let's live our values... This is the last week to bring in school supplies for Grace Smith House.

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.

AND, we are collecting school supplies at each service this month for the kids who end up with nothing at Grace Smith House, a home for battered women. Bring notebooks, backpacks, paper, pens, (see your newsletter or contact John Wallach - jwallach@hunter.cuny.edu for further details)

Check our website frequently. www.shir-chadash.org
<<http://www.shir-chadash.org/>> .

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

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Victor Feit – Treasurer

Jerry Scheck – Secretary

Ed Ginsberg – Immediate Past-President

Members of the Board of Trustees – John Wallach,

Melinda Pearson, Lisa Roth, Liz Glassberg

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