

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,  
Welcome to letter #25

In "Mozart's Brain and the Fighter Pilot" Richard Restak, explains that the cognitive function of the brain is an emergent property of the network of connections between the neurons. If you THINK, then the connections are strengthened. In fact any complex activity... ranging from knitting to attending synagogue, lowers your chance of acquiring Alzheimer's.

Another reason to come and be with friends and enjoy an otherworldly experience... Shabbat.

EVENTS and so on:

1. Friday, Feb 13th at 7:30 - Shabbat evening services with Richard & Mara Goldstone and Lisa Roth leading the service. The sermon, given by Steve Herschbein, will be on the subject of "Tikkun Olam (repairing the world)."
2. The Purim Spiel is taking shape. BUT, we still need a few PURIM PLAYERS!!! Come to the 2nd rehearsal today at 6:30 and Mana will give you your part. AND BTW, reserve Friday March 6th. That is the date for the WORLD

PEMIERE of "Jewsie Boys" a Frankie Valli inspired retelling of the Book of Esther.

3. Sign-up for our Jewish History Series - to start on Tuesday 2/17 at 7:30

4. The first lecture is titled, "History of the Jews: the First 5768 Years"

5. \_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???

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.

1. Sunday Feb 22nd at 4pm - "OUR JEWISH DINNER AT THE DINER"

2. For just \$25/adult and \$9/child we will have: matzo ball soup, stuffed cabbage, brisket with potato pancakes, cake, and coffee... tax and tip included. Victor Feit tells me that Jose makes the BEST matzo ball soup! We'd like to have at least 20 couples. Call Victor to sign-up 463-2654 or rebef2@cs.com.

3. AND the Adult Hebrew Class continues each Wednesday at 6:30, on through February and March. This is the longest 5-week class in

history!

4. But the best news is... , well it's not absolutely set yet so I can't tell you, BUT our Spring Concert this year will be INCREDIBLE. You need to set aside Saturday night May 9th . MORE LATER!

What a wonderful selection of culinary, educational, spiritual, and social action events. I will get the folks working on the dinner for the homeless on the 26th together this coming week... at least on the phone.

### AND EVENTS ELSEWHERE...

- Tonight - Thursday, Feb 12th 5:30pm at Sanders Auditorium at Vassar College... "Songs of the Lord in Strange Lands: Sacred Music and the Faces of Contemporary Jewish Spirituality," will be the topic of a musically illustrated lecture by Haifa University professor J. H. Chajes, who will be accompanied by his daughter violinist Levana Chajes. This is the annual Dr. Maurice Sitomer Lecture, free and open to the public
- A free film, Taxi to the Dark Side, will be shown at Poughkeepsie Meeting House on Saturday, February 14, at 7 p.m. This R-rated film won an Academy Award Oscar for "best documentary." In 2002, a Kabul taxi driver named Dilawar took three passengers for a ride, and never returned home. This riveting documentary murder mystery explores how and why this Afghan civilian died while in US Custody. The showing is

co-sponsored by the Dutchess Peace Coalition and the Friends Meeting.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael

PS - a personal note... thanks from Sara and me for the many expressions of kindness we have received regarding the death of Morris Roth, Sara's father. We're heading off to the funeral in Maryland, today. M.