

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,  
Welcome to letter #28

Why do we celebrate Purim? Probably because at this time of year, tiring of a long winter, people wanted some craziness. THIS WE WILL SUPPLY! Will I see you TONIGHT?

This past Thursday we gave some food and some dignity to 46 of our neighbors, in the form of a homemade hot meal. It pleases me to note that we had more volunteers than we could use. Thanks to Debbie Leiberman, Andy Levitan, Ilene Kaswer, Stacie Wogalter, Fern Lox, and Nicky & Lindsey Turner.

EVENTS and so on:

1. Today, Friday, March 6th at 7:30pm - Purim
2. The WORLD PREMIERE of "Jewsie Boys", the story of Esther a la Frankie Valli. Hear "Sherry Baby" and many more and the wit of our lyricist Rabbi Daniel Polish, directed by Mana Watsky and Suzanne Neil, with the ever-enthusiastic Shir

Chadash Players. Fun for kids. FREE HAMANTASHEN! Prune, Poppy Seed, Apricot, Chocolate, and other flavors that I am not aware of presently! Don't miss it! (hey - I even have a line!)

3. Tomorrow, Saturday, March 7th at 9am
4. Recover from a Hamantashen overdose with eye-opening mind-stimulation in our Torah Study class.
5. If you thought the reflections on the morality of "an eye for an eye" and the origins of our legal system noted in the last e-mail were intriguing, you'll enjoy this week's episode.
6. ALSO - BRING YOUR KIDS TO SCHOOL - Our teachers are waiting... and the kids want to come.
7. Sunday March 8th, Purim Carnival at the JCC from 10-noon - silliness and fun for kids - check out the Shir Chadash booth.
8. Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30pm... the third session in our POPULAR Jewish History Series. Jim Thrasher will present "The Jewish War and the Destruction of the Second Temple." Jim is a Roman history buff. Thank you to Jeff Lash & now Nicky Turner for the

first two engaging classes. Free and open to all.

9. Wednesday March 11th at 6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class **continues...**
0. IN MARCH - date TBD... - Dr. Marc Epstein, Professor of Judaic Studies at Vassar College will present "The Art of the Haggadah." This wonderful and timely program will be at Shir Chadash. You will receive a special e-mail with more details.
1. 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.
2. Sunday March 29th at 2pm... "What would it mean to join the URJ?"
3. 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/>
4. Sunday April 26th, Our First Annual

Shir Chadash Flea Market – MORE DETAILS SOON.

5. Save your treasures for this huge outdoor market.

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

➤ **MONEY** - Two years ago, we built an entrance ramp for a handicapped lady in Poughkeepsie. It was a project for Mitzvah Day (more below) and was a HUGE endeavor. BUT, we committed \$400 to buy lumber and never paid. I am now making a specific appeal to you for that money. It will go to the organization with whom we were working, "Rebuilding Together" <http://www.rebuildingtogether.org> <<http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/>> . Please help! --- UPDATE... Thanks for the \$50... WE NOW NEED just \$350. We can't take this out of the general fund, because the general fund is negative at the moment. 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".

➤ **Rabbi Polish just published an article "A Little Unbelief... is not always a bad thing", in America: the National Catholic Weekly** [http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=11370](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11370)

➤ **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.

➤ We have been invited by Vassar Temple's Adult Education Committee to participate in a two-session Tallit Workshop on Saturdays, March 21st and 28th, from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Under the guidance of Adriaan Finnerman participants will consider the spiritual dimensions of the process of making a tallit as they learn to knot the tzitzis in the ritual manner and each create their own tallit. There is no charge for the workshop but participants must provide their own materials. Please email the instructor at [adriaan@binyan.net](mailto:adriaan@binyan.net) to enroll in the course and receive specific information about the materials needed. Register by March 12th to allow time for the delivery of materials which must be ordered.

➤ Join us to say L'HITRAOT to PAULA SILVER and to recognize her years of dedication and commitment to the Jewish Community of Dutchess County. Tea reception,

Wednesday, March 25th, 1:00 TO 2:00 pm, at the JCC, Open to all, PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING LIZ, AT (845) 471-0430

➤ Mitzvah Day 09 Planning Underway - May 3, 2009 promises to be a day of friendship, caring and hard work as the Jewish community prepares for Mitzvah Day, the annual day of community service organized by Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County. Lindsey Turner, as liaison from Congregation Shir Chadash, is working to set up a "Fixer-Upper" team as one of the many Mitzvah Day projects. Once again, volunteers will fan out to sites throughout the county, offering "sweat equity" to such organizations as Dutchess Outreach, and Hudson River Housing; taking on environmental clean-up projects; and collecting a truckload of cereal to feed the hungry in conjunction with the Cereal Counts project. Here is an opportunity to work alongside diverse members of the Jewish community and their friends of all faiths, to take on a variety of different "Tikkun Olam" projects. 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. Mitzvah Day is underwritten by a grant from the Bertha Effron Fund of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County.

ONE LAST THING

Money.

It is hard to ask people for money.  
Tonight I made some phone calls.  
Thank you for being so, "of course we'll send money."  
Alone, this can't be done.  
Together, we can't be stopped.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael

PS... WHO WILL BE THE 10th new member? Will it be you?  
New members are our future. Just send in the form.  
[http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form  
%202008-2009.pdf](http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form%202008-2009.pdf)