

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,
Welcome to letter #30

Come Hear the Rabbi TONIGHT!

EVENTS and so on:

1. Today, Friday, March 20th at 6:00pm - Join us for a Potluck Shabbat Dinner. If you are planning on coming, let us know right away by replying to this email.
2. Today, Friday, March 20th at 7:30pm - Shabbat Services.
3. Rabbi Polish will be speaking about "Living in Trying Times: What Judaism can offer us to help us through this challenging moment."
4. Tomorrow, Saturday, March 21st at 9am - Sharing Shabbat... Torah Study with the Rabbi including great moral issues. School for the kids. BRING YOUR TOT to TOT SHABBAT! They have a lot of fun and learn as well... as do all the students.
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. Wednesday March 25th at 6:30pm - Adult Hebrew Class **continues...**
 7. Thursday, March 26th 8pm at Vassar College... "Religion in the Middle East: A Force for Violence or Peace?" - description below.
 8. NEXT Sunday March 29th at 2pm... "What would it mean to join the URJ?"
 9. 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/>
 10. **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.**
 1. Saturday April 4th, "A Passover Happening" ... AND... join us for a "Shabbat Last Chance Chumetz Pasta & Pizza Lunch"... across the street from the church at the Villa... \$10/adult, \$8/child... pasta, pizza, salad,

drinks, tax & tip.

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

3. Save your treasures for this huge outdoor market.

4. Saturday June 13th, OUR SPRING CONCERT

AND MORE:

➤ **MONEY** - We are trying to collect \$400 for Rebuilding Together. We are up to \$125. 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. For questions, please e-mail Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County at jfs@jewishdutchess.org, or call at 845-471-9817.

Shabbat Shalom,
Michael