

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,  
Welcome to letter #37

It surprises me that Friday comes around so often.  
I barely finish one note to the congregation when I have to start on the next.  
Time runs by.  
We barely get to catch our breath and note the coming of Shabbat.

EVENTS and so on:

1. Today, Friday, May 1st at 7:30pm – Shabbat Services

Yes! This week ONLY!

No, not really. Every week through June... then we get our summer vacation from prayer until September... well not really. We'll have some services over the summer.

2. Tomorrow, Saturday May 2nd, Sharing Shabbat

Bring YOUR KIDS!

Bring your self.

Don't sleep in.

Recharge your batteries with thought and reflection and friendship and the youthful voices of our junior choir.

3. Sunday, May 3rd, Mitzvah Day

We have chosen two projects... the Fixer-upper Team, led by Lindsey Turner will be working on a home repair project. There is also yard and cleaning-up work at Grace Smith House (a refuge for battered women and families). Here's the schedule:

Breakfast at the JCCDC at 9

Projects from 10-3

Blood Drive from 9-1

Toiletries/Cereal/NEW PJs Drives -- Bring to the JCCDC

Lunch gathering with Lynn Gerb songfest at 3 pm at the JCCDC

Sign up online at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org)

4. Wednesday May 6th at 6:30pm – Adult Hebrew Class continues...

5. Sunday, June 7th, Our Annual Meeting... more later about this important event.

6. Saturday, June 13th, OUR SPRING CONCERT,

We WILL have internationally-known folk singer and human rights activist Peter Yarrow, of "Peter, Paul and Mary".

General admission will be only \$25.

Preferred seating and post-concert reception with Peter, \$100.

It is not too early to reserve a seat.

Read the attached article about Operation Respect and Shir Chadash.

As part of the concert arrangements... we are bringing this anti-bullying program, started by Peter Yarrow, to the local schools.

ALSO attached to this e-mail you will find a poster. Print it and find someplace to post it.

AND there is a form for selling ads. If every member (AND NON-MEMBER) bought just ONE ad it would make a big difference.

BY THE WAY, if you've been thinking about joining Shir Chadash, about raising your hand to be counted as a supporter of this community, please do so now. Our year ends at the end of June, which means that a new fresh, unspoiled year begins on July 1st.

<http://www.shir-chadash.org/pdf/Pledge%20Form%202008-2009.pdf>

JOIN Now at 2008-2009 rates before we raise them!

Are we going to raise them? Who knows, but you could still join now.

In effect, you get 14 months for the price of 12.  
And it is so easy to spread out payments over 12 months with our autopay option.  
I would love to have our TENTH NEW FAMILY of the year.  
A minyan?  
BUT no kidding. We need YOU for our community to be sustained.  
AND, you need us.

AND EVENTS ELSEWHERE...

> Thursday May 21st at 7pm, at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue,  
Poughkeepsie, The Secret Language of Jewish Art - An illustrated exploration with Marc  
Michael Epstein, Vassar College Professor of Religion & Director of Jewish Studies  
> SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT WITH FPPC - We will be helping with an annual event that FPPC  
runs... a drive to collect and distribute school supplies for poor families in the City  
of Poughkeepsie and environs. Given the financial hardships many families are undergoing  
they are often forced to make a choice between preparing their children for  
a successful school year or putting food on the table or paying a utility  
bill. We believe that this is where our gifts will make a difference and  
help a child succeed in School. The drive is in August, but preparations are starting  
soon. More about this later.

AND TO BE AWARE OF:

> Health and Human services checklist here:  
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/faithbasedcommunitychecklist.pdf>  
Be prepared to have 2 weeks food and water.. a good idea for any emergency situation.  
AND, my friends, seriously -- no more hugs, kisses and/or handshakes until this is  
over...

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael