



Temple Shir Shalom

DECEMBER 2015

CENTRAL FLORIDA'S MOST UNIQUE JEWISH EXPERIENCE



mishpacha

P.O. Box 623182, Oviedo, FL 32762 / 407-366-3556 www.templeshirshalom.org / prayhappy@templeshirshalom.org

Mark Your Calendar!

All services led by Cantor Kim Singer

Friday • December 4th

Shabbat "JAM" Service
at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

Sunday • December 6th

Religious School at Double R-9:00 am

Friday • December 11th

Shabbat Chanukah Service
at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

Sunday • December 13th

Religious School at Double R-9:00 am

Friday • December 18th

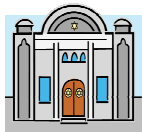
Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm
Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

Friday • December 25th

Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
Details to come

Friday • January 8th

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm



Service Location

University Carillon United
Methodist Church (UCUMC)
EPICenter

1395 Campus View Court, Oviedo 32765
(corner of Lockwood & McCulloch)



FROM THE BIMA

Cantor Kim Singer

Every year when December rolls around it seems like it's arrived much too soon, like we've moved straight from Yom Kippur to Hanukkah with barely a stop in between. Somehow that seems even more true this year. For me, that's probably due in part to the fact that "winter weather" now means t-shirts instead of tank tops. And apparently it's strawberry picking season—thanks for the heads up on that one.

Another thing that has made time pass so quickly is the steady stream of TSS activities and events. It's been a month of big ups and downs—from the highs of the URJ Biennial to the lows of antisemitic vandalism, and the renewed energy of our community outreach—fueled by our membership committee and teen Mitzvah Maven corps. We were represented in the first Orlando Interfaith Choir at Biennial, at the concert for Friends of the IDF, and in a week or so, at the Boys' Town Tree and Menorah lighting and the Board of County Commissioners for Seminole County. This, along with ongoing meetings with various leaders in the Jewish and general communities of greater Orlando, should help to raise our visibility. Temple Shir Shalom is an amazing congregation and we want to get the word out and hopefully encourage more people to become part of our extended family.

But these efforts, while a good start, aren't enough. There are some practical things everyone can do without undue effort: tell your friends, in person or on social media about the congregation and our activities. If you're coming to an event, invite someone who isn't yet part of the community to join you. This will certainly bolster our visibility—and I hope you'll all do some of this! But it's not enough.

Shir Shalom was founded by families who saw a need and worked (hard!) to fill it. They wanted a certain "feel" to worship. They wanted to form a community in their own neighborhood rather than commuting across town. Probably other hopes and dreams as well. They

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aaron Sherman

In November, I had the privilege of attending the URJ Biennial that was held here in Orlando. For the record, Temple Shir Shalom achieved Platinum Delegation status for its participation! That is the highest level recognition of group participation and I'm proud of our congregation for this achievement. In all, we had 9 members attend part or all of the conference, 3 perform as part of the Orlando Interfaith choir, 1 perform as a member of the Biennial choir and 1 have a speaking role at a plenary session.

I have attended professional conferences before, so I had expectations of being able to learn how I can work with the Board to better serve the congregation. For the most part, the speakers asked to present at the Biennial were fantastic and I feel like I was given a great set of ideas that I will work to bring to Temple Shir Shalom. The feedback from our other delegation participants was similar. My only regret on that account was that I couldn't clone myself to attend more informational sessions! More on that in a moment.

What I was unprepared for was the cultural experience. I grew up in small communities in the Midwest, never attended a Jewish camp and have never been to Israel. Many in our congregation have been able to experience a camp or trip to Israel and been able to experience what it is like to be completely immersed in something Jewish. It is a different experience when things pause to allow for ma'ariv and shacharit worship services. It was overwhelming to participate in a service with 5000 of my closest friends. It was joyous to see 20 Torahs paraded through the sanctuary during Saturday morning services and to see the congregants out of their seats dancing through the aisles with those Torahs. For those of us whose only experiences are local to the community, I hope that one day you, too, will get the opportunity to add an experience like Biennial.

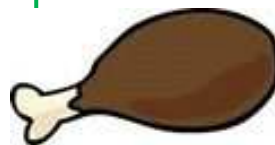
There were three themes at Biennial: Audacious Hospitality, Strengthening Congregations, and Tikun Olam. Our congregation has a strong Social Action team, and Audacious Hospitality has always been a part of our congregational fabric, so I focused on attending the sessions on Strengthening Congregations. These sessions provided me with a lot of ideas and suggestions which need to be worked through with the rest of the Board. As a small congregation, our challenges are different from those of large congregations. Compared to large congregations, we have a smaller pool of resources – both financially and in terms

of the volunteer and staff hours we have available.

Our congregation is also at an awkward teenager stage – we are no longer the new, fresh congregation on the east side of Orlando. At its founding, TSS had a set of enthusiastic founding members willing to do anything and everything to run the congregation. In a small congregation, it's hard to maintain that energy and enthusiasm over the course of time. We need to look at how we can structurally change our operations to reflect our congregation's resources and find ways to use them in a way that better supports the long term success of the congregation. We can do a better job of identifying the strengths of where we are as a congregation, whether that is a physical location or a spiritual/community location, and using those strengths to our advantage. When we are able to do these things, our congregation will complete the transition through adolescence into adulthood.

The good news is that in addition to the philosophical ideas that Biennial provided, it provided a lot of practical solutions and resources to help us make it happen – more than I can possibly share in a newsletter article. The other Biennial attendees and I came away with a lot of enthusiasm for the ideas that were shared and a hope to be able to incorporate them into our congregation. There were so many good ideas that it will take time to sort through how to make them work for us at TSS. I hope that as we apply what we learned at Biennial, you and our guests will feel the energy and enthusiasm, too!

*Shalom,
Aaron*



We will be having a Fried Chicken dinner prior to services on Friday, December 11th.

\$6 pp, includes Fried chicken, rolls, drinks, and sides.

There will be a link on our website to sign up. Reservations/payment is a must!!

Please sign up on the website by Wednesday, 12/9.

EDUCATION INFORMATION

November saw a number of “firsts” for TSS Religious School.

* Our first class-led Shabbat service. Our seventh graders did a great job both with their leading of the service, and of contributing photographs inspired by several prayers to enhance our service slides. They set a high bar for the rest of the school!

* Our first (and second) Mitzvah Mavens program. This is a study and social action program open to all Orlando-area teens, funded by a grant from Federation. At each session, participants study a Jewish value and then take on an action project related to that value. November's topics, “Don't separate yourself from the community” and “lifting up the fallen.” For December we will meet on 12/6 “Love your neighbor as yourself” and 12/20 for “Honoring the aged.” Contact me—CantorKim@gmail.com—to RSVP.

* Our first intergenerational study session. Students in our grade 5-6 class met with parents and grandparents to investigate the “true” story of Hanukkah by studying and analyzing classic texts.

On Sunday December 13th we'll hold a school-wide Hanukkah festival and celebration.



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Cantor *(continued from page 1)*

succeeded, and we all reap the benefit. So...what now? What is our next big dream and where do we find the energy to work for it? Because dreams always take work. We have our visions, our “castles in the sky,” but putting an actual foundations under them takes time and dedication.

Which connects us back to December. And Hanukkah, which means “dedication.” There was an argument in the Talmud about lighting the hanukiah. Very briefly, Shammai said that you kindle all the lights on the first night, and decrease by one each night, because at the beginning there was a full measure of oil, but as the week went on it started to run out. Hillel asserted that we begin with one light on the first night, two on the second, etc. Which is, of course, the view that prevailed. (No surprise, really. In a Hillel vs Shammai debate Hillel almost always comes out on top). His argument: In matters of holiness we always increase, never decrease. We all know the power of a single candle in a sea of darkness, and how one candle can kindle another without its own light decreasing. My friends, Temple Shir Shalom is that light.

When we tell the Hanukkah story about the oil, we usually leave out an important part at the end of the story. Yes, we're told the oil lasted for eight days. But do you know what happened on day number nine? **They brought in new consecrated oil and they refilled the lamps.** My friends, we need to refill our lamps. We need to discover inside each of us that spark of dedication that made this congregation a reality in the first place. We need to nurture that spark, to create and strengthen connections between our existing members, to reclaim that sense determination of our founding families. That is how we ensure our future and begin to fulfill the next generation of our dreams.

Best, Kim

Social Action committee wants to thank everyone who donated non-perishables or cash for our Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to have 3 full baskets to families of Evans Elementary.

Picnic and Brisket cook-off:

Thanks to Jennifer Sherman and Shari Dworkin-Smith for all their hard work putting together this year's picnic. Also, thank you to Aaron Sherman for his grilling skills! We appreciate everyone that participated in this year's event. Special thanks to Shari Geismar, Christie Greenberg, Toby & Marv Guttman, Aaron Sherman & Thomas Ullmann for their wonderful brisket entries. Again, congratulations to our reigning champion 2 years in a row, Shari Geismar! We all benefited from Shari's culinary skills and can't wait for next year's cook-off!

Sharon Zishuk, Social Team Chair



Mitzvah of Giving Funds:

Education * General * Mitzvah
Permanent Home * Prayer Book * Ritual
Spiritual Leadership * URJ Camp Scholarship

PJ Library

Orlando has a PJ Library for children 6 months - 5 1/2 years old that is sponsored by the Jewish Federation. The program mails for free children's Jewish literature and music to families on a monthly basis. The books are a gift from your Jewish community and are totally free. All you have to do is sign up! Check out the website at



<http://www.pjlibrary.org/communities/jewish-federation-greater-orlando/160>.

Chanukah Fun:

Please make sure to bring your Menorah with candles to light up on December 11th.

This is always a beautiful celebration.

It's A Question For The Ages - Which Is Better - Latkes OR Hamentashen??? The First Annual Temple Shir Shalom LATKE/HAMENTASHEN DEBATE will be during our Chanukah Oneg. This will be a great event full of silliness and raucous fun, but it only works with great participation!! SO, even if you're not ready to take the stage to defend your position, be prepared to join us in lots of fun as we debate (and of course heckle!) the merits of Latkes vs Hamentashen!! BUT, if you have a strong position, we want to hear it!!

WE NEED SPEAKERS FOR EACH SIDE!!

Contact Shari Dworkin-Smith at sdsmk@cfl.rr.com for more information!!

Thank you Oneg Sponsors!**December 4th**

Pot Luck

December 11th

The Nemery and Zishuk families
Zishuk's sponsoring in honor of
Joel Zishuk's 17th birthday.

December 18th

Pot Luck

***ONEG SPONSORS NEEDED FOR
DECEMBER & JANUARY!***

Here's the link:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0B44ACA82CA3F49-oneg

We ask that all members sponsor or co-sponsor an Oneg each year for a Shabbat evening service in honor of any simcha, i.e. birthday, anniversary, graduation, or any happy occasion. Every family is encouraged to sponsor at least one oneg each year. For questions, please contact Svetlana Shtrom at shtroms@yahoo.com.

Mitzvah Member Honor Roll

Keith & Peri Goldberg

Gary & Jennifer Hall

Eric & Valorie Karter

Bruce & Jennifer Paster

Aaron & Jennifer Sherman

Svetlana Shtrom

Michael Sonnenschein

David & Sharon Zishuk

or more information on how you can support
Temple Shir Shalom through Mitzvah Membership,
please contact Jennifer Hall at
membership@templeshirshalom.org.



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FACEBOOK PAGE:

Please be sure to LIKE our official facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/templeshirshalomoviedo> and then invite your friends and family to like our page as well!

TEEN STUFF:**BBYO:**

BBYO (questions about any of these events, contact ilanramonbbyo@gmail.com):

4th Annual Hannukkah Party

Who: 8th-12th Grade Jews

When: Saturday December 5, 6 pm-9 pm

Where: Julie Gottfried's home, 281 Porchester Drive
Sanford, Florida 32771

Cost: \$5

Italian Study Night

Who: 8th-12th Grade Jews

When: Sunday, December 13, 5pm-7pm

Where: Justin Baronoff's home, 3378 Sterling Lake Circle,
Oviedo FL 32765

Cost: \$5

WHAT: MIT/AIT LTI (PC 3010)

WHO: BBYO Members Only in grades 8TH-12TH

WHEN: Friday January 15th 2016, 6:00 PM -

Sunday January 17th, 2:00 PM

WHERE: Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center, 2665
Lake Placid View Drive, Lake Placid FL 33852

COST: \$225.00 Deposit Required: \$50.00

REGISTER: http://b-linked.bbyo.org/event/83432_NFR_-_MIT_AIT_LTI

SHFTY:

WHAT: A CHANUKAH PARTY TO REMEMBER

WHEN: December 4th -December 5th 2015.

WHERE: After services on Friday December 4, 2015 we will
all head over to Mt. Burr, the home of Fern and Shep Burr
RSVP: either by email to smithhr@bellsouth.net or by text
407-756-0944.

Come out for an evening of s'mores and more. Mr. Burr will be very busy preparing an awesome bon fire in our honor. Let the s'mores begin. We will also have a Chanukah gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth no-more \$15.00 - \$20.00. This is a sleepover, so bring your pillows, blanket and your favorite movie. The next morning we will be served a bagel and fruit breakfast followed by a short program. Pick up is at noon. There is NO-CHARGE. Spread the word, bring a friend and let's have a night to remember.

LIL SHFTY:

WHAT: A CHANUKAH PARTY TO REMEMBER

WHEN: Sunday December 13th

TIME: 2-5PM

WHERE: The home of Cliff & Shari Geismar,
3975 Flowering Stream Way, Oviedo, FL 32708
RSVP: either by email to smithhr@bellsouth.net or by text
407-756-0944.

BRING: Please bring a Yummy Dessert to share AND a
gender neutral gift for a Chanukah gift exchange

Come out for an afternoon of Latkes making, Chanukah games and More. Mrs. Shari will be very busy preparing all the ingredients for making latkes in our honor. Let the Fun begin. We will also have a Chanukah gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth no-more \$10.00-\$15.00. There is NO-CHARGE for this event. Spread the word, bring a friend and let's have an event to remember.

MITZVAH MAVENS:

Mitvah Mavens programs are open to all teens. You do not need to be a TSS member to participate. Please RSVP to Cantor Kim by deadlines listed below at CantorKim@gmail.com.



When: 12/6 2-6pm

Where: Oviedo Mall

RSVP: by 12/4

Value: V'ahavta L're-acha Kamocha (love your neighbor as yourself)

Project: Gift wrapping

When: 12/20, 3-6pm

Where: Tremont

Whom: ALL TEMPLE TEENS & FRIENDS GRADES 6-12

RSVP: by 12/18

Value: Kibud Z'kaynim (honoring the aged)

Project: Entertaining the residents

Let's go entertain the residence at The Tremont Village located at 7015 Red Bug Lake Rd, Oviedo, FL 32765. Musicians come and play your favorite instrument. We will play 2 sets of music and sing a few songs as a group. The Tremont loves when we provide this event and they look forward to it every year.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Bree Ann Stender
 3 Chloe Lynn Stender
 4 Allison Poweski
 5 Dale Meister
 6 Hunter Kweller
 8 Lee Stender
 10 Laurene Huse
 10 Chris Schafer
 11 Holly Lesnick
 11 Joel Zishuk
 12 David House
 14 Lori Braciak
 14 Renee Ruff
 15 Shawn Fedigan
 15 Joshua Nemery
 16 Ella Miller
 19 Peri Goldberg
 22 Rob Smith
 24 Steven Schein
 29 Shari Dworkin-Smith
 31 Julie Kaplan

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

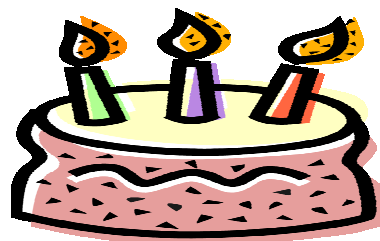
2 Levi Huse
 2 Ari Schein
 4 Joyce York
 5 Philip Copeland
 5 Richard Miller
 7 Eve Schein
 8 Arthur DeFilippo
 10 Eli Smith
 14 Julianna DeFilippo
 14 Beth Schafer
 15 Dylan Smith
 16 Samuel Greenberg
 17 Susan Holstein
 18 Gert Friedman
 28 Mandy Nelson
 28 David Ullman
 28 Benjamin Vogin

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19 Sam & Susan Nager
 26 Michael & Ava Maxwell
 30 Andrew & Joan Stolar
 31 Keith & Peri Goldberg

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12 Marvin & Toby Guttman
 17 Philip & Janine Copeland



Temple Shir Shalom Teams

TSS is looking for volunteers to help with our core planning teams. If you are interested in helping, please contact the appropriate lead.

Education

The Education and Youth Team helps to support our religious school and SHFTY youth groups by working closely with our RS director and youth advisor on planning special events, reviewing and advising on curriculum or recommending policy for the religious school and youth groups. Contact Dale Mester (dfmester@aol.com) to help with the Education Team.

Membership

The Membership Team is responsible for membership outreach activities. They work to develop programs and advertising to draw new members to our congregation. They also manage our membership records and work to pair up members with TSS teams based on interests as described on the membership forms. Contact Jennifer Hall (happyjen68@gmail.com) to help with the Membership Team.

Ritual

The Ritual Team is responsible for ritual aspects of synagogue life. They work with the Spiritual Leader of the congregation to set the Shabbat and holiday service sched-

ule, plan special Shabbat observances, organize volunteer lay leader participation on Shabbat and holidays, plan communal holiday observances (Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukkah, etc.) and care for the ritual equipment. Contact Aaron Sherman (ajsherman@cfl.rr.com) to help with the Ritual Team.

Social

The Social Team is responsible for planning and organizing social membership inreach activities for families and adults such as the annual picnic, game nights, progressive dinners and other social activities that aren't tied to specific religious observances. Contact Sharon Zishuk (sharonz@cfl.rr.com) to help with the Social Team.

Social Action

The Social Action Team is the Tikun Olam arm of Temple Shir Shalom. They are responsible for organizing and advertising Temple-wide involvement in social action activities such as the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure, High Holiday and Thanksgiving food drives and Walk for Autism. Contact Cy Barnert (cybarlight@msn.com) to help with the Social Action Team.