



*Temple Shir Shalom*

MARCH 2016

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P.O. Box 623182, Oviedo, FL 32762 / 407-366-3556 [www.templeshirshalom.org](http://www.templeshirshalom.org) / [prayhappy@templeshirshalom.org](mailto:prayhappy@templeshirshalom.org)

## Mark Your Calendar!

*All services led by Cantor Kim Singer*

### Friday • March 4th

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

### Sunday • March 6th

Religious School at Double R-9:00 am

### Friday • March 11th

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

### Saturday • March 12th

Bar Mitzvah of Mario Demner  
at 10:00 am

### Sunday • March 13th

Religious School at Double R-9:00 am

### Friday • March 25th

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

### Sunday • April 3rd

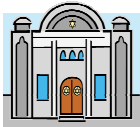
Religious School at Double R-9:00 am

### Friday • April 8th

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm  
*3rd/4th grade Shabbat and Torah reading*

## COMMUNITY GATHERING FOR DINNER PRIOR TO SERVICES:

Join your Temple Shir Shalom community for dinner before services on Friday, March 4th at 6:15 pm. Stop by your favorite eatery and PICK UP whatever your family wants to eat. Then bring it with you and we can all nosh together!! You can even pick up a little something for our Pot Luck Oneg too!! Hope to see you there!! Save the date as we plan on doing this again on April 15th!!



## 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

Purim might be my favorite Jewish holiday. That's partly because it appeals to my theater background and my love of a good parody. (and hamentashen!) But the meaning I find goes deeper than that and provides lessons that are still relevant today.

The holiday is based on events in the book of Esther. Briefly, a threat arises to a diaspora Jewish community from a man in a position of power who wants to destroy them because of a blow to his ego. Esther, who has hidden her Jewish ancestry and also risen to a position of some power, uses courage and “feminine wiles” to defeat the villain and save the Jews. The full version of the story is much more complicated, and frankly quite graphic in spots. (For more on that aspect of the book, come to my presentation to Our Jewish Orlando on Tuesday March 22—more details coming soon). The amount of destruction would be more disturbing if it weren't clear that the text is really a farce. But there are important ideas underlying the absurdity that really resonate for me.

God never appears in the book. This almost kept it out of our bible. Instead, Esther and her uncle Mordecai rely on their own ingenuity to avert the catastrophe that is planned for the community. In a palace filled with artifice and intrigue, Esther conducts herself with simplicity and kindness that wins her a position of favor. When the threat loomed for the Jews, she could have remained hidden in the harem, instead she took a stand, at some personal risk, to protect her people.

But the real reason I'm drawn to Purim is to find balance. You see, Talmud teaches that every Jewish holiday is part spiritual and part physical. We pray, and then we celebrate with special foods. There are two exceptions. Yom Kippur is entirely spiritual. Purim is all physical: we eat, drink (to excess) and hear the megilla—which never mentions God. It's easy to sense the Divine when you immerse yourself in a spiritual environment, whether that's a house of worship or an awe-inspiring spot in nature. It's harder to find a sense of holiness interacting with the “normal” parts of the world. But we need both those elements. In fact, the Vilna Gaon, an 18th century Jewish teacher, linked them explicitly by pointing out that Yom Kippur in

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aaron Sherman

Did you hear about the fire at the circus? It was in tents! Or how about the guy who lost his left arm and leg in a car crash? He's all right now. How about the guy who invented the knock knock joke? He won the "no-bell" prize. Or how about the one where Temple Shir Shalom is merging with Temple Israel? Wait... huh?

I'm not one for gossip or rumor-monger, so when a rumor makes its way to me, it must be a big one! It's even better when it's a rumor I would have been involved with and known about if it was true. So let me state clearly for the record: Temple Shir Shalom is not merging with Temple Israel, or any other local congregations.

We are engaging more with the local Jewish community, though. This has been an area of emphasis for the Board since we set out our goals this summer. We're an often overlooked, but important part of the Jewish community in Orlando, partly because we haven't engaged more with JFGO and other local congregations. The Board and Cantor Kim have been working hard at growing our exposure with the community.

That is going to mean involvement with other congregations locally. We are leading a community program, Mitzvah Mavens, with JFGO for teen engagement. Last month, Kim was involved with a community Tu B'shvat seder. This month, we have a joint Purim program planned with Temple Israel. In the course of their introductions to each other, Cantor Kim and Rabbi Neely felt like this was a good opportunity to do a program together. No one in our congregation should feel like these activities are a threat to our independence as a congregation.

We do have one other action in work with Temple Israel, but I will again reassure you that it does not affect our status as a congregation. Temple Israel has approached us and asked about the possibility of combining religious schools. Both our religious schools have struggled in recent years to maintain the same enrollments that we once had. Temple

Israel put forth the idea of combining the religious schools as a way to save costs and still provide quality education to the youth of our congregations. There are some challenges with combining the schools of a Conservative and a Reform congregation, so the Board gave Cantor Kim, in her role as our Religious School leader, permission to pursue the conversation with Temple Israel. Her discussions with the Religious School team at Temple Israel lead us to believe there is a path to a combined school curriculum.

The next step is for a TSS Board team to get more involved with Temple Israel's team to see if the logistic and financial challenges can be worked out. Things look favorable so far, but so far, there has been no decision put to the Board. We will continue to work on the details. As we learn more, we'll have more conversations with our existing Religious School teachers to get their input, too. Only after we've taken all those steps can we make a decision about whether or not we think this is in the best interests of Temple Shir Shalom. I promise that I'll let you know what we recommend for our Religious School.

In the meantime, the Board isn't holding any conversations with any other local congregations about merging. We are fully committed to Temple Shir Shalom and strengthening the community that we have built over the last 15 years. If that changes, I promise you'll hear from me or someone else on the Board.

*Shalom,  
Aaron*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Did you know that you can subscribe to TSS's online calendar to receive automatic calendar updates in your calendar application? Go to our website at [templeshirshalom.org](http://templeshirshalom.org) and click on the Calendar heading. You can choose to subscribe to our service schedule, religious school schedule, events schedule and/or youth schedule. Just one more way to stay connected to your TSS family!

### March 11th is Temple Shir Shalom's Scout Shabbat Service for Girl Scouts.

Scout Shabbat coincides with the founding of the Girl Scouts of America and is an opportunity for all Scouts to celebrate their faith as part of the community. We invite all local Girl Scouts, especially those in our own congregation, to join us for services that evening. Please wear your uniform.

### ***Mitzvah of Giving Funds:***

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

## EDUCATION INFORMATION

Congratulations to our 5th/6th grade students for a great job leading their class Shabbat service.

Our religious school students have been busy passing off on their Hebrew prayers this month! Fifth-seventh graders heard a presentation from J-Serve, a teen social action program. And our 3rd/4th grade families learned about Israel—complete with samples of the "seven species," fruits and grains linked to Israel in the Torah.

We saw L'il SHFTY members hard at work creating the games and activities for the Purim carnival on March 13th. The entire congregation is invited to join us from 11-noon on that Sunday to kick off TSS Purim celebrations this year --see announcements elsewhere in the newsletter for the full description of all our Purim activities. L'il SHFTY will also be helping to lead our Shabbat service on Friday, March 12th.

Parents, please note: TSS classes do not meet on March 20th or 27th due to public school vacation. We'll see you March 6th and 13th, then again on April 3rd. April 3rd is the inter-generational program for our K-2 class, and grades 3rd/4th will be helping to lead Shabbat services on April 8th!



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## Cantor *(continued from page 1)*

Hebrew is Yom hakipurim—literally, “a day like Purim.” The two are opposite sides of a coin. That's why it's a bit sad to me that many choose Yom Kippur as their one day to participate with a synagogue community. You get the awe, the repentance, the soul-searching—all important things. But you miss the joy. And the essence of Judaism is finding the balance between the two.

This year we have not one, not two, but three opportunities to celebrate the joy of Purim. On the morning of March 13 (a bit early due to school vacation) L'il SHFTY hosts our annual Purim carnival from 11-noon at Double R. Later that afternoon, we join with Temple Israel in a social action project and celebration. We'll be creating Purim food baskets, followed by a concert by Kol Sasson, an a cappella group from the University of Maryland. And last but not least, on Erev Purim, Wednesday March 23, we will also partner with Temple Israel in CHOZEN (“Frozen Purim”), a sing-along retelling of the story of Esther set to the music of Purim—original lyrics by yours truly. Please contact me if you want to help with some readings during the presentation. I'm especially looking for some Hebrew readers (don't worry, that part won't be done to the Frozen music!) I'm really hoping we can have a good turnout for these events—mostly because they're going to be a whole lot of fun!

The rabbis tell us that “in the month of Adar joy increases.” May the happiness in your family's lives expand this month, and may we all go from strength to strength.

*Best, Kim*



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## Temple Shir Shalom Cemetery

located on Morton Jones Road among other Jewish cemeteries. For more information and details, please contact Lisa Goldblatt



*You don't want to miss*

# FROZEN PURIM

**6:00pm Wednesday, March 23**

*a sing-along retelling of the story of Esther*

*by Temple Shir Shalom & Temple Israel*

*50 S. Moss Rd, Winter Springs*

*Come in costume (or not)  
and sing your heart out!*

*Want to be a more active participant?*

*Reading parts are available for all ages—*

*characters in the story &*

*megillah excerpts (Hebrew or English)*

*Contact Cantor Kim before March 15!*

## PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday March 13th from 11:00 to 12:00

Double R (Sunday School) 725 Country School Rd,  
Chuluota, FL 32766

Parents, Parents, Parents!!

We will be hosting our ANNUAL Sunday School PURIM Carnival. Lil SHFTY has been very busy making games, sign and decoration for this day. Even if you child does not attend Sunday school bring them out to support Temple Shir Shalom and Lil SHFTY. There is no charge for this event. Please call Heidi if you have any questions 407-756-0944.

## Mario Demner



Mario is a sixth grade student at Tusawilla Middle School where he has also participated in cross-country and plays flute with the school band.

Mario came to be with his forever family from Guatemala when he was 4 years old. His arrival was lovingly accepted into TSS since that time. He has made amazing friends thru L'il Shifty and religious school. He has played many sports through the years such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football and even martial arts.

His B'nai mitzvah project involves keeping the planet healthy and green. He works with the Seminole county SERV program and has volunteered his time to help plant trees and removing invasive plant species from waterways.

He is very excited about his big day and looks forward to sharing it with his TSS family. He also would like to especially thank those who have made the extra effort to get here from Tampa, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, California, Seattle and even Trinidad!

## JTEN University


*(sponsored by Hillel and the Jewish Federation):*

Central Florida high school students: Join us Sunday, March 27th from 3-6 pm for JTEN University, our spring program with UCF Hillel. As part of this unique educational experience, you will learn about Jewish life on campus, explore Jewish fraternities and sororities, experience a Sunday afternoon at UCF Hillel's community room, enjoy great kosher food and much more! This is a FREE program and open to all 9th- through 12th-grade students in Central Florida. Learn more and sign up today! <http://orlando.fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/s/jten-university>



**Jewish Academy of Orlando** is the area's premier academic institution for grades K-8 featuring state-of-the-art learning infused with Jewish values.

Call for a tour at 407-647-0713  
or visit [www.jewishacademyorlando.org](http://www.jewishacademyorlando.org).



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## Prepare For Purim & Repair the World!



**Sunday March 13 4:00-5:30**

Temple Israel & Temple Shir Shalom  
join forces to prepare

**Purim Food baskets (Misloach Manot)**

Followed by a festive concert by



**KOL SASSON,**

noteworthy a  
capella group from  
the University of  
Maryland.

Temple Israel  
50 S. Moss Rd,  
Winter Springs

### Purim Dinner and Frozen Program:

Join our friends at Temple Israel for a fun filled evening on Wednesday, March 23 beginning at 6:00 pm with Frozen program followed by dinner at 7:00 pm.

We will start with the Megillah with a special Frozen themed Shpiel threaded through the reading, At 7:00 pm we will be having a Delicious dinner and Wine tasting with friends and family

#### Menu

Blintz Soufflé – gluten option  
Tuna Salad / Mac & Cheese  
Chips & Salsa / Green Salad  
Dessert

Cost: \$10/person, ages 5 and under FREE  
– \$40/Family Max.

Make your reservations online at <https://www.tiflorida.org/events/family-megillah-purim-dinner-2016-03-23/> or contact the Temple Israel office at (407) 647-3055.

Reservations close at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 21. Reservations made after that through the office will incur a \$5 upcharge.

Temple Israel, 50 South Moss Road, Winter Springs, FL

**\*\*If you are able to help with dinner prep, set-up or clean-up at Temple Israel, please contact Sharon Zishuk at [sharonz@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sharonz@cfl.rr.com).\*\***

## Hold the Date: Passover Food Tasting event:

As we get ready for the Passover season to begin, let's share some recipes to liven up our Passover tables. Bring your favorite Passover charoset, side, dessert, and main dinner recipe (wine too) to share. Send this favorite Passover recipe to Tina Buck at [tinabuck@gmail.com](mailto:tinabuck@gmail.com) and she will put them together in an electronic format to send to everyone. Should be a fun and tasty time for everyone! We will plan on getting together April 9th, with location and time to be announced. Watch for a signup genius in the email blast and April newsletter!



## Thank you Oneg Sponsors!

March 4th  
Pot-luck

March 11th  
Dross, Geismar, Goldberg, Fedigan, Kaplan, Karter, Nelson Families and B'nei Mitzvah Class in honor of Mario Demner Bar Mitzvah

March 25th  
Pot-luck-Purim Celebration

April 8th  
Families of 3rd/4th graders;

#### Here's the link:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0B44ACA82CA3F49-oneg](http://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](mailto:shtroms@yahoo.com).



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## 2016 SHFTY/Lil SHFTY CALENDAR EVENTS

Annual **Lil SHFTY Friday Night Shabbat service** will be held on Friday March 11, 2016.

Annual Sunday School **Purim Carnival** Hosted by Lil SHFTY will be held on Sunday March 13, 2016 from noon to 1:30.

### SPRING KALLAH 9th-12 GRADE STUDENTS

NFTY-STR Spring Kallah **March 4-6, 2016**

Spend an amazing weekend with your NFTY-STR community. Celebrate our first regional event at a camp! Be prepared to sleep in cabins, participate in creative programs, meet new people and learn something new about yourself. Spring Kallah promises to be a wonderful event filled with laughter, community, trust and friendship. Get ready to celebrate Shabbat, interact in programs, enjoy Shira and bid our seniors farewell.

**This event is open to any Jewish teen in grades 9 to 12.**

Go here: [southerntropical.nfty.org](http://southerntropical.nfty.org) to register

Annual **Lil SHFTY Friday Night Shabbat service** will be held on Friday March 11, 2016.

Annual Sunday School **Purim Carnival** Hosted by Lil SHFTY will be held on Sunday March 13, 2016 from noon to 1:30.

### ISRAEL AWARENESS PROGRAM

8th – 12th GRADE STUDENTS

Join us on March 13, 2016 from 3-5 PM at the home of Heidi Smith for our SHFTY BOARD ELECTIONS. Welcome your new board member with an Israel Awareness Program. This event is open to all 8th -12th grade students. **Lil SHFTY welcome to the BIG.** Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please bring **\$2.00** per person.

### CONGO RIVER 6th-8th GRADE STUDENTS

On Sunday, March 20, 2016, **Lil SHFTY** will be playing Mini Golf. We will be meeting at noon until 3:30PM for a picnic lunch (**included**) and a game of golf. Congo River Miniature Golf is located at 12193 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando FL 32826. Cost of this event is **\$8.00** per member **\$11.00** per guest.

### FORT BUILDING LOCK- IN 6th-12th GRADE STUDENTS

**ALL SHFTY and Lil SHFTY** On Friday, April 1, 2016, we will be building forts. Join us at 9PM (after services) for a team SHEET fort building competition at the home of Heidi Smith located at 640 Cedar Forest Circle, Orlando, FL 32828. Afterwards we will be watching movies and eating plenty of junk food. Bring your pillow and sleeping bag for a sleepover. Pick up is at 10AM on Saturday morning April 2, 2016. The cost of this event is **\$5.00** per person.

**Bring a twin SHEET and we will donate them all afterwards to Camp Jenny J**

### MINUTE TO WIN IT 5th – 8th GRADE STUDENTS

On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Lil SHFTY will be playing the game Minute to Win it. Join us at the Double RR School from Noon to 2:30 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and games. Lil SHFTY invites the 5th grade students to join them. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Cost for this event is **\$3.00** per person.

### IDF DAY 6th-12TH GRADE STUDENTS

**ALL SHFTY BIG and Lil** –Saturday, April 30, 2016, from Noon-4PM.

Welcome to a day of Israeli Defense Force. This is an interactive game teaching us about the Israeli Defense Forces. Cost for this event is **\$3.00** per person. Bring a towel for those pesky water

### BOMBS

Snacks and drinks will be provided. The location for this event will be held at the home of Fern and Shep Burr at 2030 Palm Way, Sanford, FL 32773.

### SHFTY YEAR END EVENT 9th-12 GRADE STUDENTS

**SAVE THE DATE**...Let's make this a big one! An overnight stay at the Walt Disney World Resort. On Saturday, May 14, 2016, we will spend the night at a Disney property hotel and the next day go to either a Disney theme park or a Disney water park. We will have Havdallah Disney style (fireworks), hang out, have some fun and say farewell to our seniors. **Details to be announced shortly.**

### Lil SHFTY POOL PARTY 5th – 8th GRADE STUDENTS

Let's have a pool party on Sunday, May 1, 2016, from 1:00-4:00PM. Join us for a BBQ and an afternoon of water fun. Along with the pool let's slip and slide. How about a game of kickball water style? Event held at the home of Heidi Smith 640 Cedar Forest Circle, Orlando FL 32828. The cost of this event is **\$3.00** per person **\$5.00** per guest.

**DON'T FORGET TO RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS!**

### BBYO:

WHAT: NFR SRC 2016 (Spring Regional Convention)

WHO: BBYO MEMBERS ONLY

WHERE: Tampa Marriott Westshore

WHEN: Friday, April 1st at 6 pm - Sunday, April 3rd at 2 pm

COST: \$300

SRC is filled with elections of our 13th regional board, giving the State of the Region Address, participating in powerful separates, AZAA/BBGG Sports Tournament, and experiencing the most memorable programs and spirit NFR has ever seen. Registration at the regular price of \$300 ends on 3/20. Scholarships are available. Please email [lconte@bbyo.org](mailto:lconte@bbyo.org) for an application. Cancellations that require a refund must be received in writing by March 18.



### Teen Movie Night:

Teens in 6th-12th grade are invited to outdoor movie night at the Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando. The event is on Saturday March 12 and the admission price is \$5. Proceeds go toward the Orlando J-Serve Community Service event which will be on May 1. Bring extra \$\$\$ for snacks during the movie!



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Mario Demner  
4 Alexander Maxwell  
5 Matthew Poweski  
8 Addison Isaacson  
9 John Miller  
10 Michael Collin  
10 Alex Foote  
10 Michael Maxwell  
12 Harry Glusky  
18 Meryl Poweski  
19 Joshua Greenberg  
20 Jon Miller  
23 Cyril Barnert  
23 Sam Freed  
24 Lisa Goldblatt  
25 Benjamin Bianco  
25 Maxwell Fedigan  
26 Svetlana Shtrom  
29 Nacia Goldberg  
30 Julie Dross  
31 Ben Shever

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Debra House  
1 Hannah Schafer  
1 Rachel Vogin  
2 Eric Karter  
4 Daniel Eisenstein  
6 Emily Pearson  
7 Bruce Paster  
10 Benjamin Greenberg  
11 Jonathon Goldberg  
11 Heidi Smith  
11 Jonathon Sundheim  
12 Susan Kahn  
13 David Cooper  
13 Seth Daub  
13 Deanna DeFilippo  
14 Jackson Karter  
14 Noah Shever  
16 Holly Freed  
17 Matthew Goldblatt  
18 Sheila Copper  
20 Stacey Bianco  
21 Florence Kramer

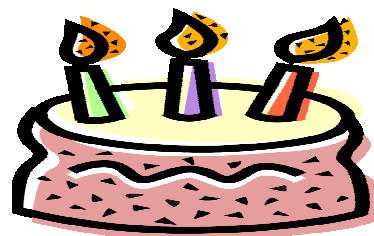
22 Laurie Levine  
25 Shari Geismar  
29 Emma Schulman  
29 Andrew Stolar  
30 John Zielinsky

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Karyn & Gary Schulman  
22 Bruce & Jennifer Paster  
25 Sherri & Jacob Eisenstein

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5 David & Jennifer Reif  
21 Jeffrey & Lisa Goldblatt



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cybarlight@msn.com)) to help with the Social Action Team.