



Temple Shir Shalom

SEPTEMBER 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*

**First United Methodist Church of Oviedo (FUMCO)**

**In the Historic Sanctuary  
263 King Street, Oviedo FL 32765**

**University Carillon United Methodist Church (UCUMC) EPICenter**

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

**Friday • September 11th**

Shabbat Service at UCUMC

**Sunday • September 13th**

Erev Rosh Hashanah at 7:30 pm

**Monday • September 14th**

Rosh Hashanah at 10:00 am  
(Challah, apples & honey, juice and water following services)

**Monday • September 14th**

Tashlich Service at 4:30 pm  
Bear Creek Walking Trail

**Friday • September 18th**

Shabbat Shuva Service at 7:30 pm at FUMCO

**Sunday • September 20th**

Religious School at 9:00 am

**Tuesday • September 22nd**

Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre) at 7:30 pm

**Wednesday • September 23rd**

Yom Kippur Morning at 10:00 am  
Yom Kippur Family at 3:00 pm  
Yizkor at 4:30 pm / Neilah at 5:30 pm  
Yom Kippur Break Fast at 6:30 pm

**Friday • September 25th**

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

**Sunday • September 27th**

Religious School at 9:00 am

**Friday • October 2nd**

Shabbat Service at UCUMC at 7:30 pm

**Friday • October 3rd**

Bat Mitzvah of Julia Geismar  
at UCUMC at 10 am

**FROM THE BIMA**

*Cantor Kim Singer*

Prayer and Disney World.

Not as different as you might think, really. And please understand that I care deeply about both of these two things, so the comparison is not intended to be flippant.

But think about it. If you are arriving for the first time (or even the second or third) it can be a totally overwhelming experience. Frequently new guests attend at times that it's most crowded. There may be someone at the entrance smiling and trying to be helpful. But—where do you go? What are you supposed to do? Everyone else seems to know exactly what's going on. There are even some people wearing funny little hats. And yes, all these things happen at Disney World too.

Like Disney, the synagogue can be an oasis. Or it can be overwhelming, offputting, or alienating. It depends on your expectations, experience and preparation. This struck me the other day when I was having conversations with two different people. One was astonished by my Disney fascination. She went once, had a miserable time and swore she'd never go back. It was too crowded. The lines were too long. The whole family was cranky. The other conversation revolved around prayer and synagogue. He'd gone to Rosh Hashana services (not here!). Too many people he didn't know. Unfamiliar music. Too long.

At some point, I realized I was having essentially the same conversation with each of them. Why? And is there anything to be learned here to make the synagogue experience a better one, even for people like Friend 2? I think so.

Friend 1 was at Disney during winter break—the busiest time of year. She bought the plane tickets, booked a hotel, and off they went. That's like walking into Kol Nidrei as your very first synagogue service ever. No wonder she was overwhelmed and unhappy. A little more planning, better explanations, a mentor...one of these could make either of those experiences more manageable.

And Friend 2? In terms of the prayer service, I actually think that the High Holidays are supposed to be a little unsettling. Even for people who are Shabbat-service-attenders. The music is all different. There are extra prayers, and extra sentences stuck into otherwise-familiar prayers. It's supposed to jolt us out of our comfort zone. But for that

*Continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aaron Sherman

If you haven't noticed, our TSS calendar has been filling up! In addition to the Shabbat and holiday observances which have always been part of what we offer, we've been adding social action, social events, planning meetings and tracking three youth groups. The Board heard the message last spring that you wanted more, so we're trying to offer more. Two of our goals this year are to have 100% of our members engaged with Temple Shir Shalom and to increase our engagement with the community. I hope you will venture over to our website where you can always find the most up to date information about what we're planning.

There's one new opportunity that I would like to encourage you to help out with. You may have seen or heard me make announcements about NFTY kallah events over the last year. Temple youth in our SHFTY chapter are part of a regional group which hold conventions throughout the year. When our teens travel to these events, they are housed by volunteer members of the community where the event is hosted. This fall, Orlando will be host to the kallah held October 9, 10 and 11. We have been asked by both CRJ (who is sponsoring this kallah) and the regional NFTY director if we can host some of the teens coming for this event. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to reciprocate the hospitality our teens receive when they travel to other locations. I hope you will join our enthusiastic SHFTY leaders and parents in being a host family for this weekend. You don't have to have a child in SHFTY, Lil' SHFTY, or BBYO to help; you just have to have seatbelts and willingness to share your home. This is a big opportunity for our congregation to show the regional leadership that we are the congregation that can, and does. If you have any questions about what's involved, please reach out to Dale Mester or Heidi Smith.

As I did last month, I would like to remind and encourage you to register for this year's URJ Biennial. Temple Shir Shalom already has enough members regis-

tered to form an official delegation (group), entitling all of our participants to a small discount and opportunities to meet with URJ leadership. Delegation and early registration ends September 10! There are many registration options, so check out the URJ Biennial site (search for "URJ Biennial 2015" in your favorite browser). If you've registered to attend, please let our delegation organizer, Sherri Eisenstein, know so that we can be sure to keep you informed of the delegation specific activities that week.

It's been a while since I've publicly thanked members of our congregation who are working hard to keep the congregation going. There's especially a lot of work that goes into High Holiday preparation, and we have a lot of folks working to make them successful. No matter your role in helping to plan, I appreciate your effort! I want to specifically acknowledge the huge amount of work that Cantor Kim is putting in to prepare for this year. In a few short months since she joined our congregation, she has found the transitional balance for Shabbat services, worked with our teachers to improve the religious school curriculum and prepared to lead us through the High Holidays. This is no small amount of work, so to Kim, I say "Thank you", and remember that Yom Kaput is just around the corner.

Jennifer, Seth, Michelle and I wish you all a sweet and happy New Year!

*Shanah Tovah,*

*Aaron*

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### Cantor *(continued from page 1)*

to really have the intended impact, there needs to be a "comfort zone" to be jolted out of. He could benefit from a mentor as well.

I know that, even with the best planning, Disney World isn't for everyone. But people who don't enjoy spending time in the Magic Kingdom sometimes love Epcot. I genuinely love worship services. You may not. But I'd like to encourage you, this new year, to explore a little (even for Shir Shalom regulars, this year will be a little different). And please, share your reactions—as specifically as possible. What is meaningful, what "works" for you? And if you'd like a mentor, for shul or for Disney, I'd be happy to help!

*Best, Kim*



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## EDUCATION INFORMATION

TSSRS—off and running!

Thanks to parents, teachers, madrichim and students for a great start to the Religious School year. Our faculty and madrichim are hard at work to make this an exciting year. Our school calendar includes special events for holidays, family education sessions for each grade, and a revised curriculum for Jewish studies. Parents, look for details and updates from both me and your child's classroom teacher coming soon! I'm especially excited about arts enrichment "specials" that will have our madrichim bringing art, mu-

sic, drama and dance into classrooms on a rotating basis throughout the year.

Also new this year—introduction to Torah Trope, a mini-unit for 7th graders, and any interested adult TSS members. Sessions are Sept 20, Oct 11, Oct 18 from 11:00-11:30 at Double R school.

Hope to see parents and students at our Yom Kippur Family service at 3:00 on Tuesday, September 23.

Shana tova um'tuka

Dear Fellow Congregants,

The new fiscal year has begun, and soon the High Holidays will be upon us. One thing you may not know, however, is that it is not too late to become a Mitzvah Member.

We have had a challenging past year, but with diligence and commitment from our Board and our members we are moving in a positive direction. Yes, it was with sadness that we had to say goodbye to our former spiritual leader, Beth Schafer, but we are fortunate to have found Cantor Kim Singer, a spiritual leader not only willing to lead our services but eminently qualified as a Jewish educator. She has provided us a level of commitment that will enable us to grow, not just individually, but also as a community.

It is time for those of us able to do so to step up and show that we believe in the future of Temple Shir Shalom by becoming Mitzvah Members. The difference between a Family membership and a Silver membership is less than \$1 a day, but the impact such a commitment would have on our spiritual community is worth much more. Please contact our treasurer, Laurie Levine if you have any questions about Mitzvah Memberships, and our three current levels: Silver (\$1398), Gold (\$1800) and Platinum (\$2400).

We have recently contacted Laurie to tell her that our family believes strongly in Temple Shir Shalom and, aside from the other ways we plan to help this congregation, we would like to lead with a stronger financial commitment..

Please join us if you can.

L'Shalom,

Peri and Keith Goldberg

### 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!

#### 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](mailto:membership@templeshirshalom.org).



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## 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 schedule, 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.

## Thank you Oneg Sponsors!

### September 11th

Potluck,

### September 18th

Rheda Epstein, Flo Kramer, & Annette Romaine

### September 25th

Potluck

### October 2nd

B'nei Mitzvah Class

### ONEG SPONSORS NEEDED FOR

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER! 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).

### Hold the Date...S'mores under the Sukkot:

Bring your blanket, chairs and dinner for a Picnic under the Sukkah. We will have all the fixin's for S'mores to enjoy! Come out on September 27th at 4:30 pm. Watch your email blast for more details!



Did you know our Ritual Team is charged with more than just setting up and tearing down the sanctuary for Shabbat each week? The Ritual Team is also charged with organizing volunteer prayer leaders, planning holiday observances, working with the spiritual leader to plan prayers each week, planning special Shabbat services and helping with life cycle event planning. If you want to help, please contact Aaron Sherman ([ajsherman@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ajsherman@cfl.rr.com), 407-277-2485).

## Julia Elizabeth Geismar



Daughter of Clifford and Shari Geismar, granddaughter of Robert and Rochelle Blafox and Gustave and Judith Geismar will be called to the Torah on Saturday, October 3rd, 2015. Julia is an honors student in 7th Grade at Lawton Chiles Middle School where she enjoys art classes and plays clarinet in Concert band. She also helps lead her Religious School youth group, SHFTY, as Co-president.

Julia's Mitzvah project allowed her to combine her nurturing spirit and love of music as she worked for those in need, both at the HOPE house in Oviedo and the Ronald McDonald house in Orlando, in addition to performing on the clarinet for residents of the Tremont in Oviedo.

Julia and her family are excited to be sharing this special occasion with friends and family from New York, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, as well as her Temple Shir Shalom family.

### 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 signup! Check out the website at <http://www.pjlibrary.org/communities/jewish-federation-greater-orlando/160>.

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

Join Us .....

## Temple Shir Shalom Community Break Fast Catered by Bagel King September 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm to 8:30pm

*Immediately following Neilah and Havdalah services in the FUMCO fellowship hall adjacent to the sanctuary*

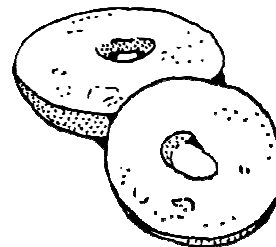
\$13.00 for adults

\$7.00 for children 12 and under

**RSVPs must be received by September 18<sup>th</sup>**

### Menu

Mini assorted sliced bagels  
Plain cream cheese schmear  
Butter  
Chunky nova cream cheese schmear (lots of nova)  
Egg salad  
Albacore tuna salad  
Sliced tomatoes, Bermuda onions, Capers and Lemon  
Macaroni and cheese  
Mini bite size desserts  
Gourmet coffee bar  
Coke beverages  
Grape Juice



### To RSVP and Pay

Visit [templeshirshalom.org](http://templeshirshalom.org), click on the High Holidays tab, scroll down and select the number of Adults attending to add to your cart, click continue shopping to add the number of children attending to your cart. Continue by selecting Check Out.

You will receive confirmation of your RSVP within 3 days. If you have any questions, please contact Valorie Karter [valoriekarter@gmail.com](mailto:valoriekarter@gmail.com) or by cell 407-435-3074  
*\*We are also looking for 4 attendees who would like to donate a kugel.*

### Temple Shir Shalom

welcomes the following family:

Stephanie and Adam Simmens and children  
Brooke (6th grade), Ryan (3rd grade), and  
Isabella (kindergarten)

Andrea and Doug Holcomb and children  
Sara (10th grade) and Sean (7th grade)

Andrew and Kimberly Isaacson and children  
Amber (college sophomore), Shane (11th  
grade), Addison (5th grade)

### SHFTY

School of Fish - Get to know Your SHFTY Self

When: Saturday, September 12th, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Where: The Geismar's House

Cost: \$5.00 for pizza dinner

RSVP: by September 9th to Heidi at smithhr@bellsouth.net

Please fill out the attached SHFTY membership form and  
B'rit K'hilah and bring a check for \$72.00 for dues

Movie Night!

When: Saturday, September 19th, 5:30-9:00 pm

Where: Heidi's House

Cost: \$2.00.

RSVP by September 17th to Heidi at smithhr@bellsouth.net

Sit back and relax with Jewish teens from your TSS commu-  
nity. Come watch Life is Beautiful and have an evening of  
laughs and fun!

Please bring your membership form if you haven't already  
sent it in with a \$72.00 check for dues.

### 2015 URJ Biennial:

The URJ Biennial is planned for November 4-8, 2015. In  
past years, URJ has invited local congregations to help  
with planning and running the event. They are taking a  
different approach this year and planning everything out  
themselves, but we are all still welcome to attend! If  
there are at least three members from Temple Shir Sha-  
lom attending, we can get delegation pricing. Sherri  
Eisenstein is going to organize our delegation, so if you  
are interested in attending, please contact her at sherrei-  
sen@gmail.com. Early registration ends September 10.

NFTY-STR Fall Kallah is October 9-11th. Early bird registra-  
tion ends September 16th.

register at [www.nfty.org/str](http://www.nfty.org/str). You must be a paid member of  
SHFTY in order to attend.

### LiL SHFTY

Mall Scavenger Hunt

When: Sunday, September 20th, 12:30-3:00

Where: Oviedo Mall ( Market Place)

Cost: \$ for your own food at the mall

RSVP: by September 18th to Heidi at smithhr@bellsouth.net

Connect Yourself to Judaism

When: Sunday, September 27th, 12:30-2:30

Where: Double R School

Cost: \$5.00

RSVP: by September 25th to Heidi at

We're Going Bowling!

When: Sunday, October 4th, 12:30-3:30

Where: Oviedo Bowling Center, 376 E Broadway Street

Cost: \$7.00 - bring a non TSS guest for \$10.00

RSVP by October 2nd to Heidi at smithhr@bellsouth.net


Pumpkins, Gourds and more!

When: Sunday, October 18th, 12:30-2:30

Where: Double R school

Cost: \$3.00

RSVP by October 15th to Heidi at smithhr@bellsouth.net



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and then invite your friends  
and family to like our page as well!

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Sarah Crabtree  
 2 Brandon Baronoff  
 2 Sharon Zishuk  
 5 Logan Schulman  
 6 Traci Vogin  
 9 Miguel Wright  
 10 Joshua Kansol  
 12 Nathan Copeland  
 13 Joseph Eisenstein  
 15 Mark Nemery  
 16 Lauren Hall  
 16 Steven Shever  
 18 Jordan Pearson  
 20 Reuben Bianco  
 21 Sandy Ribakoff  
 21 Sari Stender  
 22 Jacob Vogin  
 24 Aaron Sherman  
 25 Mitchell Freed  
 26 Samantha Collin  
 28 Arnold Stein

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

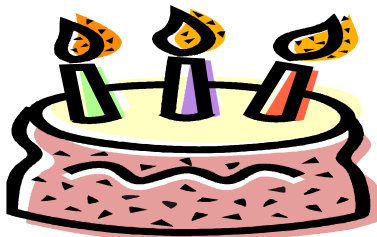
1 Julia Geismar  
 3 Jeremy Holstein  
 3 Kimberly Isaacson  
 3 Sarah Schulman  
 3 Steve Seed  
 5 Sarah Schafer  
 10 Valorie Karter  
 13 Rose Moskowitz  
 16 Joseph Glusky  
 16 Jennifer Paster  
 17 Samuel Kaplan  
 17 Jennifer Sherman  
 17 John Harry Zielinsky  
 18 Michael Sonnenschein  
 24 Toby Gutman  
 26 Anna Lesnick  
 28 Gabriel Barnert  
 29 Melissa Kweller  
 31 Adam Collin

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Ed & Emily Foote  
 1 David & Ana Weiser  
 4 Doug & Andrea Holcomb  
 6 Garland & Amy Crabtree  
 6 William & Holly Lesnick  
 16 Mark & Barbara Nemery  
 18 Scott & Denyse Demner  
 23 Mitchell & Holly Freed

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Shawn & Reva Fedigan  
 8 Jerry & Beth Hutcheson  
 10 David & Daun Cooper  
 13 Kevin & Kari Miller  
 13 Brent Terwilliger & Mary Moskowitz  
 29 Steve & Julie Dross  
 29 Cliff & Shari Geismar  
 29 Joshua & Christie Greenberg



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**The NFTY- STR Fall Kallah will take place October 9-11, 2015 at CRJ.** TSS is partnering with CRJ to house over 300 teens that will be attending this event. I am specifically reaching out to you with a request for help. The good news is we have so many teens that want to be a part of NFTY-STR and our challenge is finding enough housing for all of the teens who want to attend this event. Please consider volunteering to help and serve as a host home for Fall Kallah. The teens come with sleeping bags, you don't need extra beds.

The driving responsibilities are as follows; you will receive exact times AS WE GET CLOSER

Friday, October 9th – pick-up your participants at the end of the programmatic evening

Saturday, October 10th - provide breakfast for your teens and drop off in the morning

Saturday, October 10th - pick up at for free time in the late afternoon and provide dinner for your teens

Saturday, October 10th - drop teens at evening program (usually around 7:30 pm)

Saturday, October 10th - pick teens up at evening program location(usually around 10:30 pm)

Sunday, October 11th - drop teens off with all of their belongings (9:00 am)

\*Please note times will be more exact in the next few weeks.

All families who wish to host need to complete this housing link.

<https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/nftystr-housing-consent-form-fall-kallah/>

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I have been a host home for before, it is a fun and rewarding experience!

Dale Mester 954-328-8165

## Temple Shir Shalom SHFTY Membership Form 2015-2016

Annual membership dues: \$72

Please remember that membership is required to attend NFTY\_STR regional events.

Your temple youth group membership fee includes your annual NFTY dues.

Youth Group Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Teen's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Teen's cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teen's home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Latest Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (as of August 2015) \_\_\_\_\_

First Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different than Teen's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ YES! I would like to volunteer to host a SHFTY event!

\_\_\_ YES! I am happy to help carpooling to events!

\_\_\_ Yes! I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Committee!

Other Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different than Teen's: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ YES! I would like to volunteer to host a SHFTY event!

\_\_\_ YES! I am would be happy to help carpooling to events!

\_\_\_ YES! I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Committee!



TO BE COMPLETED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Youth Group Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies (food/medication): \_\_\_\_\_

Does your Teen have any medical conditions the advisors should be aware of?

\_\_\_\_\_

If Parent(s) cannot be reached in case of an emergency, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to  
teen: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL PERMISSION/ RELEASE

I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Temple Shir Shalom youth group events. In Case of a medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact parent(s), guardian(s), or emergency contact. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the persons in charge to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order an injection, anesthesia or surgery for my child named above.

This form may be photocopied for emergency use outside of Temple Shir Shalom.

Signature of Parent of Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH GROUP PERMISSION/RELEASE

\_\_\_\_ I give Temple Shir Shalom my permission to use pictures of my teen at youth group events in Temple Shir Shalom publicity and communication.

\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to attend and participate in Temple Shir Shalom youth activities. Neither Temple Shir Shalom, nor its staff or volunteers, shall be liable or responsible for any injury or loss suffered by or to any participant while attending or engaged in activities or in transport to or from an activity.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NFTY's *B'RIT K'HILAH*—Code of Conduct**

**I will promote the creation of a religious youth community based on mutual respect and a sense of personal well-being. I will treat others with *kavod* (honor and respect) because we are created *b'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of God). I have read the following rules, designed to promote the health and safety of all event participants, and have indicated my complete acceptance by my signature and that of my parent/guardian.**

I will not possess, consume, or distribute alcoholic beverages, other than that served by adult leadership for Jewish sacramental purposes, even if I am of legal drinking age.

I will not possess, use, or distribute any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia.

I will not smoke or consume or distribute tobacco products at any time during the event.

I will attend and participate fully in the entire event, unless otherwise agreed upon with the NFTY Regional Advisor. I will arrive on time, stay until the end, and remain on the event premises at all times.

I will not bring or use any weapons, firearms, or anything that may be construed as a weapon.

I will not commit any illegal act. I understand that vandalism, disturbing the peace, or other inappropriate behavior as determined by the adult leadership in accordance with the youth leadership will not be tolerated. I understand that I will have to pay for any damage that I cause. I understand that no gambling is allowed, except for fundraisers approved by the adult leadership.

I will abide by the event curfew announced by the leadership. After each event session, I will go directly to my cabin, hotel room, or host home and remain there until the next session.

I understand that no guests are allowed at any event, unless the adult leadership grants permission in advance, and that any unauthorized guests will be asked to leave immediately.

I will not drive to, during, or from events, unless advance permission for a special situation is requested in writing by my parent/guardian and granted in writing by the NFTY Regional Advisor. This includes driving to/from my home to meet NFTY's designated transportation

I will not participate in any activities that could be deemed as hazing, sexually harassing, demeaning, or hurtful.

I agree to refrain from inappropriate sexual behavior.

I agree to abide by any additional rules, pertinent to a specific event, which may be announced, and to accept the consequences of their violation.

**I understand that these rules of behavior apply from the time I leave home for the event, during the event itself, and until I return home after the event.**

**We understand that part of the NFTY experience involves activities, group living arrangements and interactions that may be new to my child. These things come with certain risks and uncertainties beyond what my child may be used to dealing with at home. I am aware of these risks, and I am assuming them on behalf of my child. I realize that no environment is risk free and so I have instructed my child on the importance of abiding by NFTY's *B'rit K'hilah*—Code of Conduct. My child and I both agree that he or she is familiar with these rules and will obey them. We further understand that sanctions imposed by the NFTY Regional Advisor for violation could include immediate expulsion from the event, at the expense of the parent or guardian.**

**My signature, and the signature of my parent/guardian, on the attached Health and Safety Form for Union for Reform Judaism Youth Programs, affirm my agreement to the rules and policies of NFTY and this**

***B'rit K'hilah.***

Updated July 2006 **PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS**