



Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 73rd year

DECEMBER 2024 - CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5785

Vol. 73 #11



YOU ARE INVITED TO SHAARE TEFILA'S ANNUAL

LET THE LIGHT SHINE COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING & CELEBRATION

FEATURING A SPECIAL HOLIDAY SONG SESSION LED BY
ADRIENNE 'AUNTIE A' MOELLER OF RHYTHM N' RUACH!

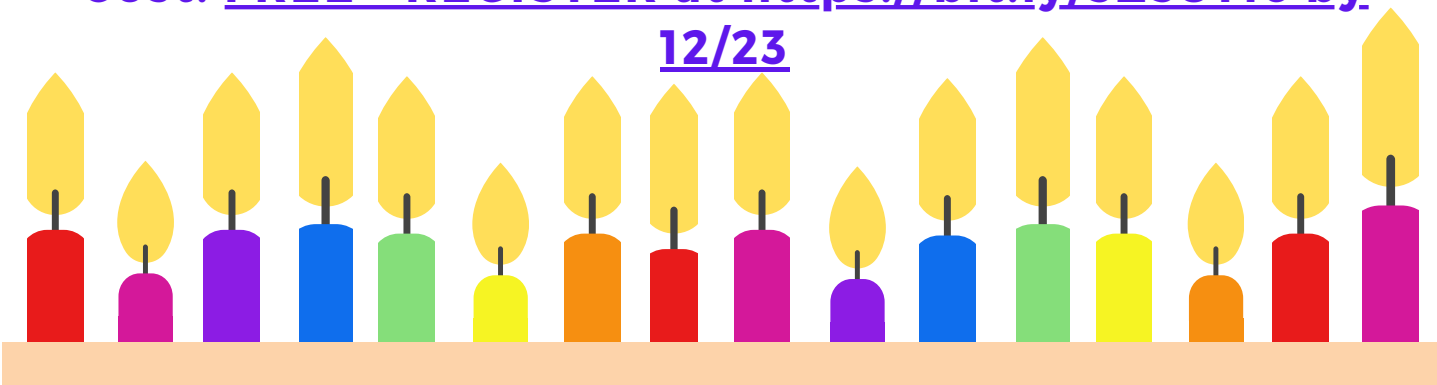
When: December 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Shaare Tefila - 16620 Georgia Ave

What: Games Will Be Played, Refreshments Will Be
Served, Take Pictures with Our Festive Blow Up
Decorations & Props!

Cost: **FREE** - REGISTER at <https://bit.ly/3Z58Tfc> by

12/23



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Social Action and Pursuing the Light

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org



As a result of the presidential election last month, we as American Jews, are faced with a harsh reality. This, by the way, is not a political critique of the president-elect or of the Republican party, but is a comment about the people he plans to nominate for key environmental, health and justice positions and the impact they may have on our lives in the next four years.

Many of us are rightly nervous if not frightened about our future, especially when we think about social justice issues. I'm sure you have seen on your own social media feeds how organizations have been engaging in a lot of hand wringing and people are suggesting that our lives are threatened.

Though I am nervous, I know that we need to continue to engage. We need to turn our anxiety and fear into positive action. We need to know that there are organizations with which we can be involved and actions we can perform that will be good and that will do good. Simply being angry isn't helpful. Being afraid only makes us feel worse. Knowing there is something we can do with like-minded people that actually will improve our community is what we need to fill us with meaning and hope.

I suggest that you consider social action opportunities here at Shaare Tefila. Internally - that is, to care for the needs of our own members - we have the *Chesed* Committee. They prepare meals and deliver them to those in need (for physical and health reasons), offer rides for members to doctor appointments, arrange

for rides to the shul for services. The committee would always welcome more volunteers and please reach out to **Adriana Sandler** - SandlerAA@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

Our social action committee tries to raise awareness about a variety of social justice issues - refugee resettlement, climate change, antisemitism, etc. - and plan programs as well. We will be running a social action book series beginning in January, for example, about three books that raise questions and provide ideas for how to get involved. The committee could use more volunteers and could use some help in coordinating a focus for the next few years. If you would like to find out more information and would like to volunteer on the committee please contact me - RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org - or Babette Cohn - BCohn@ShaareTefila.org - for more information.

Hanukkah will begin at the end of December. It serves to celebrate the victory of good over evil - the victory of the Jewish Maccabees over the pagan Greek empire 2,100 years ago. The candles we light all 8 nights remind us not only of the miracle of that small flask of oil that lasted 8 days, but also symbolizes how good triumphed in the end. Each night we add another flame until the eighth night when the room lights up.

May our hope in the future burn bright. May our social justice advocacy transform the darkness we may feel into light. May the light encourage us to get involved and bring light into other people's lives.

Happy *Hanukkah*!

Letter to the Congregation

Dear *Chesed* Committee;

Thank you so much for the delicious dinners and the 'Supergirl' soups and stews that you sent. They were really appreciated, enjoyed, and so helpful during my recovery.

Chesed Committee is such a wonderful group of people who are helping those in need within the community; you are all so appreciated. Thank you so, so much!

Sincerely,
[Name withheld to preserve anonymity]

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

Sign Up to Chant a *Haftarah*

Just because...

or perhaps to mark a special occasion, like an anniversary, birthday or other?

Join our group of 30+ congregants who chant our weekly *Haftarot*.

Rabbi Layman will be happy to make a recording of a specific *haftarah* if needed

Please contact Adriana (SandlerAA@gmail.com) for available dates

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org



With the Thanksgiving holiday upon us, we know that *Hanukkah* is just around the corner, well maybe a corner just a little bit farther away this year. As we gather in gratitude this season, we honor the traditions that bring us together, the values of family, faith, and generosity, and the many contributions the Jewish

community continues to make. Shaare Tefila did make a contribution to the community for the Thanksgiving holiday as we received enough contributions and pre-made baskets to deliver 33 meals to needy families this year.

It's been six months since the Board and Officer installation, and I wanted to let the congregation know that we have been very busy on several major items that are nearing completion. I will be providing more detailed information as these items are completed. I want to thank the Board Members, Officers, and our Executive Director for all their hard work over these past six months.

November was another busy travel month for Fran and me as we celebrated two weddings with family, one in Merida Mexico and one in Brooklyn. In between we were able to experience the beauty of Utah, including visits Bryce and Zion National Parks.

As another monthly reminder, while financial support to our congregation is important there is also there is a non-

financial support needed for our community by way of **VOLUNTEERING!** I again encourage everyone to commit to pick at least a single event to volunteer to help. If you are unsure of whom to contact, please reach out to a Shaare Tefila officer or to our Executive Director Jerry Kiewe.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HANUKKAH PARTY FOR SENIORS - PLEASE HELP OUT...

Michael Binder, President, Men's Club
(301) 908-2284 | MJBinder@comcast.net

The Activities Director of Homecrest House, a B'nai B'rith-supported senior residence in Aspen Hill, has again requested assistance of the Shaare Tefila Men's Club and Sisterhood for its annual *Hanukkah* party on Friday afternoon, **December 27, from 2:00-4:00 PM.**

No advance prep is needed; as we did last year, we just need volunteers to show up. We will then play games and visit with the elderly residents. They greatly enjoyed our visitation and assistance last year and are looking forward to another *Hannukah* party with our participation.

We need about 6 -8 volunteers; please let me know if you can participate.

December 2024 Kiddush Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE **DECEMBER 7**
Kitchen Captain **Val Kolmaister**
Volunteers Janene & Steven Ellis
 Shira Gorin
 Dara & Jonny Kotra
 Marci & Jonathan Rubin
 Elaine Salter
 Jennifer & Joshua Solomon

DATE **DECEMBER 14**
Kitchen Captain **Stacey Lynch**
Volunteers Helene & Robert Braun
 Seth Cohen
 Laurie Dubrow
 Gabe Eber
 Lisa & Lee Hedgepeth
 Jamie Schwartz
 Karen & Michael Sussman

DATE **DECEMBER 21**
Kitchen Captain **Val Kolmaister**
Volunteers Sarah Katz & Erik DuBois
 Ben & Meghan Glass
 Daniel & Chloe Grosberg
 Karla & David Jones
 Sarah Nachlas & Michae Cohen
 Charlotte Shapiro
 Debbie & Sam Yedlin

DATE **DECEMBER 28**
Kitchen Captain **Jackie Benn**
Volunteers Anita & Leon Green
 Sharon & Dennis Kaye
 Shelley & Mark Levitt
 Florence & David Polinsky
 Judith & Howard Rumerman
 Myron Sagall
 Sharon Zitomer





On My Mind

By Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

As I write this, Thanksgiving is days away. Americans, understandably, tend to associate the holiday with its origin story, i.e. – the early Pilgrim settlers feasting with the friendly native Americans, who probably saved them from starvation by introducing them to native foods. It's a fine, typically simplistic story that I was taught back in elementary school and remember nostalgically. Of course, no one thought to tell us about the tragic consequences to the native American population, which was often decimated by the new diseases that also arrived from Europe; that was something better left for more mature audiences.

Most adults probably also know that Thanksgiving did not 'originate' in America; it is representative of a naturally common desire to celebrate the hopefully bountiful fall harvest, the success of which was often important for agricultural societies facing the prospect of the coming winter. Many other cultures and countries celebrate some form of a 'thanksgiving' each fall, and this is surely one of the underlying themes of the Jewish holiday of *Sukkot*.

Here in the US, our first Congress passed a resolution in 1789 asking the president to recommend a day of thanksgiving, and days later, President Washington issued a proclamation naming November 26 as a "Day of Publick Thankgivin."

Our friendly neighbor to the north, Canada, officially designated Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1879. Its origin story is similar to our own; reportedly, in 1578, English explorer Martin Frobisher held a celebration in Newfoundland, where he and his crew gave thanks for their successful voyage to North America.

What virtually all have in common is, of course, the underlying sentiment of gratitude.

Alas, it sometimes seems like people are naturally inclined to see and focus on the negatives, both in their personal lives and in the world. And there is surely plenty of the latter to go around. Over 100 Israelis have been held hostage for well over a year and the region is again roiled in conflict. It is easy to become discouraged and assume that any calm that Israel will ever achieve will be somewhat fleeting. There is a now years-long conflict in Ukraine and clear signs that Russia is testing the resolve of the West. Climate change remains an

ever-present and seemingly intractable problem, and global economic competition will likely heat up as well, generating waves of domestic consequences that can't yet be fully predicted. We are also witnessing a meteoric rise in incidents of antisemitism, and the speed and intensity suggests that this centuries-old hatred, which had seemingly receded decades ago, was actually just lying dormant. And these are just a few of the 'biggest' problems facing the world today.

Seeing problems is healthy and prudent. It is the first step to addressing them. To put on blinders is decidedly UN-healthy. But focusing overly much on the downside is really not a good way to approach life. Life itself, even with all of its problems and challenges, is a thing to celebrate, and surely there are positives to be found and to focus on.

Start with this; nature and the universe are wondrous! It is cliché, but we really DO need to take some time to 'smell the roses.' They are out there waiting to be enjoyed. And, as I wrote in my article last month, the sun reliably rises each morning. It thereby also provides us with an enduring source of nearly free energy ... and we are gradually learning to harness more and more of it.

The State of Israel, for all of its ongoing challenges, is a privilege to have in our lives! For centuries, Jews had NO sovereignty and access to the Land of Israel was often limited. For many of our great grandparents, it was unthinkable, or at best, just an unlikely dream. That we live in a time when Israel is as accessible to us as Italy is remarkable.

And despite its challenges, we should also be thankful for the privilege afforded to us to live here in the United States of America and in a time of relative prosperity. We have SO MUCH here that so many fail to appreciate.

And lastly, I don't mind adding that we should also be grateful for Shaare Tefila. For the rich history that created a solid foundation for this congregation. For the sense of community that was created – and that we perpetuate every time we engage with it. For the beautiful facility that 'we' are about to fully gain ownership over. For the long-time leadership of Rabbi Layman and for the dedication of so many other staff and lay leaders who carry out the mission judiciously and in keeping with longstanding Jewish values.

At this time I offer a gigantic 'THANK YOU' ... and hope that all enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.





Programming and Education

Babette Cohn, Director of Education & Programming | BCohn@ShaareTefila.org

A society and a family are like a pile of stones. If you remove one stone, the pile will collapse. If you add a stone to it, it will stand.-

Genesis Rabbah 100:7

As we approach the end of the secular calendar year I have been doing a lot of thinking about my family as well as our Shaare Tefila family. Jonathan and I have recently been blessed by a new generation being added to our family with the birth of our granddaughter Tova Esther Greenspon. We are excited at the prospect of spending her first *Hanukkah!* with her and her parents at our home later this month.

The Shaare Tefila family is important in my life, as it is in all of yours. I am a professional staff member, but in the seven years since I started working in the community, we have also become friends with members, some of whom Jonathan and I consider "family." In last month's *Shofar*, Membership VP Stephanie Buckberg wrote about the initiative to involve all current Shaare Tefila members in growing our community. I urge you to take that message to heart; when you meet other Jews in our surrounding area share what it is that makes Shaare Tefila a special place in your heart and for your family. Invite people to attend worship services, one (or more) of our programs, and/or take a look at our children's education programs for preschool through 12th grade. The future of this family depends on all of us and will only grow stronger with your support.

A new series of Makers & Bakers baking classes started during November, with a *challah* bake led by Karen Sussman. Sign up for more baking fun on December 15 when Karen presents a *Hanukkah* Cookie Baking & Decorating, along with other treats - [you can register to participate here](#), by December 13.

Announcing a New Book Discussion Series - Judaism in Today's World - 12/18, 7:45 pm, after evening *minyan* - Join Rabbi Layman for the first meeting of our book discussion series. For 12/18 we are reading, "[For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today](#)" by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove of Park Avenue Synagogue, NYC. Through his writing, Cosgrove explores questions Jews wrestle with today as they relate to: antisemitism; the effect Israel and Zionism has had on American Judaism; and how we continue to practice Judaism during difficult times. [You can purchase the book through Amazon at this link.](#) **Other Dates and Books:** 1/22, "It Could Happen Here: Why America Is Tipping from Hate to the Unthinkable-And How We Can Stop It" by Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League and 2/19, "The Amen Effect" by Rabbi Sharon Brous.

Chavaya families in *Kitah Alef* and *Kitah Bet* (1-3 grades) experienced a program on Jewish Bedtime Rituals. Led by me and the teachers for those classes, everyone had a lovely time looking at the ways saying the *Sh'ma* and incorporating other Jewish prayer such as *Hashkiveinu* can help children transition from their busy days to bed at night. The parents and children worked together to create their own *Sh'ma* pillowcase to take home and have on their beds.

On December 7 bring your children at 11 am for the next Junior Congregation, or for Tot Shabbat in the library (ages 0-7). Remember, for school age children, Junior Congregation offers the opportunity to experience a worship service and if you arrive before 11 am, you can attend the main service as well.

Coming up for our community in December:

- ☆ **The December *Shabbat* dinner is on the 13th - the early deadline for the adult price is December 9th.** The *Hanukkah* themed menu includes vegetarian friendly carrot ginger soup, brisket, vegan meatloaf for vegetarians, chicken nuggets for children, *latkes*, apple sauce, green vegetable, *sufganiyot*, and fruit. [Register here no later than December 11.](#)
- ☆ ***Shabbat* in Song, with Sally Heckelman, 12/20, 6 pm** - Sally Heckelman returns to Shaare Tefila to help us welcome *Shabbat* with a musical experience. A light *Oneg Shabbat* follows services.
- ☆ **Let the Light Shine: Community Menorah Lighting & Celebration, 12/26, 6 pm** - Come together for the second night of *Hanukkah!* as we light the big *hanukkiyah*, play some games, eat delicious food and sing with *ruach* led by Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller. [The event is free but RSVPs are requested for planning - sign up here by 12/23!](#)

Finally, *Chavaya* will be closed Sunday, 12/22 and Sunday, 12/29 during the Montgomery County Public Schools winter break. *Chavaya* will resume on Sunday, 1/12/25 with a special "Be a Mensch" Family Program, sponsored by the Shaare Tefila Men's Club. Details coming soon!



News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com



I hope your holiday, with family and friends, is/was filled with warmth, love, and gratitude. May your heart be as full as your plate! We are always grateful for the wonderful community we have at Shaare Tefila and thank you for being part of our family.

We are also very thankful for our new members and thought it would be nice to “spotlight” those interested and share a little bit of information provided by them:

Welcome new members Karyn & Les Gross - we couldn't be happier to have you!

1. When and why did you join Shaare Tefila?

We joined this past summer when our *shul* in Columbia closed its doors. We chose Shaare Tefila because we prefer a Conservative service, we have relatives who belong to Shaare Tefilah and Les attended services at the original building in DC when he was a little boy!

2. What has been one of your most meaningful experiences here?

For Les, when the rabbi introduced himself the first time we attended *Shabbat* services while Les was looking at the photo of the original building. For Karyn, the incredible feeling of being home the first time we attended *Shabbat* services.

3. What is an ongoing feature of Shaare Tefila that you/your family find most engaging?

There really isn't one feature. We have enjoyed the warmth and inclusivity of every service we have attended. While we never really attended non-service related activities at previous shuls, we are attending more events in large part because we have felt the welcoming culture of the Shaare Tefila community. We have truly found a “home.”

And from **new members Laura Applebaum & Alan Burnstein**

We joined the shul early this year after years of *shul* hopping in the DC area like Moses in the desert. Shaare Tefila just felt right for us, with its commitment to Israel and its thoroughly egalitarian congregation.

Around that time my 93-year-old father came down from New York to live with us. In early June my mother passed away from Alzheimers and while we all drove back north for her funeral, Shaare Tefila's zoom services were where I came back to say *kaddish*. Unfortunately, in October my dad also died, making 2024 the worst year of my life. But when we returned home from his funeral, the *Chesed* Committee had a giant plate of food waiting for us, and again I sought solace with the wonderful group of regulars at *minyán*.



Least this all be sad news, Alan and I love biking and playing modern board games; we'd love to welcome anyone who's interested in Ticket to Ride or Wingspan or any of the eighty-some-odd games we own to join us!

SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 8, 2025
“A BOTTLE OF RED - A BOTTLE OF WHITE CELEBRATE WITH A BILLY JOEL/ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE CONCERT”
STARRING LEE ALVERSON
DINNER AT 7 PM - CONCERT AT 8 PM
TICKETS GO ON SALE DECEMBER 8
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BABETTE COHN

DINNER & A CONCERT SHOW AT SHAARE TEFILA

16620 GEORGIA AVENUE
OLNEY, MD 20832
WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG
[HTTPS://ABOUT.ME/LEEALVERSON](https://about.me/leealverson)



Sisterhood

Shelley Rochester, Sisterhood President



November has been a relatively quiet month for Sisterhood. Maybe we were just saving up for a mad splurge on Thanksgiving. For my part, my 21-year-old grandson will be cooking the turkey again... by popular demand. And my daughter, Molly, and I will bravely confront a traffic-laden, round-trip

to Charlottesville. But I'm grateful for that! Not everyone will enjoy the luxury of a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving, surrounded by 73 family members, a 4-gallon bowl of mashed potatoes and a perfectly golden turkey large enough to feed a small country. I, for one, don't think I have that many relatives. Come to think of it, I don't know that many people! I do recall our "Covid Thanksgiving," with just me and Molly and only a turkey breast and one sweet potato. However, no matter the size of the celebration, there is always something to be thankful for. I am thankful my dog is fully house trained.

On November 10, Sisterhood sponsored the annual Patron Event. Ethel Levine took on the project and did a

magnificent job. The day began with a self-guided tour of the Josiah Henson Museum in Bethesda. With the support of docents, the visit was quite informative as well as entertaining. They followed up with an after-museum *nosh* at a local *Kosher-teria*. So, Ethie, can you maintain this momentum for next year?

This December, "a miracle occurs here:" *Hanukkah* and Christmas coincide. That means that for the first time, we will NOT spend Christmas Eve at a Chinese restaurant and movie. We will instead gorge ourselves on *latkes* and playing *dreidel*.

So, this month drive carefully (in case we get any snow), shovel your front walk responsibly (in case we get snow) and go to Florida (just in case...)

Jewish Chai-ku

Hey! Get back indoors!

Whatever you were doing

could put an eye out.

Support Shaare Tefila Through Scrip Gift Cards



Raise money for Shaare Tefila with your everyday shopping to Giant Food, Shalom Kosher or Moti's Kosher supermarket. Instead of making everyday purchases with cash/credit – purchase gift cards through our synagogue scrip program. Note there is no additional cost to you, and a percentage of your gift card (5% of each dollar) purchase comes back to our synagogue. It is truly that simple!

Ways to order your scrip cards:

• Contact Barbara Fink at 240-447-4665 or email her at Beas_Fink@verizon.net. She will be happy to take down your order and arrange to deliver your scrip cards or have you pick them up at the synagogue office.

OR

• Orders can also be placed with Executive Director Jerry Kiewe at 301-593-3410, X101, via cell at 410-294-3205, or email him at JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org.

Payment can be made by cash, check or billed to your synagogue account.

In years past our scrip fundraiser helped raise close to \$12,000 and that was when only 20% of our congregation bought scrip. Many of us shop at these markets and even know friends and family who shop at Giant, Shalom's and Moti's. Imagine how much money we could raise if 50% plus of our congregants participated in this program. We hope to expand the type of scrip buying cards in the fall. In the meantime, remember this scrip program has no additional cost to you, but earns dollars for our synagogue to help maintain our building costs. Please be someone who supports your synagogue, and order your scrip today. It's a win-win-win program for all of us!





A TASTE OF *HANUKKAH* *SHABBAT* DINNER

DECEMBER 13, 6:00 P.M.

SHABBAT SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWED
BY A DELICIOUS *HANUKKAH* THEMED DINNER



The Menu Includes:

- Carrot Ginger Soup
- Brisket
- Vegan Meatloaf for Vegetarians
- Chicken Nuggets
- *Latkes*
- Apple Sauce
- Green vegetable
- *Sufganiyot* and Fruit



Sign Up by 12/9 for Early Bird Adult Cost \$22;
12/11 for Regular Adult Cost \$25

Children, Ages 5-14, Cost \$14; Under Age 5, Free
Family Maximum Cost, \$75

[REGISTER HERE BY 12/11/24](#)

Shaare Tefila
16620 Georgia Ave



Shaare Tefila

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES: JUDAISM IN TODAY'S WORLD

Wednesday, December 18
7:45 pm after *minyan*
Discussion lead by Rabbi Layman

*For Such a Time as This:
On Being Jewish Today*
by Rabbi Elliot Costgrove
of Park Avenue Synagogue, NYC

Wednesday, January 22
7:45 pm after *minyan*
Discussion lead by Babette Cohn

*It Could Happen Here: Why America
is Tipping from Hate and to the
Unthinkable-And How We Can Stop it*
by Jonathan Greenblatt
CEO of the Anti-Defamation League

Wednesday, February 19
7:45 pm after *minyan*
Discussion lead by Rabbi Layman

The Amen Effect
by Rabbi Sharon Brous
Senior Rabbi of IKAR, Los Angeles, CA

ALL SESSIONS ON ZOOM

For more information visit:
[https://shaaretefilacongregation.shulcloud.com/event/
jewishtodaybookseries](https://shaaretefilacongregation.shulcloud.com/event/jewishtodaybookseries)

or use this QR Code:



MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUP

AN INTERESTING FORUM THAT YOU MIGHT ENJOY

Jack Teller

On the 2nd Wednesday of every month (barring holidays) from 10 – 11 AM, a group of Shaare Tefila members come together via Zoom to discuss one or more topics of interest.

Let me give you a little history. A few years ago, Al Kliman chaired a group of Shaare Tefila men to meet and discuss, and this group was thus formerly known as the 'Men's Discussion Group.' Al subsequently moved to Boston to join his family, and he bequeathed the chairmanship of the group to me [thank you, Al.]

When I assumed leadership of the group, we had a moving discussion that resulted in opening the group to women ... so women were happily invited and all agree that they have added a welcome perspective to the discussions. There are currently some 24 people who are on the distribution list for announcements and who are invited to offer input as to what the group topic will be each month. Our discussions typically attract 6 - 10 people who each bring a unique point of view and an interest in expressing it.

Here is a sample of topics that we have entertained:

1. How do we discuss a controversial topic and maintain civility?
2. After the IDF defeats Hamas, what does Israel do with Gaza and Gazans?
3. What is really behind the college campus protests; do they promote antisemitism?
 - a) Are Jewish students safe on college campuses?
 - b) Why do so many of the protestors seem openly to support/justify terrorism against Israel?
 - c) Why are the demands of the protestors so biased and one-sided?
 - d) What makes so many supposedly enlightened students at elite universities so ignorant of the basics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
 - e) What are the roles and responsibilities of university leaders in quelling (illegal) demonstrations?
4. Should Israel focus on Iran or just its proxies after the hostages are released?
5. The Supreme Court and how it is handling Trump's immunity claim.

At our last meeting we discussed 'The Election and its Aftermath.' This was a lively discussion and drew some interesting inputs.

Our agendas are fully open; every member is welcome to propose a topic for discussion. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 11**, and the topic for discussion is: **"The failure of the national and local Jewish leadership to counter antisemitic acts against Jews and Judaism."** This is a huge topic, and we expect there will be some animated talk at our next group session.

If you wish to participate in the next discussion and/or be included on the distribution list, please send me an email note saying so; TJack7229@gmail.com



Trivia Night

The Cap City Trivia Night tryout in November, led by congregant Shira Gorin, was lots of fun for those in attendance. People came and tested their knowledge, ate some hot dogs, drank some beer, and had a great time over the three weeks. We will be continuing this program monthly, starting with the next **Havdalah Experience on January 25** - look for more details in your January *Shofar*!

Comments from Our Players:

Elyssa rocked to the music that Shira was playing. Elyssa had an outside friend who joined us for the trivia night and they also had a great time. Julian was our ace in the hole on our team! - Myron Sagall

We looked forward to Trivia Night each Wednesday and had fun each time. It was a great way to fortify existing Shaare Tefila friendships and meet new people in the congregation! We formed a team with friends but invited others to join us. - Karla & David Jones





Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the Chesed Committee

Adriana Sandler | 240-593-5792 |

SandlerAA@gmail.com

Does the *Chesed* Committee offer all we may need during times when things are happening in our lives? Sad things, such as an illness, a death or just complications of life?

or

Happy things, such as a new baby, a move or other events

Are we missing something?

Your suggestion may be a need based on your own life. Let us know!

The *Chesed* Committee has the financial means. (thanks to congregants' generous donations!)

the *Chesed* Committee has the people.

AND

the *Chesed* Committee has the will to make (most things) happen!

Contact us if you would like one of our already established offerings:

- connection to Shaare Tefila with a visit once in a while;
 - calls on an ongoing basis with one of our volunteers;
 - rides to Shabbat services or Shaare Tefila events/programs; medical appointments, grocery store or other destinations;
 - delicious dinners prepared by The Kosher Kitchen, Moti's or Shalom;
 - amazing winter soups prepared by Soupergirl, a local, kosher & vegan company;
- ... more initiatives to come in 2025.....

CHUG IVRIT

An Invitation for You!

Chug Ivrit is a small *chavurah* of people who like the Hebrew language, are continuing to learn, read, write and speak Modern Hebrew more fluently, **and love it!**

We are speaking, reading, writing and learning under the guidance of fellow congregant Ami Frydman, who not only teaches us conversational Hebrew but also brings a wealth of knowledge and background information about Israel to each and every session.

We are reading fantastic short, but up-to-date news, science, and human-interest articles.

Do Try Zoom *Chug Ivrit*: Conversational Hebrew on Sunday mornings!

Right here with our own Shaare Tefila community.

From the convenience of your home, on Sunday mornings 10:30 – noon, you too can join the Shaare Tefila's *Chug Ivrit* ("Hebrew Club"). Even if you can't make it each and every time, we are happy to have you anytime.

Want to make sure the *Chug Ivrit* is right for your level of Hebrew?

Email Adriana at SandlerAA@gmail.com, to receive a sample of the articles we are reading right now.

להית ... perhaps?

THIS WAY TO AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER



ONEHAPPYCAMPER.ORG

GET UP TO \$1,500 OFF CAMP



SUNFLOWER BAKERY – WINTER 2024

Reminder that this year Shaare Tefila is participating in a pre-holiday program that enables people to place orders from Sunflower Bakery that will be delivered to our synagogue for pickup. The next such holiday order is for *Hanukkah*. Our goal is to achieve at least \$350 in sales; this serves to justify having Shaare Tefila as a pickup site. Shaare Tefila also receives a portion of the proceeds based on sales, so win-win all around.

Order by Friday, December 13@12 noon at the site below and indicate Shaare Tefila as your pick-up site. <https://www.sunflowerbakery.org/products/Hanukkah/>

Sunflower Bakery Pre-Holiday Orders; Hanukkah

Pickups at ST will be available on;

- Friday, December 20; 12 noon until 4 PM
- Monday, December 23; 8:30 AM until 12 noon
- Tuesday, December 24; 9:00 AM until 12 noon

Questions? Contact Sunflower at info@sunflowerbakery.org, 240-361-3698.

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

DECEMBER

Anniversary Celebrations

- 12/10 Marvin & Sylvia Levy
- 12/11 Joshua & Jennifer Solomon
- 12/12 Melvyn & Sandra Kornspan
- 12/13 Lanny & Cathy Plotkin
- 12/21 Steven & Margie Eiserike
- 12/21 Samuel & Jodi Goldreich

Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12/2 Joe Federman | 12/16 Ashley Doyle |
| 12/2 Sharon Kaye | 12/16 Kenneth Libby |
| 12/3 Daniel Grosberg | 12/17 Judith Bass |
| 12/3 Sandra Kornspan | 12/17 Scott Miller |
| 12/4 Susan Katz | 12/17 Steven Radnor |
| 12/5 Alan Kuritzky | 12/17 Stephen Resnick |
| 12/5 Diane Schneider | 12/17 Chana Sandberg |
| 12/5 Joshua Solomon | 12/18 Stephanie Green |
| 12/6 Lisa Arber | 12/18 Naomi Yadin-Mendick |
| 12/6 Susan Rubenstein | 12/19 Samuel Goldreich |
| 12/7 Jason Kensky | 12/19 Noah Sabath |
| 12/7 Alan Weinstein | 12/20 Jacob Friedman |
| 12/7 Sara Zarny | 12/21 Joshua Beebe |
| 12/9 Steven Abramson | 12/21 Jill Haber |
| 12/9 Sebastian Doyle | 12/21 Lauren Kensky |
| 12/9 Theodore Doyle | 12/22 Nerissa Fuhrmann |
| 12/9 Steve Eiserike | 12/24 Shoshana Greenland |
| 12/9 Daniel Weingart | 12/24 Jamie Schwartz |
| 12/10 Bernice Goldstein | 12/25 Steven Ellis |
| 12/11 Michael Rosenberg | 12/25 Aliza Horowitz |
| 12/12 Christie Berman | 12/25 Talia Horowitz |
| 12/12 Leslie Gross | 12/25 Deborah Letow |
| 12/12 Melanie Gross | 12/26 Joshua Fuhrmann |
| 12/12 Sarah Jackson | 12/27 Daniel Marder |
| 12/13 Anita Froehlich | 12/28 Carol Fendler |
| 12/14 Michael Auerbach | 12/28 Julian Rosenberg |
| 12/14 Sumner Katz | 12/29 Gabriel Eber |
| 12/14 Beth Schapiro | 12/29 David Rosenberg |
| 12/14 Barbara Smith | 12/29 Elyssa Sagall |
| 12/15 Susan Leshin | 12/29 Lydia Sansanowicz |
| 12/15 Marvin Levy | 12/30 Hope Weiss |
| | 12/31 Freda Resnick |

Sunflower Bakery Winter Holiday Menu 2024

Available December 5th - January 3rd. Order Now for the Winter Holidays!

Important Dates: Hanukkah: Evening of December 25 - Sundown January 2, 2025
 Holiday Closures: December 24, 25 & January 1, 2025
 Special Bakeshop Hours: December 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, and January 2, 9am - 4pm
 Special Café Hours: December 26, 27, 31, January 2 and 3, 9am - 4pm

(V) = Vegan (NF) = Nut-free (GF) = Gluten-free *Please note: Sunflower Bakery is not a nut-free or gluten-free facility. Sunflower Bakery is kosher, pareve under the Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington.

NEW! Sunflower Sufganiyot! (NF, V)

Sufganiyot are deep-fried, traditional sweet filled "doughnuts," eaten in Israel and around the world on Hanukkah. Like potato latkes, they are a reminder of the miracle of the oil that lasted 8 days in the rededicated Temple.

We recommend enjoying Sufganiyot within 12 hours of purchase for optimal freshness.

Please Note: *Pre orders for Sufganiyot will not be accepted. They will be available for in-store purchase at our retail locations during regular business hours, while supplies last. *For bulk orders over 10 dozen, please email inquiries to orders@sunflowerbakery.org.

Signature Sufganiyot

Single flavor \$15/half-dz
 Assorted \$30/dz

Jelly

Raspberry jelly, powdered sugar

Lemon

Lemon curd, granulated sugar

Chocolate

Chocolate cream, powdered sugar

Glazed Sufganiyot

Single flavor \$18/half-dz
 Assorted \$36/dz

Black and White

Chocolate cream, vanilla glaze, cake crumbs

Caramel Coconut

Caramel cream, caramel glaze, toasted coconut

Rainbow Sprinkle

Vanilla cream, chocolate glaze, sprinkles

Holiday Cookies

Rolled Sugar Cookies

(NF) \$2.75/favor or \$15/lb

Hanukkah: Menorah, Dreidel and Star of David

Christmas: Tree, North Star and Stocking

Winter: Mitten, Snowman and Snowflake

Royal Iced (NF) \$4.25/ea

Snowflakes, Dreidels or Menorahs

Pecan Snowballs (V) \$15/lb

Petite Almond Horns (GF) \$16/dz

Holiday Cookie Platter (NF) serves 12, \$35

Chocolate Chip, Crinkle, Snickerdoodle, & your choice of themed rolled sugar cookies.

Holiday Desserts

Star of David Mini Cupcakes (NF) \$14/dz

Peppermint Fudge Mini Cupcakes (NF, GF) \$15/dz

Flourless Chocolate Roulade (GF, NF) serves 8, \$29

Holiday Mini Cupcake Platter (NF) serves 15, \$40

Peppermint Fudge (GF), Vanilla Star of David, Chocolate Celebration, and Red Velvet.

German Chocolate Cake

6"/\$36, serves 10

8"/\$52, serves 14

3 layers of chocolate cake filled with gooey coconut, caramel & pecan filling.



Sunflower Bakery
 5951 Halpine Road
 Rockville, MD 20851
 240-361-3698

Café Sunflower
 6101 Executive Blvd.,
 N. Bethesda, MD 20852
 301-321-3280

Sunflower Bakery provides skilled job training and employment opportunities in the baking and hospitality industries. Sunflower Bakery is a 501(c)(3) organization.

See our full menu and place your order at: www.sunflowerbakery.org
 Questions? Call us at 240-361-3698 or email info@sunflowerbakery.org

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From November 1 - November 22, 2024, but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Amy and Howard Schwartz, on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter, Allison Schwartz, to Brandon Mormann, from Gershon & Diane Kieval

Contributions In Memory Of:

Rae Paley, wife of Louis Paley, from Louis Paley
Reuven Yalon, husband of Myrna Yalon, from Myrna Yalon

Contribution – Not dedicated:

From Bradley & Joy Salzman

EDUCATION FUND

Contribution In Honor Of:

Joe Bonnett, on the occasion of his 90th birthday, from Diane Maisel

GENERAL FUND

Contribution In Honor Of:

Michael Froelich, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, from Janice Blum

Contributions In Memory Of:

Esther Schreiner, mother of Helene Braun, from Robert & Helene Braun
Henry Goldman, father of Philip Goldman, from Philip Goldman
Joseph Golfer, husband of Anne Silberman Golfer, from Anne Silberman Golfer
Herman Iskow, father of Sheldon Iskow, from Sheldon & Denise Iskow
Julius Marcus, father-in-law of Barbara Marcus, from Barbara Marcus
Charles Marcus, husband of Barbara Marcus, father of Bruce Marcus, from Barbara Marcus; and from Bruce Marcus

KIDDUSH FUND

Contribution In Honor Of:

Shira Gorin, on the occasion of her birthday, from her father, Dan Gorin

Contributions – Not dedicated:

Contribution from Joseph & Judith Bass
Contribution from Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman

KOL NIDREI CAMPAIGN

CONTRIBUTORS (thru Nov. 22)

Any additional contributors to the campaign will be listed in the January issue

Richard & Wendy Abraham
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Sharon Bender
Daniel & Jackie Benn

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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Rabbi & Lenore Layman, on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Eytan, to Sigalle Bahary, from Richard & Wendy Abraham
Rabbi Layman, from David & Rhona Byer
Rabbi & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on Eytan's wedding, from Rona Eisen
The Layman Family; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the recent wedding, from Barbara Fink
The Layman Family, on the occasion of the wedding of Eytan & Sigalle, from Ethel & Ira Levine
The Layman Family; *Mazel tov* on the marriage of Eytan and Sigalle, from Charlotte Potosky
The Layman Family; Eytan Layman's wedding, from Zella Shabasson & Julian Rosenberg

Contribution In Memory Of:

Karen Gross, wife of Michael Gross, from Anne Pelak

Contribution – Not dedicated:

Contribution from Toby Berman



As 2024 Comes to a Close...



Take a Look Back at Some Great Moments at ST





Lifelong Learning

TAUGHT BY RABBI JONAH LAYMAN

SUNDAYS – 9:30 AM – TALMUD

This 1500-year-old text serves as the foundation for Jewish practice today. Join us as we study the section that deals with civil laws that deal with property ownership. No prior study of *Talmud* is required.

MONDAYS – 7:45 PM – JEWS & THE NEWS

Join us for a discussion of current events from a Jewish perspective after the evening *minyan*. This class will be recorded.

WEDNESDAYS – 11 AM – TORAH STUDY

We discuss the major topics and issues in the weekly Torah portion. This class will be recorded.

FRIDAYS – 9:30 AM – BIBLE CLASS

This class has been meeting for 26 years and was reading the Torah in English with the traditional medieval rabbinic commentaries. Since December the class moved onto the *Book of Judges*.

ALL CLASSES MEET ON ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3026500395?pwd=QktRaUlqYzdqUDhJdVlkZG9BdDZMQT09>

**MORNING MINYAN ON ZOOM
SUNDAY, MONDAY AND THURSDAY
AT 8:45 AM**

All Shaare Tefila events,
week day services
and programs
are now available at this
Zoom link
unless otherwise indicated.



1951 Shaare Tefila 2026



SHAARE TEFILA

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301-593-3410

WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG

*Affiliated With The United Synagogue
Of Conservative Judaism*

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