



Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 74th year

JANUARY 2025 - TEVET-SHEVAT 5785

Vol. 74 #1

SHAARE TEFILA PRESENTS:

ELTON JOHN/BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE CONCERT STARRING LEE ALVERSON

DINNER & A SHOW
FEBRUARY 8, 2025 7-10:30PM



All Inclusive Ticket Price

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\$85 Public

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ONE MAN! ONE PIANO! ONE NIGHT!

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Thinking About the New Year

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org



It is hard to fathom that on January 1, we will have made it a quarter of the way through this century already. It is remarkable that we have been blessed to celebrate the new year of 2025.

In some ways the year seems like a date out of science fiction. I clearly remember a class activity when I was in elementary school in the early 1970s (before computers and the internet!) in which we were to try to imagine what life would be like in the year 2000. We all realized that we would be 38 years old - the age our parents were at the time — and that was too hard to grasp. And yet here we are. Next year our *shul* will be 75 years old and our country will be 250 years old. What amazing milestones yet to celebrate!

Celebrating new years causes us to be nostalgic. We think about the year gone by — if not decades gone by - and surely we may be sad about what we personally experienced. Perhaps a close relative or friend passed

away; perhaps we dealt with a serious illness. Or perhaps we reminisce about the joyous events that occurred — the birth of a grandchild or the marriage of a child. No matter if we feel sad or happy, we do recognize our gratitude to God for enabling us to celebrate joyous occasions and for providing us comfort and strength through the sadness and hardship.

But celebrating a new year should also inspire us to be forces for good and blessing. The coming year has us facing challenges. A new presidential administration, climate change, Israel's security and the changing Middle East, the rise of antisemitism here and abroad; and the list could go on. Our task is not to be overwhelmed by the anxiety these events may bring but to work together - as families and a community - to provide each other with strength and to inspire us, together, to educate others and to be forces for good.

May we experience blessing in the new year.

Join Us for an Incredible Night of Music and Fun



Shaare Tefila is hosting an incredible evening on February 8! Instead of the traditional Comedy Night FUNdraiser, you can experience the stylings of Lee Alverson in his One Man! One Piano! One Night! Tribute Concert to Elton John AND

Billy Joel. You won't believe your eyes and ears when you see and hear Lee play and sing. [To get a taste of his talent take a look at this video.](#)

The evening will begin with a delicious, family style Italian dinner on your table. Lee will perform in the Sanctuary after dinner, with the concert in two parts - there will be a dessert intermission in the middle. [Ready to buy your tickets? Go to this website ASAP! This event will sell out!!](#) **Questions? Contact Babette Cohn.**

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE Community Supported Agriculture Opportunity

One of Shaare Tefila's 2024 climate goals was to partner with a local farm's CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in order to receive fresh local organic produce and at the same time support a local small farm.



In April, 2024, Marc Grossman, the farmer of The Farm at Our House (TFOH), spoke to the congregation at a *kiddush* lunch about the CSA that he directs. TFOH is located right off 108 on 19715 Zion Road, Brookeville.

Some ST members took advantage of the opportunity and signed up for a veggie-filled Summer and/or Fall share. It is time to **sign up again for Summer 2025**. More information can be found at www.thefarmatourhouse.com.

Happy eating!





On My Mind

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

I have always had a fascination with history and of course, with Jewish history in particular. I have recently been working my way through an excellent book; *Turning Points in Jewish History*, by Marc Rosenstein (2018). Though it has not offered any grand revelations; the general and changing trends of Jewish history are well-covered ground in many other books detailing Jewish history, it is nonetheless well-written. It serves as a fascinating and healthy reminder of how the Jewish community has, variously, been transformed by and/or adapted to outside events, and has also undergone internal revisions that have shaped its path. The Jewish community of today shows evidence of the early foundations of the Jewish people – and of the many changes that occurred along the way.

Of course, change often cannot be fully discerned as it is happening ... and even if it can be, the full significance isn't typically apparent. I once had a history professor who posited, correctly I think, that events should not be regarded as 'history' until at least 50 years have passed. Only with that long look back can we fully assess and appreciate the impact of what has occurred.

One chapter of the book has caused me to consider, not for the first time, what is a crucial, indeed, existential question for the Jews of America; Can we fully integrate into, and be fully accepted by, American society while maintaining our Jewish identity? (There are material side issues related to what constitutes an 'authentic' Jewish identity, and whether we are preserving the Jewish religion, Jewish peoplehood, Jewish 'culture' or some combination thereof, but for the sake of simplicity, I'll leave that on the sideline.)

Theodore Herzl, after observing the aftermath of 'the Dreyfus Affair' in France and then subsequently making his case for a Jewish state, essentially argued that ultimately, the nations of the world would not – indeed, could not – ever eradicate centuries-old hatred of Jews. It mattered not how civilized they were, and it was equally irrelevant what steps the Jewish population might take to 'fit in.' Antisemitism would, inevitably, remain and the Jewish population would therefore never be fully accepted nor gain true equality ... unless and until they had a Jewish state of their own.

The prevailing sentiment of many has been that America is different; that here, antisemitism could be held in check and that Jews could thrive here without significantly com-

promising open adherence to Judaism. Though not without challenges, including high rates of inter-marriage and reduced synagogue affiliation, centuries of Jewish life in America has largely bore that out. Jewish identification, whether religious, ethnic, or perhaps 'cultural' has remained, the Jewish community has, by many measures, thrived, and despite it being a viable option, there are relatively low levels of aliyah from America to the State of Israel.

But antisemitism remains a wild card. In my parents' generation it was prevalent, but during much of my own lifetime, anti-Jewish sentiment was receding. In the 1990s, incidents of antisemitism were minimal, studies showed that Jews were regarded as 'desirable' marriage partners and anecdotally, a number of decidedly non-Jewish public figures were unabashedly, acknowledging Jewish strands in their background. It appeared that, at least in America, the ancient evil had been largely put into the dust bin.

And yet, in this assessment, I am reminded of a scene in a favorite movie of mine, *Excalibur* (1981) (which incidentally, had a superb cast, including a young Helen Mirren and a bit part by Patrick Stewart). King Arthur (Nigel Terry) has seemingly defeated all of his enemies, Camelot is in full splendor, and the Knights of the Round Table are enjoying the resulting peace and prosperity. He turns to Merlin (Nicole Williamson) and they have this exchange;

Arthur: Tell me, Merlin, have we defeated evil? Because it seems we have.

Merlin: Good and evil; there is never one without the other.

Arthur: Where hides evil?

Merlin: Where you least expect it. Always where you least expect it.

Alas, in recent years it has become evident that antisemitism was, at best, only lying dormant beneath the surface. It has jarred our sense of complacency, but incidents of Jewish hatred, both world-wide and here in the U.S., have soared. And so it is clear that antisemitism remains a potent force.

What will the decades ahead bring? The crystal ball offers no clarity, and the odds-makers can only speculate. Of course, all of us hope that this ugly stain can be cleansed from the fabric of American society ... but only the historians will be able to look back 50 years from now and determine if this was just a blip, or a trend that altered the flow of history.



Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org



As we move into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and share my hopes for the year ahead. The transition into a new year offers us a fresh start, an opportunity to set new intentions, and a time to appreciate the blessings in our lives. It is a time for reflection and renewal, both individually and as a community.

December concluded two months of very busy travel for Fran and me as we spent six nights in Cancun relaxing on the beach and a couple of wonderful unique dining experiences at an Italian restaurant. Our house was also a bit fuller with Hope coming home for a few weeks for winter break and to celebrate *Hanukkah* and her birthday with the family. We also participated in Shaare Tefila's community outreach as our community made another contribution to the community for the December holidays as we received enough contributions and pre-made baskets to deliver 38 meals to needy families.

As promised in my last article, I am pleased to announce the completion of a major financial event for our congregation. We have successfully refinanced our building

mortgage via funding from an investor group made up of current members, former members, and relatives of members. The refinancing will improve the annual cash flow for the congregation by over \$70,000 per year. This achievement wouldn't have happened without the hard work done by Saul Cohen and Perry Sandler, and I personally want to thank them for their help.

In this coming year, I encourage you to take part in all the opportunities our synagogue offers—whether it's participating in a class, engaging in community service, or simply joining together for *Shabbat* services. Every interaction, no matter how small, strengthens the bonds we share.

As another monthly reminder, while financial support to our congregation is important, there is also 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 who to contact, please reach out to a Shaare Tefila officer or to our Executive Director Jerry Kiewe.

Thank you for being an integral part of our synagogue family. Together, we will continue to create a meaningful, supportive, and enriching environment for all.

News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com



I hope everyone had a beautiful *Hanukkah* with lights-a-glow, *latkes*, and family togetherness. The *Hanukkah*-themed *Shabbat* dinner on December 13, spearheaded by Cathy & Lanny Plotkin and many volunteers, was a perfect way to start the holiday season. Excellent food and our shul community coming together was the "icing or jelly" on the *sufganiyot*!

Our *Shabbat*-in-Song service on Dec. 20, led by Sally Heckelman and Stacey Lynch, with Stuart Zitomer on drums, was the perfect way to start *Shabbat*. The music and singing truly enhances the prayers and brings such added warmth to the service. We had about 50 congregants in attendance and thank Cilla & Hy for the nice *oneg* which followed the service and gave us a chance to *schmooze* with each other. I look forward to our next musical *Shabbat* on Friday, January 17.

As in last month's *Shofar*, we spotlighted several 'newish' members and are happy to hereby do so once again:

Welcome Ofer & Anne Zajicek

We joined around July, 2024. We were introduced to Shaare Tefila by our friends, Val and Ira Kolmaister. We really liked the people at the synagogue, who were very friendly and welcoming.



We loved the *Kol Nidrei* service, and the Rabbi's sermon on the aloneness/separation of the Jews post-October 7, by the design of Hamas and Sinwar. I've loved the dinners, women's group activities.

We are getting to know the programs, led by the Rabbi, on Jewish learning, and really like those and the fact that they are on line. There's an indescribable tone of welcome that's hard to describe.

I wish everyone a healthy, peace-filled, joyful, and magical 2025. I look forward to seeing all of you at services and our many wonderful programs.





Programming and Education

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

"The world is new to us every morning—and every person should believe that he/she is reborn each day."

Baal Shem Tov

January presents us with a chance to try new things in our lives, including making a renewed commitment to Jewish life in Olney. I invite you to make plans to spend time with your Shaare Tefila family over the next couple of months. If you have not regularly attended worship service opportunities we encourage you to do so. Join us at weekday *minyanim* (offered in person and on Zoom at 8:45am, Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays; on Zoom only at 7:30pm, Mondays and Wednesdays). If you have a school age children in your life and you have not brought them to our monthly Junior Congregation experience, I invite you to come at 11am on January 4.

The new secular year also offers the opportunity to try a Jewish ritual at home that you have not tried before. If you have not been doing the *Havdalah* ritual regularly, you can participate in the *Havdalah* ceremony with the community over Zoom, led by Rabbi Layman, each week. **On January 25, we are holding our next *Havdalah* Experience program at Shaare Tefila.** We always begin the event with the *Havdalah* ceremony to end *Shabbat*, and this month's program will feature a trivia game. More details will be coming soon!

Winter Book Series - Judaism in Today's World - Jan. 22, 7:45 pm, after evening minyan - Join me as I lead a discussion on, "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. In this urgent book, Greenblatt sounds an alarm, warning that this age-old trend is gathering momentum in the United States—and that violence on an even larger, more catastrophic scale could be just around the corner. But it doesn't have to be this way. Greenblatt offers a bracing primer on how we—as individuals, as organizations, and as a society—can strike back against hate. [You can purchase the book through Amazon at this link.](#) **Join Rabbi Layman for the Third in the Series on February 19: "The Amen Effect" by Rabbi Sharon Brous.**

The children of *Chavaya* enjoyed learning about *Hanukkah* during their December classes. Our school schedule will resume on **January 12 with a special "Be a Mensch" Family Program, including a special part of the program sponsored by the Shaare Tefila Men's Club.** Families will have the opportunity to perform the *mitzvah* of honoring sages and the elderly as the Hebrew Home invites us in to spend time with the residents in a

group setting. Parents will go directly to the building at 6121 Montrose Road in Rockville at 10:30am. The visiting time will end around 12 noon. If you are unable to go to the Hebrew Home, we will have *mitzvah* projects on site at Shaare Tefila.

On January 4, bring your children at 11am for the next Junior Congregation. Remember, for school age children, Junior Congregation offers the opportunity to experience a worship service and if you arrive before 11am, you can attend the main service as well. **There is an extra special *kiddush* celebration that day in honor of congregant Hyman Grosberg's 70th Birthday.**

Coming up for our community in January:

- **The January *Shabbat* dinner is on Jan. 10 - the early deadline for the adult price is January 6.** The menu includes apricot chicken, shakshuka for vegetarians, chicken nuggets for children, rice, green beans, salad, and brownies. [Register here no later than January 8.](#)
- **Mini *Minyan*, Jan. 10, 6pm** - Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller is back again with Rhythm N' *Ruach* to help your young children welcome *Shabbat*! Join us in the Chapel before the January dinner for a great time.
- ***Shabbat* in Song, with Sally Heckelman, Jan. 17, 6pm** - Sally Heckelman's return to Shaare Tefila in December brought an evening filled with *ruach*/spirit to our evening service. You will have another opportunity to be uplifted in song on January 17 - if you missed it in December be sure to come then! A light *Oneg Shabbat* follows services.
- ***Havdalah* Experience: Trivia Fun!, Jan. 25, 6:30 pm** - The evening begins as we experience the weekly *Havdalah* ceremony in community, saying farewell to *Shabbat*. Following that enjoy a fun time playing trivia, led by our own Shira Gorin and Cap City Trivia! [The event is free but RSVPs are requested for planning - sign up here by 1/24!](#)



Sisterhood

Shelley Rochester, Sisterhood President



Dear Sisters,
Happy *Hanukkah*, Happy New Year! As we welcome in the new year; may it bring us all a healthy sense of well-being, love and happiness and above all, peace. (Moment of silence, please.)

First on the agenda: **Sunday, January 5, from 2:00-4:00 PM** (check-in

at 1:30 PM), we will be holding a *Mah Jongg* class. I know there are actually some of you Jewish women who don't know how to play. (Some of us had mothers who played canasta instead.) This will be your chance to learn the game and hopefully form your own group to enjoy regular game-days. I will be teaching it, as I have done for about 20 years. After January 5, words like "crack," "pung" and "soap" will become part of your regular vocabulary. You will find yourself comfortably using phrases like, "I liked last year's card better" and "I can't find a hand." Once you have mastered the basics (which I guarantee you will!), you will learn strategy in this high-stakes (hey, a quarter is a quarter!) but fun game. Val Kolmaister has been putting out flyers regarding registration. As a goodly number of women signed up, we'll have it at Shaare Tefila ... and I look forward to seeing many of you! If you attend, you won't be sorry! And if you don't come, I'm telling your mother!

Because *Hanukkah* came in late December this year and conflicted with school breaks (due to some other holiday...), we decided to opt out of an activity to

celebrate. However, next year we hope to bring everyone together for pizza, ice cream and a movie. Do you have a favorite Jew-ish family movie to recommend? Let me know!

Later this month, Sunday, January 26, 7:00-9:00 PM, we will host a Bingo Night. There will be some great prizes: a trip to the Bahamas, a Cadillac Escalade, dinner with the President ... NOT!! But I do promise some cool things, worth taking home. Bingo Night is always fun, so put it down on your calendar.

Future events for this year include:

- A Fashion Show/Tea. (Thank you Cilla Grosberg for getting this rolling!)
- In March we will continue our tradition of holding a Women's *Seder*.
- In April, we will host a Sisterhood *Shabbat* AND a Progressive Luncheon. Details will follow.
- In May we are planning to repeat the Spring Brunch which was so popular last year.

In the meantime, let this be our mantra: I will love, I will care, I will hope. And I will not depress myself by reading *The Washington Post* too thoroughly.

JEWISH HAIKU

Yenta. Shmeer. Gevalt.

Shlemiel. Shlimazl. Tuches.

Oy! To be fluent!

Welcome to the New Members of Shaare Tefila

Ann Hamlin may seem a familiar face to some as she has happily been participating in various activities at Shaare Tefila. She especially enjoys the Women's *Rosh Chodesh* group. She works as a case manager, resides in Olney, and has one young adult daughter.

Ron Kohanski is yet another member who has come to us from the now defunct Bet Chaverim, which was based in Columbia. He is retired from his career at the National Institute of Aging. He has 5 adult children who reside in various parts of the U.S.

LETTER IN THE MAILBOX

Dear Jonah,
On behalf of Olney HELP, we sincerely thank you for your generous donation of to our food pantry in October 2024.

We've successfully completed Thanksgiving and holiday baskets for families in the Olney area, thanks to your incredible support.

We truly appreciate your ongoing generosity!

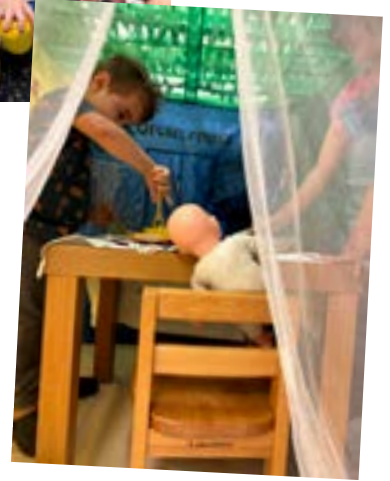
Sincerely,
Christine Nesbitt
Olney HELP

Olney HELP is a non-profit charity recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3)

No goods or services were provided by Olney HELP in return for this gift.



Gan Katan Preschool Class

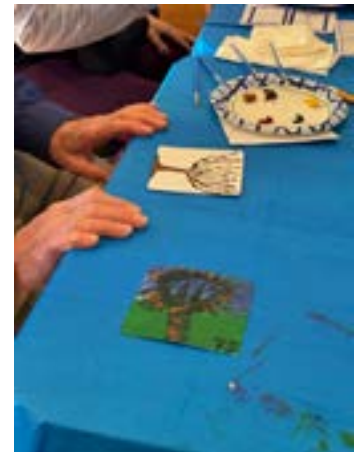


This fall was so much fun for our *Gan* kiddos! From the High holidays to being thankful and celebrating *Hanukkah*, they had a blast with *Morah Mara*!

Do you want to know more about our monthly class? Contact Babette Cohn, BCohn@shaaretefila.org.

75th Anniversary: Whole Congregation *Etz Chaim* Project

This past month, Mara Lansky worked with a *chavurah* group to continue to create more tiles for our mural. If you haven't created one yet, be on the lookout for our next event or invite Mara to your next *chavurah* group!



The 'YOU' in YOUR Weekly Kiddush

Fran Kensky, *Kiddush Committee Chair*

This is a friendly reminder to all able-bodied members of Shaare Tefila that we need your support to help with the weekly *kiddush*. Each week a lovely *kiddush* is offered after services to enable attendees to *shmooze* and enjoy a little something to eat. Everyone enjoys the nosh and camaraderie, but we need your help to make this happen.

I, and other dedicated volunteers, take care of the needed shopping and/or food delivery. And every *Shabbat* (and Jewish holiday), a 'kitchen captain' is designated; he/she knows what is to be served.

Here's where you come in. All of our many other volunteers are randomly assigned each week to set up and clean up. By sharing the work needed to make this happen, no one will feel burned out, so that help is greatly appreciated. And as a bonus, most of those who work in the kitchen find it rewarding to meet other congregants and enjoy the *heimish* experience. (The Yiddish word *heimish*, pronounced "hay-mish," means homey, warm, or unpretentious. It can also be used to describe people who are friendly and warm.)

How will you know when it is your turn to help? The weekly teams are listed in the monthly shofar and you should receive a reminder email from the captain you will be working with. Plus, at the end of each listserv message, you will see the link below and can thereby easily check the listing at: https://bit.ly/ST_Kiddush

If you find you are unable to help on your assigned day, we ask that you find someone to take your place, inform your captain, and offer another day when you will be

able to help. Typically, most members are asked to help only 2-3 times throughout the year. *B'nai mitzvot* families are asked to serve a few additional times.

While we are on the topic of the *kiddush*, as you can imagine, feeding 50+ people each week comes at a cost. Besides the food, there are miscellaneous extras; table coverings, plates and utensils, etc., and in the absence of a sponsor, the synagogue absorbs that cost. Donations to help cover and/or even just defray that cost are always welcome and encouraged. Donations of ANY amount are appreciated, and small donations add up.

Simchas, birthdays and anniversaries of family, etc. are, of course, always good reasons to celebrate with our community, as are significant life achievements – graduations, new jobs, and retirement. But we also encourage you to think outside of the box; sponsorship can be designated for many reasons and 'themed' *kiddushim* could be fun ... and a means to discover others who share your interests and might also contribute. You could, for example, designate a *kiddush* to celebrate your favorite sports team, gather fans of a favorite television show or musical performer, or perhaps all who share your love of chocolate! Be creative and come up with your own reason to celebrate.

And if you have reason to be especially grateful, and have interest in fully sponsoring a *kiddush*, please contact me or our Executive Director, Jerry Kiewe.

Thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation.

January 2025 Kiddush Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE

JANUARY 4

Sponsored by the extended family of Hyman & Cilla Grosberg in honor of Hyman's 70th birthday and recent retirement

**Kitchen Captain
Volunteers**

Val Kolmaister

Phil Goldman
Rita & Jay Hagler
Susan & Jeff Hysen
Ethel & Ira Levine
Roni & Barry Polisar
Holly & Steve Schotz
Zella Shabasson & Julian Rosenberg
Debbie & Jesse Stiller
Jack & Bess Teller

DATE

JANUARY 11

**Kitchen Captain
Volunteers**

Karen Sussman/Marlene Sandberg

Sharon Bender & Andrew Feldmann
Betsy Colbert
Margie & Steve Eiserike
Sara Elson
Larry & Carolyn Goldstein
Arnie & Shoshana Greenland
Susan & Dan Marder
David Mendick & Naomi Yadin-Mendick
Anne & Ofer Zajicek

DATE

JANUARY 18

**MLK Jr. Weekend
Kitchen Captain
Volunteers**

Wendy Abraham/Sherry Cohen

Ben & Ashley Doyle
Carol Fendler
Lois & Bob Freedman
Monica Friedman
Michael Gross
Mark & Karen Kaufman
Diane & Gershon Kieval
Beth Schapiro

DATE

JANUARY 25

**Kitchen Captain
Volunteers**

Sheryl Tilles

Vivienne & Michael Auerbach
Stephanie & Perry Buckberg
Lita & Bert Katz
Andi & Joe Manchester
Cathy & Lanny Plotkin
Howard & Amy Schwartz
Laura & David Torchinsky
Stacey & Jeffrey Winkler

TOY DRIVE 2024 – Many Thanks!

By Cathy Plotkin

Many thanks to everyone who donated money for our Toy Drive at Harmony Hills Elementary School. Sharon Kaye and Karyn Gross went shopping and bought the most amazing gifts for my school community.

Here is a photo of us presenting the gifts to Ruth Meininger, who works with the Family Resource Room inside of our school.

This year she and her team are expecting a high demand for these toys. We will be providing gift wrap paper for the families, as well, so parents can actively participate in their family's holiday preparations. We know that this will help the children have a happy holiday season!



Thank you to all the congregation members who also so thoughtfully donated new children's socks, mittens, and hats. Another congregant donated new games for indoor recess — the classes were super excited to get those! I also received some gently used winter coats that were much appreciated by the community.

We might be a small *shul* but I am so proud of our BIG heart — this was a job well done!!

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

JANUARY

Anniversary Celebrations

- 11/3 Gary & Ilene Mizrachi
- 1/5 Aaron & Karen Becker
- 1/30 Mark & Shelley Levitt

Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/1 Cilla Grosberg | 1/14 Sarah Nachlas Cohen |
| 1/1 Noah Becker | 1/14 Rachel Appel |
| 1/1 Michelle Elson | 1/16 Allison Schwartz |
| 1/2 Aaron Becker | 1/17 William Mauldin |
| 1/2 Stephanie Romano | 1/17 Craig Binder |
| 1/2 Sam Krosnick | 1/18 Mary Wright |
| 1/3 Doran Goldstein | 1/18 Rona Eisen |
| 1/3 Katish Mbono | 1/18 J. Vincent |
| 1/4 Hal Epstein | 1/18 Jacob Weiss |
| 1/4 Eli Grosberg | 1/20 Judy Carroll |
| 1/5 Howard Rumerman | 1/21 Ellen Reinach |
| 1/6 Steven Franklin | 1/21 Carole Sepulvado |
| 1/7 Gilda Kuritzky | 1/21 Noah Sussman |
| 1/8 Amy Federman | 1/22 Ira Levine |
| 1/8 Robert Freedman | 1/22 Laura Torchinsky |
| 1/9 Helen Niederman | 1/23 Jeffrey Winkler |
| 1/9 Jacob Marder | 1/23 Stephen Freedman |
| 1/9 Tyler Borreda | 1/26 Rita Hagler |
| 1/10 Rachel Schotz | 1/27 Roy Peck |
| 1/11 Lisa Krussman | 1/27 Jonathan Reinach |
| 1/11 Bradley Salzman | 1/28 Joseph Torchinsky |
| 1/11 Tori Rubloff | Dekelbaum |
| 1/11 Lacy Rubloff | 1/29 Ami Frydman |
| 1/11 Lucy Mauldin | 1/29 Karen Lefler |
| 1/12 Howard Goldstein | 1/29 Lee Kuritzky |
| 1/14 Betty Rosenthal | |





Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the Chesed Committee

Adriana Sandler | 240-593-5792 |

SandlerAA@gmail.com

During the month of January 2025, the *Chesed* Committee will be making personal calls to most members of Shaare Tefila.

Why?

We are not sure that everyone who is a member makes full use and takes advantage of what the *Chesed* Committee has to offer. This is a way for us to reach out to congregants and find out what they may need.

What?

Are we missing something?

When you receive a call, please tell the *Chesed* Committee member if you could use a ride to synagogue services or programs, if you could use some catered dinners, or if we are missing something (almost anything) to make your circumstances a little easier.

We are open for suggestions!

Remember!

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

The *Chesed* Committee has the help of many people

AND

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

Contact us if you would like or need one of the following:

- calls on an ongoing basis with one of our volunteers
- rides to *Shabbat* services or to Shaare Tefila events/ programs,
- medical appointments, grocery stores and other destinations
- dinners prepared by The Kosher Kitchen, Moti's or Shalom Kosher, or our own kitchen
- cozy 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 when you can.

You 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?

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



Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From November 22 - December 30, 2024, but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

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With thanks to the Chesed Committee, from
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Bernie Goldenhorn, from Glenn Goldenhorn
Alan Lichtman, son of Milton Lichtman, from
Julian Leidman
Susan Schwartz; May her memory be for a
blessing, from Charlotte Potosky
Maurice, husband of Charlotte Potosky. We
love you and miss you. You would be so
proud of our family. We all strive to walk
in your steps. Memories of you are our
blessing! From Charlotte Potosky
Alan Lichtman, son of Milton Lichtman;
Deepest condolences from Charlotte
Shapiro & sons
Susan Schwartz, from Elaine Stein

GENERAL FUND

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Cathy Plotkin, on the occasion of her 'special
birthday, from Bess & Jack Teller
David Ronis, from Max Kantzer & Patricia
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Contributions In Memory Of:

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Contributions In Appreciation For:

Cilla & Hyman Grosberg and Shaare Tefila for
the recent *Hanukkah* program, from Bess &
Jack Teller

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the efforts of the *Kiddush* Committee, from
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MACHZOR DEDICATIONS

Contributions In Memory Of:

William Posner, father of Carole Sepulvado,
with gratitude for the support provided
by the synagogue and Rabbi following his
passing, from Carole & Gary Sepulvado
and family

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 Saul & Sherry Cohen

Contributions In Memory Of:

Bernie Goldenhorn from Glenn Goldenhorn

SUPPORT SHAARE TEFILA THROUGH SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Raise money for Shaare Tefila with your every-
day shopping to Giant Food, Shalom Kosher or
Moti's Kosher supermarket. Instead of making
everyday purchases with cash/credit – pur-
chase 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 syna-
gogue. 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 pro-
gram for all of us!



Let the Light Shine Community Celebration As Bright As Ever!

On the second night of *Hanukkah*, December 26, members of Shaare Tefila gathered together for a joyful celebration. The Social Hall was filled with much *ruach*/spirit for the holiday as we lit our amazing electric *hanukiyah*/*Hanukkah* menorah. Led by Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller of Rhythm N' Ruach, everyone sang the candle blessings and participated in a rousing *Hanukkah* song session. Thanks to Theodore Doyle and Jacob Druxman for helping to light the candles. There were delicious *latkes*/potato pancakes, *sufganiyot*/donuts and other foods enjoyed by everyone, and games of *dreidel* played and won. Thanks to Cilla and Hyman Grosberg for helping to make sure we had enough food!!



Chavaya Hanukkah Celebration





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

16620 GEORGIA AVE. OLNEY, MD 20832

301-593-3410

WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG

*Affiliated With The United Synagogue
Of Conservative Judaism*

Rabbi Jonah Layman

RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

301-593-3410 X 102

Hazzan

Adina Klein Ackerman

CAAckerman@ShareTefila.org

President

Jeffrey Weiss

President@ShaareTefila.org

Executive Director

Jerry Kiewe

JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

301-593-3410 X 101

Director of Education & Programming

Babette Cohn

BCohn@ShaareTefila.org

301-593-3410 X 106