



# The Shofar

Celebrating our 58<sup>th</sup> year

Vol.57 # 4

January 2009 Tevet /Shevat5769

## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY...

### A Lesson from Hanukkah



We all know the story of Hanukkah – the revolt of the Maccabees against the mighty Greek army. After the three year battle somehow the Maccabees defeated the mighty forces and were able to clean the Temple in Jerusalem. Miraculously, they found one jug of pure olive oil to light the menorah and that oil lasted 8 days. The facts of the story may be questioned by historians and may never be proved to have occurred, but the lessons of the story are eternal.

I've been thinking about one of those lessons recently as we strategize for the future of the shul. The Maccabees were committed to an ideal – the return of Jewish autonomy to the land of Israel. They started small, just their own family, but the message spread quickly. They fought long and hard, they had faith in God, and they were victorious in the end.

The message for us is obvious. We have a dream of ensuring the survival and vitality of our shul in Olney. We have developed our own brand of synagogue life – a warm, caring community mixed with a traditional participatory service and sprinkled with creative programming – that has enriched our community for 58 years. We know that what we are doing is fulfilling for us and we know that others will find meaning and joy with us in the future. We just have to keep searching to make it happen.

Your support and dedication (Hanukkah) have allowed us to survive these past 2 ½ years of wandering. Many volunteers have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to find options for a permanent home. Hopefully, by the time you read this, more progress will have been made. But no matter what we know that our values and ideals are true and that we continue to be nurtured by our shul.

May this Hanukkah be a holiday of blessing and celebration for you and your family.

*B'vracha,*

Rabbi Jonah Layman

2009/5769

**Hyman Grosberg  
Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year**

Shaare Tefila Congregation Men's Club  
Seaboard Region

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
**Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year Dinner**

**6:00 PM, Sunday, January 18, 2009**

Beth El Congregation/8101 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore MD

To reserve your space send a check for \$75 made out to "Seaboard Region, FJMC" and mail to:

Greg Gore/60 Oak Shade Road/Gaithersberg, MD 20878

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:



In September and October I wrote about health and happiness vis a vis religious participation and faith, reporting on several studies that suggested a link between religious observance and community participation - the more religious Americans (other surveys confirmed the same for other countries) were happier and more optimistic; and the religious folk being healthier than their non-religious counterparts. So how many of you saw the article in the early November *Washington Post* that reported that unhappy people watch more TV than happy people? (The article made a point of saying that television per se does not cause unhappiness.) The interesting part of the article, to me that is, is that the scientists couldn't find the link to happiness and minimal television viewing. For those of you who have been reading my articles, I bet you had the same light bulb go off over your head as I did: "The happy people were too busy participating in religious functions, sharing with their community, to watch television!" Actually religious activity came in fourth to the "happy" minimal viewers, after sex, participating in sports, and playing and reading with children. Shaare Tefila can provide a venue for three of the top four activities. Not bad, I say.

As I am writing this, we just put in our offer on the facility that might be our future home. We have much to think about and much to discuss. This in some ways parallels what is happening in our country. America is in the midst of several major challenges but anticipating a new chapter and a new direction. Inauguration Day doesn't really compare to Shaare Tefila's situation other than we are all hoping to work things out together, and if we disagree on the correct path to our future, we will work it out together and agree to accept what we work out together.

Call me, write me, give me your ideas, your suggestions and of course your compliments,

**Bess Teller**

240-342-2352 home

240-441-7132 cell

president@shaaretefila.org

Great things happening inside *The Shofar*!

Copacabana Dance Fundraiser...Page 3

January 9 Shabbat Dinner....Page 5

Stay for Shabbat Lunch (February & April).... Page 5

# The Shofar

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Rabbi Tirza Schmelzer-Covel**

Director of Education

Some of the students in our Religious School have gotten together to share their learning and opinions with you. As you can read, our students have a wide variety of viewpoints, and food is always one of the first things on their minds!

### What Chocolate is Kosher?

As chocolate is such a popular treat, the students listed three of the most popular brands, and most of their products are kosher:

1. Hershey's      2. Reese's      3. Nestle

### What makes chocolate kosher or not?

**Allison Schwartz** says "Some tend not to be kosher. You can make kosher chocolate just by using cocoa beans." [all chocolate starts with cocoa beans, but, as we know, other ingredients need to be added]

**Jacob Weiss** said "It's all kosher because it's natural." [that's on the right track, and...]

**Rachel Borczuch** said "It's kosher if they don't make it in non-kosher machines." [and if it's under rabbinical supervision]

**Josh Lieberman** said "depending how it's made - [they need to use] only cow or goat milk."

### Our Future Home

We wanted to share with you those things we would love to see in the new school:

**Mitchell Buckberg** said "Free food and vending machines"

**Aaron Auerbach** said "Sport field for breaks."

**Josh Seigel** said "TVs and video games"

**Stephanie Levin** said "A movie room"

**Lianna Lieberman** said "Lounge room for each grade"

**Mr. Rubin** said "Classrooms with the latest technology"

### Meet Our Religious School Faculty and Staff

By 7<sup>th</sup> graders **Emily Temple & Sara Zarny**

**Mrs. Joanna Rubin** is the K-1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and she teaches music. She incorporates arts and crafts in her teaching.

**Morah Ruchel Green** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She is enthusiastic and makes learning fun. She uses books to teach with and Torah Tenders as prizes.

**Mr. Josh Rubin** is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. He is fun and likes to play games. He uses worksheets and books to teach.

**Morah Lauren Yedlin** is the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She is an open minded teacher and gives rewards for good behavior. This is her first year teaching at Hebrew school.

**Dennis Kelner** is the secretary. Dennis helps provide and find materials for others. He also organizes for the teachers and takes attendance. He has been a big help to the Religious school.

**Cantor Wendi** is the cantor. She also teaches choir and she helps people with their B'nai Mitzvah.

**Rabbi Tirza** is the Director of Education. She checks in classes and helps keep distracted kids on track.

**Rabbi Layman** is the rabbi of the congregation. He teaches adults and helps 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade with their Hebrew.

**Ilan Layman** is the Hebrew tutor; he helps kids who are having difficulty with their Hebrew and kids who are more advanced in their Hebrew.

## SISTERHOOD



Tevet is the tenth month of the calendar. In modern day Israel, the 10th of Tevet has been designated as Yom [Hakaddish](#) Haklali - the day on which we mourn those who's date or place of death is unknown. It is also the only minor fast day that can be observed on Shabbat.

On November 16, we had our jewelry making class. Thanks to **Freda Krosnick** for hosting and planning this event. Everyone who came had a great time. If you were unable to come, we plan to have another one in the future.

The next book review is Tuesday, January 27, 8 pm, at Honey Neufeld's. We will be reading *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. If you are interested in joining and want more information, please call **Peggy Slade**, 301-593-1716.

WL Seaboard Education Day is Sunday, January 11 and our meeting will be on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there. Yasher Koach and Toda Raba to **Rachel Sniffen** for facilitating a great discussion for the November Rosh Chodesh Meeting. The next Rosh Chodesh is January 24. Join us for a great discussion.

Thank you to everyone who helps with Kiddush shopping, set up and cleanup.

And as always **buy Scrip**; it is our biggest fund raiser. In November, Sisterhood gave \$3,000 to the synagogue. Please help us raise more-you have to buy food anyway!!

B'shalom,

*Deborah Letou*

Sharon Kaye models her necklace for Fran Kensky.

Photo by Ira Kolmaister



## THE SHOFAR

Shaare Tefila Congregation  
10881 Lockwood Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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# The Shofar



## Shaare Tefila Congregation's Copacabana Dance Fundraiser Saturday, February 28, 2009, 7:30 pm

The Oak Room  
17921 Brooke Road  
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

*Bring your family & friends to the Dance Party of the Year!  
Dance through the decades to the sounds of the live band  
Swing 'N on a Star*

**Beginners to Seasoned Dancers... All skill levels welcome!!!**  
Exhibition dances & beginners lessons by professional dancers

**Complimentary Beginner Dance Lesson 7:45 - 8:30 pm**  
**Open Dance Floor 8:30 - 11:30 pm**

**Free Refreshments! Hors D'oeuvres!**  
**— Open Cash Bar —**

**\$40 per person/RSVP by February 18, 2009**  
*(This fundraiser is for ages 21 and older)*

*Continue supporting our wonderful community at any of these levels:*

**\$1,000 Jitterbug**

**\$500 Boogie Woogie**

**\$250 The Twist**

**\$180 The Hustle**

**\$100 Electric Slide**

*(Donations will be acknowledged in the Copacabana Dance Program)*



For information, contact Cilla Grosberg, 301-384-8789, [drgmrs@aol.com](mailto:drgmrs@aol.com)

or

Meryl Schaffer, 301-260-7428, [merylivy@comcast.net](mailto:merylivy@comcast.net)

Donations above admission price are tax deductible

Attire: Dressy Casual

### COPACABANA DANCE FUNDRAISER REGISTRATION

♫ RSVP by February 18, 2009 ♫

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending at \$40 each \_\_\_\_\_ Add'l Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  VISA  MC

Check enclosed payable to Shaare Tefila Congregation. Mail to 10881 Lockwood Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20901

## Karen's Korner...



**Paul and Sara Dick** celebrated 60 years of blissful marriage on September 28, 2008. And no, that is not a typo- that's right- 60 wonderful years! Their wonderful children, **Barbara and Dr. Al Kurtz**, and **Dr. Brad and Debbie Dick** organized a beautiful anniversary party at the Pooks Hill Marriott Hotel in Bethesda, with numerous family members and a room full of friends in attendance. There was a mock wedding ceremony and **Paul** once again got to break the glass and I just know he and **Sara** heard the melodious sound of well-wishers joyfully shout "L'Chaim!" How fortunate for this lovely couple that our own **Gershon Levin**, Cantor at Shaare Tefila for over 30 years, conducted this moving ceremony.

After a month of bed rest at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, **Jamie and Jeff Schwartz** presented **Sid and Sue Schwartz** with a very preemie grandson. His name is **Max Donald** and his big sister, **Taryn**, is so proud of how he is growing stronger every day. He was born on November 26<sup>th</sup> (Happy Thanksgiving) and weighed 4lbs. 5 oz. He was released from the hospital and certified "ready to go home" on December 15th. All the Schwartzes joined in the Welcome Home Party.

**Al Kliman** was inducted as a newly elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration on November 20, 2008. The Academy is a Congressionally chartered non-profit organization created over thirty years ago to improve government. Members must be voted on by all Fellows. **Barbara Fink** was present that day and attended the induction ceremonies. The Academy is the public administration counterpart of the National Academies of Science. *Yasher Koach*, **Al**, on this honor that we all know was well deserved!

**Charlotte and Maurice Potosky** are very excited about the **Autism Speaks** walk in which they recently participated. The walk has raised about \$850,000 thus far, and their team, **Ben's Brigade** and **Sam's Club**, raised \$8,500—quite an accomplishment! The walk drew over 7,500 people. **Maury** was in charge of the Resource Fair which had over 3 dozen vendors and exhibitors. Their team is named after their grandsons, **Ben** and **Sam Potosky**, who have autism. **Charlotte** and **Maury** are extremely grateful to their friends and family for their continued support.

By the time you are reading this, the secular New Year will be upon us. **Shelly, Stacey, Steven** and I would like to extend our wishes for a healthy and happy year, where you are constantly surrounded by family and friends, and asked to participate in numerous simchas. Try and say "Yes, I'll be happy to attend!" Think about it- you **never** regret attending *simcahs*, whereas the same can't be said when you are unable to attend. Fill your life with happy times, remember to buy scrip (our most consistent fundraiser) and see you in shul.

L'Chaim,  
**Karen Radnor**

## To My Wonderful Family, My Fellow Congregants and My Shaare Tefila Friends

Please accept my heartfelt thank you to all of you for honoring me by your attendance at Shabbat services on Saturday, November 22, 2008, the kiddush and your greetings in the booklet, and your contributions in my honor. I am grateful and thankful for your good wishes and expressions of support and appreciation for my contributions to the congregation over these many years. I wish I could write each of you a personal and individual message of thanks, but there are simply too many for me to do so. Please know, however, that I appreciate all that each of you has done to recognize me.

As I said during my brief remarks on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was privileged, with many others, to be a founder of this congregation. It has been my pleasure to have served as Education Vice President, an adult education and part-time Hebrew school teacher for post bar and bat mitzvah students, your high holiday shofar blower, and your very off key Simchat Torah cantor. I am proud to have supported the congregation through its transition from Riggs Park to White Oak and, through the loan of my home on Lockwood Drive, during this transition from White Oak to Olney. I have received as much, if not more, than I have given. Shaare Tefila is my spiritual home and I am proud of it. My affiliation with Shaare Tefila and its members has meant much to me over the years and it is a relationship which I hope will continue for many years to come.

**Arthur Bresler**

## CELEBRATING CHANUKAH WITH

## SHAARE TEFILA CONGREGATION

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# The Shofar

## Shabbat Dinner @ Olney Elementary School

Friday, January 9, 2009 after 6:00 pm Services

Reservation Form

(RSVP by Tuesday, January 6)

**Adults (13+):** \$18(member)/ \$22 (Non member)

**Children (5 -12):** \$10 (member)/\$12 (Non member)

**Under 5:** free

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Adults (13+) attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Children (5 - 12) attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Children <5 attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# vegetarians** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### Please volunteer to help with:

Set up: \_\_\_\_\_

Serving: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean up: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this reservation form and check to

**Shaare Tefila Congregation**

**10881 Lockwood Drive**

**Silver Spring, MD 20901**

301-593-3410 ext 104

Reservations due in the office by close of business,  
Tuesday, January 6, 2009

### PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY:

#### Cantor Wendi & Gigi Fried

18012 Vintage River Terrace

Olney, MD 20832

#### New Member:

**Sonja Schwartzman**

2901 S. Leisure World Blvd #402

Silver Spring, MD 20906

#### Associate Members:

**Dale Morton**

**& Irma Goff-Morton**

10812 Rock Run Drive

Potomac, MD 20854

301-765-1024

**Phillip & Ruth Shapiro**

102 Claybrook Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20902

301-593-0563

[psshapiro@verizon.net](mailto:psshapiro@verizon.net)

[shapiroima@verizon.net](mailto:shapiroima@verizon.net)

Happy January Birthday to our Youth!

Josie Bulitt

Hannah Gaskill

Sammy Krosnick

Joshua Paynter



Rachel Schotz

Allison Schwartz

Ilana Meltzer

Joshua Seigel

Jacob Weiss

## STAY FOR SHABBAT LUNCH

Sharing Shabbat Shaare Tefila Style

February 21, & April 25

Members who live in the Olney/Rockville area are matched with members who would like to extend their Shabbat experience beyond Shabbat morning services. Hosts provide a meal of bagels, cheese, tuna or egg salad. Guests bring dessert and drinks.

If you live in the Olney/Rockville area and would like to host or if you would like to be a guest at a Shabbat lunch, please contact: Meryl Schaffer at merylivy@comcast.net or 301-260-7428 (after 6:00 pm).

\*\*\*\*\*

## STAY FOR SHABBAT LUNCH

### Registration

**I live in the Olney/Rockville area and am willing to be a host**

**on:** (please circle): February 21 April 25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number I am willing to host: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to be a guest on:** (please circle) February 21, April 25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending in my family: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests, please respond no later than one week prior to the Shabbat Lunch.

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# The Shofar

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### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Jules Fink's 80th Birthday

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### EDUCATION FUND

**A Speedy Recovery To**  
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Lena Graves

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Joan Gould

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Mautners 60th Anniversary  
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Martin Halpern

**Donor**  
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Rita Rubinstein's Special Birthday  
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Theodora Davis's Bat Mitzvah

**Donor**  
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Rita Rubinstein  
Rita Rubinstein

**In Memory Of**  
Daniel Scher

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Ila Swartz

### ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Thank you to the Chesed Committee

Art & Joy Podolsky

**Wishing A Speedy Recovery To**  
Carol Waganheim

**Donor**  
Maurice & Charlotte Potosky

**In Honor Of**  
Thank You  
Ravid Tilles & Yaffa Garber's engagement  
Zachary Plotkin's Bar Mitzvah

**Donor**  
Frances Berger  
Gershon & Diane Kieval  
Gershon & Diane Kieval

**In Memory Of**  
Albert Reinach

**Donor**  
Helga Kawesch

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Dr. Arthur Bresler's Special birthday  
Arthur Bresler

**Donor**  
Ellen Reinach  
Rabbi Robert & Ruth Layman  
Ruth Newhouse

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Phyllis Kliman

**Donor**  
Albert Kliman

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## January 2009 5 Teves 5769 - 6 Shevat 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 5 TEVES ה טבת New Year's Day 8:45 am - Shacharit @ Bresler	<b>2</b> 6 TEVES ו טבת 4:40 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	<b>3</b> 7 TEVES ז טבת ויגשן Shabbos Ends: 5:41 9 am Shabbat Service Olney Elementary Tot Shabbat
<b>4</b> 8 TEVES ח טבת Religious School 10:30 am Talmud w/Rabbi Layman	<b>5</b> 9 TEVES ט טבת 8 pm Board Meeting 8 pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 10 TEVES י טבת תענית עשרה בטבת Fast of 10th Tevet	<b>7</b> 11 TEVES יא טבת 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>8</b> 12 TEVES יב טבת Membership Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> 13 TEVES יג טבת 4:46 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary Shabbat Dinner	<b>10</b> 14 TEVES יד טבת ויחן Shabbos Ends: 5:47 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary and Hazak Shabbat 9:45 am B'Mazel
<b>11</b> 15 TEVES טו טבת Religious School Pre School Sister Ed Day (county wide) 10:30 am Talmud w/Rabbi Layman 5 pm Kadima-USY B-Ball	<b>12</b> 16 TEVES טז טבת 7 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting 8 pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 17 TEVES יז טבת Religious Committee Meeting	<b>14</b> 18 TEVES יח טבת 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>15</b> 19 TEVES יט טבת Finance Committee Meeting	<b>16</b> 20 TEVES כ טבת 4:54 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	<b>17</b> 21 TEVES כא טבת שמות Shabbos Ends: 5:55 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary
<b>18</b> 22 TEVES כב טבת NO RS Men's Club Blue Yarmulke	<b>19</b> 23 TEVES כג טבת Martin Luther King Day 8:45 am Shacharit @ Bresler 5 pm Kadima, USY B-ball 8 pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 24 TEVES כד טבת 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>21</b> 25 TEVES כה טבת 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>22</b> 26 TEVES כו טבת 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>23</b> 27 TEVES כז טבת 5:01 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	<b>24</b> 28 TEVES כח טבת וארא Shabbos Ends: 6:02 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh 8 pm USY Formal
<b>25</b> 29 TEVES כט טבת Religious School 10:30 am Talmud w/Rabbi Layman 5 pm Kadima- USY B-Ball	<b>26</b> 1 SHEVAT א שבט ראש חודש שבט 8 pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 2 SHEVAT ב שבט Sisterhood Book Group	<b>28</b> 3 SHEVAT ג שבט 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>29</b> 4 SHEVAT ד שבט 4:30 pm Religious School	<b>30</b> 5 SHEVAT ה שבט 5:09 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	<b>31</b> 6 SHEVAT ו שבט בא Shabbos Ends: 6:10 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary Family Service Mini Minyan

**Shaare Tefila Congregation**

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**The Shofar**

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