



The Shofar

קול
השוֹפָר

Shaare Tefila Congregation

Celebrating our 58th year

Vol.57 # 10

Summer 2009

Sivan, Tammuz, Av 5769

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY...

Our Shul's Future



I am writing this article about 2 weeks before the May 12 congregation meeting. Therefore I am taking a great risk in assuming the outcome of that pivotal deliberation. At that gathering we heard and saw another excellent presentation from the shul's leadership and we saw a plan for our new building. It was a momentous occasion in the shul's history and one of which we should be extremely proud!

One lesson we learned on May 12 is how much **you** are willing to sacrifice in order to contribute to and participate in the congregation. Modern rabbis always have a difficult time making the laws and offerings of the book of Leviticus in the Torah relevant. Shaare Tefila Congregation has no problem! Sacrifice implies giving up something we cherish for a higher purpose. Nothing can be nobler than our shul, and we certainly cherish our wealth (especially in this economy!). Yet, you have shown your willingness to do what it is necessary to ensure that we maintain the level of service you have come to expect, and to build the building of which we have been dreaming.

Another lesson we learned is how creative and dedicated our shul's leadership has been. Through the ups and downs of the past 3 years, many volunteers have worked tirelessly to develop plans, meet with architects and builders, manage our finances, run the shul, and maintain loyalty and energy in the congregation. Their work must constantly be applauded!

Finally we have learned how much you love being a member of Shaare Tefila Congregation. You have been so patient and you have been willing to experiment with different locations over the years. You have stayed with us through thick and thin and you have enabled us to survive and thrive. You are the core that defines who we are as a congregation. Your love of Judaism, your support of one another, your desire for spiritual and cultural growth all help define our mission as we plan on moving into a new building.

It continues to be an honor to be your rabbi and I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

With wishes for a restful and rejuvenating summer,

Rabbi Jonah Layman

FROM THE PRESIDENT



There's a new book out, Rapt: Attention and the Focused Life, by Winifred Gallagher (The Penguin Press) that I haven't been able to get my hands on but I've read two reviews of it that entice me to its pages.

The author's premise is that "Life is the sum of what you focus on." She discusses multitasking (as I'm writing this, I'm listening to music, I'm on hold, I'm keeping an eye on my emails, and I'm noshing – my father, may he rest in peace, used to say that Julius Caesar could do 8 things well at the same time), attention deficit disorders, technology overload and other factors that keep us from "sustained focus that fosters creativity and quality." How many of our children spend an hour just reading a book or just practicing an instrument; they are more likely to be doing something else simultaneously. And it will be more so as technology gets more complicated and more pervasive. Will our next generation be able to confront intellectually demanding material and have a capacity for serious thought?

Mental attention shifts; if we are having an engrossing conversation and we hear our name mentioned, our attention will shift immediately. Some experiments quoted were surprising but then almost intuitive: a Yale study found "that people holding a warm rather than iced coffee mug are more likely to perceive another person as 'warm,' or friendly."

So how to cope with the stress and inefficiencies of distraction? Winifred Gallagher suggests choosing activities that force you to concentrate because those activities require absolute focus, such as an artist painting, anything that will keep us engaged but not overwhelmed nor bored and thus we can experience the "flow." Also, meditation; it is calming, and shifts our focus from the past or the future to pay attention to the present and "experience true reality." Sounds very mystical to me. And it seems to forget what the brain does that isn't conscious.

So, according to Ms Gallagher, if we manage our attention, we will have happiness and fulfillment. Which is a good segue for paying attention to Shaare Tefila. So maybe we can learn from this book and direct our attention to a deeper reality, a spiritual focus. It would provide us with the means to activating her suggestions: the concentrated activity and meditation. And community. And singing. And eating together. And socializing. Sounds like the path to happiness.

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

Bess Teller, President

President@shaaretefila.org

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Inside the *Shofar*...

Annual Congregation Meeting.....	Page 2
Summer Service Locations.....	Page 2
Karen's Korner	Page 3
Men's Soft Ball.....	Page 4
High Holiday Packets.....	Page 4
Update From Annalise Glauz-Todrank.....	Page 6

The Shofar

MEMBERSHIP MENSCHENINGS

Our new Pesach Partners Program had a good start and I want to thank **Florence Lipsky** for taking on this project and seeing it to fruition with her usual panache! A special thank you to our hosts: **Rhona and Stuart Eisen** and **Fran and Stan Kensky**. We plan on expanding on this idea and doing a Partners program for the High Holidays. Consider opening up your Rosh Hashanah table a little more to host another family along with yours. Look for more information over the summer.

Welcome new Associate Members, **Ronald and Joan Portman, Cantor Wendi's** parents. Many of us have gotten to know them when they join us at High Holidays and other times. We look forward to seeing them around.

As we gear up to build our new building we know we will have a big year ahead of us as a membership committee. While each one of us is really part of the membership committee – what better PR than enthusiastic members, we still need new people to participate on the committee. Your commitment can vary. We need your ideas and we need people to run one time programs, on-going programs, and to help out here and there. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact me via email at membership@shaaretefila.org, or phone: 301-681-3388. I look forward to hearing from you!

Stefanie Levy



On Sunday April 26th, regular Shabbat services attendee **Sadie Blicher** was joined by her family and some long-time Shaare Tefila friends for her 99th birthday party. Sadie is a founding member of Shaare Tefila. Sadie is flanked in the picture by her son **Michael Blicher** and daughter-in-law **Emily Green-Blicher**.

CONGREGATION VOTES TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION

By the time you read this, we trust you will have heard that the vote to continue construction at our Georgia Ave. site has passed. Our annual congregation meeting was held at Tikvat Israel on May 12th at which time the slate of board members was voted upon and passed. The budget for 2010 was presented and a dues increase was voted upon and passed.

The architect's preliminary drawings for the new building were presented by Judy Carroll and Mike Auerbach reviewed the financial plan for proceeding with construction. Questions from a very enthusiastic audience of 175 members were fielded by Judy, Mike, Wendy Abraham, and Bess Teller. The meeting was videotaped by Ira Kolmaister so that members not able to attend the meeting could view it at the office. In addition, a second meeting was held at Leisure World on May 17th.

Now that we have an affirmative vote to go forward, contracts with the architect and builder have to be negotiated; detailed construction documents and a construction timeline completed and submitted to the county for revised permitting. We will keep you updated on our progress!

Update Your Directory!
Myrna Yalon's new phone number:
240-560-7293

WHEN SOMEONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL

Rabbi Layman wants to be able to visit members of the congregation when they are hospitalized. Due to the medical privacy laws, hospitals do not inform the shul when a member is there.

The only way Rabbi Layman can visit is if he is informed by the patient or his/her family or friends. Please do not assume that Rabbi Layman is aware of your hospitalization!

Please designate someone to call the shul office when necessary!

SUMMER SERVICE LOCATIONS

To help us keep cool so we can enjoy our davening, summer service locations will be:

6:00 pm Friday night

Olney Elementary School

EXCEPT: June 5, July 3, August 21 & 28. These will all be at the Buffington Building located at 3300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road in Olney

9:00 am Shabbat Morning

June 6—Olney Elementary School

June 13—Congregation Har Tzeon

June 20 through August 29—Olney Theatre

THE SHOFAR
Shaare Tefila Congregation
10881 Lockwood Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Vol. 57, No.10 June

Karen's Korner:



Happy Summer to all! By the time you are reading this, the school year will be winding down and the lazy, hazy days of summer will be upon us.

I heard from **Susan and Milt Goldsamt**. They were kvelling over their professional actor/singer son **Mike** (known as "**Michael Thomas Holmes**") a tenor by the way, and his

performance in the role of "Pinky" in the world premiere of the newly written musical "Giant." It's based on the book by Edna Ferber, and the movie starring Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson. **Milt and Susan**, along with several other shul members, (the **Jay and Joyce Feinsteins**, the **Neufelds, Pecks, Tellers** and **Rita Rubinstein**—apologies if I left anyone out—these are the members I knew about when this article went to print) enjoyed the show on May 17th at the newly renovated Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia.

The musical is being performed with a 21 member cast, a number of them excellent actors, with first rate singing voices (with son **Michael** praising the talents of his fellow cast members!) **Mike** himself has been in productions on Broadway and elsewhere with Theodore Bikel ("Fiddler on the Roof"), Jason Alexander ("The Chosen"), Martin Short ("The Producers"), Eartha Kitt ("All About Us") and Patrick Wilson ("Oklahoma"). Quite an impressive resume!

I received a lovely email from **Doreen Bonnett** and husband **Lenny Tober**. Their son **Jonathan** was voted Student of the Quarter by the 7th grade teachers at Farquhar Middle School for his consistent scholastic efforts, kindness, cooperativeness, and continued good citizenship.

They are also very excited about daughter **Shira's** graduation from Boston University in May. She will start working in August with the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority's national organization as a Traveling Educational Consultant. This is a highly competitive position, and **Shira** was selected from among many qualified candidates. Mazal Tov to the entire family!

Sue Schwartz reports in on two grandsons. "For those of you who followed the frightening months of our little Max Schwartz who was a preemie, he is doing great. He is cooing and babbling and beginning to laugh. He has found his hands and toes and delights in mouthing them. He is doing so well and thanks to all the support from our Shaare Tefila family. From baby Max, we go to older grandson, Scott, who is graduating Mother's Day weekend from Berklee School of Music in Boston. This summer, Scott will be in LA doing an internship with a music agent and finding "gigs" for bands, singers, etc. Scott is a graduate of our Shaare Tefila Nursery School. Go Scott!"

Take some time over the coming months to enjoy moments with family and friends. Relax at the beach, the pool, or at a BBQ. Catch up on some summer reading, and follow the excitement of our shul coming to Olney!

L'Chaim,

Karen Radnor

FROM THE EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

As we are finishing a wonderful school year, we have been planning the next one. Next year, our religious school will be combining with the school at **Tikvat Israel (TI)**! This combined school (as of this writing, we have not yet finalized its name) will benefit both synagogues in several ways. Most importantly, both synagogues' children will have an opportunity to expand their circle of Jewish friends. In addition, there will be a cost savings to both synagogues. **Tamar Weinsweig**, currently the school director at TI, will be the school director. Many people have worked - and continue to work - on this project and I know that both synagogues are looking forward to its success.

As you may know, **Rabbi Tirza Schmelzer-Covel** has decided not to renew her contract for next year. She and **Albert** will continue to be a part of our Shaare Tefila community and we will be seeing a lot of them (as well as their beautiful baby Ariyeh) at many congregation events. **Rabbi Tirza** has held the positions of Religious School Director and Youth Director for the past three years. She has been a presence on Shabbat and at all High Holidays coordinating the children's services. She had the challenging job of running the religious school without a building and still managed to keep everything going smoothly. She will be missed at school, but we are fortunate to still be able to see her as a member of the congregation, and wish her well in the future.

Amy Schwartz



BAT MITZVAH OF NAOMI FELDMAN

Naomi Feldman, daughter of Ronen and Kim Feldman, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 13, 2009, at Har Tzeon. Naomi is currently in the seventh grade at Mount View Middle School in Ellicott City, Maryland, where she is an honor student. Naomi enjoys playing piano and is an All-Star on her basketball and soccer teams.

Naomi has an older brother, Sam, and a younger sister, Talia. Her grandparents, Noreen and Frank Halpern, are members of Shaare Tefila and her grandparents, Dalia and Uri Feldman, will also be proudly in attendance.. Her Safta Dalia has taught Naomi Hebrew since second grade and is also her Bat Mitzvah tutor. We look forward to celebrating with family, friends, and the Shaare Tefila Congregation.

The Shofar

MEN'S CLUB SOFTBALL



Go Team! Alan Sandler, Mike Binder, Stan Kensky, Mike Levy (behind Stan), Emily Levy and Mark Weiser enjoying a recent Men's Club softball game.

WHAT A WONDERFUL YOM HASHOAH CELEBRATION

Yom HaShoah was observed by Shaare Tefila with three varied programs. On Shabbat, April 25th, we heard from two guests, **Freddie and Josie Traum**, who told us how they survived the Holocaust through the kindness and self sacrifice of non-Jews.

On Sunday, April 26th, a documentary film, *The Glass House*, was shown about Salvadoran **Col. Jose Arturo Carterllanos**, who issued over 30,000 Certificates of Nationality, to Hungarian Jews. Salvadorans say he should be among Yad Vashem's Righteous Among Nations.

The speakers and film presenters were **Rene Rodriquez** and **Claudia Bartolini** from the Embassy of El Salvador.

The Kiddush for both days was sponsored by **Ellen Reinach** in memory of **Albert Reinach** and in memory of all of their beloved relatives who were victims of the Shoah. Thank you Ellen!

On Sunday, May 3rd, we were privileged to hear Herman Taube read his very special Yiddish poetry and celebrate his own rendition of each. It was a very special moment and we appreciate his coming to us very much. Then we were entertained by our very own **Der Frayliche Knaidlache** with songs in Yiddish.

The Kiddush for the Yiddish celebration was provided by the **Ginsburgs** and the **Grosbergs**. Thanks to all. Submitted by **GK**, who wishes to remain anonymous!!!!

HIGH HOLIDAY PACKETS

High Holiday packets will be in the mail soon—be sure to open yours, fill it out and return it. Our fiscal year ends June 30 and the new one starts July 1. This time of the year is the slowest for our cash flow. Sending in your packets early will help ease this annual occurrence.

Contact Mary-Margaret (x104) or Jill (x101) if you have questions about how to complete the packet.



Herman Taube, noted Yiddish poet, reading some of his poetry to attendees, at our May 3 "For the Love of Yiddish" recitation of Yiddish poetry in Olney. [Photo taken by **Ira Kolmaister**.]



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301-596-2333



(from left to right) **Lisa Arber** (Special Programs Coordinator), and on either side of **Herman Taube** (primary speaker), two of the four members of "Die Frayliche Knaidlach" singing group, **Susan Goldsamt** and **Rita Rubinstein**, at our May 3 "For the Love of Yiddish" . [Photo taken by **Ira Kolmaister**.]

The Shofar

JUNE TRIBUTES

Thank you to our donors!

BUILDING FUND

In Honor Of

Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Bill & Barbara Harkaway
Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Dorothy Kaufman
Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Florence Perman
Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Gerald & Deana Stempler
Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Lillian Shevitz
The Potoskys, 58th Anniversary Marvin Roth & Harriet
Steinhorn-Roth
Maurice Potosky's 80th Birthday! Zelick & Carol Waganheim
Stephanie Wolk & Richard & Wendy Abraham
Grant Sorkin's engagement

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Susan & Gershon Levin's Anniversary Rita Rubinstein

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In Honor Of

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Steinhorn-Roth

In Memory Of

Sylvia Kimelman Rose Halpern

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In Honor Of

Sadie Blicher's 99th Birthday! Rita Rubinstein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - CHESED

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In Memory Of

Israel Schlaffer Jay & Joyce Feinstein
Morris Savage Norton & May Savage

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - REGULAR

In Memory Of

Yizkor Gershon & Susan Levin



Summer Youth Birthdays!

Rachel Borczuch
Mitchell Buckberg
Alex Federman
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Naomi Feldman
Talia Feldman
Sergei Goldstein
Jordan Goodman
Frankie Hedgepeth
Seth Kolmaister
Ivy Krell
Ian Krussman

Eytan Layman
Samantha Levitt
Alicia Levy
Emily Levy
Sam Paynter
Talia Plotkin
Zachary Plotkin
Lindsay Schneider
Taryn Schwartz
Jacob Suddleson
Rachel Zarny

Update from Annalise Glauz-Todrank:

I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet many of you when I spoke about my dissertation research after the Saturday Shabbat service on July 5 last summer. I am writing about the U.S. Supreme court case (*Shaare Tefila Congregation v. Cobb*) that resulted from the congregation's civil suit against eight young men who defaced the outer walls of the synagogue with anti-Semitic graffiti in 1982. After I explained my project, in which I examine how Jewish identity is defined in this particular case, many of you expressed your support and encouragement and offered to talk further with me about the incident and resulting case. I was fortunate to conduct interviews with a number of members who were involved with the congregation at the time that these events occurred. I hope that during a second visit, which I plan to make this summer, I will have the opportunity to meet with other congregation members as well and to meet again with those whom I interviewed last July.

I would like to tell you a little bit about my project and how it has developed since I met many of you last year. I would also like to introduce myself to those of you I have not met. I am a doctoral student in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where I have trained as a historian of religions with an emphasis in Jewish Studies. I learned of the U.S. Supreme Court case *Shaare Tefila Congregation v. Cobb* when I was reading for my doctoral examinations two years ago. The case immediately struck me as a very significant moment in American Jewish history, and I was surprised to find that little has been written about it in scholarly or popular literature.

Since my presentation at Shaare Tefila last summer, I have read all of the legal documents on the case that I have been able to acquire. In addition to the interviews that I conducted with congregation members, I met with Marshall Levin, the executive director of the congregation at the time of the graffiti incident and court case. I also interviewed Patricia Brannan, the lawyer who represented the congregation in the U.S. Supreme Court. She provided me with many legal documents, including several depositions, which I was not able to obtain by other means. I spent time in the archives of the Washington Jewish Week, reading newspaper articles about the incident and case and learning more about the local Jewish community. I have also read numerous articles from national newspapers and other periodicals that describe the events of the case and articles from legal journals that further articulate the legal impact of the case.

In my analysis of the events of the case, I focus on two general approaches to Jewish identity, first, the legal analysis and positions of the judges and justices involved in the civil suit, and, second, the decisions of Shaare Tefila congregation members to create a community clean-up event in response to the graffiti and to bring a civil suit. Legal documents provide a wealth of information on the judges and justices, but for the second part of the project, I would very much like to hear from you. My overall argument is that in order to obtain legal protection from anti-Semitic graffiti, the congregation had to construct a legal argument in relation to one of the relevant categories of civil rights protection, religion or race. These categories are significant to American culture and society, but they do not necessarily describe Jewish identity adequately or from within the context of Jewish tradition itself. As a result, I would like to learn from you about how you characterize Jewish identity and, if you experienced the graffiti and court case, what affect they may have had on your experience of being Jewish. If you are willing to

share them with me, I welcome your memories and thoughts about the incident and court case as well as the opportunity to meet with you in person when I travel to the East Coast at the end of this summer.

Finally, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself and about why I chose to write on this case. As a young girl of seven or eight, I attended a talk with a close friend at her shul in Portland, Maine. The speaker had survived the Shoah, and she described the horrors that she had witnessed. Although I am much older now, I will never forget what she recounted for us that Sunday morning. Since that day, I have read much about the Shoah, beginning with the children's literature that was available to me then at my local library. Today I am scholar and a teacher, and I have practiced Judaism, in the context of the Conservative student minyan at my university's Hillel, for over six years. I research and write about the civil suit brought by the congregation and the events that led up to it because I believe that successful moments in the ongoing struggle against anti-Semitism should be researched and publicized.

Please feel free to contact me by email at annalise@umail.ucsb.edu or by phone at (805) 729-5106 at any time. I would be happy to provide you with more information about my research, if you would like. I look forward to talking with you, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet with you in person later this summer. I would also be grateful for the opportunity to meet again with congregation members whom I interviewed last year, in order to ask some follow-up questions.

With all my best wishes,

Annalise Glauz-Todrank

THE HUMOR CORNER

MOISHE BUILDS A NEW CAR

Two friends sat down for lunch in the office cafeteria.

"Hey, whatever happened to Moishe?" one asked.

"He got this hare-brained notion he was going to build a new kind of car," his coworker replied.

"How was he going to do it?"

"He took an engine from a Pontiac, tires from a Chevy, seats from a Lincoln, hubcaps from a Caddy, and a transmission from a Lexus, and well, you get the idea."

"So what did Moishe end up with?"

"3 years in prison and 100 hours of community service."

Thanks to **Art Berlin**

LADY LUCK

Naomi, unmarried and living in Las Vegas, was bored one evening. So she decided to hit the casinos and was persuaded to play roulette.

She had never played roulette before so she asked someone at the table the best way to pick a number. He suggested putting her money on her age. Awkwardly, she put ten of her chips on the number 28. The dealer spun the roulette table but when the number 34 came up, she fainted.

Thanks again, **Verna**

Susan Goldsamt

June 2009 9 Sivan 5769 - 8 Tammuz 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <small>9 SIVAN</small> Board Meeting	2 <small>10 SIVAN</small>	3 <small>11 SIVAN</small>	4 <small>12 SIVAN</small>	5 <small>13 SIVAN</small> 8:08 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Buffington Building Shalhevet Dinner	6 <small>14 SIVAN</small> נשא מוצאי שבת 9:19 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary Jr. Cong. Board Installation
7 <small>15 SIVAN</small>	8 <small>16 SIVAN</small> Sisterhood Board	9 <small>17 SIVAN</small>	10 <small>18 SIVAN</small>	11 <small>19 SIVAN</small>	12 <small>20 SIVAN</small> 8:12 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary Bonim Family Dinner	13 <small>21 SIVAN</small> בהעלותך מוצאי שבת 9:22 9 am Shabbat Service, Har Tzeon 9 am Feldman Bat Mitzvah
14 <small>22 SIVAN</small>	15 <small>23 SIVAN</small>	16 <small>24 SIVAN</small>	17 <small>25 SIVAN</small>	18 <small>26 SIVAN</small> 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting	19 <small>27 SIVAN</small> 8:14 9:30 am Torah w/Rabbi Layman, Bresler House 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	20 <small>28 SIVAN</small> שלח מוצאי שבת 9:24 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Theatre
21 <small>29 SIVAN</small>	22 <small>30 SIVAN</small> יום א' ראש חודש Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1	23 <small>1 TAMMUZ</small> יום ב' ראש חודש תמוז Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2	24 <small>2 TAMMUZ</small>	25 <small>3 TAMMUZ</small>	26 <small>4 TAMMUZ</small> 8:15 6 pm Shabbat Service, Olney Elementary	27 <small>5 TAMMUZ</small> קרח מוצאי שבת 9:25 9 am Shabbat Service, Olney Theatre Aufruf of Ravid Tilles
28 <small>6 TAMMUZ</small>	29 <small>7 TAMMUZ</small>	30 <small>8 TAMMUZ</small>				

Shaare Tefila Congregation

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MAZEL TOV TO CANTOR WENDI AND GIGI FRIED

On the birth of their son, May 16, 2009!

