APRIL AT SHAARE TEFILA

SERVICES
Shacharit: Monday & Thursday: 8:00 am
Sunday and Federal Holidays: 8:45 am
Maariv: Sunday - Thursday: 7:30 pm

Rabbi Layman’s Classes
Torah: Friday at 9:30 am  Talmud: Sunday at 9:30 am

Shabbat Services
Friday: 6:00 pm  Saturday: 9:20 am

On Monday and Tuesday nights, April 10 and 11, we will gather once again with family and friends to celebrate the Passover Seder. For nearly 3,300 years, the Seder has been the defining ritual of the Jewish community. It’s the very first commandment that the people of Israel received while still in Egypt and has been practiced and observed with love and joy ever since. The story of how God heard the cries of the enslaved Israelites and responded by bringing plagues and leading them out through the parted waters of the sea has inspired not only Jews for centuries but other religions as well. The founding fathers of our nation even discussed having an image of the Israelites crossing the sea become the official seal of the USA.

The exodus from Egypt serves as a foundational element in defining our Jewish identity. Many of our observances and rituals are based on the phrase “because we were slaves in Egypt.” One would imagine that such a miraculous event should have inspired raucous celebration; that our annual Passover celebration should be light hearted and spirited. Yet it is fascinating that instead of dancing in the streets we sit around a table and engage in an experiential history lesson. Through the symbolism of food items arrayed on a tray and through song and prayer, young and old relive the story of the Exodus and understand God’s role in history.

All of our holidays, with the noted exception of Purim, have an emphasis on study and reflection. On Sukkot we sit outside in the sukkah, enjoy a meal, and reflect upon God’s sheltering presence. On Shavuot we stay up all night studying texts from Jewish tradition as we relive the experience at Mt. Sinai. Every Shabbat we sit around the dinner table singing zemirut, table songs, and even discuss the weekly Torah reading.

But on Passover the learning and reflection are enhanced by one extra principle. We can’t fully relive the Exodus unless we know what community really means. We recite a phrase as the Seder begins, kol dichfin yeitei ve-yeichul, let all who are hungry come in and eat. That phrase emphasizes that when we invite a stranger, someone who is in need, to our Seder we truly understand freedom. We take for granted all that we have. When we go out of our way to reach out to someone who is hungry, we then truly understand what it means to be free.

May we be able to experience freedom this Passover. With wishes for a chag kasher ve-sameyach – a happy and kosher Passover!
As we roll into the season of rejuvenation and renewal, signs of life abound. The recent snow is behind us. The days are growing longer, and we can anticipate a slower pace and a lighter load. And best of all, baseball will be starting in just a few days!

But so much more than that, however, we are entering a season that marks seminal events in our history: Pesach, Passover, starting April 10; Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed April 24; and Yom Haatzmaut, Israel Independence Day, celebrated May 2. It is these three days that, more than any others, define us as Jews.

Pesach is the time during which we mark our freedom from slavery in Egypt. It is a holiday that shapes much of our perspective as Jews in that as we celebrate our freedom we are called to remember the bitterness of bondage to another peoples. It is this communal memory that propels us to appreciate our struggles, now and then, to maintain freedom not just for ourselves, but for all who are oppressed and denied the freedom that God bestows on all people. Because we ourselves were once slaves, we internally know the pain of servitude.

The Holocaust cannot adequately be discussed, especially in limited space. It can never be truly appreciated for its cruelty, horror, and devastation. But Yom Hashoah is the time that, for a day at least, we pause to remember. We remember those who were murdered by the Nazis and a way of life that was obliterated. It is also a day in which we renew our solemn vows of “Never Again.” As with Pesach, Yom Hashoah compels us to fight against the murder of innocents no matter where and no matter when.

And it is from the ashes of the Holocaust that we realized the dream of millennium: the reestablishment of the state of Israel as our eternal Jewish home. Finally, all Jews had a sanctuary in the world to which an escape from oppression was possible. But Israel is more than the land. It is an ideal of how to live in peace and security for Jews. No matter what, despite any misgivings that we may experience, or not, about Israel politically, it is our homeland that even from the United States, we must never take for granted and always fight to keep secure. It is the home that we sought at Pesach over 3,000 years ago.

During this Spring season of renewal, join together with your family and community to commemorate these days. Remember the struggles, celebrate the present, and commit to maintain into the future.
THE SALE OF CHOMETZ
DON'T FORGET TO SELL YOUR CHAMETZ!

Click here to download and print the form. Return the form to Rabbi Layman by Monday morning, April 10. It is customary to make a donation - Maot Chitim - to enable those who are poor to celebrate Passover. If you are sending in a check, please make your check payable to MAZON (The Jewish Response to Hunger).

SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES
Monday, April 10
8:00 am Service and study session for first born followed by burning of the chametz.
Evening: First Seder (NO Evening Service)
Tuesday, April 11
9:00 am Service includes Hallel, prayer for dew, and the blessing of the Kohanim.
Evening: Second Seder (NO Evening Service)
Wednesday, April 12
9:00 am Service includes Hallel and the blessing of the Kohanim. (NO Evening Service)
Friday, April 14
6:00 pm Shabbat service
Shabbat, April 15
9:00 am Service (NO Torah Study) includes Hallel, Song of Songs
Sunday, April 16
6:00 pm evening Holiday Service (NO 7:30 pm service)
Monday, April 17, Seventh day of Passover
9:00 am Service includes Hallel and the blessing of the Kohanim
6:00 pm Evening Holiday Service (NO 7:30 pm service)
Tuesday, April 18, Eighth day of Passover
9:00 am Service includes Hallel and Yizkor (NO Evening Service)
Passover Holiday Concludes at 8:31 pm

SCHEDULE OF SHAVUOT SERVICES
Tuesday May 30
8:00 pm Service followed by study session with Rabbi Layman
Wednesday, May 31
9:00 am Service includes Hallel and the blessing of the Kohanim
6:00 pm Evening Holiday Service (NO 7:30 pm service)
Thursday, June 1
9:00 am Service includes Hallel, Yizkor, the Blessing of the Kohanim, and Selections from the Book of Ruth (NO Evening Service)
JOIN US
Service led by Rabbi Layman

Followed by the movie, “Through the Eye of the Needle”
Holocaust survivor Esther Nisenthal Krinitz
tells her story through art.
Esther’s daughter will speak after the movie.

Opportunity to participate in the Butterfly Project,
an initiative to decorate a butterfly for
every child who perished during the Holocaust.

Light refreshments will be served.
This program made possible by a generous donation from Hy & Cilla Grosberg
in memory of Holocaust survivors
Manny and Sheila (nee Sitsamer) Grosberg and Jonas and Sara (nee Hertzberg) Baumgart and their loved ones.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
NEXT STEP
TIME TO GET INVOLVED

STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
Bob Freedman

As you might remember, our synagogue has been engaged in a strategic planning process. The goal is to energize and enhance Shaare Tefila for our current members and to be inviting to new members.

Until this point, we have been gathering data through conversations and a congregation survey, communicating our message, analyzing our current situation and dreaming about what our future could look like for the entire kehilla (community). Our steering committee and our Board of Directors have now identified specific areas which we would like to research in greater detail to determine possible action items for these respective areas.

In order to accomplish these action items, we need to expand our conversations and welcome more people to this planning process. Based on your own activities and interests, both inside and outside the synagogue, we are inviting you to join one of the task force committees that will play a direct role in shaping the future of our synagogue. These task forces include Communication, Education, Finance, Membership and Ritual.

Our first All Task Force meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, April 26. If you would like to be considered for participation in any of these task forces, please contact me at bob.freedman@gmail.com.

We hope that you are excited about this process and will want to help us identify our synagogue priorities for the next 3-5 years. If you have any questions please feel free to reach me.

I look forward to your response and positive engagement!
There is so much to do in preparing for the Jewish holidays in the spring time: make *mishloach manot*, plan for *Megillah* readings, get everyone costumes, clean for Passover, prepare for the Seders, etc.

We can get caught up in the “There’s so much to do!” mentality, but one thing we do, counting the *Omer*, has the opposite approach.

The Torah says (Leviticus 23:15-16; Deuteronomy 16:9-10), from the second night of Passover until the day before *Shavuot*, the Jewish people are required to count the *Omer*. After counting seven weeks, we celebrate “*Shavuot*” (weeks), celebrating the receiving of the Torah.

As a teacher, it is easier to encourage a student by showing how many pages he/she read in a book instead of how many more there are to read - the *Omer* has the same effect for me.

Why do we count the *Omer*?

1) Tradition - Many of the ritual things we do in Judaism connect us to Jews in spaces around the world and in time, historically and for years to come.

2) Connection - Counting is a physical thing we can do each day to connect Passover to Shavuot, but it is also a symbolic connection. We are all supposed to feel as if we were slaves in the Passover story. Now that we are free, what’s next? Counting the *Omer* is a connection from freedom to receiving the *Torah* on *Shavuot*.

3) Mindfulness - Counting the *Omer*, or doing anything, for 49 days in a row is a challenge!

4) Do you know any other reasons to count the *Omer*?

**Upcoming Programs:**

- **“Arts and the Holocaust”- Yom Hashoah Service and Program, Sunday, April 23 during Chavaya- open to 7th grade and older; parental discretion advised for younger children.**

  After a *Yom Hashoah* service, we will screen “Through the Eye of the Needle,” a movie by an artist and Holocaust survivor, followed by a discussion. We will participate in the “Butterfly Project,” which works to decorate butterflies for every child who perished in the Holocaust. Sponsored by Hy & Cilla Grosberg in memory of their parents.

- **Yom Ha’atzmaut (Youth), Sunday, April 30 with Chavaya**

  Chavaya students will celebrate Israel by experiencing the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes of the Jewish state.

- **Teen event (6th-12th)**

  **On Sunday, May 7, our teens are going to the zoo!**

  Enjoy the warmer weather and an afternoon outside with your Shaare Tefila friends! Meet at the Glenmont metro at 1pm. We will be coordinating carpools from Shaare Tefila to the metro. At least one parent chauffeur needed. Contact Missy to volunteer.
The Shofar

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SHAARE TEFILA’S MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNER PROGRAM
JOIN FELLOW MEMBERS IN CELEBRATING SHABBAT AT FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AND SHABBAT SERVICES
The evening starts at 6:00 pm

Friday, May 12: Yom Haatzmaut Celebration
Sign up on Chaverware:

Friday, June 9: End of Year Bar-B-Q/Board Installation
Sign up on Chaverware:
https://www.chaverweb.net/Congregant/SignUp.aspx?

Adults: $18 (non member: $22)
Children 5 - 18: $10
(non member: $12)
Max: $54 per member family

Sign up on ChaverWeb or contact Sara in the office
smiller@shaaretefila.org.

HEBREW CONVERSATION GROUP
The Chug Ivrit, Hebrew Conversation Group meets every other Sunday morning at Shaare Tefila, from 10:30 am to noon. The level of Hebrew knowledge is varied. The group is led by two native Hebrew speakers, members of our shul, Ami Frydman and David Zeheb. Using the easy version of the Jerusalem Post for background material, we discuss current events as well as experiences of the attendees and their families from the past week. For a fun easy going opportunity to practice and improve your spoken Hebrew skills, come join us. Beginners are welcome. For more information, contact Adriana Sandler
sandleraa@gmail.com.
Schedule of meetings
April 2, 16, 30
May 14, 28

COME CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY SHABBAT KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES
APRIL 22 AND MAY 27
WITH CAKE & ICE CREAM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Enhanced Kiddush will be on April 22 & May 27 which coincides with the Birthday Shabbat.
Share your simchas with fellow congregants, send Sara, in the office, your checks and dedications. It is just a minimum of $18 to be included.

GAN KATAN PLAYGROUP
MARA LANSKY
March’s Gan Katan kids enjoyed a Purim themed experience. From groggers and costumes, to hamantaschen, and books to songs... what a fun time with Morah Mara!

Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle
LED BY SUSAN RUBENSTEIN
RUBECARL@VERIZON.NET
All women are welcome to join during the Torah reading time when we meet in the Futrovsky Family Library.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Saturday, May 27
PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

TOT SHABBAT
WHO: Young Children & Families
WHAT: Morning Shabbat Program
WHEN: Shabbat, 10:30 am - 11:15 am

April 22
June 3

GAN KATAN PLAYGROUP
WHO: Children preschool age and their parents
WHAT: A fun & engaging program includes play, story time, crafts, and snack - Free
WHEN: From September through May generally on the second Sunday of the month.
Next meetings are Sunday, April 23 & May 7 10:00 am
RSVP to Cilla Grosberg at drgmrs@aol.com

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE
An alternative lively Shabbat Service especially for families. Co-led by the kids. Everyone is welcome - people with or without children will enjoy this service.

10:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY
April 22 - June 3

Questions? Contact Missy Mandell mmandell@shaaretefila.org

"I had a very fun time at the Kallah. My favorite part was the snow tubing, but the other events were also fun. I had a blast. For once I wasn’t pressured into going to bed at nine. I am looking forward to the encampment so I can take that zip-line across the lake." - Elijah Fischer, 7th grade

CURRENT 5TH-11TH GRADERS
YOU are eligible for the one-week long Encampment at Capital Camps from August 21-27, 2017. For more information contact Missy Mandell, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator, at Mmandell@shaaretefila.org.

SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING
JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT

APRIL EVENT
Singer and Pianist Rabbi and Cantor Mark Perman
“From the Bima to Broadway”
When: Wednesday, April 5, 1:30 pm- 3:00 pm
RSVP to JCC 301-348-3809 by March 29
Cost $7

MAY EVENT
Cissa Paz
Brazilian Singer-Song Writer
When: Wednesday, May 24, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
RSVP to JCC 301-348-3809 by May 17
Cost $7
B’NAI MITZVAH AT SHAARE TEFILA

Ethan Reed James will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat, April 29, Parshat Tazria-Metzora.

Ethan is a seventh grade student at Hallie Wells Middle School in Clarksburg. He also attends Chavaya religious school. Ethan enjoys basketball and played on three different teams this year. Skateboarding has become one of his new hobbies. Ethan is looking forward to working with special needs students on their sports teams as part of his Bar Mitzvah project. He will also be contributing some of his gift money to one of these groups.

Julianne Goldstein will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat, May 6, Parshat Acharei Mote/Kedoshim.

Julianne is a seventh grader at Rosa Parks where her favorite classes are Math and Science. Julianne is a competitive soccer player who has been playing on a select team since 5th grade. She loves animals, watching sports, and cheering on the Redskins. Julianne’s mitzvah project will be to collect new and gently used school supplies to donate to a school in Wheaton that is highly impacted by poverty.

Helena Sandler will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat, May 13, Parshat Emor.

Sam Sandler will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat, May 13, Parshat Emor.

Rachel Freedman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat, May 20, Parshat Behar/Bechukotai.

Rachel is a seventh grader at Rosa Parks Middle school. She also attends Chavaya and has been a student there since second grade. She loves art, fashion, and especially spending part of her summer at Camp Louise. Rachel’s mitzvah project combines her love of art and supporting a cause that has personally touched loved ones close to her. Stay tuned for details about an upcoming fundraiser at Muse Paint Bar with 40% of the proceeds going to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

MEN’S CLUB BLUE YARMULKE MAN OF THE YEAR
CONTRIBUTOR: MIKE BINDER

The Shaare Tefila Men’s Club is proud to announce that Dennis Kaye is the Shaare Tefila, Men’s Club Blue Yarmulke Man of the Year. Please plan to attend the Sea-board Region Blue Yarmulke Man of the Year Awards Dinner Dance on Sunday May 21 at Har Shalom on Falls Rd. in Potomac. The link to register for the Dinner will soon be available. Please come to honor Dennis Kaye. We anticipate that all previous Shaare Tefila Blue Yarmulke Men of the Year will gather in attendance to welcome the newest fellow honorees!

THE MEN’S CLUB 2017 PASSOVER WINE SALE
MILT GOLDSAMT AND STEVE LEAVEY

.......In Support of Men’s Club.......

Order by email, phone, or regular mail until April 9. Home delivery is available. Choose from a wide range of Kosher for Passover wines ready to enhance your Passover holiday and seder! Order forms are at the shul

Contact Stephen Leavey: saleavey@gmail.com 301-384-8928 or 301-325-4859

DONATIONS OF BOOKS FOR USE AT SERVICES

Please consider donating a book in memory of or in honor of a loved one or in recognition of a special life event. Contact Sara in the office.

Siddur $54
Machzor $36
Large Type Machzor $54

NEED ASSISTANCE?

IF A FAMILY MEMBER OR ANOTHER CONGREGANT IS HOSPITALIZED OR NEEDS HELP FROM THE SHAARE TEFILA COMMUNITY, PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE OR RABBI LAYMAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Contact the office or Rabbi Layman (301) 593-3410

LOOKING TO JOIN SHAARE TEFILA?

Contact:
Stacey Lynch, Membership VP membership@shaaretefila.org
Jill Goldwater, Executive Director jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org 301-593-3410 X101
**SISTERHOOD**

**Fran Weiss**

**President**

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**WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?**

A volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

Shaare Tefila provides a lot of wonderful programs both secular and religious, and these programs usually require volunteers. Many programs never make it to "market" so to speak because of a lack of help.

Recently, we had a sponsored kiddush and the persons assigned to help that week did not show. We had to pull people from services to get the kiddush on the table. At times, we also have problems getting a minyan, a necessary quorum for someone there to say kaddish.

These are just a couple of examples of how volunteers make or break programming and many of our programs are put together by the same people year after year.

Can you help? Yes, you can! There are always things to be done and many of the things we need are small things that sometimes can be done from home. Join us in the kitchen to put a kiddush on the table or help prepare our monthly Shabbat dinner. We have a lot of fun in the kitchen. You can find ways to help out in other areas too.

One day you may have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or other simchas to celebrate and will want a nice spread for kiddush, or one day you may need a minyan. Please think of this when it is your turn to serve.

The month of April is full with Passover preparations. Our event in May is our annual Spring Dinner, former Mother’s Day Dinner. Mark your calendar for May 22. We are looking for help! We need folks to do jobs big and small, please contact Val Kolmaister at val@iglobal.com if you can give of your time.

We thank you for your help. It is always appreciated.

**Canvas Painting**

The Canvas Art Painting on February 26 was a beautiful morning of mingling with creative juices flowing. The ten women formed an intimate group and we had lots of artistic ideas. **Jodi Goldkind**, who led the program, guided us through the painting of our hamsa and each resulting canvas painting was unique and meaningful.

We were all very excited with our paintings and couldn’t wait to display them in our homes.

**Scrip**

We are looking into new scrip offerings which will earn Shaare Tefila more income. We have a supply of Starbucks gift cards in addition to our usual grocery store offerings. We earned an 11% discount on the Starbucks cards we purchased in December. Judy Beiser has a list of 100s of companies that offer us discounts, some very large, to purchase their cards. Please ask to see her list. With about one week notice she can order gift cards to a variety of stores, for example, CVS, Homegoods, Gap, and Dressbarn.

**Kiddushim**

We can only provide the wonderful kiddushim because of our volunteer staff. Please click on the link below to see when you are scheduled to volunteer in the kitchen.

https://sites.google.com/site/shaarekitchen/home/schedule-for-kitchen-volunteers

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**Sisterhood Happenings!**

**April**

16 Board Meeting - Sisterhood Board Meeting at Fran Weiss’ house.

Correction from last month: there will be **no potluck lunch** as it is Pesach.

**May**

8 Board Meeting

22 Spring Dinner (Click for the flyer)

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**Buy Scrip**

Please remember to purchase scrip and don’t forget that we now have Starbucks gift cards!

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**Canvas Art Painting**

Displaying Our Hamsa Designs

Top row left to right: Jodi Goldkind, Diane Schneider, Fran Kensky, Ellen Beebe, Marlene Sandberg, Susan Rubenstein

Bottom row left to right: Stephanie Buckberg, Cathy Plotkin, Mara Lansky, Fran Weiss

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**SISTERHOOD SPRING DINNER**

**LEARN HOW YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE! PERHAPS EVEN YOUR OWN!**

On May 22, 2017, join your sisters and members of the community at the annual Shaare Tefila Sisterhood Spring Dinner.

Our featured speaker is **Alisa Studley**, an expert in using genetic testing to prevent breast and ovarian cancer. This has a **HUGE potential** for saving lives in the Ashkenazi Jewish population.

This topic is so important that we want to make sure women of all ages (over 21) join us, whether or not you are a Sisterhood or Shaare Tefila member. Please invite friends, neighbors and family members to attend. The more people with this information, the more lives we can potentially save!!

For more information **click here** or contact Val Kolmaister at val@iglobal.com.
At the Rose and George Teller Preschool, having a close relationship with nature is one of our core values. Research has shown that spending time in nature has so many benefits, including boosting your immune system, sharpening your memory, thinking, increasing creativity, stress relief, and even better eyesight!

One manifestation of this relationship is our garden. From the school’s infancy we have had a garden. The children have taken ownership of the garden and take great joy in caring for the plants. Most summers, and into the fall, we have been able to eat snack at least one day a week from the produce in our garden.

The benefits of gardening, like the benefits of spending time in nature, are multiple. Patience, planning, and organizing are critical to success. Eating healthy food is vital for brain and body development and when kids grow their own, they have a sense of pride in eating what they have “created.” This, in turn, will emphasize the importance of healthful eating.

Scoping up the dirt, placing the seeds in the pots and pouring the water all take fine motor control and strength. As kids garden, they develop important motor skills that will help them improve their academic skills such as writing, cutting, and typing.

Gardening is also a wonderful way to teach kids responsibility. Kids learn to take care of their seeds each day so that the seeds will grow into healthy plants. This responsibility extends beyond the boundaries of our garden, to the entire planet.

Each year we have added features. The first year the garden consisted of a few pots in the corner of the playground. Last year we constructed a permanent fence and gate in the center of the playground for our pots. This year, with an assist from our Yoga Fundraiser, we are adding raised beds and expanding the garden once again.

Also this year, we decided to attempt to grow our garden from seed. On Tu B’Shevat this year, we planted our seeds. We had purchased starter pots and a small greenhouse to cultivate them until they could be placed outside. It turns out we were too successful! Within two weeks the seedlings had outgrown their starter pots and had to be replanted into secondary temporary pots until it was reliably warm enough to be outside. The children check the plants each day and there is constant chatter in the school about their seeds. We don’t yet know what our produce yield will be, but the garden is already giving us many positive returns.
Leon & Anita Green just came back from a wonderful trip to India. Leon regaled our Friday Torah class with tales of their experience. Contact them to get your own de-brief.

David & Florence Polinsky wrote to tell me that their grandson Jason Rackas became a Bar Mitzvah on February 11 at Temple Judea. He read Torah and explained his Haftorah. They are so proud of him.

Stefanie Levy wrote: “I’m actually in Punta Cana now on a girl’s vacation. We go to settlement on (our new house) March 8. I am hopeful that the other side will show up because our spies in the new neighborhood have told us that they have sighted moving trucks in front of the house!”

Cilla & Hy Grosberg went to a music festival in Florida.

Cathy & Lannie Plotkin and Ethel & Ira Levine were also in Florida.

Diane & Gershon Keival are back from yet another trip to Israel to see the grandchildren.

Rita Hagler, Charlotte Potosky, and Karen Radnor are all healing wonderfully after their leg operations. Writing this after Purim....The kids read the Megillah in its special trope beautifully.

Writing this after Purim....The kids read the Megillah in its special trope beautifully- the little ones and the big ones- all garbed in great costumes. Bess and I participated in the shpiel, lots of fun. And then we wandered about through the carnival. It was delightful to watch all of the young folks followed by one or more parents and to observe their reactions to the variety of fun events that were available.

A survey will be coming your way SOON to help determine if there is interest in purchasing gift cards for the spring holidays & graduations from a huge list of vendors.

Giant Food - $100, $50, $25, $10

The current list of vendors includes:

H Mart - $20
Lotte Plaza- $10
Moti’s Market - $50
Shalom Kosher Market - $100, $50
Shopper’s Food Warehouse - $100, $50, $10
ShopRite - $100, $50
Starbucks - $25, $10, $5
Safeway - $100 (recently added)

To buy scrip, contact the office or call:

Judy Beiser 301-598-2082
Barbara Fink 301-438-3149
Rita Rubinstein 301-816-9686
Ethel Levine 301-593-7041

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Giant Food
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Thanks for Jill Goldwater’s help in arranging the room set-up, and to several Men’s Club members (Ken Libby by buying breakfast foods; also Ken, Mike Binder, Jay Hagler and Joe Kraut for preparing those foods).

The 2017 It’s Academic Team Members-- For Sisterhood (from left to right: Karen Gross, Shelley Rochester and Marlene Sandberg (Captain). For Men’s Club: (from left to right) David Polinsky, Ken Libby (Captain) and Josh Lansky. [photos by Milt Goldsamt]
A GOOD NAME
CONTRIBUTOR: SAUL COHEN

At most funerals, we hear Proverbs, Chapter 22:1 “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” I have seen a “good name” ruined when a parent, grandparent, or other family member do not plan for his/her eventual death. Children are left to plan a funeral, buy a plot, select a stone, clean a house or apartment and dispose of the furniture and a life-time of personal possessions, and in a number of cases, handle trusts, probate, and estates.

A Shaare Tefila member recently asked me why he needed to buy a burial plot, dedicate a Yahrzeit plaque, plan a funeral, or pre-buy a marker or stone. “When I’m gone, I don’t care.” That’s the point. You should care. Many of us may have been loved and respected by our family and friends, but when you have passed, difficulties you present to these people may change the way they think of you and subsequently speak of you to their children and grandchildren.

When my mother-in-law died, she had everything in place for the family. She had a plot, a stone, a funeral, an ethical will and all of the papers that explained what she wanted us to do. She was a wonderful person in life and our family loves her even more today. She left a good name.

Leave a good name. Let your families and friends remember you for making their lives easier when you pass. Pre-buy a burial plot. Arrange for your funeral. Specify and/or buy a stone or marker.

Shaare Tefila has a cemetery at Mt. Lebanon and an agreement with Judean Gardens with a Shaare Tefila section. You can contact our office, or other cemeteries, funeral home and headstone manufacturers. Make it easier for your families and friends so that they can remember your thoughtful planning. Ecclesiastes 7:1 Solomon wrote “A good name is better than a good perfume, for a good name will last forever.” The point of this proverb is the character of one’s reputation is more valuable and enduring than the scent of perfume. A good name can live beyond the grave, but the scent of perfume ceases to linger.

If you are interested in plots at either Mt. Lebanon or in the Shaare Tefila section at Judean Gardens, contact Jill Goldwater directly jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org or 301-593-3410.
WHAT THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS TEACH US ABOUT THE BIBLE
Event co-sponsored by Shaare Tefila

Speaker: Sidnie White Crawford, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has dramatically increased our knowledge of the history of the text of the Hebrew Bible and the formation of the Jewish canon. This lecture will explore what the Dead Sea Scrolls reveal about the text of the Bible. How did the books of the Bible reach the form they now have? How did scribes copy and pass down their inherited traditions in the Second Temple period? The lecture will also consider the process of “canon formation” in the Second Temple period. What biblical books were considered authoritative for all Jews? Why did different Jewish groups have conflicting lists of authoritative books? How did we get the present canon of Jewish Scripture?

When: Sunday, April 30, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Where: Bnai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Rd, Rockville
Cost: $5 for Shaare Tefila members.

THE MONTH OF “NISSAN” IN JEWISH HISTORY

NISAN 6
Marc Chagall (1887-1985), the greatest Jewish painter of modern times died on this date. Chagall’s work depicted biblical and Judaic themes, as well as village life in eastern Europe. With the German occupation of France during World War II, and the deportation of Jews to concentration camps, Chagall fled from Paris to America. (He moved back to France after the war.) Chagall created a mural for the Knesset, and stained glass windows for the synagogue of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Today, a Chagall original can sell for more than $10 million.

THE MONTH OF “IYAR” IN JEWISH HISTORY

IYAR 5
In 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence, in a ceremony led by David Ben-Gurion in Tel Aviv. The first act of the new government was to remove British restrictions on Jewish immigration. The Declaration of Independence granted full civil rights to Arab citizens of Israel, and called for peace and cooperation with neighboring Arab countries. The following day, the armies of five Arab nations attacked Israel.

THE MONTH OF “SIVAN” IN JEWISH HISTORY

SIVAN 3
David "Mickey" Marcus (1902-1948), an American Jew who volunteered to fight for the Israeli army in the 1948 War of Independence died on this date. Marcus attended West Point and then law school. In World War II, he rose to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army, where he helped draw up surrender terms for Italy and Germany. While serving in the occupation government in Berlin, he was responsible for clearing out the Nazi death camps, and then as chief of the War Crimes Division, where he helped arrange the Nuremberg trials. Marcus became a committed Zionist, and in 1947 he volunteered to help secure the Jewish settlements which were under attack from hostile Arabs. He designed a command structure for Israel’s new army and wrote training manuals. His most famous achievement was ordering the construction of the “Burma Road,” a winding mountainous path which allowed Jewish convoys to reach Jerusalem and relieve the Arab siege. Tragically, on the day that the war’s cease-fire took effect, Marcus was mistakenly shot by a Jewish guard. His story became the subject of a movie, Cast a Giant Shadow, starring Kirk Douglas, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, and Yul Brynner.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH
Rabbi Layman

We might think that Passover is the most important holiday in our tradition. And we’d be correct on one level because if our ancestors weren’t freed from Egypt there wouldn’t have been a Jewish people. But the purpose of the Exodus from Egypt was for the people to begin the journey to the Promised Land - with a stop at Mt. Sinai. It’s one thing to become a group that has been freed, it’s another to become a nation defined by law. Seven weeks after leaving Egypt, the people arrived at the foot of Mt. Sinai where Moses ascended to learn the Torah from God. As his 40 days commenced, the entire nation of Israel heard God speak the Ten Commandments. Those seven weeks today connect the holiday of Passover and the holiday of Shavuot. It’s known as the Omer which reminds us of the agricultural aspect of the season. But the mystics in the Jewish community 1,000 years ago gave these weeks a spiritual foundation. Each day of the seven weeks as we get closer to Shavuot we ascend higher up the spiritual ladder to God. Our new Shabbat prayer book has some material reflecting that idea. Let’s look at those pages as we count down from Passover to Shavuot.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Contributor, Lisa Hedgepeth

A COLLECTION DRIVE FOR A WIDER CIRCLE IN D.C.

A Wider Circle is a charity that seeks to help individuals and families to rise out of poverty. They provide basic need items as well as job skills training, long-term wrap-around support, youth programming, and more.

Between Purim and Passover, from March 12 - April 10, we are working to stock the pantry at a recently opened center in Southeast DC with household and personal care items and healthy non-perishable foodstuffs. Please place your donations in the designated box in the shul lobby.

Checks made out to A Wider Circle are also appreciated. For more information contact Lisa at frankie615@aol.com
ART IN THE WINER FAMILY GALLERY

**Urban Color**

Until May 1, the Winer Family Gallery presents the work of photographers Susan M. Stregack and Rollin S. Fraser, known together as Streams of Light Photography. Their exhibit is called "Urban Color." According to Stregack and Fraser, "When the colors of light combine, a strong white light will emerge. Yet that light cannot exist without these component parts. We have chosen to isolate these parts, sometimes as very small pieces of the whole, as they are found in an urban setting." For more information about the artists, please visit www.streamsoflight.photography.

Their work, separately and together, has been shown at many local venues including Brookside Nature Center, Glenview Mansion, and Montgomery College. Working with other local photographers, they were part of the Farm Project to document the disappearing farms of Montgomery County. They also were honored to have been two of the photographers for "Portraits of Life," an exhibit of the words and images of local Holocaust survivors. This show, "Urban Color" was on display at the Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel, MD, before coming to Shaare Tefila.

The photos range in price from $150 - $400 and a portion of the proceeds from sale of the work benefits Shaare Tefila.

During May and June, the Winer Family Gallery is pleased to present artwork prepared by the students of The Rose and George Teller Preschool of Shaare Tefila. The students engage in collaborative research and then express their understanding and creativity in many ways, such as drawing, sculpting, painting or narrative. The pieces presented in the gallery are representative of their ongoing work.

Charlotte, NC by Rollin Fraser

Wall #12 by Susan Maldon Stregack

A PURIM THANK YOU!
CONTRIBUTORS: STEPHANIE BUCKBERG, LOIS FREEDMAN, AND ETHEL LEVINE

**Another great year for our Purim Mischloach Manot Committee**

This was the sixth "very successful" year for our committee of three. The mitzvah of sending gifts, *mischloach manot*, for this festive holiday is customary, and we were able to package bags of goodies for each Shaare Tefila family.

We also presented the Preschool and the Religious School staff members with an assortment of yummy desserts, along with our kisses (Hershey's that is), to assist them in celebrating Purim.

The Purim *mischloach manot* committee thanks all who made this project so successful, including those who helped fill the bags and those who delivered packages to family members, friends, and neighbors.

If you did not participate with a tax-deductible donation this year, you will be able to join in next year. This fundraiser has become very popular, raising considerable funds that support all functions at our shul.

Our hats (pardon the Purim pun) off to members of the Challah Club for making many dozens of delicious *hamantaschen* in the shul kitchen. These traditional goodies were devoured after the *Megillah* reading and at the Purim Carnival.

**A MESSAGE FROM JOSH LANSKY**

**WITH DEEPEST APPRECIATION**

Dear Shaare Tefila Family,

When my father, Lewis Lansky, passed away a year ago, my family was devastated. We were caught up in a whirlwind of grief and legal work. In the middle of all that, there was a light and comfort that was unexpected and greatly appreciated. It was the support and kindness from Shaare Tefila, from meals to phone calls, to shiva attendance and donations, to hugs and kind words. Mara, Jacob, Jonah, and I wish you all to know how grateful we are for our community.

SHAARE TEFILA
16620 GEORGIA AVE. OLNEY, MD 20832
301-593-3410 WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Rabbi
Rabbi Jonah Layman
rjlayman@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 102

President
Stuart Carroll
president@shaaretefila.org

Education Director
Aviva Janus
ajanus@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 106

Executive Director
Jill Goldwater
jjgoldwater@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 101

Office Administrator
Sara Miller
smiller@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 104

Preschool Director
Beth Adler
badler@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 105

Youth & Family Programs Coordinator
Missy Mandell
mmmandell@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X103
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The Shofar
Shaare Tefila Congregation
301-593-3410

www.shaaretfila.org or info@shaaretfila.org

Rabbi
Jonah Layman
Rabbi Emeritus
Martin S. Halpern, z”l
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