DECEMBER AT SHAARE TEFILA

Shacharit Services
Monday & Thursday: 8:00 am
Sunday and Federal Holidays: 8:45 am

Weekday Maariv Services
Sunday - Thursday: 7:30 pm

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

Saturday, December 3
9:00 am Berman Bat Mitzvah

Sunday, December 4
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila
10:00 am Sisterhood “Make One Take One”

Wednesday, December 7
8:00 pm “Contemporary Jewish Issues” w/Rabbi Layman

Friday, December 9
6:00 pm Instrumental Shabbat Service with
Sally Heckelman & Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, December 10
9:00 am Torah study w/Rabbi Layman
Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle
“Challah & Schmear Grows Up “

Sunday, December 11
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila
9:30 am Men’s Club “It’s Academic”
10:00 am Gan Katan

Wednesday, December 14
10:00 am Men’s Discussion Group

Thursday, December 15
1:30 pm JCC Coming of Age Event

Saturday, December 17
9:00 am Torah study w/Rabbi Layman

Sunday, December 18
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila
10:00 am Sisterhood Book Club
11:00 am Chanukah Celebration w/ Robin Helzner Trio

Saturday, December 24
Light the first Chanukah candle

Sunday, December 25
Shaare Tefila Office is closed

Saturday, December 31
9:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Adam Levin

FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY
RABBI JONAH LAYMAN

NOW WHAT?

As I write this article the morning after the presidential election, I am stunned and speechless. Throughout the campaign we were subjected to outrageous comments, innuendo, disgusting video and audio clips that together made Donald Trump look and sound like a reality TV star. We were challenged to try to explain to our children how a presidential candidate could speak in such a vile way and get away with essentially being a bully. We teach our children to rise above such verbal abuse — “sticks and stones may break my bones...” — and we expect that those running for office would represent the values and personality that represent all Americans.

Now that Donald Trump has been elected many pundits will try to explain how this could have happened and Hillary Clinton will be doing a lot of soul searching as well. But what is done, is done and we have to ask what this will mean for America going forward.

Will Donald Trump act on his bigotry and try to expel Muslims from this country? Will he try to build a wall on the US-Mexican border? Will he continue to make fun of people with disabilities, treat women as play things and act as a bully? Or will he realize as he hinted in his acceptance speech that he is the president for all Americans?

Our task moving forward is to be ever vigilant. Those of us who were disgusted by him and his candidacy need to strongly advocate for the values we hold dear. If we see attempts being made to disenfranchise people being treated unfairly we need to speak out. If we see attempts to pass laws that reinforce hatred and xenophobia, we need to speak out.

Wringing our hands and crying about what our country is becoming is not enough. The Torah teaches us and our Jewish tradition reinforces the idea that society should be based on justice and equality for all. “Love your neighbor as you would be loved.” Justice starts with us. Let’s move forward, chastened by the fact that we have a lot of work to do to really “make America great again.”

THE MONTH OF “KISLEV” IN JEWISH HISTORY

3 Kislev - Yartzeit of Emma Lazarus (1849-1887), the American poet whose words are engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

6 Kislev - In 1958, Jerusalem inaugurated a new water reservoir, thus assuring the holy city of an adequate water supply for the first time in its 3,000-year history. Jerusalem's shortage of water was long its weakness in time of military siege.
As I write this, we are 72 hours removed from the election of Donald Trump as our next president. Words that I thought I’d never write.

Like you, I am trying to process this and figure out what this means for our nation. I am also processing my thoughts on what this means to us as Jews, as well as other minority groups, what my role should be as president of a synagogue and what the proper role is for our community.

I’ll write on that next month after I’ve reflected and communicated with interested parties inside and outside of Shaare Tefila, but to the extent that you are looking to your leadership, I do think that these extraordinary times will call for advocacy on our part.

Leaving that for now, I will use this space over the next few months to revisit my remarks on Kol Nidre, parts of which seem even more relevant now than they did just six weeks ago.

The first part of what I wrote was, “Foremost, at the center – the very center – of all that we do is our concept of God. While we reference God throughout our prayer books, I think that it is important for us to take some time to conceptualize God and what that means to us – and how God is incorpo-rated into our lives.

“I do not mean to tell you what God is or how you should perceive God, but I do urge you to take time to think about God and how and where God exists for you. Seemingly, we are not in an age of miracles. There are no burning bushes or seas parting. More than likely, God has not visited us, spoken directly to us – at least in the way that we would normally think of – so maybe sometimes we can question the very existence of a divine power that we don’t experience in our normal day-to-day lives. We are centuries into an age of reason and enlightenment. But despite a lack of what we would think of as firsthand experience, there are signs that God exists if we take the time to see them. Take time to consider the universe and its origins and existence. Take time to consider our own planet and the miracle that has developed and supported the diversity of life. Or take a look at the miracle of our own bodies and how all the parts work together to sustain us. Whatever it is for you, wherever you find it, I urge you to consider what God is and how you connect to God and how God connects to you. Because it is by building our connections to God that we will build our connections to each other.”

Reflecting on today’s headlines, sometimes the complicated seems so simple and the simple can become complicated. As this occurs in our day to day lives, take a moment to pause and reflect. Take a look at yourself, your relationships to your family, friends, community and God. Life can be very beautiful, but not always is it easy. But as we maintain a healthy perspective and faith – as we remain true to the beauty and cohesiveness of God – we can achieve clarity and purpose to pursue that which we need.

Later this month - beginning Saturday night, Dec. 24, we will celebrate Chanukah. This joyous festival of lights and latkes and dreidel games is a holiday that reminds us of the power of religious values. The Jews of Israel 2100 years ago were under the harsh rule of the Greek empire. They were forced to act like the Greeks, dress like the Greeks and were even forced to forego the laws of kashrut. Rather than acquiesce, Mattityahu and his 5 sons known as the Maccabees led a revolt against Antiochus and the Greek Empire. Miraculously the Jews won, reminding us once again that in the end Good will triumph over Evil. May the lights of the eight nights of Chanukah inspire us. May they influence us to fight for liberty and justice in our society. May they instill in us the desire to fight for religious freedom for all. As one of the blessings says, “Praised are You Lord our God who wrought miracles for our ancestors in their day and for us today.”
I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. My family and I feel blessed by our friends at Shaare Tefila and are thankful for being part of its community.

Gan Katan

Last month, Jill Steinberg led a wonderful Gan Katan playgroup which helped our youngest congregants learn the importance of feeling thankful for the earth’s natural resources. Activities included going outside to collect flowers and natural decorations for their Thanksgiving tables, reading a story on the theme of “being thankful”, and many happy faces! Special thanks to Jill Steinberg for this program. Save the date for the next Gan Katan: December 11, 10-11 AM.

Havdalah Experience

We enjoyed a lively and fun first Havdalah Experience with over 40 congregants and friends. We decorated our own besamim, spice boxes, and celebrated the beginning of the week with lively music and drumming! Thanks to Matan Schecter for leading this program. Save the date for the next Havdalah Experience on January 28.

Chanukah is around the corner

We are pleased to present our Chanukah Celebration featuring The Robyn Helzner Trio on Sunday, December 18. The program starts at 11:00 am with a concert and continues with a light lunch. Sign up now on ChaverWeb or contact Sara at smiller@shaaretefila.org for what promises to be a fun and rocking morning! See flyer on p. 7.

“Night of Sweet Laughter 6” FUNdraiser

Comedy Night is back! This will be our 6th year. Every year has sold out so be sure get your reservations in soon. As last year the price is $30/person and $35 at the door. Groups of 12 who register for the same table will receive two complimentary bottles of wine. When you sign up be sure to note who is your table captain. RSVP via Chaverweb or contact Sara at smiller@shaaretefila.org or (301)593-3410. There will be light refreshments. See flyer on p. 7.

SHABBAT DINNER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 PM
INSTRUMENTAL SHABBAT SERVICE
WITH SALLY HECKELMAN
FOLLOWED BY SHABBAT DINNER

Chanukah Themed menu
Polynesian Teriyaki salmon
Polynesian Teriyaki tofu
Macaroni and cheese
Roasted green beans
Latkes with sour cream and applesauce
Salad
Dessert

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

Sign up on ChaverWeb by Tuesday, December 6 or contact Sara in the office smiller@shaaretefila.org.

SHAA RE 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, December 9: Instrumental Shabbat
Friday, January 13: “New Year, New You”
Friday, February 10: Instrumental Shabbat
Friday, March 10: “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”
Friday, May 12: Yom Haatzmaut Celebration
Friday, June 9: End of Year Bar-B-Q/Board Installation
Above Left: Some of our Machar and Bonim participants at Duck Pin Bowling show off their favorite bowling balls!

Above Right: Drumming at the Havdalah Experience

When the High Holidays end they are immediately removed from our minds, but there are some good things about the High Holidays that we should keep with us. Other than a sense of busi-ness, which we all love to forget, the chagim give the Jewish community an opportunity to welcome in all members of the community, to be joyous, to celebrate, and to enjoy a sense of togetherness. The chagim may have ended, but we have come together in joy and celebration with new events for youth and families!

We started off the month with a spirited Family Service— we even got to play Twister in the middle of the sanctuary! There was pure joy when Machar and Bonim (K-5th grades) went Duck Pin Bowling, whether from picking a favorite bowling ball or throwing a strike! Our first Havdalah Experience was a hit. We decorated besamim, spice boxes, and used music to welcome the new week. Special thanks to Matan Schecter for teaching us about drumming! Our 6th-12th graders spent an afternoon at A Wider Circle. They learned what services the organization provides and helped sort recently donated items.

There are plenty of ways to spread joy, to celebrate and to come together as a part of Shaare Tefila’s community year-round! On December 4, all K-5th graders all invited to the next Machar and Bonim event at Shaare Tefila: PJ Day! Wear your PJ’s, hear some PJ Library stories, and make P (B) &J sandwiches to be donated to Martha’s Table. Shaare Tefila 6th-8th graders: do you like laser tag, arts and crafts, videogames, or bouncy houses? On January 7th, join other 6th-8th graders from all over MD, DC, and VA for Kadima Saturday Night Live!

If you had fun welcoming in the new week with your Shaare Tefila community with fun, friends, and ruach, spirit, then save the date for the next Havdalah Experience on January 28!

More details on upcoming youth events on page 5. Feel free to contact me at Mmandell@shaaretefila.org or 301-593-3410 ext103 with any questions.

Shaare Tefila has committed to sponsoring a refugee family fleeing from years of war and unrest. We plan to accomplish this by joining with HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, just one of a handful of American non-profit agencies that assists in protecting and resettling refugees. To read more about this effort, visit the HIAS website: http://www.hias.org/ask-your-congregation-join-hiaswelcome-campaign

The synagogue will be matched with a family, likely from Afghanistan or Syria, by Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. LSSNCA has been helping to settle and provide aid to refugees who have been matched with other synagogues and churches over the past year. The United States took in 85,000 refugees from around the world in fiscal year 2016 and the White House has announced plans to admit another 110,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017 though the refugee policy might change after the presidential inauguration on January 20.

Shaare Tefila members will be asked to support this effort by providing furniture and household supplies such as kitchenware and bathroom items, to furnish the apartment of a newly arrived refugee family.

Stay tuned for additional information.

ART IN THE WINER FAMILY GALLERY

"AN ABSTRACT STATE OF MIND"

Paintings by Charlene Nield and Ann Pickett

On view Tuesday, November 1, 2016 through Monday, January 2, 2017

Charlene Nield has recently begun to work abstractly but preserves a continuity with her earlier figurative style. With a strong focus on mood and color, she says, her new paintings "evolve a memory or longing for a time or place yet to be fully defined or discovered."

Ann Pickett’s new paintings depart from figures or landscape in ways she says "often appear improvised or unrehearsed - a flurry of paint, gestures and expressive marks not to be repeated, while other works are more serene in tone, focused on form, rhythm and color."

LOOKING TO JOIN SHAARE TEFILA?

Contact:
Stacey Lynch, Membership VP
membership@shaaretefila.org

Jill Goldwater, Executive Director
jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X101
Upcoming Shaare Tefila Youth Events

**PJ Day!**
When: Sunday, December 4; 12:00-2:00 PM  
Where: Shaare Tefila  
Cost: $5 covers program/snack  
Who: K-5th Grades  
Wear your PJs, hear a PJ Library Story, and make P(B) &J sandwiches to be donated to Martha’s Table! Notify Missy of any peanut allergies; an alternate food will be provided. RSVP via Chaverweb by 11/29.

**Kadima Saturday Night Live!**
When: Saturday, January 7; 7:30-10:00 PM  
Where: Congregation Beth El; 8215 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD  
Cost: Last year: $15 in advance, $20 at the door; will be similar, but TBA  
Who: 6-8th Grades  
You’re invited to join Jewish middle schoolers from all over the DC/MD area for a night of fun! Enjoy inflatables, laser tag, videogames, arts and crafts, snacks, and so much more! Bring friends and make new ones! Email Missy at Mmandell@shaaretefila.org with questions or to RSVP.

**Regional Kadima and USY Basketball Leagues**
When: Sundays, February 5 through April 2  
Where: Games at Richard Montgomery HS  
250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville, MD  
Practices at Shaare Tefila weather permitting, otherwise, TBD  
Cost: $95 depending on practice space  
Who: 6th-12th grades  
Contact Mmandell@shaaretefila.org by 12/15 for information on how to sign up.

**Bake it off!**
When: Sunday, February 12; 12:00-2:30 PM  
Where: Shaare Tefila  
Cost: $5 covers program supplies/snack  
Who: 6-12th grades  
Bring your own parve or dairy lunch and meet in the social hall. We will hang out for a bit before moving to the kitchen. We will be baking muffins to be donated to a food pantry. *Earn two SSL hours at this event. RSVP to Mmandell@shaaretefila.org by 2/6 to ensure enough supplies.*

For more information or questions, email Missy Mandell, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator, at Mmandell@shaaretefila.org.
Children ascribe an almost magical quality to birthdays. Young children often think it is the celebration itself that makes them older! That is why celebrating a child’s birthday in a meaningful way is so critical.

Birthdays offer a moment to stop and reflect on the birthday child and his/her uniqueness, but also the passage of time and the values of our community. Creating a ritual that recognizes and represents all of these attributes is the goal of our birthday celebrations at Gates of Discovery: The Rose and George Teller Preschool of Shaare Tefila.

In each class, a Birthday Committee works over many days to create a special gift for the birthday child. As the Birthday Committee discusses what would be meaningful to the birthday child and gathers the materials, they think about their friend. The gift they create shows the child that he/she are seen and appreciated. By receiving the gift with gratitude, the birthday child reciprocates this appreciation.

Each birthday child also represents his/her age on our birthday canvas. Just as one year gives way to another as the earth completes its orbit of the sun, one circle on our canvas, recorded in paint, represents each year of each child’s life. As celestial forces follow their preset paths, we consecrate the paths we have chosen and the blessings we have received that have brought us to the special days through the paths we mark on our canvas.

As each child adds his/her mark, the canvas becomes a living symbol of our lives and our school. Finally, once a month at Shabbat Sing, the canvas is displayed and the birthday child and gathers the materials, they think about their friend. The gift they create shows the child that he/she are seen and appreciated. By receiving the gift with gratitude, the birthday child reciprocates this appreciation.

In the fall, the Birthday Committee meets over several days to think about what the birthday child’s winter birthday will be like. They will create a special gift for the birthday child. As the Birthday Committee discusses what would be meaningful to the birthday child and gathers the materials, they think about their friend. The gift they create shows the child that he/she are seen and appreciated. By receiving the gift with gratitude, the birthday child reciprocates this appreciation.

As each child adds his/her mark, the canvas becomes a living symbol of our lives and our school. Finally, once a month at Shabbat Sing, the canvas is displayed and that month’s birthday children are recognized by the group. Through these efforts, the cherished and special place of each person in our school is celebrated.

November at Chavaya was amazing! Highlights of the month were our participation in the planting of trees at Shaare Tefila with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and The Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and our visit to the Pearlstone Center. At the Pearlstone Center we explored Jewish values in a hands on setting. Jewish farming practices are implemented in the operation of the farm. We saw how wheat, which is used in many of our holy foods, is grown and harvested. We saw farm animals and learned how the Jewish laws of respecting animals serve to protect the animals and help us be more conscious of them and their needs. As a result we become more humane citizens of our world.

December will be a very exciting month. Two of our classes, Morah Rebecca’s 2-3 class and Morah Shira’s 4-5 class are learning songs that they will be singing in accompaniment with The Robyn Helzner Trio on December 18 at Shaare Tefila’s Chanukah Celebration & Concert. All parents and extended family and friends are invited to come and celebrate with us.

Focus on Kitah Gimmel!

Kitah Gimmel is our home for fourth and fifth grade students. This class is taught by Shira Movsas who joined our staff in October. Shira is originally from Southfield, Michigan. She is studying public health at the University of Maryland. She has an interest in working with children and particularly enjoys the challenge of teaching students with special needs. Shira has staffed a summer program called Yad B’Yad, a program of inclusion for special needs students who are joined by mainstream High Schoolers in an Israel touring program. She is already concentrating on covering the material assigned to Kitah Gimmel which focuses on five core areas:

1. Introduction to Israel - Students will learn about the various geographical regions that make up Israel and the people who live there.
2. Our Relationship with God - Using the textbook, “Partners with God,” students will explore topics such as: Where do we find God?, God is one, Speaking with God, God’s Forgiveness and What it means to be created in God’s image. Each student has a journal which is specifically used for his/her reflections on this challenging material.
3. Chai Unit 5 - Students will learn the structure, content and “how-to” of the Amidah prayer.
4. Bible/History - Using “The Explorer’s Bible” as our text, students will learn Jewish history through the lens of key stories and players from Sinai to the birth of the nation of Israel. We already covered Samson and Jonah.
5. Jewish Values - Students learn about Jewish holidays through Jewish Values. The upcoming unit on Chanukah focuses on courage (gevurah). Other Jewish values to be discussed are, Loving the stranger (Ahavat Hager), Remembrance (zikaron) and Community (klal yisrael).

Have a Wonderful Chanukah and Winter Break. Chavaya resumes January 8.
Shaare Tefila
Chanukah Celebration and Concert
Featuring The Robyn Helzner Trio
Sunday, December 18, 2016; 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Program sponsored through the generosity of
George and Marilyn Kessler

Wonderful family oriented program
Chavaya students will sing selected songs with Robyn Helzner and her trio!
Light lunch served after concert

Adults $18; Children of members 17 and under, FREE
Non-member children $5

From Beijing to Biloxi, and Moscow to Miami, the Robyn Helzner Trio radiates a passion for Jewish music that captivates listeners. The Trio’s compelling arrangements of both new and traditional songs have made them leading interpreters of World Jewish Music. Robyn brings a life-long appreciation of the power of folk music to resonate across cultural boundaries.

Make your reservation now!
Our most popular evening event!

“Night of Sweet Laughter 6”
Comedy Night
Saturday, February 4, 8:00 PM

Doors Open at 7:15 pm, Show at 8:00 pm
Tickets $30 per person, $35 at door
Wine & Beer Cash Bar and Dairy Refreshments after Show
Reserve a table of 12, get 2 free bottles of wine for your table!

Headline Comic: Max Dolcelli
Max Dolcelli has performed in comedy clubs and comedy festivals in the U.S. and Canada, casinos and clubs in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and the Bahamas, at corporate events and on cruise ships, on television and radio.

Featured Comedian: Mike Aronin
Mike Aronin is a nationally acclaimed speaker and comedian who teach his audiences how to get past personal shortcomings and move forward in their life/careers. His outstanding efforts have been recognized by such prominent media as ABC, NBC, and CBS & FOX TV. He was a semi-finalist in “Last Comic Standing”, and appeared in the TV series pilot “Special Units.” Mike’s comedy impacts his audience in a way that lifts their spirits and motivates them to improve their abilities all while making them smile.

Featured Comic and Shaare Tefila member, Jeffrey Hysen
Jeffrey has appeared at the Gotham Comedy Club, The Comic Strip and seen on RLTV.

Reserve your seats on ChaverWeb or call Sara  301-593-3410 X 104.

If you are sitting at a particular table, note that in your seating request.
OUR 50-TREE PLANTING EVENT
MILT GOLDSAMT, SHAARE TEFILA PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Shimon said, “The shade spread over us by these trees is so pleasant! We must crown this place with words of Torah.” (Zohar, 2:127a)

On Oct. 30, a sunny Sunday morning, eighty five Shaare Tefila members, preschool children, religious school classes, and local residents, enthusiastically helped plant fifty trees on the grounds of the shul. Lanny Plotkin organized the event. Representatives of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Annapolis, MD) and the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) trained the volunteers as part of a grant program. They marked where best to plant each tree, provided the trees (all between 2-5 feet tall) at no charge, and provided all tools and supplies needed to plant and protect the trees from animals.

The day included a presentation about the benefits of planting trees as an environmentally friendly way to conserve water. We also received a planting plan based on local soil conditions. Using that plan, the volunteers planted seven species of trees: Red Oak, Post Oak, American Plum, Redbud, Sweetbay Magnolia, Eastern Red Cedar and Black Gum. We now need to water the trees during dry spells. Volunteers have signed up for this task but more are needed. Contact Lanny Plotkin (lannyp1121@gmail.com) if you and others in your family would like to help.

What did those taking part think of the event? Rabbi Layman called it “a fantastic community-building event.” Abby Marshall, a ninth grader at Clarksburg HS, said: "I liked that we got to plant the trees all over the property without the help of the adults." She also liked being paired with younger students so she could help them. Her father, Eric, added: “The program was awesome. It helped beautify the building and we got to help [Chesapeake] Bay.” Barry Louis Polisar recalled: “There is also something great about planting trees that will grow and benefit future generations. There is a story in the Midrash of an older man who was planting a fig tree. When asked if he really expected to live long enough to consume the fruits of his labor, he replied: “My ancestors planted for me, and now I plant for my children.” In that spirit, Adrianna Sandler added that: “I cannot wait to see how the synagogue property will look in a year or five!”

Additional comments about the day...

Cathy Plotkin said, “As an empty nester I was so delighted to see all ages participating from two year olds to seniors. I loved the fact that there was something that everyone could do from cutting fencing to digging to putting up stakes. I was reminded of the concept of planting for the future generation. Trees are so essential to all of us and planting them is so much more than a physical act. It’s spiritual.”

“Plant a tree for you and for your coming generations “

Susan Rubenstein thought that the day went well. "It was the ideal time for us to gather and plant trees surrounding our spiritual community home, Shaare Tefila.” She continued: “Two staff members from Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay were so knowledgeable, educating us about our Maryland habitat and the ideal way to plant a young tree to promote its growth. Our family of three (our 18-year-old son Noah, his Dad/my husband Carl, and I) enjoyed working as a well-oiled team planting 2 trees, a redbud and a magnolia. And we all had a lot of fun. Great thanks for this generous grant, Trees for Sacred Spaces. The morning working together in our community was special, and we will look forward to nurturing our trees and watching them grow. What a blessing!”
I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We did so many awesome things in November it is hard to believe that it is December already!

At our Paid-up Membership Dinner we had a wonderful guest speaker, Petula Dvorak from The Washington Post! The theme for the evening was “Women’s Role in Today’s World.” Below is my introduction to the evening.

“No time in history have women had more input on the world stage. We currently have 3 women sitting on the Supreme Court and with this election: we stand a great chance of having our first women president of the United States. Yet, girls and women around the world are demanding basic rights to education, equal pay, healthcare and protection for their bodies.

“The more successful women become, the more it seems we have to prove ourselves. We are insulted, challenged and described as cold, aggressive and nasty. However men with similar drive and ambition are considered confident, determined and assertive. We must continue to challenge the status quo. We must continue to have the difficult conversations regarding reproductive health, rape and sexual assault, equal pay and equal rights.

“I encourage each of you not just to vote, but also to stand up and speak your mind! We don’t have to agree on every issue but we must speak our minds and be heard. This is how we meet in the middle and how we continue to carry the light for ourselves and for others.”

As it turns out, the woman candidate did not win. But she left us with a parting thought: “To all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.” Hillary Clinton

If this is to happen for the little girls out there, then we big girls need to stand up and make it happen!

Sisterhood Happenings

**December**

- **4th** Make One - Take One; The Dessert Edition
- **10th** Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle
  The discussion topic will be “Hope, Miracles, & Light in the month of Kislev.”
- **12th** Board Meeting at 7:45 pm in the Futrovsky Library
- **18th** Book Club meets at 10 am in the Winer Gallery
  *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman
- **24th** HavDeli and games night!
  Enjoy a spiritual Havdalah service followed by a deli dinner and board games!

**Coming in January**

- **9th** Board Meeting

Other Happenings in December

- **18th** Chanukah Celebration, 11 am to 1 pm. Concert followed by a light dairy lunch
- **18th** It is Holiday Basket Time!
  The Holiday Giving Project has been serving Montgomery County residents in need of additional help at the holidays for over 30 years.
  *Shaare Tefila has committed to 25 baskets for Christmas.*
## PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

### TOT SHABBAT

**WHO:** Young Children & Families  
**What:** Enjoy the spirit of Shabbat with friends & family  
**When:** Fridays, 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
- January 27  
- February 24  
- March 24  
- April 28

### MINI MINYAN SHABAT DINNER

**WHO:** Young Children & Families  
**What:** Enjoy the spirit of Shabbat with friends & family  
**When:** Fridays, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
- January 27  
- February 24  
- March 18  
- 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 meeting is Sunday, December 11, 10:00 am  
RSVP to Cilla Grosberg drgmrs@aol.com

### THE HAVDALAH EXPERIENCE

**WHO:** Families  
**What:** Celebrate the transition from Shabbat to a new week with a spirited family Havdalah Experience  
**When:** At the close of Shabbat  
- January 28  
- March 4

### FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

An alternative lively Shabbat Service especially for families. Co-led by the kids along with Hazzan David Lipsitz. Everyone is welcome - people with or without children will enjoy this service.  
**10:00 AM IN THE SANCTUARY**  
January 21 - March 18 - April 22 - June 3

Questions? Contact Missy Mandell mmandell@shaaretefila.org

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### SAVE THE DATE

**December**  
Sunday, December 18, 11:00 am - Chanukah Celebration featuring The Robyn Helzner Trio. Light Dairy Lunch to Follow

**February**  
Saturday night, February 4 - 6th Annual “Night of Sweet Laughter”

**May**  
Sunday, May 7, 2017 - Fourth Annual JTS Evening of Learning, “Relating to the Other in Jewish Texts and with Jewish Values”
**DID YOU KNOW...???

Jack Teller
shaarepubs@verizon.net**

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

**Steve & Laura Ross** spent two weeks in Africa, on safari in Tanzania and to other exotic destinations. They had a fantastic time. This was an item on Steve's 'bucket list.'

**Marilyn Kessler** traveled to Africa, ...again! This time, she and her daughter also went to Tanzania. [There was almost a Shaare Tefila minyan in Tanzania!]

**Milt & Susan Goldsamt's son, Michael** got married in New York to his fiancé, Ruth, in mid-September, on a pier overlooking the East River and New York City skyline, under a chuppah he designed himself. Michael had proposed to Ruth on the NY Subway. (Michael is an actor and graphic designer, as you know, and recently had a supporting lead in the national tour of "Phantom of the Opera" at Kennedy Center for six weeks.) The wedding was a wonderful, spirited event, and Mike even sang to his new wife at the reception afterwards. That marriage has brought his wife Ruth good luck, as she’s just been cast in the national tour of the Tony-winning musical “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder.” That show will be in Baltimore, Dec-Jan.

**Richard & Wendy Abraham** went on a cruise. Ask them where they were.

**Ellie Alpert** writes: Our son, Joel Alpert, bar mitzvah and confirmed at Shaare Tefila, is running in the New York Marathon. He currently lives in Short Hills, NJ.

**Max Kantzer & Patricia Greene** were in Rome during the recent earthquake in Italy. They report that they felt the quake as well.

Breaking news: just found out that **Stephanie Buckberg** went to Israel- in July with Federation Young Leadership Mission.

**SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING**

JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT

**RABBI DAVID SHNEYER & ALAN ORESKY CONCERT**

Thursday, December 15, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
RSVP to JCC 301-348-3809 by December 8
Cost $6

**Rabbi David Shneyer** is a singer and guitarist. He is the founder, director and spiritual leader of Am Kolel and is also the spiritual leader of Kehila Chadasha, a chavurah based in Bethesda. He has led THE FABRANGEN FIDDLERS, a Jewish liturgical folk band based in the DC area. **Alan Oresky** a freelance musician for over forty years, also a founding member of the Fiddlers, plays fiddle and mandolin.

**B’NAI MITZVAH AT SHAARE TEFILA**

Adam Levin will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat, December 31, the seventh day of Chanukah, Parshat Miketz.

Adam is a 7th grader at Takoma Park Middle School’s Math, Science and Computer Science magnet. He is an avid reader, enjoys karate, loves video games, animals, and all things science.

For his Bar Mitzvah project, he will be collecting items for MCPAW, the Montgomery County Animal Service and Adoption Center, such as shoe boxes and other small boxes, sandwich-sized Ziploc bags, clean white tube socks, blankets, towels, and newspaper.

There will be a box in the Winer Gallery to collect donations during the week of December 25 - December 30.

**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

**BUY SCRIP**

**COMING SOON**-Starbucks Gift Cards - $10, $25

Buying a gift card once a month, even every other month, to any of the following grocery stores will greatly benefit Shaare Tefila:

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

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
Thank you to our Yom Kippur Appeal Donors

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*Households which increased their Yom Kippur Appeal pledge over last year.
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The Shofar
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301-593-3410

www.shaaretefila.org or info@shaaretefila.org

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