SHARER TEFILA
Celebrating our 66th year
Vol. 66 #5
January 2017 - Tevet—Shevat 5777

JANUARY 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 Ḥ Talmud: Sunday at 9:30 am

Tuesday, January 3
New Art Exhibit in the Winer Gallery - “The Computer as the Artist’s Tool”

Wednesday, January 4
7:45 pm “Contemporary Jewish Issues with Rabbi Layman”

Saturday, January 7
9:00 am Torah study w/Rabbi Layman
7:30 pm Kadima Saturday Night Live!

Sunday, January 8
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila
9:30 am Challah Club
10:00 am Gan Katan
2:00 pm Meet the Artist Reception

Saturday, January 11
10:30 am Men’s Discussion Group

Friday, January 13
6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, January 14
9:00 am Torah study w/Rabbi Layman

Thursday, January 19
1:30 pm JCC Coming of Age Event

Saturday, January 21 - Birthday Shabbat
9:00 am Torah study w/Rabbi Layman
10:00 am Family Shabbat Service
10:30 am Tot Shabbat
Birthday Kiddush - Challah & Schmear Grows Up

Sunday, January 22
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila
9:30 am Challah Club
10:00 am Sisterhood - Adult Coloring

Saturday, January 28
Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle
6:30 pm Havdalah Experience

Sunday, January 29
9:30 am Chavaya and Café Shaare Tefila

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. More detailed descriptions about each task force committee (Communication, Education, Finance, Membership and Ritual) will be announced in upcoming communications to the synagogue membership.

Our first All Task Force meeting will take place in late January. Join us and help make Shaare Tefila thrive.

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 at bob.freedman@gmail.com.

I look forward to your response and positive engagement!

LOOKING TO JOIN SHAARE TEFILA?

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

Jill Goldwater, Executive Director
jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X101
As Jews, we can trace our roots back over 3600 years. That makes us one of the longest surviving groups of people today. Powerful civilizations have subjugated us. We have been conquered militarily. We were almost completely evicted from our homeland and forced to endure unspeakable hardships. And yet, of all the seemingly great and powerful groups who have done their best to eliminate us, we, as Jews, have survived and even flourished while our tormentors are no more.

As Jews in contemporary America, we seemingly have never had it so good. We have constitutional guarantees that protect us. We don’t face any hostile neighbors who threaten our existence. We are accomplished in politics, law, medicine, entertainment and business. But, just because these appear to be safe and secure times for us, there is no guarantee that things will always be so. And thus, as Jews, we have an obligation to those who endured before us to remain strong and secure in our identity.

Anti-Semitism exists. Of this there can be no question. Jewish groups are split as to what to make of the recent election and the developing administration. I am not writing to espouse my personal political beliefs — and indeed, Jewish groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and the Zionist Organization of America are conflicted in their perspectives. But what cannot be disputed is that, post-election, we have seen an uptick in cowardly hate crimes, mostly in the defacement of property. Not that this is new. It’s not. Hatred and intolerance have existed since groups started forming along geographic or ethnic lines. It’s just that now, it is percolating above the surface where we can see its ugly head.

To me, as tragic as these loathsome acts are, there is a benefit: it shakes us from our apathy and is a stark reminder of what it can mean to be a Jew: the obligation and sacrifice we must make in order to be who we are.

And so, what is one to make of this? Is this a temporary aberration where those who hate feel empowered to act out or the signs that the seeds of intolerance are trying to take root? It may be too soon to tell, but we would be foolish to ignore our history and not consider current events in light of that history.

And so, as we navigate the coming times, it is vital that we remain united. Not just spiritually, but in our institutions, for it is within our institutions that we have a tangible statement of our strength and existence. It is through our institutions that we say, “Yes, we are here.”

The synagogue, Shaare Tefila, is our strongest institution. The concept of what Shaare Tefila is may mean something different from one person to the next. It can be a place to pray, or a place to educate ourselves and our children. It can be a place to celebrate or to support others and be supported when we are in need. It can be a place to socialize and be amongst friends — even the ones whom we have yet to meet. Continued
“Night of Sweet Laughter 6” Shaare Tefila’s 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

Reserve a table of 12, get 2 free bottles of wine for your table!
Reserve now for our most popular event of the year!

Wine & Beer Cash Bar and Dairy Refreshments after Show

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.

Max Dolceli
Headline Comic
Max Dolceli 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.

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

Mike Aronin
Featured Comedian
Mike Aronin is nationally acclaimed. His outstanding efforts have been recognized by such prominent media as ABC, NBC, and CBS & FOX TV.

16620 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832— (301) 593–3410 — info@shaaretefila.org
Colder temperatures have finally hit now that January is here, which is why it’s also the perfect time of year to spread light and recognize everyday miracles - that’s just what has been happening in the Youth and Family Programming Departments.

We started off December with PJ Day with Machar and Bonim. Our K-5th graders heard some PJ Library stories geared towards Chanukah, sharing your blessings and talking about the miracle of light. Then they spent the afternoon making sandwiches which were donated to Martha’s Table and they wrote letters and drew pictures that were sent to the families of those affected by the fires in Israel.

All of the Chavaya students have been working hard throughout December to prepare something special for the Family service on January 21st - you don’t want to miss it!

We have special events planned throughout the upcoming months. There are plenty of ways to get involved, enjoy together, and spread light throughout the community year-round!

On January 7th, all 6th-8th graders are invited to join Jewish middle-schoolers from all over the DC/MD/VA area for a night of fun! There will be inflatables, laser tag, arts and crafts, snacks, videogames, and more at 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 28th! Learn about Israeli music, culture and movement through Israeli dance. No prior dance knowledge necessary. I will be leading fun, family-oriented Israeli dance for all levels.

On February 12, all 6th-12th graders are invited to Bake it off! We will be baking muffins to be donated to a food pantry. Earn two SSL hours at this event.

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.

Programs Lighting up Shaare Tefila!

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS
MISSY MANDELL, COORDINATOR

PROGRAMMING

SHABBAT DINNER
“New Year, New You”
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:00 PM

Polynesian Themed Menu
Hawaiian Chicken
Rice
Polynesian Vegetables
Salad
Challah rolls
Dessert

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

Sign up on ChaverWeb by Tuesday, January 10
or contact Sara in the office smiller@shaaretefila.org.

SHAAARE 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, January 13: “New Year, New You”
Friday, March 3: Instrumental Shabbat
Friday, May 12: Yom Haatzmaut Celebration
Friday, June 9: End of Year Bar-B-Q/Board Installation
Upcoming Shaare Tefila Youth Events

Kadima Saturday Night Live!
When: Saturday, January 7; 7:30-10:00 PM
Where: Congregation Beth El; 8215 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD
Cost: $20 in advance, $25 at the door
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!

Havdalah Experience at Shaare Tefila!
When: Saturday, January 28; 6:30-8:00PM
Where: Shaare Tefila Cost: Free; Please bring a non-perishable food item
Who: For families and friends— all are welcome!
Learn about music, culture, and movement through Israeli dance. No prior dance knowledge necessary— Missy Mandell will be leading fun, family-oriented Israeli dance for all levels. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP via Chaverweb by 1/25.

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.

Tu B’Shevat Katan
When: Sunday, February 26; 12:00-2:30 PM
Where: Shaare Tefila
Cost: $5 covers program supplies/snack Who: K-5th grades
Bring your own parve or dairy lunch and meet in the Winer Family Gallery. We will be doing tree-inspired crafts, going on a scavenger hunt, and doing other activities in honor of Tu B’shevat! Some activities will be outside, weather permitting— please send your child with a coat. RSVP to Mmandell@shaaretefila.org by 2/22 to guarantee supplies.

For more information or questions, email Missy Mandell, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator, at Mmandell@shaaretefila.org.
Happy New Year! It’s so hard to believe it is 2017!
It was great to see so many of you at our 2nd musical Shabbat service and dinner on Friday, December 9. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves! Our next Shabbat dinner will be Friday, January 13. Register on ChaverWeb or contact Sara in the office.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, our final musical Shabbat service will be on Friday, March 3. I hope you’ll come out to hear me sing with Sally Heckelman with Stuart Zitomer on drums and Josh Levin on piano! Register on ChaverWeb or contact Sara in the office.

We have some wonderful events coming up in January! Please see the first page on the Shofar OR visit our website and check out the events page.

One of the many things that makes Shaare Tefila so special is our Chavurah program. One of our groups – the STARS group, volunteered at Wider Circle donation center on Friday Dec 2. Wider Circle is a donation center that provides household items and furniture for those in need. We sorted through and cleaned the donated items and placed them on display. The clients then shop free of cost to outfit their homes.

Thanks to the following participants: Rona Eisen, Bernice Goldstein, Judy Rumerman, Judy Beiser, Barbara Fink, Marjorie Fuhrmann, Carol Wendkos and Jackie Samuel.

If you would like to join one of our many Chavurah groups, please email me!

Interested in doing more to help the Shaare Tefila membership process? Consider volunteering on the membership committee. We are looking for volunteers to help in recruitment/outreach, retention and welcoming new members, delivering new member welcome bags, friendship groups, etc... If interested, please contact me, Stacey Lynch at 301-275-0286 or membership@shaaretefila.org

I look forward to seeing you at shul!

THE MONTH OF TEVET IN JEWISH HISTORY
2 Tevet - In 1947, the Arab Legion surrounded Jerusalem and isolated its 100,000 Jews from the rest of the Israeli population. By March 1948 the city was under full siege, and in May, Jordan invaded and occupied east Jerusalem, dividing the city for the first time in its history and driving thousands of Jews into exile.

11 Tevet - In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln pledged to amend a federal law granting only Christian clergy the right to serve as military chaplains. This incident is regarded historically as the first case of American Jews successfully challenging federal legislation. During the Civil War, 6,500 Jews served for the North and another 2,000 for the South.

16 Tevet - In 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant was instructed to revoke Order No. 11, which had called for the expulsion of all Jews from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi. Grant, commander of U.S. Army forces, believed that Jews were primarily behind illegal cotton trade, and he decided to expel all Jews from southern territory. Jewish community leaders immediately arranged a meeting at the White House with President Lincoln, who cancelled the expulsion order.
The Havdalah Experience at Shaare Tefila

Join the Havdalah Experience

When: Saturday, January 28; 6:30-8:00PM
Where: Shaare Tefila
Who: For families and friends– all are welcome!
Cost: Free of charge; please bring a non-perishable food item for Olney Help
Hear Israeli music, learn about Israeli culture and movement through Israeli dance.
No prior dance knowledge necessary.
Missy Mandell will be leading fun, family-oriented Israeli dance for all levels.
Light refreshments will be served.
RSVP via Chaverweb by 1/25 to ensure enough supplies
SHAARE TEFILA AGAIN WINS THE ANNUAL SEABOARD REGION FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN’S CLUBS

“IT’S ACADEMIC” TOURNAMENT!

MILT GOLDSAMT
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM KEN LIBBY AND PAUL TILLES

Last year’s winning team of Ken Libby (Captain), Paul Tilles and Milt Goldsamt (see their photo below) triumphed again on Sunday morning, December 11. This year they won by 60 points over the next closest Seaboard Region local synagogue Men’s Club team playing. In addition to Shaare Tefila, the other six teams included: Agudas Achim of Alexandria, Beth El of Bethesda, B’nai Israel of Rockville, Har Shalom of Potomac, Shaare Tikvah of Waldorf, and Shaare Torah of Gaithersburg.

Team scores ranged a bit although four other teams were fairly close to ours. However, this year’s 60-point margin of victory was much greater than last year’s 10-point winning margin. The exciting, well-attended round-robin tournament of several rounds covered a wide range of challenging general knowledge and Judaica facts, presented in different formats, and even included a number of audience participation questions!

We want to thank a number of people who really worked hard to make this fun event possible:

• Mark Berlin of Seaboard Region, who MCed, created the many questions used (which as he explained is not easy to create reasonably hard yet fun questions), designed the game around a sequence of teams playing each other, and provided electronic buzzer system equipment
• Mike Binder who created an electronic scoring system that was projected on the Social Hall wall during the game, kept score, purchased excellent breakfast foods with Jeff Weiss’ help, and provided various microphone and wiring aids
• Ethel Levine who coordinated breakfast and kitchen needs
• Jack Teller who served as judge during multiple Toss-up rounds
• Our Shaare Tefila Cheerleaders (see their photo below) who brought spirit and life to the contest in their special outfits: Bess Teller, Shelley Rochester, Barbara Fink, Florence Polinsky, and Sheryl Tilles (ask them about the cheers written just for the game!)
• And of course, Jill and Sara of our office, who arranged for tables to be set up in the Social Hall, and provided an easel, podium and mikes for our use.

We still can’t believe that we won again this year! Please be sure to congratulate Ken and Paul when you see them!

This year’s winning “It’s Academic” team from Shaare Tefila: (left to right) Paul Tilles, Ken Libby (captain), and Milt Goldsamt [photo taken by Bruce Gordon, President, Seaboard Region]

The Shaare Tefila Cheerleaders as they enthusiastically perform a cheer of their own creation: (from left to right) Sheryl Tilles, Barbara Fink, Shelley Rochester, Florence Polinsky, and Bess Teller [photo taken by Milt Goldsamt]

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS BEGAN ON DECEMBER 18 AT SHAARE TEFILA WITH A CONCERT SPONSORED BY GEORGE & MARILYN KESSLER. THE ROBIN HELZNER TRIO ENTERTAINED US WITH A WONDERFUL REPertoire OF JEWISH SONGS AND OUR CHAVAYA STUDENTS WERE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM SINGING TWO OF THE SONGS UNDER ROBIN’S DIRECTION. OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION GO OUT TO THE KESSLERS FOR SHARING THEIR JOY IN AND LOVE OF JEWISH MUSIC WHEN PRESENTED BY THE ROBIN HELZNER TRIO. THANK YOU TO AVIVA JANUS, EDUCATION DIRECTOR, FOR SEEING THAT OUR CHAVAYA STUDENTS WERE PREPARED FOR THIS SHOW. THE CHANUKAH LUNCHEON THAT FOLLOWED WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. THANK YOU TO RONNIE LUSTBERG FOR CO-SPONSORING THE LUNCH IN MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS, SAUL & MINDLE LUSTBERG. WITHOUT THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS NOTHING CAN GET DONE. THANK YOU TO SHERRY COHEN, STEFANIE LEVY, ELLEN BEEBE, HYMAN GROSBERG, DARA RADNOR, JACKIE SAMUEL, MILTON GOLDSAMT, AND STUART CARROLL.

Shalom and a Very Happy 2017
“For six days you may perform work, but the seventh day is a complete Sabbath, holy to the Lord ... it is an eternal sign that in six days, the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” -Exodus 31:15-17

The Sabbath, שבת Shabbat in Hebrew, is the heart of Jewish life. It is said “more than Israel has kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept Israel.” On this day we put aside our weekday concerns and focus on spirituality, family and friends.

At Gates of Discovery: The Rose and George Teller Preschool of Shaare Tefila, just as in many homes, our preparations for Shabbat begin mid-week, as we bake our own challah for the coming Shabbat celebration. Each class takes its turn making challah for the entire school. The excitement and pride grow over the two-day process as the children work the dough and then see their finished loaves. The aroma in the school makes tummies growl!

Then on Fridays we look to share some of the special feelings of Shabbat through our Ta’am Shel Shabbat, taste of Shabbat, celebration. The morning begins with our entire school gathering in the Grosberg Baumgart Chapel for Shabbat Sing. Each week we share some old favorites and add some new songs. There is a sense of calm and community as we gather together.

Later in the morning, we share special time with Rabbi Jonah. Each week he meets with the classes and shares a story, a ritual or a holiday memory. The children look forward to the Rabbi’s visit all week and their time together ends with group hugs.

Finally, we have our Shabbat snack of challah and grape juice, saying the blessings that accompany a Shabbat meal. Often, as with most Shabbat meals, our snack includes special guests, such as parents and grandparents. They come to share our company and food, but also to savor the peacefulness of Shabbat.

January 21 is Chavaya and Family Shabbat. Chavaya students are participating in the morning service. Each class is preparing to lead prayers. Please plan to join us Shabbat morning at 10:00 am and see the progress your children have made this year. Here is a list of classes and the prayers they will lead:

K/1 Ma Tovu, Adon Olam and opening/closing the ark
2/3 Ein Kelohanu and Etz Chayim He
4/5 Barchu and the Amidah
6/7 Ayn Kamocha and the Torah Service
Teens Parshat Shmot Dvar Torah

On January 8 and 29, Morah Yardley is leading the students in song in room 106. Parents are invited to stop in to see our music program in action.

This month we highlight the 6/7 grade class. This is the largest class in the school and it is led by Moreh Ben Huisman. Moreh Ben lived in Holland and moved to Atlanta as a child. He is currently studying communications and history at the University of Maryland. Moreh Ben speaks Dutch, English and Hebrew. He shared his family’s Holocaust story with the class before we attended “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

The curriculum for the 6/7 grade class includes learning about Jewish prophets: Amos, Deborah, Elijah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Miriam, Nathan, Rahav and Solomon. Through the use of an outstanding series from Torah Aura, the students have focused on the nature of prophesy while gaining an understanding of the individual prophets.

Another area in the curriculum relates to situational ethics. The book the class is using is titled, “You Be the Judge.” The students confront a complex series of ethical dilemmas and legal conundrums similar to those they may face in weekday school.

In December, we engaged in a Teen Philanthropy Program presented by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington’s Teen Engagement specialist. An example of a scenario: If you have a certain amount of money to give as tzedekah, is it better to donate to one charity in a meaningful way or make smaller contributions to several charities which align with our values?

In December, Elena Berman and Adam Levin celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. In the Spring Ethan James, Juliane Goldstein, Sam and Helena Sandler and Rachel Freedman will be celebrate becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

This dynamic class engages students as they learn to think about serious Jewish issues through a more adult lens.
THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

RABBI LAYMAN

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

One of the most iconic pictures from the civil rights era in the 1960’s is of the March on Selma, AL. Whether we remember the actual events that day or saw the movie a couple of years ago we know the impact that march had on the continued struggle for desegregation and civil rights in America.

The front row of marchers had several people with arms linked with, of course, Martin Luther King, Jr. in the middle. Next to him is a white man with a flowing mane and beard of white hair. He is Abraham Joshua Heschel. Heschel was a rabbi and professor of Jewish Thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary where he taught for decades. He was born in Poland and trained in Berlin. He managed to escape the Holocaust, as other Jewish academicians did, by being given a job at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

As a Holocaust survivor and incredible Jewish thinker, Heschel passionately wrote and spoke about important religious issues such as social justice. He said of that day in Selma that he was “praying with his feet.” That poetic and powerful phrase serves to teach us what advocacy is all about. It’s not just the right thing to do, it’s our way of communicating directly with God. May we be so inspired this MLK Day and always.

Purim is March 11th!
Mark your calendars for our wonderful Mishloach Manot fundraiser and watch your email for when the site will go live!

INCLIMENT WEATHER AND BUILDING CLOSING POLICY

DAYS, EVENING MEETINGS, SUNDAY MEETINGS:
Decisions will be made by the Executive Director in concert with the appropriate committee chair or professional. If it is necessary to cancel or postpone meetings and/or classes, a timely announcement will be broadcast via email.

MORNING and EVENING MINYANS:
If Montgomery County Schools are closed or delayed, then morning minyan is canceled. If Montgomery County Schools cancel evening activities, then evening minyan is canceled. No other notification will be given for these events.

The notice from the school system can be found at: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/
The notice for evening programs in the school system can be found at: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf/

PRESCHOOL:
For the first day of any weather event, we follow the decision of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). MCPS usually makes a decision around 5 am. If schools are closed, we are closed. If MCPS delays school opening, Gates of Discovery shall open at 10:00 am, regardless of the number of hours Montgomery County Schools are delayed.

Subsequent day closings in the same event shall be made at the discretion of Gates of Discovery. This will be influenced by our knowledge of road conditions, the ability of families and staff to safely travel to school, the conditions at the school facility and other factors.

If there is electricity and we are able, we will send an email to all families when there is a closure or a delay. Otherwise, please follow MCPS’s decision.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:
Any decision to close Chavaya Sunday school will be announced via email no later than 7 am Sunday morning.

SHAARE TEFILA YOUTH DEPARTMENT:
Chapter events will be cancelled on a case-by-case basis. Those who have RSVP’ed to the event will be notified via email and/or phone call.

SHABBAT SERVICES:
We do not cancel Shabbat Services.

In all cases every effort will be made to send an email broadcast and change the outgoing voice mail message at 301-593-3410. Outgoing voice mail messages indicating the building is closed will announce the date(s) for which the message is valid. IF THERE ARE NO CLOSURES, THE MESSAGE WILL NOT BE CHANGED. [Please note that it is not always possible to change the outgoing voice mail message or send an email.]

In all cases – please be sure to consider your safety first and do not attend an event if you feel it will put you in harm’s way.
I hope everyone had a wonderful Chanukah and New Year! Sisterhood’s biggest news is that we are introducing some new options to our scrip program! We now offer Starbucks gift cards in $5, $10 and $25 increments. We are also looking into offering some other options for scrip so please keep your eyes open for new opportunities.

We had a successful Make One—Take One! We had a full house and made Mocha Cheesecake Bars and Chocolate Biscotti!

The College Moms Program is going strong in its second year under the leadership team of Amy Schwartz and Stefanie Levy.

What is the College Moms Program? Amy and Stefanie send care packages to undergraduate and graduate students approximately four times a year, generally associated with the Jewish holidays. Each package contains an item related to the holiday/theme, a note of encouragement written by Rabbi Layman, and of course, snacks and candies!

Who can sign up? Any member of Shaare Tefila can register a student (think beyond your own and include grandchildren, nieces and nephews and any special student in your life) by sending their name and address to collegemoms@shaaretefila.org.

What is the cost? The College Moms Program is free for Sisterhood members and their children. The annual cost for any other relationship is prorated for the rest of the year to $9.00 and will include packages for Purim and Pesach.

What are the students saying?
- “I just wanted to write and say thank you so much for sending the college care package. I will definitely enjoy the snacks packed in it around exam time. I was like a kid in a candy store, and I especially appreciated the message from Rabbi Layman.” (Ben Hesse, Freshman @ University of Michigan)
- “Thanks, mom. The package had lots of yummy goodies and a nice note from the rabbi.” (Emily Levy, Sophomore @ University of Pittsburgh)

What are parents saying?
- “Thank you for your delicious care package...This is a very special way of making sure our kids remember Shaare Tefila and keep it engraved in their hearts!”
- “The Starbucks cards were a great idea.”
- “Thanks again for working on this program.”

Amy and Stefanie are awaiting your student addition!!

Kiddushim
First I want to welcome Sheryl Tilles as a new Kiddush Captain! Thank you for volunteering Sheryl!

Thank you to all who have donated to the Enhanced Kiddush. This is something we do every month.

Kiddush Captains for January!
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

Sisterhood Happenings!
January
- 9th Board Meeting
- 22nd Adult Coloring
- 28th Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle Group

Discussion will weave connections between the holiday of Tu B’Shevat and the spiritual gifts of this time in the Jewish calendar.

Buy Scrip!

The Shofar

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

One of Sisterhood’s biggest projects is making sure there are great kiddushes after Shabbat Services. Have something to celebrate? Share the joy of a milestone in your life with your Shaare Tefila family by sponsoring a Kiddush on Shabbat following services.

Contact Jill Goldwater for prices and details: jgoldwater@shaaretrefila.org or 301-593-3410 x101

Challah & A Schmear Grows Up! Everyone is “eating it up!” Your minimum contribution of $18 (no ceiling) helps enhance an unsponsored Kiddush. Donate in honor or memory of someone/thing. Upcoming dates:

January 21
March 18
April 22
June 17

Contact Sara for details.
smiller@shaaretrefila.org, 301-593-3410 x104

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 Shevat
Saturday, January 28
Rosh Chodesh Nissan
Saturday, April 1

Rosh Chodesh Adar
Saturday, February 25
Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Saturday, May 27

NEW SHABBAT PROGRAM

COME CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT SHAARE TEFILA

Beginning in January, one designated Shabbat each month (September - June) will feature a birthday kiddush with cake and ice cream, to celebrate members whose birthdays fall in that month. The June kiddush will include those members’ birthdays of June, July, and August. Watch your mailbox for a postcard inviting you to "come celebrate your birthday with Shaare Tefila."

First Shabbat Birthday Kiddush is January 21.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

TOT SHABBAT
WHO: Young Children & Families
WHAT: Morning Shabbat Program
WHEN: Shabbat, 10:30 am - 11:15 am
January 21, April 22
March 18, June 3

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

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, January 8, 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—Israeli Dancing

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SAVE THE DATE

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

March
Saturday night, March 11 - Purim Megillah Reading
Sunday, March 12 - Megillah Reading, Purim Shpiel, Purim Carnival

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

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

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
**THE BILLION DOLLAR SPY**

A True Story of Cold War Espionage & Betrayal

Author: David Hoffman, Washington Post Editor

When: Thursday, January 19, 1:30 pm- 3:00 pm

RSVP to JCC 301-348-3809 by January 12

Cost $7

“The Billion Dollar Spy” is one of the best spy stories to come out of the Cold War and all the more riveting for being true. It hits the sweet spot between page-turning thriller and solidly researched history and then becomes something more, a shrewd character study of spies and the spies who run them, the mixed motives, the risks.

Did you know…?

Betty Freedman drove to New Orleans and Las Vegas.
Fran & Jeff Weiss went to NYC for the first time. Then they went to Aruba. That explains the tan!
Phillip & Deanna Temkin went to the Grand Canyon. (Beautiful.)
Stuart Carroll enjoyed Ireland.
The entire Grosberg Family went to NYC for turkey day, as they have been doing for the past 14 years! But, ... this is the first time for daughter/granddaughter Dylan.
Judy Bresler spent Thanksgiving in Ohio to be with her brother.
Fran & Stan Kensing went to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. Their trip west was sparked by the desire to attend their niece's wedding.

George Kessler asked that I make the following correction to last month's column: “Marilyn and her daughter went on a Safari and a visit to Capetown, South Africa for her bucket list—not Tanzania. Nine years ago Marilyn and I traveled to Tanzania and Kenya for a Safari which was on our bucket list.”

Maury and Charlotte Potosky wish to thank our Shaare Tefila family for their support for their team, Ben's Brigade and Sam's Club, at the Autism Speaks walk, in Washington DC, on October 4, 2016. Donations are still coming in and the Potoskys raised near $12,400 out of a total of almost $440,000 for the walk. Maury is the second largest individual fundraiser in the DC area, and their team, Ben's Brigade and Sam's Club, is the fourth largest team fundraiser in the DC area. Charlotte and Maury have two grandsons with severe autism and have been involved with autism fundraising for about 19 years.

**BUY SCRIP**

Scrip cards make a great gift. Starbucks gift cards have been added to our inventory in recent weeks. You can purchase Starbucks cards in $5, $10 or $25 increments.

We are looking into expanding, the Shaare Tefila Scrip Program further and need to determine if there is interest in our doing so. There are over 800 businesses that offer scrip cards. We need to hear from you, our members. Call Judy Beiser, Barbara Fink, Ethel Levine, or Rita Rubinstein to express your interest and for further information.

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

- Giant Food - $100, $50, $25, $10
- H Mart - $20
- Lotte Plaza - $10
- Mott's Market - $50
- Shalom Kosher Market - $100, $50
- ShopRite - $100, $50
- Starbucks - $5, $10, $25

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

**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
rlayman@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 102

President
Stuart Carroll
president@shaaretefila.org

Executive Director
Jill Goldwater
jgoldwater@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

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

Youth & Family Programs Coordinator
Missy Mandell
mmmandell@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X103

Please call the office if you have any questions or need to order scrip.
The Shofar

TRIBUTES
Thank You to Our Donors

Andrea Z. Tilles
Memorial Chesed Fund
In Honor Of:
  Rita Rubinstein’s 80th Birthday
  Alan & Adriana Sandler
  Ira & Ethel Levine
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles’ Wedding
  Larry & Ellie Alpert
  Maury & Charlotte Potosky
  Deborah Letow
  Elaine Schenberg
  Sam & Debbie Yedlin
  Susan Levin
  Ira Kolmaister
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles
  Melvyn Kornspan
  Shaare Tefila Sisterhood
  Chesed Committee Drivers
  Susan Levin

In Memory Of:
  Marian Sherr
  Alan & Adriana Sandler
  David Stepner
  May Savage
  Rose Schlaffer
  Jay & Joyce Feinstein

Speedy Recovery to:
  Charlotte Shapiro
  Maury & Charlotte Potosky

Building Fund
In Honor Of:
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles’ Wedding
  Dennis Miller & Rosemary Ciotti

Charles Futrovsky
Endowment Fund
In Memory Of:
  Gilbert Beiser
  Judith Beiser

Speedy Recovery to:
  Fran Futrovsky
  Maury & Charlotte Potosky
  May Savage
  Charles Futrovsky
  May Savage

Education Fund
In Honor Of:
  Al Kliman, Susan Rubenstein,
  Paul Tilles
  Annette Tobin
  Paul Pincus’ 90th Birthday
  Barbara Harkaway

Shaare Tefila
  David Mendick & Naomi Yadin
  Mendick
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles’ Wedding
  George & Marilyn Kessler
  Robert & Ruth Layman
  Ira & Ethel Levine’s Anniversary
  Jackie & Cheryl Jacobs
  Rita Rubinstein
  Les & Cindy Schechter
  Gershon Kieval
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles

In Memory Of:
  Michael Waganheim
  Alex & Carol Waganheim
  Irving Podolsky
  Art Podolsky
  Jennie Harkaway
  Barbara Harkaway
  Jane Wendy Harkaway
  Barbara Harkaway
  Albert Kisliuk
  Bernice Kisliuk
  Vera Bloomin Vitanza
  Edwin & Adele Cohen
  Albert Reinach
  Ellen Reinach
  David Stepner
  Helen Sandler
  Harry Kensky
  Herman Kensky
  Lillian Platt
  Jules & Zelma Fink
  Irving Jaffe
  Ken & Karen Leffler
  Sidney Shein
  Linda Shein
  Lillian Shein
  Linda Shein
  Janet Torchinsky
  Morty & Ina Goldstein
  Flora Goldberg
  Paula Katz
  Anna Borsky
  Philip Aronson
  Israel Borsky
  Philip Aronson
  Arthur Borsky
  Philip Aronson
  Louis Lipsky
  Phillip Goldman
  Albert Kaplan
  Phyllis Burka
  Beatrice Kaplan
  Phyllis Burka
  David Stepner
  Ricardo & Marianne Kleiner
  Anna Solomon
  Robert & Helen Solomon
  Irving Sragow
  Ruth Newhouse
  Jeannette Sragow
  Ruth Newhouse
  Miriam LaPorte
  Ruth Newhouse
  Lillian Zendel
  Sheila Marcus
  Israel Resnick
  Stephen & Freda Resnick

Harold Fink Israel Quest Fund
In Memory Of:
  David Stepner
  Barbara Fink
  Vera Bloomin Vitanza
  Barbara Fink

Machzor Dedication
In Honor Of:
  Marvin Schneider & Diane Gastfriend’s Wedding
  Andrew & Marlene Sandberg
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles’ Wedding
  May Savage
  Saul & Sherry Cohen

Martin S. Halpern Adult Education Fund
In Honor Of:
  Alex & Carol Waganheim’s 65th Anniversary
  May Savage

In Memory Of:
  Jennie Helfand
  Jay Kimelman

Nathan Rubinstein
Youth Fund
In Honor Of:
  Rita Rubinstein’s 80th Birthday
  Milton & Susan Golsamt
  Elaine Ross
  Elaine Schenberg
  Gershon & Diane Kieval
  Ila Swartz
  Jack & Bess Teller
  Larry & Ellie Alpert
  Saul & Sherry Cohen
  Andy & Marlene Sandberg
  Rita Rubinstein

Speedy Recovery to:
  Charlotte Shapiro
  Rita Rubinstein

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of:
  Rabbi Layman
  Annette Tobin
  Paul & Sheryl Tilles
  Zisel & Lydia Sansanowicz
  Paul and Sheryl Tilles’ Wedding
  Gershon & Diane Kieval

Siddur Dedication
In Honor Of:
  Ethel Dosik & Anna Shulman
  May Savage

PAGE 14
The Shofar
Shaare Tefila Congregation
301-593-3410

www.shaaretefila.org or info@shaaretefila.org

Rabbi Jonah Layman
Rabbi Emeritus Martin S. Halpern, z”l
Cantor Emeritus Gershon E. Levin, z”l
President Stuart Carroll
Executive Director Jill Goldwater
Education Director Aviva Janus
Preschool Director Beth Adler
Youth & Family Programs Coordinator Missy Mandell
Shofar Editor Sara Miller