AS I MENTIONED IN MY SERMON ON KOL NIDRE, WE NEED TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE. AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS BECOME MORE POLARIZED. THERE IS A LACK OF CIVIL DISCOURSE, AS THE EULOGIZERS AT SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN’S FUNERAL POINTED OUT, AND MANY SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES ARE BEING THREATENED.

NO MATTER OUR POLITICAL STANCE ON THESE ISSUES – AND THERE ARE REASONED APPROACHES ON ALL THESE ISSUES FROM ALL SIDES – WE HAVE TO AGREE THAT WE NEED TO RESPOND TO GUN VIOLENCE; WE NEED TO RESPOND TO THE POLICY OF SEPARATING CHILDREN FROM PARENTS WHO ATTEMPT TO ENTER OUR COUNTRY; WE NEED TO RESPOND TO POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS; WE NEED TO RESPOND TO ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES, ALONG WITH A WHOLE HOST OF OTHER ISSUES.

THE TORAH TEACHES THAT WE NEED TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE PLIGHT OF THE STRANGER BECAUSE WE WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. THE TORAH TEACHES THAT JUSTICE IS BLIND AND THAT WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE TREATED EQUALLY UNDER THE LAW. THE TORAH TEACHES THAT WE ARE CREATED IN GOD’S IMAGE, AND SINCE ALL PEOPLE HAVE A SPARK OF THE DIVINE IN THEM, WE NEED TO TREAT EVERYONE ACCORDINGLY.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IS A BASIC JEWISH CONCEPT AND AS SUCH WE AS A CONGREGATION NEED TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON IT. AS WE SET OUR COURSE AS A SHUL FOR THE NEXT Several YEARS, I BELIEVE THAT A ROBUST SOCIAL ACTION AGENDA WILL HELP PROPEL US INTO THE FUTURE. WE DESIRE TO BE IN MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND BY PURSUING A COURSE OF ACTION THAT EDUCATES US ABOUT THE ISSUES AND PROVIDES HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, WE AID IN THAT PROCESS. WHEN WE COME TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER AND HEAR ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE, WE WILL GAIN RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER. WHEN WE COME TOGETHER TO DO A MITZVAH PROJECT, WE WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY ONE ANOTHER AS WE GIVE OF OURSELVES TO HELP.

THANKS TO LISA HEDGEPETH AND OUR SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR PURSUING THIS IMPORTANT AND ROBUST AGENDA. HOPESBY BECOMING INVOLVED WE WILL GROW IN OUR IDENTITY, AND WE WILL GAIN A SENSE OF PURPOSE, THUS BECOMING ENRICHED AND EMBOLDENED.

B’vracha – with blessings.
Rabbi Jonah Layman
I remember my father explaining to a non-Jewish friend of mine why it was not so unusual for the Jewish New Year to come at the beginning of the seventh month. He explained that there were different seasons for different purposes. There is, for example, the start of the opera season which typically begins in the fall. There is baseball season which starts in the spring, etc.

September is the season of new beginnings, as I mentioned last month. But, it is now October and Rosh Hashanah is behind us and the new year lies ahead. This year need not be the same old, same old. I challenged each of you on Kol Nidre to try something new, make a new connection to Shaare Tefila. Maybe it will lead to a new life or maybe not, but I guarantee you will take something worthwhile from it.

You have a myriad of choices. Some examples are:

♦ The Rabbi is teaching a class on Conservative Judaism and Contemporary Issues from a Jewish perspective. Class meets the first Wednesday of every month from October to June from 7:45 pm to 9 pm and will be using “Modern Conservative Judaism: Evolving Thought and Practice” by Elliot N. Dorff. Connect to new ideas. Connect to Conservative Judaism. Connect to other congregants whom you may not know.

♦ Sunday, October 7 at 12:30 pm, Shaare Tefila will have a showing of the movie “Life Is Rich” -- a real life comedy about Bonnie Rich, a local filmmaker and Jewish mom on a mission -- to persuade her millennial daughters to raise her unborn grandchildren Jewish. Watch the movie. Meet the filmmaker. Mingle with others and participate in discussions with the filmmaker.

♦ Sundown is a beautiful time of day. Try the “Havdalah Experience” on November 17 and/or January 12.

Join a social action event – or suggest one. Just speak to Lisa Hedgepeth at lisachedge@gmail.com

The point is: Resolve to do something new with your Judaism and your membership (or prospective membership) to Shaare Tefila. CONNECT

In his Shofar article last month Rabbi Layman reminded us that:

“One aspect of the Jewish New Year is the hope we have that the New Year will be one of peace and blessing...We can’t just pray, sit back and expect God to do this [create a peaceful world] for us. We must partner with God and do our utmost to make the world a better place.”

These words are a reminder that we are all responsible, by our actions, to create a world of peace and blessing for others as well as ourselves. One of the goals for our formal and informal education programs is to support our members in their journey leading to that ideal.

Friends came together in the Winer Family Gallery on September 9 for a meet the artist event with our own Vivenne Auerbach, enjoying a nosh from Cafe Shaare Tefila while they looked at her beautiful creations. Of course, the community also came together to celebrate the High Holidays.

October is truly the beginning of the program year here at Shaare Tefila. The first Shabbat of the month on the 5th offers a ‘Mini-Minyan’ Kabbalat Shabbat experience for our youngest members. On the 7th, the first Bonim/Machar (K-5th grade) event of the year, welcome back games & cupcake decorating fun will be held after Chavaya ends. We will have a Social Action program that same afternoon. Our T.G.I. Shabbat Dinners begin again on November 2. Be sure to join us and take some time to turn your Friday night into an evening of spiritual happiness, with good friends, conversation & food! Skype Hebrew tutoring will begin for 3rd-7th grade students the week of October 14. Rabbi Jonah and Lenore Layman invite new members to their home on the 21st, and the first Family & Tot Shabbat morning of the year will be on the 27th.

Looking forward to seeing you at one or many of our programs!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Shemini Atzeret Services
Sunday, September 30: 6:00 pm
Monday, October 1: 9:00 am with Yizkor Service

Simchat Torah Services
Monday, October 1: 6:00 pm
Tuesday, October 2: 9:00 am
Tuesday, October 2: No Evening Service
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CONTRIBUTOR: LISA HEDGEPETH

Our Social Action Committee has joined with the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) and several other local synagogues to form a coalition partnership on social justice issues. As a team, we will have a greater impact on the causes that we are committed to. Look for announcements and events from our committee and please join us. Matters of social justice are everyone’s issues.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Shaare Tefila is proud to present:

LIFE IS RICH, a real-life comedy about Bonnie Rich, a local filmmaker and Jewish mom on a mission—to persuade her millennial daughters to raise her unborn grandchildren Jewish.

While her daughters see little need for Jewish ritual that doesn’t involve food, Bonnie wants them to see Judaism as more than matzo ball soup. So she lures her daughters into Jewish sing-alongs and drags them to meet with rabbis. As Bonnie pushes and her daughters resist, she re-thinks her own relationship with Judaism and wonders if she can wake up her own Jewish soul.

Sunday, October 7, 12:30 pm at Shaare Tefila

Screening followed by a Q & A with filmmaker Bonnie Rich.

Purchase tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/life-is-rich-film-screening-with-director-q-a-tickets-49306549216 (also available at the door) - $10 per person.

Questions? Email Lisa Hedgepeth lisachedge@gmail.com

Welcoming the Stranger: Jewish Values, Immigration, and Refugees (recommended by the Social Action Committee)

When: Oct 18, 2018 • 7:00 pm

Where: Sixth and I Historic Synagogue; For details click here

Jewish text often reminds us of our ancestors’ history as refugees and wandering immigrants, commanding us to love the stranger (36 times, to be exact). But what does welcoming the stranger actually mean in today’s complicated political climate?

On the day before National Refugee Shabbat, explore with Rabbi Jesse what Jewish values and traditions say about our obligation to stand up for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants,

MEN’S CLUB

MIME BINDER, PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Men’s Club!

The Men's Club is looking for new leaders to help develop and organize enticing well rounded programs during the next year! This is an opportunity to step up and become involved - and have a lot of fun doing it!

This year we are planning these events - with the help of current and new members:

♦ Discount days at Olney Theater
♦ Building the large Shaare Tefila Sukkah
♦ Happy Hours in conjunction with selected Friday night services
♦ Assistance to Sisterhood and other Shul group events
♦ Participation (as reigning and defending champs -several years in a row) in Seaboard Region "It’s Academic" competition
♦ Nomination of the Blue Yarmulke Man of the Year and active participation in the Awards Dinner Dance
♦ Community Service events
♦ The return of Men's Club Shabbat
♦ Fall and Spring Softball leagues
♦ Winter Basketball league
♦ Passover Wine Sale and Wine Tasting
♦ Swing, Sinatra, Broadway and Classic Rock and Roll Fundraiser Dance

Please contact me about membership, leadership positions and participation in these planned events!
mjbinder@comcast.net
Be sure to sign up for directory photos:
Ever have trouble putting a name with a face, or vice versa? We will be publishing an updated membership directory this fall and need your photo in there. The directory is a tremendously useful tool when it comes to knowing who your fellow congregants are. There is no obligation to purchase any photos, but they are available if you choose to do so. You’ll have the opportunity to have your photo taken this coming October and can sign up here or contact Adriana Sandler at sandleraa@gmail.com - 301-871-1164
Everyone is looking forward to seeing you in the new membership directory.

MOURNER’S KADDISH
CONTRIBUTOR: SAUL COHEN

Kaddish, also known as the "Mourner's Prayer," is said in honor of the deceased. This prayer focuses on life, promise and honor of family and individuals. Kaddish has been said for nearly 2,000 years to honor and commemorate parents and loved ones who have passed away. It must be said in a quorum of 10, called a Minyan. Reciting the Mourner's Kaddish is one of Judaism’s greatest mitzvahs, a true act of kindness. Helping to make a Minyan for those wanting to recite Kaddish is also a mitzvah. It is a fundamental tradition and a beautiful prayer. Traditionally, the Kaddish is said daily for 11 months after the passing of a parent, and again on the Yahrzeit, the anniversary of the passing of a loved one.

Kaddish is known almost universally by Jewish people, whether observant or not. We notice even people who are sitting during the mourners’ Kaddish are often mouthing the words.

Last month I wrote about our Minyans, the obligation to say Kaddish, how our community is organized to support its members who are saying the prayer, and how our Minyan captains, who are volunteers, facilitate the process.

I have sent the Minyan captains a survey to describe their own teams and to elicit their opinions on how to achieve a Minyan each evening. Our captains will meet after Sukkot to discuss the survey results and how to proceed. In the meantime, here are a few suggestions that you can do to help out.

❖ If you are attending a program, class or a meeting in the building, please arrive early and attend the 7:30 pm Minyan. The service should last no longer than 15 minutes.
❖ If you know you will be saying Kaddish, contact the Minyan captain ahead of time so that he/she can ensure a Minyan. You can either call the office or read the weekly online Shabbat Sheet to find the captain’s contact information.
❖ You can commit to coming to help make a Minyan at least once or twice during the week it’s your team’s turn.
❖ If you live within the immediate area of Shaare Tefila and could be available when called, please add your name to our call list in case we may need you. You can contact me (saulsher@verizon.net) or the Rabbi (rjlayman@shaaretefila.org) to add your contact information.

Shaare Tefila also has morning Minyan on Monday and Thursday at 8:00 am, 8:30 am on Sunday and federal holidays and 7:30 pm, Sunday through Thursday.

Lenore and I want to thank all of you for your kindness and sympathy as we continue to mourn the passing of Lenore’s father, Ephraim Leibowitz. Your support that has been expressed in so many ways has been so helpful and comforting. Thank you for your care and concern and we pray that his memory will always be a source of consolation.

With love,
Rabbi Jonah and Lenore Layman

Building The Shaare Tefila Sukkah
Michael Froehlich
Jay Hagler (not pictured)
Stan Kensky
Mel Kornspan
Joe Kraut
Howard Politzer
Alan Sandler

Thank you!
WOMEN’S ROSH CHODESH CIRCLE
LED BY: SUSAN RUBENSTEIN

Saturday mornings: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Shabbat, November 3
Rosh Codesh Kislev - Shabbat, December 1
Rosh Chodesh Tevet, Shabbat December 22
Rosh Chodesh Shevat - Shabbat January 12
Rosh Chodesh Adar - Shabbat February 16
Rosh Chodesh Adar II - Sunday, March 10
Rosh Chodesh Nisan - Shabbat, April 6
Rosh Chodesh Iyyar - Shabbat May 11
Rosh Chodesh Sivan, Shabbat June 22

ADULT LEARNING WITH RABBI LAYMAN
Prior RSVP requested but not required to rjlayman@shaaretefila.org

Ongoing classes: New participants always welcome!

Friday mornings – 9:30-10:30 – Torah Class
What does the Torah teach us? What do the traditional commentaries add to our understanding? How are the Five Books of Moses relevant to our lives today? These questions and more are explored as we delve into the text in the English translation.

Sunday mornings – 9:30-10:30 – Talmud class
“Two people grab a garment; one says, ‘it’s mine’ and the other says, ‘it’s mine.’ Join our Talmud class as we explore this section of the Talmud and learn how the rabbis 1500 years ago made Jewish law and practice meaningful and contemporary.

Sunday mornings – 10:30-11:30 – Intermediate Hebrew
Do you know how to read Hebrew? Would you like to practice to become a more fluent reader? Join this class as we use the prayerbook as our text. Not only will we practice reading Hebrew, but we’ll also explore the origin and meaning of the liturgy.

First Wednesday with the Rabbi – 7:45 pm-9:00 pm
Join Rabbi Layman on the first Wednesday evening of the month as we explore contemporary issues from a Jewish perspective. The focus of this first year of the class (October through June) will be the newly published book, Modern Conservative Judaism: Evolving Thought and Practice, by Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff. Why are we affiliated with Shaare Tefila? What does it mean to be a Conservative Jew? How can Jewish thought influence our lives today? These questions and more will be explored. If you can’t make this class you can watch on YouTube.
Through October 28, the Winer Family Gallery presents *The Art of Fabric*, an exhibit of hand-made quilts and aprons created by synagogue member Vivienne Auerbach. Vivienne and her family have been members of Shaare Tefila for more than 30 years. In addition to art, Vivienne enjoys cooking and is part of the team that plans and prepare the shul’s Shabbat dinners.

Vivienne has always been interested in art, starting with drawings and paintings. Learning to sew opened a whole new medium for her by allowing her to create art with fabric. Her favorite style is using patchwork and quilting emphasizing color and printed fabric. She uses a mixture of traditional patterns and squares, in addition to her own patterns and color choices. You see her work each time you are in the sanctuary. She made the curtains on the lectern and bima stands. Now you can take home a piece of Vivienne’s fabric artwork. All work is for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits Shaare Tefila.

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**CHESED COMMITTEE**  
**CONTRIBUTOR: ADRIANA SANDLER**

**Need a ride?**  
Contact  
**Betty Balin** 301-622-4354 or  
**Bernice Goldstein** 301-384-1024

**Need a meal?**  
Contact  
**Ethel Levine** 301-593-7041 or  
**Joyce Feinstein** 240-428-1329

**Need support?**  
Contact **Rabbi Layman** 301-593-3410 X102

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**A NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY - COMING SOON**  
**CONTRIBUTOR: ADRIANA SANDLER**  
SANDLERAA@GMAIL.COM

**WE NEED YOU TO MAKE OUR 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP PHOTO DIRECTORY COMPLETE!**

A professional photographer of Lifetouch will be at Shaare Tefila on the following dates: Sunday, October 7 through Wednesday, October 10  
Sunday, October 14 through Wednesday October 17.

(day and evening appointments are available)

**To schedule your appointment (or if you need a ride):**

1. Click on the link: [https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yer3h8m2/](https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yer3h8m2/)
2. Contact Adriana Sandler  
sandleraa@gmail.com - 301-871-1164

**Remember:**

1. Pictures will be taken at Shaare Tefila.
2. No cost for a photo session, and you will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait.
3. The more members that sign up for a photo session, the more names we will be able to put to faces.
4. There will be no cost to any one of us for the directories due to the generous support of sponsors.
5. A no-obligation opportunity to purchase additional photos.
6. Discounts for military and seniors
7. New directory size: a handy smaller format: 8.5 x 5.5

Please contact Adriana if you plan to be out of town or are not able to come in for a portrait session.

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**Bag & Aprons**  
by  
Vivienne Auerbach
The Shofar

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

FROM: SUSAN RUBENSTEIN

We have recently stepped into our New Year, perhaps with a new commitment of becoming more mindful and present each day in our interactions, in our words and deeds. Yet even with placing attention behind this intention, our Sages knew how hard it is to do, because “We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are.” (Rabbi Shemuel ben Nachmani, in the Talmudic tractate Berakhot (55b.) Israel Meir Kagan, aka, “The Chofetz Chaim,” an influential 19th century Rabbi in the Mussar* tradition, tells a story that beautifully illustrates our challenge. A man visiting another town goes to the local shul on Shabbat, where everything was just as one might expect – until atypical things started happening. Well-dressed obviously wealthy men were seated at the front, but all the honors were given to a bunch of scruffy men in ill-fitting garments clustered together at the back. When it was time for the Rabbi to give his D’var Torah, all he spoke about was the weather. After prayers were finished, a lovely Kiddush was laid out but nobody ate.

The visitor was baffled by all of it, and wondered what kind of kooky place was this? Was everyone crazy? He asked one of the locals, “What’s going on here? The men who got the honors, the Rabbi’s talk, the food uneaten - none of it makes sense.” The man explained, “Those unkempt looking men had been unjustly imprisoned and the community worked very long and hard to pay their ransom. How wonderful it is that they are now free to come bless the Torah! The Rabbi spoke only about the weather because of our recent drought and knew the farmers had nothing more pressing on their minds but their crops; he knew this and cares about their concerns. As for Kiddush, once a month our community prepares its usual lunch but instead of eating it we donate it to the local home for the elderly. I can see how it might have looked to you, but when you see only part of a picture, it’s very easy to put together the wrong impression of what’s going on.”

How often are we culpable in this manner and do not even know that we have already made faulty judgments based on our limited personal experience, so that we are blind to what actually Is in the moment? Or pre-judge and dismiss another, based on what we have brought into the interaction?

The path to the New Year is a time of reflection and introspection, but the measure of our character is how keenly we pay attention to our intentions in the present moment each day, in each interaction.

*Mussar is a Jewish spiritual practice that gives concrete instructions on how to live a meaningful and ethical life, based on the idea that by cultivating inner virtues and working on balancing our character traits, we improve ourselves to become holy and do our part for tikkan olam.

Susan facilitates the monthly Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle Discussion Group. She is an ongoing student of Kaballah and Mussar, and loves to share her enthusiasm for both of these spiritual traditions. She wants to thank Alan Morinis for this teaching. She was honored to learn from him this summer through The Mussar Institute.

ANNOUNCING THE SHAARE TEFILA TV CHANNEL! “STTV”

CONTRIBUTOR: IRA KOLMAISTER, STTV COMMITTEE CHAIR

You may have noticed the poster as you enter the main sanctuary describing the Shaare Tefila video streaming service that was implemented last month.

The video channel provides the ability to view services in the main sanctuary, in real time. To access our channel, simply go to the ShaareTefila.org webpage and choose “Streaming Service” from the top of the page. A new page will open with the live video of the service.

There are so many reasons why this is becoming increasingly important. The fact of the matter is that this channel allows us to share services with those that can’t participate “in person,” but still want the ability to be enriched by seeing and hearing the prayers, the singing and sermon. Our congregation has been known for its inclusive and “haimisha” culture. The ability to reach-out to those unable to attend because of illness, infirmity or distance is just an extension of our inclusive culture. I believe that if we can lift one person’s spirit by giving him or her the ability to virtually attend Shaare Tefila services, it is a true mitzvah.

The camera has the added ability to zoom around the room allowing us to broadcast other events like Purim spiels, meetings, social events or any other occasion we would want to share. Of course, during prayer services, the camera is only focused on the Bima and the Hazen’s lectern. If you want to see the exact view of the camera, there is a still photo of the view on a wall poster before you enter the sanctuary.

Additionally, the ability to broadcast, and in some cases record, adds value to Shaare Tefila when we choose to rent out the sanctuary. Certainly, when a family or organization is looking to rent a shul, having broadcast capabilities could tip-the-scale.

This has been a long project with many twists. I first suggested the idea of broadcasting the service to the Rabbi when we were in the old building on Lockwood. After much time and many hours of research, planning and debate, the Shaare Tefila TV channel is now live!

Thank you Rabbi Layman, President Judy Bresler, past President, and the Religious Committee for your support and to the Shaare Tefila TV Committee for all of their time and effort to make this a reality: Jeff Winkler, Ken Libby, Ira Levine and Andy Sandberg. Also, thank you to Hy Grosberg who came after work to help us mount the camera on the wall.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me: valira@shul.st.
As we start a new year, we arrive at a season of introspection. As school staff at Gates of Discovery: The Rose and George Teller Preschool of Shaare Tefila, we have made a conscious decision to pause and reflect on our school journey so far and take some time to find the best path forward.

Reflection is a Jewish act, a human act, involving both the mind and the spirit. Leaving adequate time and space to reexamine, contextualize and process what we have experienced is one key to living a truly full life. Look back. Look ahead. Laugh, cry, ponder. Take chances.

We started this process with discussions about our Jewish values. Rabbi Layman came and spoke with us, starting our dialogue and sparking even more questions. Some of the questions we have been exploring include:

- What does it mean to us to be a Jewish preschool?
- What does it mean to be a preschool within a synagogue?
- What is our connection to the greater community?
- Why is diversity a value for our system?
- How are our Jewish values visible in our school?
- What do we want the children to leave our school understanding/knowing/feeling about Judaism?

As we explore these questions, we consider our practice to date and where it lives up to our values and where there is room for improvement. One concept that continues to arise is that of community and the idea that we are all responsible for each other. I think we all agree with this concept, but do we always put it into practice? When we have a relationship, do we think that we are all responsible for each other, or do we criticize that person behind his/her back? When one of us is going through a difficult time, do we stand with that person or distance ourselves? We believe that relationships are foundational to education. To truly learn something, you have to take risks. To be willing to take those risks, you need to be in a supportive environment where you feel safe. What does that look like for not only our children, but our families and our teachers?

Last month I wrote about how we re-structured our holiday celebrations. Now we are beginning to apply the same level of intention to the other aspects of our school’s Jewish identity. Through these discussions, we enhance not only the education we provide, but also our understanding of ourselves.

Our Photos

The conclusion of this Rosh Hashanah has me thinking about “new beginnings” in particular. Personally, I started as your Education Director on August 1st, but was then offered an expanded role as your Director of Education & Programming, all before September 1st. Our Chavaya program was held for the first time this year on September 9th, bringing the ruach/spirit of our children back into the community after a quiet summer; every classroom was filled with happy faces, engaged in learning about Rosh Hashanah and what it means to be part of a Kehilah Kedoshah/sacred community.

Our Photos

Dancing @ Shabbat Sing

Celebrating “Taam shel Shabbat” (Taste of Shabbat)
The Shofar

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

TOT SHABBAT
Led by: Mara Lansky
WHO: Young Children & Families
WHAT: Morning Shabbat Program
WHEN: Shabbat, 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM
October 27  February 23
December 15  May 18

GAN KATAN PLAYGROUP
Led by: Mara Lansky
WHO: Children preschool age and their parents
WHAT: Play, story time, crafts and snack - Free
WHEN: Sundays, 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM
RSVP to Cilla Grosberg: drgmrs@aol.com

October 14  January 6  April 14
November 11  February 10
December 9  March 10

MINI MINYAN
Led by Mara Lansky & Babette Cohn
WHAT:
Early Shabbat dinner, prayers, songs with ruach!
Fee: $5 per person; $18 per family max.
Menu: Mac & Cheese, Pasta/steamed veggies, applesauce, cookies
WHEN: Fridays 5:45 PM - 6:45 PM
WHO: Ages 0-7 and their adults

October 5  March 29  May 10
RSVP on ChaverWeb or contact Babette - bcohn@shaaretefila.org
Contact Babette Cohn for more information bcohn@shaaretefila.org

SPECIAL SHABBAT PROGRAMS
Questions? Contact Babette Cohn bcohn@shaaretefila.org - 301-593-3410 X 103

SHABBAT SHIRA WITH HAZZAN ADINA
REGULAR SERVICE WITH RABBI LAYMAN

*****A SINGING MINYAN*****
October 20  December 1  March 9  June 1

SHABBAT LIMUD WITH RABBI LAYMAN
REGULAR SERVICE WITH HAZZAN ADINA

*****LEARN THE MEANING OF THE PRAYERS*****
November 11  January 5  March 30

FAMILY SERVICE WITH RABBI LAYMAN, HAZZAN ADINA AND CHAVAYA STUDENTS

October 27  December 15  February 23  May 18

*****TOT SHABBAT WILL MEET ON EACH OF THESE DATES*****

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
October - November

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER
October 3 - Rabbi Layman’s class - Jewish Perspective on Contemporary Issues
October 7 - Start of Members’ Appointments for photos
“Life is Rich” movie with Social Action Committee
Flu Shots with Rite Aide
October 22 - Sisterhood Paid Up Membership Dinner

NOVEMBER
November 2 - Shabbat Dinner IHO veterans
November 17 - Havdalah Experience
WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH OUR LITTLEST MEMBERS?
CONTRIBUTOR: MARA LANSKY

Our first Gan Katan Preschool Sunday Class was held right before Rosh Hashanah! We now have our own classroom in the Chavaya Religious school on the lower level.

Our class began with singing, dancing, stories and tzedakah. We celebrated with a High Holiday theme!

The Gan Kataners enjoyed crafting decorations for High Holiday dinners and sukkahs. There were many supplies to choose from. Not a single artistic creation looked like another! The children made chicken soup in the pretend kitchen, "drove" little trains to visit loved ones and played with holiday puzzles.

We finished class holding the shofar, practicing the different blasts and hearing Morah Mara blow her shofar. It was really loud!

If you have a little one who’d like to join us, email Cilla Grosberg at drgmrs@aol.com.

Our next session will be on October 14. Come join us!
DONATE A BOOK 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

SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING
JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT
Concert Featuring
Seth Kibel & Vladimir Fridman
“Spanning the Globe: Music from Around the World”
When: Thursday, October 4, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
RSVP by September 27 to JCC 301-348-3809
Cost $8, $10 at door
Light refreshments will be served following the concert
********
For information about many other COA activities that take place at Leisure World and at the Bender JCC call 301-348-3832 to sign up for the mailing list. Enjoy movies, excursions and more.

COME CELEBRATE YOUR OCTOBER BIRTHDAY
AT SHABBAT KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES
OCTOBER 27
Recognize a person or event in your life or remember a loved one.
Donate to the Enhanced Kiddush, “CHALLAH & SCHMEAR” TODAY
CONTACT SARA IN THE OFFICE  SMILLER@SHAARETEFILA.ORG

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesday, October 10 at 10:00 am
Al Kliman will discuss
“THE BEDOUIN OF ISRAEL”
All Men Are Invited

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:
Stuart Carroll, Membership VP
membership@shaaretefila.org
Jill Goldwater, Executive Director
jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 101

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Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah History

Shemini Atzeret is mentioned in the Bible, but its exact function is unclear. In Second Temple times, it appears to have been a day devoted to the ritual cleansing of the altar in the Temple. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, this function of the day became obsolete. Although it marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore includes the year's first prayer for rain, its lack of clear definition may have provided the impetus to celebrate it in conjunction with Simchat Torah, a celebration of the conclusion of one and the beginning of another annual cycle of readings from the Torah. This latter holiday probably originated during the medieval period.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah At Home

Unlike many other holidays, the observance of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are centered in the synagogue and community. On Shemini Atzeret, some still eat in the sukkah (the traditional hut associated with the festival of Sukkot), but in contrast to Sukkot no blessings are associated with that activity.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah in the Community

Beginning on Shemini Atzeret and lasting until Pesach (Passover), a short prayer for rain is inserted into the second blessing of the Amidah Prayer. It is traditional to include the Yizkor, or memorial service, as part of the liturgy for this day. Simchat Torah is characterized by joyful dancing with the Torah. The final portion of the Book of Deuteronomy is read in the synagogue followed by the beginning of the Book of Genesis. In this manner, the annual cycle of Torah readings continues unbroken.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Theology and Themes

While Shemini Atzeret’s significance is somewhat unclear, Simchat Torah conveys a clear message about the centrality of Torah in Jewish life. It is both a source of Jewish identity and a precious gift from God. Simchat Torah is the day on which the whole community gathers to come into direct contact with the Torah and to express our joy in having received it.

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