FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY
RABBI JONAH LAYMAN
CHANUKAH AND PITTSBURGH

Usually the holiday of Chanukah is such a joyous and festive occasion. We gather with family, we watch the children play games and excitedly open gifts and we enjoy the latkes and other holiday treats. It’s one time of the year that we can just celebrate and have fun.

Yet this year the holiday will be observed just over a month after the horrific and tragic murder of our fellow Jews in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. We were stunned and angered that the climate of hate in this country, which has NOT been condemned by our political leadership, led that man to feel emboldened to walk into a synagogue, yell “all Jews must die” and commit his heinous and vile crime.

Though we are comforted by the overwhelming show of support and love from our non-Jewish neighbors, we are still outraged that such a crime could have been committed in our precious American home.

Chanukah commemorates the miraculous victory of the Maccabees over the evil Greek empirical forces. The Syrian-Greek provincial leader, Antiochus, had enacted laws prohibiting the observance of any form of Jewish practice and he had transformed the Temple in Jerusalem into a house of idolatry. Matthias and his 5 sons, the Maccabees, led a revolt that after four years resulted in a victory. They cleaned out the Temple, reinstituted the sacrificial service and lit the menorah that lasted 8 days with the oil from one small jar they had found.

This message of religious freedom and the passion to fight for our rights should inspire us this year. October 27, the 18th of Cheshvan in the Jewish calendar, will always be remembered and observed as the worst anti-Semitic act of violence ever perpetrated in the US. But since Chanukah is only five weeks later, that should inspire us to act appropriately. Tragically we cannot take our religious freedom and our security for granted. We cannot assume that we will always be free to express our faith openly. We must always be diligent, and we must always stand up for our rights and the rights of all other minorities in America. We grew up reciting the pledge of allegiance every day in school, and we must ensure that America will always be a land of “liberty and justice for all.”

Wishes for a meaningful and Happy Chanukah,
Rabbi Jonah Layman
Some may be thinking that Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, has come early this year, but I think this year it could not come early enough. We are in desperate need of light, literally and figuratively.

Maybe it’s the fact that I now wake up in the dark and leave work in the dark, as the winter solstice approaches and the northern hemisphere tips further away from the sun. Maybe it is the increasingly negative way we, Americans, view each other, with sometimes deadly results. This national darkness is sometimes referred to in the media as polarization, “a tendency to be located close to one of the opposite ends of a continuum,” as we tip away from the center and each other.

Israel, the nation, and Israel, the people, are supposed to be a light to the nations of the world.

Rabbi David Wolpe, named the most influential rabbi in America by Newsweek Magazine and one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world by the Jerusalem Post, is reported to have said to his congregation at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, the “city of angels,” “We don’t sufficiently think about the fact that because the idea is that you’re supposed to be an or lagoim, that is, a light to the nations, that you can’t do it if you never do anything among the nations. If you only have your light on at home, nobody else sees it.”

For better or for worse, the nations of the world look to the United States so, in that way, we are lucky because lights that shine here have the capacity to shine among other nations as well as here in America.

When you light the candles this Chanukah, think about ways to positively engage in our world, to bring more light into the darkness. Become a member of Shaare Tefila’s Social Action Committee (contact Lisa Hedgepeth frankie615@aol.com), attend a Social Action event (such as The Daryl Davis talk this month or the MLK Day of Service in January), help feed the hungry, aid the indigent, and/or just be unfailingly kind to the stranger as well as the friend (easier than it sounds, I think).

Engage in our community here at Shaare Tefila and in the world community. We are in desperate need of light.

Chag sameach

So much has happened in our Jewish community since my last column. The devastation at the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha synagogue in Pittsburgh has the American Jewish community reeling from the shock of violent anti-Semitism. According to data released by the FBI on November 13th, hate crimes in 2017 against Jews rose by a third from 2016, for a total of 938 incidents during that period.

What can we do in our Olney, MD community? We can come together and show the love and respect we have for others publicly. The gathering at B’nai Shalom of Olney on October 30th, where Rabbis Layman and Rosenberg led a service of solidarity, was a beautiful example of the phrase “Hate Has No Home Here.”

We have now entered the month of Kislev. Chanukah, which begins at sundown on the 24th of Kislev, has amongst its many themes the idea of light in the darkness. The parsha/Torah portion read on the second Shabbat of Kislev, Vayeitzai, is about Jacob’s awakening to God’s presence,

“Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely Adonai is present in this place, and I did not know it!’ Shaken, he said, ‘How awesome is this place! There is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven’” - Bereshit/Genesis 28:15-16

Our community Chanukah celebration this year will be on the 9th when we gather for a family concert with Shaare Tefila member Barry Louis Polisar, followed by a party and Chanukah sing-a-long with Hazzan Adina. Tickets are available now on our ChaverWeb registration page. Community participants are welcome and will see a link to create a guest account to register, so invite your friends!

The next Family Shabbat and Tot Shabbat service will be on December 15th. Once again, children will prepare during their Chavaya session ahead of time to help lead prayers for the congregation. I look forward to seeing more of our families that morning!

Just as Jacob found the spirit of God at Bethel, we can tune into the spirit around us and share that with our children. We can all be the human light in the darkness this holiday season. If we model these examples, taking advantage of the spirit of Shabbat, as well as participating in our community gatherings for Chanukah and beyond, we will offer our children and others a place to feel safe and understand that “Hate Has No Home Here.” Ken Yehi Ratzon, May it Be So.
SHABBAT, DECEMBER 22, 2018

JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AND SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER HIDAYAT

Officer Hidayat will train us in CRASS (Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Situation).
This 40 minute session will help us become more aware of our surroundings and how we can best act in an event involving a shooter or other such type of situation. This training is geared specifically towards Shaare Tefila members and facility.

THE ROSE AND GEORGE TELLER PRESCHOOL
ZUMBA CLASS

Mondays, 6-6:45 pm, beginning December 3
In the Shaare Tefila Social Hall
Fee: $10 per class or $50 for 6 classes
Benefits the preschool!

A MESSAGE FROM ETHEL LEVINE

Many thanks to the Shaare Tefila Community for its generous donations of toiletries, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergents, random paper goods and dinner ware, and the like.
This year, the Rainbow Shelter in Rockville was able to receive about 175 pounds of these items, and was most grateful for the delivery. Nancy, the manager of the Shelter, was thrilled, and announced that the women who inhabit the Shelter will be delighted to be using the donated items throughout much of the winter, making excellent use of all of the donated items.
We are well aware that many hotels are trying to economize these days, and are using fewer small sample-sized toiletries, finding other delivery methods instead. However, during the upcoming year, if the opportunity avails itself as you travel for business or pleasure, please think of future Shaare Tefila toiletry drives. Your kindness will always be most appreciated!

THANK YOU!

A MESSAGE FROM RALPH SHAPIRO

Dear Members,
I used my knowledge composing my Jewish history book, “Jewish History: 4000 Years of Accomplishment, Agony, and Survival,” to create a series of fifty-two post-Biblical period questions and answers. If you would like to test and expand your knowledge of Jewish history, please send your request for the fifty-two Qs & As to me at rshapirox2@aol.com and I will send you a complete set.

Olney Help continues to acknowledge donations by Shaare Tefila membership to its organization. It has been able to expand its support in the Olney Community as need of assistance has increased.

KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!
Next time you visit the shul, please bring food items to donate and place them in the baskets under the bench in the Williamowsky Foyer.
Our thanks to all who donated to our Yom Kippur Appeal this year. It was a great success!

Up to $99
Daniel & Jackie Benn
Robert & Rhoda Chanin
Michael Cohen & Sarah Nachlas Cohen
Rhona Eisen
Ted & Elizabeth Fischer
Steven Franklin
Sylvia Glaser
Myron & Bernice Goldstein
Martin & Ruth Gutstein
Stephanie Hesse
Iris Hyman
Paul & Lenore Kelner
Bettyann Lansky
Deborah Letow
Joe & Andi Manchester
Shelly & Karen Radnor
Myron & Judy Sagall
Elaine Schenberg
Oscar & Susan Schwartz
Ralph Shapiro
Helen Solomon
Paul & Sheryl Tilles
Annette Tobin
Eileen Weinstock
Allen & Mary Wright

$100 - $249
Larry & Ellie Alpert
Perry & Stephanie Buckberg
Saul & Sherry Cohen
Seth Cohen
Joe & Amy Federman
Jay & Joyce Feinstein
Andrew Feldmann & Sharon Bender
Audrey Frank
Monica Friedman
Michael & Anita Froehlich
Michael & Marlene Goodman
Audrey Haber
Jay & Rita Hagler
Barry & Sandra Handloff
Lee & Lisa Hedgepeth
Donald & Carol Helfer
Yoshido & Miriam Ito
Dennis & Sharon Kaye
Bernice Kisluk
Ricardo & Marianne Kleiner
Ira & Valerie Kolmaister
Melvin & Sandra Kornspan
Eric & Diane Kramer
Joe Kraut & Rhea Siers
Gilda Kuritzky
Ken & Karen Lefler
Karen Leighton
Gary & Stacy Levine
Ken Libby & Joslyn Wolfe
Sigmund & Shirley Liberman
Liane Lunden
David Mendick & Naomi Yadin-Mendick
Harold & Reva Norkin
Harvey & Judith Peritt
Lanny & Cathy Plotkin
Art Podolsky
Shelley Rochester
Betty Rosenthal
Rita Rubinstein
Howard & Judith Rumerman
Bradley & Joy Salzman
May Savage
Sidney & Sue Schwartz
Charlotte Shapiro
Harold & Elaine Stein
William Sumner & Nora Helfgott
Zelick & Carol Waganheim
Alan & Beverly Weinstein
Ben & Elissa Wolf

$250 - $499
Barbara Fink
Joel & Dian Friedman
George & Marilyn Kessler
Albert Kliman
Marvin Kruger
David & Lee Ronis
Jared & Daniela Smith

$500 - $999
Michael & Susan Binder
Stuart & Judy Carroll
Hal & Stephanie Epstein
Frances Futrovsky
Manny Ginsburg
Philip Goldman
Gershon & Diane Kieval
Ira & Ethel Levine
Michael & Stefanie Levy
Daniel & Susan Marder
Shawn & Heather Miller
Gary & Betsy Morgenstern
David & Florence Polinsky
Maurice & Charlotte Potosky
Elaine Ross
Marvin & Diane Schneider
Jack & Bess Teller

$1000+
Michael Blicher & Emily Green-Blicher
Judy Bresler
David & Rhona Byer
Marilyn Cohen
Morton & Ina Goldstein
Eric & Kathleen Greenberg
Barbara Harkaway
Max Kantzer & Patricia Greene
Eric & Lori Marshall
Ruth Newhouse
Roy & Michele Peck
Jerry & Micheline Rosenthal
Perry Sandler
Peggy Slade
Shaare Tefila Proudly Presents
A Family Concert & Chanukah Celebration for All Ages!
Featuring
BARRY LOUIS POLISAR
Winner of Grammy, Emmy & Parents Choice Awards
Delicious Latke Bar and Other Refreshments Follow Concert

WHEN:
Sunday, December 9, 2018
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

WHERE:
Shaare Tefila
16620 Georgia Ave., Olney, MD 20832

TICKETS:

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REGISTER BY DECEMBER 5 AT bit.ly/2SPDuL4
Or Call Sara 301-593-3410 x104
EVENT GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GEORGE & MARILYN KESSLER
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EVENING MINYAN
CONTRIBUTOR: SAUL COHEN, RELIGIOUS VP

Daily minyanim (morning, afternoon and evening) are an important part of our synagogue affiliation. To review where we have been and where we are going, the Religious Committee conducted a survey of the minyan captains to assess our successes and identify where we can improve our operation to ensure a group of ten at every minyan.

In October, minyan captains met and developed several ideas to help ensure a minyan when mourners must say Kaddish. A few of the ideas we are exploring include:

- Conducting a workshop on how to lead the service along with posting a video/audio file on our website containing the musical tracks of the service;
- Creating a "super team" of members who can lead the service and assign them more evenly among the existing teams;
- Ensuring that all new members have an orientation to minyan and are assigned to a minyan team when they join the congregation.

Additional suggestions include:

- Identifying teammates who cannot attend due to health or mobility challenges;
- Rotating the minyan teams’ cycles so that teams do not serve the same weeks every year;
- Providing minyan captains with the names of members who have Yahrzeits during their week;
- Reviewing the minyan team lists every six months to assess which teams need additional support.

Once the captains submit their comments on these proposals, the Religious VP will initiate actions to increase attendance. We will meet again to review the operation of this program.

I want to thank those individuals who contacted me with their constructive suggestions. I ask our members again to consider helping in the following ways:

- 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 will find his/her email address in the minyan team reminder that is sent to you the week prior to your assigned week.
- You can commit to coming to help make a minyan at least once or twice during the week of 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 has morning minyan on Monday and Thursday at 8 am, and 8:45 am on Sunday and federal holidays; and 7:30 pm, Sunday through Thursday.

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
We are excited to be a part of several upcoming events at Shaare Tefila. On December 16, we will be kicking off our speaker series with Daryl Davis.

**Daryl Davis** is an African American blues musician. He has performed with Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King and Bill Clinton. He also has another “interest.” Over the last three decades, Davis has worked to improve race relations by seeking out, engaging in dialogue with, and befriending members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Since Davis started talking with Klan members, he says 200 Klansmen have given up their robes. He has collected many of these robes and kept them in his home as a reminder of the progress he has made combatting racism by simply sitting down and having dinner with people. What he does best is establish dialogue. “When two enemies are talking, they’re not fighting.” Davis is the subject of the 2016 documentary *Accidental Courtesy: Daryl Davis, Race & America*.

Save the date. RSVP on ChaverWeb.

The Social Action Committee and the Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium are extremely proud to be one of only 3 sites in Montgomery County to host an MLK Day of Service through Montgomery Volunteers. We have partnered with Leadership Montgomery and MedStar Montgomery Medical Center to provide a day of hands-on service activities, health screenings and information, performances and a collection of books, food and clothing for a variety of non-profits. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to the congregation to both staff the event and participate as volunteers. All hands on deck for Monday, January 21, 2019. Stay tuned.

**MEN’S CLUB**
**MICHAEL BINDER, MEN’S CLUB PRESIDENT**

**A CALL TO SERVICE**
Due to the recent extremely sorrowful events at the Tree of Life * Or L’Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh, the Shaare Tefila Men's Club has re-activated the “Extra Eyes/Greeters” at Shabbat services for at least the immediate foreseeable future. While the Men's Club is organizing this important service, we are depending upon all highly mobile and able-bodied men and women, who choose to participate, to be part of this service activity. The role is to greet members and guests, and to be highly perceptive of people or events that do not appear to be right. You would be looking for unfamiliar people who are wearing long or bulging coats or who are acting erratically as well as possible trucks that approach and park near the building. We absolutely do not want anyone to be in possible harm’s way. Just to be highly vigilant, ready to call first responders and alert the congregation to possible danger.

While requests for volunteers will be made weekly, you do not need an invitation to participate. A schedule will be established soon to better distribute participation.

**SOFBALL LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS**
Men’s Club routed the BSO Purple team in the FALLBALL softball league semi-finals, before losing to the BSO Blue team. Shaare Tefila made a good showing with only eight players against BSO's ten mostly younger players.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE GALA**
Men’s Club is partnering with Sisterhood and the Programming Committee to present a NEW YEAR’S EVE GALA! The Gala, presented as fund raiser - is designed to be FUN RAISER!!!

Featuring *Swing’N On A Star Band* - variety blend of all generation dance music with musical games and activities

Fancy Desserts
Snacks .... Soft Drink Bar .... Beer and Wine for sale by the glass .... Champagne Toast at Midnight

Cost: $40 each
When: Monday, December 31, 8:30 pm - 12:30 am

*Watch for promotional reminders and details about making reservations on-line or in the office.*

*Have a New Year's dinner of your choice - then come with friends and family for a night of fun!*
October 30, 2018

Rabbi Jonah Layman  
Shaare Tefila Congregation  
16620 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, Maryland 20832

Dear Rabbi Layman,

We wish to offer to you and to your Congregation the sincere condolences of the entire parish family of Saint Patrick Catholic Church following the horrendous acts of violence against the Jewish people and specifically aimed at the members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We were horrified to learn of the deadly event which took the lives of 11 congregants and which also wounded many others. It was even more frightening that this took place at a time of prayer and worship to the Holy One.

Please know of our prayers for all whose lives were lost and for those wounded in this attack. We also offer our prayers for you and for your Congregation, our neighbors, during this time of sadness and grief. Be assured that we at Saint Patrick Catholic Church stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters, the Chosen People, against any and every anti-Semitic sentiment and/or act of violence against our Jewish friends.

Please share our heartfelt thoughts with your Congregation and assure them that they are not alone – we stand together with you and with them.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Parry  
Pastor of Saint Patrick Catholic Church

[Signature]

The Reverend Nathanael Block  
In Residence

The Reverend Martino Choi  
Parochial Vicar
Through the end of 2018, Winer Family Gallery presents *The Colors of Water*, an exhibit of photographs by *Howard Clark*. Howard, a resident of Montgomery Village, is an international-award-winning photographer whose passion for photography goes back more than 55 years.

Howard has won numerous prizes for his work including a Gold Award for Best Image of a Botanical Subject in an international camera club competition in 2015. His “Great Falls Panorama” was selected by Bethesda Urban Partnership for a permanent exhibit in the pedestrian tunnel leading to the Bethesda Metro Station.

Howard says his calling is to create and share images of the world around us including landscapes, architecture, farms and gardens. While landscapes and scenic views are his specialty, other images provide an intimate look at animals, flowers, plants and trees. Also, travel to more than 20 countries of Asia, Europe and the Americas has provided a wonderful stock of extraordinary images.

For more information about the artist, and to see more of his work, please visit [www.hclarkphotography.com](http://www.hclarkphotography.com)

All artwork is for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits Shaare Tefila.

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**A COMMUNAL GATHERING BY SHAARE TEFILA AND B’NAI SHALOM OF OLENY IN RESPONSE TO THE TREE OF LIFE TRAGEDY**

**CONTRIBUTOR: MILT GOLDSAMT**

On Tuesday evening, October 30, B’na Shalom of Olney and Shaare Tefila co-sponsored a Communal Gathering in memory of the Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy in Pittsburgh, PA. Rabbi Layman and Rabbi Rosenberg of BSO jointly planned the event. About 1,000 people attended, including members of 25 local faith communities (from the Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium) and an unexpectedly large number of political dignitaries. The moving program began by all present singing “We Shall Overcome.” Later, selected dignitaries lit 11 memorial candles (one for each of those killed at Tree of Life). Rabbi Layman recently wrote to Shaare Tefila members: “May the memories of the 11 victims inspire us to act against hatred and promote love and justice.”
Join Us at Shaare Tefila New Year’s Eve 2019 Party
Monday, December 31, 2018
8:30 to 12:30 pm

Enjoy a wonderful evening of dancing, festivities and friendship!

Featuring Premier Band “Swing’N on a Star”

Live band performing music for all generations; Decadent dessert bar; Wine & Beer cash bar; Free Soft drink bar; Snacks; Party Favors
Champagne Toast at Midnight!

Tickets are only $40.00 per person

RSVP today
On ChaverWeb or
Contact Sara Miller (301)593-3410/smiller@shaaretefila.org

Bring your New Years Eve celebrations and friends to Shaare Tefila’s New Year’s Eve 2019 Party,
you’ll be glad you did!
Shaare Tefila’s 
"Night of Sweet Laughter 8" Comedy Night FUNdraiser 
Saturday, February 2, 2019 (Erev Super Bowl Sunday) 

Doors Open at 7:30 pm, Show at 8:00 pm 
Tickets $35 by February 1st, $40 after and at door 
Reserve now for the most popular event of the year! 

Wine & Beer Cash Bar—Ticket includes 1 free drink 
Dairy Refreshments after Show 
Reserve a table of 12 & receive a complimentary fruit and cheese plate for your table! 

Headliner 
Buddy Fitzpatrick 

Buddy is a native of Philadelphia & currently a New York City comedy club favorite. His act combines the skill of a great monologist with a physical style that brings his observations to life. Buddy’s stand-up has made him a regular on Comedy Central, ABC and A&E. Buddy has written, produced and performed his biographical play “Sides” at various NYC theaters. 

Featured Comic 
Missy Gryniewicz Hall 

Missy, a mom & motivational speaker, has a sharp-witted, universal style that captivates audiences. She is the Queen of Happy Things. The 2013 winner of the Laugh Out Loud Competition, her comedy CD, “Miss Representation,” was a 1st round Grammy nominee in 2012 for funniest comedy album. 

Comedian/Host Irwin Loring 
(Kalidescope Comedy) 

Irwin finds life funny. On stage he will tell the stories of his children, parents, and their behaviors. Irwin has performed in clubs in New York & Atlantic City. His style can be described as a mix of David Brenner and George Carlin with a touch of Don Rickles. 

Reserve your seats on ChaverWeb or by contacting Sara at 301-593-3410 X104 or smiller@shaaretefila.org 
If you are sitting at a particular table, note that in your seating request. 

16620 Georgia Ave, Olney, MD 20832 - (301) 593 - 3410 - www.shaaretefila.org - facebook.com/ShaareTefila
In 1945 shortly after the end of World War II, a group of women in the northern region of Italy salvaged materials from their war-torn area to build a school. The women wanted a preschool for their children to provide a new form of education that would ensure their children would not tolerate injustice and inequality.

This is the genesis of the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, from which we take inspiration. In the wake of the horrific act of evil in Pittsburgh, we look to our values to guide us. Ours is a humanitarian focus, not a specific response to the event, but a response to the needs in our community.

Our first choice is to listen to each other. Real listening requires the suspension of judgment and prejudice. The relationship between peace and prejudice concerns the ability or inability to be good listeners. This is where education for peace begins. Peace is a way of thinking, learning and listening to others—a way of looking at differences as an element of connection, not separation. Peace is a way of remembering that my point of view may not be the best. Here we find the roots of participation in the school as a place to encounter differences.

If we want to create a school of education and not a school for instruction and information, then education for peace must inform our practice. Education for peace is a way of understanding that we are so extraordinary because we are unique—because we are different.

Classrooms can also serve as laboratories for life in a democratic community—places where knowledge and culture are both created and transmitted. When children encounter other perspectives—when they discuss, argue and compare ideas—they are building understanding. In these classrooms, children learn how to listen to each other. Democratic classrooms encourage children to have a voice in matters of consequence and to engage in a process in which they consider one another’s perspective in order to reach solutions.

In this context, democracy is not about individuals stating their views as loudly as they can in order to win an argument; nor is it about self-advocacy, persuasion or majority rule. Rather, it is about creating a community that works for each individual as well as for the group—where children learn to share their own perspectives and encounter new ones, and to offer and receive feedback on their points of view. Every moment of every day is grounded in a democratic vision.

This is our response to acts of terror—bringing difficult concepts to children as context for all the message that we want them to carry through life.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH
CONTRIBUTOR: SUSAN J. RUBENSTEIN

THOUGHTS FOR KISLEV

The expression “déjà vu all over again” comes to mind during November, along with the annual conversation about whether or not Chanukah is “early—or—late” this year. It either sneaks up on us, or seems to fall so close to the secular New Year. Of course, the holiday is always ‘on time’ on the Jewish calendar - arriving on the 25th of Kislev. Whenever the holiday begins, what remains constant is our entering the longer days of darkness in the sky—when we long for more light.

We read in the very first chapter of Genesis that it was an act of speech that brought the world into being, and that the very first of Adonai’s creations was Light, and distinguishing it from its absence, Darkness. The spoken word named each, Day and Night. The power of the spoken word brought all of creation into being. And Ha-Shem discerned that what was first needed was Light.

It has been the power of words that have been the first sparks to ignite the growing wildfires of hatred throughout the world, and certainly, in our country in recent years. Words spoken in fear, in pain, in anger, in needing to find someone “other” to blame for suffering, turn quickly into anti-Semitism, racism, intolerance, bigotry, vilifying those who think, look, love or believe differently that we do. Words are actions used this way to incite fear and foment hatred of whomever is singled out as “Other.” In my lifetime I have not lived through a time when our country was more polarized by politics, or more violent. Citizens being gunned down while going about the activities of daily life we are privileged to have here: children getting public education, young people at a night club dancing, congregants entering their places of worship, churches, mosques, synagogues—could not have been imagined happening here by me when I was growing up.

We have a Jewish way to name what has been unfolding, these manifestations of darkness in the souls of those who are emboldened to fear, to hate—which we know as the yetzer-ha-rah, the inclination towards evil. We humans were given what other animal creatures were not: the power to make choices, and so we were also given the yetzer-ha-tov, the inclination towards good within our heart and soul. Of all our holidays, Chanukah gives us a daily reminder for 8 days of our particular Jewish ‘job description.’ Each one of us, we are here to be a Light—not just to our family and friends, those who are familiar to us, but to the ‘stranger.’ As Abraham and Sarah did. There are so many ways to be a Light, each and every day—encouraging words, comforting hug, helping hands count. Standing up for justice counts. 

What-if each of us as we prepare to light our menorahs on December 2nd, gave thought to how we could become the Shammas, the helper Candle, in service to each other? Every day of the holiday, and beyond, take one small action in the direction of yetzer ha tov? How much light could we collectively spread if we made kindness our Kislev intention?

We know from Genesis that Light dispels the Darkness. It’s an inside job first, and spreads outwards. Come to think of it, when the need to seek and spread Light has seldom been greater, I think that THIS year, Chanukah is precisely on time. Chag Sameach.
GAN KATAN!

CONTRIBUTOR: MARA LANSKY

Gan Katan Prepares for Chanukah!

Our Gan Katan kids were busy this November thinking forward to Chanukah!

Of course we sang songs, read books and played with dreidels! We also had a great time creating our own Chanukiah tape, glue, straws, buttons and creativity! Chag Sameach!

Feel free to bring a little one to join our next class on Sunday, December 9!

SHAARE TEFILA
16620 GEORGIA AVE.  OLNEY, MD 20832
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AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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Contributor: Mara Lansky

GAN KATAN!

Gan Katan Prepares for Chanukah!

Our Gan Katan kids were busy this November thinking forward to Chanukah!

Of course we sang songs, read books and played with dreidels! We also had a great time creating our own Chanukiah tape, glue, straws, buttons and creativity! Chag Sameach!

Feel free to bring a little one to join our next class on Sunday, December 9!

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesday, December 12 at 10:00 am

Presenter: Harvey Peritt

All Men Are Invited

Social Action Committee
Speaker Series
Sunday December 16, 2018 – 1:00pm

Daryl Davis

Daryl Davis (born March 26, 1956) is an American R&B and blues musician, activist, author, actor and band leader. Known for his energetic style of boogie-woogie piano, Davis has played with such musicians as Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Bruce Hornsby, and Bill Clinton. His efforts to improve race relations, in which as an African-American he engaged with members of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), have been reported on by media such as CNN, NPR, and the Washington Post. Davis summed up his advice as: “Establish dialogue. When two enemies are talking, they’re not fighting.”

Davis is a Christian and has used his religious beliefs to convince Klansmen to leave and denounce the KKK.

He is the subject of the 2016 documentary Accidental Country: Daryl Davis, Race & America.

Contact the synagogue office to reserve your seat ~ 301-593-3410 x104

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE

يلترت كل من يسأل كلاماً كبيراً نحن
يشبه بحق لنا هل بدأ هنا
El odio no tiene hogar aquí

Shaare Tefila
16620 Georgia Ave.
Olney, MD 20832
**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  
- December 15  
- February 23  
- 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  
- December 9  
- January 6  
- April 14  
- February 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  
- January 11  
- March 29  
- May 10  
RSVP on ChaverWeb or contact Babette -  

**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***  
    - March 9  
    - June 1  

- **SHABBAT LIMUD** with Rabbi Layman  
- **REGULAR SERVICE** with Hazzan Adina  
  - ***LEARN THE MEANING OF THE PRAYERS***  
    - January 5  
    - March 30  

- **FAMILY SERVICE** with Rabbi Layman, Hazzan Adina and Chavaya Students  
  - December 15  
  - February 23  
  - May 18  

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
December – January

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DECEMBER**  
December 9 - A Family Concert & Chanukah Celebration for All Ages!  
December 31 - Shaare Tefila New Year’s Eve 2019 Party

**JANUARY**  
January 21 - MLK Day of Service at Shaare Tefila  
January 26 - Havdalah Experience
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

The Shofar

SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING
JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT
Lecture
“Why Are Jews Funny?”
Murray Horwitz, Tony Award winning playwright, lyricist, veteran comedy writer, performer, and broadcaster explores the truth - and lies - underlying the perception of Jews as funnier than other people.
When: Wednesday, December 12 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
RSVP to JCC 301-348-3809
Cost $8, $10 at door
Light refreshments will be served following the program.
*******
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.

SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP
CONTRIBUTOR: JUDY BEISER

When you purchase scrip you are supporting Shaare Tefila. With every scrip purchase the shul receives a rebate that is used to fund various shul activities.

Purchase scrip for local groceries as well as a large variety of shops and department stores.

UNTIL DECEMBER 14 THE FOLLOWING STORES ARE OFFERING LOWER DENOMINATIONS:
Amazon $10
CVS $10
Cold Stone Creamery $5
Home Depot $10
Panera Bread $5
Starbucks $5
Target $10
Walmart $10

Think holiday season. It’s never too early!!!

Active vendors:
Giant Food - $100, $50, $25, $10
H Mart - $20
Moti’s Market - $50
Shalom Kosher Market - $100, $50
Shopper’s Food Warehouse - $100, $50, $10
ShopRite - $100, $50
Starbucks - $25, $10, $5
Safeway - $100, $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

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

COME CELEBRATE YOUR DECEMBER BIRTHDAY
AT SHABBAT KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES
DECEMBER 15
Recognize a person or event in your life or remember a loved one.
Donate to the Enhanced Kiddush, “CHALLAH & SCHMEAR” TODAY

CONTACT SARAH IN THE OFFICE   SMILLER@SHAARETEFILA.ORG

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Siddur $54  Machzor $36  Large Type Machzor $54

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TRIBUTES
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A LATKE RECIPE THAT DOES NOT USE POTATOES

From the beginning, latkes were always open to interpretation. Need proof? In Yiddish, the definition of latke is ‘little oily thing,’ which widens up our latke schema considerably.

In fact, it wasn’t until the late 1500s that potatoes arrived in Europe from South America. Thus, the history of creative, non-potato latkes recipes runs deep. So if you’re interested in latkes but you can’t stomach any more Yukon Gold, just grate some beets, cauliflower, or carrots, or fry up some cheese!

“Healthy” Spinach Latkes

Ingredients
- spray oil, for frying
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 eggs
- 2 lb bag frozen spinach, thawed
- 3/4 cup whole wheat bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil

Directions

Sauté onions in spray oil on low to medium flame until translucent. Add minced garlic and sauté an additional couple of minutes. Add thawed spinach and stir to combine. Continue to cook over low to medium flame, stirring occasionally. Cook 20-30 minutes, until spinach is heated through and fully cooked. Add salt, pepper and lemon juice.

You can make the sautéed spinach in advance, and when you are ready to make the latkes, proceed with the following instructions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine sautéed spinach, eggs, breadcrumbs, oil and salt. Heat a frying pan and spray well with spray oil. Roll some of the batter in your hands to form a ball, then press between your palms to form a (relatively thin) patty. Fry on medium flame for 2-3 minutes per side, or until light brown. I like to taste the first latke to make sure I got the spices right, then fry the rest.

Notes: When spinach fries, it turns brown and may look burnt, but it isn’t!
Don’t flip the latkes too soon, or they will fall apart. Make sure you allow them enough time to get cooked on the bottom before flipping.