## MAY AT SHAARE TEFILA

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

**Maariv:** Sunday - Thursday: 7:30 pm

**Shabbat Services**  
Fri.: 6:00 pm  
Sat.: 9:00 am (see below for occasional changes to the start time)

**Rabbi Layman’s Classes**  
Torah: Friday at 9:30 am  
Talmud: Sunday at 9:30 am  
Intermediate Prayer Book Hebrew: Sunday at 10:30 am  
First Wednesday with the Rabbi: First Wed. of month: 7:45 pm

### FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY

**The Ultimate Act of Kindness**

We at Shaare Tefila pride ourselves on being a caring and nurturing community. Certainly, many synagogues advertise themselves as warm and friendly, but in my 25 years as your rabbi I know this to be true. You can see it when you walk into shul for evening or morning minyan or on Shabbat morning. There is always someone at the door with a warm smile and a friendly greeting welcoming you into the building. You won’t be sitting by yourself at kiddush because you can be sure that several people will come over to say *hello*.

Our kindness goes even further. Joyce Feinstein and Andrea Tilles (may she rest in peace) formed our *chesed* Committee many years ago. That committee, now headed by several women, arranges for meals for people who are sitting shiva, meals for people who are ill, rides to shul and rides to medical appointments. This committee, in many ways, is the true backbone of our shul and ensures that everyone, even the most critical of times, can still feel cared for by our community. Basic *chesed* — acts of kindness — is the foundation of the community we have here.

But the ultimate act of kindness we perform is through the work of our *Chevra Kadisha* — the holy society. The truest act of loving-kindness — *chesed shel emet* — is performing the rituals of washing and dressing the body for the funeral. This careful and loving service is performed by members of our congregation for members who have passed away. When I get the call from the funeral home and then meet with the family before the funeral, I always say that our *Chevra Kadisha* will take care of their loved one and the family is always grateful.

This special group of people (men take care of men and women take care of women) performs the tasks necessary and recites the appropriate prayers as the body is washed, dressed in a shroud and placed in the casket. It is an ancient ritual that recognizes that our bodies are holy and that our souls need to be prepared to enter into *olam ha-ba* — the world to come. It is called *chesed shel emet* because it is an act that cannot be thanked. When we send a check to a charity, we get a thank you letter, when we hold a door open, we get a thank you. But when the *chevra* performs its function, it does so altruistically.

*Our Chevra Kadisha* has been doing its work for nearly 25 years. A few new people have joined over the years but we could always use more. If you’d like to know more about this very sacred committee, please email me. I’d be happy to have you join our *Chevra Kadisha*.

With blessings,

Rabbi Jonah Layman
I know it is not Yom Kippur, but I have a confession to make. I do not usually read the Shofar cover-to-cover (although I usually do read the Rabbi’s column). Sometimes I skim it or just read parts, but I don’t read every column every month, especially those that I think do not directly apply to me as, for example, the column by our preschool director, Beth Adler [sorry, Beth 😊], or the column about Chavaya, our religious school, by Babette Cohn. Perhaps you do the same.

Along with my confession, I will share a few thoughts and a suggestion. My primary thought: not reading at least the first few lines of each article is a mistake because you don’t know what you are missing.

I read the April Shofar cover-to-cover and here is what I learned:

- Our preschool classes are named the Spider class, the Bumblebee class, the Grasshopper class and the Dragonfly class and Beth refers to them as the Spiders and the Bumblebees and the Grasshoppers and the Dragonflies. Cute. I never knew.

- This school year the Spiders, Bumblebees, Grasshoppers and Dragonflies focused on the concept of “group” as their learning theme. How important and how formidable a topic is this, especially for preschoolers? I was impressed.

- Babette Cohn twice referred to words of wisdom from Holy Sparks, a website with inspirational quotes, among other things. This inspired me to visit the site. Very cool stuff. I was glad to learn about it.

- We see the art exhibits in the Winer Gallery, but Fran Abrams explains the art and shares information about the artist. It made me appreciate the art even more.

- Susan Rubinstein, “The Spark of the Month,” talked about her own spiritual development. I always thought she was born fully developed spiritually. 😊

- The Jewish concept of God has been a troubling concept for me and one that I’ve never been able to wrap my head around. Shaare Tefila is one of 19 synagogues and Jewish organizations presenting speakers on “Encountering God: Jewish Conceptions of the Divine.” I might never have known about this opportunity.

- This month, on Tuesday, May 21, we are hosting the second of three sessions on Multicultural Dialogues on Racism & Bias. April's session was at the Islamic Community Center in Potomac and June’s session will be at Christ Episcopal Church in Kensington. I realized even more how involved we are in interfaith dialogue and social action.

I conclude with the following conundrum: How does this reach those who don’t read the Shofar?
The Shofar

Have you ever watched children encounter something for the first time? Did they carefully observe it, picking it up and turning it around? Did they shake it and put it to their ear, smell it or lick it? People often rely on their senses to create meaning out of new experiences. Honing these abilities is serious business, but luckily, to a growing child, the world is an absolutely wondrous place. When children encounter new experiences, we want to understand their ideas. Using your senses, through materials, to express these ideas is the start of meaningful learning.

Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Approach, describes the "infinite ways that children can express, explore and connect their thoughts, feelings and imaginations." We call these the Hundred Languages of Children, a metaphor for all the different ways children can express their theories about the world. The Hundred Languages of Children are symbolic and are open to the endless potentials in children. They encourage the expression of a child's ability to wonder.

In our school, we expose our students to a variety of materials from a young age. If we want the children to use materials to express their thinking, they need to have a relationship with the material. Just like any language, you do not gain fluency immediately, but first need to build a vocabulary and grammar. If it is not your first language, you may borrow from your knowledge of a language you already know, which may or may not be a successful strategy.

Recently in one of our classes, the children were looking for ways to represent the human figure. They were fluent in the language of clay, but were not satisfied with their results in this material. Looking around for another option, they settled on one that surprised us: aluminum foil.

They cut large sheets of foil and began sculpting the material. They initially treated it as they would clay and found that some of the techniques worked. They could roll the foil and bend the foil, for example. But the foil was not as strong as clay and could not hold as much weight before collapsing. And once crinkled, it could not be smoothed as the clay could.

The children created detailed figures engaged in different yoga poses. The material was more successful in expressing their ideas than we adults at first thought it would be. That’s another exciting part of working with different materials – watching people use it in ways you never imagined.

Foil people doing yoga poses

The Hundred Languages of Children

The month of May begins with the observance of Yom HaShoah. You are welcome to bring your older children to the Service of Remembrance on May 1. Families with teens may also want to attend The Neuroscience of Hate presentation on May 8, sponsored by the Shaare Tefila Social Action Committee.

This month in Israel, the annual 48-hour period of Yom Haatzmaut/Israel Independence Day, Yom Haatzmaut/Independence Day, will begin the evening of May 7. I invite you to first view this video showing how Israelis respond to the siren blast on Yom HaAzikaron, then, listen to the joy that follows for Yom HaAtzmaut with “Hope” by The Fountainheads.

It is hard to believe that the Chavaya year is coming to an end. We are planning for interesting learning and great fun with the children over the next couple of weeks.

• On May 5 all the students in Chavaya will celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut/Israel Independence Day, which falls on May 8 this year. Special food will be served!

• Mini-Minyan on May 10th, 5:45 pm is the last one for the current year; our Shabbat celebration for families with children ages 0-7, will include guest song leader Hannah Piracha, Morah Mara and myself. Register here by May 8th.

• The next TGI Shabbat Dinner on May 10th, 6:30 pm, will include music led by song leader, Hannah Piracha, and a delicious Sephardi-style menu. Register on Chaverweb by May 8th.

If you have friends who are looking for an engaging, liberal Jewish education for their child(ren) for the 2019-2020 school year, please have them contact me, either by phone, 301-593-3410 x106 or by email as soon as possible. I would be happy to share information with them about our free K-2nd grade tuition, unique two-day-a-week program for 3rd-7th grade students incorporating in-person and online learning, and other detailed information about our program.

PAGE 3
The Shofar

B’NAI MITZVAH AT SHAARE TEFILA

Sammy and Elani Joseph will be called to the Torah as B’nai Mitzvah on Shabbat, May 11, 2019, Parshat Kedoshim.

Sammy and Elani Joseph were born three minutes apart on May 2, 2006 and have been inseparable ever since. They are both avid readers, have a strong interest in history, and both love sports. Elani’s favorite is baseball; Sammy’s is soccer. Elani also has a special interest in ancestry, and the boys will use the tanakh that belonged to their great-great-grandfather Simon Joseph in their B’nai Mitzvah service.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 6:30 PM
SEPARDI-THEMED SHABBAT DINNER
• CHICKEN OR VEGETARIAN OPTIONS
• YUMMY DESSERTS
SHABBAT SERVICES WILL FOLLOW DINNER

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

Sign up on ChaverWeb by Wednesday, May 8 or contact Roberta in the office
rkatz@shaaretfila.org

Thank you from Jill Goldwater...
I want to thank everyone for the wonderful luncheon held my honor at the end of March. I was deeply touched and the event really brought home how much my 14 years with you affected both you and me. The luncheon was a perfect send off and the gift is something I will always treasure. I also want to thank Cilla Grosberg and Babette Cohn who, with I am sure many helpers, put together a wonderful celebration. Additionally, a thank you to all who donated to make the luncheon so special. This isn’t Goodbye, but L’Hitraot (until later).

2018 Greater Olney Civic Association
Contribution to the Community Award Honoring Fran Weiss

Pictured from left:
Maryland State Senator Craig Zucker, Fran Weiss, Jeff Weiss

Mazel Tov
**Chug Ivrit**
Conversational Hebrew for All Levels
Join the Shaare Tefila Chug Ivrit!
All levels of Hebrew knowledge welcomed.
Sessions on Sundays, 10:30-noon. Facilitated by Ami Frydman. The conversations are based on short current articles in Hebrew.
Join us!
Upcoming sessions: May 5, 19 / June 2, 16, 30

**Shavua Tov!**
ישבע טוב

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**WOMEN’S ROSH CHODESH CIRCLE**
**LED BY: SUSAN RUBENSTEIN**
**SATURDAY MORNINGS: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**
Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Shabbat, May 11
Rosh Chodesh Sivan - Shabbat, June 22

**Status of the Shabbat Morning Services**
**Important: Please read and email your feedback**
At the April 2019 Religious Committee meeting, the committee decided to add a discussion about the our Shabbat morning services to the June meeting agenda. To help with this discussion, please email me your opinions about the current status of the Shabbat morning services: what you like, do not like and/or suggestions for improvement. Your email will be read anonymously at the June meeting.
Saul Cohen, Religious Vice President
saulsher@verizon.net

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**Shaare Tefila’s GAN KATAN!**

**CONTRIBUTOR: MARA LANSKY**

Our last Gan Katan Jewish playgroup ended with tons of ruach for Pesach!
Besides singing, reading and playing a fun game about Hebrew colors, we also created beautiful crafts for Pesach!

**Morah Mara** put out goblets, glass beads, colored beads and letter beads. The kids designed gorgeous Miriam Cups and Elijah Cups while the adults operated the glue guns. These cups are sure to dazzle the table for years to come!

The crafting was so enticing that congregants walking by joined us!
See you next school year!

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**Making beautiful Miriam Cups and Elijah Cups for our Pesach tables**

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**Lots of Pesach ruach at Gan Katan**
As of the end of April, the 2018-2019 gallery schedule of guest artists at the Winer Family Gallery comes to an end. Art exhibits will resume in September. During May, the Winer Family Gallery is pleased to turn our attention to the Gates of Discovery, The Rose and George Teller Preschool of Shaare Tefila, an important asset of our synagogue community. Beth Adler, Director, tells us that the students are focusing on the concept of group. Each class is looking at a different aspect of that idea, including concepts like point of view, how your personal identity is impacted by the group you belong to and how young children define a group. Be sure and take a moment to stop by and see the exhibit presented by our preschool.

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We are a question-asking tribe. From our beginnings, questions are woven into the fabric of our long history. Eve likely asked, “Why not eat this fruit? My blood sugar is low, I’m hungry.” (Duly noted: I’m taking a bissel midrashic license here.) We recently listened to the youngest recite the four questions during Passover. The practice of pairing with a chevruta, a learning partner, is how yeshiva students learn with spirited back and forth questioning as they delve into Talmudic Rabbinical opinions. Our weekly Torah readings challenge us to dive into the text and go deeper, beyond the words – only to arrive at another place replete with more questions.

Of course Jews are not alone in asking questions. What gives ours a particular Jewish flavor are the type of questions we ask. In Genesis we learn that after each day of creation, Hashem evaluated His work and then said, “It was good.” Torah guides us to “walk in Hashem’s ways.” So: if Hashem needed to do an assessment of His work and ask “Did I carry out my intention? Did I bring ALL I AM to the table?” - how can we not take a chesbon ha-nefesh (personal/soul inventory) of our actions? Did the end result match our efforts and intentions? And were our intentions pure or self-serving? As a covenantal people, this form of inquiry is what we are called to do.

We have always asked questions of God. I’m guessing that comes as no surprise to Him, Who created us with brain capacity. And created us human, in all our wonder, foibles, follies and imperfections. We dwell in a broken world, entirely of our making. We are here for tikkun olam, to engage together in the sacred task of repairing it, and to help one another as we do. In Pirke Avot (Ethics of our Fathers), Shimon Ha’Tzadik says: “On three things the world stands: on Torah, on service (to God) and on acts of human kindness.” Each of these 3 pillars begs us to ask: What can I do, using what Hashem gifted to me to use, in the service of each? And then: to take action steps each day. These 3 mirror the 3 primary relationships we all have to balance in life: how to live with ourselves, with Hashem, and with others.

Can you pause to imagine what kind of world we could live in if each of us asked those questions and then dove in and did our part? A question on the road towards Shavuot.
Mike Niconchuck is the Senior Researcher at Beyond Conflict’s Innovation Lab for Neuroscience and Social Conflict in Boston, MA. He will share a unique perspective to help us understand what motivates hate and reveal strategies for bringing about positive change for individuals, societies and governments. He will also share lessons learned from his fascinating field work with refugees around the world. His presentation will be followed by a short question and answer session.
4TH ANNUAL SERIES
Multicultural Dialogues on Racism & Bias

SEEING THE DIVINE IN THE OTHER

Sunday, April 14
9 - 11 AM
Islamic Community Center Potomac
5901 River Rd
Potomac, MD

Tuesday, May 21
7 - 9 PM
Shaare Tefila Congregation
16620 Georgia Ave
Olney, MD

Thursday, June 13
7 - 9 PM
Christ Episcopal Church
4001 Franklin Street
Kensington, MD

Participants meet in small groups with a trained facilitator using exercises that raise our awareness of unconscious or learned biases, including racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, sexism, etc.

Each dialogue begins with light, vegetarian refreshments at 6:30 PM. Program starts promptly at 7 PM.

Offered to anyone, of any faith tradition or ethnic background, living in Montgomery County. Teens are welcome. A $5 donation is requested at the door to cover the cost of materials.

Due to religious dietary restrictions, please do not bring food donations to any dialogue. Participants may attend one or all of the dialogues, but must register separately for each dialogue, a week before each dialogue. All attendees MUST register in advance!

REGISTER HERE | bit.ly/SpringMCD2019
Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Memorial Day / May 1—May 2

In 2019, Yom HaShoah starts the evening of May 1 and ends the evening of May 2. The date was selected by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) on April 12, 1951. Although the date was established by the Israeli government, it has become a day commemorated by Jewish communities and individuals worldwide.

Since the early 1960s, the sound of a siren on Yom HaShoah stops traffic and pedestrians throughout the State of Israel for two minutes of silent devotion. The siren blows at sundown and once again at 11 am on this date. All radio and television programs during this day are connected in one way or another with the Jewish destiny in World War II, including personal interviews with survivors. Even the musical programs are adapted to the atmosphere of Yom HaShoah. There is no public entertainment on Yom HaShoah, as theaters, cinemas, pubs and other public venues are closed throughout Israel.

Jews in North America observe Yom HaShoah within the synagogue as well as in the broader Jewish community. Commemorations range from synagogue services to communal vigils and educational programs. A few congregations find it more practical to hold commemorative ceremonies on the Sunday closest to Yom HaShoah. Many Yom HaShoah programs feature a talk by a Holocaust survivor, recitation of appropriate songs and readings, or viewing of a Holocaust-themed film. Some communities choose to emphasize the depth of loss that Jews experienced in the Holocaust by reading the names of Holocaust victims one after another — dramatizing the unfathomable notion of six million deaths. Many Jewish schools also hold Holocaust-related educational programs on or around Yom HaShoah.

Rituals associated with Yom HaShoah are still being created and vary widely among synagogues. Attempts have also been made to observe this memorial day at home. One suggestion is that every Jewish home should light a yahrzeit (memorial) candle on this day. There have been numerous attempts to compose special liturgy (text and music) for Yom HaShoah. In 1988 the Reform movement published Six Days of Destruction. This book, co-authored by Elie Wiesel and Rabbi Albert Friedlander, was meant to be viewed as a “sixth scroll,” a modern addition to the five scrolls that are read on specific holidays. Six narratives from Holocaust survivors are juxtaposed to the six days of creation found in Genesis. One of the most recent achievements is Megillat HaShoah (The Holocaust Scroll) created by the Conservative movement as a joint project of rabbis and lay leaders in Canada, the U.S. and Israel. This Holocaust scroll contains personal recollections of Holocaust survivors and is written in biblical style. It was composed under the direction of Avigdor Shinan, a professor at Hebrew University. While Yom HaShoah rituals are still in flux there is no question that this day holds great meaning for Jews worldwide. The overwhelming theme that runs through all observances is the importance of remembering — recalling the victims of this catastrophe, and insuring that such a tragedy never happen again.

www.myjewishlearning.com/article/yom-hashoah-holocaust-memorial-day/
The Shofar

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOT SHABBAT</th>
<th>GAN KATAN PLAYGROUP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LED BY:</strong> Mara Lansky</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHO:</strong> Young Children &amp; Families</td>
<td><strong>WHO:</strong> Children preschool age and their parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT:</strong> Morning Shabbat Program</td>
<td><strong>WHAT:</strong> Early Shabbat dinner, prayers, songs with ruach!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN:</strong> Shabbat, 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>FEE:</strong> $5 per person; $18 per family max.</td>
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**MENU:** Mac & Cheese, Pasta/steamed veggies, applesauce, cookies

**May 18**

| CALL THE OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE SESSION DATES. |

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<td><strong>LED BY:</strong> Mara Lansky &amp; Babette Cohn</td>
<td>Questions? Contact Babette Cohn <a href="mailto:bcohn@shaaretefila.org">bcohn@shaaretefila.org</a> - 301-593-3410 X 103</td>
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<td><strong>SHABBAT SHIRA</strong> with Hazzan Adina</td>
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<td><strong>REGULAR SERVICE</strong> with Rabbi Jonah</td>
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**June 1**

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<td>****TOT SHABBAT WILL MEET ON EACH OF THESE DATES *****</td>
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**May 10**

| RSVP ON ChaverWeb OR CONTACT Babette  bcohn@shaaretefila.org |

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<td>May 8  Yom HaShoah program: The Neuroscience of Hate</td>
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<td>May 10  Mini-Minyan; Sephardi-Themed TGI Shabbat Dinner</td>
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<td>May 18  Birthday Kiddush and Challah &amp; Schmear</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19  Sisterhood Brunch; JTS Evening of Learning</td>
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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

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 variety of shops and department stores. Scrip is great to use as gifts for graduations and end-of-school year celebrations. I’ll be selling scrip at the May 19 Sisterhood Brunch!

Cards immediately available:
Great Harvest Bread Company, TJ Max, Home Goods, Marshalls, CVS.

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
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 the office.

Siddur $54  Machzor $36  Large Type Machzor $54

SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING
JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT

The Eddie Cantor Story
A Jewish Life in Performance & Politics

When: Thursday, May 9, 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.

THE ROSE AND GEORGE TELLER PRESCHOOL
ZUMBA CLASS

Mondays, 6-6:45 pm
In the Shaare Tefila Social Hall
Fee: $15 per class or $80 for session

Benefits the preschool!

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COME CELEBRATE YOUR MAY BIRTHDAY
AT THE SHABBAT KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES
MAY 18

Recognize a person or event in your life or remember a loved one.

Donate to the Enhanced Kiddush, “Challah & Schmear ” Today

CONTACT ROBERTA IN THE OFFICE  RKATZ@SHAARETEFILA.ORG

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MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesday, May 8 at 10:00 am

Rabbi Layman will be the May 8 speaker.

All Men Are Invited!

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 the office.

Siddur $54  Machzor $36  Large Type Machzor $54

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