FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY

STUDYING IN ISRAEL

One of the greatest opportunities I have had recently has been to study at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Hartman has programs for non-profit executives, educators, philanthropists and rabbis. Its mission is to bring North Americans of diverse and non-practicing denominations together to learn about the latest trends in Judaism. For rabbis, this means exploring these subjects through the lens of Jewish tradition to discover new and creative interpretations.

From July 9 -17, over 100 rabbis gathered for Hartman’s annual rabbinic seminar. I always look forward to attending because I get to visit with old friends and spend time in one of my favorite places in the world. When I’m in Jerusalem, I feel spiritually renewed. There is something about walking through its streets that connects me to our 3,000-year history and rejuvenates my spirit. I feel at home in Jerusalem like no other place, and even if I have not visited in a while, I still know I’m home when I’m there.

Additionally, more than just being in Jerusalem, it’s the opportunity to study our sacred texts in our holiest city. This combination creates an indescribable feeling and provides the spiritual renewal that I seek. With all the social justice issues at risk in America, such as the rise of anti-Semitism, the lack of civility, the increased levels of racism, etc., it feels good to escape for a while to a setting that is comforting and strengthening. However, this sentiment might not make sense. According to the news, Israel and the Middle East are dangerous places but they are very safe. I’ve been to Israel nearly 20 times and each time I still get excited when the land appears in the airplane window and I see signs in Hebrew in the airport. Israel is my second home and I am grateful that I get there as often as I do.

I look forward to sharing what I have learned after my trip. Hartman always provides so much food for thought and has insights that helps us on our spiritual journeys.

B’vracha (With blessing),
Rabbi Jonah Layman
Blessed are You, LORD, our God, King of the Universe, who remembers the covenant and is faithful to God's promise.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, zicher ha-brit v’ne’eman biv’reehot v’kayam b’m’a amarav.

Upon hearing thunder?

Blessed are You, LORD, our God, King of the Universe, whose strength and glory fills the universe.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, shekocho ooh g’vuratoh mahlay olam.

Upon seeing a beautiful tree or animal or person?

Blessed are You, LORD, our God, King of the Universe, who has such things in his world.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she kachah loh b’olamoh.

Despite all there is to dread and worry about these days, it’s nice to remember that there are a lot of wondrous things in this world if we have the eyes to see them.
This past school year at Shaare Tefila’s Gates of Discovery: The Rose and George Teller Preschool, we focused on the concept of group. In our school, we believe that relationships are foundational to learning. A system of relationships, is, at any moment, both real and symbolic. Relationships facilitate fruitful conflicts, investigations and activities connected to each child’s curiosity. When children encounter others and they discuss, argue and compare ideas, they are building understanding. Relationships at Gates of Discovery are about creating a community that works for each child, as well as for the group; a community wherein children learn to share their own perspectives, encounter new ones and offer and receive feedback on their points of view. Instead of interacting only through feelings and a sense of friendship, children discover how fruitful it is to exchange ideas.

To expand on the concept of group, in the upcoming school year the notion of gathering will be investigated. Our belief is that in every learning moment both the teachers and the children are researchers. As such, in initial teacher and child conversations about the theme gathering, the questions below emerged and will be the focus of the school term.

- Are grouping and gathering synonymous? Can we use those words interchangeably? If not, what is the distinction?
- Does gathering imply intention of purpose?
- Can animals or inanimate objects gather or only people?
- Do you gather once you are a community or only to form a community? Are both possible?
- Do gatherings always strengthen ties between the people involved?
- Do all participants in a gathering have a responsibility to the gathering?
- How do you structure a gathering to support all who gather?
- What role does the environment in which you gather play?
- Since gathering is a large part of Jewish life, how do we want to represent this value in our school?

One book we read at the start of our research was, The Art of Gathering, by Priya Parker. In this book, Parker enumerates many reasons why we gather, but suggests that the first step in a meaningful gathering is committing to a bold, sharp purpose.

A Gathering of Commemoration

Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emelia philosophy of early childhood education, stated, “In such a time as this, with society and culture being what they are, the fact of young children being capable of being together for several years and working closely is like an emotional life raft.” At Gates of Discovery: The Rose and George Teller Preschool, this is our purpose and the power of gathering.
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE PROJECT TO BENEFIT RAINBOW SHELTER
CONTRIBUTOR: ETHEL LEVINE

Upon returning from your vacations and business trips or after organizing your closets, you might find excess sample-sized toiletries. Please consider donating them to others who could use them!

In the past, Shaare Tefila’s Social Action Committee has collected personal hygiene items and given them to the women residing at the RAINBOW SHELTER in Rockville. We want to continue this very successful project. Please bring UNUSED shampoos, conditioners, soaps, body washes, creams, lotions, toothbrushes, paste, dental floss, wash cloths, Q-tips, tissues feminine hygiene items, etc. to Shaare Tefila and place them in the plastic bin located in the Winer Gallery. The collection is ongoing through the end of October. REMEMBER to tightly close all caps and to donate only unused products. Rainbow Shelter’s residents are very appreciative of all that you give.

Many thanks on behalf of those in need at Rainbow Shelter!

-Ethel

LOOKING AHEAD...

WITNESS THEATER

WITNESS THEATER is an intergenerational program begun over twenty years ago in Israel to commemorate Yom HaShoah. Months of collaboration between Holocaust survivors and local students culminate in a theatrical presentation demonstrating trust, mutual respect, shared understanding, friendship and an important educational legacy.

HONORED SURVIVORS
Ruth Cohen, Agi Gevu, Halina Yasharoff Peabody, Rita Lifschitz Rubinstein, Yves Gerard Issenberg (next generation)

STUDENTS
Jordan Bloch, Evan Gerstenblith, Ava Klugerman, Will Sexter, Jordyn White

Sunday, September 1st at 3:00pm
Alexandria Country Day School
2400 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301

Free and open to the public - Doors open at 2:45pm
For further information visit www.bravoproductions.org

DIRECTORS Tim Reagan and Valerie Issenberg
PRODUCER Lawrie Levy Issenberg

SAVE THE DATE!
December 7-8, 2019
Shaare Tefila honors and celebrates Rabbi Jonah Layman on his 25th anniversary as spiritual leader of our synagogue and community

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesday, September 11, 10:00 am
Guest speaker: Ami Frydman
Join us for a lively and interesting discussion! All men invited!

Shaare Tefila’s Chug Ivrit
Conversational Hebrew
All Levels of Hebrew knowledge
Facilitated by Ami Frydman
Conversations about current articles in Hebrew Sundays, 10:30-noon August 4, September 8, 22
The Social Action Committee
Contributor: Lisa Hedgepeth, Committee Chair

The Social Action Committee is looking forward to another exciting year of stimulating and thought-provoking programming. Plans are underway for several speakers, films, etc. for the 2019-2020 year. Once again, we will be hosting the MLK Community Service Day in January. We look forward to welcoming a diverse community of friends at our programs to foster new relationships and learn from one another’s experiences.

LET’S MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND DO KIND WORKS TOGETHER!

Collection of Needed Supplies for Immigrant Children at Our Southern Border

The Social Action Committee has reached out to a few organizations in order to help with the crisis at our borders and beyond. We hope to become partners in some of the very bold and effective initiatives that are already in place. More information to follow.

In the meantime, KIND WORKs is organizing a collection of needed supplies for **immigrant children at our southern border**. There are drop off locations in Montgomery County. Use the link below to see the list of needed items and where to bring them. **Be kind and do KIND WORKs.**

https://www.dokindworks.org/collection-of-needed-supplies-for-immigrant-children-at-our-southern-border/?fbclid=IwAR3guWLDZhrLSCuugdUfsO6zciiLYuz85-eC1zRcGrJ1OsOBmnuA4OLd4n0

Kiddush & Catering Committee
Ethel Levine & Fran Kensky

Don’t you just love it when you are greeted with a sumptuous **Challah & Schmeer** kiddush once a month after services? This is all thanks to YOUR generous contributions.

We would like to see this tradition continue. **Challah & Schmeer** sponsorship is open to all congregants who want to participate. Please contact the office with your minimum donation of **$18** per kiddush or **$180** for the entire year.

Why sponsor a **Challah & Schmeer**? You can acknowledge a special simcha, such as a graduation, new job, birth of a child or grandchild, wedding, anniversary, completion of medical treatments, a promotion or any number of things. It’s always such a pleasure seeing Shaare Tefila members kibbitzing as they enjoy a delicious and beautifully-presented **Challah & Schmeer** kid-dush.

Our deepest appreciation and thanks to our hard working kiddush captains and the volunteers who show up on their scheduled week. Visitors to our shul often remark that our kitchen is extremely well-run and is tip-top shape. Of course, our hard working porter, **Luis**, works diligently to maintain the cleanliness and functionality of the kitchen. When you see him, please tell him, thank you for a job well done.

Looking forward to a very successful, delicious and hamish New Year at Shaare Tefila,

Ethel and Fran

Sisterhood News
Fran Weiss, Sisterhood President

Sisterhood’s moving into the 21st century!

This year, we are planning to use **ChaverWare** for Sisterhood dues payment. When it’s activated, you will no longer have to submit a form and a check. Your dues will be added to your Shaare Tefila account and accessible via **ChaverWeb**.

Soon you will also be able to use **ChaverWeb** to register for a variety of Sisterhood events. Of course, if you prefer to use the traditional paper and pen method, that is fine too. All forms can be found online and in the synagogue Williamossky Lobby.

Stay tuned for more Sisterhood upgrades. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at

SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP

Contributor: Judy Beiser

Look! For Judy selling Scrip on August 18, 2-4:00 PM, during Family Fun Day!

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.

Cards immediately available:
Great Harvest Bread Company
TJ Maxx
Home Goods
Marshall’s
CVS

Active vendors:
⇒ Giant Food - $100, $50, $25, $10
⇒ H Mart - $20
⇒ Mott’s Market - $50
⇒ Shalom Kosher Market - $100, $50
⇒ 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
DID YOU KNOW?
That Shaare Tefila has a section for members in Judean Gardens
AND
That Shaare Tefila can offer you a discount on purchasing a plot that is not available if you buy directly from them.
For more information, contact Shana Rosenblatt, Shaare Tefila’s Executive Director, 301-593-3410 x101

LOOKING FOR SMART WAYS TO SUPPORT SHAARE TEFILA
AND HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE OR INCREASE YOUR KOL NIDRE DONATION?
Ask your tax advisor about...
• Transferring money (up to $100,000/year) from IRAs, if you are older than 70½. It counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution but is not added to your adjusted gross income.
• Donating some low cost basis stock that has appreciated. You get the benefit of a charitable contribution without paying taxes on the capital gain.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST 2019
August 18  Family Fun Day
Deadline to purchase Grand Slam Sunday tickets

SEPTEMBER 2019
September 1  Witness Theater (see p. 4)
September 8  First day of Chavaya
September 15  Grand Slam Sunday (see p. 7)

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE SHOFAR WILL BE AVAILABLE LATE AUGUST AND WILL HAVE HIGH HOLIDAY AND FALL PROGRAMMING INFORMATION.

SHAARE TEFILA
16620 GEORGIA AVE.  OLNEY, MD 20832
301-593-3410  WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG
AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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301-593-3410 X 106

Office Administrator
Roberta Katz
rkatz@shaaretefila.org
301-593-3410 X 104

Israeli Dance with Ken Avner
Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm

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
DON'T MISS THE FUN!
TICKET DEADLINE: AUGUST 18

FEDERATION'S
Grand Slam Sunday
JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY AT
Nationals Park
September 15, 2019
Washington Nationals
vs. Atlanta Braves

shalomdc.org/gss2019shaaretefila

Join The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington,
Shaare Tefilla, and the Greater Washington Jewish
community for the 5th Annual Grand Slam Sunday:
Jewish Community Day at Nationals Park.

Don't drop the ball, buy your tickets today!

For general information visit: shalomdc.org/grandslam

A portion of each ticket purchased for Grand Slam Sunday will support The Jewish Federation’s
work in the Greater Washington area, in Israel and around the world.
TRIBUTES
June 2019
Thank You to Our Donors

Andrea Z. Tilles
Memorial Chesed Fund
In Honor Of:
Dennis & Sharon Kaye’s 35th anniversary
Andrew & Marlene Sandberg
Alan & Adriana’s newborn grandson
Jay & Joyce Feinstein

In Memory Of:
Hal Stein
Alan & Adriana Sandler
Gershon & Diane Kieval
Ira & Ethel Levine
Julian Leidman
Larry & Ellie Alpert
Deborah Letow
Elaine Schenberg
Emanuel Binder
Yoshi & Miriam Ito

Speedy Recovery To:
Ellie Alpert
Maurice & Charlotte Potosky

Building Fund
In Honor Of:
Sally Margolis’ 80th birthday
Audrey Haber

In Memory Of:
Hal Stein
Barbara Harkaway

Chesed Meals
In Memory Of:
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Barbara Harkaway
Al Kliman
Gary & Betsy Morgenstern
Lanny & Cathy Plotkin
Mark & Marjorie Fuhrmann
Marvin & Diane Schneider
Stephen Prensky & Jill Goldwater

General Fund
In Memory Of:
Eli Simony
Betty Rosenthal
Inge’s father
Egon & Inge Guttmann
Philip Kessler
George & Marilyn Kessler
Helen Greenfield
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Nancy Goldberg

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Hazzan Adina Ackerman
Jack & Bess Teller
Ira & Ethel Levine
Harold Fink Israel Quest Fund
In Memory Of:
Hal Stein
Barbara Fink
Emanuel Binder
Barbara Fink

Machzor Dedication
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Sharon Byer
Amy Byer
Max Kantzer & Patricia Greene

Nathan Rubinstein Youth Fund
In Memory Of:
Hal Stein
Judith Beiser
Rita Rubinstein

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of:
Rabbi Layman
Monica Friedman
Rabbi Robert & Ruth Layman’s anniversary
Rabbi Robert & Ruth Layman

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Hal Stein
Liane Lunden
Sam & Debbie Yedlin

Shabbat and Yom Tov Fund
In Honor Of:
Alan & Adriana Sandler’s newborn grandson
Yoshi & Miriam Ito

Social Action Fund Donation
In Memory Of:
Dorothy Goldsamt
Milton & Susan Goldsamt

In Honor Of:
Alan & Adriana Sandler’s newborn grandson
Gilda Kuritzky
Jack & Bess Teller
Sylvia Potash’s 97th birthday
Marvin & Diane Schneider
Saul & Sherry Cohen
Max Kantzer & Patricia Greene
Ira & Ethel Levine’s son’s marriage
Ami & Rita Frydman
Maurice & Charlotte’s 68th anniversary and his 90th birthday
Brenda Fishbein