



The Shofar

השופר

Celebrating our 69th year

Vol. 69 #8

April 2020 - Nisan/Iyar 5780



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY
RABBI JONAH LAYMAN

"DO NOT SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE COMMUNITY"

Nineteen hundred years ago, the great rabbinic scholar, Hillel, taught that one of the most important religious precepts is to be part of a community. His statement is found in the six-chapter collection of rabbinic sayings known as *Pirkei Avot*. Of all things he could have taught as essential to being Jewish why did he choose community? Because it is in community that we gain encouragement, support and holiness.

We are being told today – because of the COVID-19 virus – to be socially distant. In order to stem the rising tide of infections we need to stay away from other people as much as possible. Some countries – e.g. China – forcibly kept people indoors and in other countries the warning goes unheeded (e.g. spring breakers at the beach in Florida, etc.) A proven effective way to keep the virus at bay ends up going against our human nature! We are social animals. If we are alone too long studies have shown that our anxiety increases and we can even get sick. We are meant to be around other people. We are meant to be in a community.

So how can we bring that sense of community into our homes during this lockdown? How can we find ways to connect to other people and maintain our health? In this month's Shofar you will see a variety of opportunities to connect virtually. My regular classes are now offered on ZOOM; I started a new session on Wednesday mornings at 11; there are weekday evening minyan ZOOM opportunities; and our Shabbat evening and morning services are livestreamed. Though virtual community is not nearly as good as being physically present, it's the best we can do.

Please take advantage of these opportunities. If you don't have access to a computer or are afraid to try this new technology, then just call me and call your friends. Now more than ever we recognize the power of physical proximity and we long for the day when we can hug each other once again.

With wishes for good health and safety,
Rabbi Jonah Layman



PRESIDENT
JUDY BRESLER

I suspect that in over 3,000 years we, the Jewish people, have faced, and survived, a pandemic before, although the (inhabited) world was smaller. So, how did we survive such an historic event and survive other life-threatening events? Honestly, I have no idea, but I strongly suspect that caring for each other, finding comfort and stability in our ancient traditions, and adapting to new realities must be a part of the answer. Facing the reality of a disease that mandates physical separation from others, we felt the need to continue our Shabbat services (maybe the most ancient tradition of all), but they are now live-streamed thanks to **Rabbi Layman** and **Hazzan Adina** who have to carry on as if we fill the clearly empty sanctuary. That oddity is slowly becoming our new normal- for now anyway.

As many of you, I cannot figure out what to do about Passover, another ancient tradition. It's not something **Rabbi Layman** and **Hazzan Adina** can live-stream for us in the place of our gathering of friends and family, including our family matriarchs and patriarchs who, we are told, are among those most at risk. However, I am confident that we will figure it out with smaller, perhaps modified, seders, perhaps with friends and family who are live-streamed so to speak through FaceTime or Zoom or Skype or some other app. Feel free to share any creative ideas, by the way. I, for one, could use some.

In the spirit of "Keep Calm and Carry On," we are welcoming **Jonathan Cohen** as our new Executive Director who will be helping us with the "Carry On" part. He is a friendly face whom I am anxious for you all to meet. [Did you know that the phrase "Keep Calm and Carry On" was a slogan developed by the British Ministry of Information to boost morale at the beginning of World War II?]

חג שמח Happy Passover Be Well Stay Safe
Be Calm and Carry On



The Shofar

ADULT CONTINUING CLASSES

Please join Rabbi Layman's classes from home. Tune into Zoom at the links below. Though these are continuing classes, you will find it easy to pick up and you will be happily welcomed.

FRIDAY TORAH CLASS 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

SUNDAY TALMUD CLASS 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

SUNDAY PRAYER BOOK HEBREW CLASS 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

RESOURCES WHILE AT HOME

<https://pjlibrary.org/familyactivities>

<https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/03/12/how-create-meaningful-shabbat-experience-home>

<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/shabbat-box>

<https://www.kveller.com/tag/health/>

<https://www.jewishboston.com/supporting-and-empowering-our-teens-during-challenging-times-covid-19/>

<https://www.jewishspirituality.org/get-started/resources-for-challenging-times/>

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you need any help at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Rabbi Layman**.

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.

(301) 593-3410

rjlayman@shaaretefila.org



**BABETTE COHN,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION &
PROGRAMMING**

bcohn@sharetefila.org

We had a festive celebration for Purim at Shaare Tefila this year, **beginning with a youth event on March 1st, Purim Trivia led by congregant and educator extraordinaire, Bryan Goodman**. Kids ranging in age from 5-12 had a great time competing on teams to see who knew the most about the holiday. There was much laughter and in the end, everyone went home with a prize.

The whole community came together for the holiday, beginning on March 8th, first with our Karaoke Purim Shpiel, followed by our annual Purim Carnival. On the following evening, Erev Purim, the children of Shaare Tefila led the Megillah reading along with **Rabbi Jonah, Hazzan Adina** and other adult helpers. We were happy to be together and enjoy the warmth of our community.

The programming originally planned for the month of April has been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the need to be physically distant. We hope that the situation will improve for May, but in the meantime there are ways you can connect to Shaare Tefila and the Jewish community.

▪ **Join one or all of Rabbi Jonah's weekly classes** - exploring the weekly Torah portion on Wednesdays at 11 am, Friday morning Torah class, and both Talmud & Prayer Book Hebrew classes on Sunday mornings. **The links for the Zoom sessions are on the home page of our website** and on this page.

▪ **Stream our Shabbat services at 6 pm Friday evenings & 9:30 am Saturday mornings, using this link.**

▪ **Learn from a variety of thinkers by listening to an ELI Talk on MyJewishLearning.**

▪ **The Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv is offering a virtual tour here.** I visited there last summer and it is a beautiful place.

There are other resources to explore online, many listed by Rabbi Jonah in his message on the home page of our website. Why not take time for yourself and your family and take advantage of these opportunities while you are home. We look forward to being together in Olney soon!

L'Shalom, Babette



The Shofar

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ

The main ritual of Passover preparation is ridding our homes of all grain and leavened products (*chametz*). To actually throw out our food would be wasteful. The rabbis 1500 years ago devised a legal fiction that would permit us to leave the food in our homes. By selling the *chametz* to someone not obligated to observe the holiday, we fulfill the commandment “do not have *chametz* in your possession.”

In order to “sell” your *chametz*, complete the form below and return it to **Rabbi Layman** by Wednesday morning **April 8, 2020**. When “selling” our *chametz*, it is customary to make a donation called *ma’ot chitim* to enable those who are poor to celebrate Passover. All monies will be donated to MAZON: The Jewish Response to Hunger.

I (we) hereby authorize Rabbi Jonah Layman to serve as my (our) agent to sell my (our) chametz. I (we) understand that I (we) cannot touch the chametz in my (our) home from 10:00 AM Wednesday April 8, 2020 to 8:29 PM Thursday April 16, 2020.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

HEBREW NAME: _____ son/daughter of _____

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ made payable to MAZON



SPARKS IN NISSAN
CONTRIBUTOR: SUSAN J. RUBENSTEIN



I recently came upon a teaching from a rabbi who lived late in the 19th century in Poland, *Yehudah Aryeh Lieb*, known by his students as the *Sfat Emet*, which is the name of his best known text. In it he writes that each of us has within us a *nekudat elohut*, a spark of Hashem. This idea is one to which he frequently returns. I have been turning over this idea in relation to Passover, the holiday in which we fulfill the interwoven mitzvot of *zachor v’shamor*, of *keeping and remembering*. As we also do on Shabbat.

Because this is a spark of – and from – Hashem, I think of it as a *Ner Tamid* within our soul, an Eternal Light within which remains lit. As we tell the Passover story, we “re-member” (*zachor*), *as if* we are there in Egypt as our ancestors were. The Hebrew name for Egypt is *Mitzrayim*, which comes from the Hebrew ‘*meitzar*’: *The Narrow Place*. Indeed: what is Passover if not our collective seminal narrative of enslavement as a People whose spirit felt crushed by the many years of oppression? In this way, *the Sfat Emet* says, our inner Divine Spark becomes like our internal *lechem oni*, “the bread of our affliction” that phrase we read in the haggadah. Our spark flattens like matzah.

It is mid-March as I write these words, a day when Broadway theatres go dark, when MCPS cancels public school, when almost hourly we are bombarded by warnings and measures needed to be taken by each of us to stave off the spread of this unrelenting coronavirus. We are in the *meitzar*, here and in our world. How do we keep ourselves from constricting from fear?

The *Sfat Emet*, Reb Lieb says that our spiritual job in trying times of when our inner spark seems to dim by the challenges of Life’s narrow passages is to not make ourselves smaller, immobilized by panic, but rather to grow that point of holiness within by all means that will give our soul spark the space to expand, and to illuminate the darkness without. As we will soon be retelling our ancient story of the journey from narrowness to expansion, we enter a story that reminds us we do have a responsibility to each other, that we cannot overcome challenges and crises on our own, that we are commanded to take care of ourselves and one another. As it was then, as it is today. Now.



**ROSE AND GEORGE TELLER PRESCHOOL
GATES OF DISCOVERY
BETH ADLER, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**

COMING TOGETHER – BUT ALSO LEAVING

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. – Aristotle

The design choices we make as we plan a gathering – whom we gather, where we gather, how we start and end a gathering, among others – can determine whether a gathering soars or flounders. The group dynamics, the system of behaviors and psychological processes occurring within the group that gives rise to a set of norms, roles, relations and common goals, are constructed on these choices. As the social group is a critical source of information about individual identity, we encourage children to consider their role in the group. Each individual both helps to define and is then defined by, the norms and choices of the group.

In a classroom, as in most groups, participants frequently adopt distinct roles and behaviors. Personalities often dictate these roles and how they influence the group dynamic. When we repeatedly gather, individuals naturally fall into regular roles. The group participants depend on each other to fulfill their roles. But if in a classroom, group membership is not static, how do the additions and absences affect the individuals and the group dynamics? How will the children not only cope with, but also grasp, these changes?

In our three year old class, we prepare to have one classmate permanently leave. The children’s prior knowledge of maps and map-making quickly became a visual tool for the children to understand her absence. When introduced to a world map an immediate and unanimous question was asked; “Where do I live on that map?” Once they found their location on the map and their friend’s new location, theories began to develop.

“We live near the United States”
 “She is moving to India”
 “That’s a long drive. You’ll have to go across the water”
 “You have to take a plane”
 “Take a car”
 “If you go in the ocean the car will soak down”

As the group gathers, we understand that the space we choose also affects how we engage with ideas, content and each other. Our meeting tree is a response to this realization. It is a place where the Bumblebees stop for a few moments from the busy-ness of the morning and come together. It is a place for singing and sharing smiles. It is a time for sharing something special with friends. It is a nudge towards new and challenging ideas.

Consulting Our Map



Assembling Our-Learning Tree



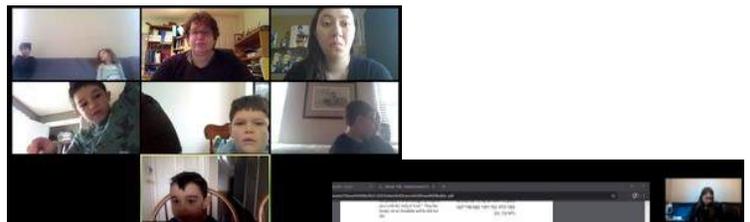
**CHAVAYA
BABETTE COHN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION &
PROGRAMMING**
bcohn@shaaretefila.org

March at Chavaya started as usual, with a focus on learning about and celebrating Purim. Everyone had a great time at our annual Carnival on the 8th, and the children in 3rd grade and up led a beautiful Megillah reading on Erev Purim, Monday March 9 (see photos p. 6). The bake sale that Kitah Gimel held to raise money for MAZON met with great success, bringing in \$70 for the cause. [If you would like to support MAZON with a contribution please make a donation on the form when you sell your chametz for Passover.](#) You can find pictures from the Purim festivities on p.5.

Due to the public health emergency related to COVID-19, my staff and I have refocused our curriculum and how we are spending time with our students. Chavaya launched online classes on March 22. Every class, from Kitah Alef to Kitah Na’ahroot, spent time connecting and learning with their teachers and each other. We will continue meeting online until the environment improves for public health and the public schools reopen. Check out the screen shot pictures of some of the classes below!

Parents have received a number of resources to support the exploration of Jewish learning at home, some related to their child’s online classes and some just for fun! **I am currently holding a points accumulation game, where children will receive a prize after earning a total of 120 points. Good luck to everyone participating!!**

In this time of being required to be physically distant, we are doing all we can at Shaare Tefila to give your children a continued sense of connection and community. Remember that your child(ren)’s teacher, in addition to myself, is always an email or message away.



L’Shalom, Babette

The Shofar



PURIM CARNIVAL 2020

The Shofar

Reading Megillah at Shaare Tefila: Purim 2020



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



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 **Jonathan Cohen** in the office.

Siddur \$54
Machzor \$36
Large Type Machzor \$54

SHAARE TEFILA

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

Rabbi Jonah Layman
 rjlayman@shaaretefila.org
 301-593-3410 X 102

Hazzan
 Adina Klein Ackerman
 caackerman@sharetefila.org

President
 Judy Bresler
 president@shaaretefila.org

Executive Director
 Jonathan Cohen
 jcohen@shaaretefila.org
 301-593-3410 X 101

Preschool Director
 Beth Adler
 badler@shaaretefila.org
 301-593-3410 X 105

Director of Education & Programming
 Babette Cohn
 bcohn@shaaretefila.org
 301-593-3410 X 106

Office Administrator
 Rosanne Sharpe
 rsharp@shaaaretefila.org
 301-593-3410 X 104

The Shofar

TRIBUTES

February 1, 2020 - February 29, 2020

Andrea Z. Tilles

Memorial Chesed Fund

In Honor Of:

Jack & Bess Teller's 55th Wedding Anniversary

Alan & Adriana Sandler

Ira & Ethel Levine

Charlotte Potosky

Lawrence & Ellie Alpert

Mark & Marjorie Fuhrmann

Ami & Rita Frydman's 55th

Wedding Anniversary

Ira & Ethel Levine

Paul Tilles' Retirement

Jack & Bess Teller

Sylvia Glaser

Judith Beiser

In Memory Of:

Lorraine Davidson

Frances Futrovsky

Eric Beebe

Alan & Adriana Sandler

Ira & Ethel Levine

Julian Leidman

Stanley Rosen

Larry & Ellie Alpert

Susan Swift

Charles Futrovsky

Endowment Fund

In Honor Of:

Jack & Bess Teller's 55th Wedding Anniversary

Jay & Rita Hagler

In Memory Of:

Denise Marzouk

Jay & Rita Hagler

General Fund

In Honor Of:

Jack & Bess Teller's 55th Wedding Anniversary

Andrew & Marlene Sandberg

Perry & Stephanie Buckberg

Saul & Sherry Cohen

Lily Chase, granddaughter of

David & Lee Ronis

Rona Eisen

Gilda Kuritzky's Birthday

Harvey Kushner

Ami Frydman's 80th Birthday

Hyman & Cilla Grosberg

The Birth of Caleb Nachlas Cohen

Jack & Bess Teller

Ami & Rita Frydman's 55th

Wedding Anniversary

Jack & Bess Teller

Ami Frydman's 80th Birthday

Jack & Bess Teller

In Memory Of:

Celia Keroes

Anita Becker

Ada Simony

Betty Rosenthal

Naomi Dodson

Eric & Kathleen Greenberg

Samuel Greenfield

George & Marilyn Kessler

Paul Peritt

Harvey & Judith Peritt

Hyman Hutter

Henry Hutter

Sylvia Zinnamon

Hinda Exler

Meta Cohen

Jack & Bess Teller

Judy Bresler

Mary Samuel

Jacqueline Samuel

Arthur Bresler

Judy Bresler

Stanley Rosen

Judy Bresler

Lorraine Davidson

Judy Bresler

Abe Krosnick

Judy Bresler

Fred Simon

Jules & Zelma Fink

Clara Stein

Lois Seigel

Sigmund Goldstein

Luiz Simmons

Lorraine Davidson

Martin & Ruth Gutstein

Lawrence Sanders

Michael & Stefanie Levy

Bella Goldman

Philip Goldman

Sam Goldman

Philip Goldman

Frances Leidman

Roanne Leidman

Myrtle Leidman

Roanne Leidman

Joseph (Joey) Newhouse

Ruth Newhouse

Shirley Smith

Sam & Debbie Yedlin

Simon Marzouk

Sam & Debbie Yedlin

Aida Lorraine Davidson

Saul & Sherry Cohen

Eric Beebe

Saul & Sherry Cohen

Judy Bresler

Lisa Zarny

Seth Zarny, Ellen Radish & Family

Albert Loptain

Stephen & Freda Resnick

Abraham Resnick

Stephen & Freda Resnick

Ida Menick

Stephen & Freda Resnick

Moishe Potosky

Steven & Lauren Diener

Sarah Epstein

Sylvia Glaser

Speedy Recovery To:

Susan Goldsamt

Jack & Bess Teller

Alan Weinstein

Jack & Bess Teller

Harold Fink Israel

Quest Fund

In Honor Of:

Ami Frydman's 80th Birthday

Shaare Tefila's Chug Ivrit

In Memory Of:

Lorraine Davidson

Barbara Fink

Holocaust Memorial Plaque

In Memory Of:

Johanna Rosenthal

Ellen Reinach

Michael Joel Reinach

Ellen Reinach

Loeb Rosenthal

Ellen Reinach

Nathan Rubinstein

Youth Fund

In Honor Of:

Sherry Cohen's Special Birthday

Rita Rubinstein

Jack & Bess Teller's 55th

Wedding Anniversary

Rita Rubinstein

Ami Frydman's 80th Birthday

Rita Rubinstein

In Memory Of:

Aida Davidson

Rita Rubinstein

Stanley Rosen

Rita Rubinstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Layman's 25 years at

Shaare Tefila

Sam & Lauren Racoosin

Ami & Rita Frydman's 55th

Wedding Anniversary

Ann Werner

Jacob Lansky's Bar Mitzvah

Larry & Ellie Alpert

In Memory Of:

May Savage's sister

Charlotte Potosky

Shabbat and Yom Tov Fund

In Honor Of:

Jacob Lansky's Bar Mitzvah

Milton & Susan Goldsamt

Building Fund

In Honor Of:

Jack & Bess Teller's 55th Wedding Anniversary

Aaron & Rita Weisstuch

Audrey Haber

Marvin & Diane Schneider

The Birth of Caleb Nachlas Cohen

Charlotte Potosky

Audrey Haber

Susan Marder

Ellen Reinach

In Memory Of:

Aida Lorraine Davidson

Audrey Haber

Stanley Rosen

Barbara Harkaway

Johanna Rosenthal

Ellen Reinach

Michael Joel Reinach

Ellen Reinach

Martin Reinach

Ellen Reinach

Jacob Lichtenstein

Ellen Reinach

Melita Lichtenstein

Ellen Reinach

SHAARE TEFILA
16620 GEORGIA AVENUE
OLNEY, MARYLAND 20832

The Shofar

Shaare Tefila Congregation

301-593-3410

www.shaaretefila.org

info@shaaretefila.org

Rabbi
Hazzan
Rabbi Emeritus
Cantor Emeritus
President
Executive Director
Director of Education & Programming
Preschool Director
Synagogue Administrator
Shofar Editor

Jonah Layman
Adina Klein Ackerman
Martin S. Halpern, z"l
Gershon E. Levin, z"l
Judy Bresler
Jonathan Cohen
Babette Cohn
Beth Adler
Rosanne Sharpe
Sara Miller