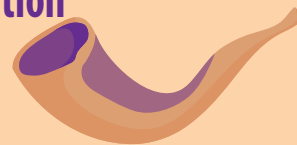




Shaare Tefila Congregation

The *Shofar* השופר



Celebrating our 73rd year

NOVEMBER 2024 - TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5785

Vol. 73 #10



SHAARE TEFILA CONGREGATION



OUR synagogue
OUR community
OUR future



It's in OUR hands



Do your part...
Help your community grow!

membership@ShaareTefila.org



**SEE PAGE 6 FOR
INFORMATION**
(click here to
jump to page 6)

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

New Beginnings

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org



The Jewish Fall holidays are spiritually and physically intense. We spend 10 days from *Rosh Hashanah* through *Yom Kippur* reflecting on who we are and what we've done. If taken seriously, the 10 days of repentance

can be emotionally painful as we come to terms with our behavior and pray fervently for forgiveness. As the 25-hour fast of *Yom Kippur* concludes we then prepare to construct a *sukkah* - the temporary structure that symbolizes the precarious nature of our lives and our dependence on God. And then we conclude the holiday season with celebratory singing and dancing as we conclude the yearly cycle of *Torah* readings.

The holidays are a lot of work but they work - psychologically. The spiritual effort required for repentance and forgiveness requires us to be humble. It requires us to recognize that we aren't the center of the universe - God is. It requires us to understand the core values that define our lives and to rededicate ourselves to pursuing those ethical and moral goals. We do so guided by two resources - God and *Torah*. Building the *sukkah* helps us recognize our faith in God and the holiday of *Simchat Torah* helps us recognize that our values are contained in the ancient text of the *Torah*.

After experiencing those 4 weeks of holidays, we are then able to begin the cycle of *Torah* readings again with a clean slate. We can appreciate the foundational, creation stories in the first book of the *Torah* - *Bereisheet* or *Genesis* - and symbolically start our lives over again.

Of course, this spiritual groundwork isn't so easy and it usually doesn't go according to plan. Events in the world around us and our own family circumstances intrude and impact us. How can we concentrate on these religious goals when the world is chaotic? How can we celebrate these holidays when Israel's existence is threatened, when we face a rising tide of antisemitism, when the presidential race is filled with hate and lies?

But that is exactly the point. We aren't the first generation of Jews to face a crisis and be expected nonetheless to observe the rituals. Imagine the Jews in hiding in Spain from the forces of the Inquisition. Or imagine Jews in Europe during the Holocaust. Or imagine Jews during the Crusades. Jewish life in those times was unbearable and yet our ancestors found comfort and strength in their faith and their community. Let us pray that we can do so as well.

As we enjoy reading the *Torah* from the beginning once again, may we gain strength and resilience to face the challenges in the year ahead.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org



Reflecting on the just concluded High Holidays offers a moment to pause and consider the themes of repentance, renewal, and community. This period encourages introspection, inviting us to examine our actions over the past year and to seek personal growth. It's a time to strengthen connections with family and friends, to embrace forgiveness, and to set intentions for the year

ahead. As we move forward, may we carry the lessons learned during these sacred days and strive to create a positive impact in our lives and the lives of others.

Interwoven with this year's High Holidays was the one-year anniversary of the October 7th Hamas attack, which reminded us of the profound pain and trauma experienced by individuals and communities affected by the violence. For many, it serves as a reminder of the importance of solidarity, resilience, and the pursuit of peace.

The rabbi's sermons over the High Holidays focused on the change in his relationships with his interfaith colleagues

after the attack. I was looking back at past *Shofar's* to see how things have changed in the past year and noted that as *Sukkot* was approaching, the rabbi discussed how he was inviting his colleagues to the *shul's sukkah* for a morning meeting to discuss how their partnership guides their work. I was personally dismayed at the responses from his colleagues after the attack and how it affected the rabbi. I am hopeful though that the internal strength of our community can be reflected externally to demonstrate our resiliency to the greater community.

As I mentioned in my last article, Fran and I did take our 30th anniversary trip to Nicaragua, which included six days on Calala Island and two days exploring other cities. It was a wonderful experience and we thoroughly enjoyed finding out more about Nicaragua from our guides.

As a reminder from my *Kol Nidre* speech, while financial support to our congregation is important, there is also there is a non-financial support needed for our community by way of VOLUNTEERING! I again encourage everyone to commit to pick at least a single event to volunteer to help.





On My Mind

By Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

As I write this, three entirely unrelated activities are concluding. I'd like to reflect a bit on each, because taken together, there is, I think, a useful common thread, and lessons to be learned.

The first is the 'fall season' of Jewish holidays. In the life of a synagogue – and a synagogue director, this is a critical annual cycle. It has 3 stages of its own; the first is the advance preparation, which begins months earlier. It entails a LONG list of related details that must be tended to and which gradually become all-consuming. Compounding the challenge is the fact that, whether the High Holidays arrive in early September, or not until October, they coincide with other elements of a synagogue's 'business cycle' – renewal of memberships, the start of a new school year, the onboarding of any new employees, etc. And sometimes a new set of lay leaders who are trying to get some traction on new priorities and plans. The second stage; when the holidays actually arrive, are, literally, a blessed relief. If all of the prep has been properly done, you get to sit back a bit and try to enjoy the fruits of your labor. (In the case of *Sukkot*, somewhat literally; I LOVE the smell of fresh *etrogim*!) And the third stage ... well, besides the various 'cleanup' matters stemming from the holidays, along with a backlog that can result from sometimes (as was the case this year) having nearly a month's worth of 3-day work weeks, there is every director's favorite; the inevitable flow of, often politely worded, "Now that the holidays are over" requests that arrive from all directions about dozens of matters. In trying to help people who are not in this business understand just what all of this is like, my most effective method is to liken it to the work cycle of accountant or firm that handles personal tax returns and the annual April 15 tax filing deadline. Only in our business, there is no fallback; you can't resort to filing an extension. For better or worse, the holidays come and go and all you can do is look back at what transpired ... and begin formulating your plans for how to improve next year.

The second activity ... is the completion of another baseball season. That too has an internal cycle of its own; the hope of spring, the grind of a long season, and the narrowing competition in which one team emerges with a championship. In the end, there can be only one. In that realm, I am relegated to the easiest role of all; I am 'just' a fan, in my case, a life-long Orioles fan. (For various reasons, I have a secondary appreciation for the Washington Nationals, but it's nowhere nearly at the same level.) I have the luxury of just being able to watch and enjoy. I don't have responsibility for scouting, draft picks, player trades, or difficult contract negotiations. I can, like all fans, second-guess all of the decisions made by my team's owners and general manager, and the on-field performances ... but I don't tend to get too worked up about any of that; I mostly just sit back and watch. Though also a huge business, I am a sports 'purist' – I love the endeavor

and think that there are MANY things to be learned from participation, at every level. The latest World Series was a classic contest, full of drama. My biggest takeaway (and there are many), was a reminder of that people, at ALL levels, and in ANY endeavor, sometimes shine ... and sometimes make mistakes. You may get it routinely right 999 times ... but there's that ONE time when you don't. It is humbling. If you are fortunate, the consequences of your mistakes don't have much lasting impact. And if you want your psyche to remain intact, you learn to shrug it off and move on.

Lastly ... there is the election cycle. I would love to just be able to 'celebrate' this process as a shining testament to the remarkable democratic process, in which WE, THE PEOPLE, are given an opportunity to weigh in on the future direction of our country. And there is still that. But of late, it has become more of an ordeal that most of us just want to see come to an end. Just when you thought the level of vitriol had reached its peak, each day (hour?), it seems to ratchet up yet another notch. As I write this, we are approaching the 'final deadline' – our national Election Day. It will mark a (very welcome) conclusion ... of sorts to a seemingly perpetual election campaign. Alas, we all know that the aftermath of trying to determine the ACTUAL results, is almost certainly going to be a prolonged contest. My prediction; we'll be fortunate if, by Thanksgiving, we can have firm decision as to who will take the oath of office in January. And to be sure, given how it has been framed for months now, much of the country will regard it as either a glorious triumph of 'good' over 'evil' or as an unmitigated disaster of epic proportions.

Now here comes my suggested lesson ... and please pay close attention, because I do not want to be misunderstood. You have to keep a healthy perspective on LIFE. We are all engaged in many endeavors; some Jewish, some are 'merely' entertainment, and others are civic. They ALL matter, to varying degrees, certainly to us, and in their impact on the lives of others. ALL ARE CONSEQUENTIAL. Yes, even baseball. Obviously, some of you are not baseball fans and could care less about it ... and that's fine. I suggest that it serves as an example, a "stand-in" as it were, for 'something that YOU are engaged in.' Caring about 'things' ... and making efforts to try to impact the world are important, all-important even.

But again, you have to keep a healthy perspective. Though it is true that nothing lasts forever, I remain pretty confident in suggesting that, regardless of what transpires in each of these realms this year – or next ... the sun will keep rising each day. And next year, or four years from now, these same cycles will repeat themselves. The political winds will continue to blow. There will be renewed hope for every MLB team come spring. And though maybe not on the world stage, there will be 'Freddie Freeman' opportunities that will allow each of us to shine. And the High Holidays will return again next year. I look forward to seeing you at *Kol Nidrei* in 5786.





Programming and Education

Babette Cohn, Director of Education & Programming | BCohn@ShaareTefila.org

Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof - Deuteronomy 16:20:1

Justice, Justice, You Shall Pursue - Time to Vote!!

What does voting have to do with being Jewish? As Americans we are taught, starting at a young age, that voting is a civic responsibility and a civil right as citizens. Our tradition teaches us that we should pursue justice in the world - this can include secure access to health care for all, a decent place to live, care for those in poverty, and fair wages for everyone. Voting is a way for you to take action, use your voice and help nurture justice in our country and your community - if you have not voted by the time you read this please make a plan and be sure your friends and family do the same!

The community holiday celebrations were outstanding during October. During our High Holiday services and Youth Program we welcomed people new to the community as well as those who have been around a while. On the Sunday *Chol HaMoed*/intermediate days of *Sukkot* we had a lovely lunch in our *sukkah* and had a discussion with Lawrence MacDonald, author of "Am I Too Old to Save the Planet? A Boomer's Guide to Climate Action." Everyone there was enlightened by what he had to say and agreed that he should be invited back to reach more members of our community - stay tuned for that opportunity! We also tried something new this year with an *Erev Simchat Torah* dinner, Wrappin' Up the Torah! Fifty congregants enjoyed a light meal, prepared by Cilla and Hyman Grosberg, and joined more people for our evening service that followed. People of all ages sang and danced with the Torah.

Chavaya families in *Kitah Dalet* (6/7 grade) met with me for their first *B-Mitzvah* Family Session, Today You Are an Adult: What Does It Mean to Become a Teen? Using Jewish text from *Pirke Avot* about the purpose of each age in a person's life, from 5 to 70, parents and children looked at how things listed from 2nd century Israel apply to today or are different from today's sensibilities.

On November 17, families in *Kitah Alef* and *Kitah Bet* (1-3 grade) will be attending a program on Jewish Bedtime Rituals. Coming up for our community:

- **Invite your friends and test your knowledge** at Trivia Nights! Games are being run November 6 and

13 - [you can register your team of 4-6 for \\$20, individuals for \\$5 in advance here](#) or you can walk in and pay at the door.

- **The November *Shabbat* dinner is on the 8th - early deadline for the adult price is November 1st.** Join us for oven fried chicken or tofu, with delicious side dishes and dessert! Register here no later than November 6. [Join us for oven fried chicken or tofu, with delicious side dishes and dessert! Register here no later than November 6.](#)
- **November 8, 6 pm - Welcome *Shabbat* with some Rhythm N'*Ruach* – Mini-Minyan with Auntie A in the Chapel** - Families with children ages 0-7 are invited to sing, dance and play instruments to celebrate the beginning of *Shabbat*!
- **November 16, 6 pm - *Havdalah* Experience: Road to Eden - FREE** - Join us for the first *Havdalah* community program of the year. Renowned Jewish musician Dan Nichols took a journey of the American south and it was documented in a film called "Road to Eden." Appropriate for people of all ages, we will view the film together, enjoy refreshments and have a little conversation when it ends. You can view the trailer at this link, <https://vimeo.com/139035299> There's no charge but RSVPs are appreciated - you can email me at bcohn@shaaretefila.org

I look forward to seeing you at all or at least one of these programs!

Please Note Time Change

As of Monday, November 10, Rabbi Layman's class, *Jews and the News*, will move from its previous time of 11 AM to 7:45 PM (immediately following the Monday evening *minyan* service).



Shaare Tefila Presents



Join Us & Test Your Knowledge
Have a Bite to Eat & Enjoy a Beer or Two

OCT 30
WEDNESDAYS **NOV 6** **16620 GA AVE**
7-9 PM **NOV 13** **OLNEY, MD 20832**

Advance Cost: \$5 per person, \$20 per team of 4-6
\$7 at the door

Prizes: Dinner for a Group at our monthly Community dinners, plus a Gift Card to Giant Food



SIGN UP HERE

<https://gqr.sh/cWnF>



News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com



L'Shana Tova to everyone. I hope you had a meaningful and peaceful holiday with family and friends and an easy fast. In the new year, we wish everyone peace, good health, prosperity, and much joy.

The Membership Committee assembled and delivered 15 "New Member" bags and we certainly hope the contents were enjoyed by all.

The personal touch of delivering them in-person was very important to us and we are very sorry if we missed you, but hope you still felt the warmth of our *shul* community when you opened your bag.

I enjoyed seeing all of you at our various programs for *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*!

If anyone is interested in our *shul*, please don't hesitate to have them reach out to me.

Help With our New Membership Campaign

As some of you heard at Shabbat services on Oct 19, we were excited to announce the launch of our membership campaign, aimed at welcoming more individuals and families into our warm synagogue community. As we begin this journey together, we invite you to join us in spreading the word and sharing the many wonderful aspects of our congregation.

Our *shul* is more than just a place of worship; it is a community where we come together to celebrate, learn, and support one another. Growing our membership enables us to enhance our programs, expand our outreach, and continue to build a strong, supportive network for everyone.

You are now asking "How can I help?" With your enthusiasm and dedication, we ask that you:

- Spread the word about our special synagogue and what sets us apart
- Invite guests to our services, events and programs
- Participate in shul events since your presence and warm welcome can make an impact on prospective members
- Use your Social Media platforms to share event information

To show our appreciation for your efforts, we will offer incentives for members who refer new individuals or families to our synagogue.

We are grateful for your continued support to our synagogue and look forward, during the next year, to welcoming new faces into our community. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or our membership committee.

Thank you for being part of our synagogue family and we look forward to growing together!

Remember "Shaare Tefila Congregation, OUR Synagogue, OUR community, OUR Future...It's in OUR hands.



Sisterhood

Shelley Rochester, Sisterhood President



Hello Ladies!

October was certainly a busy month. We celebrated *Rosh Hashana*, survived *Yom Kippur*, tried not to hit the ducks with bread at Lake Needwood for *tashlich*, and dined *al fresco* (multiple times) for *Sukkot*. With the fall Jewish holidays now behind us, we can shift our focus

to other holidays coming up, plus our own Sisterhood events.

We held our second annual Game Night On October 27. While we had only 5 participants last year, we doubled that this year and we were 10! We hope that next year, we can double that number! We played several different games, putting in a little Jewish influence: Hangman, Trivia, Name That Jew, What Wasn't Invented by a Jew?, and the ever popular Senior's Exam. There was only some mild cheating, a table full of refreshments, another table full of prizes and we were having so much fun, we extended the evening by another half hour. I'm awarding the event a '10.' So don't miss out on the fun next year!

This year's Patron Event is promising to be one of the best ever. Ethel Levine has arranged for a special occasion at the Josiah Henson Museum and Park in North Bethesda. The tour will be on **Sunday, November 10** from 12-2 PM and includes a brief film. Afterward we will *shlep* to the *Shouk* for a Middle Eastern *nosh*. For a more detailed description of the trip, check Ethel's email, "Sisterhood Patron Event—November 10." We are all looking forward to it and I do hope you'll join us!

On **November 17**, Sisterhood will sponsor a new event: Sisterhood Swap. We are encouraging other Sisterhoods to join us in this not-for-profit experience. Tables will be arranged in the social hall and participants are encouraged to bring in "stuff" to trade. There will be accessories: handbags, jewelry, scarves, gloves and anything else you have that has SOME value and has been "gently used." We are NOT including clothing. No money will be exchanged. We're just going to...swap! Anything left at the end of the day will be donated to Charity's Closet in Savage Mill. Further information will be coming so keep an eye out for the emails.

Wishing you and your families a healthy Thanksgiving. With all the trouble and trauma going on around us, this is a good time to recall what we ARE grateful for.

JEWISH HAIKU

No fins, no flippers
the gefilte fish swims with
some difficulty

Kiddush Lunches Are Wonderful

Our Sisterhood is terrific!

Among the many services Sisterhood performs is to provide a light lunch for those who would like to remain and linger in the *Shabbat* environment.

So many of us look forward to gathering after services to *schmooze* and catch up with one-another. This enhances our sense of community and contributes to making Shaare Tefila the *hamish* place we always strive to be.

These light lunches have been met with great delight and appreciation. However, they do come at a financial cost—especially when there is not a sponsor. Therefore, we request that those who are able, please contribute to our "*Kiddish Fund*." If you can, please send \$180 to help defray the cost of these meals; or any amount would be appreciated. With your donation we can continue to provide a *kiddush* for about 42 additional Saturdays throughout the year. Your gift will greatly offset the costs and will benefit our community.

You might also consider sponsoring a *kiddush*. What a wonderful way to celebrate an anniversary, acknowledge a birthday, honor a family member, or recognize a milestone. Our Sisterhood is always available to assist you in making the arrangements.



If you are planning to contribute, please send your donation to Shaare Tefila and include a note "*For Shabbat Kiddushes*." We would be grateful for any amount you can provide this program. Your contribution will be recognized in the *Shofar*.

JTS Student Ambassador Program - November 8-9



We will be privileged to have the services of a senior rabbinical student, Ariel Ya'akov Dunat, from the Jewish Theological Seminary over *Shabbat*, November 8-9.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience and learn from the next generation of spiritual leaders of the Conservative movement.

Ariel will lead services on Friday night, November 8, prior to our *Shabbat* dinner, and will teach after the *Shabbat* morning service.

Ariel Ya'akov Dunat (they/them/הוא) is a fifth-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where they will be ordained and receive their Master's in *Halakha*. Ariel serves as a member of the steering committee for Svava's Trans *Halakha* Project, with whom they wrote and published their first *teshuvah* (legal responsa) on the topic of conversion and *brit milah* (circumcision) for trans individuals. Ariel is also independently pursuing certification as a *shohet* (a ritual slaughterer), in order to understand better where our food comes from and to do their part to be more ethical and humane in the food they eat. Ariel hopes to serve as a congregational rabbi after ordination and is excited to serve the Jewish people, bringing a vibrant and inclusive approach to our traditions. Ariel was born and raised in suburban Ohio and remains a Midwesterner at heart. Ariel enjoys cooking new recipes, as well as exploring the more remote parts of New York with their husband, Jason, and *shih tzu*, Jacques. Ariel's passions include *halakha*, history, and comparative religious studies.

Letter to the Congregation

Dear Shaare Tefila Chesed Committee;

Thank you so much for the *Shabbat* dinner provided to us as well as the *challahs* later. Feeling the support of the Share Tefila family has made this difficult time a little easier.

Sincerely,
[Name withheld to preserve anonymity]

Consider Joining a *Chavurah*

First, what is a *Chavurah*? Simply, a *Chavurah* is a Friendship Group.

The Shaare Tefila Membership Committee assists in assembling *Chavurah* groups to enrich our members' experience in our community. *Chavurah* groups are a wonderful way to meet new people, make new friends and reacquaint with "old" friends. *Chavurahs* help us feel more connected to our *shul*.

Each friendship group is different and determines its own direction or focus, and timing. Some groups meet monthly while others might meet less frequently. Some groups are purely social, while others may focus more on speakers, book clubs, dining experiences, or movies with discussion. The list of potential activities is endless.

We have contacted some of you to ask if you would be interested in joining a group. Many groups have been formed and meet regularly and we are in the process of working to create additional groups.

Would you be interested in joining a new *Chavurah*?

We are volunteers working on this project. We are aware we have not contacted all to see who might be interested in being part of a new group. If this is something that you would consider, please contact me, Stephanie Buckberg, pmjmine3@gmail.com, 301-873-8988.

YOUR Shaare Tefila Chesed Committee!

If **YOU** or someone you know, is in need of support and would appreciate a call or visit: call Rabbi Layman (301-593-3410 ext.102)



If **YOU** could use some dinners, for whatever reason, please contact Adriana Sandler (SandlerAA@gmail.com)

If **YOU** need transportation to Shaare Tefila services, minyan, programs, or doctor/therapy/dentist/grocery store/pharmacy/other, please contact either Betty Balin (301-437-9394) or Margy Eiserike (240-997-0320), the Chesed's Ride with Us coordinators.

If **YOU** have any other requests, reach out to the office; anybody on the committee or Adriana (preferable: SandlerAA@gmail.com or 301-871-1164)





November 8th Shabbat Dinner: Gratitude for Community

Sign Up by Nov 1 for Early Bird Adult Cost \$22;
Nov 4 for Regular Adult Cost \$25
NEW - Children, Ages 5-14, Cost \$14
Under Age 5, Free
Family Maximum Cost, \$75



Join Us for Dinner Including:
Oven Fried Chicken or Tofu, Gravy, Green Beans,
Smashed Roasted Potatoes & Blondies for Dessert



<https://bit.ly/3BOxZan>



Annual Toy Drive to Support Harmony Hills Elementary School

Cathy Plotkin

This fall I will be collecting donations for children who attend Harmony Hills Elementary School, in Aspen Hill. Each fall, through the generosity of members of our community, I am able to collect enough money to purchase toys for 20 children.



Harmony Hills Elementary is designated as a Title One school, which means that more children qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch meals.

It's an indication of the poverty in the area. The holidays are an especially stressful time for our families, and many families reach out for assistance- with clothes, food, and toys for the season.

If you would like to help my school, I would be so grateful- any amount will help. We typically spend about \$15-\$20 per gift, and it goes a long way since my shoppers do their shopping on Black Friday, when there are greater deals to be had!

There are several ways that you can donate:

- Mail a check to me; Cathy Plotkin, 18028 Bilney Drive, Olney, MD 20832.
- Send money via Zelle or Venmo, using my email; CathyP1130@gmail.com

Please **send your donation by November 22** so that the shoppers will know how much they have to spend.

In addition, some of you have approached me with new books, coats, and other items that you have collected during last year's post-holiday sales and those contributions will also be welcomed.

The children will be so excited! Last year we collected almost \$500, and I hope we can raise that amount again.

Thank you, always, for your love and support.

Food Collection

Thanks to the generosity of our many HH attendees, our annual 'Operation Isiah' food collection yielded some 25 [tightly packed] boxes and/or bags of food that have been donated to Olney Help.



CHUG IVRIT

A Challenge for You!

Don't try an online tool to improve your language skills!
Don't spend hours and hours listening and repeating someone's Hebrew phrases in order to further your Hebrew understanding!

Try Chug Ivrit: Conversational Hebrew
conveniently conducted via ZOOM on
Sunday mornings 10:30 – 12 noon
(There is NO cost to participate.)

Together, we read short, up-to-date news, science, and human-interest articles under the guidance of fellow congregant, Ami Frydman. He not only teaches us but brings a wealth of knowledge and background information about Israel to each and every session.

Want to make sure the Chug Ivrit is right for your level of Hebrew?

Email Adriana at SandlerAA@gmail.com, to receive a sample of the articles we are reading right now.

להית ... perhaps?



Annual Kol Nidrei Appeal - 2024

REMARKS BY SHAARE TEFILA PRESIDENT JEFFREY WEISS

As I reflect on the high holiday season; I think about the years I spent in my youth at Shaare Tefila at the Lockwood Drive location, the wandering between that building and our building here in Olney, the 13 years in Olney, and the future of **OUR** congregation. But mostly I think about the future.

The membership was larger back in the days of my youth. The religious school had to meet on separate days; *b'nai mitzvot* were done on Fridays and Saturdays; and for the High Holidays, there was an overflow service in the lower level. By the way, I do still have my *bar mitzvah* cassette from Gershon Levin 'Olav ha-shalom.'

In 2005, I was reconnected as a congregant with Shaare Tefila with my family becoming members. This was not too long before the move to Olney began. Between buildings, the congregation had to deal with the challenge of finding spaces to hold services and events, over 70 locations were needed. We held minyans at the Bresler house, services at elementary schools and at the dance studio at the Olney theatre, Friday night dinners at bank and other buildings in the Olney area, *b'nai mitzvot* at buildings at other congregations and Norbeck country club, and High Holidays at various high schools. I feel that this time period really highlighted the strength of our community as we persevered through the challenges. To quote past president Bess Teller from an article, from the Southern Maryland News but may have been in other publications as well, one how we preserved, "We have held on with this 'Wandering Jew' concept, but we've kept our core constituency, and we provide all the services and programming of other congregations our size and larger,"

If my memory is correct, the first service was held in the new building on August 19th, 2011, which just happens to be my wife Fran's birthday. There was a great deal of excitement within our congregation on the opening of our building, but I feel a quote Rabbi Layman, from the same article from where I got the quote from Bess, really identifies how many of us felt. He described the building as "a beautiful structure that will not only satisfy our religious, educational and social needs but will also provide a secure foundation for the future." We have all been able to experience what the building has been able to provide to our community.

As I look to the future of **OUR** congregation, I see a strong community poised to move forward as a place where we will all be able to gather for a blend of religious, spiritual, and uplifting experiences that fostered

a deep sense of community and connection. I feel we are shaking off the final remnants of the impacts from COVID, which can be seen with the busy programming and events schedule that is still expanding.

Of course, to allow our congregation to continue to be strong and provide the religious, educational, and social needs that Rabbi Layman mentioned in the article; it requires our members to support our congregation.

One way that members provide that support is financially. There is a litany of expenses that occur monthly as well as a number of larger expenses that occur throughout the fiscal year. While dues cover a large portion of the expenses, additional donations such as the *Kol Nidrei* appeal are needed to cover the additional expenses. Hopefully you picked up your envelope on your way in. If you could please open your envelope now if you haven't already, and consider selecting an amount to contribute and fold down a tab. It just takes a few households to make a contribution that could lead to Shaare Tefila to be able to hold an additional program during the year. *"If you are able to commit to a contribution this evening; please fold down a tab, put the card back into the envelope and pass to the end of the aisle where the ushers will collect the envelopes"*

Also, I spent time at the beginning of my speech talking about the transition from the building on Lockwood Drive to our current building. In the past there have been Capital Campaigns and Named Dedications for the building. There are still opportunities like these that are still in need. For those inclined to contribute towards these types of opportunities, please feel free to reach out to me.

Now that I have discussed financial support to our congregation, I would like to focus on another area of non-financial need for our community. **VOLUNTEERING!** There is a current base of members who consistently volunteer to assist in ensuring that religious services, programs, and events are provided to the congregation. During the upcoming year, I strongly encourage everyone to commit to pick at least a single event to volunteer to help. If you are wondering how to find out about which events need volunteers, just ask me, one of the Vice Presidents, or our Executive Director and we can point you in the right direction. I feel you will find it rewarding and you will most likely find another volunteer that you will likely be able to connect with outside the event. The connection between our members both inside and outside the building is another strength of our community.

Continued on next page



Support Shaare Tefila Through Scrip Gift Cards



Raise money for Shaare Tefila with your everyday shopping to Giant Food, Shalom Kosher or Moti's Kosher super-market. Instead of making everyday purchases with cash/credit – purchase gift cards through our synagogue scrip program. Note there is no additional cost to you, and a percentage of your gift card (5% of each dollar) purchase comes back to our synagogue. It is truly that simple!

Ways to order your scrip cards:

- Contact Barbara Fink at 240-447-4665 or email her at Beas_Fink@verizon.net. She will be happy to take down your order and arrange to deliver your scrip cards or have you pick them up at the synagogue office.

OR

- Orders can also be placed with Executive Director Jerry Kiewe at 301-593-3410, X101, via cell at 410-294-3205, or email him at JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org.

Payment can be made by cash, check or billed to your synagogue account.

In years past our scrip fundraiser helped raise close to \$12,000 and that was when only 20% of our congregation bought scrip. Many of us shop at these markets and even know friends and family who shop at Giant, Shalom's and Moti's. Imagine how much money we could raise if 50% plus of our congregants participated in this program. We hope to expand the type of scrip buying cards in the fall. In the meantime, remember this scrip program has no additional cost to you, but earns dollars for our synagogue to help maintain our building costs. Please be someone who supports your synagogue, and order your scrip today. It's a win-win-win program for all of us!

KOL NIDREI APPEAL, continued from page 10

So, as we observe *Yom Kippur*, a time for reflection and atonement, let us remember that our actions can extend beyond our personal journeys. This is an opportunity to deepen our connection with others and give back to our community and others.

I encourage each of us to consider how we can donate our time or resources to support our community. Whether it's through volunteering, assisting with *kiddush* or a program, or contributing financially, we can make a significant difference in continuing to strengthen our community.

Finally, in this sacred time of introspection, let's commit to transforming our reflections into acts of kindness and generosity. May our efforts help heal not only ourselves but also the world around us.

G'mar Chatimah Tovah

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

NOVEMBER

Anniversary Celebrations

- 11/5 Milton & Susan Goldsamt
- 11/5 Annie & Daniel Hirsch
- 11/5 Jay & Karen Weingart
- 11/8 Daniel & Chloe Grosberg
- 11/13 Paul & Sheryl Tilles
- 11/24 David & Florence Polinsky
- 11/29 Benjamin & Elissa Wolf
- 11/30 Sam & Debbie Yedlin

Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11/3 Michael Kantzer | 11/18 Barry Polisar |
| 11/4 Judah Greenberg | 11/18 Matthew Salter |
| 11/4 Heather Miller | 11/19 Michael Froehlich |
| 11/5 Randall Balin | 11/19 Melissa Green |
| 11/5 Amanda Libby | 11/19 Stacy Levine |
| 11/6 Samuel Hirsch | 11/20 Elena Berman |
| 11/7 Shira Gorin | 11/21 Steven Abraham |
| 11/7 Aliza Layman | 11/21 Laurin Goodman |
| 11/7 Elana Rubin | 11/21 Zachary Kaye |
| 11/7 Jason Wolf | 11/21 Karin Leff |
| 11/8 Jonah Glaser | 11/21 Lanny Plotkin |
| 11/8 Jeffrey Hysen | 11/21 Jesse Stiller |
| 11/8 Michael Reinach | 11/22 Ivy Stiller |
| 11/10 Stuart Carroll | 11/23 Jessica Borreda |
| 11/10 Harel Kensky | 11/23 Leah Ross |
| 11/10 Shawn Miller | 11/24 Joel Friedman |
| 11/11 Rachel Becker | 11/25 Aliza Sandberg |
| 11/11 Rita Frydman | 11/26 Norman Alpher |
| 11/12 Theodore Hirsch | 11/26 Ina Goldstein |
| 11/12 Arielle Wolf | 11/26 Max Schwartz |
| 11/13 Barry James | 11/27 Myron Goldstein |
| 11/13 Michele Peck | 11/28 Samuel Becker |
| 11/13 Carl Sabath | 11/28 Julia Kraut |
| 11/13 Irene Zitomer | 11/28 Vincent Lynch |
| 11/14 Simon Frances | 11/28 David Mendick |
| 11/14 Judith Peritt | 11/29 Jonathan Bass |
| 11/15 Marianne Kleiner | 11/29 Adam Krantz |
| 11/15 Lori Marks | 11/30 Aaron Auerbach |
| 11/16 Stephanie Epstein | 11/30 Cathy Plotkin |
| 11/16 Elana Greenland | |



Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From October 1 - October 30, 2024, but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

BUILDING FUND

Contribution In Memory Of:

Lester Lichter, from Audrey Mellner Haber

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL

CHESED FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

The Chesed Fund, from Florence & David Polinsky

Contributions In Memory Of:

Jill Schlessinger, step-daughter of Barbara

Fink, from Cilla & Hyman Grosberg

Betsy Morgenstern, wife of Gary

Morgenstern, from Cilla & Hyman Grosberg

Ed Nachlas, father of Sarah Nachlas Cohen,

from Cilla & Hyman Grosberg

Lester Klein, husband of Arlynn 'Lynne'

Klein, from Julian Leidman

Jerry Applebaum, father of Laura

Applebaum Burnstine, from Julian Leidman

Danny Meyers, from Marilyn Pontell

Jill Schlessinger, step-daughter of Barbara

Fink, from Alan & Adriana Sandler

Betsy Morgenstern, wife of Gary

Morgenstern, from Alan & Adriana Sandler

Philip Berman, father of Morris Berman, from

Alan & Adriana Sandler

Ed Nachlas, father of Sarah Nachlas Cohen,

from Alan & Adriana Sandler

William Posner, father of Carole Sepulvado,

from Alan & Adriana Sandler

Brenda Dym, mother of Lois Freedman, from

Alan & Adriana Sandler

Mindel Tilles, from Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Seth Tilles, from Paul & Sheryl Tilles

EDUCATION FUND

Contribution – Not dedicated:

From Elissa & Benjamin Wolf

CHARLES FUROVSKY ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Joe Bonnett on the occasion of his 90th birthday, from Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Contributions In Memory Of:

Martin Gutstein, husband of Ruth Gutstein,

from Frances Futrovsky

Dorye Harfenist, from Frances Futrovsky

Charles J. Futrovsky, husband of Frances

Futrovsky, from Frances Futrovsky

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Stuart and Judy Carroll, on the occasion of

the marriage of their son, Zachary, from

Saul & Sherry Cohen

Manny Ginsburg, on the occasion of his 95th

birthday, from Saul & Sherry Cohen

GENERAL FUND (continued)

Contributions In Honor Of:

Cilla & Hyman Grosberg; *Mazal tov* on your family's upcoming wedding and thank you for the wonderful *Kiddush*, from Jack & Bess Teller

Stuart and Judy Carroll, on the occasion of the wedding of their son, Zachary, from Jack & Bess Teller

Manny Ginsburg, on the occasion of his 95th birthday, from Leah Weisman

Contributions In Memory Of:

Seymour Abramson, father of Daniel

Abramson, from Daniel & Wendy

Abramson

Richard Sarnoff, uncle of Bob Braun, from

Bob & Helene Braun

Rose Schlaffer, mother of Joyce Feinstein,

from Jay & Joyce Feinstein

Rita Norken, mother of Sharon Fried, from Sharon Fried

Jeanne Goldberg, mother of Michael

Goldberg, from Michael & Judy Goldberg

Louis Lipsky, grandfather of Philip Goldman,

from Philip Goldman

Boaz Shimon Baumgart, brother of Cilla

Grosberg, from Cilla & Hyman Grosberg

Phillip Berman, father of Morris Berman,

from Cilla & Hyman Grosberg

Charlotte Mellner Rayson, aunt of Audrey

Mellner Haber, from Audrey Mellner Haber

Jane Wendy Harkaway, daughter of Barbara

Harkaway, from Barbara Harkaway

Jennie Harkaway, mother-in-law of Barbara

Harkaway, from Barbara Harkaway

Lillian Werlin, mother of Barbara Harkaway,

from Barbara Harkaway

Flora Goldberg, mother of Paula Katz, from

Paula Katz

Seymour Abramson, father of Freda

Krosnick, from Jay & Freda Krosnick

John Leidman, uncle of Roanne Leidman,

from Roanne Leidman

Rose Shapiro, mother-in-law of Liane

Lunden, from Liane Lunden

Lillian Kass Zendel; mother of Sheila Marcus,

from Sheila Marcus

Rose Franklin, aunt of Sheila Marcus, from

Sheila Marcus

Dorothy Marder, mother of Daniel Marder,

from Daniel & Susan Marder

Victor I. Romano, father of Gabriel Romano,

Freida Bufano, Gabriel & Valentina Romano,

from Gabriel Romano, and Freida Bufano

Judy and Gil Beiser, from James Rosenfield

William Wolf, brother of Elaine Stein, from

Elaine Stein

Joseph Sumner, husband of Rhoda Sumner,

from Rhoda Sumner

GENERAL FUND (continued)

Wishing Speedy Recovery To:

Val Kolmaister, from Bess & Jack Teller

KIDDUSH FUND

Contribution from Jules Leidman

MACHZOR DEDICATIONS

Contributions In Memory Of:

Muriel Kossov, mother of Marjorie

Fuhrmann, and grandmother of Joshua

Kossov Fuhrmann, from Marjorie & Mark

Fuhrmann

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Lenore & Jonah Layman; thank you for your

Sukkot hospitality and *Kiddush*, from Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Tillie Bonnett, mother of Joe Bonnet, from

Joseph & Carolyn Bonnett

Judy Stein, sister of Joe Bonnet, Joseph &

Carolyn Bonnett

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Manny Ginsburg, on the occasion of his 95th birthday, from Meredith Josephs

Would You Like to Chant a Haftarah?

Just because...or perhaps for a special occasion, like an anniversary, birthday or other?

If you need a refresher,

Rabbi Layman will be happy to provide you with a recording of a specific *haftarah*.

Please contact Adriana (SandlerAA@Gmail.com)





Order for Thanksgiving from Sunflower Bakery

Reminder that this year Shaare Tefila is participating in a pre-holiday program that enables people to place orders from Sunflower Bakery that will be delivered to our synagogue for pickup. The remaining 3 holidays are **Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Purim**. Our goal is to achieve at least \$350 in sales for each of the above; this serves to justify having Shaare Tefila as a pickup site. Shaare Tefila also receives a portion of the proceeds based on sales, so win-win all around.

Order by Friday, November 22@12 noon at the site below and indicate **Shaare Tefila as your pick-up site**.
<https://www.sunflowerbakery.org/products/thanksgiving/>

Sunflower Bakery Pre-Holiday Orders; Thanksgiving Pickups at ST will be available on Tuesday, Nov. 26 [8:30 AM til 8:30 PM], or Wed, Nov. 27 [8:30 AM until 5 PM].

Questions? Contact Sunflower at info@sunflowerbakery.org, 240-361-3698.

COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE

TO HELP YOU RECYCLE/BURY/BUY
 ANY UNWANTED JEWISH/HEBREW BOOKS
 AND OTHER UNWANTED JEWISH TEXTS & PAPERS

November 1-26, 2024

Berman Hebrew Academy - 13300 Arctic Ave - Rockville

The goals of this community project are to help you clear out unwanted books, find some new ones, and ensure the proper disposal of unusable holy texts. Unwanted Jewish books may be dropped off inside the main entrance during school hours throughout November.

Titles fit for resale will be on display in the lobby for \$1-\$5. Volunteers to help sort books are welcome.

For more information, contact Kehilat Pardes at 301-962-1360 or office@KehilatPardes.org.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Oct 30 @ 12:30PM Book Drive Kickoff Zoom: "The Where What & Why about Genizahs"

November 2024 Kiddush Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE	NOVEMBER 2	DATE	NOVEMBER 16	DATE	NOVEMBER 30
Kitchen Captain	Stacy Levine/ Joy Salzman	Kitchen Captain	Stacey Lynch	Thanksgiving Weekend	Sandy Stein
Volunteers	Lenore Kelnor Karen & Ken Lefler Reva & Hal Norken Anita Okrend Ellen Radish & Seth Zarny Elaine Ross Laura & Steve Ross Craig & Jen Zucker	Volunteers	Betsy Colbert Cathy & Lanny Plotkin* Sandy & Joel Friedman Larry & Carolyn Goldstein Arnie & Shoshana Greenland Susan & Dan Marder David Mendick & Naomi Yadin-Mendick	Kitchen Captain	Vivienne & Michael Auerbach Stephanie & Perry Buckberg Margie & Steve Eiserike Lita & Bert Katz Howard & Amy Schwartz Laura & David Torchinsky Stacey & Jeffrey Winkler
Volunteers		Volunteers		Volunteers	
DATE	NOVEMBER 9	DATE	NOVEMBER 23		
Kitchen Captain	Wendy Abraham/ Sherry Cohen	Kitchen Captain	Val Kolmaister		
Volunteers	Helene & Robert Braun* Sharon Fried Louis Paley Marilyn Pontell Elliott Prissman Karen & Shelly Radnor Meryl Trachtman	Volunteers	Carol Fendler Monica Friedman Michael Gross Mark & Karen Kaufman Diane & Gershon Kieval Beth Schapiro Anne & Ofer Zajicek		





Lifelong Learning

TAUGHT BY RABBI JONAH LAYMAN

SUNDAYS – 9:30 AM – TALMUD

This 1500-year-old text serves as the foundation for Jewish practice today. Join us as we study the section that deals with civil laws that deal with property ownership. No prior study of *Talmud* is required.

MONDAYS – 7:45 PM – JEWS & THE NEWS

Join us for a discussion of current events from a Jewish perspective after the evening *minyan*. This class will be recorded.

WEDNESDAYS – 11 AM – TORAH STUDY

We discuss the major topics and issues in the weekly Torah portion. This class will be recorded.

FRIDAYS – 9:30 AM – BIBLE CLASS

This class has been meeting for 26 years and was reading the Torah in English with the traditional medieval rabbinic commentaries. Since December the class moved onto the *Book of Judges*.

ALL CLASSES MEET ON ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3026500395?pwd=QktRaUlqYzdqUDhJdVlkZG9BdDZMQT09>

MORNING MINYAN ON ZOOM
SUNDAY, MONDAY AND THURSDAY
AT 8:45 AM

All Shaare Tefila events,
week day services
and programs
are now available at this
Zoom link
unless otherwise indicated.



SHAARE TEFILA

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301-593-3410

WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG

*Affiliated With The United Synagogue
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