

Celebrating our 73rd year

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AV - ELUL 5784

Vol. 73 #8

Shaare Tefila Congregation Social Action Committee Presents



CO-SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 22 - 4-6 PM AT SHAARE TEFILA

Join us and be inspired as we host a living testament to resilience and strength, 99-year-old Holocaust survivor

SAUL DREIER.

Saul will play drums with the Swing'N On A Star Band and share his story of survival and the role music continues to play in his life.

The ST Social Action Committee is partnering with Interfaith Works for this event.

For further details and to buy tickets, scan the QR code below or visit https://bit.ly/3YxVDkF

Price: \$10 per person







FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

My Trip to Israel

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org



As I expected, my trip to Israel was incredibly moving, important and worthwhile. From the moment Lenore and I landed until we left, we felt that we were doing a mitzvah and that

we would be sorry to leave. I could discuss so many more aspects of the trip but I'll try to distill my thoughts this way.

Strength - The people of Israel are a strong people. In the classes I took at the Hartman Institute about Israeli society in the wake of Oct 7, and through getting together with friends and family who have made aliyah, it is clear how resolute the people are. It takes a person, and people, with a certain mindset to make the decision to move to a country that is under constant threat of attack. Israel's neighbors aren't happy to have Israel in their midst and throughout its 76 years of existence they have strived to wipe Israel off the map. Israelis — who comprise people who escaped persecution and oppression and others who chose to move to the only Jewish country in the world — are determined to make a life of meaning, no matter the emotional and physical toll.

Resiliency - This is similar to strength but I think it adds something more. Not only are the people of Israel strong, they are determined to maintain as normal a life as possible. Thursday night in Israel is like Friday night here.

It's the first night of the weekend and Israelis go out to restaurants, night clubs, etc. to celebrate TGIT (Thank God It's Thursday). Lenore and I went out to a wonderful kosher Kurdish restaurant in the shuk, Machane Yehuda, and as we were walking through the narrow streets afterward we were thrilled to see so many young Israelis singing and dancing. Yet, on a balcony above their heads, was a huge banner that said "bring them out of hell," a clear reference to the plight of the hostages in Gaza. Life goes on, but terrible things are rumbling just under the surface.

Hope - Like the title of its national anthem, the people of Israel are an optimistic people — because they have no other choice. Their optimism stems from the knowledge that their existence is moral and ethical. Jews have a right to live in our land in fulfillment of our 3,000 year-old dream and promise and we look forward to living with our neighbors in peace, justice and harmony. The people of Israel, despite enduring the gravest threat to Israel's survival on Oct. 7 since its inception, still long for the day when they can live in peace and when they can say to their children that they won't have to serve in the army or go to war.

We continue to pray for peace for Israel and may the year 5785 bring blessing to Israel and to us. Amen.

Message from the President Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org



I hope everyone had a nice summer. Our family has enjoyed an eventful summer with Hope completing her internship at Days End Farm Horse Rescue as part of her undergraduate program, attending an annual family event in Binghamton, and our annual August week at the beach with family and friends. One key personal

highlight from the beach trip for me was spending considerable time with my best and oldest friend successfully fishing.

I have been working with the Board and various Vice Presidents on several initiatives that will continue to strengthen our community. I'm looking forward to the successful

implementation of these initiatives with updates to the congregation in the coming months from Vice Presidents and me.

It's been great to see that in-person attendance at our Shabbat services has remained steady throughout the summer, even with many members on vacation. I've also enjoyed meeting new faces and chatting with them during kiddush after services. A recent conversation with another congregant highlighted an additional benefit of attending Shabbat services that we share: it offers a dedicated block of time to step away from the hustle and bustle of daily life and enjoy a period of uninterrupted time. I encourage you to join us for a Shabbat service or two and see if it brings you a similar sense of enrichment and a respite to your weekly routine.



On My Mind

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

This past July marked my first full year here at Shaare Tefila. It has been, simultaneously, wonderful and challenging.

Most significantly. I have felt welcomed from the start and have enjoyed getting to know the many wonderful and dedicated people of this community. Though the staff here is small, it is a talented collection and accomplishes much. And I could say the same for the membership here; relatively small but mighty. I have enjoyed listening to the many members who have related how and why they became members here and why they have maintained their sometimes decades long associations with Shaare Tefila.

I recently had cause to peruse through the impressive booklet that was created for the synagogue's 50th Anniversary celebration, which offered a LOT of anecdotal perspective. It left me feeling a bit sad that I clearly missed a 'heyday' ... but it also serves as motivation to do all that I can to see that, 25 or even 50 years hence, members will look back upon the present day activities and relationships and regard them with similar fondness.

To be sure, Shaare Tefila faces a number of challenges ... and, *nu*, what synagogue doesn't? Some are internal to its own operation, and others are created by larger societal trends that we can do little to stem. And I have challenges of my own. Despite a lengthy career in Jewish communal service and plenty of prior experience in the world of synagogues, I am still relatively new here and am still learning how things work here and whether and what I might be able to do to make improvements where I can.

With the High Holidays approaching, please allow me to express my sincere apologies for any matters that I have NOT adequately addressed to your satisfaction ... and I hope that I can add 'YET.' Trust me, I am well aware of the matters that I have not yet mastered here and hope that, with a year under my belt, that I can find time to address the still missing elements.

I look forward to seeing to fruition the many activities that are planned for the weeks and months ahead ... and hope that you will feel likewise.

SEPT. 21

September 2024 Kiddush Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

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Kitchen Captain Volunteers

SEPT. 7 Shelley Rochester

Betty & Randy Balin Mort & Ina Goldstein Myron & Bernice Goldstein Cilla & Hy Grosberg Andi & Joe Manchester Marci & Jonathan Rubin Bey & Alan Weinstein

DATE

Kitchen Captain

Volunteers

SEPT. 14

Wendy Abraham/ Sherry Cohen

Ellie & Larry Alpert Ellen Beebe

Laura & Alan Burnstine Joyce Feinstein

Marjorie & Mark Fuhrman Sumner Katz & Martha Witebsky Sandra & Melvyn Kornspan

DATE

Kitchen Captain Volunteers

Sandy Stein
Ben & Ashley Doyle
Rachel & Adam Glaser
Bryan & Laurin Goodman
Annie & Daniel Hirsch
Jackie Samuel
Jane & Stewart Saphier

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DATE

Kitchen Captain

SEPT. 28
Stacy Levine /
Joy Salzman

Volunteers

Sharon & David Appel

Sharon Bender & Andrew Feldmann

Melissa & Eric Druxman Rebecca & Hal Fero Diane & Marvin Schneider

Elissa & Ben Wolf



Programming and Education

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

R. Judah said in the name of Rav's name: Welcoming guests is greater than welcoming the presence of Shechinah (God)....

Talmud Shabbat 127a

By the time you read this we will be about to enter the month of *Elul*, a time of soul-searching for the Jewish people in preparation for the High Holidays. For individuals, *Elul* is a time for us to reconnect to our spiritual selves. In our Shaare Tefila community we offer opportunities for everyone to find their path for spiritual connection, as they experience a place of welcoming. The quote from *Talmud Shabbat* above goes on to discuss a list of Jewish values:

There are six things, the fruit of which humans eat in this world, while the principal remains for them in the world to come: **welcoming guests** [hachnasat orchim], visiting the sick, meditation in prayer, early attendance for study, rearing one's children to the study of Torah, and judging one's neighbor in the scale of merit.

The families of Shaare Tefila continue to support their children's study of Torah by having them engage in our Chavaya Religious School and for children under the age of 5, our monthly Gan Katan Jewish Preschool experience. We welcome back participants in both programs on Sunday, September 8, with Chavaya beginning at 9:30 and Gan Katan at 9:45. The growth of these programs is best supported by our own members, who know what a wonderful place Shaare Tefila is for children. If you have any questions or know someone who is looking for an environment that nurtures children on their Jewish journeys, please contact me at BCohn@ ShaareTefila.org

This year there will be new opportunities for community gatherings in-person on Friday evenings; special guest speakers on *Shabbat* mornings; and exciting changes and additions to existing formal and informal gatherings. Here are some highlights:

 Chavaya Religious School (opening September 8) students will have days during the year that are designed to take place out of the classroom. These experiences will include a special *mensch* day program in conjunction with the Men's Club, a field trip to the Capital Jewish Museum, guest speakers, and parent and child together learning programs.

- Rabbi Jonah is expanding his role in our religious school, becoming a regular teacher for the teen class on Sundays.
- <u>Survival Through Song, 9/22, 4-6pm</u> Join us on the afternoon of September 22 as we host Saul Dreier, 99-year-old Holocaust survivor and musician. <u>Register here for just \$10 a ticket.</u>
- There will be four in person Friday worship opportunities added this year. Sally Heckleman is returning to
 Shaare Tefila for a musical Shabbat in Song experience. These will be followed by an oneg, providing time to socialize before going home for dinner. Join us for the first one on November 22.
- Sign Up Now for the morning of September 15, 10am-12pm. Mara Lansky will lead another session for community members to paint an Etz Chaim/Tree of Life tile that will be part of our 75th anniversary community art project.
- Gan Katan, our monthly Jewish preschool class, continues to grow! The class will meet 9/8, 10/27, 11/10, 12/15, 1/12, 2/9, 3/23, 4/6 and 5/18. Register on our school website here tuition is \$54 for the whole year!
- Shabbat Dinners Sign up for the first one on 9/20: Welcome Back to Shul; 11/8: Special Guest JTS Rabbinical Student Ariel Ya'akov Dunat (they/them); 12/13: Winter Celebration.

This is just a sampling of the exciting programs and educational opportunities being planned for our community. We hope to see you for multiple events on this list! Questions? Contact me anytime by email, BCohn@ShaareTefila.org or phone, 301-593-3410 x106.

ST's Blue Thread *Chavurah* Starting Up for 2024-25

On **Wednesday, August 8**, Shaare Tefila's **Blue Thread Chavurah** held its first monthly meeting of the 2024-25 year ... in-person. The attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch together, followed by a fascinating presentation by ST member Louis Paley, who related experiences and insights from a recent trip to New Zealand and Australia. He shared his passion for nature photography, and his presentation included just a small portion of the many photos that he took along the way. Many featured his encounters with native animals like the pied cormorant, the kiwi, and penguins.

He offered information about the culture, history, geography and natural wonders of both areas, and engaged in conversations about current events and social issues. Along the way, he shared many interesting anecdotes. Examples included a curious statue of American Rock and Roll icon Elvis Presley, and the proliferation of murals in New Zealand cities, which have become a significant tourist attraction. He spoke about

efforts by the New Zealand government to rectify past injustices towards its indigenous Maori population, including providing financial benefits and recognizing Maori



heritage. He touched on the significant sheep farming industry in both countries, and the impact of wool prices on farmers and concluded by highlighting the strong sports culture in both nations, with fierce local rivalries between cities.

All are welcome to attend any future sessions, below is there schedule for the 2024-25 year. Sessions are planned for the second Thursday of each month, from 12:30 – 2:00 pm, in the Winer Family Gallery at Shaare Tefila Congregation.

- Thursday, September 12, 2024
- Thursday, October 10, 2024
- Thursday, November 14, 2024
- Thursday, December 12, 2024
- Thursday, January 9, 2025
- Thursday, February 13, 2025
- Thursday, March 13, 2025
- Thursday, April 10, 2025
- Thursday, May 18, 2025
- Thursday, June 12, 2025

SELICHOT PROGRAM AND SERVICE

Saturday, Sept 28 - 8:30 PM

Shaare Tefila will be hosting B'nai Shalom of Olney, Tikvat Israel, Kehilat Shalom, Shaare Torah and Kol Shalom.

We will begin with havdalah, which will be followed by a presentation about Israel's future post-October 7.

The cantors and rabbis will then lead the *Selichot* service which ushers in the High Holiday season.

The program will be available via Zoom and Livestream.



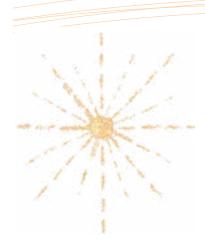
ARTICLES FOR THE SHOFAR

The Shofar is typically published each month [with some adjustments related to holidays and a double issue in the summer.] It typically requires 10 business days to fully prepare, edit and lay out all of the materials, and then distribute the final product.

If you would like to have something included, we respectfully ask that you submit it by the 10th of the prior month. Send it to Jerry Kiewe; JKiewe@ ShaareTefila.org, ideally with a clear indication in the subject heading that it is intended for *The Shofar*.

Thanks in advance.

Shaare Tefila has
Jewish calendars available for
the upcoming year - 5785
[2024-25], courtesy of
Torchinsky Hebrew Funeral Home.
They are available in our Lobby.



Registration Now Open! Sign Up By September 17th

WELCOME BACK TO SHULSHABBAT DINNER

This is your chance to reconnect with each other & the Shaare Tefila community before the fall holidays begin!



September 20, 2024

6 PM Shabbat service, Dinner to follow Join us for a delightful Shabbat dinner. We will feast on a meal featuring brisket, with a vegetarian option available!

Adults: are \$25, Children 5-12 are \$14

and under age 5 are free.

Family maximum cost of \$75.







SHAARE TEFILA PROGRAMS 2024-25





GAN KATAN

Shaare Tefila's Monthly Jewish Preschool Experience for Up to Age 5 & A Grown Up! Playtime, story time, crafts, & more! Led by Morah Mara Lansky

\$54 for the year - \$10 drop in fee Sunday mornings, 9:45-11:15, 9/8, 11/10, 12/15, 1/12, 2/9, 3/23, 4/6 &

MAKERS & BAKERS

Hands-on learning for adults! Create something beautiful and bake as part of our Cookie Club.

No experience necessary!

Sunday mornings, 10 AM-12 PM, 9/15, 11/24, 12/8, 2/23, & 4/27





Tashllich & Picnic at Lake Needwood

Short service led by Rabbi Layman, followed by activities for children & adults alike! Shaare Tefila will provide light snacks.

Sunday, 10/6, 10 AM-12 PM

SHAARE TEFILA SISTERHOOD

Connect with Shaare Tefila
Sisterhood through our various
events. Contact Shelley Rochester
for more information,
shelleyrochester85@gmail.com

PURIM CARNIVAL

Purim Fun for the whole community! Games, costumes, lunch, prizes, & more!



Sunday, March 16

NIGHT OF SWEET LAUGHTER 14



Our 14th annual FUNdraiser will include a drag show in 2025! Reserve early for the biggest event of the year. Wine & Beer, refreshments and a great line up of comedians!

Saturday, February 8

SURVIVAL THROUGH SONG: SAUL DREIER & HIS HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR BAND

Join us as we host Saul Dreier, 99 year-old Holocaust survivor and musician. Saul shares his incredible story with his audience, including how he was inspired to start the Holocaust Survivors Band ten years ago when he was just 89 years old.

Sunday, September 22



Shaare Tefila's *Rosh Chodesh* Women's Circle Discussion Group, led by Susan Rubenstein, is held almost monthly on Zoom, Sunday afternoons. The meeting opens at 3:45 & discussion begins at 4.

2024-25 Dates to Be Determined

16620 Georgia Ave, Olney, MD 20832 * ShaareTefila.org * 301-593-3410



SHABBAT CELEBRATION FOR EVERYONE AT SHAARE TEFILA 2024-25

Mini *Minyan* with Adrienne 'Auntie A' Suson



Engage in Joyful Judaism as we welcome Shabbat! This program is designed for children ages 0-7 and their families.

Friday evenings, 6-7pm:
November 8
January 10
March 7
April 25

SHABBAT

Tot *Shabbat* with Adrienne 'Auntie A' Suson

A fun, musical service geared towards families with young children ages 0-7.

Saturdays, 11am-12pm:

October 19 December 14 February 22 May 17



Flavors of Shabbat



Friday Evening Service, 6-7pm

Monthly Shabbat Dinners - join us for a night of ruach/spirit & a delicious Friday night meal.

Sept 20 * Nov 8 * Dec 13 * Jan 10 * Feb 14 * Mar 7 * Apr 4 * May 9 * June 6

Shabbat in Song with Sally Heckleman: Dec 12 * Jan 17 * Mar 14 * May 16

Shabbat Learning with Rabbi Jonah

Monthly Judaism: Then & Now - after the service, join Rabbi Jonah for a lively discussion on a topic related to Judaism and how it has changed over time. The discussion will be followed by *kiddush*.

Service: 9:30am-11:30am; discussion: 11:30am; kiddush 12pm - Dates TBD

Monthly Lunch & Learn - Engage with Rabbi Jonah to discuss a topic from that morning's Torah reading. **We will meet after** *kiddush* **at 12:30pm.** Stay to participate in a *mincha* (afternoon) service - **Dates TBD**

Monthly Social Justice *Shabbat*- join Rabbi Jonah and a guest speaker after the service as they present a social justice topic of interest. - **Dates TBD**

Junior Congregation



A *Shabbat* service designed for school age children, this experience includes putting prayer learning into practice, a Torah activity and community! Join us each month in the Grosberg-Baumgart Chapel.

Saturdays, 11am-12pm:
September 28
October 19
November 9
December 7
January 4
February 1
March 29
April 26
May 17



Havdalah Experience

For families and friends looking for a festive, ruach-filled way to start the week.

After sundown - times & programs to be determined: November 16 January 18 March 1







Please Assist With Shaare Tefila's Upkeep;

Committees Seeking Assistance ...

The Arts & Interiors Committee is seeking new members. If you have an interest in and/or expertise in art and interior design, we hope you will volunteer. The Committee reviews all artwork that is added to the building, initiates new interior décor projects from time to time, and manages the Winer Art Gallery. If you wish to join the Committee or just have questions about the Committee's work, please contact Fran Abrams, Chair, at Fran.Abrams@gmail.com.

We are planning to conduct a Reserve Analysis to assess the long-term needs and costs associated with our facility.

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While use of an outside company to conduct such a study is contemplated, we are also looking for people to have experience in the following areas who can help to be part of the process of evaluating the results and implications and the follow-up;

- Facility Management [of either commercial or residential properties]
- Facility Maintenance; e.g. HVAC, electrical and/ or plumbing, roofing, fire safety and/or security systems, etc.
- Grounds Maintenance; e.g. sidewalks, parking lots, landscaping, sewer and drainage systems, etc.
- Facility Software Systems e.g. Internet, A/V equipment, data storage, cybersecurity, etc.
- Accounting and economic forecasting

If you are willing to help out, please contact Ken Libby; KLibby716@gmail.com.

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Our Social Action Committee is exploring the possibility of adding solar panels to our rooftop. Shaare Tefila has been approached by Interfaith Power & Light as a potential candidate for leveraging government funds and private interests to have solar panels installed on our rooftop – at NO direct cost. This could thereby decrease our long-term energy costs and our environmental footprint. If you have any interest in assisting with this effort, please contact Laurie Dubrow at LDubrow@aol.com.

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 supermarket. 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!

INTERESTED IN HAVING A PERMANENT MEMORIAL PLAQUE

installed in our Grosberg Baumgart Chapel to honor the memory of a loved one?

Please contact our Executive Director Jerry Kiewe JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org



Chesed Committee YOUR Shaare Tefila Chesed Committee!

THE COMMITTEE'S ONLY FUNCTION IS TO BE THERE FOR YOU!

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/

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.

... perhaps?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Leslie ('Les') & Karyn Gross, reside in Columbia, MD. Les is a Project Manager for A.J. Ramano Construction; Karyn is retired from a career with the Montgomery County Public School System. They have two adult children, both married, a daughter living in Savannah, GA and a son in Fairfax, VA. They recently marked their 46th wedding anniversary. Similar to two other recent new members, they had belonged to Bet Chaverim, a small Conservative synagogue in Howard County that recently closed its doors. We are pleased to welcome them to Shaare Tefila.

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)

College Moms

Elaine Salter

As the school year gets underway, Shaare Tefila Sisterhood is once again proud to offer College Moms, a program where small holiday-themed care packages containing treats and trinkets are sent to your collegeaged family members around *Rosh Hashanah/Sukkot*, *Hanukkah* and *Purim*. All food items will be kosher.

 If you have a college student living away from home (or even at home) and you would like to sign up for the program, please complete the Google form that can be accessed at; https://bit.ly/ST_college-moms

Please complete a separate form for each student. Please do not use PO boxes and please put the complete address of the school.

Note that the information from last year is NOT retained, so if you have a returning student, please be sure to complete the form so we have their updated address.

The deadline to complete the form is **September 6**.

This program is free for the children of Sisterhood members. For all other college students, the cost is \$18/student. Please make checks out to Shaare Tefila Sisterhood and put "College Moms" on the memo line.

This will be my last year coordinating the program as my son will be graduating in May. Fellow ST member Christie Berman has been gracious with her time and has helped me this past year but we can always use some more help. Please contact me at ESalter11@verizon.net if you're interested. It only takes a 2-3 hours of your time spread over a couple weeks right before each holiday mailing, and it's a great opportunity for a little socializing with other college moms.

Thank you, and best wishes to all your students for a great start to this new school year.

Sisterhood

Shelley Rochester, Sisterhood President



Dear Sisters,

Welcome back! I hope you had a fun/relaxing/vacation-y summer (take your pick.) If anyone found an innovative way to "beat the heat," please share!

As for me, I went to Canada for my granddaughter's wedding. The fun

and partying went on for days and I gained 5 pounds. Next, my grandson called to tell me that he and his wife are expecting...so I'm going to be a great-grandmother! It's terrifically exciting, but I want to know, as a greatgrandmother do I have to dye my hair white and start talking with a Yiddish accent? Anyway...if you also have something cool to share, please do!

We have a year's worth of exciting activities coming up and I do hope you will join us. Here is a listing of what we're looking forward to;

- **Board meetings** will be held the **second Monday** of every month and will be conducted via Zoom. (We've found that staying home in bathrobe and slippers with a bowl of popcorn/glass of wine is a lot more popular than driving to shul at night.) An invitation to the meetings, including the Zoom link, was sent out via the synagogue's members' Listserve and reminders will be sent each month.
- On Monday, September 16, we'll hold our annual Paid-up Membership Dinner, so send your checks in to Ilene Mizrachi or bring your checkbook/cash that night. We're still bouncing ideas for after-dinner entertainment, but it will be great.
- On Sunday, October 27, we'll hold another Game Night. The location – either at Shaare Tefila or at some's home, will be determined by how many women sign up. Last year there was more laughing than playing with some really cool prizes, so "c'mo-o-on down!"
- On **Sunday, November 10**, we have scheduled the Patron Event and are planning a Sisterhood Swap for **Sunday, November 17**, so start emptying your closets of those belts and bags, skirts and slacks, earrings and everything else that is "GENTLY USED".
- The first night of *Chanukah* coincides this year with that "other holiday" so we will sponsor an evening of pizza, ice cream and a movie.
- On **Sunday, January 26**, we will hold our **Sisterhood** High Tea and Fashion Show. We haven't done this in years and it promises to be a lot of fun. (Volunteers to model will NOT be subject to height, weight or age restrictions. In other words, if you're a Sister, you're in.)

- On **Monday, February 15,** we will bring back **Bingo**.
- Sunday, March 23 is slated for the Women's Seder.
- We have scheduled two events in April; Sisterhood Shabbat on Saturday, April 26, and a long-awaited return of the Progressive Lunch on Sunday, April 27.
- For those of you who attended the Spring Brunch last May, catered by Mr. Omelette, we listened to your reviews and will be doing it again on **Sunday, May 18**.
- We will close out the 2024-25 year with a **Board** Planning Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner on Monday, June 9.

If you have any ideas, questions or comments for Sisterhood, I'm ready to listen.

JEWISH HAIKU Is one Nobel Prize so much to ask from a child



SHAARE TEFILA SISTERHOOD PRESENTS:

Paid-Up Membership Dinner

TIME: Meet & Greet: 6:00 p.m., Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Send Dues & Reservations to: Ilene Mizrachi, 3117

Fairweather Court, Olney MD 20832. NOTE: Regisration deadline

is September 12. (There are NO telephone reservations.)

Dues: (Check membership level)

- _\$55.00 Regular Membership
- ____\$40.00 Senior Membership (ages 70+)
- _\$70.00 Patron Membership
- _\$60.00 Senior Patron (70 +)

NEW! ____\$18.00 Daughter/Granddaughter (up through age 17) of paid-up Sisterhood member

JOIN SISTERHOOD AND THE DINNER IS COMPLIMENTARY!

Not a member or for any friends who want to attend: Cost: \$35

Can't make it to the dinner but want to join Sisterhood? - PLEASE send your dues to Ilene Mizrachi at this time

Name:

Home phone (h) ______ Cell (c) _____

Membership Level Dues Enclosed: \$_____

Attending dinner: YES _____ NO ____

Dietary Restrictions:

Meet our "Golden" Bar Mitzvah and Recent New ST Member Jonathan Rubin



On July 20, 2024, Shaare Tefila was honored to help Jonathan Rubin celebrate his 50th (Golden) bar mitzvah! Shaare Tefila joined Jonathan's immediate family; his wife, Marci, and two young adult daughters, Sarah and Elana, along with other family and friends, to celebrate this wonderful simcha together. Jonathan shared a meaningful d'var Torah of his parasha (Balak), which we share below.

Jonathan and Marci joined Shaare Tefila in July of 2023. Needless to say, we are happy to have them in our fold and hope to share many more *smachot* in the years ahead.

Bio

Jonathan Rubin, MD, MBA is the Chief Medical Officer at Supernus Pharmaceuticals. Prior to working in the pharmaceutical industry, he was in private practice as a Developmental-Behavioral and General Pediatrician for 16 years. He was a pediatric resident at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, New York and a fellow in ambulatory pediatrics at Boston's Children Hospital. Dr. Rubin received his M.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, his Master of Business Administration from the Columbia School of Business and his Bachelor of Science in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University.

Jonathan and his wife Marci moved to Glenwood, MD, in Howard County last May. Originally from Connecticut, they have lived in Southern Florida, Philadelphia, and now in Maryland. They are the parents of 2 wonderful daughters, Sarah, who lives in California and Elana, who resides in New York. Jonathan and Marci were looking for a Conservative synagogue with a warm, homey feel. They found that 'haimish' atmosphere at Shaare Tefila and are grateful to have been welcomed into our community.

This is the text of a speech delivered by Jonathan Rubin at Shaara Tefila's Shabbat services on July 20, where he marked the occasion of the 50^{th} anniversary of his bar mitzvah.

Fifty years ago, I became a *bar mitzvah*. In a church. With my father presiding as rabbi. And my mother playing the piano and leading the choir. With a *Torah* loaned by Wesleyan Hillel. With the help of Danny Katz, an Orthodox Jew, who tutored me in his White Plains law office.

Today, I would like to discuss two sentences, one from the Torah and one from the *haftorah*, which have influenced me over the years.

Ma Tovu Ohalechah Yaakov, Mishkenotechah Yisrael. How goodly are thy tents O Jacob, and thy tabernacles O Israel!

Every year I hear these words during *Rosh Hashanah*, I give my wife a little nudge; and say, "Hey, that's from my bar mitzvah parsha," and she politely acknowledges this as if she never heard that before.

These words from Balaam lead me to reflect. How many have cursed the people of Israel: Egypt, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Rome, Crusaders, Nazi Germany, and of course, now we have Hamas. Indeed, some have said that you could summarize many Jewish holidays as "They tried to kill us. They failed. Let's eat." The curses continue today in the US: White Nationalists say "Jews will not replace us." While others accuse Jews of being "white colonial oppressors." The people who say this have obviously never been to Israel. On my first trip to Israel, during a tour of the bunkers from the Six-day war in 1967, we learned that the Arab fighters, harkening back to the sons of Abraham, yelled to the Israelis in Hebrew: I am going to get you Isaac! Animosity that has lasted not decades or centuries, but millennia. Yet, when Balaam was asked to curse Israel, G-d inspired him to see its beauty, as manifest in the people, their values and the sacred space of the land. Another thought back to my first trip to Israel: I was praying at the Western Wall, and I felt a warm mystical connection to G-d and to the Jewish people. How goodly are thy tents!

Both Christians and Muslims acknowledge the importance of Jerusalem, and like Balaam, also are drawn to the sacred nature of this land. Perpendicular to the Western

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Wall is the Southern Wall, which was excavated after the Six Day War. My daughter, Elana, had a bat mitzvah at the Southern Wall, an area where all people are allowed to pray together. When we were there, our tour guide told us a story about giving a tour to Neil Armstrong, the astronaut and a devout Born Again Christian. The tour guide told Neil that the Southern steps was the location where the Israelites would bring animals for sacrifice on Yom Kippur. Neil asked if Jesus could have walked on the steps. The tour guide mentioned that yes, as an Israelite, Jesus would have traversed these steps en route to the Holy Temple. At that moment, Neil giddily went up and down the steps, and exclaimed "these are the most important steps I have ever taken."

How goodly are thy tabernacles O Israel!

From the *Haftorah* portion, there are words that I have tried to live by, although not always successfully. Indeed, these words could easily have been Hillel's reply when he was asked to teach the entire Torah while standing on one foot:

Only to do justice And to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your G-d

These 3 phrases suggest a way to live our lives.

- 1. To do justice: A sense of justice, of doing the right thing by other people, and by G-d, pervades the Torah and the Talmud. This system of laws is a guidepost for Jews and has also created a foundation for secular legal systems. When walking in Jerusalem, I was appalled by Orthodox Jews throwing rocks at cars on Shabbat. One person mentioned to me: it is sometimes easy to follow the laws of G-d, but people can forget the laws between people. In fact, on Yom Kippur, we can only atone for the sins that we made before G-d, but cannot be forgiven for the sins that we have done to other people. Those sins must be addressed directly with the offended party. By embracing laws and doing justly, we create a society in harmony and peace, something that is desperately needed throughout the world.
- 2. Love mercy: Judaism has been criticized as a religion of laws with a harsh judgmental G-d. Yet, the love of mercy creates a sense of balance to the direction to do justly. We don't want blind justice. We want judges to show mercy when the context is appropriate, although there are unspeakable acts that do not deserve mercy. The balance between justice and mercy is also reflected in the sefirot, mystical manifestations of G-d: gevurah, or judgment, is associated

- with Isaac, and *chesed* or lovingkindness, is associated with Abraham. These qualities are brought into balance with the *sefirot* of *tiferet*, or beauty/harmony, which is associated with Jacob. Thus, the appropriate juxtaposition of justice and mercy creates harmony.
- 3. Walk humbly: A wise person once said: There are 2 kinds of people in this world: those who are humble and those who are about to be humbled. We often tend to judge other people who are not like us, who are not in our "group":

Different religion, skin color, nationality, socio-economic status, clothing, political party, fan of a different sports team, etc. In the book Behave by Robert Sapolsky, a biologist, talks about the instinctual fear that an individual experiences when that person meets someone from another group. This is hard wired into our brains, and goes back tens of thousands of years, as groups of humans needed to band together to protect themselves from outside invaders. Interestingly, we share 99% of our DNA with chimps, and 99.9% of our DNA with other humans. In other words, despite our differences, we are remarkably alike! We are no better, and no worse, than any other human. Despite the incredible strife and polarity in the world, there is much that binds us together. Otto Frank, father of Ann Frank said, "We cannot change what happened anymore. The only thing we can do is to learn from the past and to realize what discrimination and persecution of innocent people means. I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to fight prejudice." We must stay humble, and not forget our shared humanity.

I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers and work colleagues. Reflecting on the past 50 years, it has been a long and strange trip, and having recently returned from Africa, I am reminded of the African proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." And so, I urge us to go together in these troubling times and to speak out for justice, for what is right. Elie Wiesel, who I was privileged to call my teacher, once said, "The opposite of love is not hatred, it is indifference." We can not be indifferent to the rampant anti-semitism in the world.

In closing, I would like to share the wisdom of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a noted theologian and social activist, who walked alongside Martin Luther King Jr on the Selma march:

Make your life a work of art Live with radical amazement Because every life is precious There is beauty and meaning everywhere And we have a lot of holy work to do

ST Open House - A Fun, Successful Event

On Sunday, August 25, Shaare Tefila conducted a well attended 'Open House' program that welcomed back returning members and school families and others newly interested in our congregation and school. The event featured craft activities, music provided by 'Auntie A' of Rhythm and Ruach, ice cream provided by Brewsters, and for adults, coffee generously donated by Starbucks.



Remembering Ann Loeb, z'l

Contributor, Saul Cohen

Ann Loeb, who passed away on August 20, 2024, and her husband Fred Loeb were fixtures in both our Shaare Tefila and Washington DC area communities. Ann loved to attend *Shabbat* and holiday services, sitting up front in the sanctuary in her beautiful jackets. In recent years, Ann had some health issues, but continued to avidly ask about our services and activities. Our family got to know Ann on a more personal level when we traveled together to Shaare Tefila for services, programs and dinners. She loved to speak about her family in pre-WW II Germany; her years living in North Carolina, Connecticut and the Washington DC area; the early years at Shaare Tefila; and her life with her husband, including owning the DeLuxe Bake Shop.

"Freddy" (Manfred) and Ann Loeb were 14 and 12 years old, respectively, when their families came to America. They met in North Carolina at an experimental farm community founded for refugees by the president of the New School for Social Research in New York City. Fred eventually moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut to learn the tool and die trade but worked nights at a bakery. After World War II service in the Army Air Force Flying Tigers, Freddy returned to Connecticut, where the two were reunited and eventually married in 1948 and moved

to Washington in 1952. They opened their first Washington area bakery in Takoma Park, then moved to White Oak in 1961 with the outward migration of Jewish families who observe the strict kosher dietary laws.

During the 1960's and the 1970's DeLuxe Bake Shop was a thriving business and a place where friends and neighbors met in the White Oak Shopping Center. Everyone stopped by to say hello to the Loebs and to purchase an assortment of their famous and delicious baked goods. Ann's dedication to Freddy and to the business is legendary. Together, Fred and Ann Loeb created a thriving business and set a standard of excellence in the Jewish community.

Ann would tell us about the celebrities and national and international organizations they would supply, including the White House and the Israeli Embassy. At their bakery, the walls were filled with pictures of cakes and celebrities, among them TV weatherman Willard Scott, actress Jayne Mansfield and comedian Milton Berle.

I will always remember Ann as an intelligent and informative storyteller. I will miss speaking with her and hearing her stories. May her memory be a blessing for us all.

"Between October 7th and October 8th"



Join Dr. Yizhar Hess, Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization and former Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel, for an in-depth discussion on the aftermath of October 7th and building the future of Israeli society.

Tuesday, September 10th 6:00 PM at Shaare Torah 1409 Main st, Gaithersburg, MD



Register Here https://lp6.me/k3HBc













New Book Available

Shaare Tefila was recently provided with 24 copies of a book authored by Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League [ADL], entitled *It Could Happen Here*. The book offers the author's perspective on the resurgence of antisemitism in the United States, his own efforts to combat this trend, and his suggestions for what others can do to address incidents of intolerance.

Copies of the book are available in the lobby at Shaare Tefila, on a first-come-first-served basis. We are also considering conducting a formal 'Book Discussion' featuring this book, after the High Holidays.



MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

SEPTEMBER

Anniversary Celebrations

- 9/1 Eric & Kathleen Greenberg9/2 Joseph & Carolyn Bonnett
- 9/2 Jesse & Deborah Stiller
- 9/2 Stuart & Judy Carroll
- 9/3 Robert & Helene Braun
- 9/3 Michael & Stefanie Levy
- 9/3 Steven & Janene Ellis 9/3 Carole & Gary Sepulyado
- 9/5 Daniel & Jackie Benn
- 9/6 Laurence & Carolyn Goldstein
- 9/8 Ricardo & Marianne Kleiner
- 9/9 Perry & Stephanie Buckberg
- 9/10 Karen & Michael Sussman
- 9/13 David Mendick & Naomi Yadin-Mendick
- 9/14 Joel & Sandra Friedman
- 9/16 Ron & Jamie Rubloff
- 9/18 Marvin & Diane Schneider

Birthday Celebrations

- 9/1 Elaine Stein
- 9/1 Larry Alpert
- 9/1 Karen James
- 9/2 Michael Gross
- 9/2 Sarah Katz
- 9/4 Charlotte Potosky
- 9/6 Elliott Prissman
- 9/7 Rachel Reilly
- 9/7 Karen Sussman
- 9/8 Ellen Beebe
- 9/8 Stefanie Levy
- 9/8 Elana Plotkin
- 9/9 Alex Schotz
- 9/9 Victoria Yedlin
- 9/11 Iris Hyman
- 9/11 Carolyn Goldstein
- 9/11 Eric Hysen
- 9/15 Carolyn Bonnett
- 9/15 Benjamin Green
- 9/15 Daniel Froehlich
- 9/17 David Temkin
- 9/17 Rebecca Temkin
- 9/17 Max Carroll
- 9/19 Donald Helfer
- 9/19 Aaron Gross
- 9/20 Jonas Buckberg
- 9/21 Mark Levitt
- 9/23 Beverly Weinstein
- 9/24 Mark Fuhrmann
- 9/24 Gabriella Mendick
- 9/25 Perry Sandler
- 9/25 Emily Green-Blicher
- 9/26 Michael Blicher
- 9/27 Brian Kaye
- 9/28 Manny Ginsburg

Sunflower Bakery for 2024-25

This year ST is no longer participating in a 'monthly' order - but we ARE going to participate in a pre-holiday series for: **Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Purim.**

Sunflower Bakery Pre-Holiday Orders; Rosh Hashanah

Order by Sept. 25 @12 noon and indicate Shaare Tefila as your pick-up site.

Pickups at ST will be available on Mon, Sept. 30, Tues, Oct. 1, or Wed, Oct. 2. Sunflower is featuring holiday favorites, delicious new desserts and round challah (traditional, almond, raisin and honey whole wheat) to celebrate a sweet New Year. **Holiday ordering opens Aug 27th** with **menu items available starting Sept. 3rd.**

See the menu below or to see the full holiday menu and place your order, go to www.SunflowerBakery.org

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

Our goal is to achieve at least \$350 in sales to justify having us as a pickup site. We also get a portion of the proceeds based on sales, so win-win all around.



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)

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From June 24 to Aug. 29, 2024, but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

BUILDING FUND

Contribution In Memory Of: Rudy Volin, husband of Ann Ruth, by Audrey Haber

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Ethel and Ira Levine's new grandchildren, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Danny and Jackie Benns 25th anniversary, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Danny Benn's 50th Bar Mitzvah anniversary, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Cilla and Hyman Grosberg on the occasion of the birth of their new grandson, by Ira & Ethel Levine The upcoming 95th birthday of Manny Ginsburg, by Ira & Ethel Levine

The upcoming 100th Birthday of Hal Radish, father of Ellen Radish, by Ira & Ethel Levine Jackie & Danny Benn's Anniversary, by Ira & Ethel Levine

Cilla and Hyman Grosberg on the occasion of the birth of their new grandson, by H. Tina Afshari The Chesed Committee, by David & Florence Polinsky

The birth of Ethel and Ira Levine's twin grandchildren, Jacob and Charlotte, by Marilyn Pontell

Adriana Sandler and the Chesed Fund for their kindness in providing meals and Adriana's checking in. So greatly appreciated during an extended time of family health issues. By Carl Sabath & Susan Rubenstein

The birth of twin grandchildren to Ethel & Ira Levine, by Alan & Adriana Sandler

Ira and Ethel Levine, on the occasion of the birth of their twin grandchildren, Jacob and Charlotte Levine, by Jack & Bess Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Ann Loeb, by Larry & Ellie Alpert

Brenda Dym, mother of Lois Freedman, by Milton & Susan Goldsamt

William "Bill" Stark, father of Fran Weiss, by 'Friends of the Weiss Family'

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Ann Loeb, by Julian Leidman

Ann Loeb, by Ira & Ethel Levine

Zelick Waganheim, husband of Carol Waganheim, by Ira & Ethel Levine

Ann Loeb, by Liane Lunden

Alvin Miller, father of Ronald, by Ronald & Gayle Miller Bernie Kisliuk, by Charlotte Potosky

Lena Manius, mother of Charlotte, by Charlotte Potosky

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Bernice Kisliuk, by Alan & Adriana Sandler Ron Portman, father of Wendy Fried, by Janene

William "Bill" Stark, father of Fran Weiss, by Janene Ellis

Wishing Speedy Recovery To:

Gary Mizrachi, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Cilla & Hyman Grosberg, on the occasion of the birth of their grandson and son, by Saul &

Dara Grosberg & Jonathan Kotra, on the occasion of the birth of their son, by Saul & Sherry Cohen

Ethel and Ira Levine, on the occasion of the birth of their grandchildren, Charlotte and Jacob Levine, by Saul & Sherry Cohen

Jackie & Danny Benn, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and Danny's Bar Mitzvah anniversary, by Saul & Sherry Cohen

Jonathan Rubin and his recent simcha, the 50th anniversary of his bar mitzvah, by Hyman & Cilla Grosberg
Jonathan Rubin's Golden *Bar Mitzvah*, by Andrew

Epstein

Dara Grosberg and Jonathan Kotra on the occasion of the birth and brit milah of their new son, by Charlotte Potosky

Cilla and Hyman Grosberg on the occasion of the birth of their new grandson, by Charlotte Potosky Jackie and Danny Benn; mazel tov on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary, Danny's Birthday, and thank you for a great Kiddush, by Jack & Bess Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Herbert Exler, father of Wendy Abramson, by Daniel & Wendy Abramson

Anne Alpert and Henry Alpert, mother and father, respectively, of Larry, by Larry & Ellie Alpert Sidney Alpert, brother of Larry Alpert, by Larry & Ellie Alpert

Elsie Berman Friedman & Joseph Berman, parents of Philip, by Philip & Toby Berman

Helen & Morris Fox, parents of Toby, by Philip & **Toby Berman**

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Charles Sandler, father of Alan, by Alan & Adriana Sandler

Jacob Sandler, grandfather of Alan, by Alan & Adriana Sandler

Sonia Schecter, aunt of Lydia, by Zisel & Lydia Sansanowicz

Abraham Schapira, uncle of Lydia, by Zisel & Lydia Sansanowicz

Moishe Schechter, uncle of Lydia, by Zisel & Lydia Sansanowicz

Robert Ranofsky, brother of Jane, by Stewart & Jane Saphier

Abraham Shuman, father-in-law of Anne, by Anne Shuman

Ethel Winer, stepmother of Anne, by Anne Shuman Rose Winer, mother of Anne, by Anne Shuman Jennie Baker Wolf, mother of Elaine, by Elaine Stein Brenda Dym, mother of Lois Freedman, by Jack & Bess Teller

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The bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Natalie Vincent, by Joseph & Judith Bass

The occasion of their wedding anniversary and Danny's Bar Mitzvah anniversary, by Jackie & Danny Benn

The occasion of the 50th anniversary of Jonathan's bar mitzvah, by Jonathan & Marci Rubin

Contributions In Memory Of:

Zelick Waganheim, husband of Carol, by Carol Waganheim

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Danny and Jackie Benn - in honor of the 50th anniversary of Danny's bar mitzvah and Jackie and Danny's wedding anniversary, by Charlotte Potosky

Ethel and Ira Levine, on the occasion of the birth of their grandchildren, by Charlotte Potosky

Contributions In Memory Of:

Frances Layman, mother of Robert, by Rabbi Robert & Ruth Layman

Alexander Layman, father of Robert, by Rabbi Robert & Ruth Layman

Ann Loeb, by Charlotte Potosky



Lifelong Learning WILL BEGIN AFTER LABOR DAY

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 relations between Jews and their non-Jewish neighbors. No prior study of *Talmud* is required.

MONDAYS – 11 AM – JEWS & THE NEWS

Join us for a discussion of current events from a Jewish perspective. 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=QktRaUlqYzd qUDhJdVlkZG9BdDZMQT09

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

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





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