



The Shaare Tefila Congregation

Shofar

השופר



Celebrating our 74th year

APRIL 2025 - NISSAN-IYAR 5785

Vol. 74 #4

Schedule of Services for Passover - 5785/2025

- **Thursday April 10 - Study Session for the First-Born**
 - 8:45 AM - (regular) Morning service, followed by the study session - In-person or via Zoom
- **Friday April 11 - Burning of Chametz in the AM; Shabbat begins at sundown**
 - 9:00 AM - bring a small bag of *chametz* to burn; this marks our elimination of *chametz* prior to the holiday - In-person
 - 6:00 PM - (regular) *Kabbalat Shabbat* service – via Zoom
 - **7:24 PM – candle-lighting**
- **Saturday April 12 - Shabbat thru sundown; 1st Seder in the evening**
 - 9:30 AM – (regular) Shabbat service - In-person or via Livestream
 - NO Evening services - **Enjoy your Passover Seder with family and friends!**
- **Sunday April 13 - 1st Day/2nd Night of Passover**
 - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel*, the prayer for dew & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Livestream
 - NO Evening services - **Enjoy your 2nd Night Passover Seder with family and friends!**
- **Monday April 14 – 2nd Day of Passover**
 - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel* & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Zoom
 - 8:30 PM - Evening *Minyan* and *Havdalah* - via Zoom
- **Wednesday April 16 - Chol HaMoed Pesach (Intermediate day of Passover)**
 - 7:30 PM - (regular) Evening *Minyan* service - via Zoom
- **Thursday April 16 - Chol HaMoed Pesach (Intermediate day of Passover)**
 - 8:45 AM - (regular) Morning service - In-person or via Zoom
- **Friday April 18 - Shabbat & 7th Night of Passover begin at sundown**
 - 6:00 PM - (regular) *Kabbalat Shabbat* & Passover Holiday service – via Zoom
 - **7:30 PM – candle-lighting**
- **Saturday, April 19 - Shabbat & 7th Day of Passover until sundown/ 8th Night of Passover**
 - 9:30 AM - Shabbat and 7th Day of Passover Holiday service will include *Hallel* - In-person or via Livestream
 - 8:40 PM - Holiday Evening service - via Zoom
- **Sunday April 20 - 8th (Last) Day of Passover ends at sundown**
 - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel*, *Yizkor*, selections from Song of Songs & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Zoom or Livestream
 - **8:33 PM - Holiday of Passover concludes**
 - 8:35 PM - Evening *Minyan* and *Havdalah* - via Zoom



DON'T FORGET TO SELL YOUR CHAMETZ - SEE PAGE 7

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The People of Israel Cried Out

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org



For the past few years, the Washington Board of Rabbis has partnered with Rabbi Avi Straussberg of the local branch of HADAR to offer classes to the rabbis. She's an excellent teacher and I enjoy her style and the material she teaches - mainly lessons from Hasidic rabbis. Currently she's teaching from a collection of Torah commentaries known as the *Netivot Shalom* - written by the Slonimer Rebbe, Rabbi Shalom Noach Berezovsky (1911-2000). I wanted to share her latest lesson with you.

The Slonimer Rebbe was teaching about mourning and grief. He noticed in the *Book of Esther* that Mordechai dressed in sackcloth and had ashes on his head in mourning for the impending doom by the evil Haman. And he also noticed that the people of Israel in Egypt cried out in anguish from the cruelty and burden of servitude. Yet out of those two terrible moments, triumph prevailed. Mordechai was able to convince Esther to approach the king to change his mind. And God heard the cry of the Hebrew slaves and sent Moses to deliver them out of Egyptian bondage.

The point, the Slonimer Rebbe teaches, is that there is hope in the midst of despair. It may seem counterintuitive.

When we are mourning the death of a loved one or when we cry out against attacks on social justice or when we cry out for the Israeli hostages in Gaza, we may feel that all is lost. We may be crying that there is no hope. We may be feeling lost and disconnected from God.

But the act of crying out and active mourning actually expresses hope. Our cry, the Slonimer Rebbe says, reflects our desire to have the situation change. We want to see blessings in the midst of loss. We want to see justice triumph over evil. We want the Messiah to come to save us and bring about an age of peace and harmony. As the Rebbe teaches: "the light of the Messiah depends on the Jewish people's refusal to accept their situation."

How did the miracle of Passover happen? Why were the people miraculously redeemed from Egypt? Because the people cried out to God. How will our circumstances change and how can we be agents for change? By wanting it to happen; by praying, by working with like-minded people.

May your Passover holiday be meaningful and may we all be blessed with justice and light.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org



March was full of wonderful events in our building. We had *Purim* events which included the megillah reading with a number of our students, past students, and other participants; as well as a very entertaining *Purim Shpiel*. There were also a number of *b'nai mitzvot*, and a 50th anniversary celebration of Rabbi Jonah's *bar mitzvah*.

We also transitioned into spring and have been enjoying some warm weather. With spring, I always look forward to the arrival of Passover. As the holiday approaches, we should remember that Passover is a celebration of freedom and redemption, remembering the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It's a time to reflect on personal and collective journeys toward liberation. The *seder's* rituals highlight the importance of asking questions, connecting with family, and honoring tradition. The mix of bitter and sweet symbolizes life's struggles and joys. Passover encourages us to remember the past while working toward a better future.

On a personal note, I want to congratulate my wife Fran on her upcoming retirement after over 20 years of service at the FDA. While the past few years were challenging, she has been instrumental on helping develop new systems and improving old systems to help Centers within the FDA meet their missions.

As always, my monthly reminder, 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. If you are unsure of who to contact, please reach out to a Shaare Tefila officer or to our Executive Director, Jerry Kiewe.

As president, I appreciate all of the feedback that I have received from everyone. And, as I have always concluded announcements on *Shabbat* mornings; Remember that we are all part of the Membership Committee. It's "Our Synagogue, Our Community, Our Future... It's in Our Hands." Do your part...help YOUR community grow



On My Mind

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



As is the case for many American Jews, Passover evokes a lot of powerful memories and messages. I surely have many fond memories of many Passovers of years past.

Growing up, the lead-up to Passover was itself a huge deal — gradually changing over dishes and locking off various areas as we stored away the items that we couldn't use during Passover. We also had a tradition of making homemade chopped liver; so, I recall getting out the grinder and mixing the liver and onions, whose smell permeated our home for days. Of course, we made charoset too, but that was less memorable.

As for Passover itself ... with four brothers, our own immediate family started at seven, and our home was typically the gathering place for our extended family. In hindsight, I suspect that one reason that this was the case was that we five were a bit of a handful and other relatives, wisely, may have wanted our rambunctiousness to be confined to our house rather than their own? In any case, the siblings of each of my parents, accompanied by many cousins, and often a few guests to boot, all squeezed into our relatively small dining room, overflowed into our living room, and threatened to extend into the main entryway. It required redeployment of every chair we had, and sometimes a few borrowed from neighbors. A consistent feature was the 'children's table,' where all manner of shenanigans would take place. The 'oldest child' at that table was nominally 'in-charge' and responsible for maintaining some semblance of order, but in actuality, he/she had no chance.

My father was always the leader of these extended family gatherings and very capably led our *Seders*. Long before they became increasingly more engaging, we relied upon a collection of classic, wine-stained *Maxwell House Hagaddahs* (dark blue cover), complete with the "Thees" and "Thous" and bland illustrations. The reading parts were rotated around the table, and often, an awkward moment arose if the task of reading the paragraph about the wicked child fell to a brother or cousin that we actually regarded as such, as if it somehow confirmed our sentiment. We thoroughly enjoyed the many songs sprinkled throughout the *Seder*, though there were collective groans when my father demonstrated just how badly he could mangle the tunes.

It was a true mark of transition when, in the latter years of his life, my father ceded the role of leader of the annual gatherings, now consisting mostly of the brothers and our own families, to me. It felt awkward, and at first, I resisted it, but I gradually gained confidence and felt emboldened to introduce innovations that were mostly well-received by the next generation; home-made *Haggadahs*, which I cobbled together – long before the computer age made this easy – which incorporated modern language and sentiments. A Jeopardy-type game. A pre-planned *afikomen* scavenger hunt with a succession of clues that sent each child on a tailored trip through the house in search of 'his/her' *afikomen*. One funny aside; it seems that one child must have cheated and used a 'substitute' because years later we came back across one of these specially hidden *afikomens*.

These days, the highlight of our Passover season is the process of making charoset, though I confess that we also sometimes make it at other times of the year. Long ago, I discovered that *charoset* was not necessarily just the 'traditional' recipe of apples, walnuts, cinnamon and wine that I'd grown up on. I started collecting recipes from around the world and, sometimes with the help of enthusiastic children, began producing a variety of batches that are now a conversation piece, especially for the *Seders* that we attend elsewhere, should they be receptive to us bringing it.

May all of your own Passovers offer inspiration and fond memories for you and yours.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU IN 2025!

Sign Up to Chant a *Haftarah*

**An Opportunity for You in 2025!
Sign up to chant a *Haftarah***

**Join our group of 30+ congregants
who regularly chant *Haftarot*.**

NOW scheduling for late summer dates!

**Contact me; Adriana (SandlerAA@gmail.com)
for available dates and questions.
The dates go quickly....**





Programming and Education

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

"Freedom is within our grasp, and Pesach reminds us that we need to reach."

Rabbi Bradley Shavitt Artson

Recently I have been thinking quite a bit about "freedom" and what that means, especially as we approach our Passover observance, the one holiday in our annual cycle that symbolizes our people becoming free from tyranny. As a Jewish American I have been struggling lately with the meaning of freedom here and how people in leadership have been attempting to redefine it, especially freedom of speech. I am referring to the actions of the Trump administration towards people protesting (on college campuses) the Israeli government policies in Gaza. Whether I agree with what those protesters said is irrelevant; if they can be arrested for saying things I disagree with, simply for saying those things, what will happen when I or people I know and support, protest some other policy? The arrests and deportations of US citizens, residents and green card holders endanger everyone's future. As Rabbi Artson, a leader in the Conservative movement and Dean of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University, reminds us in the quote above, having freedom consistently in our lives means we need to keep reaching for it.

Community Events

- **[Come celebrate Shabbat & Sylvia Potash's 103rd Birthday! Register Here by April 1!](#)**
 - **6pm** - The evening begins with our regular service for all in the Sanctuary.
 - **7pm** - A delicious *Shabbat* dinner will be served for those who register in advance. [Sign up here by April 1!](#)
- **Mini Minyan, Friday, April 25, 6 pm** - Families with children thru age 7 are invited to welcome Shabbat with Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller of Rhythm 'N Ruach!

Activities for School Children & Families

Everyone had a busy month in March, learning more about the *Purim* holiday in all the classes. The youngest students in *Kitah Alef* listened to the story of Esther and created stick puppets to help them recreate the telling at home. In *Kitah Bet* the children put the *mitzvah*

of *mishloach manot*/giving gifts into action by creating decorated bags of gifts for each other and their loved ones. On the evening of *Purim* students in grades 3-12 impressed everyone in the Sanctuary with their *Megillah* chanting skills. The Shaare Tefila Players *Shpiel* was entertaining for everyone and then lots of games were played, food was eaten, and prizes were won at the Carnival! The classes will focus on Passover lessons during early April, then **Chavaya will be closed on April 13 and 20 for the holiday.** Classes will resume on April 27.

Gan Katan will meet on **Sunday, April 6 from 9:45 - 11:15 am.** *Morah* Mara will lead another class including crafts, music and fun with a Jewish connection focused on Passover!

Our next **Junior Congregation** will take place on **Saturday, April 26 at 11 am.** Remember, for school age children, Junior Congregation offers the opportunity to experience a worship service and if you arrive before 11 am, you can attend the main service as well.

The Jewish Bar DC Chapter invites you to:
A Conversation on Confronting Antisemitism
 Tuesday, April 2 @ 5:30-7pm
 101 Constitution Avenue, NW
 9th Floor
 Featuring:

Rep. Dan Goldman
 Co-Chair, House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism
 Hors d'Oeuvres Provided
 Dietary Laws Observed

AAJLJ
 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
 JEWEL CAMPERS & JEWELS

Register:



News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com



Wow, it's hard to believe that March is coming to an end and we can hopefully say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring!!! The days getting longer, flowers in bloom, and warmer temperatures always bring cheer and a smile to our faces. Perry and I are excited to go visit our older son at the end of the month in Topeka, KS. He moved there

recently for a job promotion, so we look forward to seeing some sites.

March started off beautifully with our New Member service, a sponsored *kiddush*, and the mini-*Shabbaton*. The turnout was wonderful and there was plenty of *schmoozing* smiling faces. Reading the bios and learning a bit more about some of our new members was very special.

On March 2, Shaare Tefila was an exhibitor at the 43rd Olney Community Day at Good Counsel High School. It was a very well-attended event and we had quite a few people stop by our table and express interest in our synagogue. It was nice to see some of our existing members too; thanks for coming out.

Ethel Levine and I thank ALL of you for another wonderful *Purim* fundraiser! This is the biggest fundraiser for our *shul* and we couldn't make it happen without your donations and support. We hope everyone had a fun *Purim* and enjoyed the festivities at *shul* or wherever the holiday may have taken you! A special thank you to Jerry and Luis for all their help as well!

Do you know anyone interested in Shaare Tefila? Please put them in touch with me or with anyone from the Membership Committee. Remember it takes a village and "It's OUR synagogue, OUR community, OUR future! It's in OUR Hands!"

HIGHLIGHTING 'NEWISH' MEMBERS

ALAN & ARLENE HEINE

A big welcome to Alan & Arlene Heine, who joined Shaare Tefila this past September.

Arlene and Al were both born and raised in Philadelphia. They have lived in Maryland since the early '70's and in Columbia since 1977. They are both now retired. Al is a psychiatrist and worked for the federal government and



D.C. government mental health systems. He also had a private practice in Bowie, MD. Arlene has worked in a variety of positions, most recently as administrative assistant for a local law firm.

They have been happily married for 53 years. They have a daughter and a son and six wonderful grandchildren, ages 4 to 21. When their previous congregation shut its doors last year they looked for a traditional Conservative congregation with a strong community spirit. They have been delighted to find those qualities at Shaare Tefila and have enjoyed the services, the dinners, the classes, the people, and more. Al was happy to have had the opportunity to chant the *Haftarah* in the Sephardic trope that he learned growing up.

DAVID AND KARLA JONES



David and Karla Jones are so happy to be back at Shaare Tefila again! One of the remarkable things about our synagogue is that even though we were gone for several years, returning felt like a homecoming; it was as if we had never left and while we worried that things might feel awkward, they didn't. Shaare Tefila attracts warm, welcoming and kind people and is a place where long-lasting friendships begin. Even when we weren't members, our friend group was still mainly made up of Shaare Tefila congregants. Both of our daughters, Madeleine and Genevieve, started Shaare Tefila preschool at the age of two, and Genny was in the kindergarten as well. Both attended Hebrew school at Shaare Tefila and both became *bat mitzvah* with Cantor Wendi's help.

They also remember their time here with fondness and the many holidays celebrated in the old building on Lockwood Drive and the interim locations while the new building was being constructed. It's nice to return as empty nesters because we actually have the time to take part in the activities like Trivia Night. With so much going on, Shaare Tefila has something for everyone.



Sisterhood

Shelley Rochester, Sisterhood President | shelleyrochester85@mail.com | 301-633-5515



Happy Spring, Ladies! Buds and stems are poking up their sweet heads all over the place. (I don't remember planting tulip bulbs over "there" but they're welcome all the same!) Push all the winter thoughts and moods to a back burner and let the sunshine and milder temperatures energize you. (I actually feel like cleaning out the garage! A little.)

April promises not only the arrival of blossoms in the yard and crowds at the garden centers but two wonderful Sisterhood events. Start by putting **Saturday, April 26** on your calendars: Fran Weiss is coordinating the **Rita Rubinstein Memorial Sisterhood Shabbat**. The women of Shaare Tefila will lead the entire Torah service! Fran is calling out to "all women to consider participating in this wonderfully meaningful event. There are plenty of roles that need to be filled from leading the Torah service, to reading from the Torah (yes, you can do it!), to carrying the Torah, to helping with a beautiful *kiddush*. Fran is encouraging the women of Shaare Tefila to reach out to her: FaoWeiss@gmail.com or 240-603-7025.

Now, while you have a pencil in hand, also mark down **Sunday, April 27** on your calendar: we are bringing back the '**Progressive Lunch**.' Sharon Kaye and Fran Kensky are working their fingers to the bone organizing this event, and believe me it takes a lot of organizing. Val Kolmaister, Master of Publicity, is sending out information about registering. There are a limited number of spaces, so be sure to get your name in early. April 27 is a Sunday, it's the middle of Spring and that combination is sure to add up to a great occasion!

Heads up for future **Spring celebrations: Sunday, May 18** is our Spring Brunch. Last year Mr. Omelette came to my house. We sat out in the sunshine, eating, sipping and talking. It proved to be very popular. So please contact me and give me some feedback if you'd like to repeat this 'egg-citing' afternoon or if you have something else in mind. I'm always up for suggestions.

Monday, June 9 is the end-of-year **Pot Luck/Planning/Board Meeting** that will be held at the home of Bess Teller. (I think she said something about having Lobster

Salad and Pork Ribs. NOT!) Included in the planning agenda will be discussion of the 2025-26 schedule and the arrangement of committees. You WILL be asked to step up and either participate in a committee or chair one. Do NOT be afraid! Much of the basic organizing is likely to have been done. But there will be some emailing and phone calls to be made. We need to ease some of the responsibilities that are often shouldered by the usual core members.

On another not-necessarily-Sisterhood note, there has been an emerging minor crisis regarding Kitchen *Kiddush* Duty. On the weekend of the sponsored *kiddush* for Danica Feldman, the kitchen had been stocked with enough food for 140 people. I sent out an email reminder and plea for help —twice— and only one couple showed up: Bernice and Myron Goldstein. We would STILL be in the kitchen rolling lox if it hadn't been for the dozen volunteers who just appeared and dove in. A thousand kudos go to these Very Special People: Karyn Gross, Diane Kieval, Fran & Stan Kensky, Bess Teller, Rita & Jay Hagler, Jackie Benn, Marlene Sandberg, Adriana Sandler, Ethel Levine and Michael Gross.

The *Shabbat Kiddush* is put together by Sisterhood volunteers. The lists of Captains, their teams and the dates are created under the (arduous!) guidance of Fran Kensky. It had been recommended that when the schedules are dispersed, the Captains should notify their team members of the dates and encourage them to put it in their calendars at that time. Your presence, your efforts are truly valued and appreciated. The time expended out of a whole year is approximately 8 hours. That includes two "tours of duty," prep, set up and clean ups (with plenty of time to attend services).

The team members need to take these assignments seriously. It is part of being a member of the Shaare Tefila Congregation. *Kiddush* kitchen duty is not an option. It is a responsibility.

Thank you.

JEWISH HAIKU

Today, mild *shvitzing*.
Tomorrow, so hot you'll *plotz*.
Five-day forecast—feh.





SELL YOUR CHAMETZ



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

In order to “sell” your *chametz*, complete the form below and **return it to Rabbi Layman no later than 9 AM on Friday, April 11.**

Options for HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM:

- complete and submit the form on-line at:
<https://shaaretefilacongregation.shulcloud.com/event/sale-of-chametz-for-passover-5785-2025.html>
- via email; send it to RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

via ‘snail mail’ – mail – or deliver it directly - to; Shaare Tefila, Attn: Rabbi Layman/Chametz Sales, 16620 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832-2418

DONATION TO MAZON

When “selling” our *chametz*, it is customary to make a donation called *ma’ot chitim* to enable those who are poor to celebrate Passover. All monies will be donated to MAZON: The Jewish Response to Hunger.

Options for HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION to MAZON:

- If you complete and submit the form on-line, a donation option is offered there
- Accompanied by the form below, mail/deliver a check to Shaare Tefila. You may either make it payable to MAZON and we will forward it ... OR make the check payable to Shaare Tefila and we will include the amount in a collective payment we will send to MAZON
- OR
- Indicate here that you’d like Shaare Tefila to bill your account in the amount of \$ _____

FORM TO SELL YOUR CHAMETZ

I (we) hereby authorize Rabbi Jonah Layman to serve as my (our) agent to sell my (our) *chametz*. I (we) understand that I (we) cannot touch the *chametz* in my (our) home from 10:00 AM Friday, April 11, 2025 to 8:33 PM Sunday April 20, 2025.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

HEBREW NAME: _____ son/daughter of _____



Shaare Tefila Congregation Spring/Pre-Passover FOOD DRIVE

Through Thursday, April 10

Now is an ideal time to clean out your pantry and bring your unwanted *chametz* and other foods to Shaare Tefila for donation any time from now until the days before *Pesach*



COLLECTING PASTA, CEREAL,
CANNED GOODS, PERSONAL
HYGEINE PRODUCTS, ETC.

All items must be unopened and nonperishable.

Make a tangible contribution for those in need in our local community. It's easy! Put your donated items in the collection box(es) that will be in our lobby and also just outside of our main entrance; we'll periodically bring in any donations that are left outside.



Donations will benefit *Olney Help*
(and we'll arrange for their pickup on April 10/11)



Pre Passover Shabbat Dinner

April 4, 2025

Celebrating Founding Member Sylvia Potash's
103rd Birthday!

Chicken soup with Kreplach
Stuffed Cabbage
Vegetarian Stuffed Cabbage
Kasha Varnishkas
Vegetables
Birthday Cake
Pareve Frozen Dessert



[Register Here by April 1](#)

Family Gathering | Dinner | Celebrate Shabbat!

[More Info and Registration](#)

phone: 301-593-3410

E-mail: bcohn@shaaretefila.org

Address:

16620 Georgia Ave, Olney, MD 20832

www.shaaretefila.org



Shaare Tefila and the Arts

by Ben Wolf

Jews, besides being people of the book, are people of the arts. From the artists of the Torah, including Miriam and her timbrels, David the poet (and king), and Bezalel – the artist singled out by God for making the Tabernacle (*Exod 31: 1-5*) to the artists of today (too numerous to count), Jews have always thought about and been involved with the arts. In fact, my first visit to Shaare Tefila was to see an exhibit of my mother's artwork in the Winer Family Gallery. Our synagogue celebrates art in other ways, from the architectural design of our sanctuary, to the Torah coverings and styles of Torah that we prefer and use, to the tile project underway for Shaare Tefila's anniversary, and so many more.

My love of the arts, passed down through innumerable generations has made it that much harder to see the Kennedy Center lose its creative heart over the last few weeks. But it is not just the Kennedy Center that has been impacted. Grants available to other theaters from the National Endowment for the Arts now come with limits on what the theaters can show and who they can hire. These are limitations on the ability of artistic directors to express their viewpoints and on audiences to benefit from those differing views. This is an existential threat to the arts, including to our neighbor, Olney Theatre Center.

Olney Theatre Center not only shares geography with Shaare Tefila, it also has a shared history with us. Many will recall that Olney Theatre offered synagogue members discounted tickets to see *Fiddler* during its 2023-2024 season (and had a workshop for our *Chavaya* students), but we should also recall that Olney Theatre often served host to our *Shabbat* services while Shaare Tefila's current building was under construction.

I hope that those who are so moved will join me in helping a good neighbor and longtime friend of the synagogue in its time of need. How can you show your support to Olney Theatre? Attend a show (and bring a friend), make a donation, or even attending the Olney Theatre Gala on June 1 (which Elissa and I are co-chairing). More about Olney Theatre, including links to purchase tickets, donate, or attend the gala can be found at <https://www.olneytheatre.org/>.

Together, may we keep our world a beautiful place to live.



MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

APRIL

Anniversary Celebrations

- 4/1 Leon & Anita Green
- 4/1 Stanley & Fran Kensky
- 4/5 Bert & Lita Katz
- 4/7 Daniel & Susan Marder
- 4/10 David & Sharon Appel
- 4/12 Julian Rosenberg & Zella Shabasson
- 4/14 David & Rhona Byer
- 4/14 Stewart & Jane Saphier
- 4/17 Michael & Emily Blicher
- 4/30 Roy & Michele Peck

Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 4/1 Deanna Alpher | 4/22 Laurie Dubrow |
| 4/1 Wesley Glass | 4/22 Julie Ellis |
| 4/2 Bryan Goodman | 4/22 Aaron Gershowitz |
| 4/2 David Sandler | 4/22 Steven Gershowitz |
| 4/3 Jacob Druzman | 4/22 Mira Mendick |
| 4/3 Sylvia Potash | 4/22 Ethan Mendick |
| 4/3 Joyce Torchinsky | 4/22 Elaine Schenberg |
| 4/4 Daniel Akman | 4/23 Lois Freedman |
| 4/5 Lisa Hedgepeth | 4/23 Ethan James |
| 4/5 Lenore Layman | 4/23 Zach Levitt |
| 4/5 Daniel Norken | 4/23 Steven Ross |
| 4/7 David Weinstein | 4/24 Jeffrey Katz |
| 4/8 Katarina Friedman | 4/24 Gary Morgenstern |
| 4/8 Joseph Kraut | 4/24 Andrew Resnick |
| 4/9 Paul Tilles | 4/27 Elijah Goodman |
| 4/11 Seth Cohen | 4/27 Esther Frances |
| 4/11 Richard Leshin | 4/28 Alan Burnstine |
| 4/12 Bonnie Prissman | 4/28 Judith Kirsch |
| 4/12 Natalie Vincent | 4/28 Daniel Ronis |
| 4/13 Genevieve Jones | |
| 4/13 Susan Prissman | |
| 4/13 Marlene Sandberg | |
| 4/14 Diane Kieval | |
| 4/15 Wendy Abraham | |
| 4/15 Micah Katz-DuBois | |
| 4/15 Eli Winkler | |
| 4/16 Ellen King | |
| 4/16 Lauren Romano | |
| 4/17 Rhea Siers | |
| 4/18 Richard Greenberg | |
| 4/18 Jay Hagler | |
| 4/18 Thomas Jackson | |
| 4/19 Betty Balin | |
| 4/19 Iris Bloom | |
| 4/21 Dina Schmidt | |
| 4/21 Jessica Hamlin | |



Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the Chesed Committee

Adriana Sandler | 240-593-5792 | SandlerAA@gmail.com

As mentioned in the March 2025 Shofar, the Chesed Committee started our newest initiative: "The Meal Train" during the months of February and March. One of our congregation families needed meals over an extended time because of surgery.

Besides helping out the family, we were able to "try-out" and fine tune our Meal Train.

We are ready for business, if necessary!

Recipients: if you need the delivery of dinners, may it be for a short time or over a longer period, please contact Adriana (240-593-5792; SandlerAA@gmail.com); contact the office or let Rabbi Layman know.

With your input and considering your circumstances, we can figure out how and what would be most suitable for you.

Congregants: if you read a call for "chefs" for our Meal Train on the ST listserv, please consider being part of this endeavor to cook for a fellow congregant and make their life a little easier.

An overview:

What is a Meal Train?

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help you out?" Very often a meal would be greatly appreciated.

That is where Meal Train comes in: the online organization of meal deliveries by multiple people from Shaare Tefila. It is an online tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.

The Shaare Tefila Chesed Committee has spearheaded our very own Meal Train of (only!) vegetarian, vegan and/or dairy home prepared dinners.

(Recipients agree to receive dinners from fellow congregants who may or may not have a kosher kitchen.)

Before deciding what to prepare, keep the following in mind:

The Chesed Committee, with guidance by Rabbi Layman, decided that only dairy, vegetarian, and/or vegan dishes

(no fish) should be prepared for our Meal Train recipients.

Follow any additional case specific dietary restrictions instructions from the coordinator, Karyn Gross, and call her with any questions at 301-233-4371.

The Chesed Committee finished the month of March by sending in a donation in honor of each of the recent *b'nai mitzvah* and their *mitzvah* projects:

- Sam Hirsch - Charles E. Smith Life Communities (CESLC).
- Danica Feldmann – Linus Project

We are proud of you!

CHUG IVRIT An Invitation for You!

Are you planning to go to Israel with Rabbi Layman?

The *Chug Ivrit* of Shaare Tefila is just right for you! We are a small group of people who like to engage with modern Hebrew, in a pleasant, no pressure class.

We are speaking, reading, writing and learning under the guidance of fellow congregants Ami Frydman and, at times, Ofer Zajicek. They not only teach us conversational Hebrew but also bring a wealth of knowledge and background information about Israel to each and every session.

We are reading fantastic short, but up-to-date news, science, and human-interest articles from all over the world.

Try Zoom *Chug Ivrit*: Conversational Hebrew on Sunday mornings!

From the convenience of your home, 10:30 AM – 12 noon, you too can join the Shaare Tefila's *Chug Ivrit* (Even if you can't make it each and every time, we are happy to have you when you can)

Do you want to make sure *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?





PURIM FUN

MEGILLAH READING



PURIM SHPIEL & CARNIVAL



Photos by Sam Cohn



Scenes from our Recent *Havdalah* Experience



Photos by Sam Cohn

April 2025 Kiddush Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE
Kitchen Captain
Volunteers

APRIL 5
Karen Sussman
Anita & Leon Green
Stephanie Green
Sharon & Dennis Kaye
Shelley & Mark Levitt
Ilene & Gary Mizrachi
Florence & David Polinsky
Sharon Zitomer

DATE
Kitchen Captain
Volunteers

APRIL 19
Shelley Rochester
Sandy & Joel Friedman
Adam & Rachel Glaser
Bryan & Laurin Goodman
Annie & Daniel Hirsch
Myron Sagall
Jackie Samuel
Jane & Stewart Saphier

DATE
NO KIDDUSH - PASSOVER

APRIL 12

DATE
Rita Rubinstein Memorial Sisterhood Shabbat
Kitchen Captain
Volunteers

APRIL 26
Stacy Levine / Joy Salzman
Sharon & David Appel
Melissa & Eric Druzman
Sara Elson
Sharon Bender & Andrew Feldmann
Rebecca & Hal Fero
Ben & Elissa Wolf
Anne & Offer Zajicek



Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From February 25 - March 28, 2025 but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL

CHESED FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Paul Tilles, for his Torah readings, by Amy & Joe Federman
Gershon Kieval, for his *Shabbat* service, by Amy & Joe Federman
Jack & Bess Teller, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary, by Joyce Feinstein
Sylvia Potash, on the occasion of her 103rd birthday, by Ethel & Ira Levine
Sam Hirsch, on the occasion of him becoming a *bar mitzvah*, by Alan & Adriana Sandler
Danica Feldmann, on the occasion of her becoming a *bat mitzvah*, by Alan & Adriana Sandler
Bess & Jack Teller, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary, by Alan & Adriana Sandler
Bill Sumner, for his extraordinary accomplishment! (Ask him!), by Adriana & Alan Sandler
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Adriana & Alan Sandler
Adriana & Alan Sandler and Anne Zajicek, and in appreciation for all of your help and support! By Elaine Schenberg

Contributions In Memory Of:

Betty Rosenthal, mother of Jerry Rosenthal and Terri Kerner, by Jerry Rosenthal and Terri Kerner
Albert Tilles, father of Paul Tilles, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Contributions In Thanks For:

The support of *Chesed*, once again helping us through a rocky patch, by Ira & Ethel Levine

Contributions – No dedication:

From Perry & Stephanie Buckberg

BUILDING FUND

Contributions In Memory Of:

Lorin Luchs, from Audrey Mellner Haber

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Cantor Adina: Thank you from Danica Feldmann for your hard work prepping me for my *bat mitzvah*! By the Feldmann Family

D. JOSEPH WILLIAMOWSKY SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

All of the cast and crew of this year's *Purim Shpiel!* By Stacey Lynch

Contributions In Memory Of:

Manny Ginsburg, father of Lisa Arber, by Lisa and Danny Akman

EDUCATION FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Ethel Levine, by Amy & Joe Federman

Contributions – No dedication:

From Marlene & Andrew Sandberg

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Bob & Helene Braun
Jack & Bess Teller, on the occasion of the 60th wedding anniversary, by Judy Bresler
Rita & Jay Hagler, on the occasion of the birth of their granddaughter, by Sherry & Saul Cohen
Saul & Sherry Cohen; Congratulations on your grandson's *bar mitzvah*. By Nina Gurman
Debbie & San Yedlin; Congratulations on becoming grandparents! Wishing baby Josephine a long, healthy and happy life and may she bring you much joy! By Nina Gurman
Bess & Jack Teller, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary, by Deborah Letow
Estelle Leibowitz, mother of Lenore Layman, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, by Liane Lunden
The occasion of the *bar mitzvah* of Saul and Sherry Cohen's grandson, by Howard & Amy Schwartz
Gershon Kieval, with thanks for leading services on Feb. 22, by Bess & Jack Teller
Milt Goldsamt; Congratulations on the new home. By Bess & Jack Teller
Sam & Debbie Yedlin; *Mazel tov* on the birth of your first grandchild, Josephine Simone, by Bess & Jack Teller
Danica Feldmann; *Mazel tov* on Danica's *bat mitzvah* and thank you for a great *kiddush*! By Bess & Jack Teller
Saul and Sherry Cohen; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of your grandson Max's *bar mitzvah*, By Bess & Jack Teller
Rita & Jay Hagler; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your

granddaughter, By Bess & Jack Teller

GENERAL FUND (continued)

Contributions In Memory Of:

Daniel Haskell Alper, their brother, by Karen, Theodore & Russell Alper
Mark Berger, his brother, by Bob Braun
Betty Rosenthal, widow of Jack Rosenthal, by Judy Bresler
Rose Halpern, widow of Rabbi Martin Halpern, by Judy Bresler
Rosalie Goldman, his mother, by Philip Goldman
Jay Feinstein, husband of Joyce Feinstein, by Myron & Bernice Goldstein
Rose Halpern, widow of Rabbi Martin Halpern, by Jay & Freda Krosnick
Manny Ginsburg, by Freda & Jay Krosnick
David Leidman, her uncle, by Roanne Leidman
Norman Alpher, husband of Deanna Alpher, by Rita Glazer
Norman Alpher, husband of Deanna Alpher, by Nancy Hull
Alexander Weisberg, father of Florence Polinsky, by Florence & David Polinsky
Edith & Albert Lopatin, mother & father of Freda Resnick; and Sylvia Resnick, mother of Stephen Resnick, by Freda & Stephen Resnick
Helen Bomberg, mother of Lydia Sansanowicz, by Lydia & Zisel Sansanowicz
Susan Yarrow, a wonderful neighbor, by Elaine Schenberg
Max Weinstein, his grandfather, by Martin Weinstein

Contributions In Thanks For:

The Kiddush team's hard work for Danica Feldmann's *bat mitzvah kiddush*! By Andrew Feldmann & Sharon Bender

Wishing Speedy Recovery To:

Sheryl Tilles, by Saul & Sherry Cohen
Sheryl Tilles, by Bess & Jack Teller

THE KIDDUSH COMMITTEE

Contributions In Honor Of:

Jerry Kiewe, with thanks for helping to make our *kiddush* run smoothly, by Bess & Jack Teller
Sheryl Tilles, with thanks for your efforts in making our *kiddush* so wonderful, by Bess & Jack Teller
Fran Kensky and the Kiddush Committee, with thanks for making our *kiddush* so wonderful, by Bess & Jack Teller

MACHZOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions In Memory Of:

Manny Ginsburg, from Yocheved & Sylvan Karlin

Continued on next page



Repairs Are Being Carried Out ...

MARTIN S. HALPERN ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Bess and Jack Teller, on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary, together and as great friends too! by Dr. Milton Goldsamt

NATHAN RUBINSTEIN YOUTH FUND

Contributions In Memory Of:

Nathan Rubinstein, her father, by Nina Gurman

THE BRICK PAVER PATH

Contributions In Memory Of:

Jay Feinstein, husband of Joyce Feinstein, by Gail Ernst & Friends

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

In honor of Rabbi Layman's 50th Anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Daniel & Lisa Akman
Maya Abigail Krosnick, their granddaughter, by Elayne & Joel Glickman
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Ira & Ethel Levine
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Charlotte Potosky
Isaac Layman, new grandchild of Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman. *Mazal Tov!*
By Zella Shabasson & Julian Rosenberg
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Marta Tanenhaus
Rabbi Layman, by Bess & Jack Teller
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, and thanks for the wonderful *kiddush*, by Bess & Jack Teller
Rabbi Layman, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his *bar mitzvah*, by Debbie & Sam Yedlin

Contributions In Thanks For:

Rabbi Layman: Thank you from Danica Feldmann for your help preparing me for my *Bat Mitzvah* service. By The Feldmann Family
Rabbi Layman: Thank you for the spiritual & emotional support you provided to my family, by Judi Singleton

As you may have noticed, we are pleased to report that **needed repairs are being carried out on the Bridge-Walkway leading to/from the Administrative area.**

Alas, the concrete there had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. Once the existing concrete has been removed, we will also be able to fully assess the condition of the bridge base and make any needed repairs to that as well.

The repair work began on March 27. With allowance for weather-related delays, the repairs could potentially take as long as two weeks, though we are hoping that it will require less time.

IMPORTANT: While this repair is being carried out, this entry can NOT be used at all; the area will be cordoned off and the administrative doors to/from the outside will remain locked. All general access and deliveries will need to be through the "main entry" doors nearest the Chapel and Main Sanctuary.

FYI - There is no electronic access, intercom or buzzer system, nor an alarm pad located at the main entrance! In order to gain entry at that door, **please plan on connecting, preferably IN ADVANCE, directly with a staff or volunteer who is already inside and can meet you at the main door.** A notice with emergency phone lines (the main office and my cell) has also been posted there.

CHAVURAH GROUP 10 GOES ON A FIELD TRIP...

As a group activity, on March 16, members of Shaare Tefila's *Chavurah* Group 10 visited the Josiah Henson Museum and Park. The museum and grounds are on land in Montgomery County that was part of the plantation where Josiah Henson was enslaved before fleeing to Canada and becoming a free man. He later helped other slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. His autobiography, depicting the hardships and cruelty of slavery, became the inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

From our docent, who was very knowledgeable and informative, we learned about:

- Josiah's life and legacy,
- life as a slave, particularly on the plantation,
- the restored house containing the exhibits about Josiah's life and slavery.
- the restored slave quarters,
- the ongoing archeological dig on the grounds, and
- the history behind the museum and its significance to Montgomery County's history.

After the trip, Shaare Tefila received a lovely thank you note, directed to Michael & Anita Froehlich.

Dear Anita & Mike;

It was my pleasure to guide your group from Shaare Tefila through the Josiah Henson Museum. As we get closer to Pesach, it is a good idea to reflect on the slave experience, and I can't think of a better role model for someone enduring the horrors and overcoming that experience to bring light and hope to the world than Josiah Henson.

I appreciate your [contribution; that money] will be used to bring new visitors to the museum, so thank you for that.

Stay healthy and safe, best wishes to the group, and wishing you a peaceful and meaningful Passover holiday.

XXXX, Volunteer Docent – Josiah Henson Museum





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. The class is now reading the *Books of Samuel*.

ALL CLASSES MEET ON ZOOM

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Weekday morning *minyan* services are conducted both in-person **AND** via Zoom on **SUNDAY, MONDAY** and **THURSDAY** at 8:45 AM.

Weekday evening *minyan* services are conducted **ONLY** via Zoom on **MONDAY** and **WEDNESDAY** evenings at 7:30 PM.

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



1951 Shaare Tefila 2026



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