Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 75th year | FEBRUARY 2026 - *SH'VAT - ADAR* 5786 | Vol. 75 #2

Warm Up Your Winter with a Night of Boogie-Woogie Swing & Soul, "A Benefit For Shaare Tefila"

Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:00-10:30 p.m.

"An Evening of Dining, Dancing, Entertainment & Friendship"

DINNER INCLUDES: A delicious served multi-course meal, beverages, & a cash bar (wine, beer, signature cocktail).

CONCERT: International Recording Artist Daryl Davis & his fabulous band! This is much more than a concert - it's a celebration with a purpose. Your financial donation directly supports program opportunities for the ST & greater community.

https://bit.ly/495pB4X

Tickets Cost:
$90 Members
$100 Public

Best Value
Table of 10 Discount:
$800 (until 1/19/26)

TAX DEDUCTIBLE SPONSORSHIPS:

$180 - Includes ONE Ticket
$360 - Includes TWO Tickets
$720 - Includes FOUR Tickets

* **PLUS for $36** Receive a Personalized Bottle of Red or White Wine

"Together We Can Make a Difference"

IF YOU NEED CONSIDERATION REGARDING THE COST OF YOUR TICKET PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JERRY KIEWE, JKIEWE@SHAARETEFILA.ORG

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

OUR 75th YEAR!

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

It may be hard to believe but our shul is now celebrating its 75th year! It is truly a remarkable milestone that reflects the commitment of the original charter members and the resilience of our community over the decades. From Riggs Road in Northeast DC to White Oak in Silver Spring and finally, to our current location here in Olney, our congregation has provided spiritual, educational and social programs for thousands of people.

In 1951, Joe Williamowsky and a few others began knocking on doors in their neighborhood. The Riggs Road area was known at the time as "Little Tel Aviv" for its sizable Jewish population. Many young couples answered the door and were glad to become founders of a new congregation. A rental home was found, people prepared food for *kiddush* in their homes and Shaare Tefila was born. In a short time, money was raised to build a building (it still stands on Riggs Road) and services and a religious school could have a home. Several of our current members, like past presidents Wendy Abraham, Judy Bresler and Perry Sandler - among many others - remember those Riggs Road days fondly.

For the rest of our history our congregation responded to the demographic needs of the community. We moved to White Oak in the early 60s and then moved again to Olney 20 years ago. As far as I know, no other synagogue in the DMV has moved three times in its history. The fact that we did so reflects the commitment and strength of our congregation.

We are a synagogue that puts friendliness first. We care about each and everyone in the community - thanks to the dedication of our *Chesed* Committee, the strength of our *Havurot*, our monthly *Shabbat* dinners, and many other programs. We know that relationships are key to maintaining a thriving community. We welcome everyone to *shul* on *Shabbat*, we make all students feel welcome in our religious school, and we try to show how meaningful it is to be Jewish in so many ways.

I feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community for the past 32 years and I pray that together we can continue to experience blessing and strength for many more years to come.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org

As our largest snow event in ten years was unfolding, I began to think about what has occurred/changed over the past ten years. Ten years ago, our country's political landscape began a dramatic change which impacted our lives on a daily basis in ways we hadn't seen for a very long time. Ten years ago; we hadn't heard of COVID, Zoom definitely had a different meaning than an online meeting, Tesla was the inventor of AC electricity, Earbuds/AirPods—you actually stick something in your ear to hear music without a wire, and AI was something that you only read about in science fiction books or in the movies. But, through all this time Shaare Tefila has remained a strong, vibrant, and caring Jewish community. While we've had to deal with the unfortunate passing of a number of our members over those ten years, we've also been fortunate to have had many wonderful new families join our community.

As February unfolds, the days are still short and the weather keeps us close to home—but our community continues to be a source of warmth, connection, and meaning. This season reminds us that even in the quieter months, growth is happening beneath the surface.

In the weeks ahead, we look forward to coming together for meaningful prayer, learning, and celebration. *Tu Bishvat* invites us to reflect on renewal and our responsibility to nurture the world around us, while P*urim* is just around the corner, promising joy, laughter, and a reminder of the power of community and resilience.

On a personal note, Fran and I are working on our travel plans for the year, with new adventures planned for ourselves and our family. We are also very much looking forward to summertime in Lewes.

Continued on next page

On My Mind

Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

Fame can be a dubious honor. In recent weeks, two people that I'll bet none of us had ever heard of before, have now become household names; Renee Goode, and Alex Pretti. No doubt those who do know them, especially their family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc., would prefer that they had remained blissfully anonymous.

Earnest efforts are being made to offer more information about the full lives that each led and no doubt that will continue for months and years to come. But for the most part, eventually, their names and lives will become etched into the public legacy and join a long list of those forever enshrined as "victims" of a tragic incident. George Floyd, Rodney King, the "Munich 11," James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, and Emmet Till. These are just a handful of names that probably resonate.

It strikes me as somewhat sad that sometimes, for better and worse – and often the latter, a person can, at least in the minds of the general public, become known for but small slivers of their lives … and even for but a single moment.

Alas, there are people who become known almost solely for a moment of failure. Think, "Bill Buckner." Even many who don't follow baseball very closely, know that his name is associated with a classic failure; in Game 6 the 1986 World Series, he allowed a routine grounder to go through his legs, a misplay that then cascaded into a monumental loss of momentum for the then still long-suffering Boston Red Sox, who proceeded to lose that game and the decisive Game 7 to the Mets.

It's a tragic example for multiple reasons. First, just as technical matter, that one play wasn't, by itself, decisive at the time; it became so only after the successive events made it so. Other things could have happened that would have made it inconsequential and just a footnote. More significantly, Bill Buckner was a generally successful Major League baseball player for 21 years (!), a fine person, and deserves better than to be defined by one moment in the otherwise rich saga of his life

Happily, sometimes the 'moment" can be one of triumph. A standout example is Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's 2009 handling of a pending disaster when a flock of birds disabled the engines of his aircraft shortly after takeoff. He quickly assessed that the only viable alternative was an emergency landing in the Hudson River, thereby saving the lives of his 155 passengers and crew.

I expect that we all share the hope that we'll be properly prepared and able to rise the occasion when we are challenged. Those challenges DO happen all the time, though most are not so public or consequential … nor would we probably want them to be.

The vast majority of us won't be defined by any particular moment, and widespread public fame will elude us. Hopefully, we'll also avoid widespread public shame as well!

PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

As always, my monthly reminder: while financial support for our congregation is important, our community also relies on the gift of your time and talents. Shaare Tefila thrives because members step forward to help—whether it's assisting with an event, lending a skill, or simply being present when needed. I strongly encourage everyone to commit to volunteering for at least one event this year. Even a small contribution of time makes a meaningful difference. If you're unsure where to start or whom to contact, please reach out to a Shaare Tefila officer or our Executive Director, Jerry Kiewe—we would love to help you get involved.

Thank you for being part of our synagogue family. Our strength truly comes from one another. May the remainder of this winter bring health, comfort, and moments of light—and may we continue to grow, support one another, and strengthen our community together.

Programming and Education

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

"You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart,with all your soul, and with all your might.
Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day.Impress them upon your children.
Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away,when you lie down and when you get up.
Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead;
inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:5-6:9

You may recognize the translated words above as the first paragraph of our *V'Ahavta* prayer, recited twice a day in traditional Jewish practice. Growing up in a non-traditional home and synagogue on Long Island, I still remember learning that the *Sh'ma* is the watchword of our faith and the *V'Ahavta* is the directive on taking action for our faith. This lesson grounded me for my life as a Jewish person and drives me as a Jewish educational leader both in the Shaare Tefila community and beyond.

In December I graduated from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion with a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Educational Leadership. The participant action research I have been conducting in our community since last spring was my project for the HUC-JIR program. I encourage you to read the infographic on the pages following this article - it demonstrates the results of my research. The Board of Directors will hear more detail about the project when I present my research at the February Board meeting, as well as with my colleagues Rabbi Layman and Jerry Kiewe. I expect that these findings will have an effect on programs for all ages in the future, both short-term and longer-term.

If you have any questions for me about the project or anything else, please feel free to contact me.

Children's Education

On January 11 *Chavaya* families participated in our "Be a *Mensch*" program, in partnership with the Shaare Tefila Men's Club. Thanks to President Mike Binder's organization of the visits to various facilities, ST community members spent time with residents at Ring House, Hebrew Home and Revitz House, all in Rockville. We asked for reflections from our participants and here is what we were told:

- *Theodore "The extra special part was that we got to play games with people and make them happy."*
- *Ashley "I loved it; it was a spontaneously beautiful act of service. I hope that it brightened the day for the residents; it was a highlight for me!"*
- *Caleb "I really enjoyed chatting with the residents & finding out that we had some common interests."*
- *Sarah "As a parent, it was nice helping him learn that, even at his young age, he can brighten up someone's day, just by being himself and showing a little interest in their life."*
- *Leora (at Revitz House speaking with residents was done in a large group, meeting style) "I would have preferred speaking with one or two people at a time, instead of the group. I want to do it again next year and bring games that we can play with the residents."*

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR THE EVENT OF THE SEASON!! Ticket Sales End February 4th!!

Shaare Tefila's Annual FUNdraiser Event - February 7, 7-10:30PM

A Boogie-Woogie Benefit: Dinner & A Show!

Join us on the night of February 7 for what promises to be a great night of music, dancing and fun! We are privileged to have **International Recording Artist Daryl Davis & his magnificent band** to entertain us with an electrifying night of music featuring the timeless sounds of boogie-woogie, classic rock & roll, & soulful blues. **BUT this is much more than just a concert** - it's a celebration with a purpose. Every ticket & donation received will directly support educational program opportunities for all ages in our community.

Consider A Great Discounted Option - Put a Table of Ten Together for a Great Night of Entertainment - $10 Per Ticket Discount - $800 for a Table of 10! List Your Table Here! The special price is available for ST members and non-members.

OR - PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW AT THIS LINK - THIS YEAR'S ALL INCLUSIVE TICKET PRICES ARE: $90 Members; $100 Public

TAX DEDUCTIBLE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
$180 - Includes ONE Free Ticket
$360 - Includes TWO Free Tickets
$720 - Includes FOUR Free Tickets
*PLUS for $36 Receive a Personalized Bottle of Red or White Wine

Spiritual & Community Events in February

- **Jews & Brews, February 20, 5pm -** Come a little early before our 6pm Friday service, have a drink and some refreshments, and catch up with your friends! Co-sponsored by Men's Club & ST Programming.
- ***Shabbat Ruach Tefila*: Our Voices Together in Prayer & Song, February 20, 6pm -** Stay after you enjoy social time at Jews & Brews (or come at 6pm) for our *Shabbat* evening service, led by Stacey Lynch, Scott Kaplowitz and Stuart Zitomer. An *oneg* follows the service in the Winer Gallery.
- **Junior Congregation, February 21 (note new date), 11am-12pm -** Join Morah Babette and guest co-leader Stacey Lynch for a *Shabbat* service designed for school age children. Remember, these services are part of Shaare Tefila's Hebrew education program and attendance is taken!
- **Tot *Shabbat*, February 28, 11am-12pm -** Celebrate *Shabbat* with Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller of Rhythm 'N' Ruach - sing, dance and rejoice on our weekly, special day. Families with children ages 0-7 are welcome to attend.

LEARNING TOGETHER GROWING TOGETHER: WHERE TRADITION MEETS CURIOSITY & COMMUNITY

Study by Babette Cohn, Director of Education & Programming

Question
WHAT IS ON MY MIND AS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING AT SHAARE TEFILA?

Based on feedback from community leaders, members, parents and students, what are the desired outcomes for Jewish education at Shaare Tefila? Answering this question would help programming align with community expecations for all ages.

Background
WHAT LED ME TO THIS QUESTION?

Before coming to ST, I served as education director for a small community, where it was unclear what the community's priorities were for Hebrew education, leaving me without any direction, which I found frustrating. That experience motivated me to have a clearer focus on defining outcomes for education at ST.

Method
HOW DO WE FIND OUT THE ANSWER?

The Group Level Assessment (GLA) process was used to gather community perspectives, inviting participants to select and respond to prompts and to share appreciation for others' ideas.

GLA SETUP:
HOW DO WE DO THIS?

Sessions opened with a question to put everyone at ease (e.g., a memorable learning experience). Then participants read over the Shaare Tefila mission statements for both the community and religious school.

Continued on next page

Prompt Questions
WHAT ARE WE THINKING?

Prompts explored interests, preferred learning environments, use of time, and specific items about Hebrew and Israel. Participants selected from 30 prompts and added appreciation responses with check marks.

Data
WHAT WERE OUR ANSWERS?

Two GLA sessions were held, each using the same 30 prompts. Total data points collected: 1,122. 368 answers were generated & 754 expressions of appreciation were offered for those answers.

Analysis
UNDERSTANDING WHAT WAS SHARED

Examples of answers included: "I want to know how to plan a trip to Israel." "More Hebrew learning" and continued interest in *t'filah*/prayer education, indicating a desire to strengthen worship and Hebrew knowledge. Service projects and time in community were also noted as priorities.

Small Groups
SMALL GROUP IDEAS

Each session divided into three small groups, who then reviewed answers on 10 prompt posters. Observations in the small groups included: Interested in diverse topics beyond Judaism; strong sense that Shaare Tefila is a resilient community; concerns about time, member retention, and sustaining engagement

Themes
WHAT IS ON PEOPLE'S MINDS?

Conclusions from the Small Group discussions answers to prompts: Connection & community; Demands on people's time; Keeping people engaged across generations. A generational disconnect in priorities was observed.

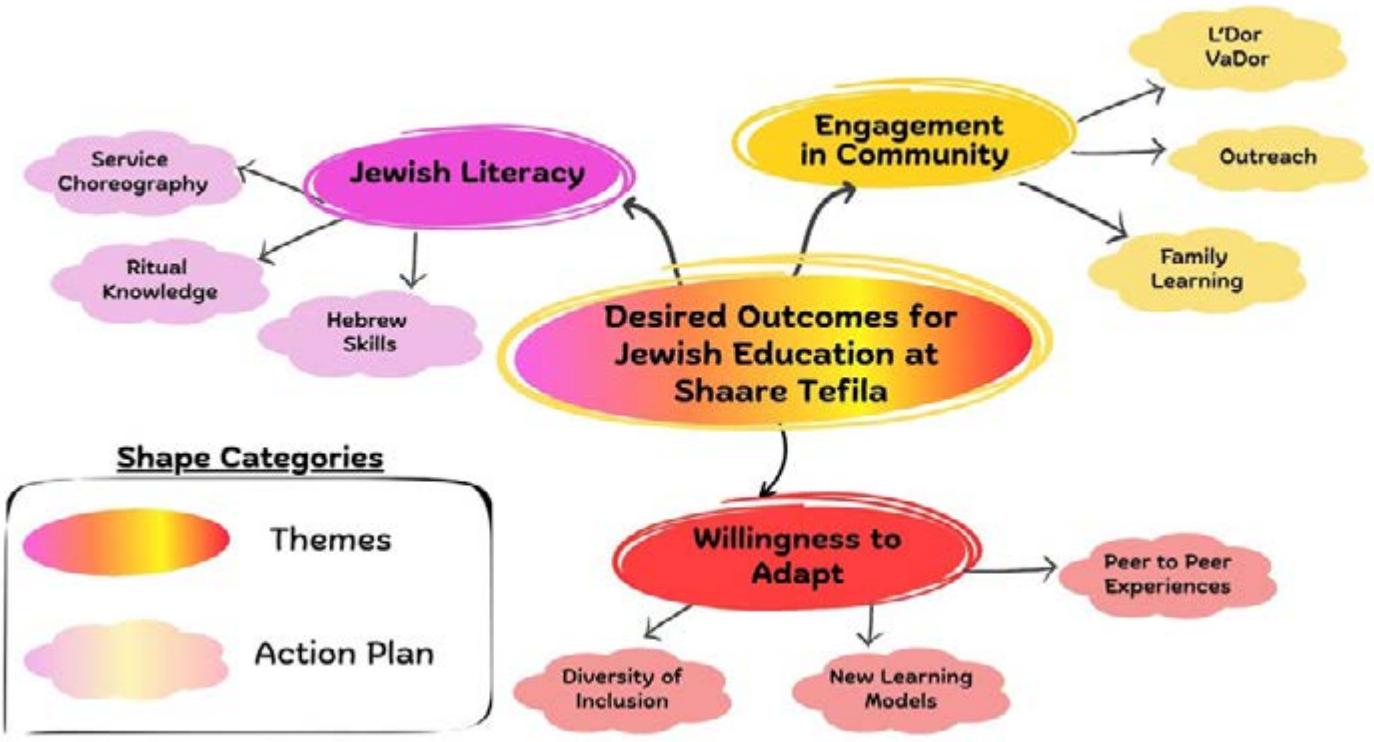
Continued on next page

Outcomes & Actions
DESIRED OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS: WHAT'S NEXT?

Three desired outcomes, along with possible actions, were drawn from the analyzed data:
Theme: Jewish Literacy — actions: education in service choreography, more opportunities to learn more about Jewish rituals, and added Hebrew learning.

Theme: Engagement in Community — actions: offer more family learning opportunities, outreach to members who are less comfortable in a Jewish setting, increase *l'dor va'dor* opportunities for younger members to learn from older members.

Theme: Willingness to Adapt — actions: offer peer to peer learning experiences within the human resources of the community; introduce new learning models to make Jewish education more accessible; diversify what it means to be an inclusive community.



News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com

As we welcome in the New Year, I, once again, find myself so grateful for the strength and warmth of our community. Each year brings its own challenges and blessings but through it all, Shaare Tefila continues to show what it means to support one another with joy, compassion, and helping hands.

As everyone knows, membership is more than just numbers. It's YOU, whom we see at services, voices we hear when learning, hands that help set up for events, and hearts that show up for one another for celebrations and in times of need. Each year, we are lucky enough to witness so many acts of kindness and gestures that create the welcoming environment we pride ourselves on.

In the coming year, I hope we all find new ways to connect. Whether you have been part of our synagogue family for a long time or you've just joined us, there is always a place for you here. We invite you to attend a program you have never tried before, introduce yourself to someone new at kiddush, or reach out if you're looking for a way to get more involved. These things will only help our community and connections grow stronger!

Thank you for being such an integral part of our congregation and for helping make it a home for so many. May the New Year bring you and your loved ones good health, peace, and moments of meaning.

I look forward to seeing what we can all build together in the months ahead.

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Sophie & Gordon Novinsky reside in Ellicott City and were active at Bet Chaverim. Gordon is self-employed as a CPA and Sophie is retired. They have been married over 46 years now and have two adult children.

Sisterhood Annual Women's *Seder*

Each spring we look forward to celebrating the beginning of the Passover season with our Shaare Tefila Sisterhood. This year's event will be on Sunday, March 8. Our wonderful musicians from last year, Lisa Baydush and Audrey Katz, are returning to lead us in our musical *seder* experience. Doors will open at 5:30 PM and the program begins at 6:00 PM. The cost is $36 for adult members; $40 for adult non-members; $20 for girls (5-15 years old).

Please note that the **deadline is Tuesday, March 3** so that we can cook for the right number of people! Also, note that if you register after that date there will be an additional $5 charge, and the money is due up front. You will be able to pay online through Shul Cloud and we are also advertising on our membership listserve.

Like to cook and *shmooze*? We will be very busy on the afternoon of Sunday, March 8. Please help us cook, beginning at 1 PM.

Would you like to set the tables and help with last-minute tasks? This will also take place on Sunday. Thanks in advance—many hands make light work!

Please email the co-chairs of this event: Ann Hamlin at A21Hamlin@gmail.com and Debbie Finch at PurpleFinchD@yahoo.com.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU IN 2026!

Sign Up to Chant a *Haftarah*

If it is your 1st time … or your 18th time, join our group of 30+ congregants!

NOW scheduling dates after *Pesach*.

Contact Adriana regarding available dates (SandlerAA@gmail.com)

Sisterhood

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

Dear Sisters,
Thank you so much for joining me in the reading of the *Shofar* of Shaare Tefila Synagogue. I hope you didn't hit too much traffic and that you all found a convenient parking space. Now, hold on to your kishkes, because we have so many cool events coming up that I know you won't want to miss.

We would not let the holiday pass by without offering a ***Tu B'shevat Seder,*** which the Sisterhood will conduct on **Sunday, February 8 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon**. Some years ago, the 16th century to be more precise, the fruits and trees were given symbolic meaning. The main idea was that eating ten specific fruits and drinking four (!) cups of wine in a specific order while reciting the appropriate blessings would bring human beings, and the world, closer to spiritual perfection. And since she is one of the "most Jewish" women in the congregation, Marlene Sandberg was appointed chair of this activity. Marlene has been dutifully creating a seder that will be educational and inclusive and offer a celebration of ecological awareness, and there will be holiday-appropriate snacks! If all goes well, we envision this may become an annual event.

But wait! There's more! On **Sunday, February 22, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM**, in the Social Hall, we are going to revive that popular fun-fest…..**Bingo**! So grab your reading glasses and head on down! Our special guest caller will be the Gal with the Golden Voice, everyone's favorite Queen Esther, Fran Kensky! Yay! Val Kolmaister will BE sending out the information soon, and all are encouraged to register.

Here's advance notice for Sisterhood activities in March so you can enter them onto your calendars:

- Our annual **Women's *Pesach Seder*** will be held on **Sunday, March 8 at 5:30 PM.** This event has always been very popular so don't forget to register. It's a wonderful and special evening which celebrates the women of the Bible, without whom the men wouldn't have been heroes. We sing, we dance, we eat and we bond. You shouldn't miss it!
- The following week, on **Sunday, March 15 at 10:30 AM**, we will host **Bill Peyser,** a volunteer with the Montgomery County Police Department and a member of the Keeping Seniors Safe program, who will speak on "**Scams and Cybercrimes**" and how we can keep ourselves safe. His presentation will include some of the most prevalent scams, phishing campaigns and fraudulent text messages, and the manipulation techniques used by scammers. We will also hear testimony from a scam victim and there will be a Q and A period. This is an information needed by ALL … even if you haven't had cataract surgery yet. Or menopause. Of course, we will also offer a *nosh* afterwards.

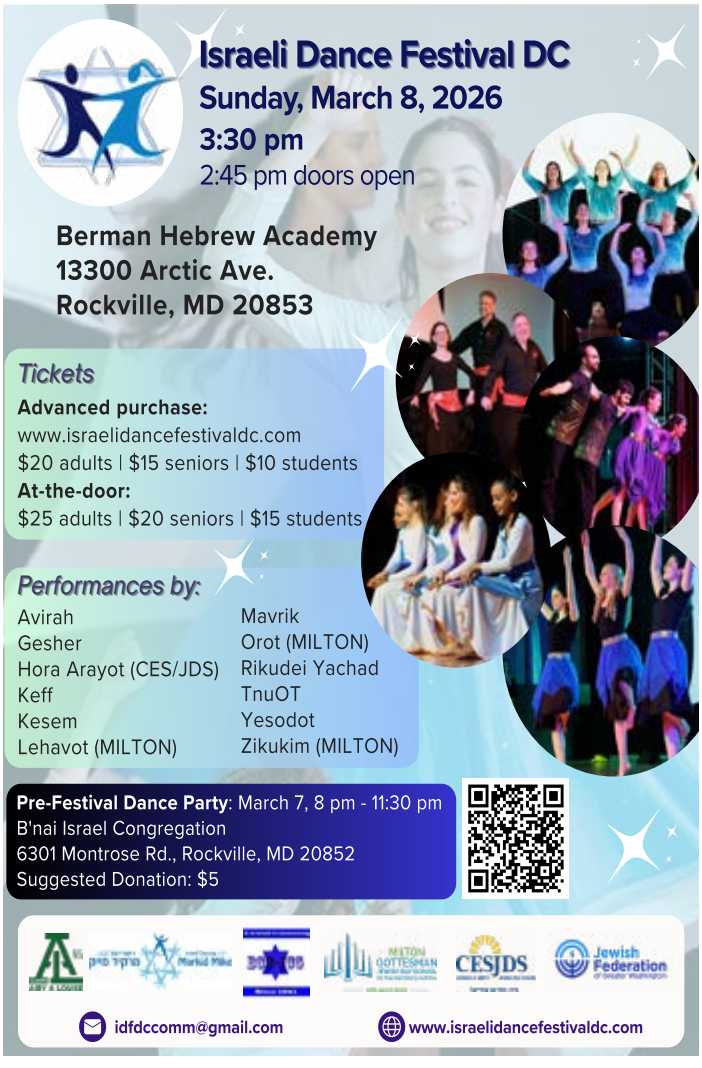
Two other reminders:

- The Sisterhood's next **Executive Committee meeting** is T**uesday, February 3 at 7:30 PM**
- The Sisterhood's next **Board Meeting** is **Monday, February 9 at 7:45 pm**

Jewish Haiku

Monet? Van Gogh? Feh.
Pissarro–a *mensch*! Did you
know he was Jewish?

Zie Gezunt!



Shaare Tefila Sisterhood

Tu B'Shevat Seder!

Sunday, February 8, 2026

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Come celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* and our relationship with nature, the seasons, fruit trees and, importantly, a time for reflection and being together with your Shaare Tefila sisters. Enjoy a delicious array of fruits and chocolates that will be provided in this very special *seder*, as we read and follow along in our *Tu B'Shevat Haggadah*.

Event Participation Fees:

- Sisterhood Members: $5.00
- Non-Sisterhood Members $10.00
- Non-Shaare Tefila Members: $15.00

Payment should be made in cash or via check at the door.

This promises to be a very fun event, so you won't want to miss it!!
Please register **no later than Tuesday, February 3, by 8:00 PM** (as we must know how many will be attending for shopping purposes).

To register…

- click on this link: shul.st/tubshevat
  (or enter it into your web browser) OR
- use your cell phone to take a photo of the QR code below:

Any questions or trouble registering, call Valerie at 240-355-6887.

Shaare Tefila

Sisterhood's 2026 Women's Seder

Join us as our sisters celebrate Pesach together with Seder delicacies and dinner, while enjoying song, dance and music, performed for us by the very talented Lisa Baydush & Audrey Katz!
Sunday, March 8, 2026, Check-in at 5:30 PM, Program begins 6:00 PM,
Shaare Tefila Congregation 16620 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832

COSTS: Shaare Tefila Sisterhood or affiliated org members: $36;
Non-Members: $40; Children (5-16 years): $20
(NOTE: Registration deadline, March 3, after which costs increase $5 -
After deadline, reservation costs are due and non-refundable.)

Payments can be made by:

- Using ShulCloud, **OR;**
- Mailing your check **and** completed form below to: **Ilene Mizrachi, 3117 Fairweather Ct, Olney, MD 20832**, make checks payable to Shaare Tefila Sisterhood, **OR**:
- Bringing payment to 5:30 PM Check-in at the Shul (checks payable to Shaare Tefila Sisterhood)

Feel free to contact Ann Hamlin or Debbie Finch with any questions, Ann - **A21Hamlin@gmail.com** , Debbie - **PurpleFinchD@yahoo.com**, or Valerie, if assistance is needed to register, val@iglobal.com, or
Barbara, if you need a ride, beas_fink@verizon.net

---------- **Cut Here** ----------

2026 Sisterhood's Women's Seder Registration form

Complete below and mail with payment to: Ilene Mizrachi, 3117 Fairweather Ct, Olney, MD 20832, make checks payable to 'Shaare Tefila Sisterhood', write 'Women's Seder' on memo line.

NAME:_____Dietary Restrictions:_____ Member Status_____ PaymentIncluded: _____
Email_____Contact Phone #: _____

OR, you can use this QR code or use the URL to register:

Or URL: **shul.st/womens-seder-2026**

A Note From Your Volunteers at New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance

Debbie Yedlin, Joyce Feinstein and Roni Polisar

New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), has been on the front-line, offering material and logistical support to refugees settled in our community, most of whom are Afghani.

Shaare Tefila, as an affiliate of this interfaith alliance, has provided financial resources to aid those refugee families supported by the organization. Material donations are also welcomed. NNIA, in its monthly newsletter, includes a list of items that are being specifically solicited to help settle families into their homes with essentials such as bedding, kitchen appliances, towels and the like. The link to that list is here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA2DA5F9C52-inkind1#/

If you have any of the listed items to spare, please sign up on the site, and you will be contacted by an NNIA volunteer to facilitate the donation.

To learn more about NNIA and its activities, you can view its monthly newsletter at: https://nnia-maryland.org/newsletters/

There you will also find a description of which sorts of volunteer involvement are most needed. If you decide to volunteer your time, you will be warmly welcomed.

Thanks!

CHESED

Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the *Chesed* Committee

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

As always……

Ride With Us:
Contact Betty 301-437-9394 or Margie 240-997-0320 if you need a ride

Dine With Us: (just for a short time)
Contact Adriana 240-593-5792 if you need dinner delivered when you have just left the hospital, are recuperating or are revalidating

Meal Train: (over a longer period)
Contact Karyn 301-233-4371 or Adriana 240-593-5792 if you are undergoing treatment or are recuperating over a longer period, to have a Meal Train set up for you

**Contact Karyn or Adriana if you could help prepare a dinner or two for a fellow congregant's Meal Train.

Any Other Needs?
Contact any of the above Chesed Committee Members and we will see how we best can help you.

Join us in Annapolis for 2026 Maryland Jewish Advocacy Day!
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:00 -8:00 PM

Join us in Annapolis for meetings with your lawmakers to discuss the legislative priorities of the Jewish Community across our state, followed by a buffet reception. Registration begins at 4:15 PM, meetings will be between 5:00-6:00 PM, and the evening will wrap up back at the Graduate hotel with a buffet reception for legislators and attendees (dietary laws observed). Travel on your own or sign up to take a bus from Rockville or Silver Spring.
$36 to register if you prefer to drive yourself and meet us in Annapolis.
$65 covers food, bus transportation to/from on of these locations below, and program.

• Bender JCC in Rockville •Leisure World Clubhouse II in Silver Spring •Riderwood Senior Living Community in Silver Spring •Yeshiva of Greater Washington in Silver Spring

If you require special accommodation, please contact us, and we will make every effort to meet your needs. Photographs will be taken at this event, and your picture may appear on our website or in other publications.

Register at: https://jcouncil.org/events/2026-maryland-jewish-advocacy-day

Co-Sponsors

Celebrity Birthdays

If you read the January issue of the *Shofar*, you will have noted that for several months now, "celebrity" birthdays have been added to our listings. To also now help all appreciate the significance of these individuals, and maybe learn a few interesting facts, I am going to also add short bios about these individuals (primarily sourced from Wikipedia).

I will also hereby offer an invite/challenge; I do not feel the necessity to be the sole arbiter of who is chosen and will happily invite another interested member to begin to choose each month's celebrities and offer short bios? Lat month I outlined the basic criteria; Jewish, one male and one female, and preferably no longer living. If you are interested, please contact me.

Jerry Kiewe

Chaim Potok: February 17 (1929)

Chaim Potok was an American novelist and rabbi who authored more than a dozen books. He is best known for his first novel, "The Chosen" (1967), which was listed on The New York Times Best Seller list for 39 weeks and sold more than 3.4 million copies. In 198, it was adapted into a well-received feature film that featured Rod Steiger, Barry Miller, Maximilliam Schell and Robbie Benson. (Potok had a cameo role as a professor.)

Born Herman Harold Potok, he was the oldest of four children, all of whom either became or married rabbis. He was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home but was ordained as a Conservative rabbi. From 1955-57, he served as a US Army chaplain in South Korea, which he described as a transformative experience. Brought up to believe that the Jewish people were central to history and God's plans, he experienced a region where there were almost no Jews and no antisemitism, yet whose religious believers prayed with the same fervor that he saw in Orthodox synagogues at home. He died on July 23, 2002.

Debbie Friedman: February 23 (1951)

Deborah Lynn Friedman was an American singer-songwriter of religious Jewish music that is used across the denominations. She was an early pioneer of gender-sensitive language: using the feminine forms of the Divine or altering masculine-only text references in the Jewish Liturgy to include feminine language. She is best known for her setting of "*Mi Sheberach*", the prayer for healing. After her passing in 2011, the Hebrew Union College, where she had served on the faculty, renamed its School of Sacred Music in her honor.

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

FEBRUARY

Anniversary Celebrations

2/6 Jack & Bess Teller

Birthday Celebrations

2/1 Caleb Cohen
2/1 Meghan Glass
2/1 Max Hedgepeth
2/2 Richard Abraham
2/2 Jeffrey Miller
2/3 Amanda Eckstein
2/3 Barry Handloff
2/4 Rebecca Fero
2/4 Madeleine Jones
2/4 Anita Okrend
2/4 Jeffrey Schwartz
2/6 Molly Trachtman
2/7 Lawrence Liberman
2/8 Sharon Appel
2/8 Albert Kliman
2/8 Ellen Radish
2/8 Renee Temin
2/9 Aaron Kraut
2/10 Maren Berman
2/10 Marilyn Pontell
2/10 Joy Salzman
2/11 Rachel Freedman
2/11 Rachel Glaser
2/12 Hillel Abrams
2/12 Saul Krosnick
2/12 Jacob Lefler
2/12 Alan Sandler
2/12 Benjamin Wolf
2/13 Stephanie Buckberg
2/13 David Byer
2/13 Eli Marshall
2/14 Barbara Firestone
2/14 Nathan Krantz
2/14 Mara Lansky
2/14 Milton Lichtman
2/17 Daniel Hirsch
2/17 Joshua Lansky
2/17 Chaim Potok, z'l
2/18 Adam Fried
2/19 Howard Horowitz
2/19 Ryan Rubloff
2/19 Deborah Stiller
2/20 Carl Gottleib
2/20 Nina Gurman
2/20 Barbara Harkaway
2/20 Jonah Layman
2/20 Joslyn Wolfe
2/21 Jacob Lansky
2/23 Debbie Friedman, z'l
2/23 Breina Rippy
2/23 Jennifer Zucker
2/24 Bret Cohen
2/24 Karen Radnor
2/24 Leah Winkler
2/25 Shellie Jensen
2/26 Hannah Mellman

MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUP

Shaare Tefila offers a monthly opportunity for members to discuss topics of interest, ranging from politics, Israel, education, legal issues and many more. Sessions are open to all willing to engage in respectful dialogue and invites YOU to join in and share your own point of view.

The group meets monthly, via Zoom, on the 2nd Wednesday (except Holidays).

Shaare Tefila Monthly Discussion Group Dates:

Every month on the Second Wed, until June, per below;

Feb. 11 at 10:00 AM*

Mar. 11 at 10:00 AM

Apr. 15 at 10:00 AM
(delayed to 3rd Wed. due to Passover)

May 13 at 10:00 AM

June 10 at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting via the link below:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85180032226?pwd=RGwyMmhQd3QvcS85SE16emJMZ2lDUT09

One tap mobile access; +13017158592,,85180032226#,,,,*923253726#
Dial-in ONLY access; +1 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 851 8003 2226 Passcode: 923253726

*** On Feb. 11 we are trying something different, this session will IN-PERSON (only) at Sister's Sandwiches.**

If you have any questions, please contact; Jack Teller: JackTeller@verizon.net.

CHUG IVRIT

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AND LEARN A LITTLE HEBREW!

Do you have basic Hebrew reading and writing skills?

The *Chug Ivrit* at Shaare Tefila might be just right for you!

We are a small group of people who like to learn Modern Hebrew, in a pleasant no pressure class.

We are speaking, reading, writing and learning under the guidance of fellow congregants Ami Frydman and 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..

***Chug Ivrit meets* Sunday mornings via Zoom, 10:30 AM – 12 noon**

Contact Adriana at SandlerAA@gmail.com if you are interested in attending a class.

להית … perhaps?

February 2025 *Kiddush* Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE	FEBRUARY 7
Kitchen Captain	**Karen Sussman**
Volunteers	Helene & Robert Braun
	Seth Cohen
	Laurie Dubrow
	Hal & Rebecca Fero
	Nina Gurman
	Lisa & Lee Hedgepeth
	Arlynne Klein
	Jamie Schwartz

DATE	FEBRUARY 14
Kitchen Captain	**Karyn Gross**
Volunteers	Ben & Meghan Glass
	Riki & Carl Gottleib
	Daniel & Chloe Grosberg
	Sarah Katz & Erik DuBois
	Sarah Nachlas & Michael Cohen
	Marci & Jonathan Rubin
	Carol Sepulvado
	Debbie & Sam Yedlin

DATE	FEBRUARY 21
Presidents' Day Weekend	
Kitchen Captain	**Sheryl Tilles**
Volunteers	Judy Bass
	Marc & Tanya Heyison
	Ellen & Benson King
	Lisa & Tom Krussman
	Abigail & William Mauldin
	Rhoda Sumner
	Deanna & Phil Temkin
	Jaclyn Vincent

DATE	FEBRUARY 28
Kitchen Captain	**Anne Zajicek**
Volunteers	Allegria Gelfand
	Karin Leff & Howie Horowitz
	Sharon & Dennis Kaye
	Shelley & Mark Levitt
	Judith & Howard Rumerman
	Myron Sagall
	Karen & Jay Weingart
	Sharon Zitomer

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(*From Dec. 29, 2025 thru Jan. 29, 2026 but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail*)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL *CHESED* FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Leah Penina; granddaughter of Sheryl & Paul Tilles, by Perry & Stephanie Buckberg
Adriana Sandler for her continued support of our community, by Karyn & Les Gross
Margie & Steve Eiserike's 50th anniversary. Wishing you many more happy and healthy years together, by Nina Gurman
Paul & Sheryl Tilles, on the occasion of the baby naming of your sweet granddaughter, Leah Penina. *Mazel tov* to the entire family, by Nina Gurman
Gilda Kuritzky, on the occasion of her 96th birthday! By Adriana & Alan Sandler
Steve & Margie Eiserike, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary! By Adriana & Alan Sandler

Contributions In Memory Of:

Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Steven & Margie Eiserike
Marvin Levy, husband of Sylvia Levy, by Joyce Feinstein
Louis Feinstein, father-in-law of Joyce Feinstein, by Joyce Feinstein
Jay Feinstein, husband of Joyce Feinstein, by Joyce Feinstein
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi. Sending hugs of comfort your way. Nina Gurman
Rita Rubinstein, my dear sweet Mom … forever in my heart, by Nina Gurman
Lois Hollander, mother of Lisa Akman, by *Chavurah* Group #10
Lois Hollander, mother of Lisa Akman, by Gershon & Diane Kieval
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Gershon & Diane Kieval
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Gary & Stacy Levine
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Ethel & Ira Levine
All those who have no one left to remember them, by Shirley Liberman
Mitch Liberman, brother-in-law of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Levi Liberman, father-in-law of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Sonia Liberman, mother-in-law of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Delores Ferne Schneider, beloved childhood friend of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
William (Bill) Eppel, brother of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Leon I. Eppel, father of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Sig Liberman, devoted husband of Shirley Liberman, by Shirley Liberman
Asa Rubenstein, brother of Susan Rubenstein, by Susan Rubenstein & Carl Sabath
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Adriana & Alan Sandler
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Benjamin & Elissa Wolf
Rita Rubinstein, my dear sweet Mom … forever in my heart, by Nina Gurman

Contributions In Appreciation Of:

Deanna Alpher, with thanks for her hard work in cleaning & organizing the kitchen! By Karyn Gross
The recovery of Ron Miller, and the kindness of the *Chesed* Committee! By Gayle & Ron Miller

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your newest grandson! By Bob & Helene Braun
Sheryl & Paul Tilles - *Mazel tov* on the baby naming of your granddaughter, Leah Penina Solomon! By Bob & Helene Braun
Margie & Steve Eiserike's 50th wedding anniversary, by Bob & Helene Braun
Margie & Steve Eiserike, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, by Sherry & Saul Cohen
Sheryl & Paul Tilles, on the occasion of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Leah Penina, daughter of Jennifer & Joshua Solomon, by Joel & Sandy Friedman
The baby naming of Leah Penina Solomon, daughter of Jennifer & Joshua Solomon, by Florence & David Polinsky
Steve & Margie Eiserike, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, by Marlene & Andrew Sandberg
Margie & Steve Eiserike's 50th wedding anniversary, by Kevin & Marsha Teichman
Ben Wolf; *Mazel tov* on becoming Religious Vice President, by Bess & Jack Teller
Steven & Margie Eiserike, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary! By Bess & Jack Teller
Jonah & Lenore Layman on the birth of their new grandson Lior Asher, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles
Margie & Steve Eiserike's 50th anniversary, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Contributions In Memory Of:

Marvin Levy, husband of Sylvia Levy, by Joan, Lisa & David Bardach
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Bob & Helene Braun
Frances Cohen, mother of Robert Cohen, by Robert Cohen
Lois Hollander, mother of Lisa Akman, by Sherry & Saul Cohen
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Sherry & Saul Cohen
Sylvia Zinnamon, mother of Hinda Exler, by Hinda Exler
Irving R. Lipsky, uncle of Philip Goldman, by Philip Goldman
Evelyn Leshin, mother of Martin Leshin, by Martin & Susan Leshin
Steven Zimmerman, our dear friend, by Gary & Stacy Levine
Samuel Shapiro, father-in-law of Liane Lunden, by Liane Lunden
Diana Agin, mother of Sylvia Proger, by Sylvia Proger
Mary Samuel, mother-in-law of Jacqueline Samuel, by Jacqueline Samuel
Dr. Marvin Schneider, husband of Diane Gastfreund Schneider, by Marlene & Andy Sandberg
Lois Hollander, mother of Lisa Akman, by Marlene & Andrew Sandberg
Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Bess & Jack Teller
Lois Hollander, mother of Lisa Akman, by Bess & Jack Teller
Zipora Zajicek, mother of Ofer Zajicek, by Anne & Ofer Zajicek
Gershom Zajicek, father of Ofer Zajicek, by Ofer & Anne Zajicek
Paul Glynn, father of Anne Zajicek, by Anne & Ofer Zajicek

Contributions – No Dedication:

By Howard Horowitz & Karin Leff

KOL NIDREI APPEAL:

Shirley Liberman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Jonah & Lenore's new grandson, by Stephanie & Perry Buckberg
Margie & Steve's 50th anniversary, by Stephanie & Perry Buckberg
Rabbi Jonah & Lenore's new grandson. *Mazel tov*! By Steve & Margie Eiserike
Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your newest grandson! By Sandra & Joel Friedman
Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your newest grandson! By Ethel & Ira Levine
Rabbi & Lenore's new grandson. *Mazel tov*! By Charlotte Potosky
Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your newest grandson, son of Elisheva & Scott Salant, by Bess & Jack Teller
Dr. Marvin Schneider, father of Alan & Louise Schneider, by Joseph Kraut & Rhea Siers
Bella & Julius Apatoff, parents of Ruth Layman, by Ruth & Robert Layman
Barbara C. Smith, their mother, by Raymond C. Love, Laurie Jacobson, Mindy Smith & Stacey Lynch
Rabbi Jonah & Lenore's new grandson. Mazel tov! By Steve & Margie Eiserike

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Rabbi Layman, by Max Bronstein
With thanks to Rabbi Layman for leading the unveiling ceremony for Jay Feinstein, *z'l,* by Joyce Feinstein

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.

zoom

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