Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 75th year | MARCH 2026 - *ADAR- NISSAN* 5786 | Vol. 75 #3

PURIM 2026 AT SHAARE TEFILA
FUN FOR ALL AGES

Sunday, March 1 * 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PLAY AT THE BEST CARNIVAL IN TOWN!

Play All Day Bracelet for $20

Cash & Credit Cards Accepted for Playing & Food

Featuring.....

Talk of the Town Sea Park Kiddie Play Area! Basketball! Haman Toss! Tetris & Connect Four! Queen Esther's Nail Salon! Face Painting! Awesome Prizes! Food for Purchase - Hot Dogs - Popcorn - *Hamantashen*

Adults * Take Your Chances with Our 50*50 Raffle! (Cash Only)

READING OF THE *MEGILLAH*

Monday, March 2 * 7:00 PM

Join us for our annual community reading on *Erev Purim* led by the youth of Shaare Tefila!

Questions? Contact Babette Cohn, BCohn@ShaareTefila.org or 301-593-3410 x106

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Kindness

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

There is a beautiful phrase in the book of Psalms. In Psalm 89 the poet, presumably King David, asserts that "the world should be built with kindness/compassion." This is a remarkable statement. King David was known for his ruthlessness during his reign. He coveted Bathsheba and arranged for her husband to be killed in battle. As a youth he killed the Philistine giant Goliath. He expanded the boundaries of Israel to its greatest size in biblical history.

Yet at the same time David was known to be able to play the lyre so well that he could soothe King Saul's manic depression. He longed to build the Temple in Jerusalem, and he authored 150 of the most beautiful psalms/prayers in our tradition.

With that background it is significant that David recognizes the ultimate power of kindness. To be kind, one must recognize the humanity of other human beings. It means seeing all people as created in God's image. And then being kind means that it is more important to help someone in their hour of need than it is to be self-centered.

I have seen the power of kindness. While my father was in the hospital and then in hospice, total strangers — the techs, nurses and doctors — all treated my father with respect and care. They maintained his dignity and enabled my father's stress, and mine, to be eased. I will be forever grateful for those acts of compassion, and I pray that all of us can experience such compassion too.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org

February was an eventful month, to say the least. It began on a high note with our community fundraiser, featuring an outstanding performance by Daryl Davis and his magnificent band. We are grateful to everyone who helped make the evening such a success.

Soon after, we faced the deeply troubling antisemitic vandalism of our congregation's signs. Winter weather also brought a formidable blast of snow and sleet, adding to an already challenging few weeks. At the same time, we began preparations of our lower level for our new tenant, Georgetown Hill Early School.

We are deeply disturbed by the antisemitic vandalism directed at our community. Such acts are meant to intimidate and divide, and they are painful for all who cherish this congregation. Let us be clear: antisemitism and hatred in any form have no place here. We stand firmly and proudly in our Jewish identity, our values, and our commitment to one another.

While this incident is upsetting, it does not define us. What defines us is our resilience, unity, and dedication to building a community rooted in compassion, learning, and justice. We are working closely with local authorities and community partners to address the situation and to help ensure the continued safety and security of our congregation.

Meanwhile, our staff and volunteers have been working diligently to prepare the lower level for potential tours by Georgetown Hill Early School for prospective families. While this transition may cause some short-term adjustments, we anticipate a positive and collaborative working relationship with Georgetown Hill.

On a personal note, I was once again able to attend our musical *Shabbat* service in February and found it truly uplifting. Stacey Lynch, accompanied by Scott Kaplowitz on piano and Stuart Zitomer on drums, along with Renie Zitomer and Josh Lansky, led a beautiful and inspiring service that was a wonderful way to welcome *Shabbat*. I encourage you to mark your calendars for the next one on Friday, April 17.

As president, I sincerely appreciate the thoughtful feedback I continue to receive from our members. Together, we will keep building a meaningful, supportive, and enriching community for all.

On My Mind -
WHITHER ANTISEMITISM?

Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

The recent defacing of the signage at Shaare Tefila was, of course, concerning on several levels. At its most basic, it was a crime of destruction of private property. But of course, the fact that we are a synagogue, and the nature of the messaging, raised it above the level of a mere vandalism; it was, in fact, an act of antisemitism, targeted at Jews. As such, it represents the perpetuation of a centuries-old hatred, and a growing trend in the United States. I share the concern, both as a Jewish communal professional, and personally.

By way of perspective, I am the Second Generation of a Holocaust survivor. My father, Bernhard Kiewe, *z'l*, was born in 1929, the second of four children, in Koenigsburg; Prussia at the time and later absorbed by Germany. As the story goes, *immediately* after *Kristallnacht* occurred, my grandmother Ethel, *z'l*, had the foresight to understand that this spelled doom and became determined to get the family out, at any cost. The lengths that she went to, and the obstacles she faced – and overcame, were remarkable, all the more so because my grandparents were as short of financial means as they were of stature; neither measured taller than 5 feet. My grandmother's insistence secured passage to Shanghai, which offered safe haven for some 20,000 Jews, the 6 Kiewes among them. It was a ghetto of sorts and not an easy life, but it was far from the death camps of Europe and there they managed to wait out the War. The rest of their extended family all perished.

I was born in 1961. Like so many of his generation in the decades after the Holocaust, my father never spoke to me or to my brothers about his experiences, purportedly to spare us the horrors. And despite decades in America, my grandmother spoke little English, my grandfather none at all, only German, Polish and probably some Yiddish. I learned the stories only much later, some from listening to my father speak to others, as he increasingly did later in life, and my grandmother's story from a lengthy interview she gave to an Atlantic City newspaper, a faded copy of which was given to me by a cousin.

Growing up in the 60s and 70s – and living in the heavily Jewish area of Baltimore, antisemitism was more of a historical footnote. I knew that it existed; quotas, stories or pictures of signs that said, "NO Jews Allowed," etc. But those weren't current … and I personally never encountered any hint of it. At best, it was a serious problem facing Jews in Russia, whose cause I took up as a college student and young professional in the 80s.

And by the 1990s … well, I confess that I shared the view, not at all uncommon at the time, that, while certainly not fully eradicated, antisemitism, at least in America, had been reduced to a state of irrelevancy, a sickness confined to a very small fringe. Evidence for that view could be found everywhere; the KKK seemed essentially dead and neo-Nazis increasingly isolated. Jews could form a minyan in the US Senate, and Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Spector was regarded as a viable presidential candidate. Oddly, some prominent people, e.g. – then US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, were discovering – and proudly revealing, that they had some degree of heritage. And though high rates of intermarriage were not considered good news for Jewish continuity, it DID mean that many now had Jewish relatives and surveys indicated that, among the general population, Jews were highly rated as potential partners.

Yes, it seemed that the ugly blight of antisemitism had been defeated, and the American Jewish community redirected its attention to other forms of discrimination; racism, gender-bias, inclusion for those with disabilities, trans-gender rights, etc.

Little did we realize that we had been lulled into complacency; antisemitism was not and surely is not gone, it was sitting dormant, just beneath the surface, and has returned with a vengeance. The incident that occurred here at Shaare Tefila was, as such things go, relatively minor. No people were injured – at least not physically, our building remained unscathed, and – not to be dismissed – we received an OVERWHELMING amount of support from the larger community. As I repeatedly said, we shouldn't let one person's cowardly act, carried out in darkness in the middle of the night, color our perception of the attitudes of our many neighbors and friends. But neither should we overlook the significance of the growing rate of antisemitism. Clearly, we still have a lot of work to do.

Kiewe Family in Koenigsburg, Prussia

Programming and Education

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

"The joy of Purim, the merrymaking, the food, the drink, the whole carnival atmosphere, are there to allow us to live with the risks of being a Jew – in the past, and tragically in the present also – without being terrified, traumatised, or intimidated." – Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

We are getting excited here at Shaare Tefila for this weekend's *Purim* festivities!

1. **Sunday, March 1, The Best *Purim* Carnival in Town, 11am-1pm** - **RETURNING THIS YEAR - we have Talk of the Town** helping us with an exciting Sea Park Kiddie Combo play area, plus Skee Ball, Basketball, Life Sized Tetris & Connect Four, Esther's Salon, Games of Chance, & More!! **CASH & CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED! All proceeds go to support children's education programs, including our Chavaya Religious School.**
   a. **Play All Day Wristband $20 - admission includes bonus surprises**
   b. **Food for sale includes Hot Dogs, Hamantaschen, Chips, Popcorn, Pickles & Drinks**
   c. **NEW THIS YEAR - CASH ONLY 50/50 Raffle - Take Your Chances**
2. **Monday, March 2, Evening *Minyan* 6:45 pm, *Erev Purim* Service & *Megillah* Reading, 7pm** - Join the children of Shaare Tefila as they lead the congregation for the *mitzvah* of hearing the *Book of Esther* chanted in Hebrew verse.

Children's Education

During February *Chavaya* classes spent time learning about so many topics. Our *Kitah Alef* class focused on the foundation of *Shabbat* and *Purim*; *Kitah Gimel* learned more about the story of Joshua and Caleb in *Parasha Sh'lach L'cha*, gaining an understanding of how the report about *Eretz Yisrael* compared between Joshua and Caleb and the scouts that were sent out, and what made Joshua and Caleb leaders in the community of Israelites; *Kitah Na'ahroot Echad & Sh'tayim* spent time with Rabbi Jonah and me, discussing the antisemitic graffiti attacks on our signs earlier in the month, along with the response of our surrounding community; afterwards, both classes enjoyed time together making hamantaschen in our kitchen to take home.

In March our education focus will turn to preparing for Passover, which begins April 1. There are three regular sessions in March - the 8, 15 and 22 - before the school spring/Passover break begins.

Spiritual & Community Events in March

- **TGI Shabbat March Dinner, 3/6, 6 pm - Register Here by March 2 -**
  - **6pm -** The evening begins with our regular service for all in the Sanctuary, co-led by Rabbi Layman & Stacey Lynch.
  - **7pm** - Join the community for a delicious dinner!
- **Mini Minyan, 3/6, 6 pm** - Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller leads families with children ages 0-7 in welcoming *Shabbat* with Rhythm 'N' *Ruach*/Spirit! Grosberg-Baumgart Chapel
- **Sunday Afternoon Film Series: Focus on Israel - Shaare Tefila Cinema Presents: *Amor*, March 22 (rescheduled), 2pm** - Join us for the last film this year in our series, "Amor". Refreshments are included in your admission! **Buy your tickets here! $10 per person or $18 for two.**

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)

News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com

Where is this year already going!!! On January 31, we had a wonderful New Member *Shabbat* and certainly missed those who were not able to attend. We read bios of each new member and wanted to share these along with a photo for everyone to see and read.

I think we can all safely say we might be done with the snow for 2026. It's beautiful and peaceful for a little while and then it becomes a nuisance.

Speaking of beautiful and peaceful, that's far from what was found on our signage the morning of Tuesday, February 10. It was quite appalling and disturbing to say the least and we were just very happy the vandals didn't make their way to our building. It was no surprise that we all quickly came together as a community and received an outpouring of support from the Greater Olney community which was very comforting. The following Friday night and Saturday morning, we came together with many of our members and guests from local synagogues and churches to share in the warmth of our congregation. That's who we are and why we are such a special congregation!

As we look forward to celebrating *Purim* together, we need to remember the spirit and resilience of our congregation and that nothing will change how strong and positive we are! Even in uncertain times, joy and connection are powerful forces.

We hope you will share in the laughter and light that Purim brings and know your presence enriches our community and we are grateful for each of you.

Wishing you a *Chag Sameach* filled with meaning, joy, and togetherness.

Welcome New Members

For those who weren't able to attend the New Member Shabbat on January 31, the Membership Committee wanted to include the bios that were read that morning along with pictures. It's always very helpful to put a name with a face when possible.

Bobbie and Mike Goldman have been married for 60 years. Originally from New York (they claim the whole state: born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island, schooled upstate as well as Maryland). They have two adult children and four grandchildren. Mike's career in the Foreign Service took them to Tokyo for 4 years, and the Dominican Republic for 3 years. Bobbie has been a successful real estate agent in Montgomery County since 1981, and Mike joined her in 1989. They come to us from Kehilat Shalom in Gaithersburg, where both were active: Bobbie led Membership, Good and Welfare, Events and has been running "Dine Around", a ladies' evening out, for over 15 years. Mike can help with services in a pinch. "We're happy to now be a part of a vibrant and friendly community. We hope to get to know you all and make new friends."

Peg (& Burt) Bachrach was born into a Navy family with 4 siblings and a dad at sea in submarines for 3 months at a time. Peg attended the University of Illinois (C-U campus) like her father and grandfather before her. She married Burt, a returned Peace Corps volunteer from Bolivia, in 1971, just after her Junior year in college. Burt joined Peg in Illinois so Peg could finish earning her Art Education degree. Both their children, David and Rebecca, were born during the additional years they stayed in town to study. Fast forward to the early 2000s. Both of Peg and Burt's grandsons were born in Silver Spring and graduated from CESJDS. Both grandchildren are in college now; one at U. of MD and the other at the U. of Illinois. Peg and Burt's daughter, Becca, also lives in Silver Spring now after working in diverse career fields in Baltimore, Missouri, and Bel Air, MD. Peg is happy her Jewish journey has eventually led her to Shaare Tefila's welcoming and warm community, its newest *Chavurah* at Leisure World, inspiring services and festive *Shabbat* dinners.

Sophie and Gordon Novinsky have lived in Howard County for 45 years and have been married for 46 years. They have two children; Rebecca and Bryan, and four grandchildren; Max, Benjy, Ruby and Isaac. Rebecca is married to Bret Cohen who is the son of Sherry and Saul Cohen who have been very active Shaare Tefila members for many years. Sophie is retired but does some part-time work as a conference administrator. She enjoys playing pickleball, mah jongg, and pilates as well as numerous social engagements with her friends. Gordon still maintains a full-time tax practice in Columbia which

Continued on page 6

NEW MEMBERS, continued from page 5

takes up a lot of his time, but still enjoys walks, biking, working out and playing poker in a game that has been active for over 40 years. They had previously been members for many years at Beth Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in Howard County, where their children became *b'nai* mitzvah. "We decided to join Shaare Tefila because many of our friends from Beth Shalom have joined Shaare Tefila in the last couple of years and they have all spoken very highly of the shul. We also have the Cohen family ties at Shaare Tefila. Our initial experience with Shaare Tefila has been very positive. We find the people here to be very warm, welcoming and friendly. We are looking forward to making Shaare Tefila our spiritual home in the coming years."

Allegria Helfand was born in Morocco and was a high school French teacher. She met her husband, Andy, of blessed memory, at a *Shabbat* dinner in Morocco. Andy was an electrical engineer and traveled all over the world for his job. They married in 1974, moved to New York and had 2 sons who live locally, one a doctor for the Navy and the other a CPA. Allegria lives in Leisure World and is able to see them often.

Lana Grossman's family was one of the founding families of Shaare Tefila in Riggs Park. Her baby naming, *bat mitzvah*, confirmation and wedding were all at Shaare Tefila. They continued their membership until it was too far to take their children for Hebrew school, but always attended the high holiday services with their families at Shaare Tefila. She is very happy to be back and we are thrilled too!

Michael and Amanda Eckstein met at the University of Maryland and have been married for almost 12 years. Michael is a CPA, and Amanda is a stay-at-home mom. They are the proud parents of Abigail (9), Benjamin (6), Leah (5) and Jacob (2). "We are excited to be part of the Shaare Tefila community."

Lynn Witkin-Weinstein & Lew Weinstein - Lynn is originally from Pennsylvania, and Lew is from Brooklyn, New York. They lived in Chicago before moving to Columbia in 1979 for job opportunities and to be closer to family. Lynn is a psychologist, and Lew a physicist. Both are currently retired after working many years for the Department of Defense. They have a son and daughter and "the lights of their lives," three young grandchildren; 3½ years, 9 months, and 3 months old, respectively. Lynn loves to travel and is very active in volunteer activities. She takes her therapy dog for visits to hospitals, schools, and libraries, participates in the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps, serves as a docent at the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and is a volunteer usher at Theater J, Olney Theatre, and Roundhouse Theater. Lew's favorite pastime is to use his skills in applied mathematics for recreation (i.e. poker). They were previously active members at Beth Shalom and Bet Chaverim, Conservative congregations in Columbia, and had been searching for a new home after Bet Chaverim closed. They live in Dorsey's Search in Columbia with their 5-year-old Newfiedoodle.

FROM YOUR VOLUNTEERS AT NEW NEIGHBOR INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

Debbie Yedlin, Joyce Feinstein, Roni Polisar

Each month NNIA sends out a newsletter which includes a solicitation for specific household items that might be donated to help new immigrant families settle into their homes.

This month's solicited items are listed below. If you might be able to donate any of the items on the list, please contact Roni, Joyce or Debbie, or go to this Sign-Up Genius link to donate directly.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA2DA5F9C52-inkind1#/

Thank you!

Solicited household items: rocking chair, rugs, coffee table, water filtering pitcher, electric kettle, food storage container, iron, queen sheets, twin comforters, crib mattress, pillows, mop and bucket, bath towels, floor lamp, diaper pail, stroller, flat screen TV, laptop.

Sisterhood

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

Dear Sisters,
February has been a real storm of a month! So to speak. I came home from a quick trip to Puerto Rico to find my driveway was missing. (Totally snowcreted over. The gate was frozen shut. The door lock was frozen shut. The doorknob was frozen shut!) G-d bless my neighbors! I am thinking you too have snow-sagas to tell! Ooo! I know what! If your tale of woe/snow is a goody, send it in to me and we can all share it next month.

The good news is we revived Bingo. Unfortunately, the weather kept some of you away (including sisters from Kehilat Shalom.) But Fran Kensky was in fine voice as our caller, coming up with some wonderful patterns. Ethel Levine did some great shopping; Val Kolmaister laid out a beautiful spread. And I helped. And since Sharon Zitomer was so determined to win every game (and very nearly did) we have established the "Sharon Zitomer Bingo Tariff". Next time, she has to bring US the prizes.

But wait! There's more! March has more to promise than just Spring. On **Sunday, March 8**, we are hosting the annual **Women's *Seder*.** Cathy Plotkin and Lenore Layman have stepped up once again and organized the *seder*. Again, there will be dancing (a bit), singing (somewhat on key) and of course, eating (a lot). This event, one of our most popular each year, is more than just fun. It provides us with an opportunity to bond with our sisters and sing the praises and offer our gratitude to the women who created and carried out the beloved rituals that we still value today. Val is sending out registration information so please don't forget to make sure you're included. The date is **Sunday, March 8 at 5:00 PM.** So, mark it on your calendar right now!

Then on **Sunday, March 15 at 10:30 AM**, Bill Peyser will be at the shul to speak on "**Scams and Cyber Crimes**—What you need to know to keep your money and your identity safe from scammers." Bill is a retired CPA and finance professional. He is a member of the Keeping Seniors Safe Program. This presentation is sponsored by the Montgomery County Police Department. Bill will focus on primary manipulation techniques. He will discuss prevalent scams, phishing campaigns and fraudulent text messages. Bill will include a short case study and testimony from a scam victim and there will be a Q & A session. This is a vital opportunity to learn how to better protect ourselves. Scammers are becoming more prevalent (and more devious) in our lives, and this is a wonderful chance for us to learn how to fight back. Better mark this on your calendar, too. And there will be, OF COURSE, a *nosh*.

Coming up in the Spring are:

- the Sisterhood *Shabbat*, Saturday, May 2
- Spring Brunch, starring Mr. Omelette, Sunday, May 17, 11:30 AM at the Rochester residence; and
- Sisterhood Pot Luck & Planning Dinner, Monday, June 8, 6:00 PM at the Teller dwelling.

My recommendation: Come to everything! We are getting bigger and better all the time. And if you enjoyed being a member of Sisterhood this year, just wait and see what ideas we have for next year!

JEWISH HAIKU

Sorry I'm not home
To take your call. At the tone
Please state your bad news.

Zie Gezunt

Men's Club Matters

Michael Binder, ST Men's Club President

There are several upcoming events that all should put in their sights and on your calendars:

Friday, April 17 at 5:00 PM
The next ST "Jews and Brews"

All are invited for beer, wine or juice and light *nosh* accompanied by good conversation

This will, as usual, precede a musical Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbat Service; Shabbat Ruach* Tefila: Our Voices Together in Song & Prayer Service. That will begin at 6:30 PM and will be led by Stacey Lynch, with Scott Kaplowitz on the piano and Stuart Zitomer on drum.

Sunday morning, April 19
There will be an epic "Jewpardy" contest;

the **Shaare Tefila Men's Club vs. the Shaare Tefila Sisterhood!** At stake is the prestigious "Yiddishe Cup!" and gender bragging rights for the foreseeable future.

Milt Goldsamt will serve as the Quiz Master and teams are forming now; Contact: Michael Binder (MJBinder@comcast.net) to be on the Men's Club Team; and Shelley Rochester (ShelleyRochester85@gmail.com) to be on the Sisterhood Team or be a cheer leader.

All are invited to cheer their team on and add to the spirited competition. There will also be bagels, smear, pastries and liquid nourishments.

Sunday, April 26, 12:00 Noon – 2:30 PM

The Seaboard Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) will hold its annual "**Blue Yarmulke Man of The Year" Luncheon** at Beth Israel Congregation in Owings Mills.

We are pleased to note that our own **Michael Gross** will be among those honored at the awards ceremony and we hope that many of you will attend to show your support, or at least offer congratulatory tribute ads. Visit the Seaboard Region Awards Website and Registration: https://by.seaboardfjmc.org/

For more info about any of the above, or about the Men's Club generally, please contact Michael Binder: MJBinder@comcast.net

Shaare Tefila Congregation
Spring/Pre-Passover
FOOD DRIVE

Thru Tuesday, March 31

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 1)

A Night to Remember

Cilla Grosberg , Programming VP

Our February 7 "Boogie Woogie Benefit" was a night to remember! The turnout was fantastic and the night was truly magical. Everyone feasted on a delicious Greek-style menu, took in the beautifully decorated Boogie-Woogie themed room, and danced to the excellent entertainment provided by Daryl Davis and his Band, all while basking in the warmth of all who attended.

To make an event like this successful, it takes a strong community, and at Shaare Tefila, we have the best. We would like to thank the following people who helped make it all possible: Babette Cohn, for her dedication to making this a magical night for everyone, from marketing and handling communications, to coordinating our reservations, and facilitating the silent auction; Executive Director Jerry Kiewe for administrative support; Rabbi Jonah Layman for his guidance; President of the Board Jeff Weiss for being our sounding board; and the following volunteers: Valerie Kolmaister, Karyn Gross, Stan Kensky, Rita & Jay Hagler, Sherry & Saul Cohen, Diane Kieval, Anne & Ofer Zajicek, and Hyman Grosberg. We also had a great group of servers from Serve It Up (based in Alexandria, VA), and many thanks go to Susan & Marty Leshin who supported the Boogie Woogie Bar with a generous donation of libations and thanks to Ron Rauch of Wine Loft in Pikesville, MD for providing our delicious wine selections.

Most importantly, we want to thank all of you who attended, who believe in the goals of our community, and support a strong Jewish society for future generations. Financially, thanks to everyone who participated, we earned $8400 to support programming for all in our community. This support included the generosity of:

- Rock & Roll Level Sponsorships by Sherry & Saul Cohen; Bobbie & Mike Goldman; Sheryl & Paul Tilles.
- With You in Spirit Donations by Margie & Steve Eiserike; Nina Gurman.
- Judaica Silent Auction Total raised was $1400.
- 50/50 Raffle, won by Helene Braun - Thanks to everyone's participation, $338 was raised for Shaare Tefila.

We hope you all enjoy the photos from the evening below - thanks to our photographer Sam Cohn, these pictures demonstrate what a good time was had by all who attended.

We look forward to seeing you at future programs and fund raisers for our community. Mark your calendars now for Shaare Tefila's 75th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, April 4, 2027.

In closing, we'd like to thank all our guests and friends of our congregation who attended. Please pass our gratitude on to them and be sure to invite them to future programs of interest - all are welcome at Shaare Tefila!

Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the *Chesed* Committee

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

New Digital Talking Book Players

Do you (or do you know of someone at Shaare Tefila) who may have difficulties reading books because of eyesight problems, or are print disabled?

JBI provided Shaare Tefila with an easy to use new digital talking book player. Having this player will give you access to an endless number of titles of audio books.

You can borrow the digital talking book for a trial period of 18 days. It comes with 9 books already loaded on it. One of the *Chesed* Committee members will bring the device to you and show you how it works. If you like using the digital talking book, we can provide you with one. There is absolutely no cost involved, courtesy of Maryland State Library for the Blind and the Print Disabled, the Jewish Braille Institute and the Library of Congress.

So, what do you think? Give it a try!!

We, Bobby Goldman, Diane Gastfreund Schneider, and Adriana Sandler are looking forward to getting you started! Call: 240-593-5792

MEAL TRAIN
ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO MAKE A COUPLE OF DINNERS FOR SOMEONE'S MEAL TRAIN?

(In consultation with Rabbi Layman, the *Chesed* Committee has decided that only vegetarian, vegan and/or dairy dishes (no fish) should be prepared for our Meal Train recipients).

Since early 2025, the *Chesed* Committee has organized Meal Trains for ST members and families when dinners are needed because of medical ongoing treatment or a lengthy recuperation period.

If you would like to participate to prepare a couple of meals for our fellow congregants, please contact Karyn Gross, our Meal Train Coordinator, at Bobbie1220@verizon.net or 301-233-4371

THANK YOU!

NEW:
SUPPORT A LOCAL FARM AND ENJOY HEALTHY, FRESH AND ORGANIC PRODUCE!

The *Chesed* Committee supports The Farm at Our House (TFOH) Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

NOW: Pre-boxed organic fruits and vegetables will be available for weekly pick up at Shaare Tefila, late Thursday afternoons, June 4 thru Nov. 12.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact: Adriana: 240-593-5792 or sandleraa@gmail.com

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: (for 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 and want a Meal Train to be set up for you.

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**

SELL YOUR *CHAMETZ* – Passover 5786/2026

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
Important – it must be **RECEIVED** by Rabbi Layman ***no later than 9 AM on Wed., April 1, 2026.***

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-5786-2026.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 on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 to 8:22 PM on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

HEBREW NAME: _____ son/daughter of_____

Schedule of Services for Passover - 5786/April 1-9, 2026

- **Wednesday, April 1 - Study Session for the First-Born + Burning of *Chametz* in the AM;**
  - 8:45 AM - (regular) Morning service, followed by the study session (In-person or via Zoom), followed by … Burning of *Chametz* (In-person only); bring a small bag of *chametz* to burn; this marks our elimination of *chametz* prior to the holiday
- **Wednesday, April 1 – 1st Night of Passover begins at sundown; 1st *Pesach Seder***
  - NO Evening services - **Enjoy your Passover *Seder* with family and friends!**
  - **7:14 PM – candle-lighting**

- **Thursday, April 2 - 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!**
- **Friday, April 3 – 2nd Day of Passover/ Start of *Shabbat* at sundown**
  - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel* & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Livestream
  - 6:00 PM – *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service - via Zoom or Livestream
  - **7:16 PM – candle-lighting**
- **Saturday, April 4 - *Shabbat* & 3rd Day of Passover until sundown**
  - 9:30 AM - *Shabbat* and *Chol HaMoed* Passover service will include *Hallel* and selections from *Song of Songs* - In-person or via Livestream
  - 8:20 PM – (regular) Evening service - via Zoom

- **Sunday, April 5 - *Chol HaMoed Pesach* (Intermediate/4th day of Passover)**
  - 8:45 AM - (regular) Morning service - In-person or via Zoom
- **Monday, April 6 - *Chol HaMoed Pesach* (Intermediate/5th day of Passover)**
  - 8:45 AM - (regular) Morning service - In-person or via Zoom
  - 7:30 PM - (regular) Evening Minyan service - via Zoom
- **Tuesday, April 7 - *Chol HaMoed Pesach* (Intermediate/6th day of Passover)**
  - 6:00 PM - Passover Holiday service - via Zoom or Livestream
  - **7:19 PM – candle-lighting**

- **Wednesday, April 8 - 7th Day of Passover**
  - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel* & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Livestream
  - 6:00 PM – *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service - via Zoom or Livestream
- **Thursday, April 9 - 8th (Last) Day of Passover ends at sundown**
  - 9:30 AM - Passover Holiday service; will include *Hallel*, *Yizkor*, & blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Livestream
  - **8:22 PM - Holiday of Passover concludes**
  - 8:25 PM - Evening Minyan and *Havdalah* - via Zoom

Celebrate Shabbat With Your Shaare Tefila Friends!

Join Us for a Delicious Shabbat Dinner
March 6, 6:00 p.m.
Register by March 2

Sign Up by Friday, 2/27 for Adult Cost $22; Children, Ages 5-14, Cost $14; Under Age 5, Free
Family Maximum Cost, $75

- Apricot chicken
- Roasted potatoes
- Roasted vegetable
- Tossed Salad
- Vegetarian Meatballs
- Chicken nuggets
- Dessert
- Birthday Cake

1951 Shaare Tefila 2026

T.G.I. SHABBAT

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Chavaya* Music & *T'filah

***Havdalah* Experience**

Tu B'Shevat

***Purim* Preparation**

The article below was authored by Rabbi Steven Abraham, son of Richard & Wendy Abraham, who has served as the rabbi at Beth El Synagogue in Omaha, Nebraska since 2011.

Forty-Four Years Apart, the Same Hatred Finds the Same Walls

On November 1, 1982, vandals defaced a synagogue in suburban Maryland with swastikas and anti-Jewish slurs. The building was Shaare Tefila Congregation. It was not then a symbol in a national debate. It was simply a synagogue—a place where Jews gathered to pray, to study, to mark births and mourn deaths, to build a covenantal community in the American suburbs.

It was also, for me, home.

Shaare Tefila is not only a congregation that would later appear in Supreme Court casebooks. It is the sanctuary of my childhood, the social hall of my adolescence, the place where I learned that Jewish prayer is not performance but presence—that we say *Shema Yisrael* not as an abstraction but as a declaration of belonging. It is where I first encountered the strange, beautiful paradox of Jewish life in America: fully at home, yet always historically aware.

What I did not fully understand, as a child, was that this unremarkable suburban congregation had made American legal history. Or that history, as it tends to do, would circle back.

On that November evening, eight young men gathered behind a Drug Fair store in a Silver Spring shopping center. They had been drinking. They began spray-painting the store's walls with the symbols and slogans of their ideology: "White Power," "KKK," an eagle clutching a swastika, a Star of David pierced by an arrow. Then they moved on.

The white exterior walls of Shaare Tefila became a canvas for hatred. The vandals painted them with red and black messages: "Death to the Jude." "Death to the Jews." "In, Take a Shower, Jew"—a reference to the gas chambers. They added swastikas, Ku Klux Klan symbols, skulls and crossbones.

The perpetrators assumed they were defacing property. In truth, they were testing a principle: Who counts as a protected minority in America? Who counts as a people?

The community faced an immediate choice, and it was not obvious. There were those who counseled quiet remediation—scrub the walls, don't give the vandals the publicity they crave, don't attract copycats. This was a familiar posture in American Jewish life, born of centuries of diaspora survival: keep your head down, don't make waves, don't call attention to your vulnerability.

But other voices prevailed. The congregation chose confrontation. They invited the broader community to join in physically cleaning the walls, transforming an act of desecration into one of communal solidarity.

And then they did something more consequential: they sued.

The legal challenge was substantial. The vandals had been identified and apprehended. But what civil remedy existed? The congregation sued under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1982, deriving from the Civil Rights Act of 1866—a Reconstruction-era statute enacted in the aftermath of the Civil War to guarantee that all citizens, especially newly emancipated Black Americans, would have the same rights "as is enjoyed by white citizens."

These statutes provided for monetary relief in response to the denial of rights based on race or color. They did not, however, provide for relief in the case of religiously motivated hate crimes.

The lower courts dismissed the case. Jews, by contemporary American understanding, were white. They were a religious group, certainly, but not a racial one. The legal logic was antiseptic: discrimination against Jews is not racial discrimination.

The historical memory was not.

The congregation appealed to the Supreme Court, and this is where American legal history turned. Their lawyers made a subtle but powerful argument. They did not claim that Jews constitute a separate race by modern scientific understanding—such claims would have been both scientifically indefensible and uncomfortably close to the racial theories of those who had vandalized their walls. Instead, they argued something more precise: the question was not what we think about race today, but what Congress thought when it passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

Justice Antonin Scalia, during oral argument, cut to the heart of the matter with characteristic directness. He challenged opposing counsel: "Do you really think that the prejudice that existed against Jews in this country was only against believing Jews, and so long as the Jew said, 'I really no longer believe in the religious tenets of Judaism,' the prejudice no longer existed and that person would have been able to get into all sorts of country clubs and whatnot?"

The courtroom laughed. The point was made.

On May 18, 1987, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in Shaare Tefila Congregation v. Cobb. Justice Byron White, writing for the Court, held that Jews were among the peoples considered to be distinct races at the time the Civil Rights Act was passed, and were therefore "within the protection of the statute." The critical inquiry was Congressional intent in 1866, not contemporary racial taxonomy.

The ruling was, in one sense, technical. In another sense, it was existential.

Continued on next page

The Supreme Court affirmed what Jews have always known: antisemitism is protean. It adapts to the intellectual fashions of its age. In medieval Europe, it was theological. In the nineteenth century, it was racial. In the twentieth century, it was genocidal. And in the twenty-first century, it is often political—but its object remains the same.

The Court recognized that even if modern sociology classifies Jews as white, the animus directed toward Jews historically has not depended on contemporary academic taxonomy. It has depended on myth, projection, and the refusal to see Jews as fully legitimate.

The case was decided alongside Saint Francis College v. Al-Khazraji, which extended identical protections to Arab Americans—a pairing that, in its symmetry, illuminated the arbitrary and constructed nature of racial categories themselves.

The congregation had established a precedent that would shape American civil rights jurisprudence for decades. The vandals eventually issued an apology letter. The congregation, satisfied with this acknowledgment, waived its claim for money damages beyond the three hundred dollars their insurance company was owed.

The point of the lawsuit, as the congregation's lawyers explained, had never been money. It had been to establish that antisemitism is "a civil rights issue."

Forty-four years later—February 10, 2026—a Maryland state senator's son was riding a school bus through Olney when he looked out the window and saw that something was wrong at the synagogue.

Shaare Tefila had long since moved from its Silver Spring location to this spot in Olney. The community had grown and changed, as communities do. The building was different. The congregation's values were the same. Their sign still proclaimed "Hate Has No Home Here." A banner expressed support for Israel.

The vandals had come again.

This time, the graffiti carried new vocabulary. A swastika on the permanent congregation sign—that much was familiar, a direct echo of 1982. But there were additions: "AZAB"—an acronym for "All Zionists Are Bastards." The word "genocide" sprayed across the banner supporting Israel.

Rabbi Jonah Layman received the call and drove to the synagogue. He found what his predecessor had found forty-four years earlier.

"This was very disturbing, to say the least, to see something like this," he told reporters. "But at the same time, tragically not surprising, because of the rise of antisemitism and hate in the world around us."

Tragically not surprising. This is what forty-four years of progress looks like: the ability to be unsurprised by hatred.

The headlines speak of "anti-Zionist graffiti." The rhetorical move is familiar: It's not antisemitism. It's just about Israel.

But if it were only about Israel, it would not be written on a synagogue in the United States.

If it were only about Israel, it would not target a sanctuary in Olney, Maryland—thousands of miles from Jerusalem. It would not desecrate the space where children learn *aleph-bet*, where mourners recite *Kaddish*, where brides and grooms stand beneath a *chuppah*.

The building that was defaced in 1982 and again in 2026 is not an embassy. It is not a lobbying office. It is not a meeting of politicians who craft Middle East policy. It is a house of prayer.

The legal history of Shaare Tefila teaches something that our current discourse resists: antisemitism does not require Jews to be foreign. It does not require Jews to be powerful. It does not require Jews to be politically unified. It only requires Jews to exist.

The vandals in 1982 were not engaged in a nuanced critique of Israeli settlement policy. They painted swastikas on a synagogue in Maryland. The vandals of 2026, whatever their stated politics, chose the same canvas. They chose to add a swastika—that most unambiguous of symbols—to their political statement.

The pairing is not accidental. It is revelatory.

Judaism has always insisted that we distinguish between rebuke and hatred. The prophets of Israel offered searing critiques of Jewish kings and policies. The *Talmud* preserves fierce internal debates. Zionism itself has never been monolithic; it is a tapestry of religious, secular, socialist, revisionist, and liberal visions.

But when a synagogue in Maryland becomes the canvas for global grievances, the line has been crossed. The synagogue is not the Knesset. It is not the IDF. It is not a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. It is the beating heart of American Jewish life.

The insistence that "this is just about Israel" collapses under the weight of the evidence. Anti-Zionist rhetoric scrawled on a synagogue wall in the United States reveals something deeper: an inability—or refusal—to distinguish between Jewish identity and Jewish sovereignty. The Jew in Olney becomes a stand-in for the State of Israel. The child in religious school becomes a proxy for geopolitics.

That conflation is the essence of antisemitism.

The Civil Rights Act of 1866 recognized that minorities require protection not only from formal exclusion but from targeted hostility. The Supreme Court in Shaare Tefila v. Cobb recognized that Jews, though often categorized as white, have historically been treated as racial others. Today's vandals may not articulate a racial theory. They may claim political motives. But the act—defacing a synagogue with swastikas—speaks in a language older than any contemporary policy debate.

It speaks the language of erasure.

Continued on next page

I grew up at Shaare Tefila believing that America was different. And in many profound ways, it is. The United States is not Tsarist Russia. It is not Vichy France. It is not Nazi Germany. The very fact that the Supreme Court unanimously protected a synagogue under the Civil Rights Act of 1866 testifies to a constitutional culture that, at its best, insists that minority rights are not optional.

But constitutional culture does not eliminate cultural currents.

In recent years, we have watched antisemitism mutate. It has migrated from the fringes to the mainstream, from tiki torches to campus encampments, from explicit racial slurs to the language of "anti-Zionism." The grammar changes; the target does not.

When a synagogue is defaced with swastikas and anti-Zionist slogans, the message is clear: Jewish communal space itself is suspect. Jewish gathering itself is political. Jewish prayer itself is complicit.

This is not critique. It is collective indictment.

Ron Halber, CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, issued a statement after the 2026 vandalism that could have been written in 1982, or in 1942, or in any of the countless moments when Jews have been forced to respond to desecration: "Antisemitism always fails. Our Jewish community will never be intimidated into silence."

There is defiance in these words, and truth. Antisemitism has failed, over and over, to achieve its ultimate aim. The Jewish people persist. Shaare Tefila persists. The congregation announced they would clean and replace the vandalized signs. They would continue to fight hate with pride and love.

But Rabbi Layman also spoke of the emotional toll: "It causes fear and feelings of stress and tension and anxiety in our community, and that's just not the way people are supposed to treat one another."

This is the cost that perseverance obscures. Yes, we endure. Yes, we rebuild. Yes, antisemitism fails. But in the meantime, children look out school bus windows and see hatred scrawled on the walls of their synagogue. Parents have conversations they should not have to have. A community that gathers for worship must also gather to scrub paint off walls.

There is a line in the *Talmud: Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*—all Israel are responsible for one another. Responsibility, in this context, is not only emotional solidarity. It is moral vigilance. It is the refusal to sanitize hatred because its contemporary vocabulary feels politically familiar.

American Jews have flourished because this country enshrined equal protection under law. The Civil Rights Act of 1866, though written in a different era, became a shield for a synagogue in Olney. That shield matters. But law alone cannot heal what culture corrodes.

We must insist on distinctions—between critique and demonization, between policy disagreement and collective blame, between political speech and vandalism. We must also insist on memory—that antisemitism has always borrowed the language of its time.

In 1982, the swastika was unambiguous. In 2026, it is accompanied by anti-Zionist rhetoric. The pairing is revelatory.

If it were only about Israel, it would be written in an op-ed, not spray-painted on a synagogue.

If it were only about Israel, it would target policymakers, not prayer books.

If it were only about Israel, it would not invoke the symbol of those who sought to exterminate the Jewish people.

I think of the sanctuary of my childhood—the ark, the eternal light, the worn *siddurim*. I think of the ordinary holiness of suburban Jewish life. And I think of the audacity of those who would mark that space with symbols of genocide.

Shaare Tefila was the site of a landmark Supreme Court case because a congregation refused to accept erasure. It is once again a symbol—not because it seeks to be, but because history has returned to its doors.

For me, this is not abstract. It is personal. The synagogue where I learned to pray has twice been marked by hatred. And yet it still stands. The ark still opens. The Torah is still read. Children still sing.

The vandals of 1982 did not have the last word. The vandals of 2026 will not either.

But let us be honest about what is happening.

When people insist, "It's not antisemitism, it's just about Israel," remember this: if it were only about Israel, it wouldn't be written on a synagogue in the United States.

And if we cannot say that clearly—without equivocation, without apology—then we have forgotten what November 1, 1982 taught us.

Hatred adapts.

So must our clarity.

And so must our courage.

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, at Shaare Tefila, on the 2nd Wednesday (except Holidays).

Shaare Tefila Monthly Discussion Group Dates:
Every month on the Second Wed, until June, per below;

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

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**

Why not give it a try?

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

להית … perhaps?

March 2026 *Kiddush* Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE	MARCH 7
Kitchen Captain	**Marlene Sandberg**
Volunteers	Rita & Ami Frydman
	Adam & Rachel Glaser
	Jodi & Sonny Goldreich
	Mara & Josh Lansky
	Sophie & Gordon Novinsky
	Adriana & Alan Sandler
	Joyce Torchinsky

DATE	MARCH 14
Kitchen Captain	**Wendy Abraham/Sherry Cohen**
Volunteers	Betty & Randy Balin
	Gabe Eber
	Myron & Bernice Goldstein
	Audrey Haber
	Ronald Kohanski
	Howard & Marilyn Politzer
	Sandra Stein
	Bev & Alan Weinstein

DATE	MARCH 21
Jr. Congregation	
Kitchen Captain	**Val Kolmaister**
Volunteers	Stephanie & Hal Epstein
	Sandy & Joel Friedman
	Cilla & Hy Grosberg
	Ivy Konel
	Karen Leighton
	Marty & Sue Leshin
	Abigail & William Mauldin
	Jaclyn Vincent

DATE	MARCH 28
Sponsorship by Jay & Rita Hagler, IHO the 59th anniversary of Jay's *bar mitzvah* and his reading of the day's *haftarah*.	
Kitchen Captain	**Jackie Benn**
Volunteers	Ellie Alpert
	Deanna Alpher
	Ellen Beebe
	Laura & Alan Burnstine
	Joyce Feinstein
	Debbie Finch
	Sarah & Thomas Jackson
	Sandra & Melvyn Kornspan

Celebrity Birthdays

Morris "Moe" Berg – March 2 (1902)

Source: website of The Atomic Heritage Foundation, dedicated to preserving the history of the Manhattan Project

Morris Berg was born in New York City on March 2, 1902. After graduating from Princeton in 1923, he began his career in Major League Baseball as a catcher, playing for several teams, including the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox. He was never more than an average player; he batted only .243 lifetime, with 6 career home runs but, often spending time on the bench, but his soaring intellect and gift for languages earned him the title of "brainiest guy in baseball." Berg was fluent in German, Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese and had some knowledge of at least a dozen other languages. In three years during the off season, he earned a law degree from Columbia University in 1928 and eventually took a position with a Wall Street law firm while still playing baseball.

After several disappointing seasons with the Red Sox, and two years of coaching, Berg quit baseball in August 1939 and began looking for a way to get involved with the war effort. In 1943, he was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services to travel overseas and spy on the German atomic bomb program. Berg's gift for languages and quick wit made him the perfect candidate for the job. He was selected for a special mission code-named "Project Larson," whose purpose was to interview top Italian physicists to see if they knew anything about a German bomb program.

In 1944, Berg traveled to Italy and met with physicists Edoardo Amaldi and Gian Carlo Wick, who admitted that they had not done any atomic research for the Germans and suspected that even if the Germans were working on an atomic bomb, it would take them at least a decade to complete it. Berg continued to visit with other Italian scientists throughout the summer, though little was learned about a German nuclear program.

In December 1944, the OSS learned that renowned German physicist Werner Heisenberg was leaving Germany to give a lecture in Zurich. Berg was ordered to attend the conference and to make contact with Heisenberg. If there were any indications that the Germans were working on the bomb, he was ordered to shoot Heisenberg (inside the lecture hall if necessary). On December 18, Berg attended the lecture and quietly sat with a pistol inside his pocket before a small audience of professors and graduate students. He had also been given a cyanide tablet. Heisenberg did not reveal anything about a German nuclear program during the lecture, but Berg was able to meet with Heisenberg's Swiss host and OSS source Paul Scherrer and secure an invitation to dine with Heisenberg later that week. Berg listened carefully to the conversation that evening, but there was no indication that the Germans were working on an atomic bomb.

Berg returned to the United States on April 25, 1945, and resigned from the Strategic Services Unit, the successor to the OSS, in August. After the War, Berg declined several offers to coach for Major League Baseball. In 1952, Berg was hired by the CIA to use his old contacts from World War II to gather information about Soviet atomic science, but his efforts produced little intelligence. Berg died in Belleville, New Jersey, on May 29, 1972.

His life and adventures were captured in a book by Nicholas Dawidoff and a subsequent movie, released in 2018, both titled, *The Catcher was a Spy.*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: March 15 (1933)

Source: National Women's History Museum (NWHM) – Excerpted from article by Kerri Lee Alexander, NWHM Fellow | 2018-2020

Affectionately called "R.B.G." by her supporters, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born on March 15, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York. She earned her BA from Cornell in 1954, earning high honors in Government and distinction in all subjects. She then attended Harvard Law School, where she was one of only 9 women in a class of 500 students. She often faced gender discrimination and was asked to explain how she felt about taking a spot in the program instead of a man. Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School for her final year, earning her law degree from Columbia in 1959 at the top of her class. However, even with all of her academic accomplishments, it was hard for her to find employment after graduation. She explained, "In the fifties, the traditional law firms were just beginning to turn around on hiring Jews. … But to be a woman, a Jew, and a mother to boot, that combination was a bit much." She was able to land a position as a law clerk for the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1959 and served there until 1961. That was followed by various roles, including as a Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law, Columbia Law School, and work with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

In 1980, she was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. She served there for thirteen years, prior to being nominated as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton in 1993. She accepted his nomination and took her seat as a Supreme Court Justice on August 10, 1993. She thereby became the second woman, and first Jewish woman, to serve on the Supreme Court.

During her tenure as on the Supreme Court, Ginsburg fiercely advocated for gender equality and women's rights. For example, she wrote the court's opinion in the United States v. Virginia case, ruling that qualified women could not be denied admission to the Virginia Military Institute. She was also a voice of dissent to the court's decision in the Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. case, denying a woman's gender pay discrimination claim. Ginsburg subsequently worked with President Barack Obama in 2009 on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to combat pay disparities.

Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Martin D. Ginsburg, whom she married in 1954, and was survived by their two children.

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

MARCH

Anniversary Celebrations

3/3 Max Kantzer & Patricia Greene
3/4 Philip & Deanna Temkin
3/12 Joshua & Mara Lansky
3/26 Myron & Bernice Goldstein
3/26 Howard & Judith Rumerman

Birthday Celebrations

3/1 Danica Feldmann
3/1 Ronald Miller
3/2 Brianna Arnovits
3/2 Morris "Moe" Berg, z'l
3/3 Camilla Mauldin
3/3 Gayle Miller
3/4 Morris Berman
3/4 Shaun Grossman
3/4 Shelley Rochester
3/4 Sheryl Tilles
3/6 Rachel Trachtman
3/9 Shirley Liberman
3/11 Michael Binder
3/11 Babette Cohn
3/11 Amanda Miller
3/13 Ricardo Kleiner
3/13 Evan Polisar
3/13 Sierra Polisar
3/13 Ron Rubloff
3/13 Bess Teller
3/14 Emily Fero
3/14 Ivy Konel
3/14 Sandra Stein
3/15 Rhona Byer
3/15 Ruth Bader Ginsburg, z'l
3/16 Thomas Krussman
3/17 Anne Zajicek
3/18 Leah Krantz
3/19 Jason Ellis
3/20 Mark Liberman
3/21 Eric Marshall
3/21 Rina Torchinsky
3/21 Burton (Dov) Zimmerman
3/22 Stuart Zitomer
3/23 David Polinsky
3/23 Craig Zucker
3/24 Julie Balin
3/26 Samantha Fero
3/26 Lana Grossman
3/26 Leah Lipsky
3/27 Rayna Orli Cohen
3/27 Adam Gross
3/27 Sammy Gurman
3/27 Cory Sepulvado
3/28 Sarah Levitt
3/29 Melvyn Kornspan
3/30 Susan Binder
3/30 Elisheva Layman
3/31 David Appel
3/31 Sharon Zitomer

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(*From Jan. 30 - Feb. 26, 2026 but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail*)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Stan Kensky, in appreciation for his generosity, by Ethel & Ira Levine

Luis Arias, our dedicated custodian, in appreciation of all that he does for our congregation and for the genuine kindness that he shows towards our individual congregants, by Adriana & Alan Sandler

Contributions In Memory Of:

Albert Tilles, father of Paul Tilles, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Contributions In Appreciation Of:

The *Chesed* Committee for its wonderful support! By Karen & Shelly Radnor

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Bess Teller; best wishes for a full recovery, by Deanna Alpher

Bess Teller, by Perry & Stephanie Buckberg

Bess Teller, by Ron & Gayle Miller

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

The birth of Lenore and Jonah Layman's new grandson, Lior Asher, by Sherry & Saul Cohen

Hyman & Cilla Grosberg, by Jakob Kemplar

Steve & Margie Eiserike; *Mazal tov* on your 50th anniversary! By Bob & Laurie Sunshine

Jeff & Susan Hysen; *Mazel tov* on birth of your grandson, Grant Murray Hysen, by Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Mark Berger, brother of Bob Braun, by Bob & Helene Braun

Sybil "Syde" Levinson, mother of Rita Frydman, by Rita & Ami Frydman

Yisrael Frydman, father of Ami Frydman, by Ami & Rita Frydman

Sarah Epstein, aunt of Sylvia Glaser, by Sylvia Glaser

Seymour Schoen, father of Mike Goldman, by Mike & Bobbie Goldman

Bella Goldman, grandmother of Philip Goldman, by Philip Goldman

Sam Goldman, grandfather of Philip Goldman, by Philip Goldman

GENERAL FUND (continued

Contributions In Memory Of:

Rita & Nathan Rubinstein, parents of Sheri Heller, by Sheri & Alan Heller

Nathan Rubinstein, father of Sheri Heller, by Sheri & Alan Heller

Rose Friedman, mother of Ruth Kaufman, by Ruth Kaufman

Marvin Zeldin, husband of Ivy Konel, by Ivy Konel

Charles Abramson, grandfather of Freda Krosnick, by Freda Krosnick

David Leidman, uncle of Roanne Leidman, by Roanne Leidman

Myrtle Leidman, mother of Roanne Leidman, by Roanne Leidman

Victor Leidman, uncle of Roanne Leidman, by Roanne Leidman

Estelle Agin Hennenberg, sister of Sylvia Agin Proger, by Sylvia Agin Proger

Albert Lopatin, father of Freda Resnick, by Freda & Stephen Resnick

Camille Romano, mother of Gabriel Romano & Frieda Bufano (Romano), by Gabriel Romano & Frieda Bufano (Romano)

Helen Bomberg, beloved mother of Lydia Sansanowicz, by Lydia & Zisel Sansanowicz

Carroll Rachefsky & Betty Rachefsky, father and mother, respectively, of Annette Tobin, by Annette Tobin

Simon Marzouk, father of Debbie Yedlin, by Debbie & Sam Yedlin

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Bess Teller, by Helene & Bob Braun

NATHAN RUBINSTEIN YOUTH FUND:

Contributions In Memory Of:

Sura Rubinstein, grandmother of Nina Gurman, by Nina Gurman

Nathan Rubinstein, father of Nina Gurman ...forever in my heart. By Nina Gurman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the occasion of the birth of your newest grandson! Deanna Alpher

Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman; *Mazel tov* on the birth of Elisheva's second son! May he go from strength to strength. By Marjorie & Mark Fuhrmann

Rabbi & Lenore Layman, in appreciation for leading a wonderful trip to Israel, AND in honor of the birth of their latest grandson, by Ivy Konel

The well-deserved retirements of David and Lee-Ellen Ronis. May you have years of fun adventures together and good health ahead. By Steven Sper

Lior Asher, grandson of Rabbi Jonah & Lenore Layman, by Zella Shabasson & Julian Rosenberg

Contributions In Memory Of:

Allen Wright; husband of Mary Wright; in support of Shaare Tefila and the *minyan*, by Ron & Gayle Miller

Sylvia Miller, mother of Ronald Miller, by Ron & Gayle Miller

Sol Karsch, father of Ilene Mizrachi, by Sharon & Phil Pohl

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

in appreciation for Rabbi Mark Raphael's officiating at the funeral of my mother, Shirley Freed, *z'l*, by Debbie Borreda

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Bess Teller and hope to see you soon! By Bernice & Myron Goldstein

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF SHAARE TEFILA IN THE AFTERMATH OF INCIDENT OF VANDALISM – THESE FUNDS ARE EARMARKED FOR RELATED COSTS AND SECURITY PURPOSES

Numerous contributions from those requesting anonymity

By Daniel Urie

By Linda Sager Magalnick

By Philip Stanton

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

SHAARE TEFILA

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