Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 75th year | MAY 2026 -*IYAR* - *SIVAN* 5786 | Vol. 75 #5

Shavuot

5786/2026

Schedule of Services

Thursday, May 21 - 1st Night of *Shavuot*

- 8:00 PM Evening Minyan & Study Session - In-person or via Livestream
- Dairy dessert In-person
- 8:02 PM candle-lighting

Friday, May 22 - 1st Day/2nd Night of *Shavuot*

- 9:30 AM *Shavuot* Holiday service; will include *Hallel* & the blessing of the *kohanim* - In-person or via Livestream
- 6:00 PM *Shavuot* & *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service - via Zoom or Livestream
- 8:02 PM candle-lighting

Saturday, May 23 – 2nd Day/Last Night of *Shavuot*

- 9:30 AM *Shavuot* & *Shabbat* service; will include *Hallel*, reading selections from the *Book of Ruth*, & *Yizkor* - In-person or via Livestream
- 9:04 PM Holiday of *Shavuot* concludes
- 9:05 PM Evening *Minyan* and *Havdalah* - via Zoom

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A New Torah Cover

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

One of the many artistic items used in our daily services is something called a *bein gavra*. This piece of cloth is used to cover the Torah between *aliyot*/ honors (which is what *bein gavra* alludes too - between people). As the most sacred object in our tradition, the Torah is always treated with honor and respect. It is decorated and dressed with a beautiful cover and silver crowns while in the ark, it is dressed that way while in the Torah stand and it is covered with a cloth between blessings. All of this teaches us that the Torah can never be left unattended and unadorned. We must always be sure to pay the utmost respect to the foundational, holy text of our religion.

A few months ago I approached a member of the *shul* - Vivienne Auerbach - about our Torah cover. The cover we had been using for around 25 or 30 years had become frayed. I asked Vivienne - who is a fabric artist and had made the little curtains on the podiums in the sanctuary - whether she could repair the cover. She told me that unfortunately it was too torn to be fixed. I then asked if she would be willing to design a new one for us.

The day before Passover (last month), I picked up the new cover from Vivienne. She told me that she used fabric that had been given to her by former member Dr. Carol Solomon. Carol is a pathologist in the U.S. Navy and while on a tour of duty in Afghanistan she purchased some fabrics from Afghan women weavers. Vivienne added material onto the fabric and then someone - who wants to remain anonymous - added the embroidery which says "*ve-ha'er eyneinu be-Toratecha* - make our eyes shine with Your Torah". As you can see from the picture, this team effort created a beautiful piece of art that we will hopefully enjoy using for the next 30 years at least.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org

I hope your Passover was filled with joy, meaning, and perhaps even a few crumbs of *matzah* along the way. Whether you gathered with many or kept things small, I hope you were able to share the holiday with family and friends. And whoever asked the Four Questions for the first time or their tenth, these moments help create memories that stay with us—and with them—for years to come.

As we return to our routines, may we carry forward the spirit of freedom, gratitude, and togetherness that defines Passover. I'm looking forward to the many upcoming programs and opportunities for our congregation to connect, engage, and grow as a community.

In the weeks between Passover and *Shavuot*, we begin counting the *omer*—the 49-day journey that reminds us that meaningful growth takes time. Counting the *omer* invites us to slow down and be intentional. It can be as simple as pausing each evening to mark the day and reflect: What act of kindness did I show today? When did I practice patience or courage? What am I learning? What lies ahead?

As always, my monthly reminder, while financial support to our congregation is important. Also there is a non-financial support needed for our community by way of **VOLUNTEERING**! I again encourage everyone to commit to pick at least a single event to volunteer to help. If you are unsure of who to contact, please reach out to a Shaare Tefila officer or to our Executive Director, Jerry Kiewe.

On a personal note, Fran and I recently returned from a wonderful trip to the Pacific Northwest. We spent time in Seattle and then enjoyed a seven-day cruise with stops in Ketchikan, Prince Rupert, Nanaimo, and Victoria. The scenery was breathtaking, and we were fortunate to see an abundance of wildlife, including bald eagles, a variety of marine invertebrates, such as starfish and sea cucumbers, and a humpback whale and orcas.

I look forward to connecting with you at an upcoming service or event.

On My Mind - Uncertainty Is A Certainty Of Life

Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

I had already written most of this article when, fortuitously, I came across a news story about a new book that has just come out about this very subject: "The Uncertainty Toolkit: Worry Less and Do More by Learning to Cope with the Unknown," authored by Sam Conniff & Katherine Templar-Lewis. It reportedly presents evidence-based strategies to help people not only to tolerate uncertainty but to thrive on it.

What initially prompted me to write about this subject is that I happened across a favorite quote – an unexpected piece of timeless wisdom from another two-term Donald - Donald Rumsfeld, who served as Secretary of Defense, remarkably, twice; first in the Ford administration (1975-1977) and again from January 2001 to December 2006, under George W. Bush.

In a 2002 DoD news briefing, he was asked about the lack of evidence linking the government of Iraq with the supply of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) to terrorist groups. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There_are_unknown_unknowns Rumsfeld responded with this gem: "Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say, we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know."

Wow. Though our current political arena is suffused with obstructionist officials, here's a reminder that the past was sometimes equally inane. At the time, this was an incredibly evasive response to a legitimate question. It was rivaled only by Bill Clinton's "It depends upon what the meaning of "is" is." But if you parse it out and examine it, what Rumsfeld said is actually incredibly insightful.

Some things we know we know – and some are more useful than others. The speed of light in a vacuum. (186,282 miles per second!) Humans need oxygen to survive. The Titanic struck an iceberg and sank. Barack Obama was born in Hawaii. All current evidence to the contrary, William Shatner will not live to see the 23rd century.

There are some things we do not know. These I would split into two categories with the addition of a single word: "yet." That is to say, there are things that we don't CURRENTLY know … but we can reasonably expect that, in the course of time, we'll find out. Like "Who Shot J.R.?", it may take some time, and there may be considerable suspense, but the answer – however disappointing – will almost certainly be forthcoming. Is there life on Mars? Why and how do placebos actually work? Will the universe expand forever, collapse back on itself, or just go cold? What will the price of a gallon of gas be a year from now? Will my brother ever pay me back the $100 I loaned him 30 years ago? Will the Seattle Mariners ever make it to the World Series?

Then there are the things we do not know – and never will. Some matter more than others. Do humans have a soul? (For that matter, does my cat have a soul? Or the fly that just buzzed by my head?) If I actually had an infinite number of monkeys typing on an infinite number of typewriters, would any of them REALLY ever produce a work by Shakespeare? This is purportedly a statistical certainty, but hard to believe. How many grains of sand are there at the beaches of Ocean City? Who actually shot JFK?

Rumsfeld's final assertion, essentially, that there are things that we don't know that we can't even imagine, is both self-evident and also useless. By definition, we don't even know what they are and can't even articulate them. It's an irrational justification for launching a war … but then, there's a lot of that going around these days.

So what are we to do about all of the increasing uncertainty that life throws at us? There is something called a "World Uncertainty Index" (WUI) – you can find it at: https://worlduncertaintyindex.com/ and it is spiking at an alarming rate. I am eager to read the aforementioned book and get some useful advice. But in the meantime, here's a bit of my own wisdom.

There are a LOT of things that I don't know. Some scare me, but many inspire me … and I do embrace them. Uncertainties are challenges … and they are what make life worth living. They are the spice of life, and the search for meaningful answers unlocks personal growth, creativity, and human capacity. May you be similarly challenged and inspired, and together, maybe we'll discover where all our missing socks have gotten to …

Programming and Education

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

"I didn't really think anything of it [showing up to help whenever asked] until I got the Award & I thought about the concept of just showing up…. Jewishly, just showing up is important. Judaism is … a communitarian religion. It's best experienced when you are in a community."

Michael Gross, April 26, 2026, Receiving the Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year Award

A synagogue community is nothing without the people who keep showing up. The quote from Michael Gross' speech, as he received the Seaboard Region Men's Club Award as Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year on April 26, gave me a chance to reflect on how the people of Shaare Tefila show up for each other. For example:

- During the 2025-26 program year our average attendance for TGI *Shabbat* dinners has been 85.
- 160 members and friends came out to support Shaare Tefila at our annual FUNdraiser, Boogie Woogie Benefit, this winter.
- Our *Yom HaShoah* service and program included 50 people, taking place on a Monday evening.
- *Shabbat Ruach Tefila*/Our Voices Together in Prayer & Song Friday night services, held every other month this year, has enriched the spiritual life of 40-50 congregants each time.
- Families with young children continue to show up for our monthly Jewish preschool experience class, *Gan Katan*, as well as *Shabbat* experiences, Mini *Minyan* and Tot *Shabbat*.
- As of this writing, over 60 tiles have been painted for our 75th anniversary *Etz Chaim*/Tree of Life Community Art Project, representing over 40 member families.

In a month or so we will be planning for how we can bring the community together with new and continuing programs in 2026-27. If you have ideas to share or ways you can help enhance our offerings, please contact me.

Children's Education

During April the children of *Chavaya* focused on preparing to participate in the *Shabbat* service on May 16. Working with Auntie A, they learned more about the *Amidah*/standing section of the service, as well as warming up with the *Bar'chu* and looking at the *Chatzi Kaddish*.

We hope you will attend the May 16 *Shabbat* service. All the children will be leading the congregation in concluding parts of the service, including *Ein Keloheinu* and *Adon Olam*. If they are there in time for the *Torah* service, children will be invited to open the Ark, close the Ark, and participate in the *Hakafah*/procession with the *Torah*. Additionally, a candidate for our new cantor will be helping Rabbi Jonah lead the service that day.

Spiritual & Community Events in May

- **TGI *Shabbat* May Dinner, 5/15, 6 pm - Register Here by May 11:**
  - **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!
- ***Gan Katan*, 5/17, 9:45-11:15am** - Our last session of our monthly, Jewish preschool experience takes place, led by Morah Mara Lansky!
- **Tot *Shabbat*, 5/30, 11am** - Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller leads families with children ages 0-7 in celebrating *Shabbat* with Rhythm 'N' *Ruach*/Spirit! In the Grosberg-Baumgart Chapel.
- **June 5, Annual BBQ Dinner, Register Here by June 1:**
  - **6pm -** The evening begins with our regular service for all in the Sanctuary.
  - **7pm** - Stay for our annual BBQ of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, A delicious *Shabbat* dinner will be served for those who register in advance.

News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com

As we move from the joy of Passover into spring, with its blooming flowers and warmer temps, I have been thinking about what it means to grow together as a community. The seasons remind us that renewal doesn't just happen in nature but also in our relationships, learning, and how we show up for each other. Perry and I are looking forward to the month of May as we will be traveling to Portland, Oregon, for our niece's wedding and for some wonderful sightseeing!

We continue to deepen our connections in meaningful ways by welcoming new families, supporting members through life transitions, and celebrating holidays with warmth and purpose. These special times, whether big or small, are what make our *shul* feel like "home."

May is a wonderful time to re-engage by attending a *Shabbat* service, registering for a program, or just reaching out to someone you haven't seen recently. Whether you have been with us for a short period or a long time, always know that your presence shapes who we are and where we are going.

As always, I'm here to help you connect, get involved, or explore membership. If you are looking to volunteer, join or create a *Chavurah*, or are curious about upcoming programs, please let me hear from you.

Speaking of programs, we hope you have registered for the ***Chavurah* Brunch on Sunday, May 3** for some wonderful food, *schmoozing*, and laughter!

Wishing you a beautiful month full of light, happiness, and memorable moments.

NNIA *Shabbat* Speaker, Saturday, May 16 – Zabi Sherzad

Please join us for *Shabbat* services on Saturday, May 16, to help welcome a special guest speaker, Zabi Sherzad, a refugee from Afghanistan. He and his wife, Hadia, and their four young children are a family supported by NNIA, the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance, of which Shaare Tefila is a member. Zabi will share with us the story of his family's journey, fleeing their country to make new lives for themselves here in Maryland.

In Afghanistan, Zabi was a lawyer who taught at university, and Hadia was a high school teacher. Because Zabi had been contracted to work with the US Embassy, he faced great danger after the Taliban took control. His family had to flee.

Now, after almost 5 years here in Montgomery County, his family is thriving. With attentive support from the Interfaith community, Zabi and Hadia have worked hard to learn English, obtain employment, and encourage their children's success in school. Through persistent hard work they have achieved great success in rebuilding their lives. They are the first NNIA family to be able to purchase a townhome.

Zabi will share the story of his family's journey from Afghanistan to resettlement in the U.S., and of how they came to be a part of the NNIA umbrella. Joyce Feinstein, who has worked closely with the Sherzad family, will introduce Zabi following the *Shabbat* service. We hope you will attend.

Sisterhood

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

Happy Spring to everyone. I hope your gardens are as perky as mine. The azaleas are explosions of color, the daffodils and tulips are glorious, and the weeds are giggling with delight as they sprint across the lawn. *Oy*.

On **Sunday, April 19**, Shaare Tefilla hosted "**Jewpardy**" with the Men's Club versus our Sisterhood. We won't get into final scores, but spirits were high, there was an abundance of good 'sports-person-ship,' and the audience was cheering both teams on. It must be noted, however, that the highlight of the morning was the morale-boosting *esprit de corps* of the almost athletic Sisterhood Cheerleaders. To be specific: Fran Kensky, Ivy Konel, Bess Teller, Barbara Fink (and her trusty walker) and yours truly. We shook our pom-poms, encouraged the audience to cheer along with us and, while we opted out of doing a pyramid (the walker was an issue), we concluded with splits. Well, more like putting one foot in front of the other. Mike Binder, President of Men's Club, did an absolutely awesome job of organizing, publicizing and producing the entire production, including presenting the game on a large screen that everyone could easily view. Milt Goldsamt did the herculean task of preparing hundreds of challenging questions from multiple categories…Thank you, Milt! Sisterhood performed the characteristically distaff tasks of providing and laying out refreshments; specifically, Jackie Benn and Ilene Mizrachi plated and laid out the breakfast efficiently and beautifully … thank you! The entire affair would have made Alex Trebeck proud.

Our next event, **Sisterhood *Shabbat***, will be on **Saturday, May 2.** Fran Weiss has put in hours of time organizing and planning. This annual celebration's official name is the Rita Rubinstein Memorial Sisterhood *Shabbat*. So when you arrive, take a moment to peek into the Baumgart-Grosberg Chapel to take a look at the *tallit* that is on display, which offers a glimpse of Rita's life journey. Fran Kensky has promised a sumptuous *kiddush* spread and Karen Sussman will be arranging for some surprise tasty treats.

I know I don't really have to remind you, but **Sunday, May 10** will be **Mother's Day**. While we all expect our children to demonstrate their eternal gratitude for giving birth to them and to shower us with flowers and plants and possibly a new toaster oven, let us also take a quiet moment to think about our own mothers and how grateful we are that they gave birth to us. Perhaps you can recall a smell, a laugh, a gesture. Happy Mother's Day to us all.

On **Sunday, May 17 at 11:00 AM**, our Sisterhood will be sponsoring its annual **Spring Brunch**. Mr. Omelet will be back by popular demand and Val Kolmaister will be putting out detailed information very soon. Don't forget to register! Don't forget to come! It's always a fun, easy gathering. All that's required is eating, drinking and talking. The venue is the Rochester Rec Center…my house; 15823 Thompson Road, Silver Spring. There are a couple of surprises being planned. You don't want to miss out on this!

Heads up: the next Sisterhood **Executive Committee meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5 at 7:45 PM**, via Zoom. The Sisterhood **Board meeting** will be on **Thursday, May 12 at 7:45 PM**, also via Zoom.

JEWISH HAIKU
Hard to tell under
the lights—white yarmulke or
male-pattern baldness?

Zie Gezunt!

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU IN 2026!

Sign Up to Chant a *Haftarah*
Learn to Chant a *Haftarah*

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

NOW scheduling dates for Summer/Fall

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

Men's Club Matters

by Michael Binder, ST Men's Club President

As was previously reported, Michael Gross was nominated by our Men's Club as its "Man of the Year." On Sunday, April 26, at Beth Israel Congregation in Owings Mills, he was thus honored by The Seaboard Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) at its annual "Blue Yarmulke Man of The Year" Luncheon.

Below are the remarks he offered in his acceptance of the award and some photos:

> Thank you Mike [Binder]; thank you very much to the Men's Club of Shaare Tefila.
>
> When I was told I was going to receive this award, I was really rather surprised because I didn't think I'd actually done anything worth receiving an award for. I have not been president of the *shul*, I have not been chairman of any important committees. All I've done really is to show up. When they needed people to take part in the minyan, I showed up. When they wanted folks to work in the kitchen, I showed up. When they wanted people to build sets for a *Purim shpiel*, I showed up. And when they needed *gabbbais* in the morning, I showed up for that.
>
> As I said, I didn't think I'd really done anything, until I got the award and I thought about the concept of just showing up. Aside from the comment of the wag, who said that "90% of life is just showing up," Jewishly, just showing up is important. Going all the way back to the Torah, Judaism is what you might want to call a communitarian religion. It's best experienced when you are in a community. The Torah doesn't say anything really at all about inner feelings or about spirituality, but what it does talk about is how to be a member of a community and one's relationships with the people around you. The *mitzvot* were translated originally into English by somebody using the words "Thou shalt", but if it had been translated by a Southerner, it probably would have been translated as "Y'all shalt", because the essence of being Jewish is being part of a community.
>
> So I guess that's really the driving force behind my having received this award; I enjoy being a member of and helping out the community. When you have good people around you in the community, such as my friends at Shaare Tefila, it's an easy thing to do.
>
> I just want to say "thank you very much" to the *shul* and to the Mens Club for the opportunity to just show up, and I hope to be able to show up for many years to come.

Michael Gross receives "Man of the Year" award; pictured are (l-r) Richard Sternberg, President of Seaboard Region of FJMC, Michael Gross, and Mike Binder.

Enjoying the festivities (l-r) Spencer & Melanie Pelak (son-in-law and daughter), Michael Gross, and Fran Goldman

Among the many ST attendees who attended in support; pictured here are (l-r) Fran Kensky, Saul Cohen & Ken Libby.

Additional photos can be found at: https://photos.app.goo.gl/8yXTceMjjYbwEXw27

Notice of the

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

The Annual Meeting of Shaare Tefila Congregation will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, following the Evening *Minyan* service that will begin at 7:30 PM. Both will be conducted IN-PERSON and will also be accessible via Zoom; at the congregation's regular Zoom link for services; bit.ly/3OPYRxs

The congregation will elect Officers and Board Members and will vote on the dues and fees for the upcoming 2025-2026 year. Information regarding both of these matters will be provided in a subsequent notice, once finalized by the Board of Directors.

Each adult member in good standing; i.e. – whose financial obligations are up-to-date, is entitled to a vote. [If you have made payment arrangements and/or have been making regular payments, that is deemed to be satisfactory.] Questions about your status? Contact Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director, JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org or 410-294-3205 – cell

The Installation of Shaare Tefila's officers and board members will take place later this same evening immediately following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. It will be accompanied by a dessert reception.

AGENDA

- **7:30 PM - Evening *Minyan*; IN-PERSON and via ZOOM**
- **7:50 PM - Annual Meeting; IN-PERSON and via ZOOM**
  - **Vote on Election of Officers and Board Members**
  - **Report on State of the Congregation**
  - **Vote on Membership Dues and Fees for the upcoming Fiscal Year; July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**
  - **AFTER the Meeting concludes, we will install new officers and board members and offer desserts**

Join Us for Another Wonderful *Shabbat* Dinner!

Shabbat Dinner * May 15
Service at 6pm, Dinner to Follow

Menu Including:

Challah
Wine/Grape Juice
Apricot Chicken
Vegetarian Option
Chicken Nuggets for Kids
Rice Pilaf
Green Beans
Red Cabbage Salad
Chocolate Chip Cake

Register By 5/11 at https://bit.ly/4sFoYoI

Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the *Chesed* Committee

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

TIP FOR SHAARE TEFILA MEMBERS AT LEISURE WORLD:

If you cannot get out to the supermarket and need some groceries, please contact Elaine Ross at 240-293-6160. She will happily do the shopping for you.

NEW DIGITAL TALKING BOOK PLAYER

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

You can borrow this digital talking book 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 this digital talking book, we can facilitate one for your own use.

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.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

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

Check out the article about the CSA on page 10.

Pick up at Shaare Tefila starting on Thursday June 4.

SHAARE TEFILA MEAL TRAIN

By Karyn Gross, Coordinator Meal Train

If you have questions about a specific meal train, the whole process, or using the website, please contact Karyn Gross at 301-233-4371.

An overview: What is a Meal Train? There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help you out?" Very often a meal would be greatly appreciated. That is where Meal Train comes into play: an online tool that makes organizing meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.

Details about the dietary needs of the family will be included on their Meal Train page, but with guidance from Rabbi Layman we are asking that meals are generally dairy or vegetarian/vegan to respect the varying levels of *kashrut* among our members.

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

THE NATIONALS AND THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON ARE COORDINATING

Jewish Community Day

Sunday, May 19

Washington Nationals vs. New York Mets

6:45 PM (GAME TIME)

It will be a great atmosphere and a fantastic evening to join the community for a night of Nats baseball! Special Ticket buyers will receive an exclusive Jewish Community Nationals hat.

To secure your seats, go to:
https://www.gofevo.com/event/Jewishcommunity0251

SCENES FROM *GAN KATAN*

Celebrity Birthdays

Editor's Note: The choices for this month are likely to generate a bit of controversy over the matter of their Jewish identities … which I will openly address below. Normally that is something I'd avoid, but there was admittedly something irresistible about the choices. First, there was just the coincidence of them both being born in May … and the convenience of thereby covering both genders. More notable is the remarkable symmetry in their backgrounds; both were born behind the "Iron Curtain", emigrated to the U.S., rose through the ranks of academia to attain the same key role in multiple U.S. administrations. And they seemed like fitting choice given that, at the time this is being written, the U.S. is embroiled in a "military conflict" that has global implications. Were they alive today, both would surely have plenty to say about it.

Madeleine Albright – May 15 (1937)

Albright was born Marie Jana Körbelová in 1937, near Prague, Czechoslovakia to two then Jewish parents, Josef & Anna Korbel (née Spieglová). Her father was serving as a press-attaché at theCzechoslavakia Embassy in Belgrade. With the signing of the Munich Agreement in September 1938—and the German occupation, the family was forced into exile. In 1941, Josef and Anna converted from Judaism to Cathlicism and then raised Marie Jana and her siblings in the Roman Catholic faith.

In 1948, following a Communist coup d'etat inCzechoslovakia, the family emigrated to the United States, settling in Denver and Madeleine became a U.S. citizen in 1957. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1959 and converted to Episcopalianism following her 1959 marriage to Joseph Medill Patterson Albright, scion of a wealthy newspaper family.

Albright earned a PhD from Columbia University in 1975. From 1976 to 1978, she worked as an aide to Senator Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), who himself later served as Secretary of State under President Jimmy Carter from 1980 to 1981. Albright then served as a staff member on the National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski until 1981, then taught at Georgetown University and advised Democratic candidates regarding foreign policy.

Following the election of President Bill Clinton in 1992, she was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, a position she held until her elevation to Secretary of State in 1997. She thereby became the first female U.S. Secretary of State and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. Albright served in that capacity until President Clinton left office in 2001.

Albright reportedly only came to learn the certainty about her Jewish ancestry and heritage in 1997. Captured Nazi documents in the possession of Holocaust researchers show that close relatives of Albright's who remained behind in Czechoslovakia during World War II – including the grandparents, her uncle and aunt, and a first cousin, all died in Nazi concentration camps.

Albright remained active in Democratic politics, supporting the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton, served as chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group, a consulting firm, held an endowed faculty position at Georgetown University, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in May 2012.

Albright died from cancer in Washington, D.C., on March 23, 2022, at the age of 84.

Henry Kissinger: May 27 (1923)

Born as Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Germany in 1923, his Orthodox Jewish family fled Nazi persecution in 1938 and immigrated to the United States. At age 15, "Henry" had to learn a new language and new customs. He worked during the day at a shaving brush company in New York City and attended high school at night. After he graduated high school, he attended the City College of New York to get a degree in accounting, his father's profession. In 1943, he was drafted into the army as a German interpreter. After the war, on the advice of an army buddy, he was encouraged to go to Harvard. He earned a doctorate in International Relations in 1954, went on to teach international policy and nuclear arm studies … and served as a part time consultant to Nelson Rockefeller.

In 1959, Rockefeller became governor of New York. In 1964 and 1968, Rockefeller ran for presidency on the Republican side with Kissinger as his advisor. When Richard Nixon became president in 1968, he made Kissinger the National Security advisor. In this role, Kissinger shined; he was smart, knew how to advertise himself and became a media personality. In 1973, Nixon appointed him Secretary of State.

Continued on page 13

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

MAY

Anniversary Celebrations

5/8 Morton & Ina Goldstein
5/16 Ira & Valerie Kolmaister
5/16 Steve & Holly Schotz
5/20 Dennis & Sharon Kaye
5/27 Gordon Novinsky
5/29 Steven & Laura Ross
5/30 Robert & Lois Freedman

Birthday Celebrations

5/1 Carol Brody
5/1 Adam Glaser
5/1 Naomi Kieval
5/2 Annie Hirsch
5/2 Marci Rubin
5/3 Eric Schwartz
5/4 Marlene Goodman
5/5 Barbara Reich
5/6 Michael Cohen
5/7 Wendy Abramson
5/7 Dina Eber
5/7 Ethel Levine
5/7 Shelley Levitt
5/7 Ben Sumner
5/8 Annette Tobin
5/10 Ben Doyle
5/10 Hal Fero
5/10 Jay Krosnick
5/10 Solomon Teller
5/11 Dara Grosberg
5/11 Elaine Salter
5/12 Jemma Porter
5/12 Laura Proger Rhode
5/13 Dylan Hysen
5/13 Stuart Kliman
5/13 Lee Sepulvado
5/14 Melissa Druxman
5/14 Ofer Zajicek
5/15 Madeleine Albright, z"l
5/15 Samuel Friedman
5/15 Morton Goldstein
5/15 Liane Lunden
5/16 Heather Auerbach
5/16 Mitchell Katz
5/16 Robyn Maslan
5/17 Benjamin Glass
5/18 Martha Witebsky
5/22 Joshua Weingart
5/23 Lisa Akman
5/23 Russell Paley
5/24 Will Berman
5/25 Marguerite Mauldin
5/25 Harold Norken
5/25 Erica Zoren
5/26 Eric Druxman
5/26 Barry Katz
5/27 Randy Binder
5/27 Henry Kissinger, z"l
5/27 Barry Schenberg
5/28 Jacob Akman
5/28 Barbara Fink
5/28 Sophia Novinsky
5/28 Seth Zarny
5/29 Gershon Kieval
5/31 Ian Kolmaister

CSA Share for Summer 2026

The summery days of April remind us of the lovely sun ripened tomatoes available in mid-summer! There is nothing better!

Short of growing these tomatoes yourself, getting them from a local & organic farm is second to best. They are grown, amongst many other vegetables, at the very local, organic Farm "The Farm at Our House (TFOH)", 7 minutes right up the road from the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Route 108, at Zion Road in Olney. Shaare Tefila sponsored this CSA as well about 15 years ago.

NEW! Starting on Thursday, June 4, 4:30 - 6:30 PM, the boxed CSA shares can be picked up right at Shaare Tefila (and also at Wildwood Manor/ Lone Oak (Bethesda), North Four Corners (Silver Spring) or Kemp Mill (Silver Spring) OR you can choose your own vegetables right at the Farm on Zion Road (opposite from Johnson's Nursery) starting on Wednesday, June 3, 4 - 6 PM. There is also a pickup location in Rockville on Wednesdays.

As I have done for many years, I signed up early for the coming season of their CSA. This gives the farmer the opportunity to invest in seed, upgrades of the farm, etc. But it is not too late to sign up now. A weekly half share (4 vegetables and 1 fruit) nicely augments our household of 2 vegetable needs for that week.

Several of our Shaare Tefila members have already signed up for this CSA. Will you also want to pick up a share of healthy, freshly harvested vegetables right from a local farm while supporting agriculture in Montgomery County?

More information about the CSA at TFOH and sign-up possibilities at: https://www.thefarmatourhouse.com/all-things-csa

(Sponsored by the Shaare Tefila Chesed Committee)

Celebrity Birthdays (continued)

Kissinger was a practitioner of the pragmatic approach to politics called Realpolitik and played a prominent role in shaping U.S. foreign policy, continuing into the administration of President Gerald Ford. He advocated the policy of détente with the Soviet Union, orchestrating an opening of relations with the People's Republic of China, and negotiating the Paris Peace Accords, which ended American involvement in the Vietnam War, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973.

Kissinger was also associated with such controversial policies as the U.S. bombing of Cambodia during the Vietnam War, U.S. involvement in the 1973 Chilean military coup, a "green light" to Argentina's military junta for their Dirty War, and U.S. support for Pakistan during the Bangladesh Liberation War despite a genocide being perpetrated by Pakistan.

Kissinger played a key role in shaping US policy towards Israel, particularly in the tense aftermath of the Yom Kippur War, and the resulting rightward shift in Israel politics, engaging in what became known as shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East. In this role, many speculated about his priorities. Kissinger himself seemed to acknowledge that his life's experience engendered an emotional commitment to the survival of Israel; he was once quoted as telling Jewish leaders: "'How can I, as a Jew who lost thirteen relatives in the Holocaust, do anything that would betray Israel?'"

Nevertheless, while Kissinger acknowledged his undeniable heritage, he did not embrace it. He was said to have once remarked in 1973, "If it were not for the accident of my birth, I would be antisemitic." Additionally, though the issue of Soviet Jewry was later to become a useful tool in the Cold War and the US claim to superiority in the realm of human rights, in 1973 Kissinger stated that the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union was "not an American concern."

After leaving government, he formed Kissinger Associates, an international geopolitical consulting firm, and wrote over a dozen books on diplomatic history and international relations. His legacy in U.S. politics remains controversial and polarizing. He is generally regarded as an effective Secretary of State but is also condemned for allegedly turning a blind eye to war crimes committed by American allies.

Kissinger died on November 29, 2023, at the age of 100, at his home in Connecticut. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Maginnes Kissinger; two children, David and Elizabeth [with his first wife, the late Anneliese (Fleischer) Cohen]; and five grandchildren.

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.
Contact me for a sample article.

***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?

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;
May 13 at 10:00 AM **June 10 at 10:00 AM**

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

May 2026 *Kiddush* Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE	MAY 2
Sisterhood *Shabbat*	
Kitchen Captain	**Ken Libby**
Volunteers	Lois & Bob Freedman
	Phil Goldman
	Karen & Barry James
	Eric & Lori Marshall
	Heather & Shawn Miller
	Gary Morgenstern
	Susan Rubenstein & Carl Sabath
	Jamie Schwartz

DATE	MAY 9
Kitchen Captain	**Karyn Gross**
Volunteers	Lisa & Dan Akman
	Emily & Michael Blicher
	Rona Eisen
	Anita & Mike Froehlich
	Marlene Goodman
	Barry & Susan Katz
	Lee & David Ronis
	Rhea Siers & Joe Kraut

DATE	MAY 16
Junior Congregation	
Kitchen Captain	**Wendy Abraham / Sherry Cohen**
Volunteers	Mike & Susan Binder
	Mike & Amanda Eckstein
	Steven Franklin
	Lana Grossman
	Ellen & Benson King
	Ilene & Gary Mizrachi
	Perry Sandler
	Jack & Bess Teller

DATE	MAY 23
Memorial Day Weekend & *Shavuot*	
Kitchen Captain	**Jackie Benn**
Volunteers	Jessica Borreda
	Susan Gershowitz
	Marvin Kruger
	Karin Leff & Howie Horowitz
	Tina Levin & Mary Lewis
	Jeff Schwartz
	Carole Sepulvado
	Bill Sumner

DATE	MAY 30
Kitchen Captain	**Marlene Sandberg**
Volunteers	Melissa & Eric Druxman
	Carol Fendler
	Arnie & Shoshana Greenland
	Michael Gross
	Mark & Karen Kaufman
	Ivy Konel
	Marty & Sue Leshin

April Happenings

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(From Mar. 26 -April 29, 2026 but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL *CHESED* FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Gershon & Diane Kieval; *mazal tov* on the *bar mitzvah* of their grandson, Hirsch Ratz, by Joyce Feinstein

Sandy & Joel Friedman, on the baby naming and *brit milah* of their grandchildren, Molly Sarah Kader and Joshua Liam Kader, by Gershon & Diane Kieval

Michael Gross, for receiving Seaboard Region Men's Club Blue Yarmulke Award, by Gershon & Diane Kieval

Contributions In Memory Of:

Rose Dubrow, mother of Laurie Dubrow, by Laurie Dubrow

Irene Miller, mother of Margie Eiserike, by Margie & Steve Eiserike

Israel Schlaffer, father of Joyce Feinstein, by Joyce Feinstein

Robert J Kossoy, father of Marjorie Fuhrmann, by Marjorie & Mark Fuhrmann

Andrea Tilles, wife of Paul Tilles, whose *chesed* continues to inspire us! With love, from Sarah Himmelfarb

Andrea Tilles, wife of Paul Tilles, may her memory be a blessing, by Charlotte Potosky

Andrea Tilles, wife of Paul Tilles, by Elaine Stein

Andrea Tilles, wife of Paul Tilles, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Good health, by Alan & Arlene Heine

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

The *bar mitzvah* of Hirsch Ratz, son of Naomi Ratz and grandson of Diane & Gershon Kieval, by Bob & Helene Braun

Jacob Druxman, son of Melissa & Eric Druxman, on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, by Sherry & Saul Cohen

Sandy & Joel Friedman and the birth of their grandchildren, by Sherry & Saul Cohen

Ellen King's 80th birthday! By Melvyn Kornspan

Diane & Gershon Kieval, on the occasion of the *bar mitzvah* of their grandson, Hirsh Ratz. *Mazel tov* and thanks for the wonderful *kiddush*! By Bess & Jack Teller

Joel and Sandy Friedman; *mazel tov* on birth of their new twin grandchildren, by Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Bob & Helene Braun

Lowell P. Fried, husband of Sharon Fried, by Sharon Fried

Florence Schoen, mother of Bobbie Goldman, by Bobbie & Mike Goldman

Nat Goldman, father of Mike Goldman, by Mike & Bobbie Goldman

Ida Graff, mother of Gil Graff, by Gil Graff

Sid Graff, father of Gil Graff, by Gil Graff

Robert Haber, husband of Audrey Mellner Haber, by Audrey Mellner Haber

Mary Haber, Mother-in-law of Audrey Mellner Haber, by Audrey Mellner Haber

Ellen Sincoff Rudin, aunt of Marilyn Politzer, by Ellen & Benson King

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, by Ellen & Benson King

George Kornspan, father of Melvyn Kornspan, by Mel & Susan Kornspan

GENERAL FUND (continued)

Contributions In Memory Of:

Samuel Leidman, father of Roanne Leidman, by Roanne Leidman

Melissa Beth Ross, daughter of Elaine Ross, by Elaine Ross

Marvin Winer, brother of Anne Shuman, by Anne Shuman

Joseph Shuman, husband of Anne Shuman, by Anne Shuman

Louis Winer, father of Anne Shuman, by Anne Shuman

Pearl Salem, mother of Sheryl Tilles, by Paul & Sheryl Tilles

Ila Swartz, by her children, Bruce Swartz, Dana Shaw, Cindy Schecter and Ellin Wolfand

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Rabbi Layman and his welcoming personality! By Tobey Berman

Rabbi Layman for leading and assisting with the baby naming and *brit milah* ceremonies for our grandchildren, by Sandy & Joel Friedman

The *brit milah* and baby naming of Joshua Liam Kader and Molly Sarah Kader, son and daughter of Joseph Kader & Katie Friedman-Kader, by Howard Kader

SISTERHOOD

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Helping to set up the reception for the baby naming & *brit milah* of their grandchildren, by Joel & Sandy Friedman

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention
You're invited to a
Life Line Screening event!
Where: Shaare Tefila Congregation
When: Thursday, July 9, 2026
Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.
Trusted by over 10 million customers.
Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.
Who should attend:
Anyone over the age of 40
Special Member Pricing for $159
Carotid Artery Disease Screening
Atrial Fibrillation Screening
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening
4 ways to book your appointment...
Call 888-814-0466 and use promo code HSCA001
Visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA
Scan here
Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607
These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.
Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

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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