Shaare Tefila Congregation

The Shofar השופר

Celebrating our 75th year | APRIL 2026 - *NISSAN - IYAR* 5786 | Vol. 75 #4

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.

Watch for further information about how to register to attend this legendary event!

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

והיא שעמדה - And This [Promise] Is What Has Stood..

Rabbi Jonah Layman | RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org

Wednesday evening, April 1, 2026, will be at least the 3,000th time that Jews will celebrate Passover with a seder. Since we left Egypt, around 1300 BCE, we have celebrated that miracle by recounting the story and highlighting God's miraculous intervention. The Exodus from Egypt is a story of suffering under the evil Pharaoh, Moses reminding the people of their connection with the land of Israel and with their ancestors, and God fulfilling the promise to Abraham and Sarah that their descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

During the *seder* we recite that line above as part of this prayer: "and this [promise] is what has stood by our ancestors and us; for it was not only one man who rose up to destroy us: in every single generation people rise up to destroy us – but the Holy Blessed One saves us from their hands." As we sing the prayers and tell the story of the Exodus, we can't help but recognize that in every generation, for the past 3,500 years, we Jews have been oppressed, persecuted and attacked. No matter where we have lived or how safe we thought we were, our ancestors, and we today, are attacked for being Jewish. It seems to be our fate. The graffiti on the signs on our property back in February remind us of the bigotry that lies just beneath the surface in our society. No matter how hard we fight for social justice, no matter how hard we try to teach that everyone should love all their neighbors as we would be loved, humanity still hates.

But this prayer reminds us that God is with us and will save us again. God may not bring a miracle like the 10 plagues, but our commitment to our ancient, sacred values helps sustain us. We know that our values are eternally true. We know that we stand for love and justice. We know that we are a people of peace. We know that when we are with our community, living according to these religious values, then we are confident that the promise will be fulfilled.

With all best wishes for a happy and healthy Passover.

Message from the President

Jeff Weiss, President | President@ShaareTefila.org

March included several events for our Shaare Tefila community and our larger Jewish community. The month started with the celebration of *Purim* events which included the megillah reading, followed by a Sisterhood Women's *Seder*, and several community events including a talk about "Scams and Cybercrimes" and an invitation from Beth Shalom of Olney to hear Susan Warsinger, a Holocaust survivor, speak about her experiences.

We've now moved into spring and hopefully everyone has enjoyed a few of the warm weather days, which helps make the February snow event a fading memory. Spring is a time deeply connected to our Jewish journey. As we prepare for Passover, we are called to remember our story of liberation, to celebrate freedom, and to renew our commitment to justice, compassion, and faith. Just as the earth awakens after the stillness of winter, we are encouraged to reawaken our spirits and strengthen our bonds with one another.

On a personal note, Fran and I were able to spend almost two weeks in Mexico this past month. We spent several days exploring Mexico City and eight days at a spa in Ixtapan de la Sal, where we joined members of our community and others for plenty of relaxation and countless laughs.

Our synagogue continues to be a place of warmth, learning, and connection because of each of you. Whether you join us for services, participate in programs, volunteer your time, or simply carry the values of our community into your daily life, you are an essential part of what makes our congregation thrive.

In the coming months, we look forward to gathering together in celebration, reflection, and joy. May this season bring you and your loved one's peace, health, and renewed energy.

On My Mind -
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director | JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org

The phrase "hope springs eternal" comes from a poem written by Alexander Pope; "An Essay on Man" (1733). The full line reads, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast: Man never is, but always to be blest."

As I write this, we are officially 5 days into the 'Spring' season. We are in the midst of "March Madness" - the annual mass hysteria that makes otherwise normal people become temporarily obsessed with the basketball fortunes of the colleges that they attended decades ago. The annual tournament surely serves to stir its share of hopes and dreams. Each year I proudly recall the year, 2018, when my own alma mater, the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), became the first #16 seed team to "slay the dragon" and defeat then #1 seed Virginia – and handily too; 74-54. I also note that Virginia went on to win it all the following year … I think in no small measure due to the priceless lesson that it learned from little UMBC; namely, stay humble and respect EVERY opponent.

We are also only hours away from the start of Major League baseball. In my humble opinion, there is NOTHING in sports that better epitomizes the sentiments expressed in Pope's poem. Opening Day of the baseball season simply oozes with renewal and hope.

To begin with, baseball diamonds carry a special beauty unsurpassed by the fields of play of other sports. While I may be spoiled by Camden Yards, I think that baseball stadiums all across this nation possess an abundance of character. And if you aren't wedded to one of the 5 baseball stadiums that deploy artificial turf (great trivia question!), then you just can't beat the smell of newly manicured grass.

But back to the theme of hope. To be sure, I decry the fact that the overall operating procedures of Major League Baseball don't create a more "level playing field." For a variety of reasons, teams that operate in major markets are far more likely to end up in the post-season than small market teams. On the other hand, … here are some statistics to mull over; the MLB has crowned 16 different winners from 2000–2025, and 9 different champions over the past 11 seasons.

And here's the thing. Right now, as I write this, every team is 0-0. Right now, every team and every player can dream and tell themselves that this will be their year. For the moment, every team is a potential World Series champion and will soon take the first steps of their long, 162 game marathon that is the Major League baseball season. At some point, the wins and losses will accumulate, and we'll see separation between teams. Disappointment, regrets, analysis of what went wrong and the like will emerge. But right now … well, hope springs eternal.

We would all do well to make certain that we always maintain a healthy supply of hope. Just as we need to consume a certain amount of food and process the accompanying nutrients to nourish our bodies, it is hope that sustains our souls. This is also a chief takeaway of Jewish history. In the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *z'l*, "It is not too much to say that Jews kept hope alive, and hope kept the Jewish people alive."

And on that note … Play *Matzoh* Ball!

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 late Spring/early Summer.

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

Programming and Education

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

"The message of Passover remains as powerful as ever. Freedom is won not on the battlefield but in the classroom and the home. Teach your children the history of freedom if you want them never to lose it." — Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l

I am writing this a week before we begin our Passover observance for 5786. The anticipation of family gathering in my home and keeping the tradition of going through the *seder*, using a *Haggadah* that is different from what my parents used, but has the same prayers with a variety of different, contemporary readings to accompany them, is exciting and overwhelming all at the same time. This year it feels particularly important to hold our loved ones close and continue teaching about our practices to younger family members, considering what we as Jews are experiencing locally and around the world, just because we are Jewish.

On behalf of my family, I wish you all a *Chag Kasher v'Sameach*/A Happy & Kosher Passover.

Children's Education

March at *Chavaya* started with lots of excitement as we celebrated the joy of *Purim*! Later in the month *Kitah Gimel & Kitah Dalet*, grades 4-6, experienced a virtual visit to the Jewish Museum of Maryland, where they learned about Immigration to Baltimore that took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. *Kitah Na'ahroot*, teen class members in grades 7-12, also experienced a virtual program with the Jewish Museum of Maryland, focusing on their Holocaust Memory Project, learning stories of different survivors. The last class before spring break included a school-wide Chocolate *Seder*; a great time was had by all!

My gratitude goes to Ashley Doyle, Ben Doyle, Sarah Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Marlene Sandberg, Adrienne Moeller, and Sam Cohn for helping me continue to provide Jewish education, engagement and supervision for the children when our regular teaching staff were on break.

Chavaya is closed for spring break on March 29 and April 5, and will reconvene on April 12, when all classes are scheduled to meet from K-12 grade. Both *Kitah Na'ahroot* classes will be going to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum on April 26.

Spiritual & Community Events in April

Our community observance for *Yom HaShoah* will be two-fold this year.

- **First, on April 12 at 1:30pm**, Shaare Tefila is a sponsor of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) annual DC area *Yom HaShoah* service and program, being held at the Ernst Cultural Center on the campus of Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, VA. Clergy of Shaare Tefila will participate.
- **Second, on the evening of April 13, Shaare Tefila's *Yom HaShoah* service and program will be held in person and on livestream. At 7pm** we will have *mincha* and *maariv* (the weekday afternoon and evening services). **At 7:25pm we will have the *Yom HaShoah* service including candle lighting**. **At 7:45pm we will hear from Daniel Schuster of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Vienna, Austria** about his work remembering the Holocaust and combating antisemitism. There will be light refreshments available when the program concludes.
- ***Gan Katan*, 4/12, 9:45-11:15am** - Our second to last session of our monthly, Jewish preschool experience takes place, led by *Morah* Mara Lansky!
- **Jewish Values, Access for All, 4/19, 2pm** - Join us for a fascinating conversation with Allison Tombros Korman, Founder & Executive Director, The Red Tent Fund, as we explore the changing landscape for abortion access and the parallel challenges to our Jewish values that have come about across the political spectrum. Sponsored by Shaare Tefila's Social Action Committee.
- **Tot *Shabbat*, 4/25, 11am** - Adrienne 'Auntie A' Moeller leads families with children ages 0-7 in celebrating *Shabbat* with Rhythm 'N' *Ruach*/Spirit! In the Futrovsky Library
- **Junior Congregation, 4/25, 11am** - Join *Moreh* Scott and *Morah* Babette for a service designed for school age children. Come a little earlier, at around 10am, and join the main service as Jacob Druxman becomes a *Bar Mitzvah* when he is called to the Torah.

News from the Membership Committee

Stephanie Buckberg, VP Membership | pmjmine3@gmail.com

As we welcome in Spring along with blossoming flowers and some warmer temperatures, we have packed away our *groggers* and costumes and will prepare for Passover. This is a time that invites us to reflect, to prepare, and reconnect with stories and people who shape who we are.

Seeing so many of you come together during *Purim* was a wonderful reminder of what makes Shaare Tefila such a vibrant, welcoming home.

As we turn to Passover and the work of cleaning, planning and preparing, we open up the door to renewal, meaning, and memory. For our membership community, Passover is also a time to strengthen connections and feel more rooted in our congregation. May we carry forward the sense of togetherness that defines our community.

As we prepare to gather-around tables, in services, and in spirit-we are all grateful for the warmth and resilience that define our community. May this Passover bring you meaning, joy, and a renewed sense of freedom despite the challenging times we are living in today.

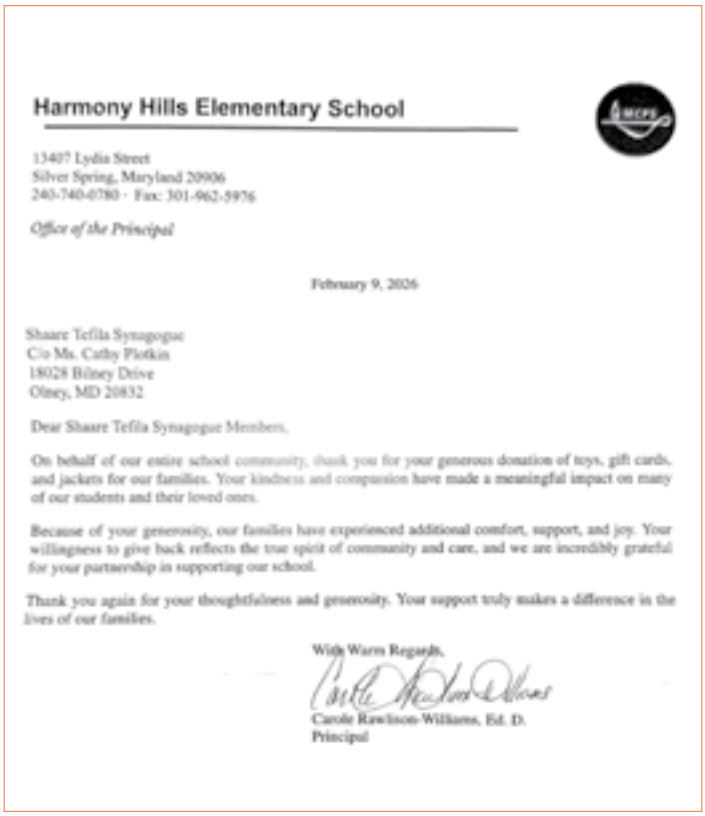
Wishing you and your loved ones a *Chag Pesach Sameach*.

Last month's issue did not include a photo of "newer" members Bobbie & Mike Goldman … so below is a repetition of their bio, along with a photo to help you to put a name with a face.

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."



Harmony Hills Elementary School

13407 Lydia Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906
240-740-0780 · Fax: 301-962-5976

Office of the Principal

February 9, 2026

Shaare Tefila Synagogue
C/o Ms. Cathy Plotkin
18028 Bilney Drive
Olney, MD 20832

Dear Shaare Tefila Synagogue Members,

On behalf of our entire school community, thank you for your generous donation of toys, gift cards, and jackets for our families. Your kindness and compassion have made a meaningful impact on many of our students and their loved ones.

Because of your generosity, our families have experienced additional comfort, support, and joy. Your willingness to give back reflects the true spirit of community and care, and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership in supporting our school.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of our families.

With Warm Regards,

Carolle Rawlston-Williams, Ed. D.
Principal

ACCESS TO A SHAARE TEFILA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you are a member of Shaare Tefila, your ShulCloud account provides you with on-line access to a current, PRINTABLE directory of our membership! You also have the option, which we strongly encourage, to add a photo to your record that can be seen by others.

Here are the easy steps:

1. Go to the Shaare Tefila website; www.ShaareTefila.org
2. Go to and click on the icon for ShulCloud Login
3. Log into your account (if you forgot your password, you can reset it)

Once logged into your account, you should see the option to access the Membership Directory. And if you then take a look at your own record, you will see the option to download a photo.

If you need help with any of the above, please do not hesitate to give me a call! Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org; Cell: 410-294-3205

Sisterhood

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

Dear Sisters,

Spring has sprung,
The grass is riz'
I wonder where the birdies is?
The bird is on the wing!
Don't be absurd,
The wing is on the bird.

And it looks like this Spring is predicted to be just as absurd, with temperatures forecast to bounce around between the fifties and the seventies. I'm trying to resolve the "what-to-wear" dilemma by wearing my puffy jacket over a Tee and shorts. BUT: despite threats of snow, tornados, hail and floods, Sisterhood forges on with lovely indoor events.

Recapping the **Women's *Seder***, the event was, as ever, an evening of delight as our women gathered to recall the women of the Bible who set in motion the beautiful *seder* we have today. We had a strong turnout and many thanks to Cathy Plotkin and Lenore Layman for bringing back Lisa Baydush and Audrey Katz, who continued to lead us in a musical version of the *Pesach seder*. They always bring joy to the evening, and we hope to see them again next year. The table settings of mint and lavender and gold (thank you Ann Hamlin and Debbie Finch!), were the perfect backdrop for the delicious chicken dinner.

On **Sunday, March 29**, (after this issue of *The Shofar* goes to press), the Men's Club of B'nai Shalom of Olney will sponsor an important **presentation by Susan Warsinger, Holocaust survivor**. The program will be open to everyone at Shaare Tefila and is free of charge. I will recap this event in the May issue of *The Shofar*

Don't forget to attend the fiercest competition of the century! Men vs. Women in the Shaare Tefila version of **"JEWPARDY"! Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 AM** in the *shul*. Free to members, $5 for non-members. The teams have been in training for months now, studying up on Google websites, *New York Times* crossword puzzles and *People Magazine*. This is a confrontation of the congregation's greatest minds, a gauntlet thrown down to test the endurance and perspicacity of the most nimble-witted. Who will be victorious? MEN'S CLUB or SISTERHOOD?! This is a not-to-miss event and we urge you to come on down and cheer everyone on! And yes, of course there will be *nosh*! So write down the date and bring your pom poms to cheer your team on.

Looking further ahead, on **Saturday, May 2**, we are sponsoring the annual **Rita Rubinstein Memorial Sisterhood *Shabbat* service**, which will be coordinated by Fran Weiss. The women of Shaare Tefila will lead the entire Torah service! Fran is calling out to "all women to consider participating in this wonderfully meaningful event. There are plenty of roles that need to be filled from leading the Torah service, to reading from the Torah (yes, you can do it!), to carrying the Torah, to helping with a beautiful *kiddush*." Fran is encouraging the women of Shaare Tefila to reach out to her: FAOWeiss@gmail.com or 240-603-7025.

Heads up: the next Sisterhood **Executive Committee meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 14 at 7:45 PM**, via Zoom. The Sisterhood **Board meeting** will be on **Thursday, April 16 at 7:45 PM**, also via Zoom.

JEWISH HAIKU

The *shiva* visit—
So sorry for your loss. Now
Back to my problems.

Shaare Tefila Congregation

FOOD DRIVE

thru April 30, 2026

In support of

the *Mitzvah* Project of Jacob Druxman,

who will celebrate his *bar mitzvah* on Saturday, April 25,
Shaare Tefila is accepting donations of non-perishable foods

PASTA, CEREAL,
CANNED GOODS, and
OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

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.
If it's easier, please email Jacob's dad at EDruxman@gmail.com and he will gladly arrange a pickup. Thank you for helping Jacob make a difference and fulfill this important *mitzvah*.

After the completion of the drive, all foods collected will be given to *Olney Help, which in turn will distribute them to those in need.*

Men's Club Matters

by 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 K*abbalat* 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, an epic "Jewpardy" contest

It will be 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 – 2:00 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. Cost for the brunch is $45

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.To register visit: 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

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 AND* the family of Andrea Tilles will honor her 20TH *yahrzeit* - In-person or via Livestream
  - 6:00 PM – Evening Service for Passover - 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

Shaare Tefila Congregation's Annual Service & Program for *Yom HaShoah* Holocaust & Heroism Remembrance Day Monday, April 13, 2026

Will be conducted in-person and broadcast via livestream.

- **At 7:00 PM, we will recite *mincha* and *maariv*, the weekday afternoon and evening services.**
- **At 7:25 PM, we will have a special service and candle-lighting to commemorate *Yom HaShoah*.**
- **At 7:45 PM, we will hear from Daniel Schuster of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Vienna, Austria, who will speak about his work remembering the Holocaust and combating antisemitism.**

See Page 11 for information about the JCRC community commemoration on Sunday, April 12, in Fairfax, VA

At the start of this year, we accepted contributions to include the names below in our *Yizkor* booklet. We offer that here again.

In Memory of the Victims of Terrorism in Israel and Throughout the World and the Victims of the Holocaust

"Exalted compassionate God, grant perfect peace in your sheltering presence to the souls of all of our brothers and sisters who perished in the Holocaust. May their memory endure, inspiring truth and loyalty in our lives."

Wendy & Richard Abraham
Ellie Alpert
Judith Bass
Robert & Helen Braun
Judith Bresler
Saul & Sherry Cohen
Rona Eisen
Margie & Steve Eiserike
Andrew Feldman & Sharon Bender
Barbara Fink
Sandy & Joel Friedman
Marjorie & Mark Fuhrmann
Frances Futrovsky
Philip, Elaine & Susan Goldman
Myron & Bernice Goldstein
Arnold & Shoshana Greenland
Hyman & Cilia Grosberg
Les & Karyn Gross
Nina Gurman
Ruth Gutstein
Bert & Lita Katz
Sumner Katz & Martha Witebsky
Stanley & Fran Kensky
Diane & Gershon Kieval
Ira, Valerie, Ian & Seth Kolmaister
Melvyn & Sandra Kornspan
Freda & Jay Krosnick
Marvin Kruger
Gilda Kuritsky
Tina Levin & Mary Lewis
Ethel & Ira Levine
Shirley Liberman & Family
Liane Lunden
Eric & Lori Marshall
David Mendick & Naomi Yadin-Mendick
Ronald & Gayle Miller
Gary & Rebecca Morgenstern
Anita Okrend
Florence & David Polinsky
Marilyn Pontell
Charlotte Potosky
Susan Rubenstein & Carl Sabath
Howard & Judy Rumerman
Perry Sandler
Charlotte Shapiro
Elaine Stein
Jack & Bess Teller
Elissa & Benjamin Wolf
Samuel & Debbie Yedlin
Anne & Ofer Zajicek

Chesed Matters!

Monthly column of the *Chesed* Committee

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

THE SHAARE TEFILA MEAL TRAIN, ORGANIZED BY THE *CHESED* COMMITTEE, IS EXPANDING!

By Karyn Gross, Coordinator Meal Train

Last year the *Chesed* Committee began providing meals to families who needed additional support due to illness, or other life impacting situations. Our support comes in the form of a website called Meal Train. Over the past year we have had 8 meal trains.

We appreciate that people ARE reaching out to let us know that our help is needed and, as a result, ever more volunteers are needed to help provide meals for people in our Shaare Tefila community.

Starting after Passover, we will be reaching out to all of you by sending the links for the Meal Train website through our ST list serve; when you see a message calling for chefs, please consider being part of this endeavor to cook for a fellow congregant and make their life a little easier.

Details about the dietary needs of the family will be included on their Meal Train page, but per guidance from Rabbi Layman, and in order to respect the varying levels of *kashrut* observance among our members, we ask that meals be generally dairy or vegetarian/vegan

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.

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

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

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

Check out the article about the CSA elsewhere in the April *Shofar*.

Pick up at Shaare Tefila starting on Thursday June 4.

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.

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.

CSA Share for Summer 2026

AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT SHAARE TEFILA

STARTING ON THURSDAY JUNE 4, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

SPONSORED BY THE *CHESED* COMMITTEE

The Farm at Our House, a 12-acre certified organic farm located in Brookeville, MD, will offer a CSA pick up location at Shaare Tefila this year, starting on Thursday June 4, and continuing for 12 weeks this Summer and 12 weeks in the Fall. Shares are available on a first-come basis.

What is a CSA?
CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. Purchasing a share is akin to investing in a local farm. You purchase the share prior to the season when the farm endures its greatest expenses such as seed, compost, repairs, equipment, etc… and come June you will enjoy the weekly bounty.

Where and When?
At Shaare Tefila (among other pickup locations). Every Thursday between 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM, starting on Thursday June 4.

How does it work?
Shareholders can select to purchase a Full Share or a Half Share. A Full Share is the best value and entitles you to your pick of 8 vegetables and 2 fruit items. A Half Share entitles you to 4 vegetables and 1 fruit item. The Farm at Our House sources most of its tree fruit from Three Springs Fruit Farm, a Food Alliance certified sustainable farm in Adams County, PA. No purchase can be made at the CSA pick-up site.

Each Thursday the farm will deliver a reusable black crate filled with local produce. Your job is to come to the pick-up site and pick it up. We will also include a swap box so that you may swap an item you might be less excited about for one that you fancy more. Bringing your own bag is highly recommended. More information on the farm's website: https://www.TheFarmAtOurHouse.com

What is different about this CSA compared to those at other farms?
We are a certified organic Montgomery County-based farm with 18 years' worth of experience. All vegetables come directly from our farm. And everything that does not come from our farm will be clearly identified.

How to sign up?
Go to the website (https://www.TheFarmAtOurHouse.com) click on Online Payment complete the Google form for one of the (BOXED) CSA. Don't forget to press submit. You will receive a Google Form receipt that serves as both the bill and proof of membership. Slots are limited. Feel free to contact Farmer Grossman, via text or phone at 202-412-5698 or email him at TheFarmAtOurHouse@gmail.com with any questions.

About the Farm:
The Farm at Our House is located on land owned by Our House Inc. and while there is no formal relationship between the two organizations, the farm offers Our House residents the opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture, work if they choose to, and provides the residential rehabilitation center with fresh produce.

On **Sunday, April 12 at 1:30 PM**, the JCRC will conduct its annual community-wide **Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration**, in Fairfax, VA. The program will serve to to remember the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust, and to pay tribute to the survivors and liberators in our community. The program will feature Holocaust survivor **Irene Fogel Weiss** as the keynote speaker.

Register at:
https://jcouncil.org/events/yom-hashoah-commemoration

Celebrating *B'nai Mitzvah*

Hirsch Ratz will celebrate his *Bar Mitzvah* at Shaare Tefila at the *Shabbat* morning service on Saturday, April 11.

Hirsch is a 7th grade student at Cabin John Middle School where he excels at math and plays the upright bass. Hirsch enjoys playing soccer and video games, especially beating his father at Super Smash Brothers on Nintendo Switch. He has a strong interest in computer building and knows a great deal about the components that make an excellent gaming PC. Hirsch also loves playing the Pokemon card game and has competed in tournaments; he even hosted matches during lunch at his school. Hirsch also loves dogs, particularly his two dogs, Angelica, and Xena, the Warrior Princess.

As part of his *mitzvah* project, Hirsch is collecting new and used dog toys to donate to K-9 Lifesavers. This organization is an all-volunteer, approved 501(c)(3) non-profit rescue group dedicated to saving the lives of homeless and abandoned dogs. We kindly request your assistance in making a contribution to this cause and helping Hirsch bring some joy into the lives of these deserving pups. Donations can be directed to: https://k-9lifesavers.org/donate

Supporting our community with interest-free loans since 1909

Keep your cool...HFL offers interests-free loans

If you have credit card debt, are seeking to start a new business, face costs for adoption or fertility treatments, need major home repairs, or have other financial challenges, the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington (HFL) may be able to help.

Basic lending requirements:

- Up to $30,000 in personal or business loans are available at zero interest to qualified Jewish borrowers in the DC metro area.
- Loans are also available to undergraduate students who are junior or seniors and full-time graduate students for a maximum of $15,000.
- All loans require guarantor(s) to co-sign on the loan (1 guarantor for loans up to $10,000; and 2 guarantors for larger loans)

If you have a financial need, and meet HFL's lending requirements, please apply at:
https://www.hebrewfreeloandc.org/apply-now.html

On the other hand, if you are able to donate to help support this effort, that will also be welcome!
https://www.hebrewfreeloandc.org/donate.html

Jacob Ari Druxman is a thoughtful and energetic seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville. As he prepares for his *bar mitzvah* at Shaare Tefila on April 25, he approaches this meaningful milestone with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a deep connection to his Jewish learning and traditions.

Jacob has loved cooking and baking since he was three, and what started as an interest has grown into a true passion. He often prepares meals for the family, including their weekly *Shabbat* dinner, bringing creativity and care to the table. If you are at the synagogue and food is being served, there's a very good chance you'll find Jacob somewhere in the kitchen or helping to put food out. He has also used his baking talents to make cookies and brownies to sell at synagogue as a fundraiser for the Jewish National Fund, reflecting his growing connection to Israel. Jacob also enjoys making special meals for his brother, Logan.

His love of food extends beyond the kitchen. Jacob enjoys smoking meat and is always experimenting with new techniques and flavors. He is also an avid gardener, growing spices that he proudly incorporates into his cooking. One of his favorite summer activities is visiting local farms to pick fresh fruits and vegetables with his family.

Jacob stays active with track, skiing, camping, playing Minecraft, and jumping on the trampoline. Most of all, he loves spending time with his dog, Kelev, an adorable and very fluffy one-year-old double doodle who loves chasing a ball and snuggling on the couch. We are so proud of the kind, driven young man Jacob has become and feel so grateful to celebrate this *simcha* with him. *Mazel tov*, Jacob!

For his *mitzvah* project, Jacob chose something especially meaningful—helping others through food. His goal is to collect 136 pounds of non-perishable food to donate to Olney Help and thereby to those in need, living out the value of *tzedakah*. Donations can be brought to the synagogue and placed in the collection box/area in the foyer, or if it's easier, please email Jacob's dad at EDruxman@gmail.com and we will gladly arrange a pickup. Thank you for helping Jacob make a difference and fulfill this important *mitzvah*.

Reflections on Shaare Tefila Israel Trip in December 2025

Editor's Note: *These reflections were originally submitted for inclusion in our March issue, but it was held off due to the excessive size of that issue.*

From Bess Teller:

Fast impressions:

1. Israel's flags all over – everywhere, indoors, outdoors, in buses – and the hostage stickers and 'Bring Them Home' stickers as Jonah mentioned a few weeks ago – on lampposts, everywhere
2. *Hanukia*s all over Israel – big, neon ones, all kinds. And tons of *sufganyot* but we never saw one *latke*
3. Construction everywhere– housing, transportation – we saw light rail tracks being laid in Tel Aviv, offices especially in Be'er Sheva
4. We had no concern for safety – we noticed four days after we returned that no one had asked where there was a safe room
5. Except at the *moshav* right next to Gaza, the subject of Gaza never came up – with the Israelis we met, including all the relatives and friends most of us managed to get to see
6. Israelis are busy, at restaurants, shopping, traveling, working – no sense of war
7. Jonah can count to 30

From Sheryl Tilles:

Paul and I had originally planned to go to Israel with Shaare Tefila on October 15, 2023. Unfortunately, Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 and the trip was cancelled. A trip was then planned for this past December and since there was a truce in place, we took advantage. As a result, we saw many things that were related to the terrorist attacks as well as the innovation and growth taking place in Israel. I'm going to discuss 3 of my memories and reflections.

1. We visited *Netiv HaAsara*, a *moshav* located 400 meters from the Gaza wall. The residents spoke to us about their ordeal and showed us some of the weapons Hamas used in attacking these communities. They were one of the first communities attacked by Hamas using paragliders. At least 20 residents were murdered. The *moshav*'s security forces kept their guns with them but were told to stay in their homes and stick guns out the windows to protect their homes rather than confront the attackers. The residents of the community were locked in safe rooms for about 11 hours. They were then displaced for 2.5 years in a hotel in Tel Aviv before being able to return home. We then went to the car cemetery where you can see long lines of piled up burned cars, many with signs of the people murdered. Some had made many round trips to try to rescue people before they were killed. The nearby site of the Nova Festival also had many signs describing the people who died. It was a field of signs and sadness. It began to rain while we were there and I felt like that was the sky crying for all the deaths. We said *Kaddish* and were joined by others visiting the site. It did give me a special connection and perspective that you could not get from reading articles. It was a very emotional day but it helped me connect to the community and the Israelis as a group.
2. We visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. This center was founded by Shimon Peres after he retired from his long, government service. It is a unique facility that works on many programs to foster communication, technology and bring peace to the region by communication. Waze was developed in Israel as are many medical tools being used today. This was fascinating and it was nice to see that Israel is still thriving with research.
3. One of the most fascinating places we visited was *Mitzpe Ramon* and the *Makhtesh* crater that was formed by erosion. It is the largest erosion crater in the world. Being in the Negev with wild swings in temperature was also amazing. We had a very rainy day and got to see many wadi's flooded, which has not happened in 3 years. We also took a jeep ride into the crater. It was such a beautiful site and learning about its formation was very educational.

It was hard to leave, and I tried to take in the sites in a way that will let me picture them in my mind, though with help from the actual photos we took. It was a wonderful trip and bonding moment with the Israel community and our friends from Shaare Tefila. I can't wait to go again.

From Cathy Plotkin:

Our trip to Israel exceeded my expectations. What made this trip different was being able to engage with Israelis and their experiences:

- Elliot,who worked with migrants in North Tel Aviv, talked about migrants wanting to live permanently in Israel and the issues it raises.
- A man in Jerusalem whose family had been there for 23 generations.

Continued on page 14

ISRAEL TRIP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

- The lady from a *moshav* that was attacked during October 7 shared the painful story of the loss of 20 residents there. Our hearts broke, and then she took us to see area built in their memory- a grove of 20 olive trees, one for each person, and the tallest and biggest Israeli flag centered by the trees. We could feel the resilience and the resolve to remember those who were lost.
- A Bedouin woman talked about a weaving collective she started in her village and in the process elevated the women's worth to their community.
- We were able to pick *kohlrabi* (turnip cabbage) for *Leshet*, an organization that supports the needs of Israelis who experience food insecurity, and thereby participate in a *mitzvah*

We were able to visit many new places; The National Library in Jerusalem, The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Tel Aviv, and the newly redone Anu Museum on the campus of Tel Aviv University. All of these places were outstanding, and the docents added tremendously to our learning. We also went to the Ramon Crater and experienced a very rare occurrence- flooding in the desert!

Our tour guide did such a fabulous job explaining things to us. But the best part of the trip was experiencing this with our shul family. We learned together, cried together, and said *kaddish* for young people who lost their lives at the NOVA festival. We had so much fun sampling 8 kinds of food from the *shuk*. Sometimes we collectively oohed and ahhed or gasped or shared pained feelings, all of which brought us closer together.

Shabbat in Israel was very special, and we were able to choose how to spend it. We experienced services and activities. I was with friends who decided to walk to the *Kotel*.

We helped each other find gifts and support the Israeli economy! There's one more thing to share; people on this trip are already asking when we can go back!

From Karin Leff:

I'd like to share my thoughts about Shaare Tefila's Israel trip from the perspective of a mother whose 27-year old daughter made *aliyah* a year and a half ago. Among other things, I was hoping that our experiences would help me better understand the country my daughter Talia now lives in and allay my maternal anxieties about her well-being.

Here are 5 things I discovered about Israel.

1. It's challenging to reconcile the complexities of the country. For example, we met a mother who headed security at *Kibbutz Netiv Haasara*. On October 7, her foresight helped minimize deaths at the *kibbutz*. But I also sat on a bus next to a *Charedi* woman who sincerely and proudly believes that her sons' prayers helped hold up the country throughout its war with Hamas. We also learned about spectacular Israeli innovations, but later saw many ragged Bedouin communities peppering the road on the way to the Negev. Such contrasts!
2. There's unapologetic pride in being Jewish. Picture a street in old Jaffa and an 8-foot wall on the top of which sits a huge electrified blue *menorah* with yellow candles and red flames. Throughout the country, on every street, in homes, in stores, and even on the aviation tower at the airport, there were *menorah*s shining brightly and unapologetically, a testament to Jewish pride and religious continuity.
3. Despite difficult times, there's joy in a country of modern day Maccabees. Picture on the eighth night of *Channukah*, a crowded courtyard by the Western Wall with thousands of strangers dancing, singing, speaking different languages, wearing different head coverings, espousing different beliefs. Still, every last person is putting aside whatever else he/she may be feeling to celebrate and express joy.
4. Symbols of resilience abound. Picture Israeli flags flying from flagpoles, hanging from balconies and sitting on store counters. Picture, plastered everywhere, thousands of stickers of the faces and stories of Israeli hostages and soldiers felled by Hamas during the war. These flags and stickers are constant reminders of the strength, spirit and tenacity of the people of Israel
5. This is country where people take care of one another. Picture a steep cobblestoned sidewalk in Jerusalem leading to the archaeological site of *Ir David* (The City of David). 27 tourists from Olney Maryland are trudging up the sidewalk when one of them needs to sit on a bench to catch his breath. A young Israeli family with a fidgety infant in a stroller stops to make sure this man, a stranger, is ok, offers him a bottle of water and fusses over him. Our Shaare Tefila trip has given me the knowledge that my daughter is living in a country where individuals, communities and ideas may collide with each other, but there is, fundamentally, shared pride in the nation, its history, and people. Talia will find a community to embrace her and look out for her well-being. Moreover, she will wake up every day knowing she doesn't need to apologize for who she is and what she believes.

Our Annual *Mishloach Manot* Project!

Stephanie Buckberg and Ethel Levine

We'd like to thank the community for their robust participation in our latest *Purim* adventure.

This year, we managed to get 45% participation, thanks to you. (Can you imagine if we got even more?) In the end, we had less than 15 *Mischloach Manot* unclaimed packages, which is much better than ever! Have no fear...the left -over contents were quickly reabsorbed into the *shul*. The *hamantaschen* were gleefully swept-up by folks at the Sunday Morning Cafe, happy that their much-loved poppy seed and chocolate-dipped cherry delicacies were not lost to them for the season. The rest of the contents will be happily used in the kitchen, and you'll probably be seeing them on the dessert tables at future *kiddushim*. Chocolate is always be welcomed, right?

This year, we netted over $11,000, which is astounding because our Purim packages were so elegantly attired as we begin to usher in Shaare Tefila's 75th anniversary. We were certainly reinforced by community members' kind comments noting how lovely the bags were this year! It's always so kind that people take the time to thank us, noting how much time and effort is put into this creative project!

So, as we get ready to look for errant *chametz* in our homes, and search for the "elusive" *afikomen*, we wish you all a joyous and *zissen Pesach*, filled with wonderful family gatherings, or groupings of friends and the welcoming of those whom you have welcomed into your dining rooms.

Again, many thanks to those who helped make this project so successful. Without your enthusiasm and encouragement, this operation would certainly have gone far less smoothly!

With hopes for a memorable *Yom Tov*.

Chavaya Prep for Passover Project & Chocolate *Seder*

Celebrity Birthdays

April 3: George Albert Jessel (1898 - 1981)

George Albert Jessel was a multi-talented comedic entertainer who achieved a level of recognition that transcended his limited roles in movies. He was born in New York City on April 3, 1898, the son of Joseph Jessel, a playwright, and Charlotte Schwartz. As a child he sang at his grandfather's lodge meetings, and when his father became ill he left school to sing on the streets for money. His first professional work (1909) was as one of the members of the Imperial Trio who provided singing accompaniment to silent films in a Nickelodeon.

In 1910 Jessel became a part of Gus Edwards' "Boys and Girls," a popular vaudeville touring show. He left Edwards in 1914 to form his own act with Lou Edwards, "Two Patches from a Crazy Quilt." This act took him to London, where he toured for several years and also appeared at the prestigious Victoria Palace. Upon his return to the United States in 1919 he appeared in Gaieties and then wrote, produced, and acted in The Troubles of 1920. The success of this production led him to do a sequel, The Troubles of 1921, which included his popular songs "Oh How I Laugh When I Think How I Cried About You" and "I'm Satisfied to be My Mother's Baby."

In 1922 Jessel wrote and produced a solo act called George Jessel's Troubles. This show introduced the beginnings of what was to be his acting trademark - conversations with his "mother." His classic monologue routine started with Jessel talking on the phone to his mother, assuring her that he knew nothing about the missing money or the cookies missing from the house. In Passing Show of 1923 the act was expanded to include a mother on the stage, replying as he tried to make up excuses. Jessel continued to develop this role over the years, which became known as "Hello Mama." The act exemplified George Jessel's style - light banter with a sentimental twist and ethnic Jewish humor.

In 1925 Jessel landed the part of Jack Robin in The Jazz Singer. It became his most popular theater role, which he performed over 1,000 times. It tells the story of a rabbi's son who yearns for the stage yet gives up his career to return home to his family. Jessel was praised for his poignancy in the role. The play became more famous for its film adaptation with Al Jolson in the leading role. According to Jessel, he passed up the opportunity to star in the film because the ending was changed - the performer did not return to his home in the movie, he remained on the stage.

In 1928 he played the part of Eddie Rosen in War Song, the story of a Jewish song writer who ends up on the front lines in World War I, and appeared in many other films in the decades that followed; Lucky Boy, Love, Live and Laugh, Ginsburg the Great, and Happy Days. Modern audiences may know him best for his appearance in the 1967 film Valley of the Dolls.

He was also a radio show host of George Jessel's Celebrity Program (1940) and The George Jessel Show (1958) and two television shows, George Jessel's Show Business and Here Come the Stars.

In 1965, after a long absence from the stage, Jessel returned to tour in cabaret shows with Sophie Tucker and Ted Lewis. He spent a good deal of the 1960s entertaining the troops in Vietnam, which he also did in 1972 and 1973 at bases in England and Germany. In 1972 he gave a solo performance at Carnegie Hall to packed houses and in 1975 the multi-talented man did a U.S. tour of That Wonderful World of Vaudeville.

George Jessel was named "Toastmaster General of the United States" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his over 300 after-dinner speeches in support of political, humanist, and social causes. A fervent supporter of Jewish and Israeli causes, he was the vice president of the Jewish Theater Guild and received the Man of the Year Award of the Beverley Hills B'nai Brith in 1975. He also was made honorary member of the U.S. Air Force in 1952 and received the 1969 Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Pictures of Arts and Sciences.

George Jessel had four wives and one daughter, Jerilyn, from his third marriage. He died of a heart attack on May 23, 1981, shortly after appearing in the award-winning film Reds (1981). For his contribution to the motion picture industry, Jessel has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Sources: Wikipedia, Answers.com

Continued on page 16

MAZAL TOV MILESTONES

APRIL

Anniversary Celebrations

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

Birthday Celebrations

4/1 Deanna Alpher
4/1 Allegria Gelfand
4/1 Wesley Glass
4/2 Bryan Goodman
4/2 David Sandler
4/3 Jacob Druxman
4/3 George Albert Jessel, z"l
4/3 Joyce Torchinsky
4/4 Daniel Akman
4/5 Lisa Hedgepeth
4/5 Lenore Layman
4/5 Daniel Norken
4/7 David Weinstein
4/8 Katarina Friedman
4/8 Joseph Kraut
4/9 Paul Tilles
4/11 Seth Cohen
4/11 Rose Luria Halprin, z"l
4/11 Richard Leshin
4/12 Bonnie Prissman
4/12 Natalie Vincent
4/13 Genevieve Jones
4/13 Marlene Sandberg
4/14 Diane Kieval
4/15 Wendy Abraham
4/15 Micah Katz-DuBois
4/15 Eli Winkler
4/16 Ellen King
4/17 Rhea Siers
4/18 Richard Greenberg
4/18 Jay Hagler
4/18 Thomas Jackson
4/18 Gordon Novinsky
4/19 Betty Balin
4/19 Iris Bloom
4/20 Maxwell Brooks
4/21 Jessica Hamlin
4/21 Dina Schmidt
4/22 Laurie Dubrow
4/22 Julie Ellis
4/22 Aaron Gershowitz
4/22 Steven Gershowitz
4/22 Ethan Mendick
4/22 Mira Mendick
4/22 Elaine Schenberg
4/23 Lois Freedman
4/23 Ethan James
4/23 Zach Levitt
4/23 Steven Ross
4/24 Jeffrey Katz
4/24 Gary Morgenstern
4/24 Andrew Resnick
4/27 Elijah Goodman
4/28 Alan Burnstine
4/28 Judith Kirsch
4/28 Daniel Ronis
4/30 Mike Goldman

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY (CONTINUED)

April 11: Rose (Luria) Halprin (1896 - 1978)

Rose Luria Halprin was one of the foremost American Zionist leaders of the twentieth century, serving twice as the national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and holding key posts within the Jewish Agency at critical periods in the history of the *Yishuv* and the subsequent State of Israel. Born on April 11, 1896, in New York, Rose was the daughter of Pesach (Philip) Luria, a dealer in silverware, and Rebecca (Isaacson) Luria. Her parents were ardent Zionists and gave her a Hebrew education. Even as a young girl, she was active in Zionist causes, serving as the leader of the Stars of Zion, a youth division of the Austro-Hungarian Zionist Society. When the society nearly lost its meeting rooms on the Lower East Side because of a lack of funds, Halprin and two friends staged a benefit concert that raised the money to pay the rent. In her later Zionist activities, she would often be called upon to muster vital resources in times of crisis and need.

She completed a course of study at the Teachers Training School of the Jewish Theological Seminary between 1912 and 1913, attended Hunter College briefly in 1914, and later took classes at Columbia University from 1929 to 1931. In 1914, she married Samuel W. Halprin, a businessman, and the couple and their two children made their home in Brooklyn.

From 1932 to 1934, Halprin served as national president of Hadassah. At the end of her term, she moved to Jerusalem with her family while serving as a liaison to the Hadassah Medical Organization during the construction of its new hospital complex on Mount Scopus. She was present at the hospital's opening in 1939.

Halprin's Jerusalem years made a deep impression on her. She perfected her Hebrew and came to know the people of the *Yishuv*. Her time in there also coincided with a wave of anti-Jewish rioting by Arabs in Hebron and other areas. She helped provide relief for Jewish settlers who came to Jerusalem from outlying areas to escape the violence. It was also a period of increased emigration from Germany. Halprin became acquainted with Henrietta Szold, Hadassah's founder, and assisted her in her work on behalf of Youth *Aliyah.* She traveled to Berlin in 1935 and 1938 on Youth *Aliyah* missions.

Halprin returned to the United States in 1938 on a speaking tour, reporting to Americans on the conditions of Jewish life in Palestine. Despite the tensions between Jews and Arabs, she argued that cooperation between the groups was vital and would help to rid economic problems. Halprin blamed the British mandatory government for the Arab riots, citing its failure to live up to promises made in the Balfour Declaration, and for alternately favoring Arab and Jewish interests according to political expediency.

Halprin returned permanently to the United States in 1939, but her experience in Palestine led to her involvement in international Zionist affairs. From 1939 to 1946, she was a member of the Zionist General Council, the supreme advisory and supervising institution of the Zionist movement. In 1942, she became treasurer of the American Zionist Emergency Council and served as its vice-chair from 1945 to 1947. She was one of the original members of the secretariat of the American Jewish Conference, which was founded in 1943 to coordinate American efforts on behalf of Palestine. In 1946, she was elected to the executive of the Jewish Agency, a post she held for over twenty years.

She faced her most dramatic leadership challenges, however, during her second term as Hadassah president between 1947 and 1952. A tremendous blow came to Hadassah's efforts in Palestine when more than seventy-five doctors, nurses, and students were killed in an ambush as their convoy passed through the Arab neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The attack underscored the hospital's vulnerable position surrounded by Arab-held territory, and the complex was evacuated. Under Halprin's leadership, five temporary facilities were set up in Jerusalem to deal with the urgent medical needs resulting from the War of Independence. The Medical Organization continued to grow during her presidency, with the establishment of the Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School in 1949, and the breaking of ground for a new permanent Hadassah Hospital at Ein Karem in 1952.

In addition to her involvement with Hadassah, Halprin played a pivotal role during the struggle for Israel's independence as a member of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, which was charged with arguing for the establishment of the State of Israel before the United Nations. She participated in negotiations that led to the acceptance of the Partition Plan in 1947. Later, when fear of bloodshed caused the United States to recommend a delay of statehood and a temporary "trusteeship" over Palestine, Halprin was one of four members of the Zionist General Council who brought word from Jerusalem that Jewish officials were determined to bring the new state into existence as planned. After independence, she continued to serve on the Jewish Agency executive and was asked by Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan to head an international effort to raise the funds necessary for Israel to absorb the streams of new immigrants entering the country.

In her work for the Jewish Agency and its parent body, the Zionist General Council, Halprin always stressed the mutual reliance of Israel and American Jewry. She saw the State of Israel as embodying American ideals of justice and equality, while serving as a source of spiritual and cultural renewal for American Jews. Halprin insisted on an involvement for American Jews in Israel that went beyond philanthropy and demanded recognition for such a role from the Israelis. As she admonished the Zionist General Council in 1953, "As long as you look on America only as a potential something or other for Israel, you will not help us, and if you do not help us, you will lose Jewish life in its strength and its numbers."

Known for her wit and public-speaking skills, she was at home in the often-fierce world of Zionist politics. In her later years, an incident that drew strong comment from Halprin was the United Nations 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism. Although a seasoned international negotiator, she instructed Hadassah members that the most appropriate response was not to protest through diplomatic channels, but to articulate their own definition of Zionism more forcefully through the work they did. Her strong personal qualities and organizational abilities made her perhaps the most revered Hadassah leader since Henrietta Szold.

Rose Luria Halprin died on January 8, 1978.

Source: http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/halprin-rose-luria; ROSELURIAHALPRIN 1896 – 1978 by Eric L. Goldstein

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;
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?

April 2026 *Kiddush* Kitchen Volunteer Schedule

DATE **APRIL 4**
Kitchen Captain **Marlene Sandberg**
Volunteers
Sandy & Joel Friedman
Anita & Leon Green
Stephanie Green
Sharon & Dennis Kaye
Shelley & Mark Levitt
Florence & David Polinsky
Lew & Lynn Weinstein

DATE **APRIL 11**
***Bar Mitzvah* of Hirsch Ratz; sponsorship by the family**
Kitchen Captain **Karen Sussman**
Volunteers
Bryan & Laurin Goodman
Nina Gurman
Annie & Daniel Hirsch
Ilene & Gary Mizrachi
Myron Sagall
Jackie Samuel
Jane & Stewart Saphier
Debbie & Jesse Stiller

DATE **APRIL 18**
Kitchen Captain **Jackie Benn**
Volunteers
Sharon & David Appel
Sharon Bender & Andrew Feldmann
Sara Elson
Bobbie Goldman
Diane & Gershon Kieval
Judy Bresler
Fran Weiss
Ben & Elissa Wolf

DATE **APRIL 25**
***Bar Mitzvah* of Jacob Druxman; sponsorship by the family**
Junior Congregation
Kitchen Captain **Shelley Rochester**
Volunteers
Christie & Morris Berman
Ben & Ashley Doyle
Amy & Joe Federman
Stephanie & Adam Krantz
Alan & Arlene Heine
Abigail & William Mauldin
Margo & Ed Porter
Burt & Relinde Zimmerman

Contributions

Thank you to our many donors

(*From Feb. 26 - Mar. 25, 2026 but may not include recent contributions sent via regular mail*)

ANDREA Z. TILLES MEMORIAL *CHESED* FUND

Contributions In Memory Of:

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Stephanie & Perry Buckberg

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Stephanie & Perry Buckberg

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Sylvia Eiserike, mother of Steven Eiserike, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Barbara Fink

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Adam & Rachel Glaser

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Julian Leidman

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Ethel & Ira Levine

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine. May her memory be a blessing. By Charlotte Potosky

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman. Sending heartfelt condolences. May her memory be a blessing. By the Potosky family: Charlotte, Irene, Joe, and Elisa

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Brad & Joy Salzman

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Benjamin & Elissa Wolf

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Benjamin & Elissa Wolf

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Bess Teller; Wishing *refuah sh'lema*, by Steven & Margie Eiserike

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Karyn Gross, for putting a wonderful Meal Train together for me! By Bess Teller

BUILDING FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

David & Lee-Ellen Ronis - congrats on your retirement! By Bess & Jack Teller

GENERAL FUND

Contributions In Honor Of:

Arnold Hagler & Frances Hagler, father & mother, respectively, of Jay Hagler, by Jay & Rita Hagler

Mazel Tov to Rhea Siers & Joel Kraut on your newest grandson! By Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions In Memory Of:

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Ellie Alpert

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Bob & Helene Braun

Norman Coffee, father of Louis Coffee, by Louis Coffee

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Sherry & Saul Cohen

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Sherry & Saul Cohen

M. Sidney Silberman, father of Anne Silberman Golfer, by Anne Silberman Golfer

Steve Barkin, father of Stephanie Krantz, by Hyman & Cilla Grosberg

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Hyman & Cilla Grosberg

Rose Friedman, mother of Ruth Kaufman, by Ruth Kaufman

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Debbie Leibowitz

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Michael & Suzanne Scheiner

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Elissa R. Weisblatt

Lottie Heimowitz, mother of Dr. Howard Heimowitz, by David & Florence Polinsky

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by David & Florence Polinsky

Lillian Schneider, aunt of David Polinsky, by Florence & David Polinsky

Bella Polinsky Dinitz, grandmother of David Polinsky, by Florence & David Polinsky

Alexander Weisberg, father of Florence Polinsky, by Florence & David Polinsky

Gerald Proger, husband of Sylvia Proger, by Sylvia Proger

Alan Ross, husband of Elaine Ross, by Elaine Ross

Frances Ranofsky, mother of Jane Saphier, by Jane & Stuart Saphier

GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)

Contributions In Memory Of:

Sophie Shuman, mother-in-law of Anne Shuman, by Anne Shuman

Sheila Steiglitz, mother of Stacy Levine, by Bess & Jack Teller

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Sam Yedlin, by Bess & Jack Teller

Rhea Siers, by Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Friendship, warm welcome and a delightful & inspiring Women's *Seder*, by Dee Jolles and Toby Schulman

Steven Franklin, for returning Jack's wallet that you found in a shopping cart! By Bess & Jack Teller

HAROLD FINK ISRAEL QUEST FUND:

Contributions In Memory Of:

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Barbara Fink

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contributions In Memory Of:

Dorothy Deresh, mother of Susan Goldsamt, by Susan & Milton Goldsamt

Michael Deresh, father of Susan Goldsamt, by Susan & Milton Goldsamt

Linda Torchinsky Katz, sister of Marilyn Politzer, Sally Schtevie, Joyce Torchinsky, David Torchinsky, Annette Torchinsky and Jay Torchinsky and sister-in-law of Elliott Prissman, by Ruth Gutstein

Steve Barkin, father of Stephanie Krantz, and with thanks to Rabbi Layman for conducting the funeral service, by Stephanie Baskin Krantz & Adam Krantz

Contributions Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Laurin Goodman, by Bess & Jack Teller

Contributions – With Thanks/In Appreciation For:

Rabbi Layman, for helping me, by Hilary Barbosa

Rabbi Layman, by Max Bronstein

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

16620 GEORGIA AVE. OLNEY, MD 20832

301-593-3410

WWW.SHAARETEFILA.ORG

Affiliated With The United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism

Rabbi Jonah Layman
RJLayman@ShaareTefila.org
301-593-3410 X 102

Hazzan
Adina Klein Ackerman
CAAckerman@ShareTefila.org

President
Jeffrey Weiss
President@ShaareTefila.org

Executive Director
Jerry Kiewe
JKiewe@ShaareTefila.org
301-593-3410 X 101

Director of Education & Programming
Babette Cohn
BCohn@ShaareTefila.org
301-593-3410 X 106