Lessons From Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4, 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Though I was only 6 years old at the time, I still remember where I was sitting when I was watching the evening news with my family and seeing the report of his death. His death marked a turning point in the history of activism in the African American community, and his life still serves to motivate and inspire faith and dreams of a time when all people will be treated equally.

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech spoken from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in August of 1963 is considered one of the best sermons ever given. It is filled with passion, energy and hope. His use of biblical imagery and shaping that image in his dreams for his own children is brilliant in its profound simplicity. His dream that his “four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character” is tragically still a dream today. Though our society has made great strides in racial equality, there is still a long way to go.

As we prepare to observe MLK Day on January 15, we must be ever vigilant in our efforts to seek racial equality and justice. In an age when the President of the United States condones bigotry and racism, when the President seeks to ban immigration from Muslim countries under the guise of security and blamed “both sides” for the violence in Charlottesville last August, it is much more difficult to protest and act. But act we must. We must continue to write to our elected officials and continue to support them in their efforts to legislate for equality. We must continue to educate ourselves about the root causes of such racism and hatred and seek ways in which we can partner with other institutions to break down barriers and build up love and harmony.

On December 17, with thanks to the efforts of Lisa Hedgepeth and our Social Action committee, we hosted a session facilitated by Jews United for Justice with our Maryland District 14 elected representatives. We hope to continue to build on the success of that program and provide other opportunities for raising awareness. As MLK Day approaches we pray that his dream will one day soon become reality.

With Blessings
Sometimes you just have to take matters into your own hands.

Almost 2200 years ago, Judah Maccabee led a group of Jewish fighters to liberate the Temple in Jerusalem. As we all know, the rededication of the Temple led to the festival of lights that we recall during Chanukah. It’s a joyous time for us. A time to celebrate God’s miracles.

In Jerusalem, the Temple was desecrated by the Hellenists and Jews were forbidden from practicing their religion. But rather than sink into passivity and despair, Judah, his father Mattathias, and brothers Jonathan and Simon fought back. They didn’t wait for the divine intervention that freed Jews from bondage in Egypt. Nor did they implore a third party to intercede as was done by Esther to King Ahasuerus in order to nullify Haman’s decree to kill the Jews in Persia almost 2500 years ago. Rather, the Maccabees organized, planned and used the power of their group to defend and liberate themselves.

From the distance of time and miles it can be too easy to judge the action, or inaction, of our ancestors. We are not in their shoes and would be wrong to say exactly what we would do in the same situation. Perhaps we can project what actions we might take, but until we are in the same circumstance, it is impossible to say with certainty.

But what is clear to me is that passivity does not lead to freedom and liberty. To be passive is to invite oppression. Freedom is not a spectator sport – we need to get off the sidelines and advocate for ourselves.

To me, that means pushing back on anti-Semites and their hateful speech and actions. It means organizing as a community and finding our strength from one another.

To be fair, there is a school of thought, espoused by Christian Piccoli, co-founder of the advocacy organization, Life After Hate, that most people who join hate groups do so from a sense of alienation and the desire to belong somewhere. Members are not necessarily evil and, with time, counseling and understanding can be dissuaded. Piccoli states that these groups thrive on being attacked since that validates their point of view that they are the ones endangered by a pluralistic society. Love, patience and empathy is the answer to fighting hatred.

So this is the dilemma: how best to gauge our response to hate as individuals and as a community. I invite you to consider this and join us as we formulate our answer.

December is often a very busy month; filled with Chanukah family and community celebrations and programs, vacations and preparations toward the new calendar year.

Now that January has arrived we have the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to look forward to our plans for the upcoming year. This is the time of year for setting goals and resolutions. An important goal to work toward is showing respect toward others. Derech eretz, speaking, acting and listening to others in a respectful way, with good manners, with a good attitude, is a Jewish value.

We have the opportunity to model derech eretz every day, not just at the beginning of the year. We can model respectful and peaceful interactions and strengthen our community by remembering to focus on respect and derech eretz.

In a few weeks, we will observe Martin Luther King Day. This day is an opportunity for all ages to engage in derech eretz in the community. Martin Luther King lives on as a model, of an individual who acted and spoke out for what he believed was just- even when it wasn’t easy!

All ages can look toward the friendship between Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the leading Jewish theologians and Jewish philosophers of the 20th century, who stood beside and marched with Martin Luther King, as an example of a Jewish leader taking action to support a just cause, again, when it was not easy.

I encourage you to take some time this month to think about a role model who displayed derech eretz, who pursued justice, and also how you personally can demonstrate derech eretz and stand up for justice.

We have special events planned throughout the upcoming months. There are plenty of ways to get involved, enjoy together, and spread light throughout the community year-round!

On January 6th, all 6th-8th graders are invited to join Jewish middle-schoolers from all over the DC/MD/VA area for a night of fun! There will be inflatables, laser tag, arts and crafts, snacks, video games and more at Kadima Saturday Night Live!

On January 7th, all 6th-12th graders are invited to A Wider Circle in Silver Spring. Tour the facility and learn about the services they offer. We will volunteer on different projects and discuss how Judaism informed our work. Register via Chaverweb or contact the office.

If you enjoyed welcoming in the new week with your Shaare Tefila community with fun, friends and ruach, spirit, then save the date for the next Havdalah Experience on January 20! Learn about Israeli music, culture and movement through Israeli dance. No prior dance knowledge necessary. I will be leading fun, family-oriented Israeli dance for all levels.

More details on upcoming youth events on page 5. Feel free to contact me with any questions.
Shaare Tefila invites you to
"Night of Sweet Laughter 7" Comedy Night FUNdraiser
Saturday, February 3

Doors Open at 7:30 pm, Show at 8:00 pm
Tickets $35 by February 1st, $40 at door

Reserve now for the most popular event of the year!

Wine & Beer Cash Bar and
Dairy Refreshments after Show
Reserve a table of 12, get a complimentary
fruit and cheese plate for your table!

Headline Comic: Louis Ramey
Louis Ramey has been a finalist on NBC’s Last Comic Standing, he’s had two Comedy Central specials, and has been featured on TV’s Gotham Live, NBC’s The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, ABC Daytime’s The View and NBC’s Last Call with Carson Daly among many other television appearances in the U.S., Canada and abroad. http://www.louisramey.com/

Featured Comedian: Mark Matusof
The press describes Mark Matusof as “funny without being vulgar or nasty” and "going the smarter, hipper direction to the joke". He has appeared on "Night Shift", CNBC’s America’s Talking Network, XM Satellite Radio, the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom" radio show, and as the opening act for CBS’s David Copperfield special. http://matusof.com/index.html

Featured Comic and Shaare Tefila member, Jeffrey Hysen
Jeff Hysen takes everyday situations and turns them into comedy that audiences love and we are thrilled to have him return for his 7th year at “Shaare Tefila Night of Sweet Laughter 7” Comedy Night. http://www.jeefhysencomedy.com/

Reserve your seats on ChaverWeb or by contacting Sara at 301-593-3410 X104
or smiller@shaaretefila.org.

If you are sitting at a particular table, note that in your seating request.

16620 Georgia Ave, Olney, MD 20832 - (301) 593 - 3410 - www.shaaretefila.org - facebook.com/ShaareTefila
Shaare Tefila

Is pleased to announce our

Beautiful New

Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque System

will be installed this Winter in the Grosberg Baumgart Chapel.

- Haven’t purchased a plaque for your loved one(s)?
- Already purchased a plaque at Shaare Tefila?

Order now before the price increase.
Current member price: $400/plaque
Member price starting 3/1/18: $500/plaque

- Want to take home the original brass plaque?
  We will have them available soon.

Shaare Tefila

Yahrzeit Memorial Wall and Kiosk Order Form

Ordered by: ____________________________________________

CLEARLY PRINT the information requested below.

RELATIONSHIP TO PURCHASER ________________________________

ENGLISH NAME OF DECEASED ________________________________

HEBREW NAME OF DECEASED ___________ben/bat______________ (Hebrew name of father and mother)

ENGLISH DATE OF BIRTH ________________________________

ENGLISH DATE OF DEATH ________________________________ Day? Night?

HEBREW DATE OF DEATH ________________________________

CITY, STATE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH (Optional) ________________________________

Please send this form and a check payable to Shaare Tefila in the amount of:

___$400 member rate

___$600 non-member rate

to: Shaare Tefila * 16620 Georgia Avenue * Olney, MD 20832

You can also email a .jpg photo and up to 200 words about the deceased to:

info@shaaretefila.org. The photo and words will be put into the Yahrzeit Kiosk to enrich his/her memory.
Upcoming Shaare Tefila Youth & Family Events

Kadima Saturday Night Live!
When: Saturday, January 6; 7:30-10:00 PM
Where: Congregation Beth El; 8215 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD
Cost: Last year: $20 in advance, $25 at the door; will be similar, but TBA
Who: 6-8th Grades
Join over 200 6th-8th graders for the biggest Kadima event of the year! Inflatables, laser tag, ice cream sundae bar, and more! $20 if you register in advance, $25 at the door. Email Missy with questions.

Teens at a Wider Circle
When: Sunday, January 7; 1:00-3:00 PM
Where: A Wider Circle, 9159 Brookville Rd, Silver Spring, MD
Who: 6th-12th graders
Tour the facility & learn about the services they offer. We will volunteer on different projects & end discussing how Judaism informed our work. Register via Chaverweb or contact Missy. You will get 2 SSL hours for this event.

Havdalah Experience at Shaare Tefila!
When: Saturday, January 20; 6:45-8:15PM
Where: Shaare Tefila  Cost: Free;
Who: For families and friends— all are welcome!
Learn about music, culture, and movement through Israeli dance. No prior dance knowledge necessary— Missy Mandell will be leading fun, family-oriented Israeli dance for all levels. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP via Chaverweb by 1/16.

Tu B’Shevat Katan
When: Sunday, February 4; 12:30-2:00 PM
Where: Shaare Tefila
Cost: $5 covers program supplies  Who: K-5th grades
Bring a parve or dairy lunch & meet in the Winer Family Gallery; activity will start at 12:30pm. Enjoy an afternoon of crafting & learning about nature to celebrate Tu B’shevat. Make your own terrarium to bring home! RSVP via Chaverweb by 1/31 to guarantee supplies.

For more information or questions, email Missy Mandell, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator, at Mmandell@Shaaretefila.org.
We had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Chanukah as a community together with BSO. Thank you to the Gates of Discovery: Rose and George Teller Preschool and Chavaya Religious School for their support and to George and Marilyn Kessler for their generous donation that made this wonderful program possible.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Snapshots from our adult trip to A Wider Circle, an organization that helps combat poverty through donations and other sources. Our group helped sort all of the donations delivered on December 10!

In case you missed it, here are just a few of the amazing pictures from our Chanukah photo booth on December 10th!
The Shofar

NEWS FROM THE WINER FAMILY GALLERY

CONTRIBUTOR: FRAN ABRAMS

Beginning Tuesday, January 2, the Winer Family Gallery presents **Singular Expressions**, an exhibit of monotype prints — original, one-of-a-kind pieces, created by artist **Patricia Affens** who lives in Olney.

Affens began her art career after working as an Information Technology Specialist for 31 years with Montgomery County Government. Her artistic journey started with silversmithing, jewelry making and fused glass art. She then discovered abstract painting and monotype printmaking, art forms that allow her to express herself without restrictions.

A blank canvas or piece of paper begins an exploration. A monotype print is made by drawing, painting and/or rolling oil-based etching ink or watercolor onto an acrylic, glass or smooth metal plate. The application of the ink creates a design that is then transferred onto paper using a printing press. This produces a one-of-a-kind print. Often this results in a surprise because the design is altered when the paper is pressed into the ink. A print with multiple layers can be created by adding or subtracting from the original plate and rerunning the print. Or a single-layer “ghost” can be created by taking the leftover ink from the plate and running it through the press again resulting in a completely different piece than the original print.

Patricia exhibits locally and has been juried into shows at the Mansion at Strathmore in North Bethesda; Glen Echo’s Yellow Barn; and Capital Arts Network (now Artists and Makers) in Rockville. She has shown her work at The Writer’s Center and Gallery B in Bethesda, and Congregation Har Shalom, Potomac; Regina Palace, Maiori, Italy; Pyramid Atlantic, Silver Spring; and Oasis Organization, Bethesda.

For more information about the artist, visit www.patriciaaffens.com.

All artwork is for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits Shaare Tefila.

**Singular Expressions** continues through February 26, 2018.

Shaare Tefila's GAN KATAN!

CONTRIBUTOR: MARA LANSKY

**BEING THANKFUL GAN KATAN STYLE**

In November, the Gan Katan kids showed an “Attitude of Gratitude” from singing Modeh Ani, to learning how to sign “Thank You,” to sharing a book about being thankful for every part of our lives.

**GAN KATAN WAS IN THE CHANUKAH SPIRIT IN DECEMBER.**

We even hosted a photo booth for the whole congregation to use!

If you have a little one to bring, feel free to email drgmrs@aol.com.

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**Photo Booth Fun**

**Dreidels That Sing**

**Lighting Lights**

**Join us at our next FREE Jewish Preschool Pre-Chavaya playgroup on January 21, 2018!**

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**Stone Harbor**

**Eruption**
I hope everyone had a wonderful Chanukah and New Year!

**Big News!**

The biggest news is not a Sisterhood thing but a Shaare Tefila thing!

For Thanksgiving, we were able to deliver 40 food baskets and for Christmas another 40!!! This was our best year ever and I cannot thank everyone enough who donated or made his/her own baskets. I also love the wonderful relationship Shaare Tefila has with St. Peter’s Church; this project has brought our two congregations much closer together.

**Scrip**

What is Scrip. Simply put it is a fund raiser that is managed by Sisterhood. The money raised is donated back to Shaare Tefila. We buy gift cards (mostly for local grocery stores) at a discount and sell them at face value, the difference goes to Shaare Tefila. Sisterhood recently gave a check for $3000 to Shaare Tefila!

**Judy Beiser**, our wonderful coordinator, has found a program which expands scrip beyond Giant and Shalom. Some of the stores offer larger discounts than the grocery stores which amounts to more money for Shaare Tefila. The only catch is that we don’t carry inventory on the cards like we do for the grocery stores. Examples of stores include Starbucks, Bed, Bath and Beyond, CVS, Lowes and hundreds more!!! Please contact **Judy Beiser** for more information. She can order the gift cards and have them in a week. They make great gifts and they help our synagogue.

**The College Moms Program is going strong this year.**

What is the College Moms Program? Amy Schwartz sends care packages to undergraduate and graduate students approximately four times a year, in association with the Jewish holidays. Each package contains an item related to the holiday/theme, a note of encouragement written by Rabbi Layman, and of course, snacks and candies!

Who can sign up? Any member of Shaare Tefila can register a student (think beyond your own and include grandchildren, nieces and nephews and any special student in your life) by sending their name and address to collegemoms@shaaretefila.org.

What is the cost? The College Moms Program is free for Sisterhood members and their children. The annual cost for any other relationship is prorated for the rest of the year to $9.00 and will include packages for Purim and Pesach.

Amy is awaiting your student addition!!

**Kiddushim**

**Charlotte Potosky** has decided to retire from kitchen service as a Kiddush captain. The Sisterhood wants to thank Charlotte for her many, many years of service! We will be honoring Charlotte at a later date so keep your eyes open for more information.

We are pleased to welcome back **Elaine Silver** as Kiddush captain.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Enhanced Kiddush - a monthly program.

**Kiddush Captains for January!**

We can only provide the wonderful kiddushim because of our volunteer staff. We are in the process of updating our list of volunteers so please check back for more information on how to access the 2018 list.

Please click on the link below to see when you are scheduled to volunteer in the kitchen.

https://sites.google.com/view/kitchen-volunteer-schedule/home

**Sisterhood Happenings!**

**January**

- 9th Board Meeting
- 20th Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle Group

Discussion will weave connections between the holiday of Tu B’shevat and the spiritual gifts of this time in the Jewish calendar.

Please remember to purchase scrip!
CATERING COMMITTEE
Contributor:
Ethel Levine

KITCHEN/KIDDUSH VOLUNTEERING

The Shaare Tefila Catering Committee, Fran Kensky and Ethel Levine, with assistance from Jill Goldwater, has come up with an initial list of kitchen volunteers serving through September 29, 2018.

Twenty two teams have been created; some are composed of Chavurot members and some, of the parents of the 2018 Bnai Mitzvah. A few teams have been asked to volunteer in the kitchen more than once. The families with youngsters in the bar/bat mitzvah category, are scheduled to help with kiddush three times during the year. Please see this as an opportunity to become familiar with our kitchen practices. You will then know what to expect when your simcha rolls around.

Each week there is a skilled KITCHEN CAPTAIN to organize and guide the group.

- If you are unable to "work" your week, please, find a replacement and then notify your team’s Kitchen Captain and Sara Miller, in the shul office, of the changes.

How will you know when you have been assigned to Kiddush duty?

- There are posters in the main lobby of the synagogue listing the various teams and the dates of their assignment.
- At the bottom of each List Serve message from the synagogue, Ira Levine includes the list.
- If you belong to a Chavurah, check with your friends when your group will be working in the kitchen.
- Sara Miller sends an e-mail to the team members a week or two prior to an assigned date.
- Barbara Harkaway calls the team members during the week of that team’s scheduled kiddush duty.

We send a huge shout out to all who have helped make this program successful. Our thanks in advance to all the new participants. With your help we will continue to enjoy a nice kiddush following services each week and on holidays. Through volunteers’ hard work, we have managed to make this project companionable for the participants and have saved money on catering costs. Remember that we need YOUR HELP to continue to make this a continuously successful weekly endeavor for our synagogue!

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Contributor:
Lisa Hedgepeth

The Social Action Committee partnered with Jews United for Justice and hosted our first event on December 17. We were briefed on a variety of issues that the organization is actively involved in, including the minimum wage, bail reform, paid sick leave, rent court, immigration, DACA and the rise in anti-Semitism, racism, etc.

During the second hour, we were joined by all of the legislators from District 14—Delegates Ann Kaiser, Eric Leutke, Pam Queen and Senator Craig Zucker. It was a thorough and informative discussion with approximately 30 participants in attendance.

KIDDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

The next Enhanced Kiddush and Birthday Kiddush will be on January 20.

Share your simchas with fellow congregants. Send Sara, in the office, your checks and dedications. It is just a minimum of $18 to be included.

BIAS TRAINING WITH ADL - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Shaare Tefila's Social Action Committee will be partnering with Round Oak Baptist Church to participate in a one day "bias training" presented by the Anti-Defamation League. This training is part of their World of Difference Program that has been presenting since 1985. Details will follow. There will be a cap on the number of participants for this event which will be held at Shaare Tefila.
As I mentioned in an earlier edition of the Shofar, this year our theme is Journeying Through Stories. In the next few posts in the Shofar, I will describe where this concept is taking us in some of our classrooms.

In researching the idea of “journeying through stories,” we identified several concepts that are inherent to its identity. When thinking of storytelling, the first thought is often of narrative, of sharing a tale from a piece of prose or poetry. But storytelling is more complex. Cultures often rely on stories passed down between generations to preserve traditions. The emphasis of traditional storytelling is as much on the telling as the story itself. Stories are recreated by the teller at each telling and passed on through generations.

When children come to the classroom and tell their stories to each other and are heard, magic happens. Children bond. Barriers dissolve. Connections are made. Trust increases. Knowledge is transmitted. Wisdom is shared. A common language is birthed. And a deep sense of interdependence is felt. That’s why, in days of old, our ancestors stood around the fire and shared their stories with each other. Survival depended on it, and so did the emotional well-being of the tribe.

People of different ages, backgrounds and cultures can communicate through storytelling. When thinking of the unique connection between storytelling and culture, we must first look at the elements that define culture. Culture can be defined as shared pattern of behaviors and interactions. It is the shared knowledge and schemes created by a set of people for perceiving, interpreting, expressing and responding to the social realities around them. Families have traditions from their cultural heritage. Classrooms, too, have a culture that develops and influences behavior. The children in the Bumblebee Class were observed sharing their family cultures and traditions with each other. The intersection of family and classroom culture was an intriguing space to us. One venue for researching this junction is the welcome in the morning when families arrive.

We spent several weeks observing the welcoming procedures between parents, children and teachers. We noted different rituals and routines. It is a time of great and varied emotion. One commonality among all the children was a goodbye hug from their parents and this eventually became our focus. We have begun exploring this moment with the children and they are currently representing their hugs in clay, paint, wire and other materials. While they create, they talk about their hugs and we learn more about their thoughts and feelings. These conversations will shape where we go next.

January will be filled with learning and activity at Chavaya. The month begins with an interactive Havdallah workshop. We are thrilled that Rabbi Levi Raskin of JCrafts returns to Shaare Tefila with another outstanding program for our students. The workshop begins with a discussion of the history of this unique tradition and the timeless messages behind each of the ceremonial objects of Havdallah. Following that is a crash course on making candles where our students will make braided candles to take home. Students from many local synagogues enjoy participating in Jcraft workshops, and we are excited that our students have the opportunity as well.

Later in the month we are hosting two programs from the AWARE series at The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA). We applied for and received a cluster grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to bring these important programs to our school. We join with Tikvat Israel’s Religious School, Atid, for this endeavor. We will have two sessions – one for middle schoolers called #healthyfriendships and one geared for high school students which is called It’s Not Love. These programs create open dialogues with middle schoolers and teens and their parents to create and support healthy relationships now and in the future. Since 2009, JCADA has presented these workshops to over 8,500 students, educators and parents in congregations, youth groups, high schools, colleges and camps across the Greater Washington area. More information on JCADA and the AWARE workshop series is available at awarenow.org and jcada.org
**DONATIONS OF BOOKS FOR USE AT SERVICES**

Please consider donating a book *in memory of* or *in honor of* a loved one or *in recognition of* a *special life event*. Contact Sara in the office.

- Siddur $54
- Machzor $36
- Large Type Machzor $54

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**BUY SCRIP**

**IT’S NOT JUST KOSHER MARKETS & GROCERY STORES**  
**CONTRIBUTOR: JUDY BEISER**

Order and receive your gift cards in less than a week. Support Shaare Tefila!

The list of stores is extensive:

**JUST ADDED:**
- Princess Cruise Lines - $100
- Royal Caribbean - $100, $500

**WE CONTINUE TO CARRY:**
- Bed Bath & Beyond, TJ Maxx, Home Goods, Marshalls, CVS, L.L. Bean and hundreds more...

Contact Judy Beiser for more information: judy.beiser@verizon.net.

**Active vendors:**
- Giant Food - $100, $50, $25, $10
- H Mart - $20
- Moti’s Market - $50
- Shalom Kosher Market - $100, $50
- Shopper’s Food Warehouse - $100, $50, $10
- ShopRite - $100, $50
- Starbucks - $25, $10, $5
- Safeway - $100, $25

To buy scrip, contact the office or call:

- Judy Beiser 301-598-2082
- Barbara Fink 301-438-3149
- Rita Rubinstein 301-816-9686
- Ethel Levine 301-593-7041

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**NEED ASSISTANCE?**

If a family member or another congregant is hospitalized or needs help from the Shaare Tefila Community, please notify the office or Rabbi Layman as soon as possible.

Contact the office or Rabbi Layman  
(301) 593-3410

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**COMING UP**

- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
  - COME CELEBRATE YOUR DECEMBER BIRTHDAY AT SHABBAT KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES, JANUARY 20
  - Recognize a person or event in your life or remember a loved one.
  - Donate to the Enhanced Kiddush, “Challah & Schmear” TODAY

**CONTACT SARA IN THE OFFICE SMILLER@SHAARETEFILA.ORG**

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**LOOKING TO JOIN SHAARE TEFILA?**

Contact:

- **Stacey Lynch**, Membership VP
  membership@shaaretefila.org

- **Jill Goldwater**, Executive Director
  jgoldwater@shaaretefila.org
  301-593-3410 X 101
**TOT SHABBAT**
**Led by: Mara Lansky**
**Who:** Young Children & Families
**What:** Morning Shabbat Program
**When:** Shabbat, 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM

- February 24
- March 10
- April 21
- June 2

**GAN KATAN PLAYGROUP**
**Led by: Mara Lansky**
**Who:** Children preschool age and their parents
**What:** Play, story time, crafts, and snack - Free
**When:** Sundays, 10:00 AM
**RSVP to Cilla Grosberg:** drgmrs@aol.com

- January 21
- March 18
- April 22
- May 6

**FAMILY SHABBAT**
**INCLUDES:**
Hazzan Rebecca, Shabbat Dinner, Family Service, Tot Shabbat, Birthday Shabbat

**Programs Friday Evening through Saturday**
**Join in at any point**

**Friday Evening:** 6:00 PM
**Saturday Morning:** 10:15 AM

- February 23-24
- April 20-21

Questions? Contact **Missy Mandell** mmandell@shaaretefila.org - 301.593.3410 X 103

**WOMEN’S ROSH CHODESH CIRCLE**
**Led by: Susan Rubenstein**

- Starting time: 10:15 am or when the Torah service begins

**Rosh Chodesh Shevat** - Shabbat, January 20
**Rosh Chodesh Adar** - Shabbat, February 17
**Rosh Chodesh Nissan** - Shabbat, March 17

**Rosh Chodesh Iyar** - Sunday, April 22
**Rosh Chodesh Sivan** - Shabbat, May 12

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**
**January - February**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**January**
- Saturday, January 20 - Havdalah Experience 3
- Sunday, January 28 - Bias Training with ADL

**February**
- Saturday, February 3 - Comedy Night
- Sunday, February 4 - Sisterhood Adult Coloring
- Saturday, February 10 - High School Graduation Service
- Sunday, February 11 - Great Challah Bake
Jews have always traditionally marked the calendar not by the Gregorian system (and before that the Julian calendar) but by the Hebrew or Jewish months. Passover is observed not in April but in Nissan; Rosh Hashanah is not in September but in Tishrei and so forth.

The Jewish calendar connects us to our history so that we understand the story behind the holidays we observe; it connects us to our fellow Jews around the world so that wherever we are, we know that we are observing the same holidays; and it connects us to the land of Israel helping us be mindful of the seasons there. Such is the case with the holiday of Tu B’Shevat - the 15th of Shevat (observed on January 31). That holiday celebrates nature and specifically the blossoming of the trees. Though it is the dead of winter here in Olney, in Israel the rainy season has provided the necessary irrigation so that the land is ready to yield its bounty and the trees are ready to bear fruit. May we always be mindful of our calendar so that we can be blessed by our history and by our homeland.
Tu B'Shevat

CHAG LAYLANOT - THE NEW YEAR FOR TREES

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat has become a popular day for planting trees. It is a day of environmental awareness. The Jewish National Fund has designated the day as the national "tree planting day."

Another way to celebrate Tu B'Shevat is by eating dried fruits of trees that grow in Israel such as almonds, dates, figs, raisins and carob. Here is a recipe to help in the celebration:

MULTI MIX BARS

1 c. oil
2 1/2 c. brown sugar
3 eggs
3 c. flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
3/4 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2/3 c. coarsely chopped nuts
2/3 c. shredded coconut
1/2 c. raisins
1 c. chocolate chips

Beat together oil, brown sugar, eggs.
Stir in flour, baking powder, baking soda, vanilla
Add chopped nuts, shredded coconut, raisins
Pour into a lined 9x13 baking pan
Sprinkle chocolate chips
 Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.
Yield: 24-30 bars

CHESED COMMITTEE IN SEARCH OF ......
 CONTRIBUTOR: JOYCE FEINSTEIN

One of the functions of the Chesed Committee is to organize and to help provide rides needed by congregants to doctor’s visits, dental visits, etc.

We have a dedicated core of people who provide these needed rides, but the Chesed Committee would like to expand this group of drivers. We urge you to consider belonging to this group of drivers.

There will be a brief orientation meeting 11:30 am, January 28. If you are interested or have additional questions, contact me:
joyce.feinstein@gmail.com or 240-428-1329
Looking forward to hearing from you!

MORNING MINYAN

SPECIAL NOTE
Saying Kaddish?
Please inform Rabbi Layman a week prior to be assured a morning minyan.

Become a regular at minyan. You will be warmly welcomed.

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SHAARE TEFILA IS HOSTING
JCC COMING OF AGE EVENT

Gina DeSimone & The Moaners
DC based blues and swing foursome that will liven up the room with an eclectic mix of music from all eras!

When: Wednesday, January 17, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
RSVP by January 10 to JCC 301-348-3809
Cost $7, $8 at door

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesday, January 10 at 10:00 am
Mel Kornspan will lead the discussion
All men are invited