Years ago, Peter, Paul and Mary wrote a song which invoked the memory of the Maccabees. We all know the story of Chanukah – the holiday which marks the victory of the Jews (led by the Maccabees – the children of Mattathias, the High Priest in Jerusalem) over Antiochus and his Syrian-Greek army over 2,100 years ago. Antiochus had decreed that the Jews forgo all public displays of Jewish identity and that the Jews must not study Torah. He defiled the Temple in Jerusalem by making it a place of idol worship. Mattathias and his family rallied the Jewish community and miraculously led the Jews to victory. Not only was the Temple restored (symbolized by the jar of olive oil that lit the menorah for 8 days), but Jewish culture and social justice were reinstituted in the land of Israel.

The Maccabees have served as inspiration for anyone or any people fighting for justice and freedom. Anyone forced under the hand of tyranny or any society caught under the leadership of dictators or demagogues look to the Maccabees, among others, as inspiration to rise up in protest.

Peter, Paul and Mary were known for their folk songs in the 60s and 70s that spoke of social justice and peace. It’s not surprising – especially since Peter Yarrow is Jewish – that Chanukah would provide material for a song. In “Don’t Let the Lights Go Out” we find this closing stanza:

What is the memory that’s valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
That’s the commitment to those who have died
That we cry out they’ve not died in vain?
We have come this far always believing
That justice would somehow prevail
This is the burden, this is the promise
This is why we will not fail!

In these inspiring lyrics we find the need to connect to history and the power that a historical event has to motivate us to action. As Jews we constantly look to past events to encourage us to act today. We remember the Exodus from Egypt and the revelation of God at Mt. Sinai

(cont’d on p. 2)
I hope each of you had a meaningful and grateful Thanksgiving holiday. Every year our community gathers with other communities of different faiths for the blessings we experience in our lives. In the midst of this pandemic, Shaare Tefila hosted a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration on November 24. Members came together to give thanks through prayers they wrote and the performance of songs that enriched our community’s holiday experiences. Thank you Rabbi Layman, Hazzan Adina and all of you who participated to make this virtual Thanksgiving so special.

This has been a very challenging year for all of us and our synagogue community. When the pandemic began last March, who would have thought that we would still be shut down and not participating in services in person. However, I am so proud of our clergy, staff, Board of Directors and team of volunteers who are committed to providing VIRTUAL services, educational experiences, holiday celebrations and various programs that keep us connected to our synagogue family.

Chavurah groups continue to meet on Zoom bi-monthly. The new and seasoned friendships that are forming are priceless. Each group defines what theme or subject it wants to discuss. Keeping connected and learning from each other has brought joy and laughter to many chavurah member’s lives. You don’t have to feel alone or isolated during Covid-19, and don’t give in to pandemic fatigue. Don’t give up. Know that your Shaare Tefila family is always here for you. If you are not in a Chavurah group, contact Ellie Alpert, Sherry Cohen, Bess Teller or myself Cilla Grosberg we will be happy to place you in a Chavurah/Friendship Group.

Chanukah is just around the corner. I wish you all a wonderful festival of lights holiday. To help us all celebrate together, your Shaare Tefila family has FREE Chanukah gift bags for you. Curbside Gift Bag Pick Up date is Sunday, December 6, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to Babette Cohn and advise her that you will come by to pick up your gift bag, and should you have friends or neighbors that you can deliver bags to, please advise. Those bags not being picked up will be delivered by our wonderful volunteers. In addition, mark your calendars for Shaare Tefila Community Chanukah Lighting Ceremony which will be on Thursday, December 17 at 5:30 pm in the Shaare Tefila parking lot. (See p. 6) Stay healthy, stay connected to your family, friends and the Shaare Tefila family community.

Shalom and Happy Chanukah,
Cilla Grosberg
We had a fantastic Makers & Bakers: Jewish Signs for the Home DIY workshop with Hammer & Stain in Rockville on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. There were seven participants creating beautiful wooden signs for their homes, with some people creating gifts for others. Be sure to look for details on the next Makers & Bakers: Fruit Pies on January 24, a few days before we celebrate Tu B’Shevat!

Here are opportunities for you to connect with Shaare Tefila friends during the month of December. Plan to join us for Chanukah programming as well as a series of wonderful speakers:

- The ScholarStream initiative on Hidden Histories and Untold Stories with JTS scholars at 8 pm continues on Tuesdays. Coming Up - Dec. 1: Dr. Sarah Wolf “How foreign the beit midrash would feel to the early Rabbis.” Finally, on Dec. 8: Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky “What the Bible really had against Jezebel.”

- December 2 at 7:45 pm - Dr. Michael Sharnoff from the National Defense University’s Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies speaks on “Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians: The Struggle for the West Bank”. Attendance is free and registration plus more information is available here.

- Storytelling Workshop with Renée Brachfeld, Chanukah Program Part 1, Dec. 6 at 10:00 am Join Master Storyteller Renée Brachfeld and learn how to weave a story through shared experiences. During the community Chanukah program with Renée and Mark Novak on Dec.13 the story you develop may be woven into the presentation. Register for the 6th at this link.

- Community Chanukah Celebration, Chanukah Program Part 2, Dec. 13 at 5:00 pm - Renée Brachfeld and Mark Novak, musical entertainers extraordinaire, will join the Shaare Tefila community for a blowout celebration including: sing along songs, Chanukah stories and shenanigans, a ZOOM show of chanukiot & other decorations, and more surprises! Sign up to be part of the fun here.

- Let the Light Shine Community Menorah Lighting, Dec. 17 at 5:30 pm - Rabbi Jonah will lead us in the Shaare Tefila parking lot for an outdoor candle lighting on the last night of Chanukah. Come early and take pictures with beautiful, blow up decorations. Pick up your CharBar order when the program concludes. CDC protocols for mask wearing and social distancing will be observed. Questions? Contact Babette Cohn

- We continue to meet for Shabbat and weekday services over Zoom. Rabbi Layman leads Torah text study every Wednesday morning, Talmud and Prayer Book Hebrew on Sundays, and Torah class with commentary on Fridays.

First of all my apologies to everyone who tried to be a part of our grains presentation and were locked out. Please be assured that I will do my best to make sure this issue does not occur again. Everyone who attended learned a lot from Ian Hertsmark. I have asked him to come to the synagogue in person when we can open up for in-person events. He agreed to do that and will even bring some grains with him.

I also hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and was able to see family members either virtually or in person over the long weekend.

Our next event will be for 2020-2021 Sisterhood members only. We will be getting together to socialize in small groups. Please bring your favorite drink or snack on Sunday December 20 at 4:00 pm. If enough people join in, then we can have small break-out groups. Think of it as each group is one table. Please email me directly at relaybens@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us for this event.

Keep an ear and eye out for our Sisterhood BINGO event via Zoom. There will be a minimal fee to participate. The prizes will be gift cards to local stores. Sisterhood members will get a discounted price.

We are finalizing an account so that you can send checks to our Sisterhood electronically. This will be at no cost to you or the synagogue/Sisterhood.

Have a happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year to the world and our entire community.

(Continued on next page)

And what if there is a special needs child involved? And what about when for good reason, a decedent wants to treat the heirs differently due to their needs or differences in economic status. And what about the decedent who titled an asset in joint names with an heir as a matter of convenience, but didn’t really intend that that person be the recipient upon death. And what about when the decedent wants to donate to his or her favorite charity, but obviously didn’t get a chance to do so because he/she never got around to writing a will or other instrument.

So please understand that estate planning is still necessary even though most people are not subject to federal estate taxes. In addition, when someone dies without a will, the legal process of probating the estate is exasperating.

One final message. While many aren’t able, depending on their financial circumstances, to make what some might consider to be large contributions during their lifetime to Shaare Tefila, there might be an opportunity to do so through a testamentary gift.

There are many types of estate planning, and many topics. I hope that this article reminds you of things that you might want to take care of.
Chavaya continues with everyone engaged in creative online learning. Kitah Hay, our 7th grade class, held a contest for its representation of a tabletop sukkah that demonstrated the value of Sukkat Shalom/Shelter of Peace. Brig Barnett, Cheyanne Feldman and Alison Feldmann all received a $10 Amazon Gift Card for their efforts. All the classes finished their focus on the Sukkat Shalom curriculum before Thanksgiving.

Kitah Alef & Kitah Bet begins their unit on Ometz Lev/Inner Strength in December. Those students have received a special set of supplies to help them learn at home. Children in grades 4-7 will begin to use the Etgar Yesodi curriculum. Developed by educators within the Conservative movement, it is designed to connect powerfully with students because it: Builds on student’s prior knowledge and current experiences; Empowers students to articulate positive Jewish identities; Builds breadth and depth in students’ understanding and observance of Judaism. Incorporates findings in educational research, such as the power of cooperative learning, the value of addressing multiple intelligences and the importance of differentiating instruction whenever possible. Kitah Na’ahroot Echad (8/9 grades) is studying the Holocaust from the perspective of the driving forces behind Zionism and related events in the late 19th/early 20th centuries, while Kitah Na’ahroot Sh’tayim (8-11 grades) is focused on the value of social and political activism and how it connects to Judaism.

Everyone, children and staff alike, are looking forward to celebrating Chanukah. Be sure to pick up your Shaare Tefila Gift Bag on December 6 between 12 & 3 pm; it will include a box of candles for your chanukiah/Chanukah menorah, as well as a few more surprises for everyone in your house! RSVP by December 3rd so we know if you will pick up or need delivery. That same morning, while children are attending Chavaya classes, adults are invited to a Storytelling Workshop with Master Storyteller Renée Brachfeld, which is part 1 of our Chanukah program. Details plus registration can be found at this link Then on December 13 the Shaare Tefila community comes together at 5 pm for our annual Chanukah Celebration. Renée Brachfeld & Mark Novak will MC the program that includes singing, storytelling, sharing of chanukiyot/Chanukah menorahs and other surprises. In order to receive the ZOOM information please RSVP here. We have one more Chanukah program on December 17; join us as we gather for an outdoor candle lighting at 5:30 pm, featuring blow-up decorations where you can take photographs before the program begins and treats for everyone!

B’Shalom, Babette

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**MINI MINYAN**

**AN INTERACTIVE, PRE-SHABBAT EXPERIENCE**

**LED BY MARA LANSKY & BABETTE COHN**

**WHO:** Ages 0-7 and their adults

**WHAT:** Early Shabbat prayers, stories and songs

**WHEN:** Fridays 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM

RSVP On **SignUp Genius While We Are Virtual**

Questions? Contact **Babette Cohn**

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**BUY SCRIP**

Support Shaare Tefila

Contact the office at 301-593-3410 X101
MAKE YOUR CHANUKAH MORE MEANINGFUL THIS YEAR WITH

Gifts from Shaare Tefila

CURBSIDE GIFT BAG PICK UP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
12 - 3 P.M.
RSVP AT THIS LINK BY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
OR EMAIL BABETTE COHN &
SAY IF YOU WILL PICK UP OR
NEED DELIVERY

Click here to RSVP
YOU ARE INVITED TO SHAARE TEFILA'S

LET THE LIGHT SHINE
COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

December 17 at 5:30 p.m.
Shaare Tefila Parking Lot - 16620 Georgia Ave
Take Pictures with Festive Blow Up Decorations
Pick Up Food from CharBar Kosher BBQ at 5:45 p.m.

Questions? Contact Babette Cohn
Shaare Tefila Presents:
KOSHER-STYLE COMEDY 7
"JEWISH HAMS TELLING JOKES"
December 24 * 8:00 p.m. * Online

* Featuring *

Samson Koletkar aka
Mahatma Moses
World’s Only Indian Jewish
Stand-up Comedian

Ira Summer
US Comedy Contest
Finalist * World Series of
Comedy * Oakland
Comedy Festival *
Comedy Machine Host

Ken Watter
DC’s Funniest Tax
Accountant * DC Improv
* Bright Box Theater

And your Host:

Irwin Loring
Atlantic City *
Harvey’s Comedy Club
* DC Comedy Loft

Get Your Tickets Now for Just $10
Online at This Site
Questions? Email Babette Cohn

CLICK HERE TO ORDER TICKETS
The Social Action Committee wishes to thank our Community! As many of you know, the Shaare Tefila Social Action Committee conducted a season of Tikun Olam drive which involved collecting various items for the National Center for Children and Families, The Rainbow Place Shelter and the Progress Place Shelter, all in various parts of Montgomery County. The residents of the three shelters received 533 pounds of various items, from applesauce to toilet paper, and from baby wipes to school supplies. The volunteer coordinators also received over $1265 to use for various supplies which they will need. Shaare Tefila is so generous, even in these tough times of the pandemic. With the practice of Tikun Olam, you are being socially conscious, benefitting the entire community, where we all live and work together.

OUR SEASON OF TIKUN OLAM CONTINUES!
Remote learning has presented numerous challenges for MCPS families. Many students don’t have internet access or adequate adult supervision at home during the school day. In response to these needs, MCPS has opened several Educational Equity & Enrichment Hubs in elementary schools throughout the county. In compliance with Covid guidelines, children are placed in cohorts of 13, supported by 2 staff members. The programs are open from 8:30-5:30 M-F, with schedules built around the students’ distance learning sessions and providing enrichment activities after school hours until students are picked up. On-site staff ensures that devices are connected, children log in to class on time, remain engaged with their teachers and have access to resources they need to complete their work. Cohorts are not grouped by age or grade. Each student is logged into his/her own school and teacher. Desks are spaced apart for safety and privacy. All students are required to wear masks and headphones while in their virtual learning classes.

As of November 11, MCPS has over 500 students in more than 20 hubs. The goal is to add 1,000 additional students as soon as possible. Shaare Tefila has volunteered to adopt a HUB of 52 students. Our goal is to raise $1,040 to provide headphones for every student in our HUB. This campaign will begin immediately and end on December 4. As the school year progresses and more changes are expected, we will continue to support our HUB as additional needs arise. The director of the program said that “this support from Shaare Tefila is such a blessing and speaks volumes for the best nature of Montgomery County.”

To participate, please make checks payable to Children’s Opportunity Fund and mail to the synagogue, Attn: Social Action Committee. We will keep you posted on our progress as we get closer and closer to our goal!
REMEMBERING RUTH NEWHOUSE  
CONTRIBUTORS: SAUL COHEN AND RITA RUBINSTEIN

Ruth Sragow Newhouse, who passed away on October 3, 2020, was a local Washingtonian. Her parents, the Sragows, were charter members of Shaare Tefila. Ruth participated in the morning Minyanas before we moved to Olney. She was a longtime member of the Shaare Tefila Choir (singing Alto or when needed Tenor to help out).

Music was Ruth’s life. She was a distinguished musical scholar earning a PhD from the University of Maryland with a dissertation about the music of the Passover Seder. She organized the music program at the JCC and coordinated piano instructions and concerts for 30 years. Ruth was the Director of Music at the Hebrew Day Institute and wrote and produced plays. She also had private piano students at home.

Ruth was always generous with Shaare Tefila supporting our community religiously, academically and financially. As a member and music director of the Die Freyliche Knaidlach singing group with Rita Rubinstein, Susan Goldsamt and Michele Peck, Ruth performed widely from college campuses to senior venues. Her nephew, who is a Rabbi, arranged for the Knaidlach to sing at her funeral. In her long career, Ruth also performed as a pianist, often performing Latin American compositions, including popular tangos from her family’s native Argentina. She was also an accomplished shofar blower, even capable of playing Mary Had A Little Lamb.

Ruth was married to the late Henry Newhouse. She was a devoted wife and an outstanding mother to her son Joey, whom she nurtured through a rare disease and many surgeries. Joey Newhouse passed away in 2005 after a long and valiant struggle. Ruth said that her son would have approved her being part of Die Freyliche Knaidlach. It was therapeutic for her. She took long road trips every summer. She happily reached her goal of visiting every capital city of the USA.

Ruth was friendly, positive and had a wonderful sense of humor. She always had the best interests of Shaare Tefila in her heart. We will miss her presence. Ruth was a Gute Neshome (good soul). May her memory be a blessing for us all.
MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP ON ZOOM
Wednesday, December 9 at 10:00 am
Discussion Leader: Al Kliman
Hitler’s Hidden Soldiers
All Men Are Invited

WOMEN’S ROSH CHODESH CIRCLE
Led by: Susan Rubenstein
Click here for the ZOOM LINK

Meeting Time Begins at 3:00 pm
Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Sunday, December 27
Rosh Chodesh Shevat - Sunday, January 24
Rosh Chodesh Adar - Sunday, February 21
Rosh Chodesh Nisan - Sunday, March 21
Rosh Chodesh Iyyar - Sunday, April 25
Rosh Chodesh Sivan - Sunday, May 23

MORNING MINYAN
ON ZOOM

SUNDAY, MONDAY AND THURSDAY
AT 8:45 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER
December 2: Lecture with Dr. Michael Sharnoff
December 2: Chanukah Cooking with Award Winning Chef Michael Solomonov.
December 3: First Thursday Coffee Hour
December 6: Storytelling Workshop For Adults
December 6: Chanukah Gift Bag Pick up
December 10: Chanukah First Candle
December 13: Community Chanukah Celebration
December 17: Community Chanukah Menorah Lighting
December 18: Shaare Tefila Social - Happy Hour
December 20: Sisterhood Event
December 24: “Christmas Eve Virtual Comedy Show”
December 27: Women’s Rosh Chodesh Circle - Chodesh Tevet

JANUARY
January 7: First Thursday Coffee Hour
January 14: Shaare Tefila Social - Happy Hour
January 24: Women’s Rosh Chodesh Circle - Chodesh Shevat
Shaare Tefila Cemetery Plots for Sale at Mount Lebanon Cemetery

Shaare Tefila offers an option for Jewish burial with two sections of available plots at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Adelphi, MD which are owned by our congregation. Whether you opt for a marker or monument, our cemetery’s prices are highly competitive with plots starting as low as $940. In addition, 100% of all proceeds from the sale will go to Shaare Tefila Congregation. Please contact, Jonathan Cohen, Executive Director, for more details.

CHANUKAH VIRTUAL COOKING DEMONSTRATION

December 2, 2020 8:00 pm - 9:15 pm

Join hundreds across our Jewish community on December 2 at 8:00 PM to enjoy a FREE virtual Chanukah cooking demonstration with famed Chef Michael Solomonov!

The James Beard Foundation award-winning chef will demonstrate how to cook the perfect Chanukah meal, from apple shrub to sfenj (Moroccan doughnuts), just in time for the holiday. Register for free today!
Thank You to Our Donors

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Memorial Chesed Fund
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Dorothy Marder
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Gershon & Diane Kieval
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Rita Rubinstein

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Barbara Fink  
Sylvia Glaser on her birthday!  
Judith Beiser

In Memory Of:  
Sylvia Levine  
Gary & Stacy Levine  
Seth Tilles  
Sam & Debbie Yedlin  
Our parents  
Mr. & Mrs Louis Paley  
Sylvia Levine  
Charlotte Potosky  
Ruth Newhouse  
Charlotte Potosky

Happy Chanukah