

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI  
Rabbi David Greenspoon

Happy 2019, Congregation Sha'are Shalom!

The turn of the calendar simply means that we are fully engaged in our activities on all levels. By the time this newsletter is released, we'll already have conducted two special events for our youngest families (*Training Wheels* and *PJ Library Havdalah Pajama Party*). Our *Coffee House Conversations* series with Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation will be

underway, with important conversations for adults across the life-spectrum. B'nai Mitzvah families will be having group meetings, and our *Introducing Judaism* will bring a diverse cadre of our members back for Part II of our program. *Real Films* continues to explore challenging and provocative topics for our adults. As if this weren't enough, we are excited to offer *Jewish Cooking Across Time and Space with Lauren Katz*. Of course, our *Wednesday Torah Classes* and *Sunday Morning Bible Study* continue to draw devoted learners to the table. (Continued Page 2)



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
Heidi Dodds

Shalom chaverim! Hello friends!

It's been busy at Sha'are Shalom! Over the last few months we've been working on ways to reinvigorate our community. At Yom Kippur I talked about three areas in which we work to make our community thrive.

First, we need to continue to **adapt and evolve**, while staying true to our Jewish values. To this end

we have made some updates to our processes. We have formed a new **Security Committee** which will be in charge of making recommendations and then implementing the approved items with regard to security. Some items will be visible, such as upgrades to our camera system and active shooter training for our staff, while others will be in the background, so as to maximize our risk mitigation. If you have questions, please email the Security Committee directly at [security@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:security@shaare-shalom.org).

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## A Message from the Rabbi (continued)

Celebrating our in-house talent is part of what makes our congregation so special. Our *Jewish National Fund Shabbat* featured Alyssa Mangold. During services and at the Israeli-style luncheon that followed, Alyssa shared her experiences from the JNF Educators Conference in Israel last summer. We also look forward to Purim and a wonderful collaboration between the religious school and the congregation for this year's Family Friendly *Megillah* Reading.

What is not so obvious is everything that happens behind the scenes. We are about to enter the budgeting process, and committees are already thinking about next year's special programming possibilities. We maintain ongoing conversations about our Shabbat experiences, provide staff training for a variety of needs, and continue to evaluate and develop our processes and procedures to ensure they effectively meet congregational needs.

Congregation Sha'are Shalom also enjoys a wonderful reputation for its community and civic presence within and beyond the Jewish community. We are recognized in Leesburg and in Loudoun for

our leadership role in the community. That reputation extends all the way to Richmond, and our elected officials regularly reach out to us to solicit input on legislative and other concerns. That is one of the main reasons why I plan to participate in the Jewish Community Relations Council Virginia Legislative Advocacy Day on February 6th. The morning will be spent meeting with our Delegates and Senators. At lunch we are visited and addressed by Governor Ralph Northam, Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax, and Attorney General Mark Herring before returning to the JCC. More information and registration is available from the JCRC; 703-962-9230 or [www.jccouncil.org](http://www.jccouncil.org). I look forward to joining you on the bus.

Finally, don't forget about our joyous and uplifting Shabbat services. Your presence is a special gift, and might make the difference for someone needing to say *Kaddish*.

With all this going on, I know you'll be around soon. I can't wait to greet you, especially with Shabbat shalom.

## Service Schedule

**Erev Shabbat: Friday evenings 6:30pm**

**Shabbat: Saturday mornings 9:30am**

## A Letter from the President (continued)

Another change we've made is that the Board adopted two motions. The first is to allow a non-Jewish family member to ascend the bimah to accompany a Jewish family member performing a ritual act such as opening the ark doors. This is consistent with our standard practice of allowing a non-Jewish family member to accompany a Jewish family member for an aliyah. The second is to welcome interfaith couples to the bimah according to our standard practice for the express purpose of pre-wedding and other life-cycle event blessings from the rabbi. Both of these motions look to be more inclusive and recognize the involvement of our entire families.

The second item on the program for making us thrive is to improve **communications**. The recent changes to our weekly **newsletter** hopefully have made it easier for you to quickly see what's going on. We also moved the timing to Friday morning and combined it with the Rabbi's email. This gives you time to see what's going on Sunday morning, and limits the email clutter. We've also kicked off a new **Shabbat Oneg signup** - [click here](#). Signing up for an oneg is a great way to meet other members or you can sign up with a friend! Going forward, we hope to implement the new **website** soon with added **collaboration** space for members to be able to connect more easily.

Finally, we've been **active**!! During the last few months we've had several fun activities including the Back to Shul Picnic, Sukkah Potluck, and Hanukah Boutique. The Mens' Club has done lots of great work around the synagogue and the Sisterhood had a great time at the AR Workshop (see the finished products in the Sisterhood article)!

Coming up in the next few months we have Purim celebrations, Good Deeds Day, and Passover. We have the 2nd graders leading Shabbat on January 25th and the 3rd graders on February 1st. These **class Shabbat's** are a great way to see l'dor vador in action - traditions passing from generation to generation. The children do a great job! We also had some **b'nai mitzvot** in January as well as some coming up in March. Come celebrate together as some of our students reach Jewish adulthood. Keep an eye on the calendar for other upcoming events - [link here](#).

Our committees are always looking for people to help out! No matter what your interest, what your skill set, and what your availability, there are so many ways to be engaged, to connect within our community, big and small. And sometimes what we think are the smallest actions end up being the most meaningful connections.

L'hitraot, 'til we meet again,  
Heidi

# Good Deeds Day

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

Contact [social\\_action@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:social_action@shaare-shalom.org)  
for more information



# Sisterhood



The CSS Sisterhood continues to reinvent itself this year. We organized the Sukkot Oneg and held a wonderful craft workshop in November. Everyone had fun sanding, staining and painting and went home with beautiful keepsakes. We also sponsored two families for the holidays (see picture below) in partnership with the abused women's shelter. We supplied food for the Religious School Hanukkah parties, prepared apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah 5779, and ran the cookie decorating at the CSS Hanukkah party.

In 2018, we instituted a dues structure of \$18 per member unit. Those funds helped with activities for the CSS Religious School and will help supplement some of our future activities. Even if you were unable to contribute the \$18, you are still welcome to participate.

Looking ahead into 2019, we hope to host a tea event, a movie night and to develop a Mahjong game, including instruction for those who have sets and no idea what to do with them.

While I am the President and Board Representative, I am actively looking for others to step up with event ideas and coordinate them, or assist in the leadership and development of the group. Many of us have had Sisterhood experiences at other congregations and we want to shape and grow our Sisterhood to be as successful and rewarding as those.

Looking forward to engaging you all in the new year and beyond. Thanks for all that you have already done to contribute to our growth.

Pam Hemstreet

Sisterhood President 2018-2019



## Social Committee

CSS celebrated together at the Annual Hanukkah Boutique on December 2nd. The Social Hall was buzzing with shoppers buying last minute gifts from the vendors, noshing on Men's Club latkes, and grooving to the festive music provided by our own Laurie Mangold. The kids had a ton of fun too, creating edible masterpieces at the Sisterhood's Cookie Decorating Station and enjoying Camp Shores's Magician. If you are interested in making sure the Purim Carnival is as fun, reach out to Todd Isaacs at: [social@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:social@shaare-shalom.org)



## Adult Education

We've had a wonderful few months in Adult Education. We have had a series of classes, based on the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program from American Jewish University. Our book, *On One Foot: An Introduction to Judaism for Everyone*, was the framework for each week's lesson. The curriculum covered all the essentials in an interactive format. Rabbi Greenspoon led a wide ranging series of discussions. The class included an extraordinary field trip, led by Rabbi Greenspoon, to Baltimore. We started with a delicious kosher Chinese lunch at David Chu's. We were impressed with both the scope of the menu and the freshness of the ingredients. We then traveled a short distance to Beth El Congregation to view their modern mikvah at the Alvin & Lois Lapidus Center for Healing and Spirituality, a.k.a The Soul Center. It was pristine and peaceful setting. The last stop was to Sol Levinson & Brohters Funeral Services, where we had an in-depth look behind the scenes at this family-owned Jewish funeral home.

On the Shabbat of Tu' beshvat, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, we were privileged to have Alyssa Mangold share her experiences about her Jewish National Fund trip to Israel.

We are excited to announce Another Coffee House Conversation with Two Rabbis is back by popular demand. Rabbi Amy Sapowith of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation and our own Rabbi David Greenspoon will have four conversations exploring Life after Loss, Death, Divorce, Disagreement, and Dementia. Everyone is welcome to these discussions, held on four Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 at King Street Coffee at 110 S. King St., Leesburg VA. The four dates are January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup>. The conversation is free, but donations are welcome and beverages and snacks are available for purchase.

## B'nai Mitzvah Spotlight



### Ian Dodds

**Bar Mitzvah: January 5, 2019**

Ian Dodds is in seventh grade at Loudoun Country Day School. He enjoys playing lacrosse and piano. For some of his 13 Mitzvot Ian read Maus and Number the Stars, has pledged a portion of his gift money to Paws for Vets, and helped out at several temple events, including Good Deeds Day and the Back to Shul Picnic. Ian also played keys for the latest Beatles Shabbat. Ian's favorite Jewish foods are rugelach and kugel.



### Addie Ben-Yoseph

**Bat Mitzvah: March 23, 2019**

Addie Ben-Yoseph is a 7th grader at Belmont Ridge Middle School. As part of her 13 Mitzvot, Addie made sandwiches for the homeless, read the V'ahavta every night for a month and kept a diary, wrote about the Loudoun Vigil for Pittsburgh that she attended, and participated in Shabbat services. In her spare time, Addie can be found playing soccer, working on her third degree black belt at Tae Kwon Do, and playing piano. Her favorite Jewish foods are latkes and sufganiyot. She is looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah!



### Rebecca Koppel

**Bat Mitzvah: March 30, 2019**

Meet Rebecca Koppel, a 7th grader at Eagle Ridge Middle School in Ashburn. Rebecca has volunteered at the homeless shelter, participated in a fundraiser walk for Diabetes, helped out at the Community Table of Loudoun dinners, and volunteered to help at many synagogue events. And she's still going strong. When she's not studying or volunteering, Rebecca enjoys tap and ballet dancing, baking and cooking and hanging out with friends and family. Rebecca's favorite Jewish foods are bagels and lox, challah, latkes, Matza ball soup.

## Religious School News

The first four months of the school year flew by. We've held all our grade level parent coffees and our kindergarten and first grade classes have stepped up to the bima to lead the first two class Shabbat services of the year. Our second, third, fifth and seventh grades classes will each take their turns leading Shabbat services during the next three months. December was filled with Hanukkah celebrations including a joint third through seventh grade program in which students rotated through art, game and drama stations. We were delighted to welcome back from Israel Samantha Brotman, former student and teacher, who led our game station. The afternoon was capped off with latkes for everyone. Students in kindergarten through second grade had class parties with art, games and stories, and of course, latkes. Many thanks to Hannah Shapiro, our Religious School Committee Chairperson and our wonderful room parents: Sarah Weintrob, Michelle Jacobson, Heather Oppenheim, Cyndi Alderson, Paula Augenstein, Rachel Neuschaefer, Amy Glancey, Cara Eisenberg, Pamela Craig, Erica Harris, Yael Rodgers, Terri Buckman and Maxine Inman for all their help organizing the festivities.



We continue to partner with synagogue schools throughout Northern Virginia for special programs. Our fourth graders participated in the Mitzvah Mania program where they shot basketballs to raise funds for Nothing But Nets, assembled soup packets for an Arlington Food Pantry, made tzedakah boxes and decorated Happy Hats for cancer patients. In February, our sixth graders will participate in an Ellis Island simulation to experience the immigrant experience of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, so important to our history as American Jews. Later in the spring, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take part in a program on Modern Israel.



Our N'tivot Fall elective ended in December. Students explored Hot Topics that included the debate over gun control, legalization of marijuana, the new anti-Semitism, police and issue of racism and LGBTQ rights. The Winter N'tivot elective "Across the Globe, Across the Ages" will explore Jewish communities in places including the Roman Empire/Italy, Spain, Babylonia and Africa and will combine history and cultural exploration with cooking. Teen engagement continues to be active here with students enrolled in our N'tivot program, active in our USY chapter and volunteering as madrichim beyond confirmation.

## RUJEC News

RUJEC ended the first half of the year with our annual visit to Heritage Hall. We brought holiday songs and a story with the help of our music specialist, Ms. Danielle, and then everyone spent some time getting to know the residents. It's always a rewarding experience to watch the ease with which our 3 and 4-year-olds and their parents interact with Heritage Hall residents.



In other RUJEC news, we have been hard at work in all our classes and this year we've focused on re-purposing lots of old things to create new things. We might be using bottle caps to learn to count or creating beautiful art from recycled hardware. In both cases the children are learning that we can re-use many things in ways we never thought of before. \*\* If you happen to have any interesting recyclables laying around, bring them to RUJEC and leave them in the office. We'd love to have them and will send you pics of how we are using them!



As many of our long-time RUJEC'ers have graduated in the past couple of years, we have many new families this year and feel so fortunate that families of all faiths have found us. We are looking forward to having them with us for many years, as their babies, who aren't ready for school yet, grow into our program. We truly feel like we are part of the bigger Loudoun community and are so grateful for everyone's love and trust in our program. Happy 2019!

# Donations

Please make it a habit to donate for special dates and special people in your life - birthdays, anniversaries, and yahrzeits. It doesn't have to be a lot. Every donation is important and can help the synagogue reach its goals. You can donate to the general fund or any of the funds listed below.

Religious Education - to fill the gap between tuition income and actual costs of running the school. (approx. \$37,000)

RUJEC - to provide money for teacher training, curriculum enhancements, supplies and equipment.

Financial Aid - help us to provide financial aid for families who can't afford to pay their dues. (approx. \$34, 000)

Safety and Security - to help pay for security enhancements

recommended by our security committee.

Ritual - to provide Torah repairs, purchase breast plates, or other ritual items.

Adult Education - contributions will provide for new programs and outside speakers.

Michele Zuckerman Education Fund - The purpose of the fund is to promote Jewish intellectual and spiritual growth for the children, teens and adults of the Sha'are Shalom community

by providing learning opportunities and cultural experiences. These may include: Scholar or Artist in Residence Program, Congregational and Family Retreats, Learning programs and guest speakers and enhanced technology in the classrooms.

Fran Barth Jewish Arts Fund – established by Hirsch Barth, in memory of his wife Fran. The purpose of this fund is to provide for arts opportunities for the Sha'are Shalom community.

## Thank You For Your Donation

### In Memory

Michael & Eva Leavitt: in memory of Lillian Mittelman

Gary & Tricia Willens: in memory of Dean Robinson, Robert Willens, Jan Willens, Martha Walters, Ava Willens, George Robinson, and Lynne Willens

Sherri Brown: in memory of Kate Passow's grandfather

Sandy & Alan Winter: In memory of Helen Kane

Bradley Family: In memory of Haim Meer

Debbie & Perry Immerman –in memory of Sholom Immerman

### In Honor

Laurie Mangold: in honor of Hank Sherwood's Bar Mitzvah & Abby Stern's Bat Mitzvah

Michael & Nancy Passow: in honor of Kate Passow

Parker Ramsdell: in honor of Roy Ben-Yoseph working for 5 years at Perfect Sense

Donald & Elaine Arnstein: in honor of Joe Arnstein Volunteer of the Year award

Sandy & Alan Winter: in honor of the Immerman's hosting movie nights

### General Fund/Other Donations

Lubitz Family

Familant Family

Bruce & Dara Markowitz

The Katz Family: for the Ritual committee

Ian Dodds: for his 13 mitzvot project for his Bar Mitzvah

Spencer Kalke: for the Fran Barth Jewish Arts Fund

# Some of our Upcoming Events

## Life After Loss:



### Another Coffee House Conversation with Two Rabbis

Four Thursday evenings

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, & February 7<sup>th</sup>

Rabbi Amy Sapowith, Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation

Rabbi David Greenspoon, Congregation Sha'are Shalom

Four conversations exploring Life After Loss:

Death, Divorce, Disagreement, and Dementia

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Time: 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Place: King Street Coffee, 110 S. King St., Leesburg, VA

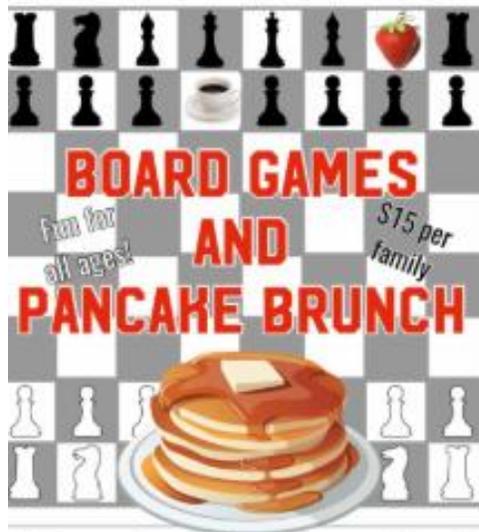
*Offered free of charge; beverages/snacks available for purchase.*

Donations welcome to help cover the cost of the barista.

For more information: [rabbi@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:rabbi@shaare-shalom.org) or [office@brcva.org](mailto:office@brcva.org)

Sunday, January 27th @ 11a.m.

RSVP by Noon on Friday, January 25



## BOARD GAMES AND PANCAKE BRUNCH

Bring a board game to share!

## Jewish Food Across Time and Space with Lauren Katz

February 12, 19 & 26



## PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Parties!  
Hamantaschen!  
Megillah Reading!  
Costumes!  
Purim Baskets!

## WEEK OF MARCH 16

# Connect With Us

## Board of Directors

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## Professional Staff

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Director of Education and Youth Activities

**Michele Zuckerman**

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RUJEC Co-Directors

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[rujec@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:rujec@shaare-shalom.org)

Synagogue Administrator

**Sherri Hayes**

[shashaadmin@shaare-shalom.org](mailto:shashaadmin@shaare-shalom.org)

## Congregation Sha'are Shalom

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