



THE SHAARE TORAH Scroll

A Conservative Shul in Gaithersburg, Maryland

A “Night In The Oasis”

By Leslie Lloyd

Join your friends for a fabulous “Night in the Oasis” themed party on Saturday night, March 5th at 8:30pm at Shaare Torah. This is our big fundraising social event for the year and it promises to be a night to remember.

Tantalizing Middle Eastern light fare, Turkish coffee, and a wine bar will transport you to a hip, desert oasis inspired nightclub.

While you sip your Turkish coffee and catch up with your friends, you’ll have lots of opportunities to bid on must-have tickets, experiences, and gifts in our silent auction. Designer purses, tickets to the Verizon Center, ski passes, and of course, the coveted reserved parking space in the shul parking lot all are among the items up for bidding.

The Night in the Oasis is co-sponsored by Club 1409 – the same adult social committee that hosted the awesome S’mores night in November. If you enjoyed the S’mores night, you’ll love the Night in the Oasis.

Tickets are \$18 per person, and non-members are warmly welcomed. If you haven’t already rsvp’d, send your form (also found on page 12) to the shul office today! Please direct any questions to events@shaaretorah.org or the Shaare Torah office at 301-869-9842. ☆



Saturday, March 5th,
8:30pm at Shaare Torah

\$18 per person | Business casual dress
RSVP by February 25
Nonmembers are welcome.

If you have questions about this event, please email events@shaaretorah.org or call Shaare Torah at 301-869-9842
Co-sponsored by Club 1409

If you require financial assistance to attend this event,
please call Rabbi Jacob.

Upcoming Activities

- February 18-20:** Winter Kadima
- February 21:** Nursery School Movie Event, Toy Story 3, 10am
- February 27:** Brunch at Shaare Torah, featuring Barry Nove, an expert on Jewish Genealogy, 10:30am
- March 5:** A Night in the Oasis
- March 8-9:** Picture Art
- March 13:** Hazak Event: “The Chosen” by Chaim Potok at the Arena Stage, 3:00 PM
- March 18:** Nursery School sing a long for Purim
- March 19:** 6:30 Tot Purim Service, 8:00 Family Megillah Reading and Celebration, 9:30 “The Whole Megillah”
- March 20:** Purim Party, 3:30pm
- April 3:** Family Bingo Event, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- April 17-26:** Religious and Nursery School Spring Break

Save the Date!
Dor L’Dor will be May 6-8th

For more information visit our website at www.shaaretorah.org

Welcome New Members!

Lori and Larry Rushfield



Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal

"WHEN ADAR ARRIVES, JOY INCREASES"

At its core Judaism – perhaps all religious expression – is really a response to the miracle of living. How is it that we humans have evolved in the universe, with the ability not only to live, but to be consciously aware of our world, our mortality, and our emotions? How is that we, of all beings of which we currently know, have the ability to appreciate the beauty of a sunset, or create a work of art?

And while life is hard, it seems to me that what truly sets us apart is not our ability to experience pain and sorrow, but our ability to truly express the joy of our existence – our creation. This joy is a mixture of gratitude, awareness, and, if we are fortunate, even a deep sense of satisfaction.

There are specific times of the year where our tradition draws our attention to this state of being, and the Jewish month of Adar, in which we celebrate the holiday of Purim, and look forward to Passover, is such a month. The Talmud teaches us, "Mi sheh-nikhnas Adar, marbim be-simhah – When the month of Adar arrives, joy increases." Furthermore, it is interesting that in the Jewish lunar-solar calendar, it is this month that has the potential to be "repeated" as a "leap-month" (Adar I and Adar II) in order to ensure that the springtime holiday of Passover actually occurs in the spring. So some years (like this year) we actually get to "double" our period of focusing on joy.

So this is a time of year when we should ask ourselves, "What brings us joy? How can I make my life more joyful?" For me, joy comes from being with my family; from being with good friends or members of my community; from experiencing nature; and – when I'm really fortunate – from a warm feeling that comes during meditation, or prayer, or the fulfillment of a Jewish tradition or "mitzvah." I know I'm feeling joy when I have that sense of deep satisfaction, and when I am moved towards a profound sense of gratitude for my existence.

For many of us, joy is a state of being that is far too fleeting. This is a time of year when our tradition demands that we focus on it – and even cultivate it. So in this double-month of Adar, let's resolve to reflect on what brings us joy, and then to create those experiences so that we experience all the joy life has to offer! ✨

Rabbi

Jacob Blumenthal

President

Barbara McGowan

First Vice President

Leslie Lloyd

Vice President for Leadership Development

Barbara Friedlander

Vice President for Operations

Rob Maytin

Vice President for Membership & Community Development

Sara Gorfinkel

Vice President for Education/Lifelong Learning

Kelli Kahalas

Vice President for Religious Life

Monty Yolles

Vice President for Tikkun Olam/Caring

Loren Rodwin

Vice President for Communications

Jessica Smith

Vice President for Finance & Fundraising

Ken Beecher

Treasurer

Michael Kowler

Secretary

Jennifer Schnur

Director of Lifelong Learning

Rabbi Alana Suskin

Director of Early Childhood Education

Pamela Gorin

Facilities Director

Pepe Strauss

SCROLL NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Managing Editor Nicki Walter

Design Jessica Smith

Winter 2011, Vol. 15, Number 1

The Scroll is published quarterly by Shaare Torah, Inc. P.O. Box 83598, Gaithersburg, MD 20883.

Shaare Torah Message Line

301-869-9842

Check out our website at:

www.shaaretorah.org

e-mail us at: Info@ShaareTorah.org

Join Us For A Shaare Torah Shabbat!

Junior Congregation

Feb 12, Mar. 12 & April. 9th

Children in grades 3-6. Led by MollyBeth Rushfield.

Gesher

Feb 12, Mar. 12 & April. 9th

at 10:15 am

Children in grades K-2. Led by Debra Geiger.

(parents of kindergarteners are encouraged to attend)

Tot Shabbat

Feb 12 & 26th, Mar. 12 & 26th & April. 9th & 23rd at 10:15 am

Children ages 2-4 with parents. Led by Meredith Polsky and Bari Handelman.

President's Message

By Barbara McGowan

I do not like winter. It is my least favorite season. It is cold, there are no leaves on the trees, no flowers blooming, you can't sit on your porch, you don't see your neighbors because everybody is hiding inside, and every time we have a storm, events get canceled and everybody has to stay home. But there is one thing we can count on even in the winter. Things are always happening at Shaare Torah. When the weather turns sour, we play mini golf! Indoors! In our own building!



When the weather first turned cold Club 1409 built a bon fire and made smores and hot chocolate. In December we threw a Hannukah party with lots of fun games and entertainment. This month we'll have brunch together with the Men's Club and hear about Jewish Genealogy. I'm very excited to find out how I can research my family's history. Join us in early March for our big fundraiser event, A Night at the Oasis. Come spend time with friends, make some new friends, enjoy some delicious Mediterranean snacks and dessert, and bid on items in our silent auction.

This year our evening is co-sponsored by Club 1409. If you were at Club 1409's Smores and More evening in November, you won't want to miss this! Later in March, bring the kids and enjoy our annual Purim party. This year's party promises to be a lot of fun, with cotton candy, carnival games, and a costume parade with prizes. By that time, it'll practically be Spring, my favorite season, where everything is fresh and new and green.

But I'm not only reminding you to come to Shaare Torah on the day of the party. I'm reminding you to get involved. Volunteer to help. Don't tell anyone I said this, but sometimes the planning meetings and the set up and clean up are more fun than the actual event. It's the best time to make new friends. Getting involved means you get to spend time with people you might not ordinarily spend time with and get to know them.

With fun comes friendship, and that is where Shaare Torah has really had the biggest impact on Kevin's and my life. We consider ourselves very fortunate for all the friends we have made at Shaare Torah. They have enriched our lives in more ways than you can imagine. The friendships shared at Shaare Torah are what makes our community so special.

So don't just hide in your house all winter waiting for Spring. Come to Shaare Torah and have some fun. We'll wait for Spring together.✧



Mazal tov to our b'nai mitzvahs Bennett Greenfeld, Jesse Cogan, Casey Kahalas, Sarah Keller, Sara Hallam, David Greenblott, and Evan Feldman. *Way to go!*

Mazal tov to To Rachel and Ryan Spiegel on the birth of their son, Jack Kenneth.

The congregation extends its condolences to Lisa Brown and family on the death of her mother, Judith Klein, z"l.

The congregation extends its condolences to Mark Hamelburg and family on the death of his father, Edward Fink, z"l.

The congregation extends its condolences to Stacy Stearman and family on the death of her mother, Loretta Katz, z"l.

The congregation extends its condolences to Lisa Aron and her family on the death of her father, Herbert Stein, z"l.

The congregation extends its condolences to Jay Schwartz and his family on the death of his mother, Gladys Schwartz, z"l.

The congregation extends its condolences to Kenneth Nechin and his family on the death of his father, Herbert Nechin, z"l.



Rabbi Jacob and our Kindergarten students at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School during the annual pizza lunch on February 8th.

Left to right: Ella Kotok, Hayden Polsky, Alexandra Weisel, Ella Sheintal, and Ari Bernstein

Nursery School Notes

By Pamela Gorin, Director of Early Childhood Education

IN THE NEWS

In an article from Brain World, entitled "Minding Your Baby's Mind" by Christin Taylor, Taylor interviews Dr. John Medina about his new book, entitled *Brain Rules for Baby: How to Raise a Smart and Happy Child from Zero to Five* (Pear Press, 2010). According to Medina, "I wanted to make this book organized around the heartfelt, insightful and good questions that people are asking but no one's addressing," says the author, who uses science to answer these questions and to dismiss some myths about parenting. "The great thing about science is that it takes no sides—and no prisoners," says Medina. "Once you know which research to trust, the big picture emerges and myths fade away." Below are two myths that Medina discusses in his book:

Myth #1: Playing Mozart to your womb will improve your baby's future math scores. The truth? Leave your fetus alone, says Medina. "Morning sickness is legendary for nausea, but it also makes you so doggone tired, you don't want to move. The baby is going, 'Good, good. I'm spitting out 8,000 cells per second. I need time to concentrate, thank you.' If you want your child to do well in math, the greatest thing you can do is teach your little one impulse control", writes Medina. Citing results of a study by researcher Walter Mischel, Medina explains how children who could delay gratification for 15 minutes scored 210 points higher on their SATs than children who could only last one minute.

Myth #2: To boost their brain power, children need French lessons by age 3, a room piled with brain-friendly toys and a library of educational DVDs. The truth? Medina says that if your toddler's brain could talk, it would say, "Quit buying me electronic gadgets. I need lots of open-ended play. I need cardboard boxes, and crayons, and two hours. I don't need flash cards. If you really want to improve my cognitive development, talk to me, say words to me. Interact with me. Understand my behavioral cues."

Medina cites the work of Ed Tronick, who, for decades, has been studying the emotional lives of children and the way their parents interact with them. Tronick coined the phrase interaction synchrony, which Medina defines as knowing your babies' cues, when you're over-stimulating them and when you need to be with them.

The worst thing possible for your toddler's growing mind, Medina says, is your flat-screen TV. He advises parents to create a "chocolate factory" in their homes for their toddlers— a room built for your toddler's growing brain (based on Willy Wonka's chocolate plant). Every playroom should include the following elements:

- Lots of choices
- A place for drawing

- A place for painting
- Musical instruments
- A wardrobe filled with costumes
- Blocks
- Picture books
- Tubes and gears

"Anything where a child can be safely let loose, joyously free to explore whatever catches her fancy," he explains. "Something to think about in our smartphone, I-Pad, highly technical world!"

AROUND THE SCHOOL

As I write this, the children are busily exploring winter. The cold weather gives the students an abundance of opportunities to learn. They've painted with colored ice and examined snow. They've done experiments with ice and hypothesized what might happen if salt is added to water and left outside in the cold. Our halls are decorated with snow people and memories of winter break. The children have been working on collaborative art activities and learning about what it means to be an individual and part of a community.

PICTURE ART

Picture Art is coming to Shaare Torah on March 9 and 10, so please contact me if you are interested in scheduling a time for your children to come and get their pictures taken. Our photographer will be here both before and after school each day. ✨



REGISTRATION FOR NURSERY SCHOOL 2011-2012

Registration for our Nursery School program has begun. We have programs for toddlers, twos, threes and fours.

For more information, contact Pam Gorin at 301-869-9842, x113 or pgorin@shaaretorah.org





ZOMICK'S Challahs • Rolls • Cakes

Pick up at Shaare Torah

or call for schedule of deliveries
and convenient pick-up-sites

301•593•5775

email: capchallah@aol.com

Under the Strict Supervision of the
Five Town Vaad and

All aboard the Shaare Torah Summer Program Express!



Shaare Torah Nursery School in the Kentlands (1409 Main Street, Gaithersburg) is offering a summer program for children ages 2-5 from June 27 through August 5, 2011. Stopping at a different, exciting "destination" each week, themed sessions are taught by qualified, caring and enthusiastic nursery school teachers assisted by counselors. Activities include water and outdoor play, art, creative dramatics, storytelling, and music. In addition, each session will include special programming and events.

A 3-day program (9:15 am-12:00 pm) is available for rising 2's (2 years old by September 1, 2011) and 3- and 5-day programs (9:15 am- 1:00 pm) are available for 3-5-year olds. Pricing is as follows:

- **3-day 2's:** Members: \$75/week;
Non-members: \$100/week
- **3-day 3's:** Members: \$85/week;
Non-members: \$110/week
- **5-day 3's/4's/5's:** Members: \$145/week;
Non-members \$170/week

For more information, contact Pam Gorin at pgorin@shaaretorah.org or 301-869-9842 x113.

Partnership with JSSA

Shaare Torah's exciting partnership with JSSA, the Jewish Social Service Agency, is now in its fourth year. The Synagogue Liaison Program offers congregants an opportunity for a free and confidential consultation with an experienced JSSA clinician. Susie Rosloff has worked with many families and can help with questions about a variety of issues from raising children to aging parents. Susie is available to all members, either by telephone or through an in office visit to discuss any issues that face individual synagogue members.



While this service is not meant to be ongoing therapy, Susie can offer strategies and guidance for specific issues and provide referrals to JSSA and other community resources.

Please call Susie at 301-610-8329 or srosloff@jssa.org. JSSA's office is in Falls Grove at 200 Wood Hill Road in Rockville. Feel free to set up a private and completely confidential consultation with Susie about any issue you or your family is encountering – individual or couples counseling, parenting, students with special needs, advice or resources regarding aging parents, or any other topic of concern. Initial consultations are at no cost.

COLLEGEWISE® College Planning and Application Services SAT and ACT Preparation

Nancy Merrill & Karin Petit

Phone (301) 807-2268

collegewise1@gmail.com

*College is an experience of a lifetime.
Prepare well and make an informed decision.*



In-Studio or
On-Location
Maryland • Virginia
Washington DC

Lauren Lee PHOTOGRAPHY

www.laurenleephoto.com
lauren@laurenleephoto.com **301.461.0011**

L'Chu L'Mayim

By Rabbi Alana Suskin, Director of Life Long Learning



Come for Water

Wow! Winter certainly has been wet this year. Despite all the weather, we have had a very full year. As I write, we are looking forward to this year's 5th grade shabbaton, and hoping that the weather reports will change between now and Friday. The shabbaton is always one of our best activities, and we have had a huge sign-up this year; I know that it is going to be fabulous!

But the shabbaton is not our only Shabbat experience! This year, our students have had wonderful opportunities to experience Shabbat together, not only to learn about Shabbat, but to share it with their families and for both parents and children to develop deeper relationships with their friends and classmates. Since the beginning of the year, when we began with parent-student get-togethers for each grade, we have had numerous opportunities for our religious school families to continue to deepen their relationships. We are so pleased at how our programs have helped to enrich the Shaare Torah community as a whole as well as helping our students learn about Shabbat and Judaism. We have already had one Shabbat experience each for 3-4th grade, 6-7th grade and k-2nd grade. Each of these programs focuses upon the parts of the curriculum that our students are learning (or have learned) in their classes – Friday night at home, Kabbalat Shabbat, Saturday morning services, and havdalah.

Coming up soon, each of these grades will also have another opportunity to experience the wonderful Shabbat programming we offer, with an added fantastic bonus: the amazing Jordan Hill, storyteller and teacher extraordinaire will be visiting us for the weekend as our artist-in-residence for February 4th and 5th. We are so looking forward to Jordan bringing his brand of wonder and learning to our students!

Due to popular demand, we have doubled the number of Geshher Shabbats that we offer. Deb Geiger now leads two Shabbat programs each month for kindergarten through 2nd grade, on the 2nd and 4th Shabbat of the month. In fact, our K-2 programs have really blossomed this year: in addition to all of the above, we have also had our winter Shabbat playdate program take off! Kids come with their parents and siblings on Shabbat morning once a month and stay and play at the shul. We have fun games for grown-ups too- it's been a lot of fun: thanks so

Elizabeth Ayala, Ph.D

Teacher of Piano
The Kentlands



301-977-5424

much to Liz Fontek, Paula Fischthal and Barbara Friedlander for all the volunteering they've put into making this program happen. If you haven't been to one yet, don't worry! There are still two left: February 19th and March 5th. After that, you'll have to wait until next winter, so don't miss these great opportunities!

Actually, a lot of our programs have really taken off this year! Thanks to our wonderful advisor, Bonnie Prissman, our Kadima chapter is growing and growing. We regularly turn out large groups to regional and chapter activities. Don't miss the next one! USY has also seen a great deal of growth – Becky Samuel deserves a lot of thanks for her hard work in helping our new, very active USY board become a very successful chapter! Our high school program – Tichon Noar Shabbat (No"Sh) has also grown this year. A joint program that we hold together with Tikvat Israel and Kehilat Shalom, we regularly draw a group of over 30 teens for exciting programs with speakers, activities, dinner and more!

If you haven't gotten your teen involved, it's not too late!

With all that's going on, make sure you check the website calendar regularly. Religious school parents also receive a weekly email – please remember to check it! The weekly newsletter has reminders of what is going on in the next week or two, and has the link to the regularly updated classroom pages. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call or email Rabbi Alana (RabbiAlana@ShaareTorah.org).✧

Every plot has a story.
For future generations,
that is very telling.

They say cemeteries are for the living. We know this well at the Garden of Remembrance. That's why we encourage you to consider purchasing a family plot. You may not think being together for eternity matters, but consider your grandchildren and the generations ahead. When they start wondering about their heritage, it will be easier for them to discover your stories and their history.

To learn more, call Steven Greenfeld, 301.881.8300, or visit www.gardenofremembrance.org for more information.

Garden of Remembrance
ALAN ZEELRON MEMORIAL PARK

Member since 1988
The Jewish Community Center of Schaumburg

10 Years of Caring Service, Eternal Peace and Beauty

Committee News

Hazak Senior Group

By Sy & Sheila Harnik

Upcoming Events:

March 13th at 3:00 PM – We will be going to see the play “The Chosen” by Chaim Potok at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. There is limited seating.

Past Events:

In January our Hazak Chapter celebrated its fifth anniversary. At our first meeting which was held at our home, 45 people attended. Many of those attending met people they had not met in many years. The excitement and warmth was strongly felt by all.

Today, five years later, we have 140 members. We have had many exciting programs, interesting trips and we have met many wonderful people. We hope our Hazak Chapter will continue to grow and be able to offer new programs that you all can look forward to attending.

In February, we reviewed and discussed an outstanding book called “As a Driven Leaf” by Milton Steinberg. Bernice Blumenthal was our discussion facilitator.

Announcements:

At this time we regret to announce that as of June, 2011, we will be stepping down as chairpersons of the group. While we hope to remain active and involved as members of Hazak, we feel that it is time for new leaders to take the helm of this important and successful group. It's important that each of you consider how you can help our group continue to move forward- serving as chair people, helping to organize our programs, or volunteering to help with publicity. Please send a note to us with your ideas and ways you'd like to be involved. You can also share your ideas or volunteer by contacting Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal at rabbijacob@shaaretorah.org.

Membership dues still remain at \$10.00 per person annually. Keep sending us the names of the over 55 year olds so we can add them to our mailing list. Our membership will continue to grow with your help.

Sy & Sheila Harnik
144 Summer walk Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-631-6611

Brunch At Shaare Torah

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 27th, at 10:30am,
for an interesting bagel brunch featuring

Barry Nove Jewish Genealogy Expert

Ever wonder how we got saddled with our last names and
what can we learn about ourselves from them?
Wonder how your family actually came to America?

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Barry speaks all across the
United States. Barry has researched his family history since 1994.
He has been a member of Jewish Genealogy Societies across
the country and is currently a member of the Jewish Genealogy
Society of Washington DC.

Dont miss this unique event!
All Shaare Torah members are invited.
SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S CLUB



THE HEART OF SHAARE TORAH:

An Invitation to You!

We feel very blessed to be able to be there for our
members, lend a helping hand, provide a listening ear,
and extend heseed to our families in times of joy, challenge
or sorrow. Shaare Torah is proudly reflected through this
wonderful committee.

*Know of a congregant in need of
heseed or interested in joining?*

PLEASE CONTACT:
Elissa Ehrenstein at Ehrenstein4@verizon.net
or 301-540-0771



Do Unto Others...

by Stephanie Epstein

If Not Now, When?

Rabbi Hillel wrote, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?" The time is now for giving back to our community and Shaare Torah congregants have not held back. Below are highlights from some of the amazing efforts that our members put forth over the past few months.

A Walk Becomes a Life Lesson

One might wonder what the connection is between a planned walk event and the Monopoly® board game. Participants in the Shaare Torah Fifth Annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon, however, learned firsthand. On Sunday, October 17, walkers of all ages joined forces to participate in a Monopoly game in motion. The event was developed to make the experience more meaningful to the participants, especially the participating religious school students. As walkers moved along the course, they participated in a simulation of life expenses and financial decisions.

The walkathon not only exercised participants' muscles, but also it took them through a financial management exercise. Each "family" was given \$2000 which represented their monthly income. As they walked through the course, they passed through six stations corresponding to potential life occurrences. There were grocery bills, health-related emergencies and home and car repairs at the different stations. At the end of the walk participants returned to Shaare Torah and settled their accounts with cashiers. The exercise continued as the "families" made decisions regarding discretionary purchases such as dinners out, new video games and birthday gifts. The "families" were also faced with the essential mortgage payment. In the end, some "families" learned that they could not pay their mortgage and therefore became homeless. The game helped to demonstrate how some people can become homeless because of life events and financial management.

The mission of Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Program is to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness and to support and increase resources for organizations working to prevent and end homelessness. One hundred percent of Shaare Torah's walker registration fees, donations and sponsorship went to Gaithersburg Help and its related organization, the Upper Montgomery Assistance Network, which will use these funds to help people at risk of eviction or utility cut-off. Shaare Torah had 182 walkers participate in this event and raised more than \$6,000 for Gaithersburg HELP. In addition, Shaare Torah made a \$500 contribution to Gaithersburg HELP, which leveraged additional funding for this worthy organization.

The Help the Homeless Walkathon was a success because of the efforts of both Shaare Torah members and local community groups. The event was organized by the Social Action Committee and the Religious School, while teenage volunteers from the Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery

County, Md., which is an organization for business and professional women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, manned the stations. Donald Whithead, a speaker from the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau also introduced the event. Many thanks to the following volunteers who played integral roles in the event:

- Johann Dretchen for planning the walk
- Tracey Alalouf for organizing volunteers and the speaker
- Rachael Spiegel for taking photographs

A very big thank you also goes to all of our volunteers and walkers!

Providing a Meal in a Basket

"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand." This Chinese proverb is especially true for teaching Religious School students about the importance of giving back to the community. While Thanksgiving can be a time of family, food and camaraderie, it can also be a time of sadness and hunger. The Social Action Committee worked closely with the Religious School to put together Thanksgiving meal baskets to help families faced with hunger and hardship. The Social Action Committee used this new approach which allowed each Religious School classes to make their own baskets. Involving the students in the project helped them to better understand how their mitzvah will help enable a family to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday a little more.

The Thanksgiving baskets not only contained food for the Thanksgiving meal, but also had a little something extra to enable the families to add their own special touch. Each basket contained a \$25 Giant gift card for each family to use for additional grocery items. The baskets were delivered to 12 families in the Germantown area. The Thanksgiving basket program was run in conjunction with Germantown HELP, a community-based nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance to our neighbors in crisis.

A special thank you goes out to Tracey Alalouf for leading this project and to all of the volunteers who joined her in running this educational and impactful activity.

An Extra Layer of Warmth

With what seemed like colder than normal temperatures this past December, many of us added on extra layers for comfort. From winter coats and gloves to extra blankets on our beds, we did not think twice as we prepared for the weather. Not everyone, however, is so lucky. In an effort to meet the needs of the community, the Social Action Committee spearheaded an effort to collect coats, blankets and other winter items for the Interfaith Works Clothing Center.



The collection ran from just prior to Shaare Torah's Hanukkah party to during the party itself. Shaare Torah families collected 95 coats and seven blankets, as well as an assortment of hats, gloves and a pair of snow boots. Clothing was cleaned by Crest Cleaners and then delivered to the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. In addition, the used blankets were delivered to the Humane Society.

Thank you to Corrin Ferber for leading this activity and to all of the Shaare Torah families who were so generous in their donations.

Providing Something Comforting on a Special Day

While most local residents enjoyed time off from work over the Christmas holiday, there was no such luxury for area first responders who staff vital roles within fire, police and other emergency service departments. As a "thank you" to these dedicated personnel, members of Shaare Torah gathered on Christmas Eve to assemble and deliver platters of baked goods to local fire departments, police stations, hospitals and emergency communications centers.

More than one hundred members of all ages, including many children from the synagogue's nursery and religious schools, participated in

this annual appreciation event which was held at Lisa and Dan Reichmann's home.

Thank you to Lisa and Dan Reichmann, as well as all the volunteers, who baked, assembled and delivered these special gifts.

B-I-N-G-O!

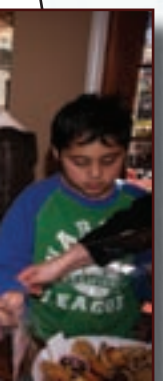
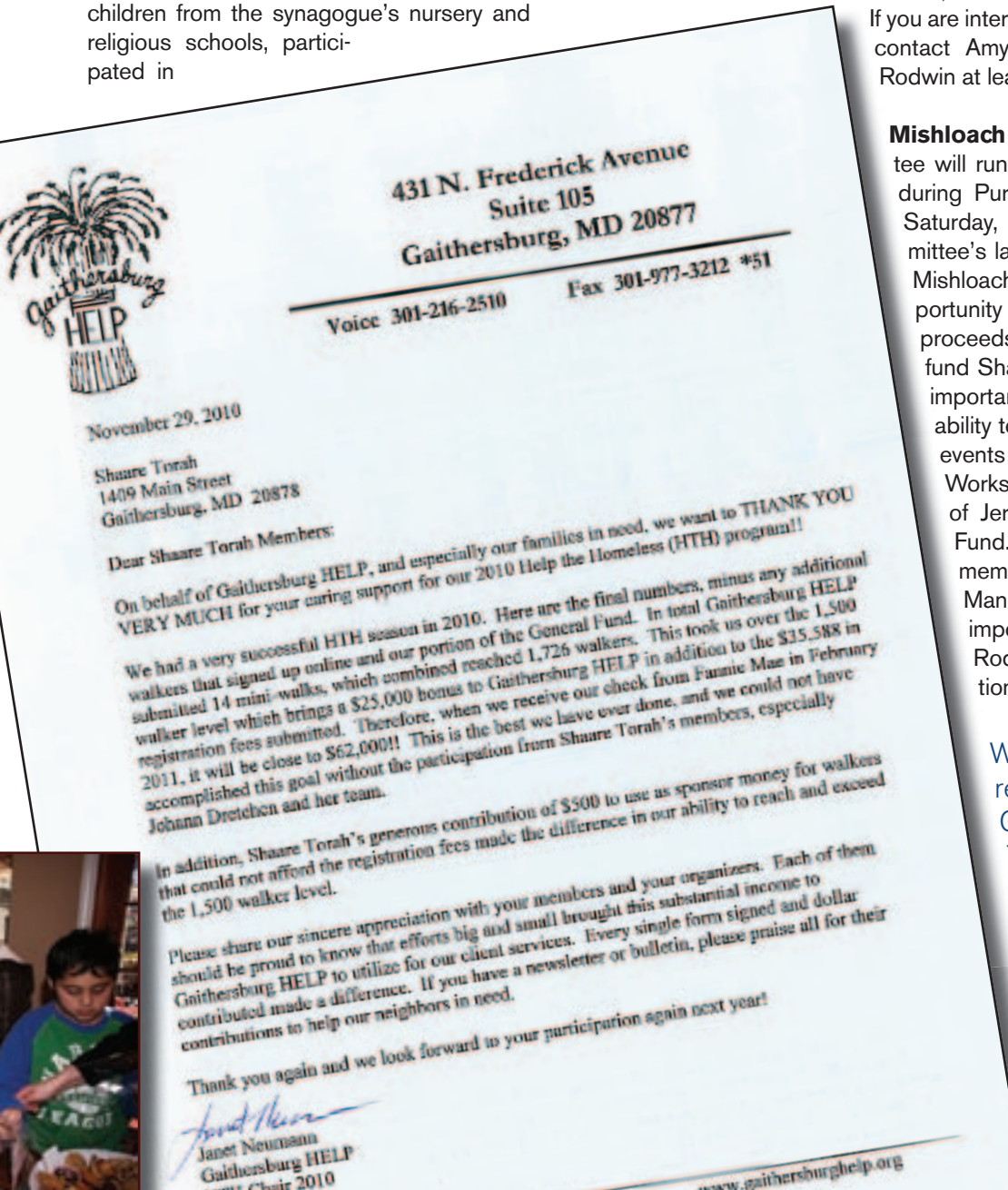
On January 23rd, we played BINGO at the B'nai Birth Homecrest House. Volunteers assisted and interacted with residents, as well as provided refreshments and entertainment. Thank you to Alyssa Alalouf and Isabella Abraham for chairing this event.

Upcoming Events

Hospice Volunteer Program Information Session – Amy Goot, Hospice Volunteer Program, and Amy Kass, Shaare Torah, will brief those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities through the Hospice Volunteer Program. Look for more details, including the date and time of the information session, in the Shaare Torah Weekly Announcements. If you are interested in attending this program, please contact Amy Kass at a.s.kass@att.net or Loren Rodwin at leahloren@gmail.com.

Mishloach Manot –The Social Action Committee will run its annual Mishloach Manot Program during Purim, which will begin at sundown on Saturday, March 19. The Social Action Committee's largest fundraising program of the year, Mishloach Manot provides congregants the opportunity to send greetings during Purim. The proceeds of Mishloach Manot are used to help fund Shaare Torah's Social Action Fund. This important fund provides Shaare Torah with the ability to make donations to organizations and events such as Gaithersburg HELP, Interfaith Works, Sukkot in April, the Children's Village of Jerusalem, and the USCJ's Haiti Relief Fund. More information will be sent out to members regarding how to place Mishloach Manot orders and how to volunteer for this important program. Please contact Loren Rodwin at leahloren@gmail.com for additional details.

We thought you would like to read this thank you letter from Gaithersburg HELP for Shaare Torah's participation in the Help the Homeless Miniwalk. Shaare Torah can take much pride in what we have accomplished.



Herb's Holidays

By Herb Baum

Alternative Musaf Service

Please join us on the third Saturday of every month for an Alternative Musaf Service. This lay-led, participatory and experimental service is held in an intimate and relaxed setting on the third floor of the building. Each of these traditional, egalitarian services may include elements like a full repetition of the Amidah, creative teachings, and innovative tunes.


LANDSCAPES PLUS
Landscape Installation and Design
Landscape Consultations
Yard Cleanups, Mulching, Woodchips
Lawn Renovation-Seeding,
Fertilizing Shrub Pruning and Removal
Perennial-Annual Gardens

AVI CHERTOCK Landscapesplus@hotmail.com
(301) 593-0577 www.landscapesplus.com


**The Corner
Beer & Wine Store**
300 Main Street
Kentlands, MD 20878
240-632-2860

- Open 7 Days a Week -
"Your Neighborhood Beer & Wine Store"
Parking Behind Store

Beers & Wines from
Around the World

Wide selections of
Kosher/Passover Wines
Available

Discounts Given on Quantity Orders

I knew we had two but why three this year

Two!! Two of what? Some may have guessed that riddle, but how many know that this year there are three?

The time period for this issue of the Scroll covers both Purim and Passover, both of which I have written about. But this year Purim is slightly different. Every year there are two Purims; the regular one we celebrate and Shushan Purim which is celebrated in Jerusalem. However, did you know that this year there will be three Purims?

Why two Purims? Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March. The 13th of Adar is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews, and the day that the Jews battled their enemies for their lives. On the day afterwards, the 14th, they celebrated their survival. In cities that were walled in the time of Joshua, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, because the book of Esther says that in Shushan (a walled city), deliverance from the massacre was not complete until the next day. The 15th is referred to as Shushan Purim.

Now we know why two, but what is the rest of the story? It begins by understanding the Jewish calendar. The Jewish calendar, to be consistent with the seasons, is a lunar calendar that functions on a 19 year cycle. In 7 of those years (3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th), an extra month is added to the calendar. The "leap month" is added right before Passover, to ensure that Passover really comes in the springtime. This is one of those cycles where we have an Adar I (Rishon) and an Adar II (Sheni).

Centuries ago it was decided that Purim would be celebrated in the second month of Adar, so it is always one month before Passover. The 14th day of the first Adar in a leap year is celebrated as a minor holiday called Purim Katan, which means "little Purim." There are no specific observances for Purim Katan; however, a person should celebrate the holiday and should not mourn or fast.

Adar I is considered the "extra" month. As a result, someone born in Adar during a non leap year would celebrate his birthday in Adar II during a leap year. Those who have yahrzeits during the month of Adar, like myself, will observe them in Adar Rishon, because we should fulfill a mitzvah, in this case honoring our parents, at the first opportunity we have to do so.

Our two major holidays during this period of the Scroll are Purim and Passover. The connection, in addition to the time of the year, is that both celebrate G-d rescuing the Jewish people from somebody wanting to exterminate us. This is also a time to recognize the modern equivalent, the Shoah. Hag Sameach ✨

Sources:

Judaism 101: www.JewFAQ.org/calendar.htm; Wikipedia, Jewish calendar and Adar: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_calendar; Hebcad, Hebrew calendar: www.hebcad.com



Join us for a *Purim Party*

Fun for all Ages! Carnival games! Music! Hamantaschen!
Featuring Jacob's Ladder and a Moonbounce!
Costume Contest! Special Activity room for ages 5 and under!

Sunday, March 20th

3:30pm-5:30pm

Shaare Torah

1409 Main Street

Gaithersburg, MD

www.shaaretorah.org



PRE-REGISTRATION ADMISSION:

\$8 per person; maximum family fee of \$30

AT THE DOOR ADMISSION:

\$9 per person; maximum family fee of \$35

Children 2 and under are free!

If you would like to attend this event and need financial assistance, please speak confidentially with Ken Beecher, Treasurer, treasurer@shaaretorah.org or 301-527-0288

ALSO JOIN US FOR OUR MEGILLAH READINGS AT SHAARE TORAH, SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH:

6:30 Tot Purim Service – *for ages 2-5 and under and families*

8:00 Family Megillah Reading and Celebration – *partial megillah reading for families with children*

9:30 “The Whole Megillah” Reading and Celebration – *Costumes encouraged and refreshments served.*

HELP STAMP OUT HAMAN AND HUNGER

Bring Boxed Macaroni and Cheese for Groggers, and then donate them to Gaithersburg HELP

Shaare Torah's Annual Purim Party Pre-registration Admission Form March 20, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM.

LAST NAME _____

FIRST NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

My enclosed check, payable to Shaare Torah is for:

Number of participants ____ @ \$8 per person = _____ OR \$30 family maximum

Forms can be dropped off at the main office at Shaare Torah or must be postmarked by March 15th.

For more info email info@shaaretorah.org, or call 301-869-9842.

Shaare Torah Nomination Form

I hereby recommend the following person for consideration by the Nominating Committee for service as an officer/trustee of Shaare Torah.

Name of nominee (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone (home/office/other): _____

E-mail _____

Position for which the nomination is made: _____

Please check one:

- I am nominating myself
- I have contacted the nominee, who is willing and able to serve if elected
- I have not contacted the nominee

Statement in support of nomination

(this should answer the question, "Why would this person be a success in this position?" Past leadership positions should go in the Biographical Information section that follows. Do not feel limited by the space provided on this form.)

Biographical Information

(Introduce the candidate to the congregation. Include information such as previous leadership or committee work, relevant civic involvement, or special qualifications. Do not feel limited by the space provided on this form.)

Name of person submitting this form (if not nominee): _____

Phone _____ Date _____

This form is also available on our website at: <http://www.shaaretorah.org/shaare-torah-online/144-forms-a-downloads.html>

Please return this form to Nominating Committee by the nomination deadline to:
Shaare Torah Nominating Committee | PO Box 83598 | Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3598

Members working with Members



Julie Goodwin Weber

Attorney at Law

Practicing primarily in
Estate and Trusts law

- Wills, Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Charitable Planning

Weinberg & Jacobs, LLP

11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 1200 • Rockville, MD 20852

Tel: 301-468-5500 Email: jgweber@wjlaw.com Web: www.wjlaw.com

Free initial consultation for all Shaare Torah members

A Jewish day camp with an overnight feel ... right in your own backyard!

*Challenge courses, archery, overnight programs,
beautiful pool with slide, art and
woodworking, sports fields, air conditioned
bunk houses, and a 17,000 s.f. community
center all on our beautiful 107 acre campus...
Plus Hershey Park, Kings Dominion,
and so much more!*



Camp Shoresh 2011 dates

1st session June 27-July 16	2nd session July 18-August 7
---------------------------------------	--

**Air conditioned coach
bus picks up and
drops off in
the Kentlands**



**For more information call
410-358-8571**

or e-mail shoresh@shoresh.com

**You can fill out an application
online or download one at**

www.shoresh.com

Donations

General Fund

- Bernice Blumenthal in thanks to Shaare Torah family for all the love & sympathy.
- Lori Feller
- Rosalie & Gilbert Fleisher in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Shelia & Seymour Harnik in memory of Sam Gottlieb, z"l; in memory of Morris Gottlieb, z"l; in memory of Rose Harnik, z"l; in memory of Joseph Harnik, z"l
- Michael & Fran Kowler in memory of Herbert Miller, z"l; in memory of Arthur Kowler, z"l
- Howard Liebowitz & Carolyn Sher in memory of Edythe Liebowitz, z"l
- Michelle Margolis in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Gregg & Sheryl Nathanson in honor of Julia Hamelburg's bat mitzvah
- Kenneth Nechin & Annette Bicher in honor of the naming of Hailey Nechin
- Evan & Judith Novenstein in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Maurice & Charlotte Potosky in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Jody Rosenberg in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Debbie Sann in memory of

Werner Blumenthal, z"l

- Norma Thomas in memory of Gladys Schwartz, z"l

Hesed Fund

- Judith & David Bernstein in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l; in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l; in memory of Gladys Schwartz, z"l; in memory of Herbert Stein, z"l
- Bernice Blumenthal in thanks to Shaare Torah family for food, love and support
- Suzanne & Jerome Boden in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Ruth Cohen in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Louise Corso & Edward Myers in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l; in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Eve Gety in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Ken & Fran Finkelstein in memory of Herbert Stein, z"l
- Toby Frank in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l; in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l
- Paul Fronstin
- Shelia & Seymour Harnik in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Seymour & Shelia Harnik in honor of Seymour Harnik
- Larry & Ann Kaplan in memory

of Werner Blumenthal, z"l

- Aaron & Rebecca Kotok in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Rosalyn Kram in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Martin & Ina Leiderman in memory of Herbert Stein, z"l
- Connie & Alan Liss in honor of Seymour Harnik's recovery; in honor of the birth of Jack Spiegel; in memory of Herbert Stein, z"l
- Margaret Rifkind in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Sylvia Ruff in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Dudley & Alice Schwartz in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Aviva Sotzsky
- Estelle Stolovy in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Richard Wyron in memory of Edie Blacher, z"l

Rabbi's Fund

- Lisa Gold in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Joshua & Loren Felsher in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Rhoda & Norbert Eckstein
- Deedy & Edward Eisenson for a speedy recovery for Sy Harnik
- Barbara & Kevin McGowan in honor of the birth of Rebecca Mae Fronstin; for the purchase of children's books
- Herbert, Henrietta & Kenneth Nechin in gratitude of Rabbi's support
- Kenneth Nechin & Annette Bicher in gratitude for the Rabbi's support in their time of need
- Sheryl Rosenberg in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Elliott & Evonne Schnitzer in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Deborah Spitzer in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Alan Werngz in memory of Gladys Schwartz, z"l
- Gerald & Elaine Libman in honor of the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Joshua Berenzweig
- Bernice Blumenthal in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- George Bernhardt in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Norbert and Rhoda Eckstein in honor of Rhoda's recovery
- Edith Millman in honor of her children and grandchildren, Jeff, Marion, Seth, and Stephanie; in honor of her daughter Helene, and in memory of her husband, Leon Milman, z"l
- Bruce & Ann Goodman in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Jeff and Jeanne Ellinport in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l

The following are the available donation funds:

- **General Fund** – Supports synagogue activities.
- **Building Fund** – Provides for acquisition and maintenance of physical space.
- **Education Excellence Fund** – Supports education programs and teacher retention.
- **Prayer Book Fund** – Provides for prayer book requirements. Hardcover books contain a dedication bookplate.
- **Library Fund** – Maintains and grows our library resources.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** – Assists members of the congregation who are in need (confidentially), initiates programs and provides other benefits to the congregation.
- **Hesed Fund** – Supports members in times of need (such as a birth or death in the family). In addition to making sure there are minyans during shiva, we provide a mea during shiva. On the happier side, we provide a Shabbat meal for families with a new baby.
- **Social Action Fund** – Supports the activities of the Social Action Committee. Some funds may also be donated to tzedakah in the congregation's name.
- **Nursery School Fund** – Supports nursery school programming.

Nursery School Fund

- Bernice Blumenthal in thanks to Shaare Torah family for all the love & sympathy
- Cindy Entin in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l
- Joshua & Loren Felsher in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l
- Sarah Jacobson
- Judith & Michael Mael in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l
- Elliott & Evonne Schnitzer in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l

Prayer Book Fund

- Jackie & Chick Hefter in honor of Gina, Carly and Samantha Slonin
- Idell Corson in honor of her sister Beatrice Simkins 90th Birthday
- Marcia Neuburger in memory of Herbert Stein, z"l

Social Action Fund

- Barbara & Beril Abraham in honor of Corrin Ferber
- Idell Corson and Lynn Weintraub in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Joshua & Loren Felsher in honor of their 10th anniversary
- Maurice Verstandig
- 2nd Grade classes

Youth Program

- Sheldon & Judith Ager in honor of Dayna Wallace
- Harold & Sharon Bergen in honor of Dayna Wallace

SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

Sponsoring a Kiddush is a great way to make a donation to Shaare Torah, while honoring a milestone in someone's life, such as a birthday or anniversary. It's also a nice way to honor someone's memory. If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush, please contact Pepe Strauss at 301.869.9842 ext. 115.

Adult Education Fund

- Harold & Sharon Bergen in honor of Dayna Wallace
- Amie Cogan in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l
- Rosalie Peters in honor of Dayna Wallace
- Irene & Dan Simpkins in memory of Werner Blumenthal, z"l

Education Excellence Fund

- Daron & Michelle Freedberg in honor of Rabbis Alana Suskin and Jacob Blumenthal's warmth, education and support of the Jewish Community

Building Fund

- Kenneth Beecher in memory of Samuel Meyers, z"l
- Maxine Karr
- Leslie & Lee Lloyd in memory of Phil Stein, z"l

Hazak Fund

- Jerome & Suzanne Boden for a speedy recovery for Seymour Harnik

Kiddush Sponsorships

- Sue & Dave Schless in honor of their son Ethan's bar mitzvah
- Cheryl & Gordon Gillerman in honor of their son Grant's bar mitzvah
- Mark & Jamie Hamelburg in honor of Julia's bat mitzvah
- Pearl Kassin in honor of the naming of her great-grandson John Richard Strom
- Gladys & Murray Rosofsky in honor of their granddaughters Yael and Lila's b'not Mitzvah
- Judith & Sheldon Ager in honor of their granddaughter Dayna Wallace
- Arlene & David Beckerman in honor of the b'not mitzvah of their children, Lena and Gabriel Beckerman
- Bernice Blumenthal in honor of the birthdays of her grandchildren, Stephen Blumenthal and Jory Harris-Blumenthal.
- Sharon & Alan Silber in honor of their son Isaac Silber's bar mitzvah
- Rachel & Seth Berenzweig in honor of their son Josh's bar mitzvah



Happy Birthday!

Rachel Goury	2/3	Frances Lasday	3/31
Danielle Goury	2/3	Zoe Fischman	3/31
Lucas Leichter	2/3	Dayna Wallace	4/1
Hannah Nechin	2/5	Zachary Weil	4/2
Marleigh Kass	2/9	Lauren Epstein	4/2
Ethan Feldman	2/13	Allison Link	4/2
Taylor Hausman	2/15	Evan Finkelstein	4/3
Eric Levy	2/17	David Greenblott	4/3
Cheryl Goodman	2/19	Sarah Weiss	4/3
Sophie Schnur	2/20	Talia Lloyd	4/4
Jacob Weil	2/20	Leah Johnston	4/4
Zachary Weisman	2/21	Talia Rodwin	4/4
Madeline Gross	2/24	Danielle Lanes	4/5
Allison Udler	2/25	Jacob Glueck	4/5
Benjamin Robinson	2/25	Noam Lurie	4/7
Bennett Greenfeld	2/25	Hannah Handelman	4/7
Lena Beckerman	2/26	Beth Ellinport	4/7
Elena Katz	2/26	Jennifer Novak	4/7
Samuel Gross	2/28	Caleb Sheintal	4/9
Sarah Hallam	2/28	Sadie Felsher	4/10
Bradley Wallace	3/1	Allyson Shulman	4/10
Hannah Handloff	3/1	Avi Greenfeld	4/11
Sara Keller	3/2	Samuel Greenfeld	4/12
Jonah Tash	3/2	Bradley Kahalas	4/12
Dalya Lurie	3/3	Mitchell Usatine	4/13
Alexandra Weisel	3/4	Danielle Cohen	4/13
Meredie Cohen	3/8	Joshua Giordano	4/13
Jesse Cogan	3/8	Tyler Giordano	4/13
Joshua Solomon	3/8	Joshua Frieder	4/13
Soren Lloyd	3/9	Harry Cohen-Dumani	4/14
Zachary Ehrenstein	3/10	Noah Weber	4/16
Mia Resnicow	3/10	Amanda Goldman	4/17
Jason Usatine	3/13	Bradley Cohen	4/17
Jordan Weisberger	3/13	Matthew Palatnik	4/18
Simon Glueck	3/14	Justin Peikin	4/18
MacKenzie Schless	3/16	Caroline Stasko	4/18
Danielle Pasekoff	3/16	Chase Pasekoff	4/19
Adam Kass	3/17	Alexandra Saks	4/20
Melanie Frank	3/17	Sarah Kravitz	4/20
Casey Kahalas	3/18	Jaycie Leichter	4/20
Andrew Ferris	3/18	Matthew Lowinger	4/21
Morgan Link	3/19	Taylor Renzi	4/22
Brett Horowitz	3/22	Bo Miller	4/22
Jaidon Smith	3/22	Tess Cohen-Dumani	4/23
Leia Cohen	3/23	Benjamin Dicker	4/24
Max Katz	3/23	Rena Adato	4/24
Harrison Kraus	3/26	Scott Cohen	4/25
Joshua Messitte	3/27	Arielle Silbert	4/25
Jacob Siegel	3/28	Mira Tash	4/26
Charlotte Bergel	3/28	Jonathan Prigal	4/29
Erin Chelf	3/28	Joshua Levy	4/29
Benjamin Cubert	3/28	Rachel Perry	4/29
Cameron Yolles	3/28	Halina Cohen	4/30
Lauren Rubinson	3/29	Valeria Rivera	4/30
Arielle Reichmann	3/29	Brandon Myers	4/30
Alexander Reichmann	3/29	Ellen Goldstein	4/30
Michael Flum	3/30		

Would you like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one?

You can purchase a chumash or siddur with a special dedication in the inside cover. The costs are \$36 per siddur and \$70 per chumash. If you would like to pay tribute to someone, send a check payable to Shaare Torah.



Join your Shaare Torah friends at
□ A Night in the Oasis □

Saturday, March 5th, 8:30 p.m. at Shaare Torah
1409 Main Street, Gaithersburg

Win fabulous items, services, and tickets at our silent and on-line auctions.

Enjoy tantalizing Middle Eastern light fare, wine bar, and Turkish coffee

\$18 per person | Business casual dress

RSVP by February 25

Nonmembers are welcome.

If you have questions about this event, please email events@shaaretorah.org or call Shaare Torah at 301-869-9842
Co-sponsored by Club 1409

If you require financial assistance to attend this event, please call Rabbi Jacob.

Register for Shaare Torah's A Night in the Oasis

Please send in this form along with your check, made payable to Shaare Torah by February 25th.

Number of adults attending: _____ x \$18/adult = _____

Names of attendees registering: _____

Contact Email: _____ Contact Phone: _____