

THETABLET

Congregation Har Shalom May/June 2023 Volume 56 - Issue 2 Iyyar/Siyan/Tammuz 5783 www.HarShalom.org/TheTablet

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US MORRIS & LILLIAN CAHAN WEEKEND OF LEARNING

JOIN US THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND OF MAY 5-7, 2023

Shabbat Dinner & Study of Jewish Texts on Abortion | Intimate discussion of personal Abortion stories through a Jewish lens | Drop-in Care Package Assembly

Donations for care packages are being collected at Har Shalom through May 1! Wishlist can be found on the Weekend of Learning website

LEARN MORE & REGISTER: <u>WWW.HARSHALOM.ORG/WOL2023</u>

DR. MICHAL RAUCHER

Undergraduate Director and Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, Rutgers University







Sisterhood New to You Sale is Back!

June 25, 2023

Message from New President, Aimee Segal

Page 6

Highlighted In This Issue ... May / June 2023

Men's Club Brunch

May 7

News from the Har Shalom Players

Page 16

Photos from the Har Shalom Annual Honoree Gala

Page 8-9

Cahan
Memorial
Weekend of
Learning
Page 10

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HARSHALOM.ORG/CALENDAR

FROM RABBI RASKIN

Dear Friends,

Nearly two years ago Har Shalom was the target of a series of acts of vandalism. A banner along Falls Road that proclaimed our community's support for Israel was defaced, and its replacement was ripped down almost as soon as it was put up. This destruction of property was covered in both television and print media, and it became a topic of concern among Har Shalom's staff and leadership. We wondered if there would be future acts of mischief, or even, God-forbid, violence? How many times could the banner reasonably be replaced? Some wondered if it would be better not to replace it at all, preferring not to draw any more attention to a contentious issue. Others suggested recalibrating our security cameras to identify the perpetrator...but we discovered that they could not capture that part of the property. We decided that we would not capitulate to this destructive behavior; our support for Israel is one of the cornerstones of our congregation's values. We teach about Israel in our schools, celebrate it on our calendar, regularly bring congregants to explore Israel, and advocate for a strong relationship between the U.S. and Israel from our unique perch in the Washington, D.C. area.

Since the summer of 2021, the banner has been hoisted high above street level (beyond the reach of vandals), on the exterior of the building facing the northbound side of Falls Road. The message it projects is simple: "Har Shalom Supports Israel." But just as important as what the banner does say is what it does not. Our support for Israel transcends any sitting government, prime minister, or political ideology. There are members of Har Shalom who are hawkish when it comes to Israel and there are those who describe themselves as much more to the left. Har Shalom is home to people who are prominent members of AIPAC, J-Street, the New Israel Fund, and other partisan groups. Our membership includes people who have served in the IDF, as well those with siblings, parents, and children who have donned Israel's uniform, fought in its wars, and protected its borders. We have hosted speakers of every political persuasion, most recently a West Bank Jewish settler, and a Gaza-born Palestinian Christian Arab. We are a diverse community, with deep attachments and strong feelings about Israel. Whatever our arguments with a faction or government (I have had plenty of my own!), what unites us is precisely what the banner reads: "Har Shalom Supports Israel." What I understand those four words to mean is that Har Shalom supports the existence of a sovereign, democratic, Jewish state of Israel. We are Zionists in that we believe that the Jewish people has a right to live in our ancestral homeland in peace and security. How that peace and security is best achieved is commentary. But the "Torah," if you will, is that the State of Israel has every bit as much right to exist in the family of nations as any other country.

This year, on the 5th day of the Hebrew month of lyar, corresponding to April 26th we celebrated the 75th



Adam J. Raskin Rabbi 301-299-7087, ext. 1 rabbiraskin@harshalom.org

Anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. Personally, I consider this to be an example of a modern miracle. After nearly 2,000 years of Jews living in the land of Israel at the whim of empires and foreign mandates (and with most of the Jewish people living in exile in the four corners of the earth), on May 14, 1948 the newly established Jewish state welcomed them home. This country was not established by the mashiach, the long awaited Messiah...rather it was the result of the toil, bloodshed, diplomatic and organizational efforts of Jews who decided that the time had come for the Jewish people to determine our own destiny, rather than have it be determined by others. Two millennia of history had proven that to be a disastrous policy for Jewish survival—especially just 3 years after the end of World War II and the smoldering ashes of the Shoah.

As I am writing this message, we are many weeks into ongoing demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of Israelis pouring into the streets demanding that their government stay true to democratic values. Whatever your opinion on judicial reform or the Netanyahu government, it's hard not to be inspired by the throngs of Israeli flag-waving citizens who are so invested in the essential character of the State of Israel. I will be the first to admit that the State of Israel is far from perfect. It is a human endeavor, and along with its remarkable accomplishments, it has plenty of failures and foibles. But this is not a time to abandon Israel or throw up our hands in disillusionment. As the home now to more Jews than anywhere else in the world, and the fulfillment of hundreds of generations of Jewish hopes and aspirations, Israel is too important to the Jewish people to give up on. Unlike some of my colleagues including many whom I deeply respect—I cannot bring myself to cease reciting the Prayer for the State of Israel, or replace it with some other formulation. I will continue to pray fervently for the State of Israel, including its leaders-those with whom I agree and those with whom I do not. I will continue to travel to Israel, to teach, preach, and advocate for it. And as Israel reaches its 75th anniversary, I hope that it will continue to evolve into an even better version of itself, with the support and loving partnership of the Jewish people both within and far beyond its borders.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Rabbi Raskin

FROM RABBI SIMMONS

As I write this, it is less than a week until Passover. My house is in the best kind of disarray-- the cathartic kind, where I am scrubbing and cleaning and sorting out my literal and metaphorical <u>hametz</u>, preparing to sit down first with family at a home seder, and then with so many of you at the Har Shalom Second Night Community Seder. Together, we will tell the story of our people's redemption from slavery and brave embrace of the uncertainty and potential and challenge of living in freedom. We will ask ourselves-- from what do we need redemption in our own lives? What is our own personal *Mitzrayim*? What is the desert in which we, ourselves, are currently wandering?

By the time you read this, though, all of these conversations will be in the past. We'll be deep into counting the Omer, heading towards Shavuot, moving ahead in our people's story, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments. We'll also be gearing up as a community to welcome Dr. Michal Raucher, a Rutgers professor and researcher, for our Weekend of Learning on May 5-7, 2023 (see page 10 for details).

It is an honor to welcome Dr. Raucher to our community. Her impressive and compassionate work on ethics, Jewish studies, reproductive rights and access is sure to inspire us, challenge us, and bring us face to face with topics that are at once deeply personal and universal. Furthermore, her visit could not come at a more fitting time in our Jewish calendar: the unique emotions that gather in us between Passover and Shavuot will provide a fertile ground for learning, questioning, identifying our core values, and recommitting ourselves to building a world that reflects those values more and more.

Passover inspires us to take a frank look at our lives, sit with who and where we are, and emerge carrying both intentional gratitude and responsibility. It is up to us, the Passover Haggadah teaches, to pass on our values to every generation, and to never forget, no matter where we live or what laws have been passed, that persecution and human rights abuses are a real part of our story and the world we live in. Passover means that no generation is exempt from taking action in the name of freedom and justice.

Similarly, Shavuot calls on us to name and identify what our driving, core values are. What are the rules



Rachel Simmons Rabbi 301-299-7087 ext. 1 rabbisimmons@harshalom.org

and ideas that we as Jews must never set to the side, no matter what? What does it mean to be commanded-- not just to feel that something is right, personally, but to be obligated by our sacred tradition to action and change?

The gratitude and responsibility of Passover will combine with the inspiration and obligation of Shavuot to invite us all in, this year, to take part with open hearts and minds in what promises to be an incredible and moving weekend with Dr. Raucher.

Last year, both Rabbi Raskin and I offered text learning opportunities surrounding the issue of abortion through a Jewish lens. We examined how access to reproductive care including abortion has been a Jewish religious issue long before it was a political one-- and how it remains a deeply Jewish issue to this day. So many of you took part in these learning opportunities and indicated that you would love to continue the discussion.

Dr. Raucher will build off of these texts and go even deeper, sharing over the course of three days how this is not only a theoretical issue, but one that impacts our communities deeply. The weekend will be packed: Dr. Raucher will teach after Kabbalat Shabbat and a special dinner on the 5th and then give the sermon and offer a special Havdalah for families with teens and young adults on Saturday the 6th. To cap off the weekend, we will gather one last time on Sunday morning the 7th to stuff care packages and write messages of support to patients and medical providers at the Potomac Family Planning Center, a local abortion and reproductive care provider that regularly faces protests and threats.

I invite all of you to take an active part in this year's Weekend of Learning. Please visit www.HarShalom. org/WOL2023 for all the details and to register. In the spirit of Passover and Shavuot, let us all be inspired to live our values!

Rabbi Rachel Simmons

FROM THE HAZZAN

Two mischievous brothers were always getting into trouble at their local synagogue. One day the Rabbi called both of them to her office. Inviting the older one in, she asked the younger one to wait in the anteroom. She closed the door and asked the older brother: "I have noticed you frequently getting into trouble; let's have an honest conversation. Do you know where God is?" Receiving a no answer from the boy, the Rabbi asked again: "Do you know where God is?" After another moment of silence, the Rabbi asked again, this time a little more forcefully: "Do you know where God is?" The boy started crying, left the office in a hurry, grabbed his brother and ran out of the synagogue. Finally the younger brother asked: "What's going on?" "I don't know", replied the older brother. "But God is missing and they think we did it!"

With the summer months, many of us will be going on vacation. For us this consists of a change in pace, maybe a change in scenery. Does God also go on vacation? I can imagine knocking on God's metaphorical door in prayer, only to see a sign saying: "Gone fishing". The Psalms seem to think that God, sometimes, abandons us. Some theologians even believe that God was absent or hidden during the Shoah.

"Since nothing can exist without God, it follows that God is present in every tribulation. From the midst of your tribulations call upon God. God is in every movement, whether towards good or evil. The Creator and the objects of creation are a unity inseparable. Without the power of the Creator, the created would become naught. Since no space is vacant of Adonai, no movement in the universe can occur that is not ascribable to God. There is no past, nor future without God, since time is movement, and is, therefore, inseparable from God" (Torat haMagid Mezeritz veSichotav).

Rabbi Dov Ber, known as the Magid of Mezeritz, disputes the assertion that God might hide, be absent, abandon us or any such concept. For him, God is with us at times of joy or celebration, and at times of pain or suffering. We could not exist if God wasn't present, affirms the Magid! God is everywhere, even the intercellular space, and God is present at all times.

What a wonderful and challenging gift: to be



accompanied, at all times and places, by The Divine Presence; and to be aware, at all moments, that we are never alone. Some of us come to synagogue to "find God", at the proverbial House of God. In a place where all the symbols conspire to suggest God's presence, where the prayers have the potential to direct our hearts towards The Divine, it is not difficult to imagine that God is there. The challenge, especially as we move away from the edifice and the symbols, is to recognize that we are in God's presence everywhere we go.

The Kotzker Rebbe, an early Hasidic master, used to say that God is everywhere we let God in. This statement implies a partnership: we are in control and we can, through awareness and mindfulness, actively seek God's presence. We can open our eyes to see the Divine anywhere our eyes touch; we can open our ears to hear Heavenly sounds; and we can open our mouths to share words of connection and compassion. More importantly, we can open our hearts to The Divine Grace and welcome God's creation with love.

If you plan to travel away from home and Har Shalom, I pray that you invite God with you, and let God in. May your break be Divine!

Hazzan Ozur Bass



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Photographs and memories. Reflections, expectations, and aspirations. These ideas are converging in my mind as we head into the season of Siyyums, Summer camp, and family vacations — and as I begin my term as the President of Congregation Har Shalom.

At the Segals, High school graduation celebrations are just around the corner. My Alexa Show reminds me of that bittersweet fact each day with its carousel of photos and ephemeral memories of my family's growth. When our son Sam heads to college this fall (go NU Huskies!), he'll leave our home a little emptier and Lila will fill the space with her humor and energy.

Just as my heart swells seeing my children grow, I continue to marvel in seeing Har Shalom defy so many trends within the Conservative movement. The Ira and Maryjo Sherman Early Childhood Center is at near-capacity, enrollment in the Religious School has more than doubled in two years, and Shabbat attendance is growing within every demographic! All credit goes to an extraordinary clergy and staff — and the sweat-equity of volunteers — who have made Har Shalom a destination community! During the Har Shalom Gala in March (see photos on page 8), it was powerful to gather and honor just some of the dedicated leaders who contribute to nearly every aspect of our community.

In stepping into this role, I deeply appreciate the wisdom that so many past-Presidents, volunteer leaders and Congregants are sharing with me. I am especially grateful to Steve Susswein for leading our community as we isolated during COVID and Michael Baron as we reclaimed our holy space - and the mentoring each has offered to me. I am also honored to serve within a Board of Directors and alongside volunteer leaders, who are generous with their time, energy, and unique expertise and talents.

With a budget surplus, there is no shortage of ideas on the table as we plan for the future. Importantly, there is a shared vision for the road ahead among volunteer leaders, clergy, and staff. Along with making longneeded repairs to our synagogue building, we are also using some funds to grow our Capital Improvement Fund responsibly, and - importantly - deepen our engagement and programming.



So what is my vision for the next two years? Just as I have high hopes for my family's continued health and happiness at this milestone, I aspire for Har Shalom to offer safe, accessible, inspired, and lasting experiences to every member. Regardless of your age, your personal practice, or your family's level of observance, I will focus on ensuring you feel included and seen in our community.

The wind is at our back! Our incoming Executive Committee and Board have already begun planning for the year ahead. In the coming months, I look forward to sharing updates with you on our plans to build on our momentum.

We have so much to look forward to - creating memories, exchanging ideas, and growing together. The Har Shalom community is my extended family, and I am eager to share these moments with you.

B'yedidut,

Armée

Aimee



SPECIAL PROGRAMS WITH HAR SHALOM

On Thursday, March 23, nearly 300 members of the community came together at Har Shalom for a special program with Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) and MCPS to hear from Superintendent Dr. Monifa McKnight regarding the recent rise in antisemitism. Thank you to everyone who attended this special program.













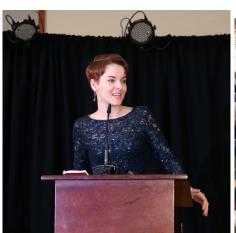
ANNUAL HONOREE GALA

On Sunday, March 19, Har Shalom hosted the Annual Honoree Gala. The magical evening was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our distinguished honorees and celebrate together as a Har Shalom community!



















Todah Rabah to the Host Committee, Volunteers, and Co-Chairs for all their hard work and to Freed Photography for capturing the magic.



















MORRIS & LILLIAN CAHAN MEMORIAL WEEKEND OF LEARNING

The Har Shalom Clergy Team is thrilled to invite Dr. Michal Raucher, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, as our guest for the Cahan Weekend of Learning 2023. Michal's research lies, "at the intersection of Israel Studies, Jewish Ethics, and the Anthropology of Women in Judaism." She has conducted research on Reproductive Ethics of Haredi Women in Israel, and has been published on Religion and Bioethics, Abortion Legislation in Israel, and other topics. She works to improve reproductive rights for women.

Dr. Raucher will give the Sermon during Shabbat Morning Services on May 6 and be at Kiddush following services.

Please register at www.HarShalom.org/WOL2023 to join us for the different events throughout the weekend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US

MORRIS & LILLIAN CAHAN WEEKEND OF LEARNING

MAY 5 at 7:30PM | Shabbat Dinner & Study of Jewish Texts on Abortion at Har Shalom MAY 6 at 6:30PM | Intimate discussion of personal Abortion stories through a Jewish lens ending with Havdalah at the home of a congregant - for parents with/without their teen/young adult children MAY 7 at 9:00AM-11:00AM | Drop-in program at Har Shalom to assemble care packages

and write cards for the Potomac Family Planning Center

Donations for care packages are being collected at Har Shalom through May 1!

Wishlist can be found on the Weekend of Learning website

LEARN MORE & REGISTER: WWW.HARSHALOM.ORG/WOL2023



DR. MICHAL RAUCHER Undergraduate Director and Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, Rutgers University



SHAVUOT WITH HAR SHALOM

Shavuot with Har Shalom THURSDAY, MAY 25 Come together to learn, pray, celebrate, and eat! www.harshalom.org/Shavuot5783

SHABBAT WITH HAR SHALOM

Kabbalat Shabbat - Fridays at 6:30PM | Shabbat Morning - Saturdays at 9:30AM

Shabbat Services are available In Person and LiveStream

After Services, you're invited to stay and join us at approx. 12:00PM for a kid-friendly Kiddush Luncheon in the Paul Family Social Hall

MAY 6, 2023

10:30AM Shabbat Chaverim

Babies to 4 yrs with Morah Beth K to Grade 2 with Molly Beth Grade 3 - 5 Rabbi Simmons or Ruth

MAY 20, 2023

10:30AM Shabbat Chaverim

Babies to 4 yrs with Morah Beth K to Grade 2 with Molly Beth Grade 3 - 5 with Rabbi Simmons or Ruth

MAY 26, 2023

9:30AM Shavuot Service with Yizkor 10:00AM Derekh Tefilah - Hospitality Suite



JUNE 3, 2023

10:30AM Shabbat Chaverim

Babies to 4 yrs with Morah Beth K to Grade 2 with Molly Beth Grade 3 - 5 with Rabbi Simmons or Ruth

JUNE 17. 2023

10:00AM Derekh Tefilah - Hospitality Suite

10:30AM Shabbat Chaverim

Only Babies to 4 yrs with Morah Beth



Har Shalom Summer Speaker Series:

Always dreamed of sharing a D'var Torah from the bimah? Ever wanted to give a Shabbat Sermon?

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

Contact Rabbi Simmons at RabbiSimmons@HarShalom.org for more details and to sign-up as a Speaker this summer!

FROM THE SHERMAN ECC







SUNDAY, MAY 7 | 3:00PM

In the Har Shalom Parking Lot

11510 Falls Road, Potomac

Explore, climb, and pretend to drive an incredible assortment of trucks!

Open to young children in the community

RSVP requested - www.HarShalom.org/ECCTruckDay





































FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



"People assume that time is a strict progression of cause to effect, but *actually* from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint – it's more like a big ball of wibbly wobbly, time-y wimey stuff."

-The Doctor (in "Blink", one of the creepiest episodes ever of Doctor Who)

I'll share a secret with you – I'm a HUGE Doctor Who fan. My doctor is Tom Baker from the late '70's, but of course I love David Tennant as well. He was the Doctor who shared the famous wibbly wobbly concept.

HSRS 5783 END OF YEAR SIYYUM

HSRS FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES!

SUNDAY, MAY 21

9:00AM - 10:15AM | HSRS STUDENTS IN CLASS 10:30AM - 12:30PM | FAMILY SIYYUM & LUNCH FESTIVITIES

RSVP: WWW.HARSHALOM.ORG/HSRS5783SIYYUM



Why am I sharing this with you? I think this idea can really apply to Judaism in so many ways! A few examples we find in Jewish texts/stories include the folk story of Honi and the Carob Tree where Honi falls asleep for 70 years and wakes up to talk to his future generations. A Talmud example is found in *Menachot* 29b:4 – God sends Moses into the future to sit in Rabbi Akiva's classroom. And of course, there is the 2000-year-old discussions about whether Torah is written chronologically or not (put that into the search bar in *Sefaria* and fall down those rabbit holes!)

I'm thinking about all this today as I look back at our 5783 year of HSRS. We adhere to the straight line of time as we teach each *Chag* as they happen in our calendar, we even adhere to that line as we teach each Parsha of Torah as we read them on Shabbat. Yet, time and space become so flexible when teaching about Jewish life, Jewish values and the practice of being an active Jew in our community. We jump from teaching about Hebrew slaves running out of *Mitzrayim* to our own Seder experiences, we teach about constructing the *Mishkan* and then go into Burke Sanctuary to compare, we always remember our 3 Fathers and 4 Mothers in the *Amidah*, but then add a line for rain in our present time. Why isn't this more confusing for our students?

I talked to some of our students about this - and I loved the answers. Our HSRS students understand that Judaism is a living, breathing religion and that our past is the foundation for our future. One 6th grade student said, "it helps to know that people were saying the same prayers 1000 years ago as we study today – it helps me find meaning in it."

As we close out the 5783 school year, I'm grateful for these kind of discussions with our amazing students. I'm so proud of our teachers, students and families – everyone worked hard to make this year special. I look forward to our End of Year Siyyum on May 21st so we can celebrate all the work we accomplished together this year. And I'm already buzzing with ideas of what HSRS 5784 will look like.

Have a wonderful summer — I'm missing everyone already! Kul Tov and L'hitraot! (Be well and see you soon!) - Ruth

















FROM THE HAR SHALOM PLAYERS

ANNOUNCING THE 2023 HAR SHALOM BROADWAY CABARET

On Sunday evening, June 4 at 7 pm, Har Shalom presents its 2023 annual Broadway Cabaret a Sondheim Tribute Revue. The Stephen Sondheim Society notes that Sondheim was "widely acknowledged as the most



innovative, most influential and most important composer and lyricist in modern Broadway history. For more than 50 years, he has set an unsurpassed standard of brilliance and artistic integrity in musical theatre. His accolades include an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards (more than any other composer) including the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, multiple Grammy Awards, multiple Drama Desk awards and a Pulitzer Prize."

Our Music Director for this momentous event is Paul Rossen who has served in a similar capacity for many Har Shalom Player productions as well as prior Broadway Cabarets. Performers include talented singers from prior cabarets including: Steve Cairns, Megan Evans, Bob Gudauskas, Liz Hester, Lee Rosenthal, and Amy Winter. In addition, Jarod Glou, who played the Prince in HSP's most recent production of Cinderella, and our very own Hazzan Ozur Bass will be will be performing as part of this Sondheim Tribute Review company.

Broadway shows from which songs may be selected include Sweeney Todd, A Little Night Music, Company, Merrily We Roll Along, Sunday in the Park with George, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Into the Woods, Follies, and Pacific Overtures.

Tickets for the Sondheim Tribute Revue are \$25/pp or \$180 for a table of 8. Tickets may be purchased at: https://harshalom.org/Sondheim.

The Sondheim Tribute Revue is presented through special arrangement with the Music Theatre International (MTI) on behalf of the Estate of Stephen Sondheim.

For additional information, please contact Stew Remer at sremer@verizon.net.

ADULT EDUCATION

For a full list of upcoming Adult Education, visit www.HarShalom.org/Adult-Ed









Special Thanks!

To the Harvey Forest Fund and Joan Forest for restoring 100 Etz Hayim Bibles for the Congregation's use In Memory Of the 20th Anniversary of Harvey Forest's Yahrzeit



Har Shalomers Out 4 About

The Empty Nester Havurah met for a walk on the canal at Riley's Lock. We then had lunch and wine at Windridge Vineyards. Thanks to Joan and Syl Sobel for coordinating this outing.

Send your photos to Tablet@HarShalom.org and you could be featured in an upcoming issue!

TORAH FUND UPDATE

The 2022 Torah Fund Campaign is winding down to a close in the next few weeks. We have had a very successful campaign this year, and are very close to reaching our goal, but we're not there yet! For each of you who made a commitment last fall, and accepted a Torah Fund pin, we thank you for your generosity and support. However, there are still some who have not fulfilled their commitment for this year's campaign. In order for us to reach our goal, we need to have all commitments filled by **June 15th**. If you have any question about whether your donation was received or not, please don't hesitate to contact me. My information is shown below, and I am here to help you.

\$80. If you have already fulfilled your commitment to the 2022 campaign, but would like to participate in our Plus \$80 celebration, please consider making a gift by sending me a check made out to Torah Fund in the amount of \$80. Our students attending the five Conservative Seminaries throughout the world will benefit greatly from this extra donation. All of our generous members who participate by celebrating the 80th anniversary of Torah Fund will be recognized at a special Torah Fund event during the Women's League Convention, taking place from July 16th-18th in Schaumburg, Illinois. If you have not registered for this exciting Convention, please consider joining us either in person or on Zoom, as we gather together for the first time since the pre-Covid era. *Sisters Celebrating Together* is the theme for this Convention, and we plan to celebrate a lot! Our own Toby Holtzman will be installed as an International Vice President, along with Seaboard's own Julia Loeb who will be installed as the International President. So, join us, proudly wearing your Torah Fund pin, and help us to come together as we celebrate these outstanding leaders from our sisterhood and Seaboard community, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, and the 80th Anniversary of Torah Fund!

Again, many thanks to all of you who have supported our 2022 Torah Fund campaign, and thank you in advance, for those who will make sure that they're commitment for 2022 is current.

Todah Rabbah, Rita Wertlieb 240-432-8333 rwertlieb@wlcj.org 9301 Wooden Bridge Road Potomac, MD 20854

Torah Fund Committee: Ellen Bresnick, Toby Holtzman, Hanna Lee Pomerantz, Shelley Remer

FROM SOCIAL ACTION AND TIKKUN OLAM

This May, Har Shalom is teaming with Bethesda-based non-profit KindWorks in their **Summer Fun Stuff** campaign. The goal is to create 1,500 Summer Fun Sacks filled with items that create a summer of play, exploration, and creativity for the under-served in our community. Recipients will include: A Wider Circle, Indentity, Linkages to Learning, Montgomery County Recreation's Long Branch Center, Platform of Hope, Rainbow Community Development Center, SAMU First Response Foundation, and newly-resettled Afghan youth.

Summer Fun Stuff items needed include: **NEW** small toys, STEM-related items, art supplies, and recreational equipment. Online shoppers can take advantage of the Amazon wish list www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3NWD7UIXDE9U0. Items should be delivered to the Har Shalom coat closet or to the JCC, 6125 Montrose Road.

Do you prefer making a monetary donation? Go to dokindworks.org and select Donations designating Summer Fun Stuff as the purpose of your contribution. Each \$100 donation sponsors four Summer Fun Sacks.

Ongoing collections continue. Items needed include new and gently used bras, unopened feminine hygiene products, nonperishable food, school and cleaning supplies, toiletries, and new knit, crocheted, and fleece blankets are always accepted in the coat closet. These donations go to worthy recipients -- I Support the Girls, Manna, the MoCo Upcounty Consolidation Hub, Do Kind Works, Comfort Cases, and others.

There will be another Medical collection through June. Prescription and non-prescription drugs and medical items, including walkers, crutches, etc., will be accepted. These items go to The Lutheran Church of St Andrew, which passes them to several recipient organizations. **IF YOU DONATE DRUGS**, please hand them to the office staff so they can be locked away. Do not leave prescription drugs in the coat room.

And don't forget cooking with our **KindSoups** program. We get together the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month to **zoom cook soup**. Soups are donated to the Upcounty Consolidation Hub in Germantown and to friends in need. **Join us as we cook vegetable-based soups for the food insecure.**

Check weekly emails for important links and all upcoming programs and collections.

As always, thanks for your support! Any questions, contact Marjorie Klein at msklein424@aol.com.

FROM THE HESED COMMITTEE

SHARING IS CARING!

Join the Hesed Committee in supporting members of our community by providing a meal through MealTrain or SignUp Genius.

For more information and to sign-up visit: www.HarShalom.org/hesedMT

CATCH UP WITH THE SISTERHOOD

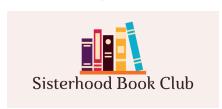
I am writing this article right after Sisterhood Shabbat and I am still having all the feels from that wonderful morning. Sisterhood shined brightly that morning thanks to the hard work and dedication of Toby Holtzman and Susan Grant. They worked with *Hazzan* Ozur Bass, Men's Club and the Har Shalom staff to make sure that everything was perfectly in place for a lovely day, and indeed it was! *Yasher koach* to all who had a role in the service that morning. Thank you to Robert Singman and Men's Club for working in the kitchen for us and preparing a delicious kiddush.

Looking ahead, we have the End of Year Volunteer Appreciation event on May 23rd. Storyteller Noa Baum will be our speaker. Noa Baum is an awardwinning storyteller who uses her art to build bridges of peace and understanding. Her stories, drawn from diverse cultures but primarily from her own Jewish heritage and personal experience, highlight our similarities, celebrate our differences, and encourage curiosity, awareness, and acceptance. I hope to see many of you there!

It's never too early to start cleaning out your closets and garages in preparation for our New to You Sale. The sale will be held in late June and all the details will be forthcoming, so make sure to read all of your emails. In addition to donating your items, we also need you to donate your time in preparation for the sale. Susan Rabkin and Helen Branda spearhead this event and I know they appreciate everyone's help.

I hope that everyone's Pesach was wonderful! Beth Ann Katz, Sisterhood President





Sisterhood Book Club

We invite all Sisterhood members to join the Book Club discussion group. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00PM. We will meet virtually, so please email us at SisterhoodBookClub@harshalom.org or register below so we can send you the Zoom link. We hope you will join for our upcoming discussions:

April: No Meeting

May 3: The Beauty of Your Face by Sahar Mustafa

June 7: Book selection for '23 - '24

TODAH RABAH!

What a beautiful Shabbat service we had on March 25th. Thank you to each and every one who helped to make it so. Thank you for responding positively when asked to participate. Thank you for chanting torah and haftorah, leading the various prayer services and providing readings and haftorah insights. There are many reasons why the Har Shalom Sisterhood is a shining star in the firmament of Seaboard Region and Women's League. Our Sisterhood ranks high among all Sisterhoods! You are greatly appreciated!

Your co-chairs, Susan Grant and Toby Holtzman



Classical Indian Dance Odissi is a unique, graceful, elegant, subtle style which focuses on highly flexible body bends called "Bhangis", vivid torso movements, intricate technical steps, dancing on the heel, and self-expression or Abhinaya. In this class, we will use hand gestures, neck and eye movements from the Odissi style and will learn a small sequence using leg and hand movements.

This class will be taught by Chitra Krishnamurti, founder of Nrityalaya, a school for the classical Indian Odissi dance style in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area.

The cost to attend is \$10.

www.HarShalom.org/LetsGetPhysical

Sisterhood's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 4 Speaker

Volunteers DO Not Necessarily Have The Time...They Just Have The Heart

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 | 6:00PM



Timeless Treasures - Rekindling the Storytelling Tradition

Storytelling is central to our Jewish tradition and at the heart of human experience, nourishing the deepest roots of heart and mind. We keep the tradition of "Torah She'Be'alpe" alive by telling stories that help us create meaning and connection. Whether it's our ancient myths and folktales, holiday celebrations or our family stories, we tell to remember who we are.

Award-winning storytelling and author, Noa Baum invites you to experience the power of storytelling in a delightful celebration of personal and traditional stories. Discover how story can connect us to our past, our community, and ourselves.

Join us for Hor D'oeuvres beginning at 6:00PM followed by a lovely dinner and our distinguished speaker. Ms. Baum will also be bringing her books to sell at this function. Please bring cash, check or credit card to purchase books.

All Sisterhood Members are invited. RSVP by May 18 – www.harshalom.org/SisterhoodDinner2023.

Questions? Contact Susan Grant or Linda Isen



Guest Speaker: Noa Baum, Award Winning Storyteller and Author

Hor D'oeuvres will begin at 6:00PM followed by a lovely dinner and distinguished speaker. Ms. Baum will also be bringing her books to sell at this function.





Sisterhood New to You sale is Back -June 25!

Learn more on Page 23!

FROM THE MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club Brunch Series

Sunday, May 7th, at 9:30 for our featured speaker **Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss**. She will speak about extremism and preventative interventions. We are fortunate to get such a renowned expert who appears regularly in the media as an expert source and political commentator including recent interviews on: CNN, PBS News Hour, MSNBC, The Today Show, and Good Morning America as well as in global media outlets in over a dozen countries.

Her most recent book, *Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right* is a startling look at the unexpected places where violent hate groups recruit young people, and provides essential reading for those looking to protect them from the tactics and underlying ideas of modern far-right extremism.

This is a free brunch program sponsored by Men's Club and open to all CHS congregants, and especially parents and families of high school/college age students. RSVP is requested on the CHS website to assist our food planning. We encourage you to also come early and attend Sunday morning Minyan at 9:00am.

Save the Date ...

On **Sunday, June 4th, The annual Joint Men's Club and Sisterhood Brunch** begins at 9:30am for food and 10:00am for the speakers.

This free Brunch features Pulitzer award winning *Washington Post* Investigative Journalists: Amy Gardner, Rosalind Helderman and Aaron Davis. They will discuss their team's research and reporting about the January 6 Insurrection and how this led to the Congressional Hearings.

Consult with the Har Shalom web/events page for registration and updates as we get closer to the date. The event is free. This is our last brunch for the 2022-23 Men's Club Brunch season. We hope you enjoyed the series which should resume in the Fall.





SISTERHOOD NEW TO YOU SALE IS BACK!

Do you feel like it's time to de-clutter your home? Have we got a solution for you! Sisterhood is holding its annual New-To-You Rummage Sale this summer on Sunday, June 25. The profits from the sale are used to support vital Har Shalom Sisterhood programming. So look around your home and gather up your gently used belongings for this great fundraiser.

We will be happy to accept your donations of household items beginning one week before the sale, starting on Sunday, June 18 at 1 PM, and continuing for the rest of the week up until Friday, June 23. Please make sure any clothing and household items you bring are clean. Bring your items into the Social Hall, and we will show you where to place them for the sale. It would be helpful if your items are sorted by category: women's, men's, children's clothes, books, toys, household items, etc.

We cannot accept: large furniture, large appliances, computers, monitors, fax machines, printers, camera equipment, and TVs.

Small appliances or electronic game systems must be in working order only.

We will also need lots of volunteers to help during the week leading up to the sale date.

Questions: Contact Susan Rabkin at 301-762-4899 or susanrabkin@verizon.net, or Helen Branda at 847-721-8274 or helenbranda@gmail.com.



FAMILY NEWS

B'NAI MITZVAH



Samara Smith
May 20
Daughter of Jonathan Smith &
Hilary Belitsky



Maya Leibowitz
June 3
Daughter of Louis Leibowitz &
Beth Kanter-Leibowitz



Abigail Greene
June 10
Daughter of Donald & Emily Greene



Isaac Greene June 10Son of Donald & Emily Greene

MAZAL TOV! January 16 - March 15

Sophie Myers, daughter of David & Wendy Myers, on her election as N'siah (president) of Koah B'nai B'rith Girls.

Bob Sunshine on celebrating the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Ra'anan Branda on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on January 28th at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah of Greater Washington. Honored grandparents Bill and Helen Branda; proud parents Aaron and Ilana Branda, and siblings Adira and Shalva.

Rita and Barry Wertlieb, on the birth of their great granddaughter, Charley Grace Weisenbach, born on January 28th. Proud parents are Brenna & Tom Weisenbach, and grandparents are Lauren & Todd Haven.

June & Robert Plotkin on their granddaughter, Hannah Plotkin, being named Leader of the USY International Board!

Carol & Gary Plushnick on the birth of their new grandson, Warren James.

Adam Goldel on winning the CESJDS Middle School Spelling Bee.

Lindsay Shell, daughter of Lori and the late David Shell z"l and to Noam Lurie, son of Yonat and Jason Lurie, on their recent graduation from CESJDS.

Molly Beth Rushfield on being selected as the inaugural recipient of the Avi West Jewish Education Award.

Dana Poltilove for being the 5th grade Read-A-Thon winner at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.

Amy Fine on the wedding of her daughter Karen Barbash to Alex Paris

Michele and Dr. Barry Basen on the birth of their new granddaughter Penelope Rose Basen. Parents are Drs. Angela and Tyler Basen.

Mia New-Schneider for participating in the Junior Maccabi games for soccer!

Elizabeth Cahan on the 70th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah.

Dave Brunner on becoming Chief Operating Officer of Capital Camps and Retreat Center

CONDOLENCES:

January 16 - March 15

David Marcus on the passing of his first cousin, Itzhak Goldschmidt.

Steven Milhiser on the passing of his sister, Norma Marlene Milhiser.

Barry Segal on the passing of his father, Martin E. Segal.

Irene Rosenbloom and Renee LeVine on the passing of their sister and aunt, Myra Zeleznik. Laurie Ehrlich on the passing of her grandmother, Esther Bradus.

Marcia Feinleib on the passing of her brother, Alexander Rosenfeld.

Rachel Karton on the passing of her mother, Marian Newman.

Steven Polakoff on the passing of his aunt, Joan Shuster.

David Cohen on the passing of his cousin, Joyce Kravitz.

Rachel (Craig) Ginsburg on the passing of her cousin, Jennifer Bergenfeld.

Molly Beth Rushfield on the passing of her father Henry Jacobs.

Jackie Haynes and Wendy Epstein on the passing of their mother, Blanche Abel.

Dr. Ronald Cooper on the passing of his mother, Flora Cooper.

Shelley (Todd) Engel and Beth (Terry) Kleeman on the passing of their daughter and niece, Randi Leshin.

Arden Baker on the passing of his sister, Dolores Shapiro.

Debby (Bruce) Vivari on the passing of her mother, Corinne Stein.

Have some Family News you would like to share with the Har Shalom Community? Email <u>aaron@harshalom.org</u> to have your simcha included in the Mazel Tov section of the Shabbat Shalom emails and an upcoming issue of the Tablet!





CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE!

Garden of Remembrance in Clarksburg, MD: \$2700 each

Judean Gardens in Olney, MD: \$3000 each

Mt. Lebanon in Adelphi, MD: \$1200 each *NEW PRICE*

Contact Joanna Rubin at <u>jrubin@harshalom.org</u> for more information or to make a purchase.

DONATIONS

January 16 - March 15

Abram Blum Library

In Memory Of

Darryl Runett Dr. Kenneth Shere

Alan B. Levenson Fund

In Memory Of

Blanche Abel

Joan Levenson

Ed Morenoff

Millie & Mel Rumerman

Ashin-Zitomer Dor L'Dor Fund

In Memory Of

Flora Cooper

Marian Newman Mikki and Jeff Ashin

Cantor Cal Chizever ECC Scholarship

In Memory Of

Iris Goldfinger

Mr. Michael Goldfinger

Community of Caring

In Memory Of

Alexander Rosenfeld

Rita & Barry Wertlieb

Blanche Abel

Joseph Schwartz & Anne Weiss

Mrs. Joyce Lipman

Rita & Barry Wertlieb

Randi Leshin

Mrs. Bena Siegel

Rose Robfogel Jaffa

Joseph & Zeevia Jaffa

Debbie Karch Children's Library Fund

In Honor Of

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Margie & Owen Ritter

General Operating

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In Appreciation Of

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Jerome & Harriet Breslow

Rabbi Rachel Simmons

Jerome & Harriet Breslow

In Honor Of

Ben Ring

Leslie Sporn-Symonds and Phil Symonds

Ira Sherman & Maryjo Meier

Morton & Cynthia Zetlin

The Clergy, Admin Staff & Custodians

Leslie & Joel Susskind

In Memory Of

Bernice & Seymour Weiss and

Estelle & Raymond Cypes

David & Barbara Cypes

Blanche Abel

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Hevra Kadisha

In Memory Of

Blanche Abel

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Flora Cooper

Stewart & Shelley Remer

Holly M. Amsterdam Endowment

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Ben Ring

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Alla & Dan Gopenko

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In Memory Of

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Lazare Novack

Laura Rich

Martin Segal

Richard & Linda Isen

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Gary and Carole Plushnick

Annette Rothman

In Memory Of

Alexander Rosenfeld

Annette Rothman

Blanche Abel

Martin Pozesky & Ellen Menaker

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey A. Lowe

Phyllis Magram & Dave Lovewell

William & Helen Branda



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RABBI RACHEL A. SIMMONS

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