



***Gates of Peace***



# **Congregation Sha'are Shalom**

**2025**

**Directory**  
*Public Edition*

In Loving Memory of  
**Rabbi Randy Schoch**



**Thank you for sharing your  
knowledge and love of Torah**

From

Marvin & Judy Cohen  
Suzanne & Don Darby  
Rabbi Gail Fisher  
Pamela & Mike Green  
Mark Holt & Pat Myers  
Marshall Jones  
Amelia & Jasha Levenson  
Maryiha & Jake Lindsay  
Susan & Stuart Richman

# CONGREGATION SHA'ARE SHALOM DIRECTORY 2025



Gates of Peace

*A Reform Congregation Affiliated with the  
Union for Reform Judaism*

**18 Henry Ford Circle  
Waldorf, MD 20602-2787**

**(301) 645-4606**

**shareshalom@gmail.com**

***<http://shareshalomsmmd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/shalomwaldorf>***

## *Grammy's Glass Garden*



**Stepping Stone**

**Stained Glass Windows  
Home Décor  
Jackie Schoch  
301-437-5045**



**Stars of David**

**Grammy's Glass Garden is on FB  
[grammysglassgarden@gmail.com](mailto:grammysglassgarden@gmail.com)**



**Butterfly**

**Now accepting all  
major credit cards  
  
Visa, Master  
Card, Discover &  
American Express**



**Flower**



**Tashlich, October 2024**

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## Enhancing Smiles

We are proud of our reputation and we will earn your trust. In our office, you can trust that you will be treated with respect, integrity and genuine concern.

We will never recommend unnecessary treatment that you do not need or want.

We will always act in the best interest of your oral health, not our financial bottom line.

We look forward to welcoming you to our dental practice! Come meet Dr. Paul Silberman or Dr. Dan Barakh.

We offer free consultations. We feel sure we will give you something to smile about!



[www.SilbermanDentalGroup.com](http://www.SilbermanDentalGroup.com)  
301-885-2505  
Cambridge Medical Center  
3450 Old Washington Road, Suite 302 Waldorf,  
MD 20602

## Greetings from the Congregation's President

Shalom, Congregation!

As we settle into our new year, I would like to thank everyone who has participated this year with fundraising, which allows our congregation to continue to operate and grow. Through very generous donations, fundraisers, and membership dues, I am pleased to announce that we are currently out of an operating deficit and into a slight surplus. In addition to simply surviving as a congregation, this net positive income is very important as we do have some expensive items that are in need of replacement in the next couple of years. Please keep thinking of other ideas to raise capital and bring them to the board's attention to help take action. These ideas can span from various fundraisers to processing/requesting proposals and grants. Every penny counts and is very much appreciated!

As many of you have seen during our high holiday events, we had the local Charles County Sheriff's Department present. This is thanks to the hard work of our previous president, Marv Cohen, who laid the foundation and built a relationship with the first responders. The security detail was also funded through the hard work and dedication of Stuart Richman and Rich Gilpin, who conducted the research and authored the proposal for a State of Maryland security grant. This grant is also funding the modernization of our security system as well as improving our physical security assets.

I am looking forward to what this year has in store for our congregation. We have a strong Religious School that is headed by Liz Mildenstein, a Torah study group that is led by Suzanne Darby, a very active Men's Group that is coordinated by Mark Holt, a Women's Group that is getting reinvigorated by Suzanne Darby and Jackie Schoch, and some very compassionate and dedicated Rabbis with Rabbi Gail Fisher and Rabbi Jasha Levenson. We really have a great group of people who care very much for our community. With that said, I do ask that you reach out to any of the board members to help us make CSS even better. It's through a diversity of ideas and thought that we can constantly improve.

I would like to leave you with the theme I mentioned at the high holidays: "If not you, then who?" Please keep this theme in the back of your mind for any ideas you may have to make our beloved CSS better. From volunteering to host an oneg or leading a service (we can help with that), to pressure washing or mowing or painting, it all helps make us better. Thank you so very much for your participation in our synagogue and for being a part of this great place we call home!

Shalom and be well,

Jake Lindsay

CSS President

## Significant Events in the History of Sha'are Shalom

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1990 | Established bimonthly religious services and Sunday School                  |
| 1991 | Observed all major holidays, excluding the High Holy Days services          |
| 1992 | Conducted our first High Holy Days services                                 |
| 1994 | Purchased and dedicated our own Torah                                       |
| 1995 | Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)                          |
| 1996 | Conducted our first community Seder   |
| 2007 | Purchased land in Waldorf for our synagogue building                        |
| 2009 | Synagogue completed with occupation and dedication of building on April 4th |



### Do you know what the Arts Alliance does for our community?

- **Arts Grants** to support local nonprofits and schools
- **Arts Scholarships** for seniors in Charles County high schools studying arts-related majors in college
- **ArtsFest** annual arts festival on June 14, 2025, Indian Head Village Green
- **ArtsCamp** summer camp for underserved community
- **Art Boxes (500)** for "back to school" Children's Aid Society distribution
- **Art Galleries (2)** free gallery spaces supporting local artists (Charles County Government Building and UMD Charles Regional Hospital)
- **Arts Advocacy** at the local, state and national level

**FIND OUT MORE:** <http://www.charlescountyarts.org> **301-392-5900**

**Congregation Contact People**

**Officers**

President.....Jacob Lindsay  
Vice President .....Marshall Jones  
Treasurer .....Jackie Schoch  
Secretary .....Suzanne Darby  
Financial Secretary.....Matthew Cook

**Committee Chairs/Coordinators**

Religious School Principal.....Liz Mildenstein  
Religious School Activities Director.....Melissa Gilpin  
Women’s Group .....Suzanne Darby  
Men’s Group .....Mark Holt  
Past President..... Marv Cohen  
Golden Cards .....Jackie Schoch  
Yahrzeit/Mitzvah Boards .....Suzanne Darby  
Web Maven .....Abby Richman  
Saturday Service Coordinator.....Pat Myers  
Membership.....Maryiha Lindsay  
Facilities and Security.....Rich Gilpin  
Librarian and Newsletter.....Joselle Gilpin  
Community Engagement.....Liz Mildenstein

**Email address: [shareshalom@gmail.com](mailto:shareshalom@gmail.com)**

## **About the Congregation**

### **The Beginning**

Congregation Sha'are Shalom (Gates of Peace) was founded in 1990 as an independent organization to meet the religious and educational needs of a growing and diverse Jewish population in Charles, Calvert, Saint Mary's, and southern Prince George's counties. The organization was also to provide a way to share our cultural and social identity.

With Charles County being the focal point for the significant growth in this area, the Congregation established its presence in Waldorf.

### **Our Growth**

One person's idea to provide a Jewish presence in southern Maryland has evolved into a Reform Congregation, providing a full range of religious and social events for our membership and the Jewish population in the community at large:

- Shabbat Services: second Saturday and fourth Friday of each month
- Religious School: Sunday mornings during the school year
- Confirmation Class
- Adult Education
- Holiday Observances
- Social Events

### **Our Objective**

To provide the opportunity for all Jewish families to perpetuate their heritage and share a sense of belonging. We welcome all people who share our interests.



**Religious school students learn how to shake the lulav in all directions at Sukkot, October 2024**

## Religious School

The Sha'are Shalom Religious School was established to teach the young people of the congregation about Jewish traditions, holidays, culture and values, as well as Hebrew for religious services. It is a place where Jewish children can gather with others with similar backgrounds. This is particularly important in an area such as Southern Maryland where Jews are widely dispersed.

Classes are currently available for students ages 3 through 13. Parent volunteers conduct classes.

Shabbat Service: Each Religious School session starts at 9:30 AM with a service for students. This service familiarizes students with regular Shabbat services and gives them a chance to practice their Hebrew skills in a friend-

ly setting. A child's version of each week's Torah portion is read and discussed.

Pre-K & Kindergarten: These classes emphasize fun activities such as crafts, songs, games, and videos. The activities are designed to introduce students to the Hebrew alphabet, holiday traditions, Bible stories and Jewish culture, and to reinforce positive values.

Primary I: Students in this class learn to read and write the letters in the Hebrew alphabet. They begin to read basic Hebrew words. The students continue to learn about Jewish holidays, culture, and Israel. They sing songs, make Jewish-themed crafts, and read and discuss Bible stories.

Primary II: This class continues to learn how to read Hebrew. Time is also spent on other activities such as learning about events in the life of a Jewish person. Jewish holidays and traditions are also discussed.

Secondary I: This class continues to learn how to read Hebrew. Time is also spent learning about mitzvot, community service, and studying the Mensch Handbook.



**Hot Shabbat, June 2024**

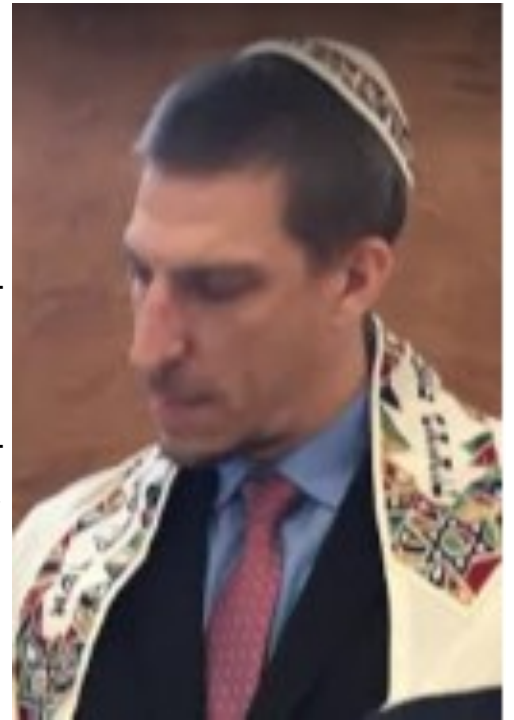
## About Our Rabbis

### Rabbi Jasha Levenson

Jasha Levenson became Rabbi of Congregation Sha'are Shalom in 2020, after many years as a volunteer service leader, Hebrew school teacher, and wedding, funeral, and life cycle officiant. He was ordained in June 2020 by the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute, a program for Jewish professionals leading to rabbinic ordination.

Jasha is a full-time web developer and federal contractor and also acts as CEO and managing partner of Hullo Pillow, an all natural pillow company. When he's not working or performing rabbinical duties, Jasha enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and making music in his home studio.

Jasha's goal is to enlighten others to the wonders of nature that surround us, to embrace our traditions with respect to those who observe other traditions, and learn to raise each other up as a global community while working within our own community.



### Rabbi Gail Fisher



Gail Fisher was a CPA who specialized in taxes and business advising. Upon retirement, she fulfilled a lifelong dream by attending rabbinic school at the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute and being ordained by them in June 2018. She finds dealing with human concerns and spiritual matters vastly more fulfilling than putting little numbers into little boxes.

When she is not leading services and other programming at Congregation Sha'are Shalom, she might be volunteering at a retirement community or teaching classes on various Jewish topics. And most of the spare moments in between these activities are filled with studying--taking classes or reading on her own. This is not how she envisioned retirement, but she is thriving on doing what she believes in so profoundly.

Gail is the proud mother of two children (both attorneys) and grandmother of five exceptionally beautiful and brilliant children. Her pleasures include needlework, music, and being out in nature.

## Rabbi Emeritus Arnold Saltzman

Rabbi Arnold Saltzman was the Rabbi of Sha'are Shalom from 2011-2016. In recognition of his years of service and the special relationship he built with the congregation, he was named Rabbi Emeritus of Sha'are Shalom in August 2016.

He is a well-known composer of Jewish-themed works. His most recent opera, “Geniza: Hidden Fragments,” centers on the discovery of historic documents that revealed details about Medieval Jewish life in Egypt.



## Congregation Library

Sha'are Shalom has a vibrant library, located adjacent to the lobby foyer. Books that are available include volumes on:

- Jewish Practices
- Jewish Holidays
- Jewish History
- Important Historical Figures
- Jewish Heritage
- Israel – history, current events, photos, historical sites, living etc.
- Jewish Life in the USA, Israel, and around the world
- Jewish Women
- Philosophy
- Ethics
- Talmud, Torah, Haftorah, and Commentaries
- Comparative Religions
- Raising a Jewish Child/ Children's Books
- The Holocaust
- Fiction with Jewish content and/or by Jewish authors

**For more information,** contact Congregation Librarian Joselle Gilpin, (301) 752-4229, [joselle\\_gilpin@yahoo.com](mailto:joselle_gilpin@yahoo.com).

## Men's and Women's Groups

The Men's and Women's groups provide additional opportunities for fellowship and service for adult members of the congregation. The primary social activity of the two groups is to convene dinners at a wide variety of restaurants in the area to enjoy good food and conversation. If a new restaurant opens up, the Men's and Women's groups are usually among the first to check it out! The two groups also organize joint dinners where all adults are welcome.

For service activities, the Women's and Men's groups each organize and lead special Friday evening Shabbat services each year. The Men's and Women's groups also take the lead in organizing other congregation activities throughout the year, such as the annual picnic, theater outings, and special celebrations.

Other social activities organized by the Men's and Women's groups include campouts, hikes, and bike rides. If someone has an idea for an activity, there is usually a way to make it happen!

The Men's and Women's groups provide many opportunities for adult members of Sha'are Shalom to get to know one another and work together for the benefit of the entire Southern Maryland Jewish community.

### HOT LULU

- 2 large carrots, shredded
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and shredded
- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored, and shredded
- ½ c honey
- 1 c white or whole wheat flour
- Dash cinnamon, nutmeg
- ¾ c vegetable oil

Adjust rack to middle of oven and preheat to 350F. Pour oil into 2-quart casserole dish or 9"

square pan. Stir in remaining ingredients and cover. Bake for 45 minutes, then uncover and bake another 15-20 minutes. I always had to double the recipe because my children loved it so much!

**Rabbi Gail Fisher**  
**Member, Washington Board of Rabbis**  
**Union of Jewish Universalist Communities**  
[www.RabbiGail.com](http://www.RabbiGail.com)





Community Passover, April 2024

## About Our Building

Congregation Sha'are Shalom dedicated its building at 18 Henry Ford Circle in Waldorf on April 4, 2009. The dedication ceremony was the culmination of years of fundraising, planning, and hard work, especially by former Congregation President Lee Weinberger.

Sha'are Shalom's synagogue building hosts the congregation's religious services, religious school, holiday celebrations, bar and bat mitzvahs, and social activities. It has a multipurpose room with a full-service kitchen and sanctuary that can be separated by a moveable wall. There are three separate classrooms, as well as a library and office. The landscaped grounds around the building, including a playground, are used for picnics and other outdoor events.

When the building is not being used for congregation activities, members may reserve it for their own events, such as birthday parties, weddings, and other celebrations. Congregation members wishing to reserve the building should fill out the Building Use Agreement that is posted in the Member Area of the Sha'are Shalom web site, <https://shareshalomsm.org/member-area>.

Building maintenance, repair, and cleaning is overseen (and often directly carried out) by the Building Committee. To volunteer for the Building Committee or to help with repair and maintenance projects, as well as regular cleaning, contact the Board of Directors at [shareshalom@gmail.com](mailto:shareshalom@gmail.com).



*Welcome to our granddaughter,  
Rebecca Sakura McVinney,  
born June 10, 2024*



*Paul and Elaine McVinney*



## *Kugel a la Dorothy Engel*

*½ lbs. wide egg noodles  
16 oz cottage cheese  
8 oz sour cream  
1 stick of butter, melted*

*Cook noodles, drain but do not rinse.  
Mix all the ingredients above together and put into casserole dish.*

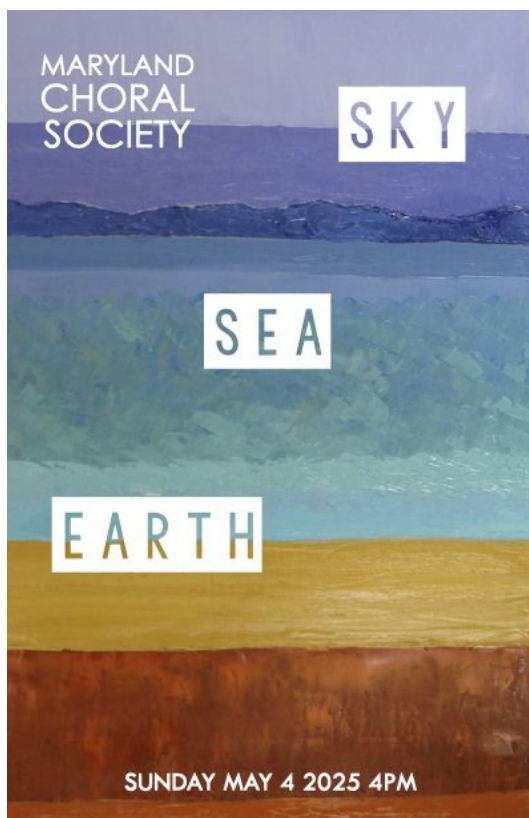
*Beat together:  
2 cups milk  
¾ cup sugar  
1 tsp. Vanilla  
3 eggs  
Raisins \*  
\* optional*

*Pour liquid over noodle mixture,  
Cook for 1 ½ hours at 375 degrees.*

*Enjoy – from the Darby Family. Suzanne, Don,  
Libby, Daniel, Nathan, Evelyn, and Frank*

# MARYLAND CHORAL SOCIETY

A COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE PRESENTING  
QUALITY CHORAL MUSIC  
IN THE D.C. AREA SINCE 1971



## EARTH SEA SKY

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

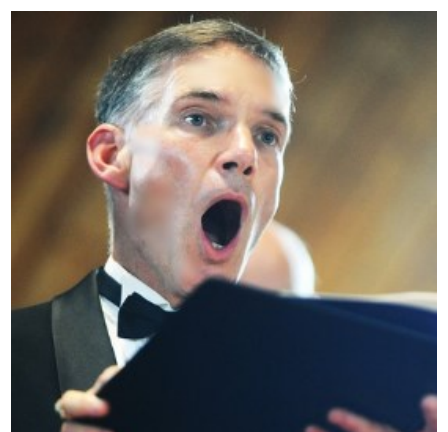
4PM

MOUNT CALVARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
6700 MARLBORO PIKE  
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Join MCS for a celebration of the world around us with a variety of lovely, haunting, and exciting pieces from the past century: the exultation of naturalist John Muir in *Come to the Woods*; the poetry of Wendell Berry in *The Peace of Wild Things*; the upbeat spiritual *Unclothed Day*; a setting of the children's classic *Goodnight Moon*; and many more.

FREE ADMISSION for ages 10 years and younger and everyone with a Maryland Independence Card.

Maryland Choral Society members consist of auditioned and dedicated volunteer choral music enthusiasts from the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. We actively seek out experienced choral musicians through the year.



**The Maryland Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. at Bethany Christian Church, 7128 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD 2074. For more information, contact Sha'are Shalom member Pat Myers at [myerspat@gmail.com](mailto:myerspat@gmail.com), or click "Join MCS" at**

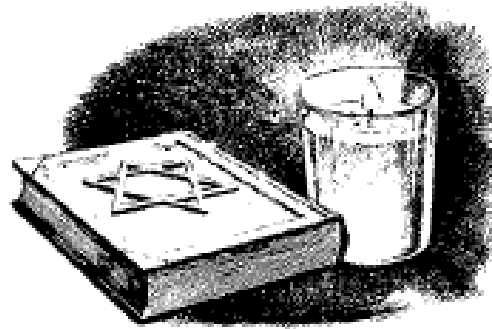
**[marylandchoralsociety.org](http://marylandchoralsociety.org)**

*Jackie Schoch and  
Her daughters  
Extend their best wishes  
To Everyone  
In Loving Memory of my  
husband  
And our father*

## *Rabbi Randy Schoch*



Ellen Cohen  
extends her best wishes  
to  
Congregation Sha'are Shalom



In Loving Memory of:

Husband Alvin Cohen

Parents:  
Hermann and Jettchen Kaufmann  
Jack and Sarah Cohen

Brother-in-law: Robert Cohen

Sisters-in-law:  
Natalie Cohen  
Phyllis Kirson  
&  
Nephew: Ronald Cohen

# Happy New Year Congregation Sha'are Shalom

From

St. Columba Masonic Lodge #150  
100 East Hawthorne Drive  
LaPlata, MD 20646-4281  
[info@stcolumba150.org](mailto:info@stcolumba150.org)

RANDALL A. SCHOCH, CHAPLAIN

## Congregation Sha'are Shalom

In Memory of Randy's Family

*Adolph Schoch – Father*

*Ruth Mikel Schoch – Mother*

*Joan Schoch Ronan – Sister*

*Jared Randall Martin – Grandson*

*Mary "Tommie" Koch – Cousin*

*Jack & Justin Koch – Cousins*

In Memory of Jackie's Family

*John Dries – Father*

*Lillie W. Pumphrey – Grandmother*

May they all rest in peace.

*Randy and Jackie*

*In Fond Memory of*

***ALVIN COHEN, BOB LOCKE***

***&***

***MERLE & ANNETTE WHITT***

*Who did so much for our synagogue*

*May they rest in peace*

***Madelene Weinberger***



**Men's Group Dinner at Firepan Korean BBQ, April 2024**



# Congregation Sha'are Shalom

In Loving Memory of:

*My husband*

Noah Leon Weinberger

*His parents*

Harry & Beatrice Weinberger

*His brother*

Morton Weinberger

*My parents*

Roy & Lee Ester Osborne

*And my sister-in-law*

Barbara Osborne

*May they rest in peace*

Madelene Weinberger

# Congregation Sha'are Shalom Is Affiliated With the Union for Reform Judaism



*The Reform Jewish Movement believes there is more than one authentic way to be Jewish and that Judaism must change and adapt to the needs of the day to survive. We can unite thousands of years of tradition with modern experience to strengthen Judaism today and for generations to come.*

## **Union for Reform Judaism**

**633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 <https://urj.org>**

### ***Support Sha'are Shalom With a Directory Ad***

The annual Sha'are Shalom Directory is not only a very useful address book that most of us keep by the telephone or computer but is also a major fundraiser for our synagogue.

**Personal Ads.** Placing a personal greeting in the Directory is a great way to wish everyone a happy New Year or to remember a loved one. The prices for personal ads are:

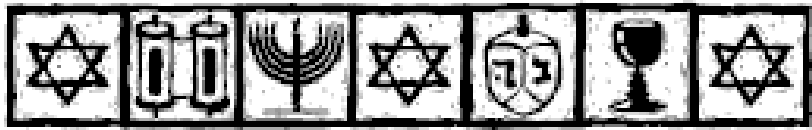
Inside front cover - \$200  
Back cover - \$200  
Full page (8"x 5") - \$150  
Half page (4" x 5") - \$75  
Quarter page (2" x 5") - \$50  
1/8 page (2" x 2 ½") - \$25

**Business ads.** Anyone can ask local business people to place an ad in our directory, used by dozens of area families. The prices for business ads are:

Inside front cover - \$250  
Back cover - \$250  
Full page (8"x 5") - \$220  
Half page (4" x 5") - \$120  
Quarter page (2" x 5") - \$75  
1/8 page (2" x 2 ½") - \$50

**For the 2026 Edition: Send ad copy to Mark Holt by January 15, 2026, at 13413 Kris Ran Court, Fort Washington, MD 20744, [mark.edward.holt@gmail.com](mailto:mark.edward.holt@gmail.com). Checks should be made out to Congregation Sha'are Shalom.**

**Observances and Holidays 2025 (5785-5786)**



Tu B'Shevat	February 12	15 Shevat
Purim	March 13	14 Adar II
Passover	April 12-April 20	15-22 Nisan
Yom HaShoah	April 23	26 Nisan
Yom Ha'Atzmaut	April 30	3 Iyar
Lag B'Omer	May 15	18 Iyar
Shavuot	June 1-3	6-7 Sivan
Tisha B'Av	August 2	9 Av
Rosh Hashanah	September 22-24	1-2 Tishrei
Yom Kippur	October 1	10 Tishrei
Sukkot	Oct 6-Oct 13	15-21 Tishrei
Shemini Atzeret	October 13	22 Tishrei
Simchat Torah	October 14	23 Tishrei
Hanukah	Dec 14-Dec 22	25 Kislev-2 Tevet

*Holidays begin at sundown. For more information,  
visit <https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/>*

*Congregation events are added throughout the year.  
Visit our website for up-to-date information:  
[shareshalomsmid.org](http://shareshalomsmid.org)*