

HEVRAT SHALOM CONGREGATION

A Reform Congregation Gathering for Jewish Fellowship, Study, and Worship

Principal Rabbi Arnold Saltzman
Senior Cantorial Soloist Caron Dale

eKoleynu Chanukah 5772
www.hevratshalom.org

Associate Rabbi David Kuperman
Cantorial Soloist Beth Rubens

Eighth Chanukah Candle is Lit Tuesday, December 27th

President's Note

Steve Permison, President

2011 has been a very good year for Hevrat Shalom. Average service attendance has increased by more than thirty percent with most services drawing between forty and fifty members and friends and every service having at least a couple of new faces, often from Ingleside or King Farm. We are very fortunate indeed to see such substantial growth. From this growing attendance we hope to increase our membership while expanding current and offering new programs and services. New and Expanded Programs for 2012 include:

- **Jewish Bible Study Group:** led by Rabbi Arnold Saltzman and assisted by our Associate Rabbi David Kuperman. The first study session will take place in February at Ingleside.
- **Jewish Film Festival:** organized by our longstanding Board Member and Social Chair, Irv Schaeffer. The first film, *The Concert*, will be shown at Ingleside on Saturday, February 11 with additional film dates to be scheduled for later this winter and spring. The license obtained by Hevrat Shalom allows us to invite all members and friends of the congregation to this event.
- **Congregational Sabbath Dinners:** Our next Sabbath Dinner will be held at the King Farm Recreational Center. Elise Ward will be chairing this event and the date and invitations will be distributed early next year.
- **Rabbinical Visitation Program:** this begins in January with Rabbi Saltzman visiting residents who reside at Ingleside.

(Continues, bottom Page 2, Column 2)

Rabbi's Chanukah Message

Arnold Saltzman, Principal Rabbi



The Festival of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is a celebration of both history and religion. Hanukkah is about the ancient revolt of the Maccabees against the Assyrian-Greek culture which attempted to force the Jews into abandoning their religious practice. To end this tyrannical and abusive imposition of a 'repulsive' foreign ruler over the Jewish people, a successful war was fought and won.

The lesson for our time, which is celebrated by the lighting of the Menorah, is that we must increase light in the world, and that is why we increase the candles each day of the Festival of Hanukkah. The rabbis speak of Pirumei Nissa, publicizing the Miracle, which is why many put their Hanukkah Menorah in the window to let people know that this light will guide their way and to remind them of the festival and the miracle of the holiday.

Hanukkah means dedication or re-dedication. The Temple had to be rededicated following its desecration by the Assyrian-Greeks who intentionally placed idols and sacrificed prohibited sacrifices in the Temple which was located in Jerusalem.

Personally, Hanukkah has special meaning. It reminds me of how someone can rededicate their life to performing mitzvot, or to restarting their career, or beginning again after an illness. My journey of rededication involved being determined not to allow an illness which took from me the use of my singing voice thereby forcing me to consider another path in life, to

(Continues, top Page 2, Column 1)

(Rabbi's Note Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

stop me from fulfilling my wish to continue serving the Jewish community.

Going to Rabbinical school at the age of fifty-six, seemed like an impossible task. It required me to find a residence in New York City which was affordable, to figure out how to park in New York City - Monday through Wednesday, no small matter since commercial parking is very expensive. I had to believe that I could exist on little sleep. In my living room I slept on a chair so I would not awaken Carol at 4:00 AM, then by 4:30 AM I was on the road to NYC stopping for Starbucks Coffee around 5:30-6:00 AM and then I made it to class in Riverdale NYC by 9:00 AM.

Classes were all day at the Academy for Jewish Religion and lasted until around 6:00 PM. At 8:00 PM I began studying, Talmud, Hebrew Language, Bible, Conversion, Jewish Life Cycle, Denominations, Midrash, Mysticism, Homiletics. Some days I went to the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary since they had one of the greatest Jewish libraries in the World, and since I was a graduate of JTS' Cantorial School, I had access to the great library and discovered the changes which are occurring in libraries through the internet.

After three years of commuting which was enough for me physically, I transferred to the Rabbinical School International where Rabbi Gelberman taught and where I was able to complete my work while working intensely every day for another year.

Twenty-five guests attended my Ordination and Smicha ceremony which was hosted by Congregation Ezrath Israel on 47th Street in Manhattan. Having studied eight years in an Orthodox Yeshiva, four years at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and four more years of rabbinic school, and after a full career of over thirty years as a Cantor, I am now a rabbi with Smicha (a certificate of Ordination). Following this in 2008, we celebrated with twenty-five of our guests who attended the Ordination ceremony.

Ask me about the meaning of rededication, starting over, renewing, not giving in when

you're having some of the most difficult decisions to make in your life. My answer is that with each candle, each night of the festival of Hanukkah, you can increase holiness in the world, increase the performance of mitzvot in the world, increase our love for our heritage and religion, and publicize it in such a way that we might be like the 'Shamash.' The Shamash or helper candle is the one which lights the other candles.

My prayer and wish for all of you this Hanukkah is that you will be that candle which helps others to increase the light of our beautiful heritage in the world.

Happy Chanukah

(President's note continued from page 1)

• **Hevrat Shalom's B'nai Mitzvah**

Celebration: we also look forward to a gala B'nai Mitzvah celebration just before the High Holy Days on the occasion of Hevrat Shalom's thirteenth birthday. Planning will begin shortly. We anticipate a fine dinner, good music and wonderful company in the Jewish Tradition of B'nai Mitzvah celebrations.

Yes we are a growing congregation. To assure continued growth, if possible, please include us in your New Year's planning and resolutions. If you are able, please pledge just a little more of your time and resources, just a little more of your participation and support so Hevrat Shalom Congregation may continue to provide just a little more in service back to you.

'TIS THE SEASON'

**Caron Dale
Senior Cantorial Soloist**

Just before Chanukah a grandmother was giving directions to her grandson who was coming to visit with his wife. 'You come to the front door of the condominium complex. I am in apartment 4D.' The grandmother continued, 'At the entrance, you'll find a large panel. With your elbow push 4D. I'll buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow hit 4. When you get out I am on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell.' 'Grandma,

that sounds easy,' replied her grandson, 'but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow.' To which she answered, 'You're coming to visit empty handed?'

At this season of parties and celebrations, we may find ourselves receiving more social invitations. And just like the grandmother above, we wouldn't consider going empty handed. I thought it would be interesting to know this concept is grounded in Judaism. A significant part of Jewish law includes love and consideration of others, the relationship between us and our neighbors. Tzedakah isn't just a nice thing to do rather it is an obligation, a mitzvah. We are commanded to help those in need, to help a neighbor with his burden, to help load or unload his beast, to give money to the poor and needy, and not to turn them away empty handed.

As we celebrate with friends and family this holiday season, with hands full of gifts and cheer, this is a great opportunity to remember those in need. Whether you volunteer your time, donate clothing, books or money, we can truly make a difference by keeping our hearts open and our hands full. Together we can help our neighbors with their burdens and unload the beasts around us. Warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, harmonious and bright holiday season.

Caron, Steve, Ari & Jonah

5772 Jewish Film Festival **Irv Schaeffer, Event Chair**

Save the Date: Saturday, February 11, 2012



© The Weinstein Company

On Saturday February 11, 2012 Hevrat Shalom Congregation will be presenting this film. A former world famous conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre orchestra, known as "The Maestro",

Andreï Filipov had seen his career publicly broken by Leonid Brezhnev for hiring Jewish musicians and now works cleaning the concert hall where he once directed. One day, he intercepts an official invitation from the prestigious Théâtre du Châtelet. Through a series of mad antics, he reunites his old orchestra, now composed of old alcoholic musicians, and flies to perform in Paris and complete the Tchaikovsky concerto interrupted 30 years earlier. For the concerto, he engages a young violin soloist with whom he has an unexpected connection.

The movie is In French and Russian with English subtitles. Please set aside this date and join us for what we hope will be the grand beginning of Hevrat Shalom's 5772 Jewish Film Festival.

If our first event is successful, additional films will be selected and approved by our Board of Directors and shown at Ingleside. Several award winning films from Israel and the United States are currently under consideration.

Prayer of Thanks for the End of the War in Iraq

Rabbi Arnold Saltzman

Ribonno Shel Olam - Master of the Universe we thank you for watching over the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have so bravely fought while the burden of War fell upon them and their families. We are grateful for these men and women who have given of themselves for the defense of our country.

We are grateful for those who have served multiple deployments, and those who are there now and on their way home. We remember in gratitude those who gave their lives willingly in the defense of our nation which was so brutally attacked on 9/11 2001.

We pray for the families who have endured the hardships of war, and pray that God send healing to the families of those who have endured this most difficult time. We promise to never forget the sacrifice made by these families.

As are now celebrating Hanukkah, a Festival of Light and Freedom; we are reminded why

people reject oppression and bigotry. We pray and thank You for this time of peace when we can celebrate our festival, remembering the heroic deeds of the past.

It is a solemn moment we mark, for there is no rejoicing in war and its consequences. We pray for healing and for a better future. Thank you for the wonderful men and women who make this country a beacon of Freedom for mankind.

Blessed Are Thou...Who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

Baruch. She'he'che'yanu, V'kiyemanu, V'higiyanu Lazman Hazeh.

Yahrzeit Updates **Jon Pfeffer**

Members and friends: We are updating the Yahrzeit database so the Rabbi will have the names of your departed to be read at Friday Night Services and listed in our newsletter.

You can help by sending updated or new Yahrzeit information to pepper4@aol.com with the Subject Line of "**Yahrzeit Information and Your Name.**"

Please include the name of the person, their relationship to you, and the date they passed away.

Thank you.

Note from our Financial Vice President and Treasurer **Jon Pfeffer**

I hope that all of the members and friends of Hevrat Shalom had a good Thanksgiving and are looking forward to more holiday celebrations. I am writing this note because it is time for my quarterly report on finances. Our Congregation is experiencing an increasing amount of interest from Ingleside and surrounding communities with a number of new people joining. Our Religious School and Confirmation classes are underway.

With this as background I want to thank our members and friends for their timely dues payments and generous donations. These funding sources allow us to pay for our outstanding clergy and cantorial soloists and continue our biweekly Sabbath Services as well as enabling us to bring you additional services such as our Shabbat dinners, films, discussion groups, and much more.

Please note that the end of the 2011 tax year is a great time to make your tax deductible pledge payment or a donation to honor or memorialize someone special. Since we base our budget mainly on member pledges we count on timely payments.

Listed below is our payment schedule for those of you who chose to divide your dues into quarterly or semi-annual payments:

Payment 1	July 1
Payment 2	Prior to High Holidays
Payment 3	December 31
Payment 4	March 1

If for any reason you have an issue with your payment, please contact me and allow us to work with you. Hevrat Shalom's policy is to never let the inability to pay prevent a person from participating in our community.

Sponsoring an Oneg for 2011 - 2012 **Andie Pfeffer** **Oneg Co-Chair**

Before I ask for new sponsors for this year's Onegs, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Hevrat Shalom members who have sponsored Onegs over the past several years. It is a true mitzvah to sponsor an Oneg in honor of or in memory of a special person or occasion. Sponsoring an Oneg is a simple and rewarding way to help our temple enrich our Friday Night Services. I am now asking Hevrat Shalom members to sign up to be Oneg sponsors for the 2011 - 2012 calendar year. An Oneg by definition means "Joy of the Sabbath" in Hebrew and usually refers to a celebratory gathering held after the Sabbath service, often with food, singing, study, discussion, and socializing.

Included in your Hevrat Shalom annual dues is a \$55 charge that all members pay which goes toward funding the Onegs. Therefore, sponsoring the basic Oneg may not cost you anything additional except for providing a Challah. Often, members choose to celebrate special occasions with additional Oneg goodies. Anything in addition to what is provided is to be paid by the sponsor of the Oneg.

When you decide on a date that you want to sponsor an Oneg, please send an email to me with any questions and date(s) for which you want to sponsor an Oneg at pepper4@aol.com. Remember that Hevrat Shalom meets the first and third Friday night of each month from September through June. During the summer, there is a more relaxed schedule, so please bear this in mind when selecting your date(s). It is probably best to look at the Hevrat Shalom Temple website and calendar at www.hevratshalom.org for Friday Night Services before choosing a date.

Thank You

A Note to New Members

Bonnie Dutcher
Membership Chair

Shalom and Welcome! I am so glad that you have become a new member of Hevrat Shalom. You will find we are a very friendly congregation with a nurturing environment. You will have ample opportunity to spend time with our Rabbi and Cantorial Soloists and those who sustain our congregants. They are there for you in their pastoral and educational capacities. You will meet many of our congregants at our Shabbat Services and Dinners, Chanukah and Purim parties, Passover Seder and other special occasions and outings. These events highlight the Jewish experiences which you and your family will enjoy as part of the Hevrat Shalom family.

Membership in Hevrat Shalom entitles you to enroll your children in our Religious School at reduced member rates, which is about half of the non-member tuition. More importantly, your membership helps strengthen our local Jewish

community and adds your voice, by proxy through our congregation, to the national American Jewish movement.

As membership chair, I invite you to get involved in your new community. I would love to have you volunteer to work with our Membership Committee and/or offer suggestions. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you better. There are many other activities you can get involved with, if you wish. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns and/or new ideas.

Shalom,

Bonni Dutcher
BSDutcher@aol.com
301-315-2619

Funeral Practices Committee **Jack Goldman, Chair**

Again a reminder that Hevrat Shalom Congregation has reserved a number of cemetery plots at the Garden of Remembrance Cemetery in Comus, Maryland, located just off Route 355 on Comus Road, north of Clarksburg. The cemetery also has plots for interfaith couples. If you would like to purchase a cemetery plot at Garden of Remembrance, please contact Joan Pinsky at (410) 349-4887 (home) or (301) 279-7889 (cell) and mention that you are a member of Hevrat Shalom.

In addition, the congregation is a member of the Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington, which entitles our members to obtain a package of Basic Funeral Services from the Hines-Rinaldi funeral home at a reasonable cost; members, of course, can make their own arrangements with any other funeral home in the area (please see our website for a list of funeral homes).

If you do suffer a loss, please know that you can contact the Rabbi Saltzman at any time at (202) 244-6871 (voicemail) or (202) 669-4434 (cell). In his absence, Jack Goldman, chairman of the Funeral Practices Committee, is also available, at (202) 744-0179.

For more information, please go to our website at (i) www.hevratshalom.org , then go to "Activities" and then "Funeral Practices" or (ii) directly to:

<http://www.hevratshalom.org/images/documents/Final%20Funeral%20Practices%20Website%20Material%20January%2017%202011.pdf>.

Community Events

Weekly Vigils to Free Alan Gross

Mondays (ongoing)
12:00-1:00pm

Cuban Interests Section, 2630 16th St NW, DC The Jewish and interfaith communities of Greater Washington will not stand idly by as one of its own remains in captivity. Attend one of the upcoming vigils for Alan Gross' freedom – every Monday outside the Cuban Interests Section. Vigils will continue each Monday through the end of the year.

Come out and show your support. Vigils brought to you by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) and The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Hevrat shalom, under the guidance of Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, is a sponsoring and participating congregation is this weekly vigil.

Day of All People sponsored by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
8:00am – 3:00pm

Meet at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, 2000 East Cary Street, Richmond

The JCRC supports the Day of All People, an annual advocacy program of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. Join with the interfaith community as we advocate before the Richmond General Assembly on issues of poverty and the working poor, care for creation and rethinking bias.

Register at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Lunch Reception with His Excellency Dr. Michael B. Oren Ambassador of Israel to the United States (By invitation only)

Thursday January 19, 2012

11:30am – 1:00pm

Miller Senate Office Building, 1st Floor, Conference Room West, 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD

A Kosher lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to Nirma Medrano:

nmedrano@jcouncil.org or 301-770-0881

Sabbath Treasures

Torah Reading:

Current Torah Readings and a weekly commentary of the Torah may be found at the following address:

<http://media.urj.org/torah/hashavua.mp3>

Candle Lighting:

You will find candle lighting times at:

http://www.chabad.org/calendar/candleLighting_cdo/aid/6226/save/1/c/448/jewish/Candle-Lighting.htm

Wounded Warriors

Sandy Karen Abbott

The Afghanistan and Iraq wars have seen amazing survival rates for many seriously wounded soldiers. Many have suffered life changing injuries such as multiple amputations, traumatic brain injury and the like. The *Two Top Mountain Adaptive Foundation* is a non-profit 501c corporation whose mission is to assist these young men and women through rehabilitative recreational activities adapted to address the individual's condition. The aim is to assist these courageous men and women to return to their normal lives including challenging them to undertake and return to the recreational activities they enjoyed prior to their injuries. *Two Top* is an all volunteer program and we are asking for assistance to help cover the costs of providing services to these incredible young men and women.

All funds collected will be used to support the wounded warriors and their participation in recreational activities. In the winter months, the focus is skiing.

Last year we were able to provide 260 lessons and services to 54 service personnel. These service members primarily are at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center and are going through rehabilitative therapy at this facility,

Any assistance that you might lend would be welcome. Below is a link to one of our incredible wounded warriors, Todd Love, a triple amputee, as well as a link to our website

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\$53Qr-EimEc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=$53Qr-EimEc)

<http://www.twotopadaptive.org/>

Should you have any questions please feel free to call me, Sandy Karen Abbott at 301-758-0089 or by email to emaofkirshaneetai@gmail.com. Donations may be made directly on the website or should you wish to discuss sponsorship please contact me directly. You may make checks payable to Two Top Mountain Adaptive Foundation and send them to the address on the website.

Hevrat Shalom Administration

Clergy:

Principal Rabbi	Arnold Saltzman
Associate Rabbi:	David Kuperman
Cantorial Soloists:	Caron Dale Beth Rubens

School Director: Arnold Saltzman

Officers:

President:	Steve Permison
Financial Vice	
President & Treasurer:	Jon Pfeffer
Executive Officer:	Sid Verner
Secretary:	Sue Tubbs

Board Members at Large:

Symour Baden
Bonnie Dutcher
Jack Goldman
Debbie Greene
Diane Marcus

Andie Pfeffer
Irv Schaeffer
Elise Ward
Elihu Zimet

Committee Chairs:

Funeral Practices	Jack Goldberg
Interfaith:	Todd Fineberg
Membership:	Bonnie Dutcher
Newsletter:	Steve Permison & Sid Verner
Onegs:	Andie Pfeffer
Sabbath Dinners:	Elise Ward
Social:	Irv Schaeffer, Acting

Gallery of Memories

Bat Mitzvah McKenzie Harris



Simchat Torah 5772



High Holy Days 5772





**THE FOLLOWING NAMES ARE MEMORIALIZED
DURING THE MONTHS OF December, January AND FEBRUARY**

Elul Flora Barsky	Father of Phillip Barsky
Jon Dahlquist	Brother of Kay Permison
Solomon Danis	Father of Elaine Garfinkle
Shirley Fineberg	Mother of Todd Fineberg
Anna Fox	Mother of Florence Lang
Samuel B Ginsberg	Father of Miriam Rothchild
Raines-Lambe	Mother of Mina Parsont
Yetto Levitus	Mother of Sydney Levitus
Alexander Ellis Permison	Father of Steve Permison
Leo Pinsky	Father in Law of Joan Pinsky
Anna Saslow	Family of Lillian and David Schwartz
Charlotte Saslow	Sister of Lillian Schwartz
Abraham Sawelson	Father of Beth Zimet
Hilda Schwartz	Mother of Charlotte Lass
Janet Verner	Wife of Sid Verner

*...and others that we remember in our hearts...
Thank you for the generous contributions that memorialize these names.
Recent losses this past year.

Hevrat Shalom Congregation offers several ways to memorialize a loved one. Please speak directly with Rabbi Saltzman for further information and planning including listings on this Page and Rabbi's reading of names at Sabbath Services. The Hevrat Shalom Section at the Garden of Remembrance Cemetery in Clarksburg, MD is Available to members and plots cost considerably less if purchased by Synagogue members through the synagogue.

**HEVRAT SHALOM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PART II, PLEDGE**

I. MINIMAL PLEDGE SCHEDULE (PLEASE PLEDGE MORE IF YOU CAN):

Note: The following is a guide for minimum dues. Thankfully, most members generously pledge considerably more than the minimum guide according to their financial ability.

Under 35: Single \$200/Family \$400*

Ages 30 – 61: Single \$480/Family \$850.00*

62 and over: Single \$450/Family \$675*

*50% less for Ingleside residents

II. HIGH HOLIDAY SEATS: Included with membership. Non members may purchase tickets separately.

III. REQUIRED ONEG SPONSORSHIP:
\$54.00 (50% less for Ingleside residents)

Please indicate below a special event or memory for which you wish your sponsored Oneg to be acknowledged:

Event: _____

Date: _____

IV. ADDITIONAL GIFTS AND/OR CONTRIBUTIONS (not required): for special occasions such as birthdays and Yorzheit anniversaries to be acknowledged from the bema and in our periodic publications: Please specify purpose and amount:

V. PLEDGE TOTAL: equals the sum from Sections I, III and IV.

meeting with the financial officers of the congregation.

PLEDGE: I/we pledge _____ dollars for membership dues for fiscal year 2010/2011 which begins on July 1st 2010. Payments will be made (check appropriately):

Annually: _____, or
Semiannually: _____, or Quarterly:
_____.

Printed Name(s): _____;

Signature: _____

_____ Date: _____

Please make your check payable to Hevrat Shalom Congregation and mail with this form to:

Hevrat Shalom Congregation
Post Office Box 3606
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Permission Request:

I do ___ do not ___ grant permission to Hevrat Shalom Congregation to list our name(s) in the annual

Hevrat Shalom Congregation will never turn away a member because of inability to pay. Individuals with a special situation or financial hardship should request a confidential