SHAAREY TZEDEK

Conservative Jewish Synagogue Montgomery Co. | Texas-26615 Oak Ridge Rd. 77380 Texas

Save the Dates

<u>December 8, 2023</u> 7:00 PM Shabbat Services followed by Oneg Sponsored by Cathy Wilkins In Memory of Mark Wilkins z'l (Hannukah 2nd Night)

> December 15, 2023 6:30 PM Shabbat Dinner & Hannukah 8th Night Celebration <u>RSVP</u>



בּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים **~WELCOME**

Shaarey Tzedek is participating in the Masorti (Conservative) Solidarity "Empty Seat in the Sanctuary" program. This is deeply significant and meaningful to our Israeli families who are suffering at this time, and we hope it's a source of comfort to them knowing that we are thinking of them, and that they are not alone. The liberation of some of the hostages is bittersweet even though it brings a palpable sense of relief and joy, like a weight being lifted off our shoulders. The bitter truth, however, lies in the fact that Elma Avraham who we have made special prayers for at Shaarey Tzedek , arrived in Israel extremely ill and is now in the ICU and in a slow recovery at this time. This realization casts a shadow over the celebration, reminding us of the challenges that remain. Our prayers are for the immediate return of all hostages with a fervent recovery of all those still in Hammas and Palestinian captivity and for their safe return. May their freedom be granted and their reunion with loved ones be imminent.

May the strength of our collective prayers and unwavering determination with our support for Israel pave the way for their safe return, bringing an end to this harrowing ordeal.

In addition, a personal connection between Shaarey Tzedek and a Synagogue in Israel has been established to create a bond among our communities; to learn more about the realities of Israeli life at this moment and to lend our support to our Israeli sisters and brothers.

Our sister synagogue is :HaMinyan HaShivyoni Mazkeret Batya,

southeast of Rehovot https://m.facebook.com/shivioni.mazkeret

Elma Avraham (left) and our sister synagogue in Israel (right)



<u>shaareytzedek.com</u>. <u>United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism</u>.





"Am Israel Chai

Issue 22 Kislev-Tevet 5784



Recently I have been reflecting on Naomi Shemer's song, "AI Kol Eleh" from 1980. The lyrics express accepting the bitter with the sweet, such as the sting of the bee with its honey. We have been stung by the bitter since October 7th. Thankfully we have also experienced some sweetness.

The 73rd anniversary of Sol's Bar Mitzvah brought so many of us together to celebrate and honor our beloved Sol, who shared that it is a day he will never forget!

Several weeks ago, I had a sweet day with our local *soferet*, Torah scribe Kat Bower when she repaired one of our *sifrei Torah* with Japanese mulberry paper, and changed its *atzei hayyim*, its scrolls. It was interesting seeing her work and I was honored to help sew part of the parchment around our new scroll with cow sinew thread (*accompanying pictures below*). I also learned how she repairs parchment rips using Japanese mulberry paper, how an animal skin is stretched to create parchment, and about something we don't like to think about- how animal hair is removed as part of the process of creating parchment. Finally a tidbit you may not know-parchment from a goat retains a goat smell for many, many years to come!

Soon we will share more sweetness together as we celebrate Chanukah on the second night with a Shabbat service and the following Friday night with our Shabbat dinner.

Heartfelt condolences to Sandy and Andy Remson on the passing of Ann Penner z'l, Sandy's mother, and Andy's mother-in-law. May her memory be an everlasting blessing, and may the lights of our *chanukiot* warm our hearts and bring light to the darkest places in our world,

Rabbi Deborah



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December, 2023

We were concerned when we realized that our Shaarey Tzedek Synagogue was not included in the veterans memorial Israeli flag raising and support ceremony in Conroe. It felt that a significant omission for our community that we were not included, especially considering our strong support for the State of Israel. In response, we took the initiative

to write messages to several dignitaries who were present at the event, expressing our concerns and disappointment.

We were pleasantly surprised when we received responses from many of the dignitaries for the oversight. However, what truly touched us was the personal phone call we received from Montgomery County Judge Mark Keough. He not only apologized for the omission but also expressed his strong support for Shaarey Tzedek Synagogue, and his unwavering support for Israel.

We want to ensure that Judge Keough's expression of support does not go unnoticed within our Jewish Conservative Synagogue. His personal phone call demonstrated his genuine care and commitment to our community, and it meant a great deal to us. We are grateful for his reassurance and look forward to continuing to foster a positive relationship with him and our local community.

We want to express our heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Kodesh Minyan. Rabbi Deborah and Eljay, Jaclyn Parmigiano, Charles Shapiro,
Leslye & Samuel Feinberg, Marian Schultz, Joe Benperlas, Carin Solomon Kelly, Anita Gurwitz, Jaime Schmulson, Yarden & Steven Schmulson, Sol & Joannie Schwartz, Julie & Fred Halperin, Vickie & Robert Strong,
Maura & Nathan Shapiro, Jerry Friedman, Miriam Leitko, Sheryl Riffle, Soli & Danny Schmulson.



<u>https://</u> <u>www.mytree.org.il/</u> <u>shaarey-tzedek-tx</u>



December, 2023

Thank you for your donations

Summer Golden

Shelly Gable

Jerry Friedman In honor of Sidney Friedman

Dawn & Brian Greenberg In memory of Ann Penner z"l

Miriam & Alan Leitko In memory of Ann Penner z"l

Sheryl & Wally Riffle In memory of Ann Penner z"l

Sylvia Granit In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

Vickie & Robert Strong In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

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Leslye & Samuel Feinberg In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

Rabbi Deborah Schloss & Eljay Waldman In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

> Joannie & Sol Schwartz In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

> **Goldstein Family** In Honor of Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary And Peace in Israel

Don Schlossberg In memory of Marilyn L Schlossberg z"l

Shaarey Tzedek Founding Members Thank you to Marti Stein

Shaarey Tzedek Founding Members Thank you to Maura Shapiro and Elaine Kapell For the beautiful Torah cover made with heirloom tablecloths.

Thank you to all our **generous individuals** who anonymously contribute to our tzedakah box.

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Thank you Marti for leading our women self defense workshop





Sol Sachs 73rd Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Kodesh Minyan









