

SHAAREY TZEDEK

Conservative Jewish Synagogue

Montgomery Co. | Texas-

26615 Oak Ridge Rd. 77380 Texas

Save the Dates

November 12, 2023

**Women (only) all ages
Self Defense Workshop
2:00-4:00 PM**

[RSVP](#)

November 18, 2023

**Shabbat Kodesh Minyan
9:30 AM**

**Celebrating Sol Sachs
73rd Anniversary of his
Bar Mitzvah**

**Followed by
a sensational luncheon
Sponsored by
Arlene & Sol Sachs**

December 8, 2023

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
[RSVP](#)**



[https://
www.mytree.org.il/
shaarey-tzedek-tx](https://www.mytree.org.il/shaarey-tzedek-tx)


WELCOME~ בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים



We want to express our strong solidarity with Israel during these difficult times. It is indeed heartbreaking to witness the unimaginable series of events and atrocities caused by all extreme groups, both in Israel within the USA and around the world.

It is important for us to stay strong and resilient in the face of these challenges. Our Shaarey Tzedek community, stands side-by-side with our brothers and sisters, parents, cousins, and all Israelis as we come together and share our strong values of legacy, recognizing who we are, where we came from and why we will always defend Israel, its right to be where it is and our birthright as our homeland and promised land.

We should hold onto hope for a future where people accept us not only for who we are, but recognize our incredible accomplishments for humanity, science, technology, literature and the arts. Empowered by our ability to overcome over 5000 years of hardships and remain faithful to our religion, culture and traditions. Shaarey Tzedek stands united and supports Israel through these trying times.

Our strong loyalty for Israel and determination to defend our people, livelihood, and way of life in the face of adversity, must remain resilient and steadfast. We stand united in our commitment to fight against anyone who threatens our existence. Together, we will continue to demonstrate our ability to survive and thrive despite the hardships we have faced throughout history. Our unwavering support for Israel will endure forever, and we will always stand by her side. 

עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַיִּים

*“Am Israel Chai,
The People of Israel Live.”*



shaareytzedek.com.

[United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.](#)

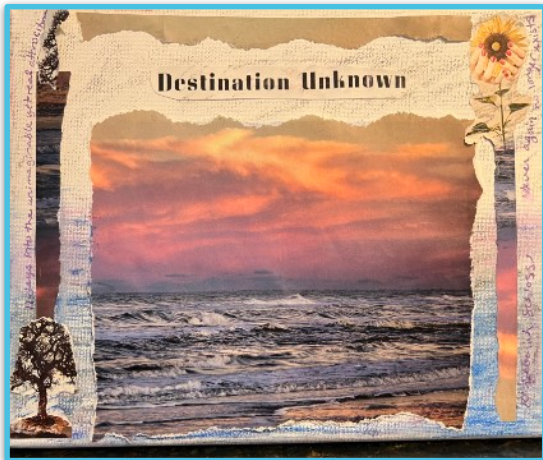


When we face an unimaginable atrocity, emotions run amuck, and it can be hard to find the words to match what's swirling around in our hearts and heads. This has been especially challenging as writing enables me to dispel what takes up too much space in my mind. Without words, I have found that engaging in art, from photography to jewelry making to collaging, provides me a necessary therapeutic outlet. So, part of this month's message is visual. And part of my writing is based on a talk by Nili Salem, as she found words while I turned to visuals.

At the beginning of *parashat Noah*, Noah builds the ark, yet never speaks about it. Perhaps like me, emotions blind him from finding the words to express the unimaginable atrocity of the flood. Also, in building the ark, perhaps *Noah* models for us that **actions speak louder than words**. How can this possibility inform and perhaps even transform how we operate in the world?

At the end of *parashat Noah*, a week after his empty-mouthed dove returned, Noah sends out the dove again, which this time returns with an olive leaf, proof that there is dry land somewhere, and that our world may continue. A *midrash* explains that using the olive leaf brought back by the dove, Noah eventually grows olives, from which he presses and gives some oil to his son Shem, which gets passed down, *l'dor vador*, all the way to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and even onto the priests, specifically a priest named Shem. This olive oil symbolizes hope, hope which we help transmit from one generation to the next.

Another time we encounter olive oil is during Chanukah, when we learn that even during the darkest nights, with the destruction of our Temple, there is hope, and we spread light, just like when we try to shine light on those who may be experiencing their darkest night. While we are often called People of the Book, I believe that we are also People of Hope, and as Nili Salem insightfully remarks, "We carry this hope at all costs."



I made this collage when co-facilitating an Art Therapy and Pastoral Care session for some of our long-term care patients with our Art Therapist at the VA hospital. On one side I wrote "11 days into the unimaginable yet real atrocities," and on the other side, "Never again no longer exists."

The main part is a beautiful sunset or sunrise. I like that the sun's movement, up or down, appears ambiguous. This parallels the ambiguity and the unknown to which we have been plummeted, from which we will surely rise!

On the bottom right, is a tree, which was large and wide on top before I tore off sections on each side, symbolizing all who died since Hamas infiltrated Israel and committed heinous crimes against our Israeli and American brethren. At the upper left, the shorn off tree in the sky moves into a

spiritual realm, back to directly commune with the Divine.

On the upper right a sunflower is gently cradled in someone's hands. A sunflower, since it always faces the sun, symbolizes unwavering faith and orientation to the light. It's Ukraine's national flower, and like the olive, also produces oil.

The side frames are upside down. I purposely put the sky toward the bottom and the ocean on top symbolizing the current topsy turvy turmoil. Finally, the title, "Destination Unknown" shows that we can touch the war in Israel through our prayers, donations, and support of our Israeli family and friends. G-d has left it in our hands to create an opening for peace.

Perhaps you are familiar with these lyrics to an Israeli song:

עם הנצח לא מפחד
לא מפחד מדרך ארוכה

"The eternal nation is not afraid of the journey."

Even though Israel's and each of our personal destinations are unknown, may we try not to be afraid of the journey.

With my heart both here and in Israel, Rabbi Deborah

Thank you for your donations

Summer Golden

Rabbi Deborah Schloss & Eljay Waldman

Arlene & Sol Sachs

Sheryl & Wally Riffle

Vickie & Robert Strong

Jerry Friedman

Soli & Danny Schmulson

Maura & Nathan Shapiro

Sheryl & Wally Riffle
In Honor of Sol Sachs
86th Birthday

Miriam & Alan Leitko
In Honor of
Sol Sachs
73rd Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

Miriam & Alan Leitko
In Honor of the Hebrew naming of
Vera 'Tikva' Braswell

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



Kay C Goldman
talking about "The
Emergence of Jewish Life
in Texas."



Shabbat in Solidarity with Israel 🇺🇸🇮🇱
Israeli Food Oneg sponsored by Rabbi Deborah and Eljay

The empty chair at our services, serves as a powerful symbol, representing one of the 222 hostages, Elma bat Avraham, who is unable to celebrate Shabbat. May our prayers and the actions of the international community bring about the liberation of all hostages and a resolution to this crisis.

