

Shaarey Tzedek

Conservative Jewish Synagogue Montgomery County Texas
26615 Oak Ridge Rd. 77380

WELCOME ~ בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים



(Picture from left: Edith Jucker, Rabbi Deborah and Michelle)

🦋 In a room filled with people, Edith Jucker's soft voice, began to speak. Her gentle demeanor had the power to command the attention of everyone present. As she shared her stories of survival during the Holocaust, her words carried a weight that was both heartbreaking and inspiring.

As Edith's narrative unfolded, the room fell into a profound silence. It was as if time stood still, allowing us to fully absorb the gravity of her words. The power of her storytelling was palpable, and the emotions in the room were tangible.

With each word, Edith spoke not only of despair and suffering, but also of love and hope. Her emotional account of her experiences touched the hearts of everyone in the room. We were captivated by her vulnerability and strength as she recounted the atrocities she had witnessed and endured.

In that moment, our community became united in our shared empathy and admiration for Edith. We were grateful for the opportunity to bear witness to her story and to learn from her resilience. Edith's daughter, Michelle, and husband Brian, also deserve our gratitude as well as Rabbi Deborah for bringing Edith to Shaarey Tzedek to share her compelling and important narrative to our synagogue.

As Edith concluded her talk, there was a collective sense of gratitude and reverence in the room. We were reminded of the importance of remembering the past and honoring those who lived through the darkest times. Edith's words will forever resonate in our hearts, serving as a reminder of the power of love, hope, and the strength of the human spirit. Thank you, Edith, for sharing this profound experience with our community. 🦋

SAVE
the
DATE

February 10, 2024

6:30 PM

*Havdallah, Social &
Delicious nosh*

*Sponsored by Anita Gurwitz
In Memory of
Zeev Gurwitz z"l*

February 23, 2024

7:00 PM

*Shabbat Services followed
by a Parash theme Oneg*

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Jewish and secular holidays are guided by two very different calendars. Like our solar calendar periodically requires a leap day on Feb 29, so too our Jewish lunar calendar needs a leap month seven times every 19 years. The leap month, called *Adar 1*, begins this year on February 10.

The Jewish calendar undergoes an intercalation, reconciling the Jewish lunar and secular solar calendar, to enable us to observe Passover in the spring, as Deuteronomy commands us to do (Deuteronomy 16:1). If we didn't periodically insert *Adar 1* into our calendar, we'd be celebrating Passover (and the rest of our holy days) earlier and earlier and it would be quite disconcerting to celebrate Passover in the winter, and eventually in the fall and summer!

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The UN General Assembly chose this date because this is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. We were blessed to welcome Holocaust survivor Edith Jucker to *Shaarey Tzedek* on this day and hear her compelling story during our *Havdalah* gathering. May we all take to heart Edith's timely message, "We must make sure life and love survive hate."

Jews around the world also commemorate *Yom HaShoah* on the 27th of *Nisan*, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Unnervingly, "Never Again is Now" (Rabbi Daniel Bouskila's article published January 25, 2024 in the *Jewish Journal* is titled, "Never Again is Now: October 7 & Holocaust Remembrance Day"). Israelis and Jews around the world have a tragic new way of marking what date it is... February 1st is October 118th. May the longest October we have ever endured come to an end as soon as possible with the complete destruction of Hamas- כן יהי רצון- may it be so!

Prayerfully, Rabbi Deborah

We would like to kindly remind everyone that our *Shaarey Tzedek* community is a space where we have a strict policy of not discussing politics or any other topics related to politics. We believe that by avoiding these discussions, we can create a more harmonious environment for all members. Our primary focus is on fostering positive Jewish interactions, promoting personal Jewish growth, and cultivating a sense of Jewish community. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to this guideline.

Thank you for your donations:

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*In memory of
Zeev Gurwitz z"l*

Shaarey Tzedek

*In honor of
The wedding of
Melanie Logue and Joseph BenPerlas*

Shaarey Tzedek

*In honor of
Edith Jucker*

Soli & Danny Schmulson

*In honor of the 66 Anniversary of
Arlene & Sol Sachs*

Miriam & Alan Leitko

*In honor of the 66 Anniversary of
Arlene & Sol Sachs*

Miriam & Alan Leitko

*In memory of
Michael J Scissors z'l*

Vickie & Robert Strong

*In honor of the 66 Anniversary of
Arlene & Sol Sachs*

Vickie & Robert Strong

*In memory of
Michael J Scissors z'l*

Sheryl & Wally Riffle

*In honor of the 66 Anniversary of
Arlene & Sol Sachs*

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*In memory of
Serena Davis z'l*

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

Special thank you to everyone in our *Shaarey Tzedek* community who contributed to our spectacular potluck Shabbat dinner. We joined in for a "Shabbat of love" by participating in the largest shabbat dinner gathering across the entire USA. Thank you!