

TEMPLE
SHAARAY
TEFILA



Shaaray
TZEDAKAH
Annual Donor Brochure

2022-2023



*“Thus the Israelites whose hearts moved them to bring anything for the work brought it as a freewill offering to the Eternal.”
(Exodus 35:29)*

Dear Friends:

We are grateful every day for your continued outpouring of support for Shaaray Tefila. Your philanthropic commitment and engagement make Shaaray Tefila the special community that is a source of strength, a spiritual home and a refuge during challenging times. Because of you, we are able to be a place of meaning, connection and purpose for all members of our community. And we hope that, even though you give generously simply because you want Shaaray Tefila to be strong, you feel strengthened personally by your act of generosity.

It is our great pleasure to publicly acknowledge all gifts above and beyond membership dues and school fees made during the year 5783 (2022-2023). These contributions directly support our operating budget, enabling us to continue to fortify our sacred community. The depth of support from you, our donors, reaffirms the importance our community places on Jewish values.

This publication reflects the wide range of giving opportunities available throughout the year, including Enhanced Membership, Annual Appeal and Spring Gala. Contributions can also be directed to our Early Childhood programs and to support programmatic opportunities. In addition, legacy gifts can be made to ensure the future of our Shaaray Tefila community. If you would like additional information about giving opportunities, please contact Hallie Golden, Director of Development, at hgolden@tstnyc.org or (212) 535-8008 x266.

To all of you who support Shaaray Tefila – thank you. You are the foundation upon which we will continue to build a bright future for our congregation and for the Jewish people.

With gratitude,

Joel M. Mosbacher, Senior Rabbi

Seth Frank, President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel M. Mosbacher".



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Frank".



Current & Past Temple Presidents (Pictured l-r): Seth Frank, Lois Nyren, Liz Sherman, Barri Waltcher, Michael Laufer

2022-2023 LEADERSHIP

Shaaray Tefila's Board of Trustees, clergy and staff work in partnership together to create a warm community, shared by the love of our heritage and a connection to our Jewish identity. Our leadership shares in the successes of the temple, helps us overcome challenges, and helps us plan for the future. We sincerely thank the leaders of our temple who are committed to a vision of meaning, connection, and purpose.

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& Member Services*



AGGREGATE GIVING

Tzedakah (Righteous Giving) is the act of realizing that we can make positive change and improve the world around us. We are grateful to the most generous contributors to Shaaray Tefila, who have supported this community through Enhanced Membership, the Annual Appeal, Spring Gala, Raise the Rooftop project, and other ongoing contributions throughout the year. We acknowledge these members for investing in our current and future programs, supporting our inspired worship and exciting initiatives, and helping us continue to build and strengthen our sacred community for years to come.

We extend our deep appreciation and sincere thanks to the following members:

Visionary/Khozeh (\$50,000 & Above)

Amy Starck & Jack Cogen
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AGGREGATE GIVING

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Moran Levy & Idan Tepman
Terri Solomon Topaz & Howard Topaz



ENHANCED MEMBERS

Shaaray Tefila members make the temple the success that it is today. Our community continues to grow, but like all synagogues, we rely upon the generosity of our community to supplement the dues and school fees that comprise the majority of our budget. Members who support the congregation by increasing their Regular Membership to Enhanced Membership, in addition to their generous support of our programs and fundraising efforts, are acknowledged in this booklet and on plaques displayed on our donor wall in the temple's lobby.

Special thanks to all of our Enhanced Members.

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Sumie Okazaki &
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Liz & David Sherman
Klara & Larry Silverstein

Rabbi's Circle Silver

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TST SIMCHA CORNER



The congregation celebrated **Rabbi Jill Rubin's** Installation on March 31, 2023 at our Erev Shabbat Service with special guest Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit, followed by a special oneg representing Rabbi Rubin's journey through California, Spain, Israel & NYC. On Saturday, our families celebrated with an ice cream party. We thank our members who helped us plan and host these events.



Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Joel Mosbacher**, Senior Rabbi, who received his Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) on May 4, 2023, celebrating 25 years of service to the Jewish people.



Warm congratulations to **Amy Schwach**, Executive Director, who was officially installed as President of the National Association of Temple Administrators (NATA) on November 8, 2022.

OPTION DUES

Members of our congregation have the opportunity to contribute through an optional 20% donation to their dues. This ongoing commitment and generosity above and beyond dues enables our leaders to plan wisely, to support excellence and innovation, to sustain essential services and programs, and to continue to wholeheartedly welcome and retain all who wish to be part of our sacred community, regardless of financial circumstances. Special thanks to those members who donated to Option Dues.

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ANNUAL APPEAL

The Annual Appeal is our largest and most important fundraiser. By supporting our Annual Appeal, you will help the temple continue to attract and retain talented clergy and Jewish professionals and provide our entire community with programs for education, celebration, social action and community-building. Support of the Annual Appeal also enables us to fulfill our value of giving financial assistance to members in need.

We extend our deep appreciation and sincere thanks to our 2022/5783 Annual Appeal donors.



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Cari & Daniel Sommer

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Sumie Okazaki & Allen Potesman

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Riry Muhlrad Jones & Tom z'l Jones

Diana & David Milich



ANNUAL APPEAL

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Sally & Robert Wechsler
Sydelle & Andrew Weinberger
Renee & Arthur Weisbaum
Marci & Michael Weiss
Robert Zack
Steve Zolkowitz

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Our congregation proudly celebrated the 2022 High Holy Days with members both in person and online. Thank you to our members for coming together to worship during Rosh Hashanah, connect on Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, and find meaning at Tashlich.



HIGH HOLY DAYS



JEWISH HOLIDAYS

It was a wonderful year of celebrating the Jewish holidays together as a community, such as Chanukah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Passover, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Israel's Independence Day, Shavuot, Tisha B'av, and more. Purim festivities included the Purim Spiel which took us on a trip to the 90's with Reality Bites the Megillah, a Purim Carnival, Tot Purim Celebration, and Congregation Carnival & Megillah Reading. Later, we held Passover Festival Services, the Sisterhood Women's Seder and Second Night Congregational Seder. Thank you for joining us and letting us entertain you.



JEWISH HOLIDAYS



CHANUKAH



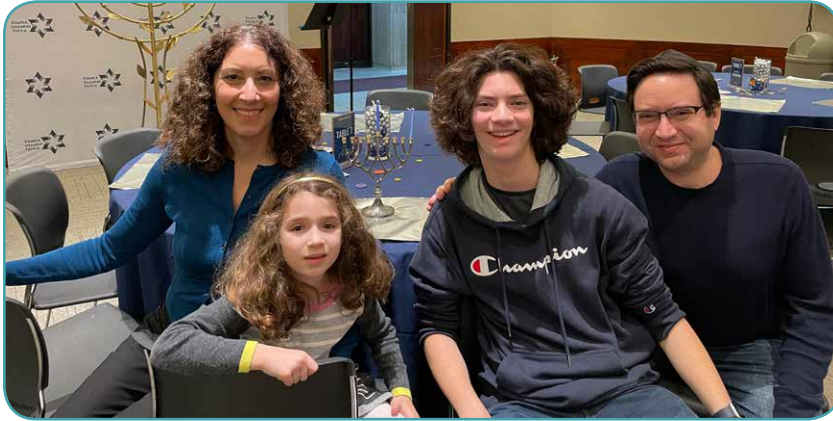
Our pre-Chanukah Shabbat service began with the Congregational Menorah Lighting, followed by a festive service featuring Chanukah-themed music performed by our choirs Kol Rinnah, Shir Leadership and Shaaray School of Rock. Then, our members enjoyed a special Chanukah dinner hosted by our clergy. Our Nursery School students enjoyed a festive Tot Shabbat and had pizza together afterwards. It was wonderful to celebrate Chanukah with all ages.



CHANUKAH

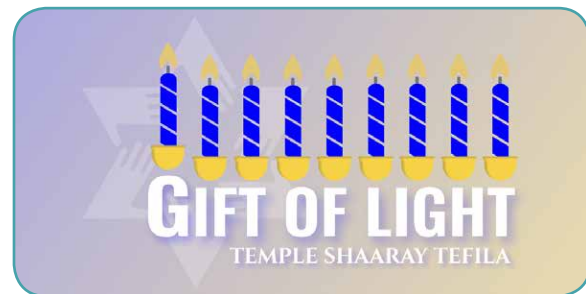


CHANUKAH



GIFT OF LIGHT

Special thanks to Shari Brasner for bringing a new Chanukah fundraiser to Shaaray Tefila and to Susan Shlensky Aronoff for helping to lead this project. Last year, congregants had an opportunity to buy a festive gift of wrapped Chanukah candles for other members, their children, teachers, clergy, staff and friends. We thank all of our donors.



Felice Stolzberg-Adelson &
Richard Adelson
Bonnie & Charlie Alter
Amy & David Applebaum
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David Bargman
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Annie Gross & Jesse Berger
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Denise & Jay Freiberg
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GIFT OF LIGHT

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Cantor Todd Kipnis
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Samantha & Tomer Levy
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Marla Stern & Rick Peltzman
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OUR PHYSICAL SPACE

A beautiful physical space can make the meaning, connection, and purpose we find at our synagogue so much more powerful. We hope that you have noticed some important upgrades in our physical space. Our completed projects include the beautification of the planting at the front of our synagogue, the modernization of our Chapel, the fresh coat of paint and new lighting throughout the Second Floor, the redesign of the Clergy's mezzanine space, all the way up to the top of the building to our new custom-made rooftop. We've been making our precious spiritual home that much more precious.

These improvements cannot happen without support from our generous donors. As the rabbis of the first century wisely said, "im ein kemach, ein Torah". Without sustenance, there can be no Torah.

Special thanks to the donors of our Temple Beautification Projects:

Chapel Renovation sponsored
by Liz & David Sherman

Greenery At The Gates sponsored
by Marla Stern & Rick Peltzman



RAISE THE ROOFTOP PROJECT

Shaaray Tefila proudly announced the exciting project to renovate the temple's roof last year. This allowed us to reimagine our outdoor space and build a state-of-the-art rooftop to inspire the next generation of learners in our nursery school. May & Watkins helped us create a rooftop space designed to be a place of gathering for the entire temple community for adult programs and private events. By reorienting the play structure location and adding a beautiful new garden, we now have an inviting multi-purpose space that all of our congregants can enjoy!



RAISE THE ROOFTOP PROJECT

HONORING BONNIE BLANCO

Todah Rabah! In June, together with our Nursery School families, we honored Bonnie Blanco for her many years of service as our Director of Early Childhood. We officially opened the new Garden Space on our rooftop, and a plaque now hangs to commemorate all that Bonnie has done for our community. Words of praise and gratitude were shared during our Erev Shabbat service, and we said a blessing over Bonnie under the Talit as she has done for so many of our Nursery School children.

We proudly acknowledge our sponsors and donors.

Raise The Rooftop Naming Sponsors:

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Raise The Rooftop Donors:

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RAISE THE ROOFTOP PROJECT

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Steve Weissman



2023 SPRING GALA

The 2023 Spring Gala was a memorable celebration with 200 guests at The Rooftop at Edison Ballroom in May. Guests first enjoyed a cocktail reception with a large selection of auction packages. Then, guests moved to the open-air rooftop space for a seated dinner, entertainment and a very special awards ceremony under the stars. We honored our members Michelle & Matthew Ingber for their leadership and dedication to the temple and to recognize their kindness and support of many important projects throughout the years. Our Co-Chairs Denise & Jay Freiberg and Pamela & Howard Mittman led the event and the gala committee, helping us to raise over \$250,000 to support Shaaray Tefila. Save the date for next year's Spring Gala on May 15, 2024.



The Ingber Family

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2023 SPRING GALA

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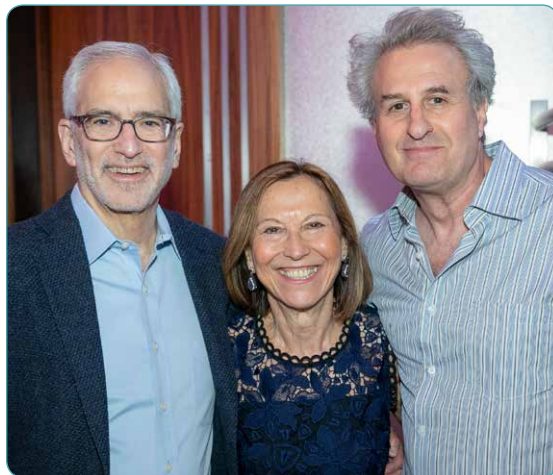
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2023 SPRING GALA

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Phyllis & Nathan Shmalo
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2023 SPRING GALA



2023 SPRING GALA

Honorees & Co-Chairs celebrate together



SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES

Shaaray Tefila held many special Shabbat services throughout the year where we proudly acknowledged and celebrated our members, staff and special guests. To list just a few...

- Artist-in-Residence Service & Community Concert with musical guest Michelle Citrin
- Big Tent Shabbat Services
- Board of Trustees Installation Shabbat
- Martin Luther King Day & Shabbat Service with world famous Harlem Gospel Choir, joined by Kol Rinnah, Shir Leadership & Shaaray School of Rock.
- Refugee Shabbat Service with Leslie Wagner, who works with Safe Passage Project
- Religious School's Consecration Shabbat
- Scholar-In-Residence Shabbat with Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz
- Service Honoring and Thanking Cantor Ella Martin Gladstone
- Shabbat Service honoring Bonnie Blanco's years of service as Shaaray Tefila's Director of Early Childhood



SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES

SHABBAT ONEGS

Thank you to our members who have sponsored a Shabbat Oneg after a Friday night Shabbat Service in honor of their child's B'nei Mitzvah or to celebrate a simcha with our congregation.

Suzanne & Neil Cohen in honor of Sophie

Nina Sas & Ira Dorfman in honor of Lucas

Jordana & Brian Feldman in honor of Naomi

Amy Friedlander in honor of Jordyn

Alina & Alexander Golant in honor of Mia

Heather & Joshua Greenberg in honor of Samara

Erica & David Jacobson in honor of Dylan

Nancy Sabarra & Jason Karlinsky in honor of Bethany

Allison & David Kert in honor of Jonah

Natasha & Steven Krampf in honor of Lea

Pamela & Howard Mittman in honor of Shane

Shawn & Samuel Ostrower in honor of Simon

Mindy & Jason Satsky in honor of Petyon

Tracy and Scott Sigal in honor of Nathan

Faith & Milo Silberstein in honor of Aidan

Katie & Jacob Silverman in honor of Leo

Paula Busse & Robert Stillman in honor of Brett

The Cohen and Engelman Lado families in honor of Irwin and
Rosalyn Engelman's 65th Wedding Anniversary



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We strive to help students love being Jewish. We believe that children who feel loved at synagogue will grow up to be adults who are drawn to places where Jewish learning and living happen, that they will find joy in the ebb and flow of Jewish holidays, comfort in Jewish spaces when they are in need, and will approach the possibility of raising a Jewish family with intentionality and excitement. Each fall we welcome new students into our school to learn Hebrew, experience Jewish rituals, sing and worship together. In addition to preparing our students for becoming b'nei mitzvah, we also offer a successful teen program called Pathways and Teaching Assistant opportunities, and communicate with our students into their college years.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Temple Shaaray Tefila's Early Childhood Program offers a Parenting Program for our youngest babies from birth to 18 months, parenting workshops, and a thriving Nursery School for children up to 5 years old. This program incorporates the traditions and values of Judaism in a nurturing environment and opportunities for connection and growth among our students. Kids enjoy both Tot and congregation-wide celebrations including our High Holy Day Tot Service and Family Service, Tot Shabbat and Pizza Dinner, Big Tent Shabbat, Pajama Havdalah, Chanukah Brunch, Young Families Book Fair, and much more.

Each year, we host a Nursery School Benefit which directly supports educational scholarships and teacher training programs. We extend our deep appreciation and sincere thanks to our Benefit Chair, PA Chairs and all of those who contributed to the 2023 Nursery School Benefit this past year.

GOLD DONORS **(\$4,000-\$10,000)**

Bernard & Jennifer Gordon & Family

SILVER DONORS **(\$1,000-\$4,000)**

Ross & Rebecca Hoffman
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EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Benjamin & Cecile Zinder
Adam Baron & Jamie Zucker



ADULT ENGAGEMENT

Adult Engagement is an important way our talented clergy supports and educates our members. Our most popular groups include Shaaray Circles, Social Club, Sisterhood and Men's Engagement. In addition, Shaaray Tefila hosts a book club, weekly Shabbat Torah Study and Torah Talk, and we have provided the following classes and series this year:

- DISH: Charoset from Around the World & Jewish Cuisine From Around the Globe with Rabbi Benjamin Ross
- Intro. to Judaism Class
- Jewish Music Documentary Series with Cantor Kipnis
- Judaism as a Call to Social Action with Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz
- Men's Engagement: Everything You Wanted to Know about Judaism
- Mindfulness and Meditation with Rabbi Mosbacher
- My Cup Runneth Over with Rabbi Rubin
- Shavuot and Cheesecake Bake-off
- Social Club Shabbat Potluck Dinner, Chanukah Dance Party & Raise the Roof Bar-B-Q
- Sisterhood: Discover Jewish Harlem Walking Tour & Lunch
- The 20s & 30s Group with Rabbi Rubin
- Transforming the World from the Inside-Out with Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz
- Women in TaNaKh and Midrash



Pictured: Men's Engagement Bowling Night and Social Club Event

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Throughout the year, our members step into action to help those in need, support other organizations, and bring awareness and education to important causes. This year, Shaaray Tefila honored Jolie Schwab with the Volunteer of the Year Award to recognize her leadership and commitment to Social Justice initiatives. Just a few of the important projects our clergy, teens and members spearheaded this year include:

- 5th Annual Smash the Stigma Event
- A Jewish Communal Conversation on Mental Illness & Suicide
- Team TLC NYC delivers food, clothing, personal hygiene items, toys, strollers to asylum seekers and migrants.
- Backpack Buddies- Shaaray Tefila teens and tweens join together weekly to pack 60 backpacks with food for children who get free breakfast and lunch at school on weekdays. These children and their families also fundraise through snack sales, walk-a-thons and holiday fundraisers.
- Soup Kitchen - Every Wednesday volunteers make 150 bagged lunches for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity.
- Postcard Writers for our Civic Engagement campaigns
- Food Donations for community partner organizations
- Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Drive
- Interfaith Day of Service
- Reproductive Justice Shabbat Service
- Refugee Shabbat Service



TIKKUN OLAM

Tikkun olam is the Jewish tradition of seeking to create positive change in the world.

Dedicated funds support programs and initiatives throughout the temple as part of Shaaray Tefila's efforts to pursue tikkun olam. By donating directly to these programs, members strengthen and enhance some of our most cherished aspects of temple life, voice their values, and strengthen our community. We are grateful to those members whose donations add so much depth and character to synagogue life.

We extend our deep appreciation and sincerest thanks to Stephanie Feld who generously contributed to the following funds:

The Gerry Feld Fund for Membership Dues Relief

The Isabel & Harold Feld Fund for Religious School Scholarships

The Barbara & Adolph Jurman Fund for the Soup Kitchen

Temple Shaaray Tefila gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Stephanie Feld, in memory of her parents, Isabel and Harold Feld, her brother, Gerry, and her grandparents, Birdie and Adolph Jurman.

**RABBI JOEL MOSBACHER'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND
(\$360 AND ABOVE)**

Joanna & Eric Brumberger
Toni & Richard Feinbloom
Marla & Adam Gamoran
Ruth & Hal Gutstein
Riry and Tom z'l Jones
Lenore Lerner
Debra Anisman & Paul Milmed
Phyllis and Alan z'l Romm
Liz & David Sherman

**CANTOR TODD KIPNIS'S
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Terri & Steven Kravitz
Debra Anisman & Paul Milmed
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Liz & David Sherman

**RABBI JILL RUBIN'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND
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Maria Guazzaroni Jacobs & Ross Jacobs
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TIKKUN OLAM

THE MUSIC FUND (\$100 AND ABOVE)

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THE JENNIFER BETH ASCH FUND FOR CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT

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 Jill & Michael Franco
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BACKPACK BUDDIES

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 Shari & Gary Belitz
 Annie Gross & Jesse Berger
 Jennifer & Andrew Blitstein
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 Denise & Jay Freiberg
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 Rachel & Michael Gerstein
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 Liz and David Sherman
 Randi & Brett Singer
 Carol Crossen & Jeffrey Stollow
 Barri & Dan Waltcher
 Sydelle & Andrew Weinberger

Thank you to all of the friends and families that supported Backpack Buddies projects and fundraisers this year!

Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques

The psalmist tells us that “Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.” As a congregation, we are here for our members in times of both joy and sadness. Honoring the memory of your loved one with a Yahrzeit Plaque in our Sanctuary provides an opportunity to commemorate their loss in a permanent way. As the individual light next to each plaque is lit on the yearly anniversary of your loved one’s passing and on major festivals, we draw once again from the wellspring of their memory to bring comfort and strength.

Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque Donors

Laura Benjamin

Yanina Brayman-Blitz & Brian Blitz

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Paul Finkel

Mindy Fleder

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Ivy Beloff Rozsa & John Rozsa

Sarah & Cliff Schneider

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Paula Dwoskin Sitzer

Susan & Henry Tabickman

Steve Weissman



LEAVE A LEGACY

If you are thinking about your Estate Planning and naming Temple Shaaray Tefila as a beneficiary of a part of your estate, please contact us. You can leave a lasting legacy—a token of your dedication to our sacred community which will help guarantee our congregation’s long-term future. For more information, please contact Hallie Golden, Director of Development at (212) 328-9393 or hgolden@tstnyc.org.

MUSIC AT SHAARAY

Music is one of the many wonderful ways that congregants connect with one another, whether it is during the High Holy Day services, at Shabbat services, when we have special guests or celebrations, for the Cantors Concert and Purim Spiel, or when our adult and youth choirs perform. Thanks to Cantor Todd Kipnis, our cantorial interns, Paige Borden, and our choirs, we enjoy music all year long. Our Shaaray School of Rock choir had a very special performance at Citi Field in May where the choir sang on the field before the game.

As pictured, the 2023 Cantors Concert was performed by our host Cantor Todd Kipnis, Senior Cantor, along with Ella Gladstone Martin, Cantorial Intern; Cantor Jenna Mark Plesent, Cantor at Woodlands Community Temple & Former Cantorial Intern; Cantor David Katz, Cantor at Temple Or Elohim in Jericho, NY; and accompanist Allison Sniffin.



2022-2023

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