



THIRD SPACE AT SHAAREI TFILOH

FIND YOUR CONNECTION | WINTER/SPRING 2025

Friends,

In 2024, Third Space at Shaarei Tfiloh opened its doors. Located in a century old, formerly Orthodox, synagogue, it has been my honor to imagine what it looks like to reactivate this incredible space to be a place of gathering and connection. Grounded in Jewish values and with deep commitment to stand on the shoulders of its first hundred years, the dream is that Third Space will be a place that engages with the wisdom of Jewish tradition and translate it in ways that are applicable, relevant, resonant and inspiring for the next hundred years. In the fall of 2024, we welcomed over 3,000 people to Third Space to check us out and to start to discover what we want to do here. We've filled the building with more people in four months than have come through its doors in four decades. We have hosted Unity Suppers, Jewish holiday celebrations, Mondawmin Neighborhood Association meetings, epic concerts and inspiring discussions. Music rings through our halls and so many voices and discussions fill our rooms. As we move into 2025, we look forward to building on this initial momentum to establish a third space in Baltimore—a community rooted in Jewish ideas, yet welcoming to all. If you have already been to Third Space at Shaarei Tfiloh, we cannot wait to welcome you back. And, if you have yet to visit us, we are so excited to see you at Third Space soon.



With deep gratitude to those who help to make Third Space happen,

Rabbi Jessy Dressin

Michael Twitty



Rabbi Sharon Brous



"Joy Comes in the Morning"
exhibit reception



Monajat



What is Third Space?

Third Space is a place for meaningful community building, both local and Jewish. We intend it to be a container for creativity, collaboration, exploration, and discovery. We are committed to the vision of being *shaarei* – gateways in Hebrew – a hub for learning, connecting, and growing together. Whether it be in lectures, classes, workshops, musical concerts and performances, or other hands-on experiences, we will embrace curiosity, open-mindedness and deep care. We hope those who come to Third Space will share these values and help us build something abundant together.

Third Space welcomes and celebrates the full tapestry of Jewish identities. It values diversity of thought, perspectives and backgrounds.

Third Space at Shaarei Tfiloh is deeply grateful to the Cordish Family for their generous support and *chevruta* (thought partnership) to bring this project to life.

For more information, additional happenings or to reserve your spot for one of our programs, visit THIRDSPACEST.ORG

At Third Space, we stand on the following foundation:

- When we sit together in respectful conversation and engage non-dogmatically with wisdom from Jewish tradition, we are engaging in a foundational Jewish practice.
- Torah and Jewish wisdom offer timeless insights that resonate with our lives. The frameworks for debate, reflection, and storytelling empower us to address today's challenges without imposing rigid rules.
- We are all learners and teachers. We commit to curiosity over certainty and embrace doubt as a Jewish value. We encourage statements like "I don't know," "I'm not sure yet," and "I haven't thought of that before."
- Healthy, respectful debate can be generative, but we will only debate ideas and never people.
- Listening to one another is fundamental to the Jewish and human experience. We will listen to understand, not to respond.
- Joy and play are essential to our thriving and a time-honored part of our tradition. We will cultivate these in our community, while learning and when together socially.



The Gallery at Third Space

January - May: Healing Bridges Across the Divide

Curated by Lenett Partlow-Myrick aka Mama Nef and Rain Pryor



A visual-literary art exhibit that engages Jews of color, white Jews and non-Jewish Black artists in a collaborative journey culminating with a series of events reflecting on how visual and literary art influence our perceptions, feelings and thoughts about each other.

To reserve your spot for one of our programs, visit THIRDSPACE.ORG

Thursday, January 16

“Ain’t No Back to a Merry-Go-Round”

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)

Join us for *Ain't No Back to the Merry-Go-Round* by Emmy Award-winning director Ilana Trachtman. This powerful documentary, embraced by diverse audiences, sparks new conversations about civil rights and allyship between Black and Jewish communities. Ilana Trachtman, film subject Deborah Willis, and Baltimore civil rights activist Reverend Al Hathaway will join a panel discussion after the screening, moderated by Rabbi Jessy Dressin.



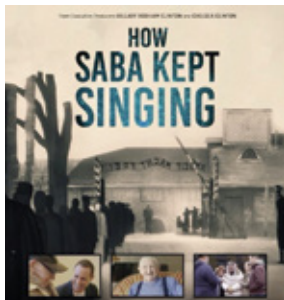
Winner of multiple awards, including Best Documentary Feature at the DC Black Film Festival, the film recounts an untold watershed moment in American history: the first time an organized white community—predominantly Jewish—joined forces with Black civil rights activists. Together, they protested segregation at Washington, D.C.’s Glen Echo Amusement Park in 1960, challenging racism in a historic demonstration that paved the way for future collaborations in the fight for equality.

Saturday, January 25

“How Saba Kept Singing”

Film Screening and Talk Back

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)



This award-winning documentary film shares the story of Cantor, Holocaust Survivor and Military Veteran David S. Wisnia (93), who spends his later years traveling with his grandson & musical accompanist, Avi Wisnia. An uplifting story about music, faith, family and resilience, proving love can grow and take hold in even the darkest of places. This film is directed by Sara Taksler (Tickling Giants), and Executive Produced by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton.

David’s story became an international sensation when featured in the *New York Times* and *BuzzFeed*. The film premiered at the HotDocs Toronto International Documentary Festival and made its national TV debut on PBS last year. The documentary was recently honored with the Audience Award at the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival and nominated for an EMMY Award.

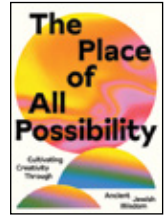
Wednesday, February 5

"The Place of All Possibility"

with Rabbi Adina Allen

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)

An evening of conversation with Rabbi Adina Allen, author of *The Place of All Possibility: Cultivating Creativity Through Ancient Jewish Wisdom*, in conversation with Rabbi Jessy Dressin. In her highly anticipated first book, Rabbi Allen delivers a paradigm-shifting and powerfully accessible reading of Torah as a contemporary guidebook for creativity and invites us to rethink and transform ourselves, our lives, and the world around us.



Thursday, February 6

Jewish Studio Project Immersive

with Rabbi Adina Allen

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)



In times of challenge and uncertainty, we need practices that expand our capacity for empathy, curiosity, and creativity while connecting us to a place of possibility. The Jewish Studio Process methodology combines Jewish text study with art-making practices from art therapy, offering a gateway into deep Jewish exploration. Facilitated by Rabbi Adina Allen, co-founder and Creative Director of Jewish Studio Project, this day-long intensive provides a hands-on experience and practical tools for personal and professional growth.



This event has extremely limited capacity.

Sunday, March 2

Everyone Needs Recovery

with Rabbi Ilan Glazer and Our Jewish Recovery

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)

Alcohol. Sex. Pornography. These and many other challenges face those in the Jewish community, despite much of our community's reluctance to discuss it. When we don't discuss it, misinformation spreads, and the people who need our help often don't find out what resources exist until it's too late. We can, and must, do better.



Recovery is about finding our way through the storms, healing the pain we carry, and finding a community of support that inspires us to discover the best of ourselves everyday, one day at a time. Join us for a candid look at addiction in the Jewish community and beyond. (All are welcome, whether Jewish or not. Strict confidentiality will be maintained.)

Thursday, March 6

“This is Your Song Too”

Phish & Jewish Identity

Book Talk and Concert

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)

Why do so many Jews love the band Phish? How did it come to be that Phish has its own jammed out version of *Avinu Malkeinu* in its musical rotation, the liturgical climax of Yom Kippur?

The night begins with a ‘lot scene’ downstairs with local vendors, nosh (food) and heady vibes. We then move upstairs for a conversation with editors of *This is Your Song Too: Phish and Contemporary Jewish Identity*, Ariella Werden-Greenfield and Oren Kroll-Zeldin. Afterwards, the music of hometown Phish cover band, Phoam, will fill the sanctuary with the feel-good, jammy and beloved music of the “band from Vermont.” Sure to be a highlight of the season, this is a must attend - whether you’ve been to no Phish shows or 200!

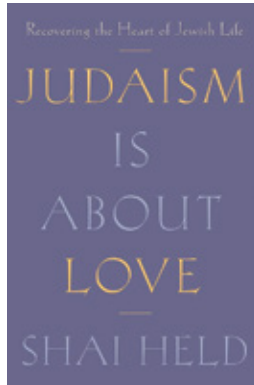


Wednesday, March 26

“Judaism is About Love”

*A Conversation with
Rabbi Shai Held*

[Reserve Your Spot!](#)



What does Judaism say about love, and why do so many people--Jews included-- seem to think that love is a “Christian idea”? How can Judaism’s teachings on love transform our lives and the lives of our families, communities, and the broader world? Rav Shai and Rabbi Jessy will join in conversation on just how and why “Judaism is About Love.”

Rabbi Shai Held, one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and leaders in America, is President and Dean of the Hadar Institute in New York City. Rabbi Held received the prestigious Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, and has been named multiple times to *Newsweek*’s list of the most influential rabbis in America and to the *Forward*’s list of the most prominent Jews in the world. He is the author of *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence* (2013) and *The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion* (2017). His new book, *Judaism is About Love*, has just been published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux.

Wednesday, April 9

“Black Power, Jewish Politics”

A conversation with Marc Dollinger and Ilana Kaufman

Reserve Your Spot!



What happened to the Black and Jewish partnership of the civil rights movement? Are the stories we tell about the connections between these communities accurate? As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of Freddie Gray’s death, Third Space brings to the bima an important conversation about the narratives we hold from the past and what it could mean to create a new one moving forward. This event, inspired by *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*, will feature a discussion moderated by Rabbi Jessy Dressin with author Marc Dollinger, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University, and Ilana Kaufman, author of the book’s afterword and CEO of the Jews of Color Initiative.



Thursday, April 24

Inheritance Theatre Project Launch Event



From Spring 2025 to Winter/Spring 2026, the Inheritance Theater Project (ITP) will focus on strengthening relationships across Baltimore’s diverse communities. Through a collaborative playmaking process, local and national artists will activate shared wisdoms

to spark conversations among Baltimoreans, honoring the city’s many voices and stories. ITP invites community members to join workshops, dialogues, and co-creative theater sessions that explore the city’s history and lived experiences. This work culminates in public performances, with proceeds reinvested into local initiatives. Partners include Third Space at Shaarei Tfiloh, Baltimore Center Stage, and other civic and cultural leaders dedicated to fostering connection. Join us as we create art that builds understanding, bridges divides, and celebrates Baltimore’s rich tapestry of voices.

Happy (Hour) Shabbat

with Rabbi Jessy Dressin,
Ami Yares and Rabbi Ilan Glazer

FRIDAY EVENINGS:

February 21

Reserve Your Spot!

March 14 *Purim Themed*

Reserve Your Spot!

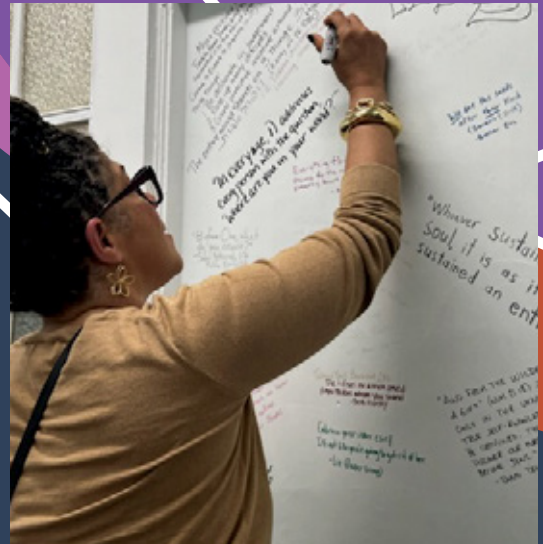
May 16

In song and community, we welcome Shabbat with a musical program and some light nosh (snacks) before you go on to the weekend. Unplug from the demands of doing and reconnect with the power and wisdom of being. This gathering is intended for anyone looking to connect with Shabbat - no previous experience necessary. A great opportunity to explore the rituals that usher in the Jewish day of rest and to meet others looking to mark time in ways that nourish your spirit and fills your heart.



We Write on the Walls

Whether making matzo ball gumbo in our kitchen or planting fig trees in our garden, everything we do is grounded in some nugget of ancestral wisdom we can take with us out into the world. When people come to Third Space as teachers and presenters, we ask them to leave behind a piece of the wisdom they have shared with us during their visit. Each of these ideas invites questions, reflection, and interpretations of our own. In this way, we seek to catalyze sharp thinking, juicy conversations, and meaningful discoveries whenever people spend time here.



Rain Pryor signs the Wisdom Wall



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AT SHAAREI TFILOH

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