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SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

www.societyhillsynagogue.org

Social Action Committee

Volunteer at Washington School and Receive More Than You Give

Phyllis Denbo

"The obvious delight of the first graders and their teacher when I walked into their classroom each week was very special."

"I found the experience extremely rewarding, especially when the students understood something they were having trouble with."

"The kids' confidence in their own judgment and their increased confidence in themselves as artists was really exciting to watch."

"One of the 4th graders said to me, now that I understand it, math is fun."

"The hug I received from the shyest child in the room when she saw me on the playground was heartwarming."

"I truly believe I benefitted more from the experience than the students and teacher I worked with."

These are quotes from our volunteers during the inaugural year of the innovative partnership between Society Hill Synagogue and George Washington Elementary School. The feedback from the principal and teachers was equally positive. They could not have been more welcoming or appreciative. Certainly, the students, many of whom are strongly at risk, need us.

As we begin the second year of this history-making partnership, the only request from the school is that we send more volunteers.

How can you help? You can...

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L'Shanah Tovah – May All Your Wishes Come True

Susan Gurevitz Roberts, on behalf of the Board of Directors

Over the past few weeks you probably received a phone call from a member of the Society Hill Synagogue Board of Directors to wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy New Year. This was an effort to reach out to all SHS congregants to let you know how much we deeply value you as a member of SHS, and want you to feel at home at your synagogue.

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Calling All Twenty-Something and Thirty-Something Jews! Your Synagogue Wants You!

Rabbi Avi Winokur

As we enter a new year, one of the most important questions confronting the Jewish community is: where are our young Jews—the ones between college and, say, mid-30s?

For those who think that this is a perennial Jewish question, you should know that it is actually a very recent question. That is because about 20 years ago, Jews began marrying later, and they began having families later after they married. Why that matters Jewishly is that the primary mode of Jewish identification from generation to generation has been the synagogue, and the synagogue is primarily geared to families: families with children first, empty nesters and seniors next, and young couples after that. In addition to this, the rate of intermarriage has climbed steeply and the Jewish community has not been quick to welcome or accommodate these families.

If you combine these phenomena, you see that young Jewish adults spend more and more time unaffiliated. Synagogues by and large are not particularly attractive to this group because so few of their peers are involved, with notable exceptions such as B'nai Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper West Side. They are notable precisely because they are exceptions.

Over 20 years ago, neither of these phenomena was nearly as prevalent, and questions of Jewish continuity were not nearly as vital. You graduated college or got a job. You married relatively early and then had kids. You were "synagogueless" for four to eight years, tops. Today that time may triple or quadruple.

While this may seem like a doom-and-gloom scenario, it most certainly is not. Young Jews today are incredibly vibrant outside of synagogue. Take a look at the studies you can download from 21/64 (www.2164.net), acbp (www.acbp.net), Synagogue 3000 (www.synagogue3000.org) and others. Take a look at Reboot (www.rebooter.net) and its magazine, *Guilt and Pleasure*.

Look at the Board of Reboot and you will see a Swarthmore professor. Look at Jewcy (www.jewcy.com) and its magazine, *Zeek*, or the new Jewish music sound of JDub (www.Jdubrecords.org). In Philadelphia, take a look at The Collaborative (www.thecollaborative.org), then go to the address for local 20s and 30-somethings.

Twenty-Something and Thirty-Something Jewish Creativity is Exploding

If you continue to browse the net you will find Jewish advocacy and social action agencies like American Jewish World Service, Panim, and Avoda, which offer service and social justice opportunities that integrate Jewish learning and Jewish action geared to young adults and even high school students. You will be amazed at the explosion of Jewish creativity from the 20- and 30-somethings.

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Wanted: Contact Information for College Age and Young Adult Children of SHS Members

To meet his mission of attracting more young adults to our synagogue, Rabbi Winokur wants us to build a database of the young adult children of SHS members. The following is the information we need:

- Name of the young adult;
- Single or partnered?
(with name of partner and/or children);
- Contact information
(address, phone #, email address);
- Did he/she receive a Jewish education at SHS?
If not, where?
- Birth date and Bar/t Mitzvah date, and
if Bar/t Mitzvah was at SHS;
- Current Jewish affiliation, if any?
Any other relevant information we should know?

In his column, Rabbi Winokur talks about several studies recently conducted on the Jewish lives of the NextGen and Millennials. Would you like him to forward pdf versions to you? Let us know and please supply your contact information.

Please send your responses to rebwinokur@societyhillsynagogue.org with "NextGen" in the subject line. Thanks so much for your cooperation.



During the Days of Awe We Examine Our Lives, Seek Forgiveness, Become Better People and Deepen our Religious and Spiritual Connections

Staci Schwartz, President

Harry and Kitty are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. While at a party with their family and friends, Max and Reba walk over to them and say, "Mazel Tov! We're so pleased for you both. But you must let us in on your secret - how have you managed to stay married for so long, especially in this day and age?"

Harry turns to Kitty and asks, "OK for me to reply to this?" Kitty smiles and replies, "Yes dear."

"Vell," continues Harry, "our secret is qvite simple. On the very day ve got married, Kitty and I came to an agreement. Ve decided that I vould make all the major decisions and Kitty vould make all the minor decisions. And I can truthfully say that over the 60 years of our marriage, I have never needed to make a major decision."

Can it be that an entire year has passed since we last observed the High Holy Days together? The Days of Awe, the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, provide us the opportunity to examine our lives, to seek forgiveness, to make improvements, to be better people, to reach out to those in need, to set higher standards for ourselves and our children, and to deepen our religious and spiritual connections.

After we attend services, most of us spend Rosh Hashanah celebrating with our families at home, but on Yom Kippur, we come together as a sacred community— spending the entire day focused on prayer and reflection within the walls of our beautiful synagogue home. Jewish history reminds us how lucky we are to be able to worship freely among our friends at this and other times of the year.

In preparing to write this article, I discovered some rather quirky, yet interesting, trivia concerning Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur that I'd like to share with you. The following material contains excerpts from an article entitled, *Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: Talmudic Trivia and Midrashic Miscellany*, written by Ozzie Nogg. With a title like that, how could I resist?

- "In the *shtetl*, the highlight of the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was *Shabbat Shuvah* -- the Sabbath of return. That's when the rabbi gave THE SERMON. A scathing harangue, during which he mercilessly berated the congregation for their sins. The rabbi wept. The people wept. The sermon took HOURS, and why not? Back then, the Rabbi spoke (get this!) only twice a year (at Passover and on Shabbat Shuvah) so he had to make up for lost time, after all."
- "Now, we can't discuss the New Year without discussing the *shofar* -- that prayer without words -- said to echo the conscious-stricken human voice. Think about it. *Tekiah* is a deep moan. *Teruah*, a wavering sob and *Shevarim*, a broken groan. These different sounds, according to folklore, are tenderly carried to God by special angels."
- "Getting even a few squeaks out of the *shofar* (let alone the regulation one hundred) isn't easy, and an accomplished *Ba'al Tekiah* (the ones who do the tooting) is a treasure. The less-skilled sometimes put a trumpet mouthpiece into the *shofar*, but such brazen chutzpah deserves no further discussion."
- "*Al Chet* -- For the Sins -- is one of the most important prayers of Yom Kippur. Interestingly enough, the word *chet* doesn't mean sin, but "to miss the mark." In other words, we're not wicked. We're just a bit off target."
- "In the olden days, people were flogged on the day before Yom Kippur. That custom, happily, has been abolished. In the olden days, people paid their synagogue dues IN FULL on the day before Yom Kippur. That custom we should bring back."
- "One last thing! It's customary to start building your *Sukkah* immediately after you get home from Yom Kippur services. Just hammer in one nail. It shows that our devotion to God never stops and that our observance of his *mitzvot* is continuous. How continuous? The day after Yom Kippur it's customary to get up earlier than usual to go to services so Satan can't say to God, "Look! Yom Kippur is barely over and already Your people are too lazy to get up for morning *minyan*. (Those Talmudists thought of everything.)"

Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Young Professionals

Young Professionals Focus on Social and Religious Activities

Julie Wilson and Laurel Landau

We are happy to report that the Young Professionals Group had a fun afternoon in

Franklin Square on September 7. We played mini golf, rode the carousel, and enjoyed a picnic dinner. As a reminder, our group



meets throughout the year for social, cultural, and religious gatherings. Everyone is welcome – couples, singles, professionals and graduate students. If you have an idea for an event, please let us know!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

- November 8 – Luncheon following services
- December 23 – Hanukkah Party
- February 10, 2009 – Bowling Event/Dinner
- April 16, 2009 – Annual End of Passover Dinner

The dates are subject to change and more information will be circulated as the dates approach. If you have questions, suggestions, or are not on our e-mail list, please contact Julie at jwilson@ledgewood.com or Laurel at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.

Thank you.....

To the following for their High Holy Day sponsorships:

Honey-Tasting Oneg on Rosh Hashanah 1

In Honor of Staci Schwartz, for all her hard work as President of Society Hill Synagogue
by Anne Ballen Ladenson and Michael Ladenson

Break-the-Fast following services on Yom Kippur

In Honor of Staci Schwartz, for all her hard work as President of Society Hill Synagogue
by Anne Ballen Ladenson and Michael Ladenson



Sukkah Decoration Sponsors

In Honor of Staci Schwartz, for all her hard work as President of Society Hill Synagogue
by Anne Ballen Ladenson and Michael Ladenson

Mitzvah Food Basket Sponsors

Juliet, Brian, Raphael, and Margot Englander
Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz
Mona and Alton Sutnick

Many thanks to Mona Sutnick, Juliet Englander, and Raphael Englander for preparing the beautiful High Holy Day food baskets. Thanks to Alan Casnoff for the idea to have sustainable Sanctuary decorations.

Many thanks to Stephanie and Fred Squires and Lori Corbman for donating and designing the beautiful silk backdrop for the Ark.

Many thanks to Carmen and Ric Hayman for the restoration of our Menorah.

Your Children Can Play While You Pray!

We are happy to announce that Danielle Schoenholtz will be available to babysit for small children during Saturday morning Shabbat services from 10 AM until 1 PM. Parents of children under the age of two may be asked to stay in the play area, and they will be responsible for all feedings and diaper changes. If you'd like to take advantage of this complimentary service, bring your child(ren) to visit Miss Danielle in Miss Terry's classroom on the first floor just beyond the Lawrence Court Lobby...and relax and enjoy Shabbat services!



Birthdays

October 1
Malcolm Kates
Reid Kress Weisbord

October 2
Elizabeth Becker
Lauren Ladov

October 3
Dan Bogen
Michelle Danoff
Allyson Katz

October 4
Andrea Appel
Lily Hayman
Joan Markman

October 5
Rita Altman
Ellen Fennick
Ronald Meltzer
Rachel Richman

October 6
Sayde Ladov
Martha Levine

October 7
Gerry Schneeberg
Ned Van Dyke

October 8
Ylanah Auspitz

October 9
David Morgan
Adam Shapiro

October 10
Burton Blender
Eyal Shemesh

October 11
Jeffrey Bladen
Robert Caplan
Roberta Dranoff

October 12
Janet Cherry
Nathan Saltz

Birthdays

October 13
Scott Richman
Daniel Saligman

October 14
Michael Geller

October 17
Betty Kaplan
Katharine Nasielski
Alex Schoenfeld

October 18
Amy Danoff

October 19
Sophia Poulos

October 20
Aaron Blacksberg
Sarah Ferst

October 21
Linda Claire Bach
Barak Bassman
Lila Roomberg

October 22
Lena Popkin

October 24
Frances Barton
Abigail Wolf

October 25
Jonathan Weiss

October 26
Harvey Grossman
Jacob Albert Hayman

October 27
Miles Ziskind

October 28
Doratheia
Applebaum Licht
Olivia Backal-Balik
Melody Goldberg
Ethan Pastor
Ilene Van Dyke

Birthdays

October 29
Hannah Feinberg

October 30
Jennifer Beebe-Poulos
Joshua Nadel

October 31
Sharon Shapiro

Anniversaries

October 7
Samuel Schaffzin and Sarah Rothman

October 9
Joshua Nadel and Lana Noel

October 14
Michael and Talia Fisher

October 15
Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof

October 18
James and Camille Orman

October 20
Barak and Jaime Bassman

October 21
Don and Karen Kaufman
Mark and Maxine Schoenholtz
Nicole Wilner and Daniel Perkins

October 24
Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

October 27
Adam Bonin and Jennifer Weiner
Michael Ladenson and Anne Ballen Ladenson
Mel Nasielski and Nancy Burd

The Ann Spak Thal School

Hebrew School Students Focus on Theme Classes

Merle Salkin

Hebrew School students are busily preparing for the Fall holidays as our teachers use their "late" arrival to our best advantage. After Simhat Torah, students in grade Aleph through Dalet will break into our Jewish Living Theme Groups. This year, Aleph and Bet students will be involved in Jewish Life Cycle and Shabbat while the Gimel and Dalet classes will learn about Jewish fairy tales and Kashrut. Theme classes are designed for optimum student participation and round out our curriculum of Hebrew, holidays and Bible study.

Sunday School children begin our academic year with a myriad of arts activities to reinforce the rich panoply of holiday symbols. First and Second grade students are beginning to explore Hebrew letters as part of our reading readiness program.

Thank you, parents, for your continuing support and interest in your child's Jewish Education. It is a great investment for your family and our People. Please call the school office (215-922-6590 x 29) with comments or questions concerning our program and your child.

The Faculty Members and Class Aides wish our children and their families a happy and healthy New Year.

Remember – The Keshet is now Green!

The Keshet is now being mailed out only to those members who do not have email and/or have requested a printed copy from the office.

To our new members – If you would like to read the Keshet online, and help in our "Going Green" efforts, please send an email to office@societyhillsynagogue.org with your email address.

Playschool

New Pre-K Classroom Debuts with Creative Curriculum

Gloria Parris and Alison Bernstein

The Playschool is pleased to announce the opening of our new Pre-Kindergarten classroom. The Beit Midrash has been transformed into a bright, kid-friendly learning environment. All of the toys, books, and educational materials were selected to reflect the needs and personalities of our first 2008--2009 Pre-K class. Our students have been working on an age-appropriate curriculum, such as pre-reading and writing skills, math concepts, science, community involvement, and Jewish themes and holiday celebrations.

The parents of our students are also very involved in the program, just as they are in our Parent Cooperative for two-year-old and three-to-four-year-old classes. In the Pre-K, parents are now our Royal Readers. They are invited to celebrate Shabbat with Cantor Carl and all of the Playschool children, and then, join their child's Pre-K class as a special storyteller. Each family chooses a book to read to the class and generously donates that book to our classroom library.



Another aspect of the Pre-K is the opportunity for the children to participate in a drama class with a professional actress from the Arden Theatre. She directs them in role-playing, movement, puppetry, and singing. This program encourages the children to express themselves in a fun and creative manner as they enjoy dressing in costumes and using props to develop characters.

The excitement of the new educational experiences for our oldest Playschool children has been overwhelming. "We wish that we could enroll" was the reaction of many of our parents. At our Parent Meeting in early September some parents even took pictures of all that our classroom offers.

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Playschool

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They wanted to share the photos with their children before their "Welcome Back to School" party. The children's first reactions were equally amazing. They enjoyed playing with all of the new toys, games, and books. They each expressed their excitement when they were asked to name their favorite new activity. "The dress-up clothes," "the kitchen," and "the tools" were some of their responses.

The Playschool welcomes Alison Bernstein as our Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Alison has planned a stimulating and creative Pre-K curriculum to prepare the children for entering kindergarten. Allyson Chesin is assisting Alison Bernstein. Both of the Playschool's Pre-K teachers are very excited to bring new ideas and learning experiences to our students. They are looking forward to making the Pre-K the very best!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazel Tov to:

Eve Friedman and Roberto Pace on the birth of their son, **Asher Leron Friedman**.

Amy and Adam Glasofer on the birth of their daughter, **Mya Glasofer**.

Mona and Al Sutnick on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Condolences to:

Robin Schatz, Ken Baskin and Family on the death of their sister-in-law and sister, **Shari Baskin**.

Welcome New Members:

Heather Herelman

Charlene and Bruce Hirsch

Joel Hirsch

Elana and Jonathan Hunter

Enid and Hersh Kozlov

Susan and Brett Pinto

Sophia Pinto

Chloe Pinto

Claire and Cameron Radon

Rebecca Rohtbart and Benjamin Schindler

Miriam Pogach and Aaron Silberstein

Megan and David Weisman

Take Advantage of This Very Rare Opportunity!

With the addition of our exciting new Pre-K curriculum this year, and the ensuing mad dash to fill the spots in that classroom, we now have a very rare opportunity. For the first time that anyone can remember, we actually have a few vacancies available for three-year-olds in our regular Playschool program. Two, three, and five-day attendance options are available and classes run from 8:30 AM



until 12:30 PM each day. There is also an exciting and creative Afterschool Arts program offered five days per week that runs from 12:30 PM until 3:00 PM. Planned activities focus on Arts and Crafts, Movement, Music, Cooking, and Science, depending on the day of the week. Children can enroll in our Afterschool Arts program even if they do not attend regular classes in our Playschool.

If you know of any family who is looking for a very special preschool program for their three-year-old child, please let them know about these rare spots in our school. And for fun-filled learning opportunities every afternoon, be sure to let your family, friends and neighbors know about our expanded Afterschool Arts program for children who are 3 to 5-years-old.

For more information, please call Gloria Parris, Playschool Director, at 215-922-6590 ext. 28.

Celebrate your Special Simḥa

with your SHS family by sponsoring an oneg or kiddush in honor of a birthday or anniversary. Friends sharing the same birthday month may wish to join together to sponsor a weekend during that month.

Please call Judy Cohen at 215.922.6590, ext 21 for more information on how to sponsor a special occasion.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE QUESTIONNAIRE

2008 - 2009

Name _____ Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Please answer the questions as completely and legibly as possible so that we can best match the interests of SHS members and the needs of Washington School.

- I. If you would like to volunteer during **school hours (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)** and are willing to commit a **minimum of one hour per week**, please answer questions one to five. If not, please skip to section II.

1. Would you prefer in-class assistance with a teacher present or one-on-one tutoring?
 _____ In class _____ One-on-one

2. If in-class, in which subject(s) would you like to provide assistance?

_____ Reading _____ Writing

_____ Math _____ Science

_____ Art _____ Music

3. If you prefer one-on-one tutoring, in which subject(s)?

_____ Reading/Vocabulary/Grammar _____ Math

4. Do you have a preference with respect to grade level? ___ Yes ___ No
 If yes, which grades would you prefer?

_____ 1st - 3rd _____ 4th - 6th _____ 7th - 8th

5. Would you like to volunteer for more than one hour a week? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, how many hours per week? _____

- II. If you would like to volunteer **after school (3:00 - 4:30 PM)**, and are willing to commit **one hour (or a little more) per week**, please answer questions six and seven. If you are not able to volunteer on a regular basis but would like to be involved, go to sections III and IV.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL

6. In which of the following areas do you have the interest and experience to lead a student club?

Chess Knitting Theater
 Art Music appreciation Newspaper production
 Scrabble _____ Other (please specify)

7. Each spring, the students of Washington School put on a play. Would you be willing to help prepare for the play during or after school hours for 2 - 3 months?

Yes No If yes, in which area(s)? Costumes
 Performance (speaking, expression, etc.) Set design/construction

8. We are anticipating a repeat of the photography and writing project in Spring 2009. We will meet with small groups twice a week. Volunteers must commit to two mornings per week for 10 weeks. Are you willing to participate in this exciting project? Yes No

III. Scheduling

9. Please check the days and times that you are available to volunteer.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Mornings (9:00 – 12:00)					
Afternoons (12:30 - 3:00)					
After School (3:00 – 4:30)					

IV. There are **ongoing needs** that allow for some **scheduling flexibility**. They do not require that you commit a set number of hours per week.

10. Would you be willing to provide technology support on an as-needed basis?

11. Would you be willing to make a presentation to a class or group of classes on a topic related to your work or an area of special interest? Yes No

If yes, please indicate topic(s) _____

Any questions? Contact Phyllis Denbo at (215) 755-2734 or pdenbo@comcast.net
Please return completed questionnaire to the SHS office. Thank you.

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER

October 2008—Sivan/Tammuz 5768

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Rosh Hashanah Day 2 9am Shacharit 10am MultiGen Office Closed	Tzom Gedallah	7:30pm Service	Parashat Vayeileh Shabbat Shuva 9am Torah Study 10am Services
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am SS 11am HS	7pm Ex Com Mt	7:15am Minyan 4:15pm HS 4:15pm HH 6pm Hatan Mtg 7pm Ed Mtg	Kol Nidre PS/Office Closes at 1pm 6:30pm Services	Yom Kippur Yizkor 9am Services 9:30am SS Svc 10:45am HS Svc 7:30pm Break the Fast Office Closed	7:30pm Service	Shabbat Ha'Azinu 9am Torah Study 10am Services
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sukkah Decorating 9am SS 9:15am Nuts & Bolts 11am HS	Erev Sukkot Columbus Day Building Closed	Sukkot 1 9:30am Services Office Closed	Sukkot 2 Building Closed	Sukkot 3 1:30pm Book Club	Sukkot 4 6pm NM Potluck Dinner 7:30pm Service	Sukkot 5 Bat Mitzvah of Valerie Lichtman 9am Torah Study 10am Services & Shabbat Study
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sukkot 6 9am SS & Svc 9:30am SS Parents' Class 11am HS & Svc 11:15am HS Parents' Class	Sukkot 7 Hoshanah Rabah 12:30pm ELM	Shemini Atzeret-Yizkor 9:30am Svc 6:30pm Family Simhat Torah Service Schools/Office Closed	Simhat Torah Building Closed		6pm PS Shabbat Dinner 4 th Friday 7:30pm Service	Shabbat Bereshit Hatan Torah & Kallat Bereshit 9am Torah Study 10am Services
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9am SS 9:15am Nuts & Bolts 9:30am Mbrshp Meeting 11am HS	7pm Bd Mtg	7:15am Minyan 4:15pm HS/HH 5pm Adult Torah Study 5:30pm School Ma'ariv Service 7:15pm Social Action Meeting	Rosh Hodesh 7pm Taste of Judaism	Rosh Hodesh	Grandparents' Weekend 7:30pm Service	1 st & 3 rd Saturdays Shabbat Study PS-Playschool HS-Hebrew School HH-Hebrew High ELM-Education Leadership Mtg NM-New Member

Contributions

General Fund

In Honor of

Lauren Perkin's engagement to Jeff Kim
Scot and Marcie Ziskind and family

Ilyse Resnick's engagement to Marcus Archie
Scot and Marcie Ziskind and family

Marcia Gitomer's Special Birthday
Phil Gitomer, Teresa Maone and family

Al and Mona Sutnick's 50th Anniversary
The Ziskind Family
Lore Bryan
Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

In Appreciation of

Robin Schatz leading Shiva minyan for Lillian Spector
Larry Spector and family

SHS Services
Giuseppe Deluca

SHS welcoming us during our stay in Philly
Lisa Kutlin and Alex Goldenberg

Jeremey Rubin Landau Recruitment of New Members at the Kehillah Event
Staci Schwartz and Marcie Ziskind

In Memory of

Roger Bryan
H. P. Baker and Rachel A. Gross
Alton and Mona Sutnick
Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Shari Baskin
Scot and Marcie Ziskind and family
Lore Bryan
Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Beloved Uncle of Connie Golden
Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Officiating at Lillian Spector's funeral
Larry Spector and family

For Tzedakah
Doris Casper

In Memory of

Samuel P. Levey
Libby Cone

Playschool Fund

In Memory of

Miss Ali's grandfather, Seymour Farber
The Squires Family

Prayer Book Fund

In Honor of

Marcia Gitomer's Special Birthday
David Gitomer and Tom Klein
Ellen, William, Ben and Minty Koppenheffer

Memorial Fund

In Memory of

Bella Widman
Judith and Mindy Widman

Marjory Stone
Katie Levine and James Orman

Sigmond Weinberg
Rosemarie Weinberg

5769 New Year's Greetings

*May it be thy will to renew
us for a good sweet year!*

Libby S. Harwitz and Burton Blender and Family
Ann, Mark, Sara, and William Steinberger
Barbara Zalkind

Rabbi's Message

Continued from page 2

Continued from Front Cover

And, of course, probably every Jewish young man and woman knows about J-Date, the online dating service for singles. NextGen and Millennials may not be in synagogue, but they are not Jewishly moribund.

Nevertheless, the most reliable source of Jewish community and identity is, alas, the synagogue—with all its shortcomings.

With that in mind, we at Society Hill Synagogue are instituting our own outreach program, and we are starting with families that have a connection to SHS, whether veteran members whose children were raised here or new members whose children were raised elsewhere.

We can't say what this outreach effort will produce. In my own mind we would produce our own online community. We would reunite B'nai Mitzvah classes for reunions that are both fun and substantive. We would see how initiatives that they might come up with could be accommodated within the synagogue.

It is not about making them good synagogue Jews, though I fervently hope that will happen. It is about telling you that we at SHS understand and are responding to your concerns about your adult children, and telling them that we have not forgotten them.

You will see a box in this *Kesher* asking you to send me information. Please help us. We will begin with focus groups. I would like them to be from the 20- and 30-somethings whose families are connected to SHS. That is community. Let's take care of our own first.

L'Shanah Tovah – May All Your Wishes Come True

That's why we asked you, "If you could wave a magic wand, what is the one thing you would like to see happen at the synagogue this year?"

Some of your answers were very creative – some would probably require a bailout from the federal government! But we wanted you to know that we're listening to all your wishes - the realistic ones, the surprising ones, the ones we may be able to grant further down the road, the ones that made us smile, the ones that only newer members might request, and even the ones that will require further research and some problem-solving.

But the best part was connecting with as many members as we could for at least a brief conversation at this very holy time of the year, when we think about our family and friends and how this coming year will be better for all of us.



So thank you for your time and consideration – and for sharing the ideas that will make SHS an even more wonderful shul than it already is.

L'Shanah Tovah – For a very sweet and Happy New Year. And we look forward to seeing you over the holidays!

Continued from Front Cover

Volunteer at Washington School and Receive More Than You Give

- support teachers in the classroom
- tutor students in reading or math
- organize an after-school club
- take a group to a concert
- help out with the school play
- guide a small group of students in the second year of our exciting photography and writing project.

What are your talents and interests? Chances are, the school can use them!

Help make a difference in our city's future. Download the questionnaire contained in the *Kesher*, answer the questions, and drop off the completed form at the SHS office. Or you may complete and send the questionnaire online. Go to www.societyhillsynagogue.org and scroll down until you see the link for the Washington School survey. It takes only a few minutes to complete.

You'll enrich every student whose life you touch...and enrich yourself as well!

Interfaith Activities

Hindu Anyone?

Erica Ginsburg

Our study of Hinduism is under way! Join us at Historic St. George's Church for the con-

tinuation of the church's very successful survey of world religions.

Sessions begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays with a shared

supper (we take turns providing for each other) and time to socialize. The DVD lectures begin by 7:15, followed by discussion until 8:30. Our group meets in the Hopkins Fellowship Hall at the church on these Wednesdays: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 12; and December 3 and 17. The church is located at 4th and New Streets (near Race Street); enter the church via the museum on New Street. There is no fee for the course, but donations would be most welcome. For further information, please contact Pastor Fred Day, pasor@historicstgeorges.org or 215-925-7788.

The Interfaith Group's monthly planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 7 at Old St. Joseph's Church at 7 PM. Join us to help plan future events! The church is located at 321 Willings Alley (between 3rd and 4th Streets, between Locust and Walnut Streets).

Our three-way text study - Torah, Bible, and Quran - resumes November 5 at 7 PM at the Old Pine Presbyterian Church, 412 Pine St.

We'll look forward to seeing you then if not before!

Institutions participating in the Interfaith Group: Society Hill Synagogue, Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Old Pine Presbyterian Church, Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, and Dialogue Forum.

Hosts for Hospitals (HfH)

Take Part in a City-Wide Effort to Help Patient-Families in Need!



Tammy Forstater

Would you like an easy way to make a real difference in the life of someone else?

HOSTS for HOSPITALS (HfH) is a nonprofit agency that, since 2000 has provided over 1,300 patient-families free lodging and support at volunteer-host homes, as a caring response to the housing needs of patients and their families who come to the Greater Philadelphia area for specialized medical care.

A \$4-billion expansion is now underway among area hospitals. As a result, there is an ever-increasing demand for HfH lodging. Indeed, for the first time, HfH is turning patient-families away for a lack of lodging to offer them.

In response, HfH has begun a city wide Host Recruitment Campaign. The culmination of the campaign will occur November 15th and 16th, when HfH hosts will be speaking at over 20 churches and synagogues throughout the region. Long-time HfH hosts and Society Hill Synagogue members Mona and Al Sutnick will speak at SHS on November 15th, when they will share how simple it has been for them to help patient-families in this way.

Mona and Al hope that after hearing them speak, at least two new SHS families will contact them to further discuss becoming HfH hosts.

HfH hosts always retain complete flexibility with respect to whether, when and for how long they lodge guests. A host's only obligations are bed, bath and a little beyond: providing a comfortable place to sleep, a clean bathroom and a feeling of home. The guests are screened by HfH, and, are responsible for their own food and transportation.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a host—or about other ways in which they may help recruit new hosts—are invited to contact HfH Outreach Coordinator Tammy Forstater directly either by phone (610-660-6667) or email: HfHospitals@aol.com. Please also take a look at the HfH website, which will soon include interactive features between hosts, guests and

News About Our Newsletter! Buy Some Buzz for Your Business!

Staci Schwartz

Starting in September, we will be re-introducing the opportunity for businesses to place advertisements in the monthly on-line editions (and hard copy versions for those who do not have computer access) of the Keshet. As you know, the Keshet is sent to *every* member of the congregation and to *all* of our Playschool and Sunday School families. Current editions of the Keshet are also included in our membership packets and are given out to *every* prospective new member who requests information about our shul. There is also a direct link to our newsletter on our fabulous new web site.

What does this mean for your business?

If you place an ad in the Keshet...**IT WILL BE SEEN BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE!**

So, don't miss this opportunity to gain exposure for your business. Ad sizes and issue prices are included below. If you have any questions, or you would like a copy of the ad contract, please call Betty van de Rijn at 215-922-6590, ext. 23.

Good luck and thank you for your support!

Ad Size:

Regular (about the size of a business card)

Double (about double the size of a business card)

Ad Placement on an **inside** page of the newsletter:

Number of Issues	Single Ad	Double Ad
3 months	\$120	\$240
6 months	\$220	\$440
10 months	\$360	\$720

Ad placement on the **back outside** page of the newsletter:
(subject to availability)

3 months	\$180	\$360
6 months	\$340	\$680
10 months	\$600	\$1,200

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Avi Winokur

Rebwinokur@societyhillsynagogue.org

215.922.6590 x25 215.922.6599 Fax

418 Spruce Street | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4216

Save the Date - December 7, 2008 The Esther & Jacob Stiffel Senior Center

Join us at the Stiffel Center, 604 West Porter Street, on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 11 AM as we prepare sandwiches and serve and entertain the seniors at our Annual Hannukah Luncheon.

We need volunteers to bake desserts, make sandwiches, serve food at the center, or make donations if you cannot attend.

Please call the office at 215-922-6590 or email bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org if you are interested in volunteering your time!



Green Initiatives

An Easy First Step Towards Going Green: Shop at Your Local Farmers' Market

Liz Roberts

One of the easiest ways to go green in your home is to buy local. Supporting your local farmers' markets, for example, promotes health, supports the family farm, preserves farmland and open spaces, conserves gas and maintains the security of the region's food supply. Philadelphia has numerous farmers' markets throughout the city that you can take advantage of that are open through October and November – here are a few recommendations:

- **Tuesdays** – Rittenhouse Farmer's Market, 18th & Walnut St. Fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, meat, eggs, pasteurized dairy products. 10 AM to 1 PM.
- **Wednesdays** – City Hall Farmer's Market, 15th & JFK Blvd. Fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods. City youth sell vegetables that they grow. 11 AM to 3 PM.
- **Thursdays** – Jefferson Farmer's Market, Chestnut, East of 10th. Fruits, vegetables, meat, honey. 11 AM to 3:30 PM.
- **Fridays** – East Falls Farmer's Market, Midvale near Ridge. Fruits, vegetables, eggs, baked goods, Amish canned products. 3:30 PM to 7 PM.
- **Saturdays** – South & 10th Farmer's Market, South Street in front of Whole Foods. Fruits and vegetables. 10 AM to 2 PM.

These are just a few examples – markets can be found in almost every Philadelphia neighborhood – just ask your local civic association or community development corporation for information, or visit Farm to City, a non-profit organization that supports local farmers, on the web at www.farmtocity.org. There is a full listing of markets on their website. Happy shopping!



New Israel Advocacy Group Will Tell It Like It Is

Michael Rochester

As we are all aware, the news from the Middle East is not very encouraging. Some media, both in the United States and abroad, tend to portray Israel as an aggressive, intolerant country bent on the destruction of its neighbors. We in the Jewish community, by and large, know this is not the case. Although Israel is not always correct in its actions, it is not always wrong, as some would have us believe.

This year, SHS is embarking upon an ambitious new project — the Israel Advocacy Group, which will be chaired by Michael and Carole LeFaivre Rochester. Its purpose is to develop an awareness within the SHS family of Eretz Israel and to educate both the SHS family and others about the true circumstances in the Middle East.

We do not intend this to be a political organization, nor do we intend it to be an advocate for a particular political viewpoint. We intend it to be non-political, welcoming all points of view whether from the right, from the left or from the (small) center. In addition, we want to focus on those facets of Israeli society that are productive and positive — for example, their expertise in science, medicine, the arts and other areas that are not always emphasized. Our purpose is to educate and encourage our community to investigate and learn, and to be in a position to present the facts as we see them.

If you are interested in joining us in this effort please contact us by email at mrocheste@aol.com or caroleaps@aol.com or by fax at 215.574.4258 or by phone at 215.574.1665.

50% Dues Discount for New Members

Snag Your Shiny New SHS Membership—
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Don't miss this opportunity to join **Society Hill Synagogue** Take advantage of our
2008-2009 50% New Member Discount Rate!

Come and see what all of the excitement is about at our *unusual, unpretentious, unaffiliated, and truly unforgettable* synagogue!

Please call Betty van de Rijn at **215-022-6590** for your membership packet today.

We look forward to meeting you!

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2008

Kesher



Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**
Rebecca Carl, **Cantor**
Staci Schwartz, **President**
Betty van de Rijn, **Administrator**
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