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## Plan to Join Us When SHS Receives Its \$80,000 Matching Restoration Grant

**P**lease mark your calendars to attend a very special award ceremony at SHS on Saturday, February 7 from 8 PM -10 PM. Partners for Sacred Places/ Philadelphia Regional Fund representatives will be on hand to present us with an official certificate documenting our receipt of the \$80,000 matching grant we have recently been awarded. Over the course of the next two years, we must raise the matching funds and complete several restoration projects critical to the preservation of our beautiful historic building. We are the first synagogue to receive a PFSP grant.

Our distinguished guest, Alan Greenberger, AIA, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, will be speaking about the power of religious buildings to energize the life and character of the city.

After Mr. Greenberger's speech, please stay, mingle and enjoy a dessert and champagne reception.



## When You Wish Upon a Synagogue – Here's Our Prize Wish List for our Upcoming Fundraisers

Staci Schwartz, MD, President

Who doesn't love going to a fundraising event and winning some exotic door prize? This year you'll have your chance to enjoy a fundraising event and maybe win the top door prize, too, because we have several intriguing and just plain fun fundraisers planned for the year. Though each event will be spectacular in and of itself, we thought we'd make them even better by asking folks to donate prizes that can be raffled or auctioned off, perhaps through a silent auction, to several lucky members.

So, we are asking all of our members to please comb through your Outlook list to find someone who could donate some creative and glorious prizes, or maybe you could donate something sensational yourself!

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## How to Talk About Israeli-Palestinian Relations

Rabbi Avi Winokur

I would like to write about President Obama's historic inauguration, but it has been trumped by the Israel-Gaza situation (*hamatzav* or "the situation" as Israelis generically refer to peace and war, Palestinian-Israeli relations, etc.).

For those who are neither ideologically lefties nor righties, this is confusing on a number of levels. Rather than come up with a way of thinking about the situation, I think it is helpful to distinguish among different ways of thinking about *hamatzav*—each appropriate in different contexts: reflection, advocacy and criticism.

I believe that for those of us who are not in a rigid, ideologically defined box, there is an increasing discomfort around the subject of Israel. All of us centrists are passionately pro-Israel. We also have serious reservations and criticisms about some Israeli policies and actions. Yet, we are keenly aware of the increasing hostility to, and demonization of, Israel. This is a very confusing mixture that we need to come to grips with.

**Reflection:** I suggest that we reserve these discussions for private conversations among ourselves as Jews or with non-Jews with whom we have some sort of personal connection. Reflection discussions are the times for nuanced thinking that we might not want publicly aired, such as admitting to confusion, expressing frustration with Israel or acknowledging anger at Muslims.

There are certain things that I think or feel that reflect negatively on Israel or current-day Islam that I would not share publicly without strict controls of how it was disseminated and how it was put into context. For instance, I am very concerned that the political objectives and diplomatic initiatives coming from Israel are not nearly as well thought out as their military tactics. That is, Israel learned lessons from the 2007 Lebanon War very well with respect to military issues, but not so well when it comes to political and diplomatic issues.

This is something that I expressed in Synagogue but would be very nervous about expressing in certain quarters lest it be used against Israel.

**Advocacy** is very different. I could have doubts and reservations about a given Israeli action and yet defend Israel publicly without any sense that I might be compromising my personal integrity, provided I was not flat-out opposed to the Israeli action. Even if that were the case, I would think long and hard before I made such an expression public. Why? Because there are already far too many anti-Israel voices out there. In times of turmoil I cannot see myself taking actions that aid and abet those who want Israel destroyed, if I have reason to believe that is how my actions or words would be taken, regardless of my intent.

**Criticism** is different still. I once wrote a very angry letter to the Israeli government about demolishing Arab houses in Jerusalem at the same time that I was publicly counter-demonstrating against those who opposed the construction of the wall between Israel and the West Bank. Not that I didn't have my reservations, but I found it extraordinarily easy to keep those reservations to myself and to stand next to others whose position on Israel was far to my right—because the letter to the Israeli government was private and not shared with anyone.

Where the circumstances are not quite so volatile (i.e. just at the usual level of tension) I might publicly criticize Israel but I would be very careful how I phrased the criticism (e.g., "extremists on both sides" or "while Israel grants its Arab citizens far more civil rights than her Arab neighbors grant their own Arab citizens, it is nonetheless ...").

I will not participate in a demonstration against Israeli actions or policies even if I agree with the ostensible message (e.g., against expanding settlements and in favor of a two-state solution) because I will not be party to any demonstration that I have reason to believe would include those who oppose Israel's existence, or if I have reason to believe that militant anti-Israel chanting, signage or speakers will be involved. I have no interest in "balancing" these anti-Israel critics with pro-Israel critics "in order to dispel the notion that all of Israel's critics are anti-Israel."

I suggest that we make these distinctions for two reasons. First, it helps us sort out feelings.

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## What a New Year! Join Us on Feb. 7 to Celebrate Our Shul's Preservation Matching Grant – The First Synagogue to Receive This Honor!

Staci Schwartz, MD, President

*Yeshiva University decided to start a crew team. Although they practiced often, the new team lost race after race. In fact, they never managed to come in any better than dead last.*

*The coach of the Yeshiva team finally decided to send Yankel to spy on the Harvard team whose record was the best in the league. Yankel packed a bag and shlepped off to Cambridge; he hid in the bullrushes off the Charles River and carefully watched the Harvard team as they practiced.*

*When he returned to his teammates at Yeshiva, he proudly announced, "I have figured out their secret!" "They have eight guys rowing and only one guy shouting."*

**F**or my first Keshet column of 2009, I would like to share some of the exciting plans and opportunities for the upcoming (secular) New Year.

First, I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read the fabulous article in the January 1, 2009 issue of the *Exponent* that describes how SHS is the proud recipient of an \$80,000 grant with a 2:1 matching requirement from the Partners for Sacred Places (PFSF)/Philadelphia Regional Fund – the first synagogue to ever receive this grant. PFSF is a national nonprofit organization devoted to helping congregations sustain and actively use older and historical sacred places. This PFSF grant means that SHS must raise \$160,000 to meet the match; for every \$2 we raise, PFSF gives us a free dollar up to \$80,000!

We accomplished this achievement after a year-long training program with PFSF, along with a significant amount of research, data collection and organization by our team members, including myself, Rabbi Winokur, Julie Liedman, Peter Piven and Mary Ann Stover. Why did we pursue this grant while we are in the middle of a Capital Campaign? The answer is simple.

Because, while we are fulfilling our need for more space by expanding and renovating our existing facility and securing the adjacent property for our future use, we also have an obligation to be responsible stewards of our beautiful historic building. A long list of deferred maintenance projects has accumulated over the years. Instead, we focused on improving our services, programs, and activities - and on developing the high quality staff that makes SHS the amazing synagogue that it is. In fact, we haven't made significant repairs to the building (except for a window or two) since the 1970s.

So, while our Capital Campaign is about *expansion and renovation* (upgrades), this matching grant opportunity is all about the *restoration and preservation* of our sacred building. The major repairs this grant will support include replacing our roof, repairing many of our windows (the four diamond windows in the front of the building, architectural treasures themselves, are 184 years old!), replacing some of the doors, and improving our fire suppression system. To learn even more about the importance of this grant, please plan to attend the official grant award presentation at SHS on **Saturday evening, February 7, from 8-10 PM**. Join us for the presentation ceremony and an informative lecture by Alan Greenberger, AIA, Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission followed by a celebratory dessert and champagne reception.

I am also delighted to tell you that the members of our very dynamic Board of Directors are planning three creative fundraising events for the coming year: a wine tasting (but not the kind you might expect) that is being organized by Marcie Ziskind and Dana Feinberg; a golf outing that is being arranged by Michael Hafter with help from David Ladov, and a special speaker series that is being organized by Lisa Eizen and Elayne Bloom. Please contact me at [stacischwartz7@yahoo.com](mailto:stacischwartz7@yahoo.com) (or feel free to contact the aforementioned members directly) if you would like to help plan any of these events.

I am proud to announce that a unique group, called "Baby and Me" has formed so the many new parents and babies at SHS can get to know each other. Laurel Landau (yes, you know her as Co-Chair of the Young Professionals group, along with Julie Wilson) has graciously agreed to organize the meetings and activities for this new "Baby and Me" group.

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## Join Us for the Family Service on the Second Saturdays

Cantor Rebecca Carl

**O**n the second Saturday of each month, the Society Hill Synagogue community comes together to celebrate Shabbat with incredible joy and lots of ruach! Of course, we do this every week, so perhaps you are wondering, why is the second Saturday of the month so special? It's because of our new and exciting Family Service!

The new Family Service here at SHS, begun in December, is led by Rabbi Winokur and myself, and is held upstairs in the sanctuary at 10:45 AM. At the same time, downstairs there is a wonderful and inspiring lay-led traditional minyan. We use an innovative, creative and easy-to-use siddur for the Family Service, which I created with Rabbi Winokur. One of the most exciting things about these second Saturdays is that at the end of both services the entire community comes together for Kiddush. All who have attended can attest that it is a fun and exciting way to take time out of our very busy lives and come together as a community to celebrate Shabbat.

The Family Service brings together parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, friends and members of the community to celebrate the joy of Shabbat in a very participatory and musical service. Highlights include: pre-b'nai mitzvah students serving as gabbaim, Sunday School and Hebrew School students leading the Sh'ma and, naturally, lots of singing and dancing, and much, much more!

Of course, I could go on and on about how wonderful our new Family Service is, but the best way for you to find out how exciting it truly is, is to join us this month on February 14, 2009 at 10:45 AM to experience it for yourself, and make sure to bring your children, grandchildren, family and friends! I look forward to celebrating Shabbat with you!

Please join us for all of our Family Services this spring on the second Saturday of the month - March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Cantor Carl's Nusach Corner

#### What is Nusach?

**T**he word "Nusach" literally means "the way" and can refer to anything. Within the liturgy its main use is to differentiate between various geographic traditions, such as Nusach S'farad (Sephardic liturgy) and Nusach Ashkenaz (Ashkenazic liturgy). However, when I use the word Nusach, I am really referring to Nusach Ha'Tefillah (the way of the prayer), which refers to the particular manner and/or style in which the liturgy is chanted or sung. Another way to think of it would be as a "prayer mode" that is characterized by the use of a particular musical scale and motifs. It is said that a person who is unsure of what day it is should be able to walk into a synagogue and know from just the sounds of the Nusach not only whether it is a weekday or special day on the Jewish calendar, but also where exactly the congregation is in the service when he/she arrived!



#### Coming up Next Month:

The four main Nusachim that are used throughout the year.

## Birthdays

February 1  
Sheila Katz  
Helene Meltzer

February 2  
Nancy Goldenberg  
Fredric Hayman  
Emily Van Dyke

February 3  
Carl Dranoff  
Cameron Radon  
Susan Snedden

February 4  
Ira Rubinfeld

February 5  
Marc Goldenberg  
Gary Love

February 7  
Avery Morgan Ender  
Jeffrey Scott

February 8  
Linda Joy Goldner  
Shana Kotay  
Jack Roberts

February 9  
Aaron Davidson  
Randi Glatzer

February 11  
Sofia Newberg  
Paul Rosen

February 13  
Irwin Balik  
Talia Fisher  
Daniel Perkins

February 14  
Aminda Kirshenbaum  
Jacob Robbins  
Len Weinberg

February 17  
Jonathan Greenblatt  
Edward Levenson  
Gail Massey

## Birthdays

February 18  
Morgan Strauss

February 19  
Adam Gifford

February 20  
Elayne Bloom  
Rachel Katz

February 21  
Eva Alminana  
Stephanie L. Squires

February 22  
Jaime Bassman  
Maxine Morgan  
Stav Tjoumakaris

February 23  
Shirley Cohen

February 25  
Shalom Cuker

February 26  
Carole Gottlieb  
Arthur Schneeberg

February 29  
Michael Yudell

## Anniversaries

February 3  
William Goldberg and  
Tracey Weiss

February 4  
David and Linda Paskin

February 6  
William and Rina Mitchell

February 9  
Robert Bierman and Mary Kirson

February 16  
Howard and Judy Levin

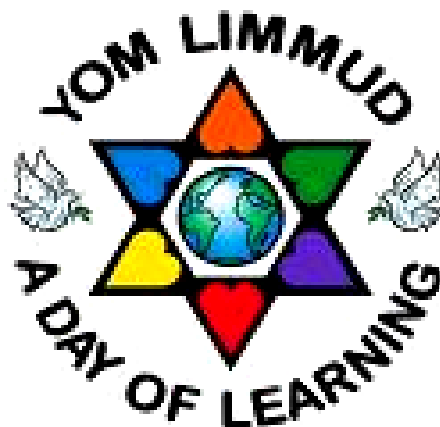
February 24  
Andrew Hohns and  
Leah Popowich

February 25  
Arthur and Janet Cherry

## LimmudPhilly Debuts in Philadelphia

Phyllis Denbo

Tickets are going quickly for Limmud-Philly, an exciting opportunity to explore a wide array of Jewish topics through workshops, discussions, lectures, exhibits, text study, hands-on art projects, interactive performances and more. You may examine long-held interests in greater depth, try out new subjects and ideas, and schmooze with friends, old and new. The diversity of subjects and participants will amaze you. A gathering of



Jews from all walks of life, Jewish backgrounds, lifestyles and ages will be able to choose from more than 90 sessions

presented by experts from far and wide. A sampling: Sheila Zagar from Boston will lead a session on *Discovering Your Jewish Identity Through Dance and Music*, David Levin-Kruss from Jerusalem will speak about *What's Missing in Modern Religion?*, Adina Newberg from Philadelphia will talk on the *Jewish Renaissance Among Secular Israelis*, Daylin Leach from Philadelphia will discuss *Politics and Social Justice*, Zalman Mlotek from New York will give an *Overview of Yiddish Theater*, and more. There will also be a shuk, plenty of food (kosher, of course), late night jazz sessions, and a day of programs designed for kids from ages 3 to 12, as well as special sessions for teens.

*Continued on page 7*



## Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

### Several Changes, Same Great School

Merle Salkin, Education Director

**T**he new year has brought several changes in our faculty and programs. But don't despair!

#### Faculty

Carly Feldman, an honors English and Jewish Studies major at Temple University, has become the Hay Class teacher, replacing Tara Werner, who has left to study in Israel for her spring semester. Carly has a teaching certificate from Gratz College, has worked as a camp counselor, and has been a teaching assistant at a suburban synagogue. She is proficient in Hebrew and French and is enthusiastic about joining the SHS family. She has many hands-on activities planned for the students as they begin their unit on Modern Israel.

Rachel Schoenholtz has left SHS to make *aliyah*. Jon Panofsky has stepped into her position in Sunday School and in Hebrew School. Jon is not new to the SHS faculty; he has taught a year of Hay Class and a year in Hebrew High. Jon attended graduate school in Florida last year and taught first grade on Sunday mornings. We're happy that he returned to Philadelphia to continue his graduate studies in education.

Our talented kindergarten teacher, Stefanie Bock, is taking maternity leave, and Lily Gottlieb-McHale will take over her class on Sunday morning. Lily, already a member of the SHS family—she teaches in our Playschool program—lived in Israel until she was 10. She is a graduate of Bard College, where she majored in art and music. She spends summers in Tel Aviv and can't wait to teach our children the songs she learned in Israel.

#### Programs

Our Hay Class begins its study of Modern Israel and the elements of the Shabbat morning service. Watch the bimah as Elizabeth Heit, Liza Gendler, Lev Ziskind and Karen Hafter join classmates Valerie Lichtman and Lindsay Saligman as B'nei Mitzvah. Students in grades three through six are beginning their mini-courses focusing on Israel.

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## Playschool

### We Visited the Art Museum for Music and Dance, and the Fairmount Park

### Wildlife Program Visited Us!

Gloria Parris, Playschool Director

**T**he Playschool children ended the year by celebrating Hanukkah in their classes during December. They learned about the miracle of Hanukkah through storytelling and songs. Beautiful art work, created by the children, decorated the Social Hall and the preschool and Pre-K classrooms. Dreidels, stars, and candles filled our walls and bulletin boards. The boys and girls used their unique talents to paint, glitter, glue, cut, and color their own Hanukkah designs. The children took the challenge of trying to spin dreidels. Some found the skill of dreidel spinning to be an easy task, while others hope that next Hanukkah they will be up for the challenge. For family holiday keepsakes, the children in the 2-year-old classes painted ceramic vases, while the children in the 3 - 4 year old class painted coffee mugs and the Pre-K children painted Kiddush cups.



In January, the children prepared for winter by learning cold weather songs, listening to stories about the snow, and making new seasonal art projects to display. The Pre-K class focused on making resolutions and wishes for the New Year, practicing friendship and learning about wildlife. The children in the 3 - 4 year-old class went on a trip to The Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Museum Looks and Picture Books program. This preschool program introduces the museum to the children. During each visit, a book is read to represent an art theme. The children view works of art that pertain to each theme and they also create their own art project, based on this theme, at the museum. January's art theme was Music, Dance, and Movement in Art.

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*Continued from page 6*

## Several Changes, Same Great School

We will "travel" through the country, study about Jerusalem, and stop at important historical sites.

### Lights! Camera! Action!



Sunday School students will present Tu B'Shevat plays at 10:15 AM February 8. We hope parents and Broadway critics fill the Social Hall for these exciting performances. Call 215.922.6590 for more information.

*Continued from page 6*

## We Visited the Art Museum for Music and Dance, and the Fairmount Park Wildlife Program Visited Us!



Also, this month, the Pre-K children learned about wildlife animals in Philadelphia with a lesson from the Fairmount Park Outreach Program. An environmental educator from Fairmount Park visited the Playschool and spoke to the children about animals that can be found living in our city.

In looking forward, please mark your calendars for the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 1 at 11 AM. Join us for games, craft projects, prizes, delicious hamantashen, and lots of fun for the family! More information will be coming soon. Hope to see everyone there!



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Mazel Tov to:

**Meg and Peter Saligman** on the occasion of their daughter, **Lindsay**, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

**Estelle Packer** on the birth of her 1st Great Granddaughter, **Meira Gable**. Proud parents are Lance and Kinerit Gable.

**Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Talya Danielle**. Proud parents are Jacob Weinberg and Becky Cohen.

**Mitchell Bach and Cindy Elliott** on the occasion of their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

### Condolences to:

**Mindy Robbins and Family** on the death of her mother, Rose M. Stiefler.

**Alex Schoenfeld** on the death of his mother, **Elizabeth**.

**Mark Schoenholtz and Family** on the death of his father, **Joseph**.

## LimmudPhilly

*Continued from page 5*

All the events will take place at the Gershman Y at 401 S. Broad St. (Broad and Pine Streets) and at the University of the Arts, and is presented by the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community in all its diversity.

For more information, and to register, go to [www.LimmudPhilly.org](http://www.LimmudPhilly.org).

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Continued from Cover Page

## When You Wish Upon a Synagogue – Here's Our Prize Wish List for our Upcoming Fundraisers

Consider this our Wish List!

- a week or weekend at a member's vacation home
- a night or weekend in a luxurious hotel
- sports tickets
- theater tickets
- wine
- spa packages
- professional services - free consultations for services that your business provides, such as doctor/dental exams, a simple cosmetic procedure, etc.
- photography services
- simple home renovation projects
- interior design consultations
- personal services - teach someone to master a skill that you have (Mah Jongg, bridge, knitting, cooking a gourmet meal or dessert, organizing a scrapbook from a collection of photos, quilting)
- babysitting for a couple with young children so they can take a much-needed night off
- hand-made jewelry or crafts
- restaurant gift certificates
- a car! (remember, this is a Wish List!)



If you are able to donate any of the above items, or you have wonderful ideas of your own, please contact Betty in the office at 215-922-6590, ext. 23.

What a mitzvah! Thanks very much!



Continued from page 3

## What a New Year! Join Us on February 7 to Celebrate Our Shul's Preservation Matching Grant – The First Synagogue to Receive This Honor!

Please see Laurel's article on page 9 for further information, including her e-mail address. If you are the parent of a baby (under the age of 2) and you have not been receiving e-mails about this group, it may mean that the office doesn't have your correct e-mail address. Please contact the office or contact Laurel directly with this information. **Likewise, if you are an SHS grandparent, and you have non-member children with babies in this age group, please contact the office (215-922-6590) and/or Laurel (laurelsiegel@yahoo.com) with your children's e-mails so that we can invite them to participate and meet other young families with babies!**

Finally, I want to plug two exciting Adult Education opportunities: the continuation of Rabbi Winokur's **Civilization of the Jews** (a nine-part PBS series offering an excellent overview of the formation and development of the Jewish people - at each class an episode will be presented and discussed by Rabbi Winokur), and a brand new **Talmudic Exploration** class. Join SHS member, Rafi Licht, Yeshiva-trained, as he provides an opportunity for SHS members to grow as a diverse, modern Jewish community through reading and thinking about selections from one of the core texts of Judaism - the *Talmud*. Please contact the office or check the website for class dates and times.

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## How to Talk About Israeli-Palestinian Relations

It is okay to be defensive in the face of anti-Israel pressure even if we ourselves sometimes have reservations about Israel's actions. More than that, it is okay to go out of our way to be publicly vocal in support of Israel with respect to actions that we have reservations about, given the anti-Israel pressure.

Likewise making these kinds of distinctions helps us to achieve a more nuanced understanding of complex situations and to develop a deeper awareness of our own emotional relationship to these situations and to Israel in general.

## New Baby & Me Group Hits the Ground Running (or Crawling...)

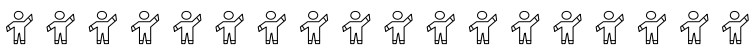
Laurel Landau

**T**o meet the needs of our growing number of young families, Society Hill Synagogue is launching a baby play group – a group for new mothers (and/or fathers) and babies under the age of two to interact, play and talk. The kick-off meeting of Baby & Me that was held in the Playschool room on Friday, January 23, brought out a bushel of babies, as six moms showed up with their babies, aged from a tiny three months up to a 17-month-old walker. The mothers (and the babies) agreed this first meeting was a great success!



We plan to meet the second Wednesday and fourth Friday of each month for the social gathering, (in February that means the 11th and 27th) from 1 PM to 3 PM. Expect lively conversation with other parents, the swapping of baby tips, and, of course, fostering relationships with your babies' future classmates (Playschool and up!) for many years ahead. Also, if you have an older child (ages three to five), your child could attend the new After School Arts program while you and your youngster participate in the Baby & Me group.

If you are inadvertently not receiving our e-mails and would like to, please contact Laurel Landau at [laurel-siegel@yahoo.com](mailto:laurel-siegel@yahoo.com), 215-923-4028. We look forward to playing with your babies together!



### Save The Date!

The SHS Annual Purim Carnival  
will be held on Sunday, March 1  
from 11 AM to 1 PM.  
Games! Prizes! Pizza! Facepainting!

If you'd like to run a booth, sell food, or help with set up or clean up, please contact Staci Schwartz at [stacischwartz7@yahoo.com](mailto:stacischwartz7@yahoo.com).

Don't forget to mark it on your calendar!



## Young Professionals

### Have Any Ideas for Young Professionals Events?

Julie Wilson and Laurel Landau

**W**e are happy to report that the Young Professionals Group had a fun and well-attended brunch at Zeke's to celebrate Hanukkah on December 28. As a reminder, our group meets throughout the year for social, cultural, and religious gatherings. Everyone is welcome – couples, singles, professionals and graduate students. Stay tuned for information on our upcoming events. If you have an idea for an event, please let us know. If you have questions, suggestions, or are not on our e-mail list, please contact Julie at [jwilson@ledgewood.com](mailto:jwilson@ledgewood.com) or Laurel at [laurelsiegel@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelsiegel@yahoo.com).

### 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. We need the following information:

- 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?

Several studies have recently been conducted on the Jewish lives of the NextGen and Millennials. Would you like Rabbi Winokur to forward pdf versions to you? Let us know and please supply your contact information.

Please send your responses to [rebwinokur@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:rebwinokur@societyhillsynagogue.org) with "NextGen" in the subject line. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

## Contributions

### General Fund

#### In Honor of

**Robin Schatz's kindness**

*Lore Bryan*

**Sadye Ladov being named Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association**

*The Ziskind Family*

*Irene Staller and Daniel Finkelstein*

*Fran and Peter Conicella*

**Joel Marmar's Special Birthday**

*Beverly Sherman and Herbert Cohen*

**The birth of Eve and Les Robbins 1<sup>st</sup> Grandchild**

*The Ziskind Family*

**SHS Services**

*Giuseppe Deluca*

**The birth of Jordan Silver**

*Marsha and Stephen Silberstein*

**Libby Kaiser's speedy recovery**

*Marsha and Stephen Silberstein*

**Dotty Hillman's Special Birthday**

*Lore Bryan*

**My 1<sup>st</sup> Great Granddaughter, Meira Gable**

*Estelle Packer*

**The birth of Estelle Packer's 1<sup>st</sup> Great Granddaughter, Meira Gable**

*Judith Cohen*

*Stanley and Judith Woloff*

**The birth of Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg's Granddaughter, Talya Weinberg**

*Libby Rosof and Murray Dubin*

*Eva Ecker*

*Stanley and Judith Woloff*

**The birth of Elaine and Alan Shechtman's Granddaughter, Jordan**

*Pelley and Steve Brown*

#### In Memory of

**Anna Feinstein**

*Evelyn Eisenstadt*

**Bernice Oswald**

*Michael Temin*

*The Ziskind Family*

**A Friend**

*Rita Altman*

**Jacob Cohen**

*Judith and Mindy Widman*

**Adam Levy**

*Dorene and Joseph Rosenthal*

**Isadore Goldenberg**

*Marc and Nancy Goldenberg*

**Morris and Beatrice Chernock**

*Joel Chernock*

**Rose Schertz**

*Pelley and Steve Brown*

**Isadore Schertz**

*Pelley and Steve Brown*

**Pauline Schertz Rosen**

*Pelley and Steve Brown*

**Joseph Schoenholtz**

*Stanley and Judith Woloff*

**Louis Blender**

*Burton Blender and Libby Harwitz Blender*

**Joel Levine**

*Iris Levine*

**Fan Brait**

*Natalie and Herbert Cohn*

**Lynn Adelman Mukamal**

*Ernest Mukamal*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

#### In Honor of

**Tzedakah**

*Doris Casper*

**The birth of Isaac Glasz Rosenberg, Grandson of Martin Rosenberg and Ellen Fennick**

*Martin Rosenberg and Ellen Fennick*

**Rabbi Winokur**

*Ben Zion Friedman*

#### In Memory of

**Henry Blask**

*Judith Woloff*

**Betty Lederman**

*Linda and Jim Rosenstein*

**Deborah Golden**

*Jerry Golden*

**Clement Golden**

*Jerry Golden*

**Gussie Baronowitz**

*Judith and Mindy Widman*

## Contributions

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

#### In Honor of

Cantor Rebecca Carl  
*Rita and Alan Beals*

### Silver Heit Fund

#### In Honor of

The birth of Estelle Packer's  
1<sup>st</sup> Great Granddaughter, Meira Gable  
*Merle Salkin*

### Prayerbook Fund

#### In Honor of

The marriage of Rick Summers' and Merrily  
Williams' son Abraham to Zhang Xing Xing  
*Stanley and Judith Woloff*

### Kiddush Fund

#### In Honor of

The birth of Estelle Packer's  
1<sup>st</sup> Great Granddaughter, Meira Gable  
*Betty van de Rijn*

Lindsay Saligman's Bat Mitzvah  
*Betty van de Rijn*

The birth of Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg's  
Granddaughter, Talya Weinberg  
*Betty van de Rijn*

Sadye Ladov being named Chancellor of the  
Philadelphia Bar Association  
*Betty and Marty van de Rijn*

### In Memory of

Bill Rutter  
Elizabeth Schoenfeld  
Joseph Schoenholtz  
Ken Seidman  
*Betty Rutter van de Rijn*

### Keren Atid Endowment Fund

#### In Memory of

Nina Rubinsohn  
*Rina and Bill Mitchell*

**Memorial Plaque Dedication Shabbat  
Friday, May 8, 2009**

As we noted on the Memorial Form in the High Holy Day packet, we are instituting another way to honor the memory of our loved ones, by setting aside May 8 as Memorial Plaque Dedication Shabbat. At this service, members will "unveil" the Memorial Plaques they purchased during the past year as a perpetual remembrance.

## Israel Advocacy Committee

### Israel Advocacy Off to a Slow but Steady Start

Carole Le Faivre-Rochester  
Michael Rochester

**A**dvocating for Israel is sometimes a complicated issue. At our synagogue Michael and I were asked to start a program. Our first effort was to invite the representative of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to speak in November. The program, sponsored by the Parents of North American Israelis, was held at SHS and the congregation was invited. In January we held our first evening meeting at which I presented resources for advocating for Israel, but on a cold, messy evening only one person attended. We are not giving up. We know the congregation is committed; for example, a small group has formed to knit hats for IDF members. Sometime in March, on a Sunday, we plan to show an Israeli film (not yet chosen). We are not planning to choose a political movie but one that shows the beauty of Eretz Israel.

In the meantime, as some of the world condemns Israel for the Gaza attack, here is a reminder about the ongoing humanitarian efforts that this small democracy has engaged in since its beginning.

MASHAV, the Center for International Cooperation of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the body responsible for coordinating Israel's official humanitarian assistance program.

Here is the description of some of its work (taken from their web site): "In the last few years, MASHAV has sent numerous teams to partner countries to instruct professionals in Emergency and Disaster Medicine. These teams train cadres of doctors, nurses, medical technicians, and administrators to deal with mass casualty events and to treat multiple trauma patients, sharing clinical expertise and procedures for organizing a triaged response to mass casualty events....For many years MASHAV has been conducting blindness prevention and eye-care missions in partner countries...Hundreds of surgical procedures are performed by the visiting Israeli teams which work together with local staff, restoring sight to many of the patients. Israeli ophthalmologists also train the local personnel, and ophthalmologic equipment and supplies are donated."

Check out MASHAV's web site at [www.mashev.mfa.gov.il/](http://www.mashev.mfa.gov.il/). When people want to criticize Eretz Israel, here is one argument you can use to balance the negativity.

## Michael Hafter Takes the Wheel as New Treasurer

Staci Schwartz, MD, President

Please join me in congratulating Michael Hafter as he assumes the role of SHS Treasurer. Michael has served on the Finance Committee in the past and again, more recently. He brings with him a wealth (pun intended) of knowledge in the areas of finance and accounting, and he has an extensive knowledge of SHS's general and budgetary history.

Jeremey Newberg, our Treasurer since 2006, will be stepping down for personal reasons, though he will remain on the Board and the Finance Committee until the next election.

Jeremey will be meeting with Michael, myself, Betty and Steve Ramm (our bookkeeper) to effect a smooth transition in financial leadership.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeremey, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, for his years of service as Treasurer. As I have mentioned before, I believe that the current SHS budget is clear, lean, accurate, transparent, and reflective of the high level of fiscal responsibility we have achieved under Jeremey's tenure.

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## Interfaith Group

### Don't Miss the Last Few Hinduism Classes; No Special Study Skills Needed to Join Us to Feed the Homeless on Feb. 17

Erica Ginsburg

Earlier this winter Interfaith activities focused upon the study of the Torah/Bible/Quran and an exploration of Hinduism, including the exciting discussion and exchange that are hallmarks of our group. The Hinduism class draws to a close this month, meeting February 4, 11, and perhaps also February 18 at Historic St. George's Church. Sessions begin at 6:30 PM with supper (please bring \$3-5 if you can, to help the church pay for the meal) and time to socialize. The DVD lecture begins by 7:15 PM, followed by discussion until 8:30. The church is located at 235 North 4th Street (at New Street, near Race Street); enter the church via the museum on New Street and proceed to the Hopkins Fellowship Hall. There is no fee for the course, but donations would be most welcome. And more to come: Historic St. George's study of Christianity will begin in March! For further information, please contact Pastor Fred Day, [pastor@historicstgeorges.org](mailto:pastor@historicstgeorges.org) or 215-925-7788.



On a somewhat different note, we will gather on Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30 PM to serve supper to the homeless. Please join us at Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 321 Willings Alley (between 3rd and 4th Streets, between Locust and Walnut Streets) for this special act of kindness.

And looking forward: On March 7, the Interfaith Group will be at our Synagogue to attend Torah study and Rabbi Marjorie's Mussar class. An orientation for the group will start at 8:30 AM, preceding Torah study. The Interfaith group always enjoys its visits to our shul.

For more information, please contact Diana Schrader, 215-423-4525.

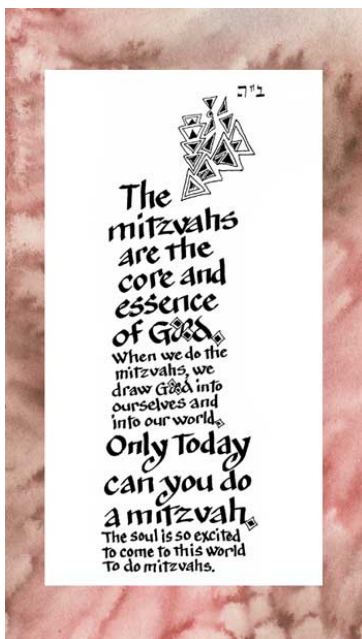
*Participating in the Interfaith Group are Society Hill Synagogue, Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Old Pine Presbyterian Church, Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, and Dialogue Forum.*

## God's Unfinished Business

### Just One Mitzvah Can Make 2009 Special!

Connie Golden

What would it take to make the secular year 2009 have a Jewish tone to it? Would you be willing to spend less than an hour during only one day of your choosing to give your 2009 that Jewish tone?



I think the answer to the first question is “people doing mitzvot.” But I can’t speak for you on the second question; you have to answer that one for yourself. What I can do is offer you some options for what you might do for that hour if you want to.

You might call someone who is lonely.  
 You might visit someone who is ill or homebound.  
 You might give a ride to someone who can’t get to services on his or her own any more.  
 You might help make a minyan at a shiva service.  
 You might send a bereavement note to a mourner.  
 You might cook and deliver a meal to a family whose loved one is in the hospital. (All right, that’s more than one hour, but worth it!)

These are all mitzvot that Society Hill Synagogue congregants have been doing for each other through the auspices of **God’s Unfinished Business**, affectionately known as **GUB**, for over two years. I can’t begin to tell you how appreciative recipients have been, partly because everything **GUB** does is strictly confidential. But I can tell you that volunteers are extraordinarily fulfilled as they help others.

The problem is that as word has spread we have become aware of and responded to more and more needs. Almost all of our volunteers have full-time jobs and families, and there is a limit to how much we can do. We desperately need your help! Even if you sign up to help just one person in one way, that would make such a difference. Please call Connie Golden, 215-523-6967, or send her an e-mail at [Rab.golden@verizon.net](mailto:Rab.golden@verizon.net) to let her know how little or how much time you have to volunteer. You’ll not regret it!

### 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](mailto:office@societyhillsynagogue.org) with your email address.

### 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, at ext 21 for more information on how to sponsor a special occasion.

## SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER

## February - Shevat/Adar 5769

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 AM SS 9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS	7 PM Ex. Mtg.	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 4:15 PM HH  7 PM Talmud Exploration Class	7 PM Civilization of the Jews	Kesher Articles Due	7:30 PM Services	<b>Shabbat Beshalah</b> 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study 11:15 AM Tot Shabbat 8 PM PFSP Celebration
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 AM SS 9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS Parents Class 11 AM HS 11:15 AM HS Parents Class	<b>Tu B'Shevat</b>	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5 PM Torah Study  7 PM Ed. Mtg 7 PM <b>CAJS</b> Lecture Serie	1 PM Baby & Me  7 PM Civilization of the Jews	<b>PS Closed</b>	<b>PS Closed</b>  7:30 PM Services	<b>Shabbat Yitro</b> 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Traditional Service 10:45 AM Family Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Presidents' Day</b>  <b>Building Closed</b>	<b>President's Day</b>  <b>Building Closed</b>	<b>PS Closed</b> 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 4:15 PM HH  7 PM Talmud Exploration Class 7:15 PM Social Action Mtg.	7 PM Civilization of the Jews	1:30 PM Book Club	6:30 PM Gimel Class Pizza Dinner  7:30 PM Gimel Class Service	<b>Shabbat Shekalim Parshat Mishpatim</b> 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 AM SS 9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS	12:30 PM ELM  7 PM Board Mtg.	<b>Rosh Hodesh Adar</b> 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	<b>Rosh Hodesh Adar</b>  7 PM Civilization of the Jews		1 PM Baby & Me  7:30 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Services	<b>Shabbat Terumah</b> 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 11 AM Haverim Service
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturdays Shabbat Study  PS-Playschool HS-Hebrew Sch HH-Hebrew High ELM-Education Leadership Mtg				<b>Reminder</b>  <b>March 1</b>  <b>SS &amp; HS</b> <b>Attend</b> <b>together</b>  <b>9 to 11 AM</b>	<b>Save the Date</b>  <b>March 1</b>  <b>Purim Carnival</b>	<b>Save the Date</b>  <b>April 5</b>  <b>Annual Wine Tasting Event</b>

## Tot Shabbat

### As Much Fun as Ever!

(for babies through age 5)

#### Anne Ballen Ladenson

First Saturday of every month at  
11:15 AM

Upcoming dates: February 7 &  
March 7



Bring your babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers to celebrate Shabbat! Cantor Carl's Tot Shabbat includes some familiar songs, along with many new ones, and story time that ties into the week's Torah portion. Children play with instruments and are encouraged to participate. Families return upstairs to the sanctuary with Cantor Carl for a joyous *Adon Olam* with the main service. It's as much fun as ever! Please join us!



## Save the Date!

Another fabulous  
SHS  
WINE TASTING  
PARTY

is happening on  
**Sunday, April 5,  
2009 at 6 PM**

Watch for news  
about our special  
venue

If you know people who attended last year's successful wine tasting, you know that it is the fundraising event **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Don't be left out! Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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

Don't forget that we have re-introduced 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. 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!**

Don't miss this opportunity to gain exposure for your business. If you would like a copy of the ad contract, please contact Betty van de Rijn at 215.922.6590 x 23 or by email [bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org).

Regular (about the size of a business card)

Double (about double the size of a business card)

Number of Issues	Single Ad	Double Ad
Ad Placement on an <b>inside</b> page of the newsletter:		
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



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2009

# Kesher



Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**  
Rebecca Carl, **Cantor**  
Staci Schwartz, **President**  
Betty van de Rijn, **Administrator**  
Merle Salkin, **Education Director**  
Gloria Parris, **Playschool Director**

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SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER

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