

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE

January /February 2018 Newsletter

Keshar

Epic Musical Event at SHS!

Join us on **Saturday, January 13, at 8 PM**, for a **Melaveh Malkah** to escort Shabbat out in song, featuring Cantor George Mordecai, along with musical performers Hazzan Jessi Roemer, Dr. Hankus Netsky, Zafer Tawil, Joey Weisenberg, & Rabbi Yosef Goldman!

Cantor George Mordecai

Born in Sydney, Australia to Iraqi and Indian Jewish immigrants, Cantor Mordecai, who received his investiture from JTS in 2000, has sung with internationally renowned music ensembles. He has worked as a cantor in Philadelphia, Miami, and Stamford, and is currently the cantor at Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY. Co-creator of performance project Shalom/Pax, George continues to pursue devotional music that speaks to the sacred interconnectedness of all of humanity.

Dr. Hankus Netsky

A multi-instrumentalist, composer, teacher, writer, and ethnomusicologist, Dr. Hankus Netsky is co-chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department and founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, and he has produced numerous recordings. He is the author of *Klezmer, Music, and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia* (2015, Temple Press) and has been a key figure in Jewish cultural education workshops, including Klezkamp, KlezKanada, and others.

Zafer Tawil

Zafer Tawil is a renowned Palestinian musician who has mastered the oud, violin, and qanun, and other instruments. A virtuoso in the field, Zafer has appeared with some of the great performers of Arab music; he has composed music for a number of movies, including the Oscar-nominated film, *Rachel Getting Married*. In addition to performing collaborative concerts involving classical Indian, Persian, and Arabic/jazz fusion music, Zafer is an experienced arts educator for students of all ages.

A dessert reception will follow the performance!

Tickets: \$10 in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/shsconcert>, or \$15 at the door.

This event is co-sponsored by Society Hill Synagogue & Temple Beth Zion Beth Israel.



Rabbi's Column

Welcome to the Complexity That Is Israel

Avi Winokur

President Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem has produced a number of reactions from American Jews. On the one hand, the vast majority of American Jews understand that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. In fact, so does the rest of the world, even those who deny this fact—and that includes almost every nation. If there is a country that has its embassy in Jerusalem, I am not aware of that country. It may shock many American Jews, but the fact is that almost every nation simultaneously recognizes the on-the-ground reality that (western) Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, but politically/diplomatically those same countries, including the United States until this past month, do not officially recognize that fact. Confusing? Welcome to just a small slice of the complexity that is Israel. A brief 3,000-year history of Jerusalem is in order.

Prior to the 1967 Six-Day War, Jerusalem was not a Palestinian Arab-controlled city. It had been occupied by the British and Ottoman Turks for centuries. The partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and a Palestinian Arab state by the United Nations in 1947 envisioned Jerusalem as an international city. When the Arab states attacked the fledgling Jewish state soon after the United Nations adopted the partition plan in November 1947, the war between the Jewish Israelis and their Arab neighbors resulted not in Palestinian control of the city but in a Jordanian section and an Israeli section. From the viewpoint of the Palestinians, who lived mostly in the Jordanian section, their part of the city was occupied by an Arab monarchy that considered itself Hashemite, even though much of the population of Jordan was Palestinian, to the extent that there was a self-conscious Palestinian identity.

The relationship between the Jordanians/Hashemites and the Palestinians was a difficult one and erupted in armed conflict in September 1970. As a young man studying in Jerusalem, I remember Palestinian Arabs surrendering to Israelis rather than face the justice of their Hashemite Arab cousins in Jordan.

This “complexification” of Jerusalem's recent history in no way suggests that Palestinian claims to Jerusalem are disingenuous. Further, while hard figures are hard to come by for the nineteenth and early twentieth century, it appears that until the 1930s Jews were not the majority of Jerusalemites. Today, there are over 300,000 Palestinian Arabs in Jerusalem, more than 40 percent of the population, and they are a majority within the historically Palestinian pre- 1948 city.

Historically, Jerusalem was the capital of biblical Israel from around 1000 B.C.E. until a civil war split ancient Israel in 922. As the capital of the small southern kingdom of Judah, it was conquered by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E., give or take. Jerusalem was then ruled by a succession of foreign powers (i.e., Persians, Greeks, Romans, and many more) with the exception of a brief 80-year period when the Maccabees/Hasmoneans of Hanukkah fame ruled a small kingdom until Rome conquered Jerusalem around 60 B.C.E.

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While both the Palestinian Arabs and Jews claim Jerusalem as their capital today, it is fair to say that neither reigned supreme for most of the last 2500 years in Jerusalem. However, both have been a continuous presence in the city during these centuries.

But there is more. Jerusalem has been central to Jewish spiritual yearnings for at least 2500 years. That spiritual yearning has always been tied to a temporal yearning that long predated modern Zionism and the modern nation-state. Among other things, the first and second Temples of biblical and postbiblical times were located in Jerusalem.

In the spirit of complexification, the basis of the relationship of even the most secular, socialist, atheistic, antireligious of Israelis to Israel as the Jewish homeland has been this biblical connection. With little exaggeration or caricature, the secular Zionist pioneers' tie to Israel could be characterized as "The God that I utterly reject and whose existence I deny gave this land to my people." Oversimplified? Yes, but essentially accurate.

Likewise, the significance of Muslim connections to Jerusalem for more than a millennium cannot be doubted. The Temple Mount, according to the Muslims, is the place where Muhammad ascended to heaven, and, in Islam, the holiness of Jerusalem, due to the presence there of the Al Aqsa mosque, is exceeded only by the holiness of Mecca and Medina. It is definitely not a light claim that is essentially politically dressed up as religious, as some might like us to believe. These premodern religious connections have survived the arrival of modernity and are alive and well among both peoples.

This brings us to today's controversy over the U.S. political recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In 1995, Congress passed a law that the United States move its embassy to Jerusalem, but as part of the same law Congress gave the president the right to refrain from exercising that requirement by signing a waiver every 6 months. Every president from both parties has taken advantage of the waiver provision every 6 months; that is over 40 consecutive presidential signatures.

President Trump broke with this bipartisan presidential tradition with respect to Jerusalem. Also, the overwhelming majority of American diplomats who have had any substantial role in the Israeli-Palestinian quagmire oppose this move by President Trump.

Why withhold recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital? It is one of the few carrots that the international community could dangle to get Israel to the bargaining table. A second reason is the argument that Israel's annexation of Jerusalem is as contrary to international law as are the settlements in the West Bank; to officially recognize Jerusalem, or any part of it, as Israel's capital is to reward the flouting of international law. A third reason is that recognition will inflame Palestinians and the Arab world generally.

Many argue that Trump's claim that he hopes to advance the peace process is disingenuous and that his true reasons were to appease generous donors like Sheldon Adelson and to cement the loyalty of American Christian Zionists, who number in the millions.

I do not think that President Trump has any grasp of the complexity of the issues in the international arena, let alone Jerusalem. Critics of Netanyahu and Trump fear this move aids and abets Israel's inexorable slide into becoming an apartheid state. On the other hand, the fact remains, as Trump pointed out, that the status quo has yielded very little progress in the thirty years since the Oslo accords were signed. Trump supporters plausibly argue that this seemingly disruptive Black Swan event may be just what is needed to kick-start a real and serious peace process.

I hope that this contextualization of the complexity of the Jerusalem issue will be helpful in evaluating the reporting and opinion pieces that we will see with some frequency until it is eclipsed by the next shiny object.



President's Column

Our Connection to Education

Harry J. Oxman

In my last Keshet article, I made reference to our Capital Campaign Initiative as a means by which our synagogue could best utilize its property to serve the combined needs of our community. Education was identified as an area where expansion would be of significant benefit. As our Capital Campaign continues to move forward, both from the perspective of fundraising and the design of the facility, it becomes more apparent that additional educational space is likely the most compelling need for us to meet. Our interaction with long time members and congregant donors has produced feedback that supports this position. Upgrading our educational environment is very important to many of our newest members as well.

At the meetings of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Board of Directors, the importance of increased and enhanced space for educational purposes is frequently discussed and analyzed. The leadership recognizes the need to provide these spaces for our Play, Sunday, and Hebrew Schools, as well as for our Adult Education courses.

Recently, I have reflected on my own personal attitudes that bear upon this philosophy of the importance of education. After one of our recent Capital Campaign Committee meetings, I engaged our Rabbinical Student in a discussion on that subject. Nathan Kamesar, who has experience and training in non-profit fundraising, and been a great resource for us, and I asked him for his opinions about our congregations emphasis on education. True to form in these matters, I received an email from him approximately a week after our discussion at which time he provided the following observation:

"... After the destruction of the Second Temple when it was not quite apparent how the Jewish civilization was going to progress, the central and fundamental institution became the Beit Midrash, the House of Study, or, more literally, House of Explication. Central to the DNA of Jewish civilization became study and learning. The proposed expansion of Society Hill Synagogue, then, brings us back to our roots. The expansion of SHS has very much revolved around additional spaces in which to conduct learning, for young and old alike. The future of each Jewish community, then, may very much look like its past, with a focus on a House of Study."

For me, I believe that Nathan's historical reference is extremely relevant and explains why members of this community have placed such a strong emphasis on education when considering SHS's plans for the future. I find it spiritually uplifting to be part of a community that prioritizes educational opportunities for its congregants—perhaps, because it is in our DNA.

Our leadership members who are soliciting Capital Campaign donations may have already contacted you. To those of you who have made commitments, we offer our sincere thanks. For those of you who have not yet made a commitment, we are confident that you, too, will make a "joyful stretch," and contribute as much as you can to help us meet our goals. On behalf of the Society Hill Synagogue Leadership involved in this endeavor, I offer to each of you our deep appreciation for your involvement. We look forward to additional encounters with all of our members as we use this fundraising effort as a method to strengthen relationships and connections to each other and to our synagogue.

While we aim to expand our spaces, we also aim to expand our numbers. I would like to commend the efforts of Membership Committee Chair David Ladov, and committee members Judy Lalli, Brian Mono, and Natalie Lesser; I am proud to report that 29 new members have joined SHS, many of whom we welcomed at a special TGShabbat service on Friday, December 15.

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Student Rabbi's Column

Jewish Tradition: By Observance or By the Book?

Nathan Kamesar

I recently finished reading Jonathan Sarna's excellent book, *American Judaism*, a history of, as you might surmise from the title, Judaism in America. One particular observation of his grabbed my attention.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, he describes an American Orthodox community who had "lost confidence in their own ability to navigate the shoals between Orthodox Judaism and contemporary culture." (This and all subsequent quotations can be found on page 306). Given the decimation of the Jewish population in Europe, and fears of assimilation in the United States, Sarna describes an Orthodox community who felt that the stakes were too high to trust their instincts and habits when it came to Jewish life and practice. They felt "religiously insecure and fearful; they craved certainty and reassurance." "The result," he writes, "was a turn to authority."

"Where once ancestral custom passed down mimetically through the generations governed a good deal of traditional religious practice—from how to set up a kosher kitchen to how much unleavened bread (matzah) to eat at the Passover seder—now Orthodox Jews turned for direction to rabbis, teachers, and above all, to codes and manuals that told them what to do and how to act. Ancestral customs, especially those deemed lax, lenient, or difficult to reconcile with Jewish law, fell into disuse, their authenticity questioned. Stricter "by-the-book" practices, some rarely seen in America (like the ban on any physical contact, including shaking hands, between unrelated members of the opposite sex), replaced them."

In other words, whereas once Orthodox Jews based their Jewish lives and practices on imitating the lives and practices that they had observed in the generations who had come before them, in the mid-twentieth century United States, they retreated from this position and began to seek out the clarity and the rigidity that came from texts, rather than trust how their families had practiced Judaism.

On one hand, this might seem refreshing: a "back-to-the-roots" approach focused on what Jews have long held sacred: engagement with a textual tradition.

On the other hand, these manuals Sarna refers to are often relatively modern codifications of ancient principles. And with codification inevitably comes interpretation.

In other words, who is to say that what is found in a manual or code is any more authentic or legitimate than a folk practice passed down from family to family?

We often assume that Jews have gotten more lax over the centuries. Or that the apogee of Jewish observance was the bearded rebbe in the Eastern European shtetl. What some of us (or at least what I) forget, and what Sarna helps illuminate, is that religious observance can move the other direction: it can get stricter over time. If I've learned anything from studying Lawrence Hoffman's brilliant series examining the *siddur* (prayer book), *My People's Prayer Book*, it is that Jewish liturgy has calcified over the years. That is, whereas initially, around the time of the destruction of the Second Temple, there was much room for spontaneity, for flexibility, and for riffing around particular themes (like God, love, and Torah) in Jewish prayer services, over time the specific wording became fixed, and Jewish prayer became more uniform and ordered.

Perhaps, in times of uncertainty or for other sociological reasons, like the need to have commonality among varied Jewish communities, this move to standardization or formalization can be useful.

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Ann Spak Thal School

January Joy and February Fun

Sahar Oz

Our first two months of 2018 will feature a variety of school celebrations, including a Bar Mitzvah service, a class Shabbat service, a “Havdalah and a Movie” for 5th and 6th graders and a Havdalah PJ Party for our K through 2nd graders, Tu B’Sh’vat skits and a Tu B’Sh’vat seder, and a fantastic assortment of Purim festivities in the last week of February.

This year’s Purim Cantata (Purimshpiel) is *Mordechai and the Order of the King*; our theme is based on Harry Potter! Our largest Cantata cast and crew ever—with almost 20 students—will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings throughout January and February, under the direction of Bluma Millman, who teaches Kitot Aleph, Dalet, and Vav in our school and previously worked at a theater camp near Washington, DC.

The Purim Cantata will be performed on Wednesday, February 28, at 6 PM, followed by scotch tasting and snacks and the Megillah reading, so mark your calendars and start planning your costumes for our Purim celebrations!

Of course, there will be plenty of *osher* and *kef* (joy and fun) for all ages before Purim, with Hebrew School classes resuming on Tuesday, January 2, and Cole Pressman’s Bar Mitzvah service on Saturday, January 6, at 9:30 AM. On Sunday, January 14, the schools will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Weekend.

On **Saturday, January 20, at 5:30 PM, we will present “Havdalah and a Movie”** for students in Kitot Hey and Vav (Grades 5 and 6), that will include a delicious pizza dinner, dessert, and the screening of the acclaimed feel-good comedy, *The Yankles*. A down-and-out ex-baseball star, Charlie Jones, needs to meet his court-ordered community service hours as a coach. The problem is, no team wants him. It takes the Yankles, an obscure Orthodox yeshiva baseball team desperate for a coach, to give Charlie his second chance. A humorous match made in heaven, both Charlie and the team experience a culture clash and new understandings as they rise to unexpected triumphs. With the championship in reach, it seems the Yankles just might need a miracle for that ultimate grand slam victory. A treat for everyone, *The Yankles* is a wonderful mix of Jewish values, friendship, tradition and modernity, with great laughs along the way.

On **Saturday, January 27, at 5:30 PM, our popular Havdalah Pajama Party** will feature stories, songs, arts and crafts, and delicious food for Playschool and Sunday School families. Parents and children are encouraged to wear their pajamas.

The following day, we will celebrate the new year for trees with our Sunday Schoolers’ Tu B’Sh’vat skits at 10:15 AM, followed by delicious fruity treats. Students in Kitot Gimel-Zayin will have a sweet feast at our annual Tu B’Sh’vat Seder on Tuesday that week.

On **Saturday, February 10, at 10:30 AM, our fabulous 5th graders from Kitah Hey will lead the Shabbat morning service with Hazzan Jessi**, so come start your day with soulful sounds, spirituality, and smiles! A delicious meal will follow, and everyone is invited to join us for the service and lunch. We just need your RSVP for lunch to Leanne by Thursday, February 8: office@societyhillssynagogue.org.

On Sunday, February 18, school will be closed in observance of Presidents’ Weekend. **On Sunday, February 25, classes for all grades from Gan (Kindergarten) through Hebrew High will meet from 9–11 AM, and then the Purim Carnival festivities will follow at 11 AM.** It’s going to be a wonderful winter!

See Hebrew School photos on P. 18.

Playschool

Happy New Year from the Playschool!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

We hope that everyone had a fabulous and restful winter break! A new year means new and exciting field trips and lessons in the Playschool. As we enjoy the chilly winter weather, the children will learn new winter songs, read some new winter stories, and create some winter weather projects. We hope to have some snow so that we can go outside and test out our winter boots.

In the Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children will focus on making resolutions for the New Year and learn about the social skills required to form friendships. The children in all of our classes will plant some parsley seeds for the holiday of Tu B'Sh'vat, at the end of January. They will care for their plants and observe their growth before taking them home for Passover. We hope you will be able to use the parsley in your holiday cooking! Purim celebrations will take place in all of our Playschool classes during the month of March, and our annual **SHS Purim Carnival will be on Sunday, February 25, from 11 AM until 1 PM.**

The Pre-Kindergarten classes will venture to the Insectarium on Thursday, February 15, where they will learn about different types of insects and tour the Insectarium's newest interactive butterfly exhibit! The Pre-K will also have their annual **"Donuts with Dads" breakfast on Thursday, February 1, at 8 AM.** This is always a great event for our dads to come together and socialize with their children! Toward the end of February, the Pre-K students will make their theater debut and perform an original show, under the direction of our drama teacher Vanda Thomas. This one-time performance will take place on Thursday, February 22, at 1 PM. Don't forget to reserve your tickets ahead of time!

There are still a few spots available in our classes for the September 2018–May 2019 school year. Applications can be downloaded from the SHS website (www.societyhillssynagogue.org) -- just click on the "Learning" tab.

Children in our classes for 2-year-olds have opportunities to play, interact with friends, engage in music and movement activities, ride bikes outside, listen to storybook readings, create unique art projects, and celebrate Shabbat. These classes provide an outstanding "first school experience," and with our flexible scheduling, children are able to attend two, three, four, or five days per week.

Students in the class for 3–4-year-olds participate in free-play, circle time, calendar, and story time. They also engage in dynamic and stimulating projects, outdoor play, yoga, and weekly Shabbat celebrations. Our spacious Social Hall is divided into many play and work areas that allow the students to explore a variety of activities. Students may be enrolled for two, three, four, or five days per week.

Our Pre- K class meets Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. The Pre-K curriculum focuses on preparing our students for entering Kindergarten. Our students learn skills that promote readiness in reading, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, science, and social studies. They also learn about art, Shabbat, and Jewish holidays and themes. Throughout the school year, the children participate in a drama class that encourages them to express themselves in fun and creative ways. Pre-K parents participate in many interactive classroom lessons to help our students learn about community jobs and multiculturalism.

SHS Playschool is a parent co-operative preschool where parents, grandparents, or caregivers are scheduled to visit and/or assist in our classrooms on a rotating basis.

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Inter-NOSH-ional Night is Back!

Amy Shapiro

SHS's Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night will occur on **Saturday, February 3, at 7 PM!**

This is your chance to show off your culinary skills to members of your SHS family. We are looking for hosts to prepare, sponsor, and serve dinner (an international cuisine of your choice) for 6-12 people. In the past, some of our hosts even teamed up with a friend and cooked their meals together!

We would like to be able to start sharing host-chosen cuisine categories and menus by Thursday, January 4, so that our congregants can begin signing up for seats in hosts' homes. **If you would like to be a host, please contact me at hasajd@gmail.com or 215.280.3005 to share your planned cuisine type and menu by Tuesday, January 2.** Please include your email, phone number, and address in your email, and type "Inter-NOSH-ional Host" in the subject line. I will provide you with additional details (SHS Kosher guidelines, menu deadlines) at a later date.

If you'd like to participate as a guest in a host home, the attendance fee is \$54 per person; all proceeds will benefit this year's Annual Giving Fund. If space permits, this event is also open to non-members. Contact me ASAP to ensure that you get a seat at a table with the cuisine of your choice. You will find out which host's home you will be attending after you choose your cuisine. Remember, space is limited, and seats fill up quickly!

Host homes may not be Kosher—however, any chicken or meat served will be from a Kosher manufacturer, no dishes will contain shellfish, and meat products will not be mixed with dairy.

Don't miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation on February 3—all while supporting a wonderful community-building and fund-raising event for our shull!



Hazzan's Column

Celebrating the Divine Sparks Within Us

Jessi Roemer

Shalom and happy secular New Year!

A few weeks ago at my son's school, I asked a group of fourth graders why they think so many cultures originating in the Northern Hemisphere have holidays in winter, just as the days get coldest and darkest. One girl raised her hand and said, "Well, during the other seasons we get to go outside and celebrate the Earth. But in winter we can't do much out there, so we stay inside and celebrate ourselves!"

The Jewish mystics held that sparks of the Divine are scattered everywhere in the world and are present in every person and every thing. As my son's classmate spoke about winter celebrations of humanity, an image leapt to my mind of all the Divine sparks inside us having the chance to come together and shine a little more brightly during these months when outside light and heat from the sun recede.

As Jews, we never go too long without a winter celebration: Hanukkah is followed six weeks later by Tu B'Sh'vat, which already holds the promise of spring, and Purim—arguably the most serious celebration of ourselves—comes just a month after that. Not by accident, these minor holidays come at a time when our bodies, like the Earth, need to rest, replenish, and just enjoy being.

And yet, that winter stretch between Hanukkah and Tu B'Sh'vat can sometimes feel like the longest month and a half of the year; the candle-lighting festivals are over, it's cold and still dark, and spring feels very far away.

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Hazzan's Column

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This year at SHS, however, we have an antidote to the winter blues: On Saturday night, January 13, cantor, musician, and spiritual artist George Mordecai will gather a star-packed team of musicians to offer an evening of his incredible music inspired by the Judeo-Iraqi experience. The best part? It's happening right in our own synagogue! Together at this joyful, participatory Melaveh Malkah in the round, we will bid Shabbat farewell for another week with beautiful melodies stemming from George's Iraqi and Indian Jewish heritage, backed by the energizing musical contributions of Dr. Hankus Netsky, Zafer Tawil, Joey Weisenberg, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, and me.

I encourage you to check out the announcement in this Keshet, in the SHS weekly announcements, on the synagogue website, and on the SHS Facebook page for more information and the link for tickets. I really hope you will join us for this spectacular event—you'll be glad you did!

This winter, may we nurture our Divine sparks with all that lights us up. And may we say yes to the opportunities that come our way to bring those sparks together in community and song!

President's Column

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Despite the nasty weather outside, there was great warmth inside the Sanctuary as we enjoyed the wonderful music provided by Hazzan Jessi, along with Bob and Dan Blacksberg.

I look forward to being with all of you as we work together to enhance our spaces to make a positive impact on our spiritual, educational, and social interactions.

I wish each of you a healthy, fulfilling and peaceful New Year.

Student Rabbi's Column

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But sometimes we have a sense that the more rigid or strict a particular Jewish practice is, the more authentic it is.

History tells us otherwise. As Jews, we have often vacillated between various practices and observances, sometimes choosing a more standardized tack and other times offering more space for creativity and flexibility.

I want Jews and their families to feel empowered in the various choices they make with regard to their Jewish lives. This is not to say we can't, in our communities, develop criteria for what feels consistent with our tradition and what does not. We can and should put thought into wrestling with what our tradition teaches us. But often we assume that the more "small-c" conservative the approach to Judaism, the more authentic and legitimate it is.

I want us to break away from this assumption, especially when we approach our Jewish choices with respect for tradition, with open-mindedness, and with humility. This, after all, is part of what it means to be a Jew.

The Young Friends of SHS

Join Our E-Mail List!

Natalie Lesser & Jordan Segall

The Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue are a group of individuals who are creating a community that fosters Jewish identity, culture, and friendship. We meet for potluck dinners, pre-Shabbat drinks, and discussions about spiritual exploration. Join our e-mail list to learn about upcoming events.

For further information, please contact us at: (Natalie Lesser) lesser.natalie@gmail.com or (Jordan Segall) segall.jordan@gmail.com. We invite you to "like" our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/.

Young Families Group

Join Us for *Friday Nights with Young Families* on January 5!

Joanna Hart

We welcome all families with young children to join our warm and welcoming community! Parents, prospective members with young children, expectant parents, and any caretakers are invited to join our email list by contacting me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com. Our group nurtures all infants, babies, and toddlers—and we help those who love these little people to feel supported.

Once a month, we come together to share songs, prayers, and a potluck meal—all at a bedtime-friendly hour. A Jewish Education professional with years of experience leads our short, kid-friendly Shabbat services. We celebrate the joys of community and prayer, and participants will also learn to build their own memories and family traditions in their homes. No prior Jewish knowledge or experience is necessary. Our next *Friday Nights with Young Families* program will occur on Friday, January 5, at 5:30 PM (dinner will be at 6 PM).

We hope to see you in the first floor Playschool classrooms (enter through the Lawrence Court doors) on January 5, and again on February 9, March 9, April 27, and June 1. We look forward to meeting new families this year!

Playschool

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Our "Parent-of-the-Day" provides a healthy snack for the class and has the unique, first-hand opportunity to see how their child interacts with teachers and other children throughout the day. Parents often bring their own talents into our classrooms, helping to make each day an exciting learning experience for all of the children.

Remember that our Playschool offers extended care morning hours from 7:45 AM until 8:30 AM, and extended afternoon hours from 3 PM until 6 PM, Monday–Friday. We also offer Afterschool Arts Clubs for all of our students with different themed activities meets from 12:30 PM until 3 PM, Monday–Friday. Children may be enrolled daily, weekly or monthly depending on family needs.

The Playschool will be closed on Monday, January 15, in honor of MLK Day, on Friday, February 16, and Monday, February 19, for Presidents' Day weekend.

Please join us for our **Havdalah Pajama Party on Saturday, January 27, from 5:30 PM until 7 PM**. Fun for the entire family!

For further information or to make an appointment to visit our classrooms, please contact us at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org, or call the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, x 28.

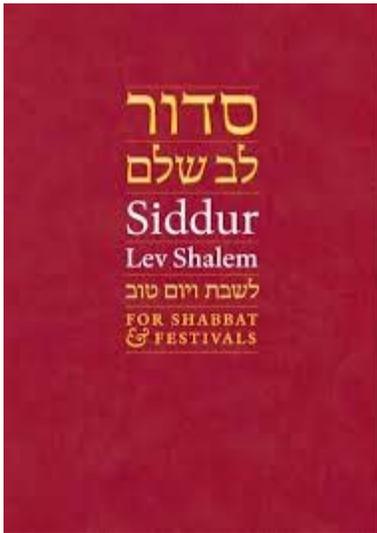
Religion Committee

A New Siddur for Shabbat Services

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

AS you know by now, we are happy to be using our new prayer book, the Rabbinical Assembly's ***Siddur Lev Shalem For Shabbat & Festivals***, at all Shabbat and holiday prayer services. This new prayer book contains extensive modern transliteration and translation and insightful adjunctive readings.

As we have done in the past, we'd like to offer our members the opportunity to dedicate books in memory/honor of loved ones. If you would like to dedicate a book, please send the following information to Betty or Leanne at office@societyhillssynagogue.org:



Your name:

Name for whom the book is dedicated (exactly as you would like it to appear on the bookplate on the inside cover):

In Memory of or In Honor of (indicate which):

Please send a check for \$36 per dedication, made out to Society Hill Synagogue, to 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia PA 19106, or call the office to charge the fee on your credit card (3% processing fee will be applied).

If you have questions, please contact Executive Director Betty van de Rijn at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. #23.

Adult Education

Two New Courses in January and February

Marc Schwartz

As we begin 2018, remember to check out our new Adult Education Courses. Please visit the SHS website for full course descriptions, or stop by the office for a hard copy of the 2017-18 Adult Education Brochure. New classes are indicated with three asterisks. The rest of the classes listed below have been meeting since September or October, but you may still wish to attend.

*****Yeshayahu Liebowitz vs. Rav Kook Session—Orthodox Thinkers Who Are Light Years Apart with Rabbi Avi Winokur**

Join Rabbi Winokur on **Tuesday, January 9, 7–9 PM**, for a discussion about the many varied practices and levels of Orthodoxy. Many of Jews and non-Jews have an appreciation that there is a vague difference between the Modern Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox, but Kook and Liebowitz do not fall into either of these categories. Both giants of Orthodoxy in Israel, they differ sharply in their understanding of the essence of Judaism.

*****Finding Balance: Pursuing Justice & Nourishing the Soul with Rabbi Avi Winokur**

Many of us are horrified by the current American political landscape and the assault on the poor, the vulnerable, minorities, and the environment. Many fear what we perceive to be a dangerous and directionless foreign policy and the degradation of our standing in the world. Whether it is fighting for decent health care, a living wage, environmental stewardship, support for education, and/or a host of other issues, the social justice principles that need our attention are overwhelming.

What can we do on any of these fronts? How can we keep from losing hope or losing our focus to the point where we become paralyzed to act? First, we must learn to cultivate our inner strength, endurance, and resilience. Then, we must find a balance between creating space in our lives for our families, our friends, and ourselves—without neglecting our responsibilities or sliding into inaction.

Join Rabbi Winokur for this stimulating class on **Tuesdays: 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6, 7–9 PM**, in the Beit Midrash.

SHSpirit in Song with Hazzan Jessi

Explore the magic of communal song and spirituality during these workshops on **Tuesdays: 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6**. Mark your calendars and start practicing your scales in the shower! Just kidding. No previous musical experience is necessary.

Women of the Bible, Midrash, and Talmud: A Textual Exploration of our Ancient Foremothers with Rabbi Marjorie Berman

This Shabbat Study class meets on **Saturdays at 10:15 AM**. Join us in the Social Hall on **1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, & 6/9**. While the women of the Bible and Talmud have often been ignored or overlooked, they have still found their way into commentaries and Midrash. In recent years, feminist scholars and poets alike have drawn our attention to both traditional sources and contemporary imaginings about the roles—powerful, subversive, paradoxical or mysterious—that these women play.

Pirke Avot & Spiritual Direction: How Our Ancient Tradition Can Help Us Find Holiness in the Everyday with Rabbi Marjorie Berman

Pirke Avot is often referred to as “*The Sayings of the Fathers*,” but an alternative translation is “*A Statement of Principles*.” It is a compilation of aphorisms and maxims attributed to the rabbis of the Mishnah, and its wide-ranging topics cover the ethics of everyday interactions, how to conduct a life of service, the significance of fair judgment, the importance of humility, the relationship between God and humanity, and more. Using this central Jewish text, we will explore how to create lives of meaning and service, how to become more aware and present to our daily experiences, and how to find a greater sense of holiness in the everyday. This class will meet on **1/10, 2/7, 3/7, 4/11, 5/9, & 6/6**.

Arts & Culture

Join Us for Two Special Events in January and More!

Eleanor Oxman

The Arts & Culture Group—made up of members Betta Kolansky, Ellen Fennick, Libby Kaiser, Carole LeFavre Rochester, and myself—is proud to report that we had another successful outing to see 1812 Production's *This Is the Week That Is* on November 30. Seventeen congregants enjoyed dinner at La Fontana Della Citta before the show and then laughed for two straight hours during the extremely humorous and timely political satire. We might just have to plan to go to this show every year!

1. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 20, 2018, for a Lunch & Learn with auctioneer Barry Slosberg and Rabbi Avi Winokur**. Barry will bring items of Judaica for analysis and discussion. Avi will reveal their history and purpose in Judaism and Barry will assess their value for the audience.

2. From Contributing author: Fran Gallun: **On Sunday, January 28, at 7 PM, join us as we welcome back to SHS Israeli director, writer, and film lecturer Udi Ben Seadia, who will lead a discussion about three movies**. Each film deals with the female character's struggles for equal rights and all films eventually realize the heroine's desires. The first film features a traditional Sephardi community in Jerusalem, the second film features young Arab women in Israel and their struggle within a patriarchal society, and the third film is set within the Israeli army and its supposedly liberal environment.

The three creative women behind these impactful films are Shlomit Nehama (who wrote the script for *The Women's Balcony*), Maysaloun Hamoud (who wrote and directed *Not Here, Not There*), and Talya Lavie (who wrote and directed *Zero Motivation*).

Udi currently has two one-act plays in production and has served as the chair of the Director's Association in Israel.

A dessert reception will follow the lecture. A \$10 donation is suggested, but feel free to give what you like.

The Women's Balcony: <https://www.menemshafilms.com/womens-balcony>

Not Here, Not There: <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/03/26/520157038/new-film-spotlights-palestinian-women-navigating-life-in-between-cultures>

Zero Motivation: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero_Motivation

3. SHS's annual Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night will take place on **Saturday, February 3, at 7 PM**. Sign up to be a host or a guest by contacting Amy Shapiro at hasajd@gmail.com. For more information, see article on page 8.

4. On **Saturday, March 31, we will have our annual Second Night Pesah Seder** in the Social Hall.

5. Unfortunately, our second walking tour of Old Jewish South Philadelphia, scheduled for April and led by esteemed historian Rabbi Lance Sussman, has been cancelled. We hope to arrange this popular tour again in 2019.

Social Action

Organizing Libraries and Helping Refugee Families

Phyllis Denbo

Library Organization Day II

In its second year, the reading program at Vare-Washington Elementary School continues to be a heartwarming success. Under the leadership of Flora Wolf, SHS volunteers welcome library students in grades K–5, read books to them, and assist them in selecting books that they may check out. The fifth grade classes were added to the program this year. Teams of two or three volunteers meet with the two classes at each grade level for 45 minutes every other week. The enthusiasm of the students, especially when selecting books to borrow, is delightful to watch. This year, the SHS volunteers also ran the school's annual book fair; they were available in the auditorium at designated times to assist the students in selecting books and to receive and record their payments.

Throughout the year, Flora and the other volunteers have made a valiant effort to keep the books in order but have come to realize that the shelving system is less than ideal. They have, therefore, designed an alternative system that will be easier for the students to use and more efficient volunteers to organize. In addition, there is a need to cull the shelved books and to incorporate recently contributed books into the system.

To complete these important tasks, we are again inviting SHS members of all ages to join us at the Vare-Washington school on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, **Monday, January 15, 2018, at 10 AM, for the Second Annual Library Organization Day.** The school is located at the corner of 5th and Federal Streets in South Philadelphia, and the library is on the second floor.

For further information, please contact Flora Wolf at fbwolf42@gmail.com or me at prdenbo@gmail.com.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Adopting a Refugee Family

The Social Action Committee is recommending that Society Hill Synagogue move ahead with the adoption of a refugee family in 2018. The majority of responses to the questionnaire distributed in the spring supported this initiative. The need, given current national and international developments, is compelling. And the potential for collaboration with Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI) on this project is substantial.

We have been in contact with HIAS throughout this deliberative process, and they have told us that although immigrants from a number of countries are currently excluded, individuals and families continue to arrive from other countries. The numbers have decreased for now, but the need is real and could pick up again.

We would like to form a team now that would be ready to hit the ground running when we get word from HIAS that a refugee family in need of assistance and support has arrived. We know, however, that many of you would like to know exactly what's involved before you decide to participate in the effort.

On **Sunday, January 21, from 2 until 4 PM, HIAS senior staff responsible for the settlement of refugees will offer a training session on the nuts and bolts of the process.** What is required in working with a family? What are possible areas of need and the time required to help meet those needs? What special skills and knowledge might be useful in working with the families? What is the best structure for effectively and efficiently supporting a family? How long is the commitment? They will also help us to reflect on why we want to do this and answer any and all questions we might have. Whether you would like to participate in this project or would like to know more about it before deciding if you want to become involved, or whether you are just interested in what's happening in Philadelphia with respect to refugees so that you might engage others, please join us to learn more. Light refreshments will be served, and supervised childcare will be available. For further information, contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com or 215.755.2734.



TGISHabbat Services in January & February

On **Friday, January 26, at 6:15 PM**, we will welcome Cuban-American cellist and award-winning Astral Artist Thomas Mesa, who is quickly becoming one of the most charismatic and versatile performers of his generation. A winner of Astral's 2017 National Auditions, he was also the top prizewinner at the Sphinx Competition (2016), the Thaviu Competition for String Performance (2013), and the Alhambra Orchestra Concerto Competition (2006). Mr. Mesa was a featured instrumentalist on The Crossing's 2017 Grammy-

nominated album *Bonhoeffer*. As a chamber musician, Mr. Mesa has toured internationally with Itzhak Perlman, and is a member of the St. Petersburg Piano Quartet, which has played to numerous sold-out audiences. He has held faculty positions at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Montecito International Music Festival, St. Petersburg International Music Academy, the Mozart Academy at John Jay College, and the Manhattan School of Music—where he currently teaches through the Long Distance Learning Program.

Mr. Mesa is a graduate of The Juilliard School and Northwestern University. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music.

Mr. Mesa plays a Richard Tobin cello, dated 1820.

On **Friday, February 23, at 6:15 PM**, we will welcome saxophonist and award-winning Astral Artist Jonathan Wintringham.

"A major force in the saxophone world" (American Record Guide), saxophonist Jonathan Wintringham has been described as "absolutely stunning" and "nothing short of a virtuoso" ('The Sax' Magazine, Japan).

Jonathan has given recitals, masterclasses, and residencies throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, England, and Japan. A winner of Astral's 2013 National Auditions, Mr. Wintringham has received awards in more than 20 competitions, including the Mahler Philharmonic Artists Auditions, the MTNA National Young Artist Competition and Chamber Music Competition, and others. He has given guest artist recitals and masterclasses at numerous institutions, and he was the first saxophonist ever to be featured on American Public Radio's *Performance Today: Young Artist in Residence*. His debut CD, *Walimai*, has been broadcast internationally on England's BBC and Japan's FMN1, and it is available on the Equilibrium (Albany) label. Jonathan Wintringham is a Conn-Selmer artist and plays Selmer (Paris) saxophones exclusively. He is also a Mahler Philharmonic Performing Artist and an endorsing artist for MusicMedic.com's RooPads.

Guess Who Came to Shabbas?

Bonny Hohenberger

"...It was a great experience...everyone was so friendly...no one would have ever imagined that it was a group of strangers meeting for the first time...truly demonstrated the community nature of synagogue involvement..."

"We just moved to the neighborhood in July, and we have an instant community."

"There was nonstop conversation at the table."

"...it was so special to gather together in the warmth of their home for candle lighting, Kiddush, Motzi and song. New relationships were developed and all relationships were enriched."

"We drank wine and played games with our guests until almost midnight :)"

"Memorable evening in every way."

These were just a few of the many comments I received praising this year's "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" event that has become an annual Society Hill Synagogue tradition. Once again, hosts invited fellow congregants (and a few friends) to participate in Friday evening Shabbat celebrations in their homes. Six generous families volunteered to host (unfortunately, one host had to cancel due to a family emergency, but she has graciously offered to reschedule the dinner in January), and a total of 61 congregants participated. In addition, unbeknown to this coordinator, two members of Rabbi Winokur's Nuts and Bolts class invited their classmates for a Shabbat meal at their home on the same night. I was later informed that this group's Shabbat celebration was specifically geared to college-age members of our synagogue to "include them in the socialization aspect that is so integral to Shabbat." What a wonderful example of spontaneous synagogue hospitality!

Many thanks to Robin & Ron Feinberg and Fran Gallun & Len Weinberg (co-hosts), Jacqui Rick & Michael Yudell, Ashleigh Reibach & Richard Huggett, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman & Jerry Faich, Bonnie & Michael Slobodien, Betty & Bart Kaplan, and David Gould & Victoria Lai. And many thanks to all of the guests who attended this event.

And to quote one more guest,

"There is no better way to build relationships, a sense of community, and enjoyment in Shabbat rituals—than to share these experiences in someone's home. It is so worthwhile."

Let us toast to many more years of SHS home hospitality! See photos on P. 19.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Phyllis Denbo
Daniel Feinberg
Harry Feinberg
Walter Ferst
Nathaniel Gearhart-Robboy
Michael Hafter
Peter Piven
Nathan Farbman
James Rosenstein
Peter Eizen
Joshua Wolson
Jeanne Bell
Nella Bloom
Karen Kaufman
Jennifer Schwartz
Ezra Goldfinger
Hava Goldfinger
Sheri Gifford
Judith Green
Leslie Hafter
Rachel Margolin
Jared Eizen
Jack Goldenberg
Samuel Lear
Samuel Feinberg
Yaeli Zhang
Elias Zaring
Jesse Abrams-Morley
Merle Salkin
Debra Weissbach
Nancy Morgenstern
Scot Ziskind
Beatrice Acker
Jean Blumberg
Mark Dichter
Talia Mono
Noam Rosenberg
Richard Morgenstern
Tova Ztaoui
Jean Galbraith
Gabriel Goldberg
Steve Morley
Ezzie Susco-Stearns
Holman Massey
Diane Harrison

Jonathan Grode
Camille Weil
Michele Margolis

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Judy Rohtbart
Colleen Wyse
Evan Chrismer
Nancy Goldenberg
Ric Hayman
Carl Dranoff
Louis Marion
Susan Snedden
Yul Summers
Ira Rubinfeld
Marc Goldenberg
Gary Love
Claire Dubin
Linda Joy Goldner
Debbie Jaffe
Aaron Davidson
Randi Glatzer
Ronan Femia
Sofia Newberg
Paul Rosen
Aminda Kirschenbaum
Len Weinberg
Gail Massey
Giacomo Weil
Ilana Dean-Schmidt
Adam Ziegfeld
Elayne Bloom
Liron Prystowsky
Benjamin Rosenberg
Joshua Sztul
Wilma Bass
Carole Gottlieb
Jennifer Raphael
Susan Hakkarainan
Elizabeth Fletman
Michael Yudell

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
Barry & Joann Slosberg

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

David & Linda Paskin
Bill & Rina Mitchell
Larry & Paula Ninerell
Marc & Hillary Gutstein
Arthur & Janet Cherry

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazel Tov to

Sayde Ladov for receiving the 2017 Benjamin F. Levy Community Service Award at the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society on November 28, 2017.

Mitchell Bach on receiving the 2018 Fellows Award of the American Bar Foundation in Vancouver, Canada.

Condolences to

Doug (Debra Block) **Smullens** on the death of his mother, Sondra Hurley.

Tony (Judy) **Lalli** on the death of his Mother, Lidie Lalli.

Welcome to New Members

David Serlin & Susan Denbo
Laurie Leas

Ezra Goldenberg

Verna Segal

Xander Segal



Kitah Vav teachers and students with the Torah-inspired scroll they and their classmates created to demonstrate some of the blessings and prayers they have mastered.

Hebrew School students with 18-year-old Jakob and David, German volunteers in Philadelphia from Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), who met with our students and participated in our school's Kristallnacht remembrance program on November 5.

Kitah Gimel mom Verna Segal was our special guest for a lesson on the history of chocolate gelt, and she taught our Kitah Gimel and Kitah Dalet teachers and students how to make their own chocolate gelt with milk chocolate, freeze-dried raspberries, vegan marshmallows, and crystallized ginger, all wrapped in handmade gold foil and beautiful packaging.



PHOTO GALLERY

“Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™”



Hanukkah Happening



Contributions

General Fund

Speedy Recovery to
Deborah Goodkin
Curtis Lizenbaum

In Appreciation of SHS

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg

In Honor of

Gail Massey, 2017 Kallat B'reishit Recipient
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Jay Meadway & Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway

Noah Herman & Terry Graboyes

Theatre Director Debut
Bill & Debra Stewart

In Memory of

Lidie Lalli, Mother of Tony Lalli
Walter Ferst

Sam Spiller, Husband of Judy Spiller

Roberta Marcus

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Eugene Lizenbaum, Husband of Mildred Lizenbaum
Mildred Lizenbaum

Eugene Lizenbaum, Father of Curtis Lizenbaum

Curtis Lizenbaum

Ann Doris Rosenberg, Sister of Jerome Rosenberg

Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

Helen Cohn, Mother of Alan Cohn

Alan Cohn

Phil Sherman

Mildred Lizenbaum & Curtis Lizenbaum

Annual Giving

In Honor of

Larry Spector & Ann Rosen Spector
Barbara Spector

Restoration Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Robert Segal, Husband of Evelyn Segal
Evelyn Segal

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Social Action Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debbie Weissbach
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Playschool Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Shirley & Joseph Graboyes, Parents of Terry Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Dennis Stein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Avi Winokur
George Hurley
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
Dennis Stein

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Benjamin Fennick, Father of Ellen Fennick
Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

Marian Rosenberg, Mother of Martin Rosenberg

Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

Col. Milton L. Rosen, Father of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Elisa H. Kolansky, Mother of Betta Kolansky

Betta Kolansky

Seth Palmer, Son of Karen Palmer

Karen Palmer

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Continued

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Philip Rosen, Husband of Debra Rosen

Debra Rosen

Martin G. Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Isadore Goldenberg, Father of Marc Goldenberg

Marc & Nancy Goldenberg

Isadore Goldenberg, Grandfather of Jack & Alice Goldenberg

Jack & Alice Goldenberg

Pauline Schertz Rosen, Mother of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Morris & Beatrice Chernock, Parents of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Mildred Druckman, Mother of Karen Palmer

Karen Palmer

Kiddush Fund

Speedy Recovery

Trina Jacobs

Stan & Judith Woloff

Rob Senick

In Appreciation of

October TGIShabbat

Linda Lewis-Moors

Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach

David & Susan Finkelstein

Brent & Leah Jordan

Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum

Mildred Lizenbaum

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Craig Pressman & Sandy Lazovitz

Michael Rochester & Carole Le Faivre-Rochester

Jordan Segal & Natalie Lesser

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Stan & Judith Woloff

The Hayman Family TGIShabbat Sponsorship

Stan & Judith Woloff

In Memory of

Lidie Lalli, Mother of Tony Lalli

Stan & Judith Woloff

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund

In Honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Harry Feinberg

Bill & Debra Stewart

Michael & Joy Roe

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Sonia Kaiser, Mother of Ron Kaiser

Ron & Libby Kaiser

Irene Teller, Mother of Judy Rohtbart

Judy Rohtbart

Annual Giving Fund

Jud Aaron & Susan Snedden

Elayne Bloom

Richard Braemer & Amy Finkel

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Joel Chernock

Arthur & Janet Cherry

Noah & Sara Chrismer

Joshua Cooper & Jamie Cooperstein

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Peter Gearhart & Alex Robboy

Terry Graboyes

Jonathan Grode & Jayne Bird

Noah Herman

Ron & Libby Kaiser

Ronald & Carla Krasnick

David & Sayde Ladov

Piers Marchant & Audrey Jaros

Craig Pressman & Sandra Lazovitz

Michael Rochester & Carole Le Faivre-Rochester

Paul & Wendy Rosen

Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

Matthew & Brooke Salzman

Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

Michael & Bonnie Slobodien

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day Building Closed 	7:15 AM Minyan Playschool & Hebrew School Resume	7 PM Education Leadership Mtg.		5:30 PM Young Families Group 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Sh'mot 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Cole Pressman
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Liebowitz vs Kook Session 7:30 PM Intro to Hebrew	7:30 PM Spiritual Direction		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Va-era 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 8 PM Melaveh Malkah Concert with George Mordecai
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Building Closed	MLK Day Building Closed 	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song 7:30 PM Intro to Hebrew			6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Bo 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service Arts & Culture Lunch & Learn 4 PM HS Havdalah Movie Night
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze 2 PM Social Action	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song 7:30 PM Intro to Hebrew	7 PM Education Committee Mtg.		6:15 PM TG Shabbat featuring Astral Artist Tom Mesa	B'shallaḥ 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 5:30 PM Havdalah PJ Service
28	29	30	31			
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM The Jewish Nation 2 PM Film Director Udi Ben Seadia Lecture	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song 7:15 PM Past Presidents Mtg. 7:30 PM Intro to Hebrew				

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Tu B'Sh'vat	6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Yitro 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service Inter NOSH ional Nite
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11 AM The Jewish Nation		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 HS 6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song	7:30 PM Spiritual Direction		5:30 PM Young Families Group 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Mishpatim 9 AM Torah Study 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Hay Class Service & Lunch
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Balancing the Pursuit of Social Justice			Office/PS Closed 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	T'rumah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Building Closed	President's Day Building Closed 	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Balancing the Pursuit of Social Justice			6:15 PM TGIS habbat featuring Astral Artist Jonathan Wintringham	T'tzayven 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
25	26	27	28			
9-11 AM SS/HS 11 AM to 1 PM Purim Carnival	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Balancing the Pursuit of Social Justice	Purim Celebration 7 PM Cantata 7:30 PM Scotch Tasting 8 PM Megillah Reading			

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

OUR ANNUAL
SECOND NIGHT
PESAH SEDER

2018 SHS B’Nai Mitzvah Celebrations

January 6, 2018

Cole Pressman

Son of Craig Pressman & Sandra Lazovitz

March 3

Rachel and Max Ladenson

Anne Ballen Ladenson

Daughter and Son of Anne Ballen Ladenson & Michael Ladenson

March 10

Sadie Margolin

Daughter of Rachel Margolin

March 17

Raphael Englander

Son of Brian & Juliette Englander

May 26

Nathaniel Stover Steerman

Son of Maryann Stover & Amy Steerman

June 9

Maya Salzman

Daughter of Matthew & Brooke Salzman

June 23

Chuck & Nick Schaeffer

Sons of Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg



A Practice Recipe for Pesah!

Gefilte fish is one of those recipes where touch and taste are essential ingredients. A basic recipe goes this way: "You put in this and add that." If you don't want to taste the raw fish, add a bit more seasoning than you normally would. What makes this recipe

Galicianer (southern Polish) is the addition of sugar. For some reason the farther south in Poland, the more sugar would be added. A Lithuanian Jew would never sweeten with sugar but might add beets to the stock. I have added ground carrot and parsnip to the fish, something that is done in the Ukraine, because I like the slightly sweet taste and rougher texture. If you want a darker broth, do not peel the onions and leave them whole.

INGREDIENTS

- 7 to 7 1/2 pounds whole carp, whitefish, and pike, filleted and ground*
- 4 quarts cold water or to just cover
- 3 teaspoons salt or to taste
- 3 onions, peeled
- 4 medium carrots, peeled
- 2 tablespoons sugar or to taste
- 1 small parsnip, chopped (optional)
- 3 to 4 large eggs
- Freshly ground pepper to taste 1/2 cup cold water (approximately)
- 1/3 cup matzah meal (approximately)
- *Ask your fishmonger to grind the fish. Ask him to reserve the tails, fins, heads, and bones. Be sure he gives you the bones and trimmings. The more whitefish you add, the softer your gefilte fish will be.

PREPARATION

1. Place the reserved bones, skin, and fish heads in a wide, very large saucepan with a cover. Add the water and 2 teaspoons of the salt and bring to a boil. Remove the foam that accumulates.
2. Slice 1 onion in rounds and add along with 3 of the carrots. Add the sugar and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for about 20 minutes while the fish mixture is being prepared.
3. Place the ground fish in a bowl. In a food processor finely chop the remaining onions, the remaining carrot, and the parsnip; or mince them by hand. Add the chopped vegetables to the ground fish.
4. Add the eggs, one at a time, the remaining teaspoon of salt, pepper, and the cold water, and mix thoroughly. Stir in enough matzah meal to make a light, soft mixture into oval shapes, about 3 inches long. Take the last fish head and stuff the cavity with the ground fish mixture.
5. Remove from the saucepan the onions, skins, head, and bones and return the stock to a simmer. Gently place the fish patties in the simmering fish stock. Cover loosely and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes. Taste the liquid while the fish is cooking and add seasoning to taste. Shake the pot periodically so the fish patties won't stick. When gefilte fish is cooked, remove from the water and allow to cool for at least 15 minutes.
6. Using a slotted spoon carefully remove the gefilte fish and arrange on a platter. Strain some of the stock over the fish, saving the rest in a bowl. Slice the cooked carrots into rounds cut on a diagonal about 1/4 inch thick. Place a carrot round on top of each gefilte fish patty. Put the fish head in the center and decorate the eyes with carrots. Chill until ready to serve. Serve with a sprig of parsley and horseradish. Yield: about 26 patties (P)

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**
Nathan Kamesar, **Student Rabbi**
Jessi Roemer, **Hazzan**
Harry Oxman, **President**
Betty van de Rijn, **Executive Director & Keshet Publisher**
Sahar Oz, **Education Director**
Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan, **Playschool Co-Directors**
Staci Schwartz, **Keshet Editor**

