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418 Spruce Street
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215.922.6590 Phone
215.922.6599 Fax

Limmud Philly 2012: You Don't Want To Miss It!

Phyllis Denbo

Mark your calendars for Limmud Philly 2012, Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29! Here is just a sampling of the more than 70 amazing scheduled presentations:

- A cooking demonstration by a James Beard Award-winning chef, who will also talk about Jewish food around the world
- A talk on the future of democracy in Israel by a past Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
- A presentation on the Arab Spring by a media maven and co-author (with Dennis Ross) of a book on America and the Middle East
- A play about the history and absurdity of prejudice and the power of diversity performed by two very funny guys, one Jewish and one black
- A discussion about the role of Jews in the 2012 presidential election led by the former editor of *The Forward* and the *Jewish Exponent*
- A tap dance lesson set to Jewish themes taught by an artist who trained with Savion Glover and performed with Matisyahu
- A screening of testimonies from the survivors of Rwanda presented by an Emmy Award-winning producer who trained under Ken Burns
- A opportunity to hear and sing the new Jewish "soul" music with a local Cantor who lived in both Austin, Texas, and Israel

Among the vast array of classes offered, three presenters will be from SHS: Rabbi Winokur on God, Marty Rosenberg on Visual Midrash and Rafi Licht on Talmud.

It will all begin on Saturday evening with a Havdalah service at 8:30 PM, followed by a concert with the always delightful *Maccabeats*. There will be multiple non-stop, simultaneous sessions, so you will have to make some tough choices.

Go to LimmudPhilly.org for further information and to register.

Please join us for the
SHS Annual Congregational Meeting
on **Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 PM**
in the Social Hall.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Rabbi's Column Have a Joyous and Thoughtful Pesah

Avi Winokur

Purim with its fun and silliness are behind us, and Pesah with its celebration of freedom and liberation is just around the corner. While freedom and liberation are certainly causes for celebration, I offer two stories to remind us that the world is far from redeemed and to suggest that if Passover is to mean something, it must mean that working towards a world of greater freedom for more people is central to that meaning.

"I was arrested in the Postville, Iowa raid at the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant [in 2008]. I was at work around 10 AM, doing work that is very hard, lifting very heavy things and working long hours, and all of a sudden, people started yelling that [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] had arrived. We all started running and crying. [Immigration authorities] loaded us on a bus and from 10 AM until 8 PM we sat and waited. We saw our male co-workers taken away and some of us women had ankle bracelets put on so we could go back to our children. After they let us go, I went to the church. My two daughters were there. We stayed at the church for the night, and then four more days after that. My seven-year-old asked me, 'What is happening to you and why do you have that [ankle bracelet] on your foot?' I explained to her what had happened and that we would have to go to Mexico. She told me she does not want to go because she was born here, this is her home and she wants to learn more English. It is very hard for me, too. After nine years here, I don't want to go to back to Mexico. I came here to give my children a better future and I am hopeful that the last word will be good from the judge. Our only crime was to come here and work. Now that I can no longer work, I can no longer provide for my children, but I keep trusting in God that all of this will come to an end for the welfare of my children."

*--Quendy Alejandria Garcia—from the 67 page Toolkit as part of HIAS' (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) **We Were Strangers Too: Jewish campaign for Immigrant Reform.***

During an interview Chris Cleave recounts the following true story that inspired him to write *Little Bee*.

"In 2001, an Angolan man named Manuel Bravo fled to England and claimed asylum on the grounds that he and his family would be persecuted and killed if they were returned to Angola. He lived in a state of uncertainty for four years pending a decision on his application. Then, without warning, in September 2005, Manuel Bravo and his thirteen-year-old son were seized in a dawn raid and interned at an Immigration Removal Centre in southern England. They were told they would be forcibly deported to Angola the next morning. That night, Manuel Bravo took his own life by hanging himself in a stairwell. His son was awakened in his cell and told the news. What had happened was that Manuel Bravo, aware of a rule under which unaccompanied minors cannot be deported from the UK, had taken his own life in order to save the life of his son. His last words to his child were: 'Be brave. Work hard. Do well at school.'"

With only a passing familiarity with American Immigration law and practice, one can easily imagine this tragedy unfolding on our shores. Leviticus 19:13 commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Later in the same chapter we are commanded: "When a stranger resides with you in your land you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens and you shall love as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I, Adonai, am your God."

This Passover, make our history part of your Seder. Take some time and learn about Immigration Reform and write your congressperson. Demand swift action to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act that has been allowed to lapse. Find a story or two on your own and share that with those who sit at your Seder table. Online resources are not difficult to access: HIAS, fightslaverynow.org, The New York Times—or simply google "human trafficking" or "immigration reform."

The Haggadah commands: "In every generation each of us is obligated to view ourselves as if we ourselves went forth from Egypt." Our sense of obligation is so diminished and so weak, let us at least try to make something of this most sacred of obligations—never to lose touch with our own story and never diminish its sanctity by simply leaving it as a quaint tale to be haltingly recounted once a year and then discarded until the next year.

Pesah sameah. Have a joyous and thoughtful Pesah.



President's Column Membership Survey Results to Be Revealed at the SHS Annual Meeting on Wednesday,

May 16 at 7:30 PM

Walter Ferst

By now all of you know that one of the underlying Synagogue leadership themes over the past couple of years has been to transform the congregation at Society Hill Synagogue into a more engaged community. Although we have primarily focused on the engagement of our members, our efforts have rightfully not been limited to this group, but rather to reach out to the greater Philadelphia Jewish community as well. As you all know, our first project involved the development and implementation of our wonderfully successful monthly TGIShabbat service, but that was just the beginning.

Over the past year, the Board has not only read, but also studied along with Rabbi Winokur the lessons to be gleaned from Rabbi Ron Wolfson's book, *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Congregation Into a Sacred Community*. With that as a foundation and starting point, we then conducted a survey of the membership to better understand and appreciate how the Synagogue addresses, or in some instances fails to address, the wants, needs and aspirations of the membership. In addition, on a select basis, members of our Transformation Committee reached out to a number of other synagogues around the country to better understand how they engage their members and to ascertain from their perspective "what works and what doesn't"! As should come as no surprise, issues related to engagement of the synagogue membership are not unique to Society Hill Synagogue.

The membership survey has been completed and our own Nancy Burd (who in her day job is a non-profit consultant) who will share the results of this survey with the congregation at the **Annual Meeting scheduled for May 16 at 7:30 PM.**

Although I appreciate that, in the past, attending the Synagogue's Annual Meeting was not high on everyone's personal agenda, I assure you that Nancy's review of the Survey's results will be an eye opener and well worth your time. I urge all to attend! I am convinced that we are on to something here, and even more convinced that we will not be able to create the kind of community that we would like to have without a strong "buy-in" from our members.

Ultimately, and when our budget allows for this goal, we would like to be able to hire a Director of Engagement. Phyllis Denbo has already offered to chair a subcommittee to undertake the search and selection of such an individual once it is determined that we can add this new position to our staff. A Director of Engagement's primary task would be to focus on the wants, needs, concerns and desires of our membership.

In an effort to bring all of our members into the engagement process, the Synagogue will deliver to each family a copy *The Spirituality of Welcoming* around the time of the High Holy Days. Rabbi Winokur will address these issues in one or more of his High Holy Day sermons and we are currently planning a fall Shabbaton to study and address, as a community, the various themes addressed by Rabbi Wolfson in his book. We have already been in touch with Rabbi Wolfson and arrangements are being made to confirm a date with him to lead the SHS community in an in-depth, stimulating discussion and analysis of these issues. I look forward to participating with all of you as we move this process forward.

As I will no doubt not see most of you before Pesah, I wish all of you a sweet and joyous holiday!



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Cantor's Column

Join Us for a Service of Memory on the Eve of Yom Hashoah

Bob Freedman

Yom Hashoah is a little like Hanukkah. Both teach us how to cope with darkness.

On Hanukkah we focus on the lighted candles and the Maccabees' victory. The evil king Antiochus and his systematic persecution of the Jews get only passing mention.

On Yom Hashoah, we gaze directly into the darkness. The pain of the Holocaust, only two generations past, is still present for us, and the victory that we hoped would end war and our inhumanity toward other humans was and is not complete. Yet our ability to commemorate at all serves to banish some of the shadow.

There is still no established liturgy for Yom Hashoah. Certain poems and songs have, however, become customary. Two of the poems are from children who were interred at Terezin. In one a boy named Pavel remembers seeing a butterfly, bright yellow like a tear from the sun that, seemingly by mistake, found its way into the camp, then flew away. In another, an unnamed poet sees flowering chestnut trees at dusk and concludes, "If in barbed wire things can bloom, why couldn't I? I will not die."

The famous song of the Resistance, "Zog Nit Keynmol," begins, "Never say that you are traveling the final road." It became the anthem of the partisans, reminding them that losing hope was not an option.

"Eli, Eli" ("My God, My God") is a poem by Hannah Senesh about walking on the beach at Ceasarea in a thunderstorm. It is a plea that just as sea, sand, lightning, and thunder are constants in God's creation, prayer will never depart from human hearts.

As the chanting starts, we are assailed by doubt: How can we sing this in the face of the Holocaust? Somehow, maybe out of habit alone, we continue singing, and at the prayer's end we ask that the lives of those who have died be woven by the power of memory into the fabric of life. Perhaps this is God's mercy: that we are given the ability to remember and thereby ennoble the 6 million who were murdered. Without that divine gift, their deaths would truly have been horribly, unredeemably empty.

These and other texts will be part of our service of memory on the eve of Yom Hashoah, Wednesday, April 18, at 7:15 PM. Please join us.

Why Attend Tuesday Minyan?

Jerry Roller

I first came to the Tuesday Minyan at SHS when my Mom died. It seemed like a good way to say Kaddish, somewhere between trying to go to a daily minyan at another shul and leaving it to Saturdays and the conflicts of weekend scheduling. What I found was a really nice way to start the day, with a very brief time commitment. The small group attending is convivial, and the 25-minute service is just enough to allow for personal thought and contemplation. And the once a week schedule is doable.

The success of the Tuesday Minyan depends on there being nine other folks equally committed to attending. The purpose of minyan is to bring Jews together to build a community through a shared prayer experience. That is the beauty of requiring a minyan to say Kaddish, insuring that folks in mourning seek out others for social discourse.

This is an appeal to the congregation. We need a few more folks to become regular Tuesday Morning Minyan attendees, so that we can maintain the community needed for a minyan.

Please consider coming regularly, whether once a week or once a month. We start at 7:15 AM and are finished by 7:40 AM, a short service to start the day. You will find the experience surprisingly satisfying, and it will help our community in providing an easy way to fulfill the spiritual needs of saying Kaddish.

If you need further information, or want to talk about it, please call me at 215.928.0321 or contact Bobby Jacobs - Meadway at rjacobsmeadway@eckertseamsns.com. Thanks for your help.



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School Tzedakah Is a State of Mind

Merle Salkin

SHS Hebrew School students are giving tzedakah to our world. I want to tell you what some of them have been doing recently.

The students have received photographs, a *todah*, and good wishes from the organization Connections Israel, which provides Purim packages (*mishloah manot*) for Israeli soldiers on duty during the holiday. We contributed three hundred dollars and holiday notes to support an entire unit.

As part of becoming a Bat Mitzvah, **Ellery Schiller** donated funds to the World Wildlife Fund and symbolically adopted a black jaguar named ... Chai. Once found in places from the southwestern United States to northern Argentina, jaguars today live only in Central and South America. You may visit with Chai in the school office (a very special kind of zoo).

Ellie Zack continues her family's tradition of caring for the less fortunate. She celebrated her call to the Torah with a food collection and packaging drive to support Philabundance. Almost a million people in the Delaware Valley live with hunger every day. Philabundance was created in 1984 with the belief that no man, woman, or child should go hungry. The organization merged with the Philadelphia Food Bank in 2005 and became the region's largest hunger relief organization. It addresses hunger through direct service programs with a network of 500 member agencies, as well as contributing to social services through food cupboards, emergency kitchens, shelters, day care, and senior centers.

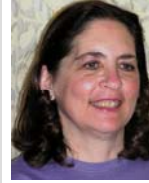
On Sunday, March 18, our Dalet and Hay Classes packed and delivered food boxes under the auspices of the Jewish Relief Agency. Tzedakah is a state of mind and is so much more than contributing money.

Calendar Notes

April

April 15	All classes resume
April 21, 10:30 AM	Second Grade and Hebrew High classes participate in Family Service

Continued on page 6



Playschool It's Time to Register for Summer Camp!

Gloria Parris

Springtime in the Playschool means planning for summer camp. Our camp program has always been a great way for children, ages 2 to 4 years old, to spend their summer mornings. **The camp season begins on Monday, June 4 and extends for eight weeks through Thursday, July 26.** Camp is in session Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Children can be enrolled for the full 8-week program, weekly, on a Monday and Wednesday schedule, a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, or daily. There are a limited number of spots available. Our camp program offers a fun-filled summer for youngsters. Some of our camp activities include indoor and outdoor play, themed arts and crafts projects, circle time, storytelling, bike-riding, creative movement, camp songs, and water fun in kiddie pools. Each day, a healthy snack is provided by one of our families and the children bring their own dairy lunch. Summer is almost here, and now is the time to make plans for your children. For more information about the Playschool Summer Camp or to receive a summer camp application, contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or email gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org.

The children in all of our classes have been learning about Passover through stories, art, and songs. They have heard their teachers read from a children's Haggadah to understand the meaning of the Passover celebration. The Playschool will be closed during Passover from Wednesday, April 4 through Friday, April 13.

On Friday, April 20, the Playschool will host our annual Spring Shabbat Dinner from 5:45 to 7:15 PM. All of the Playschool students and their families are invited to attend. Shabbat Dinners are always a wonderful way to celebrate and to welcome Shabbat with other Playschool families. We hope to see all of our families in attendance!

On Tuesday, April 24, the Pre-Kindergarten classes will be taking a trip to The Insectarium. On the tour of this insect museum, the children will watch a movie about insects, learn about the science of an insect, and observe a variety of live insects.

Hebrew School

Continued from page 5

May

May 12, 10:30 AM	Aleph (grade 3) participates in Family Service
May 13, 9-11 AM	ALL CLASSES
May 18, 7:30 PM	Bet (grade 4) & Hay classes lead Services
May 20	Last day for Sunday School and Hebrew High
May 22	Last day for Hebrew School Ma'ariv Service and Move Up Day 5:30 PM*

*We'd love to have parents come as we pass the Torah through our Congregation.

Check out this photo of our Purim Cantata superstars!



Yom Hashoah

Bob Freedman

On **Wednesday evening, April 18, at 7:15 PM**, join us for a Yom Hashoah commemoration service and program. Students in the upper grades of the Hebrew School will lead the service, a series of readings from the Holocaust interwoven with songs and the memorial prayer. Following the service, at about 8 PM, SHS congregant Susan Leshnoff will present: *A New Look at the Children's Art of Thereisenstadt*, illustrating her fresh approach to the children's work. Holocaust educators have considered the children's art of Thereisenstadt only as a strategy for emotional survival or for escape. Ironically though, it was a sophisticated arts education program as well.

Susan Leshnoff is a professor in the Communications and the Arts Department of Seton Hall University, concentrating on Art Education and Museum Studies. The Jewish Museum in Prague, where the children's drawings are archived, will be using Susan's research and writings for educational programming to accompany a new exhibit devoted to them.

Baby & Me/Young Families Groups Celebrate the End of Pesah With Pasta!

Laurel Landau

The Baby & Me/Young Families Groups are increasing in size! We are so lucky to have an ever-growing number of young families at our Synagogue. As a reminder, Baby & Me generally serves the under age 2 population and their parents. The Young Families group includes families with a child under 5 (and of course siblings are welcome!)

In March, we had a fun Baby & Me meeting in Miss Terri's Classroom and also participated in the Purim festivities at the Synagogue.

In April, please join us on **Saturday, April 14 at 5:30 PM**, to end Passover with pasta at a restaurant to be determined. Please let me know if you will be attending.

The Baby & Me Group will meet on Wednesday, April 18, 3:30 – 5:00 PM in Miss Terri's classroom.

To join our expanding mailing list for latest details, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.



The **SHS Eatz Chaim** cookbook is available for purchase. Make arrangement to purchase by calling the office at 215.922.6590.

April Anniversaries

Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 Jessica & Ian Downes
 Carl & Roberta Dranoff
 Paul & Susan Jaffe

April Birthdays

Emily Kaplan
 Peter Kuhlmann
 Richard Summers
 Natalie Cohn
 Olivia Coran
 Julian Katz
 Leah Jordan
 Andrew Seaberg
 Alan Casper
 Sheryl Glassman
 Brian Jerusik
 Robert Blacksberg
 Alan Ominsky
 Barbara Rottenberg
 Marcia Harwitz
 Greyson Sobel
 Cora Ballen Stanish
 Benjamin Berman
 Isaac Freedman
 Jordan Gifford
 Evelyn Segal
 Harry Feinberg
 Lyla Harel
 Lana Noel
 Jessica Downes
 William Goldberg
 Tobey Dichter
 Brian Englander
 Jonathan Katz
 Kathy Bernsten
 Stephen Brown
 Hannah Davidson
 Lily Johnson
 Samuel Greenblatt
 Fredric Edelstein
 Mary Fish
 Adina Zalesne Siff
 Peter Bloom
 Ruby Johnson
 Bruce Hirsch
 Derek Jordan
 Iris Levine
 Mona Sutnick
 Sheila Bassman
 Tess Reed
 Richard Balderston
 Esme Oxman
 Scott Siff
 Alli Taub
 Rafael Winokur
 Thomas Borawski
 Jessica Mono
 Lucy Kroll
 Beverly Michaels
 Hudson Weissman
 Matthew Domber
 Carl Levitsky
 Murray Dubin

**SOCIETY HILL- HOT AND HEALTHY!**

Join us for an informative
 discussion in our series on health and wellness

***Herbal Medicine:
 Does Mother Nature
 Always Know Best?***

MICHAEL D. CIRIGLIANO, M.D., F.A.C.P.

**Associate Professor of Medicine
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
 "Dr. Mike" of FOX 29 News**

Monday, May 7, 2012
 7:30 PM

Society Hill Synagogue
 418 Spruce Street
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 215.922.6590

Refreshments will be served



**Save the Date
 April 27, 2012
 TGIShabbat**

How did we get so lucky? As they have twice in the past, on April 27 acclaimed flutist and percussionist Mimi Stillman and Gabe Globus-Hoenig will grace our TGIShabbat service.

Both artists of great virtuosity and creativity, they'll inspire us to welcome Queen Shabbat with high-energy style and elegance.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)

Join Us for the Annual Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation on Sunday, April 29

Debbie Stewart

We encourage your participation in the **Annual Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation on Sunday, April 29, from 2:00 – 6:00 PM.** There will be an optional pre-gathering at the Al Aqsa Mosque & Islamic Center (with parking available), located at 1501 Germantown Avenue. The Walk will officially begin at 2 PM at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, located at 300 South 18th Street. Please wear white clothing and comfortable walking shoes. We will stop at other houses of worship for special programs. This is an amazing experience, one that SHS hosted a few years ago.

Our Interfaith activities continue with an evening of learning and conversation on the topic of Moses on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 PM, in Barbelin Hall at Old St. Joseph's Church, located at 321 Willings Alley, off of 4th and Walnut Streets. Please mark your calendar and bring a friend!

For more information, please contact me at 609.713.0828 or beachethic@gmail.com.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences to

Joanna Bottaro and Family on the death of her brother, George Shore.

Mazel Tov to

Richard and Elizabeth Zack on the occasion of their daughter, Ellie, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Jewish Heritage Night

at

CitizensBankPark

Phillies vs. Braves



Tuesday, August 7, 7:05 PM

Reserve your tickets now!

We have tickets for a 100 seats in Sections 309 and 310. Join us for a fun night at the park. To purchase your tickets call the office at 215.922.6590.

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 3pm

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Amy Steerman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

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Lore Bryan

Henrique Britzmann, Brother-in-Law

Lore Bryan

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Jeremey Newberg

Josh Newberg, Brother

Jeremey Newberg

Henry Miller

Barbara Miller

Andrew, Fabiola, Morgan & David Miller

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Wendy Univer

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Yahrzeit Remembrance

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Joel Chernock

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

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Cantor Freedman

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Ellie Zack's Bat Mitzvah

The Zack Family

Hebrew School Fund

In Honor of

Ellie Zack's Bat Mitzvah

The Zack Family

Tree of Life

Leaf

Marriage of Judah and Rebecca Ferst

Walter and Margie Ferst

Restoration Fund

In Memory of

Seymour Silver

Judith Spiller

In Honor of

The marriage of Bobbie & Norman Tomase's son

Judith Spiller

In Appreciation of

SHS

Ben Jacolow

Jay R. Baer Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Jay R. Baer

Carol Baer Mott

Library Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Gwyn Donchin

Doris Casper

Memorial Plaque Dedication

Shabbat

Friday,

May 4, 2012



The SHS Memorial Plaque Dedication service is for all families who have purchased a plaque over the past year in memory of a loved one. Each family will be invited to "unveil" the plaque during a special memorial portion of a Friday night Shabbat service.

The next Memorial Plaque Dedication Service is scheduled for **Friday, May 4, 2012**. All are welcome to attend.

Plaques need to have been ordered by January 1, 2012, to be ready in time for this annual dedication service.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Building Closed Spring Break	6:30 PM ECM 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan No HS – Spring Break 7 PM Talmud & Brew 7:15 PM Travel the Road to Prayer with Cantor	No Playschool	No Playschool	No Playschool Building Closed Erev Passover No Services First Seder	Passover 1 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services No Shabbat Study
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Passover 2 Building Closed	Passover 3 Building Closed	Passover 4 7:30 PM Zohar	Passover 5	Passover 6	Passover 7 Building Closed 6:15 PM Services	Passover 8 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services & Yizkor
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS	PS Resumes 7 PM SHS BD Phonathon	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Tuesday Torah with Rabbi 6:15 PM Group B/ M Class 7 PM Talmud & Brew 7:30 PM EDM	7:15 PM Yom Hashoah Service 8 PM Program	Yom Hashoah	5:45 PM PS Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Services	Sh'mini 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service 2 nd Grade and HH Students
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 AM SS 9:15 AM SSP with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM HSP with Rabbi	7:30 PM Flawed Soul Cafe	7:15 AM Minyan PS Trip 4:15 PM HS 5:45 PM School Ma'ariv 6:15 PM Group B/ M Class 7:30 PM Zohar	Yom Hazikaron	Yom HaAtzma'ut	1 PM ELM 6:15 PM TGIShabbat	Tzria-Metzora 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 11:15 AM Tot Shabbat
29	30					
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 3 PM Nashirah Concert						

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—APRIL ISSUE 2012

Kesher

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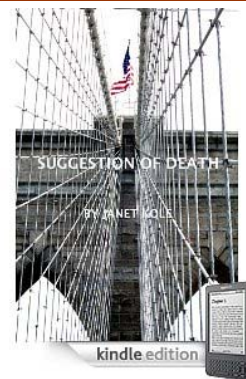
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Bob Freedman, **Cantor**
Walter Ferst, **President**
Betty van de Rijn, **Executive Director**
Merle Salkin, **Education Director**
Gloria Parris, **Playschool Director**

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