



Kesher

Inside

Messages from:

2 - 3

- Rabbi's Column
- Talkin' Jewish
- President's Message

4 - 5

- Cantor's Column
- Playschool

6 - 7

- Baby & Me/Young Families
- 2012-2013 Nominees
- May Birthdays
- May Anniversaries
- Hot and Healthy
- Social Action

8 - 9

- Community News
- Meet New Ed. Director
- Jewish Heritage Night

10 - 11

- Contributions
- May Calendar

Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School A Family, Not a Job

Merle Salkin



As our school year draws to a close, the calendar reveals a month packed with special activities.

MAY CALENDAR

- Saturday, May 5, 9:30 AM Aminda Kirshenbaum becomes a Bat Mitzvah
- Tuesday, May 8 Special Lag B'Omer Program during HS
- Saturday, May 12, 10:30 AM **Aleph Class participates in Family Service**
- Sunday, May 13 **Mother's Day-Classes meet at regular times.**
- Friday, May 18, 6:30 PM **Dinner, Bet & Hay Classes lead Services following dinner at 7:30 PM**
- Sunday, May 20, 10:30 AM Last day of Sunday School and Hebrew High
Sunday School parents are invited to our annual sing-along
- Tuesday, May 22, 5:30 PM Last day for Hebrew School classes
Move-Up Day for Hebrew School. Parents are invited to Ma'ariv Service. Celebrate (early) Shavuot with us by passing the Torah to your child.

Registration applications for next year are in the mail. Please respond as soon as possible. Many of our teachers, Philly's finest, will be returning to ensure a continuum of highest-quality education and care for our children. I am pleased to announce that Aaron Wallinsky, Talia Gottesman, Corey Bass, and Shira Cohen will be returning to Hebrew School. Allie Amado will be sharing the Hay class with Jon Panofsky. Sunday School children will meet Aaron Wallinsky and Talia Gottesman (both of Hebrew School fame), while Jon Panofsky continues in second grade. Allie Amado will teach the fall semester while Max Weisman studies in Rome (poor man) and returns to teach pre-K and kindergarten in January. Philip Ross will continue in Hebrew High along with Allie Amado in the fall and Max Weisman in the spring. In addition, we'll have two new faculty members who have years of experience working with youngsters of Hebrew School age. Many of our Sunday class aides will be returning. We really can't do without them! Drum roll, please: Adina Goldstein, Elizabeth Heit, Liza Gendler, Jack Aaron, Gary Love, Jamie Schwartz, Karen Hafter, and Isaac Freedman. Progress reports for students in grades three through ten will be mailed in mid-May.

END NOTES

This is the last *Kesher* article for me to write. For 25 years, SHS has been my second family. A family, not a job. The years have been filled with extraordinary people: parents, children, teachers. and coworkers. We have

Continued on page 5

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Avi Winokur

Rabbi's Column

Learn About Spinoza, Buber, and More... Join Us for Tikkun Leil Shavuot—May 26, 8 PM

Spinoza! Buber! Rosenzweig! Gershom Scholem! Ben-Gurion! The Kibbutz Movement! All this in one evening—during Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Saturday, May 26, at 8 PM.

Let me take you back to 1989, it is Erev Shavuot. I am one of many men and women throughout Jerusalem who are staying up all night long and studying. (It's called Tikkun Leil Shavuot; see the Talkin' Jewish column). As the sun comes up, thousands of us take to the streets. Many walk to the synagogue for the services, but hundreds, perhaps thousands of us from miles around, mostly dressed in white, walk to the Western Wall. There, outside on the plaza, we gather in groups and conduct our Shavuot services, having carried Torah scrolls and portable stands all the way to the wall. It is a memory that I will never forget.

Each year we at SHS have our own Tikkun Leil Shavuot. We don't study until dawn. We try to make it to midnight. This year we have a wonderful opportunity to learn about Spinoza with Dr. Elliot A. Ratzman.

Have you heard of the play about Spinoza? Before you see it, come learn about Spinoza and his thoughts from Dr. Elliot Ratzman, a professor at Temple and Swarthmore. In *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Spinoza but Were Afraid to Ask*, Elliot will answer all of your questions. By way of background, Spinoza was considered by European Jews and Christians to be the quintessential heretic. Yet, modern Jewish thinkers have been deeply influenced by Spinoza, using him to explain the role of Judaism and the Jewish people in the modern world. Was he an atheist or a "God-intoxicated" saint? In this session, we'll see what Spinoza was up to and why generations of Jews have found him to be a fount of wisdom, even spirituality. Armed with new knowledge, you can

then see the Lantern Theatre Company's reprinted *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation, July 27 1656*. The play will return to the stage September 4—23. Its run will end just before Yom Kippur.

Buber-and will follow Professor Ratzman's presentation (I'm guessing at around 9:30 or 10 PM). *Buber-and* is what I call my four-part presentation on some of the great debates in mid-twentieth century Judaism. Buber himself was a scholar, theologian, and Jewish communal leader, who was perhaps best known for his book, *I and Thou*. He was also an early Zionist who emigrated to Palestine in the pre-state era. His debates with some of the seminal figures and movements of his time still resonate with us today. Among them were his debates with:

- his protégé Franz Rosenzweig on Jewish law and existentialism;
- renowned scholar Gershom Scholem on the nature of Hasidism: joyful and celebratory, or ascetic at its core?
- David Ben-Gurion on Zionism and the Jewishness of the Jewish state; Kibbutz movement leaders on the nature of the Kibbutz: misguided collectivism or the essence of "I-Thou"?

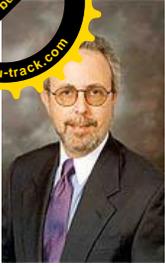
These debates reveal the passions and intellectual climate of one of the richest times in late modern Jewish cultural history.

And who knows? There may yet be more. Forget the shore! Join us on May 26!

Talkin' Jewish: A Rabbi's Guide to Common Jewish Terms

Avi Winokur

Shavuot—literally "weeks." Seven weeks and one day after the first day of Pesah, we celebrate the least celebrated of the major Jewish holidays, Shavuot, the festival of weeks. Like Pesah and Sukkot, Shavuot is listed in the Bible as one of the three pilgrimage holidays; but unlike Pesah and Sukkot, it is only one day long (or two; see "Hag" below). Although it was probably an agricultural harvest holiday at first (and that is how it appears in the Bible), the rabbis of the Talmud later associated it with the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. The Torah reading centers on The Ten Commandments.



President's Column With Gratitude and Appreciation

Walter Ferst

It is hard to believe that I have been writing monthly Keshet articles for two years, and that this is my last "official" column as the Synagogue President. At the risk of being a bit self-indulgent, I would briefly like to reflect upon the experience and to offer some well-deserved acknowledgements.

Three years ago when I agreed to take on this office, I was, to say the least, and as the expression goes, the "outside the beltway candidate." I spent my initial year preparing for this role shadowing my favorite Synagogue mentor and cheerleader, Staci Schwartz, trying to learn not just the nuts and bolts of how the Synagogue conducted its business, but also, and perhaps more importantly, how things really worked—which I assure you, in most instances, is not consistent with how the fine print tells you things are supposed to work! With my training year behind me, I was naively blissful that I really understood all the basics, and that I was now prepared to be the President. Actually, I cannot even write that sentence without shaking my head, a big smirk on my face. Although everyone expects that the President will have all the answers, let me assure you that after two years in office, I think that at best, I have some of the *questions* about the issues that I hope our lay leadership will continue to address.

Although the office definitely has its challenges, consisting of both the obvious and the not so obvious, the unexpected rewards have been special. I have had the very good fortune to work with a core group of wonderfully caring and dedicated people serving the most haimisheh community I have ever encountered. At the risk of omitting some who no doubt deserve recognition, and in addition to the members of the Board and the Executive Committee, I would like to recognize our two Vice Presidents, David Ladov and Jonathan Weiss, who always rolled up their sleeves to take on and do whatever needed to be done, whenever the occasion required. I also want to offer a special thanks to

a number of our past presidents, too numerous to mention, who on countless occasions were willing to share their experience, advise and counsel. I only hope to be as supportive of my successors. My thanks to Betty, Bob, Merle, Gloria, and the entire SHS staff, who by doing their jobs well, made me look good. To Avi, my dear friend, colleague and spiritual advisor, I cannot thank you enough for encouraging me to take on this position and for helping me to work through countless issues with grace and a steady hand. Last, but not least, my thanks to Margie, who not only kept me sane, but also allowed me the time to do what needed to be done.

Although I still have a number of projects I would like to continue to pursue, I have little doubt that I am leaving the Synagogue in good hands with Jonathan Weiss who, upon his election at the Annual Meeting on May 16, will become the next President of SHS.

In closing, my thanks to all of you, who by your association with the Synagogue, help to make it the special place that it is and the special place that it will continue to be in the future.

B'Shalom!

SAVE THE DATE TGIShabbat FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012

Please join us for the last TGIShabbat for this year. Jesse Roemer and Eve Friedman will be our guests. More information to follow in the Summer Keshet and SHS's Weekly E-News.



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Cantor's Column

The "Jewishness" of Jewish Music

Bob Freedman



A year ago Anthony Tomassini of the New York Times invited his readers to help him pick the top ten composers of all time. Inspired, the music faculty at Hebrew College in Boston decided to make their list of the top ten Jewish composers. First they needed to answer, "What is Jewish Music?" It's a perennial question. Jews are nothing if not self-analytical, and discussing the "Jewishness" of Jewish music is a superb way of satisfying that urge. The topic is remarkably broad and complex and so provides the basic benefit of occupying scholars, teachers, cantors and composers who might otherwise (God forbid!) have little to do. And, of course, studying such a matter is also a serious attempt to determine the nature of this religion called Judaism. Panel discussions, blogs, podcasts, and a concert on May 17 at the end of the project will hopefully give them satisfying answers.

The first panel discussion, (see the video at <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/videos.html>), began with the assertion by Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, President of Hebrew College, that music is not Jewish; people are Jewish. He went on to say that therefore any music is Jewish if it attempts to reflect, interpret, or respond to Jewish texts, history, or experience. I found his statement interesting but unsatisfying. I believe that there *is* specifically Jewish music. Its unique identity comes from the traditional melodic and harmonic elements we hear in it.

There is music that we call "Misinaï," from Sinai, a polite way of saying that it's so old we don't know its origin. Examples are the modes that we use to chant the service or scripture and melodies like Kol Nidre and Aleynu for High Holy Days that come from a time before notation was common.

In the mid 19th century, Solomon Sulzer in Vienna, and Louis Lewandowski in Berlin, wrote compositions for Jewish worship that combined the old modes with contemporary harmonies and choral effects.

That music was Jewish. It was a response to text, and it drew on traditional melodic themes.

Some Christians, indulging anti-Semitic urges, defined Jewish music by the cackles, cries, and cacophony of worship in the synagogue. They judged that their worship music, both Protestant and Catholic, was far more sophisticated in harmony and melody, and concluded that Jewish culture was not as evolved as theirs. The critics were right that it was definitely Jewish music, but they did not understand that the atonal hubbub was deliberate, and happened because each person in the congregation felt empowered to pray aloud, whether they could sing or not.

The point was made in the panel discussion that Jewish music is not singular; there are Jewish musics. Aside from liturgical settings there is also the vast literature of folk songs and Klezmer, integral products of Jewish culture. And how should we regard compositions by non-Jewish composers that use Jewish musical idioms? I think that these too can be intentionally Jewish music. For examples listen to "Samuel Goldenberg and Shmuyle," picture 6 in Moussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, or Ravel's arrangement of the Kaddish.

If nothing else, Hebrew College's project reminds us how satisfying music can be on many different levels. Just listening for enjoyment is one level. Another is the feeling of being "at home" that we get from listening to music that we identify as Jewish. Yet another is analyzing the music and the culture that produced it. How much poorer we would be without music!

Summer Service Schedule

The last Friday Night Service before the summer break will occur on June 29, 2012.

Fridays, July 6 through August 31—No Friday Night Services

Saturdays, July 7 through September 1—9 AM Torah Study and 10 AM Shabbat Services

Friday Night Services will resume September 7, 2012.



Spak Thal Hebrew School

Continued from cover

been fortunate to have our own students return to tend and teach the next crop of children, and we have been fortunate to see our teens return to Hebrew High and to become precious class aides in Sunday School. Thank you for remembering to share stories about the impact our teachers have had on your children. Thank you for remembering to tell me that your child was upset about missing a Sunday School class. Thank you for letting me know that your child led a prayer or read some Hebrew or insisted on having every item on the Seder plate. I am looking forward to years filled with Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies. Our children are our blessings. Thanks for sharing your blessings with me.

For all we know, we may never meet again.
Before I go, may this feeling never end.
We won't say "Good bye" until the last minute;
I'll hold out my hand, and my heart will be in it.
For all we know, this was the best dream;
We come and go like ripples on a stream,
So share a last smile and dreams filled with sun.
Tomorrow will always come, that's all we know.

(Based on "For All We Know" [1934], lyrics by Sam M. Lewis)



Playschool Hurry! Camp Spots are Filling Up Fast!

Gloria Parris



The Playschool Summer Camp offers a fun-filled way for children to spend their summer mornings. Many of our Playschool students continue their preschool experience in our camp program. We welcome children who will be just beginning preschool in the fall to spend their summers with us, too.

Our camp season begins on Monday, June 4, and extends for eight weeks through Thursday, July 26. The children, aged two to four years old, will participate in 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 camp is in session Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM–12:30 PM. There are several enrollment options: children can be enrolled for the full eight-week program, weekly, on a Monday and Wednesday schedule, a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, or daily. This allows parents to have their children on a schedule that meets their summertime needs. There are a limited number of spots available. Summer is almost here, so now is the time to make plans for your child. Please contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or e-mail gparris@societymillsynagogue.org for more information about the Playschool Summer Camp and to receive a summer camp application.

On Tuesday, May 1, all of the children in the Playschool will take part in *The Franklin Institute Traveling Preschool Science Show*. This exciting lesson, "Silly Shadow, Crazy Color," will be brought to our school. The children will learn how to make shadows and combine colors to make new colors during this hands-on presentation.

Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, May 2, and Thursday, May 3. There will be no classes in session on either of these conference days.

Continued on page 6



Playschool

Continued from page 5

The 3- to 4-year-old class will be taking their fourth trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Tuesday, May 8, for the Museum Looks and Picture Books program. The theme of the lesson will be landscapes in art.

Playschool graduations will be held on Thursday, May 24, and Friday, May 25. The children in the Kitten Class will celebrate their graduation on Thursday and the Puppy Class will graduate on Friday. The 3- to 4-year-old class graduation and the pre-kindergarten a.m. class graduation will take place on Friday morning. Graduation for the pre-kindergarten p.m. class will be held on Friday afternoon. Many of our graduates will be continuing in the Playschool, and we wish all of our pre-K students the best of luck in their new schools.

Baby & Me and Young Families Groups Join Us for a Picnic or Meet Us for Dinner!

Laurel Landau

The Baby & Me and Young Families Groups are faring well! 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. The Young Families group includes families with a child under 5 (and of course siblings are welcome!)

We had a delightful end-of-Passover pasta dinner at Pietro's (where we ran into many SHS members with the same idea)!

Baby & Me will next meet on **Friday, May 11, from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM** for a playdate and picnic in Three Bears Park.

Young Families will meet on **Sunday, May 20 at 4:30 PM** for dinner and fun in Franklin Square!

To RSVP, and for further details, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com. Also, prospective members are welcome at any of these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested, please pass on the information.



The SHS Eatz Chaim Cookbook is available for purchase. Make arrangements to buy your copy today by calling the office at 215.922.6590.

2012-13 SHS Board Nominees

Staci Schwartz

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I would like to congratulate the following individuals for being nominated to the 2012-13 SHS Board of Directors:

- Jud Aaron
- Jonathan Feinman
- Debby Freedman
- Carmen Hayman
- Jeremey Newberg
- David Paskin

Thank you to the following members of the Nominating Committee for suggesting, vetting, and confirming such wonderful candidates for this year's available Board seats:

- Andrea Appel
- Fran Gallun
- Laurel Landau
- Jack Treatman

May Anniversaries

- Zachary & Courtney Meisel
- Edward & Ronnie Landau
- Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
- Matthew & Brooke Salzman
- Michael & Stephanie Naidoff
- Holman & Gail Massey
- Daniel & Dana Feinberg
- Daniel & Jillan Sackett
- Irving & Sharon Shapiro
- Ric & Carmen Hayman
- Josh Meyer & Abigail Reed
- Andrew & Joanna Bottaro
- Jonathan Prokup & Catherine Kiefer
- Ira & Lynne Rubinfeld



May Birthdays

Noah Chrismer
 Jordana Harwitz
 Rachel Nelson
 Barbara Einhorn
 Jerome Rosenberg
 Nicole Perkins
 Gail Porat
 Margot Palley
 Ryan Taub
 Liz Abrams-Morley
 Daniel Becker
 Etta Krauss
 Jeremy Landau
 Margie Ferst
 Pamela Greenblatt
 Lucy Bonin
 Douglas Eizen
 Danielle Schoenholtz
 Nuriye Uygur
 Dean Weisgold
 Sandra Lazovitz
 Linda Glass
 Scarlett Jacoby
 Sara Steinberger
 Carolyn Saligman
 Sidney Jacoby
 Jeffrey Wilhelm
 Wayne Spilove
 Merrily Williams
 Andrew Becker
 Emma Chrismer

Joan Roller
 Kinney Zalesne
 Sarah Bach
 Caroline Rosen
 Clara Milch
 David Oxman
 Rona Buchalter
 Samuel Levin
 Jacob Weinberger
 Samantha Coran
 Elizabeth Heit
 Rosemarie Weinberg
 David Halpern
 Colby Grossman
 Joanna Bernstein
 Alan Zuckerman
 Allie Morgan
 Julie Wilson
 Hal Greenblatt
 Darren Milch
 Ava Morgenstern
 Jay Meadway
 William Perkins




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
 Philadelphia, PA 19106
 215.922.6590

Refreshments will be served.

Social Action

Let's Finish the Job We Began Four Years Ago

Phyllis Denbo

WHAT: SHS Mitzvah Day at George Washington Elementary School

WHEN: Sunday, May 6, 9:15 AM—1:15 PM

WHY: After two book drives, we collected approximately 2,000 books for the George Washington library, but the books are not properly organized and shelved, so student access has been very limited. We can make a difference in the lives of children who do not have ready contact with books or libraries.

HOW: Volunteers may spend anywhere from one to four hours at the school. Our goal is to complete information cards for every book in the library. We're about half-way finished, but have not progressed in over a year. Once the cards are completed, they will be sent to Access Pennsylvania in Harrisburg for labels and cataloguing.

WHO: All SHS members are welcome and encouraged to bring family and friends. Parents can come for 2 hours while their kids are in Sunday or Hebrew School. Teens can come with their parents or in groups.

Continued on page 8



Social Action

Continued from page 7

HOW CAN WE GET THERE: The school is about 5 minutes from SHS. Driving directions will be provided. Parking is readily available. Shuttles will also be available between the two locations.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS: There will be contests and prizes, coffee and bagels, and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment, all for just a few hours of your time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP: Contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com or 215.755.2734.

Talkin' Jewish

Continued from page 2

The Christian holiday of *Pentecost* is based on Shavuot.

Hag—festival. Like many Jewish terms it has multiple meanings. Major Jewish holidays are called *hag/hagim*. In addition, there is a technical meaning which is the first one or two and last one or two (one in Israel and Reform, two in the “diaspora” – outside the land of Israel) days in which the rules governing behavior are similar to Shabbat. The Arabic cognate *hajj* describes the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca (see below on pilgrimage).

Shalosh Regalim—three pilgrimage holidays. Pesah, Sukkot, and Shavuot during which the Torah commands the Israelites to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Hol hamoed—regular times. Those intermediate days of a festival that are not technically *hag*.

Continued on back cover



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences to

Jay Wussow (Emily Zimmerman) on the death of his mother, Margaret T. Wussow.

Janis Dubin and Family on the death of her father, David Benstock.

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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STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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Come and Meet SHS's New Director of Education

Nathan Weiss

After an extensive search process, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Sahar Oz as SHS's new Director of Education; he will officially join our staff in July.

About a year and a half ago, Merle Salkin announced to the Education Committee and Board that she intended to retire this year, after 25 years of service at SHS. A search committee was formed and charged with the task of finding a suitable candidate to carry on with the leadership of the school. The committee worked hard to define the scope of the position and then reached out to educational organizations throughout the Northeast, as well as online, to attract experienced candidates.

There were many applicants for the position, and the committee, with the help of Rabbi Winokur, Cantor Freedman, and Betty van de Rijn worked to narrow the group down to six highly qualified finalists. Following in-depth interviews, several top finalists were invited to lead discussions in the school with both the younger (Pre-K through 2nd grade) and older (3rd through 7th grade) student groups. Mrs. Salkin was instrumental during this process, helping to make this potential "trial by fire" run smoothly. The members of our committee were excited by Sahar's educational focus; his energy and warm, welcoming personality; and his ability to connect with parents, clergy, and students during his brief visits to our school. He is very impressed with all of the things that we already do very well, and he is looking forward to building on the strengths and foundations of the school as we move forward.

Sahar brings to SHS over 15 years of Judaic teaching experience in both formal and informal settings, and he has worked with preschoolers through active seniors. He holds an M.A. in Jewish Education and Administration from Gratz College and a B.A. in International Media from the Pennsylvania State University. A native of Rishon l'Tzion, Israel, Sahar has spent most of his life in the United States; he grew up in New York, Boston, and the Detroit suburbs.

For the past four years, Sahar has served as the Director of Judaic Programming at the Betty and Milton Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and as the Director of the Chester County Branch of the Jewish Community High School of Gratz College. He currently resides in Center City with his wife, Allison, who is a first and second grade teacher at The Philadelphia School.

Although Sahar is not officially starting as Education Director until July 1, he will be meeting with Mrs. Salkin, Betty, the current teachers, and the Education Committee this spring to make sure that his transition will be as smooth as possible. Please join me in welcoming Sahar at the **Annual Congregation Meeting on May 16, at 7:30 PM**, where he will share his thoughts and goals for the school.



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Yahrzeit Remembrance

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Merlin-Rubinov Family

Robert and Pearl Curson Goldner, Parents

Susan Schwartz

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Rabbi Valerie Joseph

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Yahrzeit Remembrance

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Linda Bach

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Yahrzeit Remembrance

Helen Cohn, Mother

Alan Cohn

Reminder Dinner Party to Celebrate Merle Salkin

May 19 at 7:30 PM
at the home of Peter and Meg Saligman

If you wish to make a contribution to SHS in Merle's honor, it would be greatly appreciated!



MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
SS-Sunday School HS-Hebrew School PS-Playschool ECM-Ex. Comm. Mtg. BDM-Board Meeting EDM-Ed. Comm. Mtg.		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:15 PM B/M Class 7 PM Talmud & Brews	No Playschool Parent Conferences	No Playschool Parent Conferences	4-6 PM Art Exhibit by Terri Saulin 6:15 PM Memorial Plaque Service	Aharei Mot- K'doshim 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Aminda Kirshenbaum
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 9:15 AM SHS Mitzvah Day 11 AM HS	6:30 PM ECM 7 PM Hebrew Class 7:30 PM Society Hill-Hot & Healthy	7:15 AM Minyan PS Art Museum 4:15 PM HS 6:15 PM B/M Class 7:30 PM Zohar: Kabbalah w/Rabbi			6:15 PM Service	Emor 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service/Aleph Class
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day 9 AM SS 11 AM HS	7:30 PM The Flawed Soul Café	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Tuesday Torah w/Rabbi 6:15 PM B/M Class 7 PM Talmud & Brews 7:30 PM EDM	7:30 PM Annual Congregation Meeting		6:30 PM Bet/Hay Class Dinner 7:30 PM Bet/Hay Class Service	B'har-B'hukkotai 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study 7:30 PM Merle Salkin Retirement Dinner Offsite
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 AM SS-Last Day of SS 9:15 AM SSP with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM HSP with Rabbi	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS-Last Day of HS 5:45 PM HS Ma'ariv 6:15 PM B/M Class 7:30 PM Zohar: Kabbalah w/Rabbi		Last Day of PS	Last Day of PS 6:15 PM Service	B'midbar 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 11:30 AM Tot Shabbat Erev Shavuot 8 PM Service
27	28	29	30	31		
Shavuot Day 1 10 AM Service and Yizkor	Memorial Day Shavuot Day 2 Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan				



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—MAY ISSUE 2012

Kesher

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

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SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER

Talkin' Jewish

Continued from page 8

Tikkun Leil Shavuot—literally “repair of the night of Shavuot.” This describes the dusk to dawn tradition of study that precedes morning services on Shavuot. It originated with the mystics of Tz’fat in Israel in the sixteenth century. *Counting the Omer*: In the book of Leviticus we are commanded to count the 50 days between the beginning of Pesah and Shavuot. Biblically we were to bring new grain as an offering to God as part of this counting. The details are sketchy to say the least. For reasons that are not entirely clear (much here is not), part or all of the Omer period is designated as a mourning period during which, among other things, one may not get married.

Lag b’Omer—the 32nd day of the Omer on which mourning is either terminated, or at least interrupted. It is traditionally a day of picnics. In Israel, the preceding evening is characterized by the lighting of bonfires. In Jerusalem, even outside the ultra religious quarter, you can take a walk that evening and find little bonfires dotting the city as far as the eye can see.

In the Galilee, it is a time of pilgrimage to the graves of the great mystics, especially Shimon Bar Yohai, the reputed author of the Zohar. It’s quite an experience, complete with ecstatic singing, dancing, and petitionary notes to the souls of the dead.



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