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Philadelphia, PA 19106
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SHS Shabbaton: The Spirituality of Welcoming Featuring Dr. Ron Wolfson

**Friday, December 7 though
Sunday, December 9**

Friday, December 7

Join us for Shabbat services from 6:15 to 7:15 PM followed by dinner in the Social Hall from 7:30 to 8:15 PM. After dinner, Dr. Wolfson will speak about:

Building Good Tents: Envisioning the Synagogue of the Future

How do we create a culture of "welcoming" in our congregations and communities? What are the components of a vibrant, exciting, spiritual community? What can we do to shape sacred communities of relationships offering meaning and purpose, belonging and blessing?

Saturday, December 8

Join us for Torah study from 9 to 10 AM, when Dr. Wolfson will speak about:

The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven

Synagogues are the place to review and renew your life on earth. Over the centuries, rabbis have imagined what might be asked in heaven about how we lived our lives. With funny and poignant stories, Dr. Wolfson will share seven of these questions that lead us to a heshbon ha-nefesh, an "accounting of the soul."

Social Hall

Shabbat Study with Rabbi Marjorie Berman, 10 AM to 12 Noon

Main Sanctuary

Family Service with Rabbi Winokur and Cantor Freedman, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Dr. Wolfson will give a sermon about:

Be Like God: How to Use Your Superpowers to be God's Partner on Earth

Join us in the Social Hall after services for a special Kiddush Luncheon, 12:15 to 1:15 PM. Following lunch, Dr. Wolfson will speak about:

God's To-Do List

The synagogue of the future will be a place where we explore the great question: What on earth am I here for? What is my task as a member of a sacred community? The Jewish answer begins with an understanding that every human being is "made in the image of God," and we are called to be God's partner on earth. How? Dr. Wolfson will explore 10 ways we can create our own "God's To-Do List," the things we can do in a sacred community together to further the ongoing creation and repair of the world.

Sunday, December 9

For SHS Board Members Only. A Brunch and Board Retreat when Dr. Wolfson will speak about:

Creating a Culture of Welcoming...and Beyond!



Rabbi's Column

Vote at the Polls and Vote at SHS

Avi Winokur

Grandma Rachel came to this country as young woman. I still think about Grandma Rachel and the pride in her beaming face when she showed me the letter she received from FDR. I was a little boy. The letter was already 15 or 20 years old. But I still see her in my mind's eye, proud to be an American and showing off that letter.

My father served as a chaplain in the Pacific and was almost killed twice. He served so that we might vote. I can still remember the huge, beautifully framed portrait of my cousins Abe and Pearl's son in uniform. He was killed in action in the European theater so that we might vote.

I suspect that many of you have similar stories in your past. This country has been wonderful for the Jews, and even when we faced discrimination, we fared exceedingly well. Even if you compare the American Jewish community's position at the height of the Henry Ford/Father Coughlin-inspired anti-Semitism with that of any other Jewish community in history—even at those times, we did very well in America.

Candidates of all stripes speak about the greatness of the American spirit. I worry that that pride may be turning into complacency for too many of us. With all of the problems that confront our country and with the sense that so many of us have that America is not living up to its promise, have we forgotten how lucky we are to be living at this time in this country?

On Election Day, please vote. We owe it to the men and women who founded this nation, to our own relatives who did what they had to do to land on these shores, to the men and women who have fought and too often died for this country. Just as important, we owe it to our children and grandchildren as well.

As I write this, we have completed three out of the four conversation forums about Ronald Wolfson's

Spirituality of Welcoming (Dr. Wolfson will be our scholar-in-residence on the weekend of December 7-9) and our Membership Engagement Initiative. The response has been enthusiastic, with close to fifty participants so far. And what does that have to do with voting?

Like voting, it is all about participation in determining your own future. We, the leadership of the Synagogue, are determined that if you, the membership, want to take this Synagogue to the next level, then we will do so together.

So far many different ideas have come forward. Here are just a few: Shabbat clubs, for Shabbat evening meals; an arts group to go to plays and movies like the Jewish Film Festival or the Israeli Film Festival and then go for dessert and discuss the play, film, exhibit, or the cultural event; alternative worship/spiritual opportunities that integrate yoga and meditation; more social activities like those provided by the Spring Fair, Round Robin dinners, and last year's InterNOSHional Night; rethinking and reintroducing a Sisterhood and Men's Club (Women's Club & Brotherhood?); book groups, daytime activities for members who are retired (in one *Spirituality of Welcoming* discussion group, we had three people who had recently retired or were soon to retire); a grandparents' group. I mean it when I say that these were just some of the ideas that were shared.

Vote. Vote as Americans on Election Day, and vote as Jews as part of our Membership Engagement Initiative. As Board Member Harry Oxman put it in our third congregational forum, "When I was a child, my mother drummed into me that you get back only as much as you put in." That applies in equal measure to your American citizenship and your Jewish citizenship.

Adult Education

Check out the 2012-13 Adult Education Brochure

Marc Schwartz

The new 2012-13 Adult Education brochure is now available for your review. Don't miss your opportunity to sign up for any or all of the exciting courses being offered this year. Hard copies of the brochure can be found in the Spruce Street lobby, and electronic copies are available through links from our Web site and weekly E-News.



President's Column

It's All About Connections

Jonathan Weiss

As fall continues, I wanted to muse a bit about some of the events from last month and try to tie them into our upcoming activities.

Every year during our Simḥat Torah celebration, the entire Torah is unrolled—the parchment gently supported vertically by each of us as we stand in a giant circle around the entire Social Hall. The Rabbi and Cantor wander around and give a quick tour of the different parts of the Torah, explaining what is happening in the text of a given section.

A very important part of this celebration involves honoring two individuals from our congregation who have made great and enduring contributions to our Synagogue community. Several weeks before Simḥat Torah, in a secret election, past honorees choose a “Ḥatan Torah” and a “Kallat B’reishit,” meaning literally the “groom of the Torah,” and the “bride of B’reishit.” The Ḥatan Torah is given an aliyah before the last Torah portion in Deuteronomy is read and the Kallat B’reishit is given an aliyah before the first Torah portion in Genesis is read. The celebration continues during a Kiddush luncheon on the following Shabbat when a designated congregant introduces each honoree, and then we hear a brief speech from our “groom” and our “bride,” explaining how they came to be, and continue to be, involved at SHS. This year’s Ḥatan Torah and Kallat B’reishit are Mitchell Bach and Lore Bryan.

I have to admit that I have not always been able to attend these special luncheons, but each time I do, I am very glad I did. I think it is always amazing to take a moment and hear people reflect on how they got to be where they are, and this year was definitely no exception. Please see page 8 for actual excerpts from these speeches or the subsequent interviews with our honorees.

Lore, introduced by Fran Gallun, has been a member of SHS since the late 1970s, and she spoke a bit about her globe-trotting experiences during and after the war that brought her from Europe, through the UK, and ultimately, to Philadelphia. Possibly because she is quiet and self-effacing, it was all the more impressive to hear

about what she and her husband Roger found inspiring about our community back in the 1970s and what keeps her coming back almost every Shabbat, to this day.

Mitchell Bach, a former SHS President, was introduced by Jay Levin. Mitchell spoke about his experiences in the broader community and quite eloquently described the combination of SHS friends and leaders who drew him into the community many years ago. Having served on the Board with Mitchell at the end of his presidency, I got to know him quite well, but I was still inspired by his words and by Jay’s moving introduction and description of his leadership qualities beyond the walls of SHS.

I wanted to share my impression of the SHS annual tradition of honoring a Ḥatan Torah and Kallat B’reishit for two reasons. The first is because I hope my description of this happy occasion will encourage you to come to next year’s special luncheon. The second reason is because this event represents exactly what we are trying to achieve with our ongoing engagement initiative. It’s all about forming bonds and connections with one another.

Understanding more about the members of our community is very important to our future growth and development, and I want to encourage each of you to take advantage of the opportunities to join in on this process. One of the goals of our Membership Engagement Initiative is to make available different types of events and programs that will serve as connection points to the Synagogue for our members. Watch for these activities and educational opportunities as they are announced in the Keshet or on the Web site throughout the year. I invite you to join us and see if one of these connection points will interest you and enrich your membership experience.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, and don’t forget to mark your calendars for the December Shabbaton (December 7-9) when Dr. Ron Wolfson will help us explore the concepts highlighted in his book, *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Community Into a Sacred Congregation*. Rabbi Winokur has led four different discussion groups about the book and its applicability to our community.

For any of you who have further thoughts you would like to share, please feel free to continue the discussion with me, or with any of our lay leaders or clergy members, before the Shabbaton.



Cantor's Column

Art Concealing Art

Bob Freedman

Last month I wrote about how, in Jewish thought, Torah scrolls are our interface with the metaphysical Torah that exists in spiritual realms. Just as we clothe the parchment scroll in beautiful mantles, it and the letters printed on it clothe the ethereal Torah. In turn, when we read the Torah in public, we clothe the printed words in chant. There are levels on levels.

The chant is notated by cantillation signs added to the text more than a millennium ago. Beginning in the late tenth century, three generations of the Ben Asher family of Tiberias put them and vowels into the text of the Bible. They were recording a tradition of vocalization and chant that was already ancient. Subsequently, they became known as Masoretes, from a Hebrew word meaning to pass on tradition.

We call the signs *ta-amei hamikrah*, the taste of the reading. Or we call them "trope," a word that originally described familiar Gregorian chant melodies that could be used for many different passages. Rashi, the twelfth-century commentator, is the first Jew we know of to use the word to refer to the cantillation marks the Ben Asher family had created.

The Masoretes developed a complex system for applying trope to text. They began by establishing where verses began and ended, then they divided almost every verse in two. They divided each half into two halves again, and if the verse were long enough, they made a third division. Finally, taking into account context and meaning, they assigned tropes to each word—one to the verse's end, one to the midpoint, some to the beginning of a half, and others toward the half's end. The tropes were meant to be inflection indicators, enabling the reader who used them to convey the sense of the text.

Because we know that the tradition of singing the text is very ancient, we believe that, with each trope mark, the Masoretes indicated a melodic fragment.

Continued on page 7



Ann Spak Thal School

Giving Thanks by Lending a Hand

Sahar Oz

November is upon us, and soon many of us will be traveling or opening our doors to travelers, as family and friends get together for Thanksgiving. Among the things for which I am especially thankful this year is the time I get to spend with our Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High students each week. Their collective enthusiasm, curiosity, and care for one another are remarkable.

Thanksgiving nourishes not just our stomachs but also our souls, and we want to share with you a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration being organized by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) of Pennsylvania. **HIAS is holding its annual Thanksgiving dinner for newly arrived refugees on Sunday, November 11, at 2 PM**, at Old Pine Community Center, located at 4th and Lombard Streets.

This joyous, delicious event gives refugees their first experience of Thanksgiving. Our Hebrew School and Hebrew High students and parents have participated in the past, and we encourage our families to get involved once again!

HIAS was founded more than 125 years ago to provide services to Jewish immigrants and refugees fleeing persecution and seeking a better life in the United States. Guided by the Jewish value of *hahnasat orhim* ("welcoming guests"), HIAS represents, resettles, and reunites immigrants regardless of nationality, religion, or ethnicity. Our congregation has worked with HIAS to resettle refugees locally, and many of the recent refugees resettled in Philadelphia are Bhutanese of Nepali origin.

Hebrew School and Hebrew High students and parents are invited to participate in the November 11 dinner by helping to set up and serve the meal and by playing with the refugee children, most of whom do not speak English. Last year, many families brought gently used toys for the kids to play with, and the

Continued on page 6



Playschool

Join Us for the Annual Hanukkah Happening & Playschool Open House on Sunday, December 16

Gloria Parris

The Playschool has had a fabulous start to the new year. All of the children are excited to come to preschool to play with their friends and to enjoy their fun-filled learning experiences. The children have listened to storybooks, learned new songs, and created holiday crafts. They have also been introduced to the letters of the alphabet, expressed themselves through art, and celebrated Shabbat with their classmates.

In addition to our morning classes, the Playschool also offers Afterschool Arts Clubs. These clubs are taught by our regular classroom teachers and their assistants. They meet every afternoon, Monday through Friday, from 12:30 until 3 PM. Each afternoon features an exciting theme. On Mondays, the boys and girls prepare healthy snacks in Cooking Club. Tuesday is Science Club, during which the children participate in hands-on scientific experiments. Wednesdays are for Art Club, where all types of art projects are created. On Thursdays, the boys and girls participate in Movement Club with activities such as parachute games, obstacle course activities, dance, and aerobics. Friday is Music Club, where the children sing songs for Shabbat. Each afternoon, the children enjoy free play time, arts and crafts, story, snack, outdoor bike riding, and the theme of the day. Children who do not attend the Playschool are welcome to enroll in our Afterschool Arts Clubs; they may attend any number of clubs per week. Please contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, x28, or gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org for more information. Afterschool Arts is a great way to experience the fun and learning that takes place in the Playschool each day.

The Playschool Art Exhibit is now being displayed in the Social Hall. Original works of art were created by each of our talented Playschool students. Our artists have added another dimension to their work by using their imaginations to title their art. Please take a few moments to view the Playschool Art Exhibit when you are in the Synagogue.

The annual **Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House** will take place on **Sunday, December 16, at 11 AM**. All Synagogue members, Playschool families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend our celebration. Applications for the September 2013 – May 2014 school year will be available. The Playschool's enrollment policy now offers a common deadline for submitting applications. All applications must be received by Monday, December 17, the day following the Hanukkah Happening, to be considered for enrollment in the upcoming school year. Priority for class preference will be given first to synagogue members, followed by current Playschool families. The Playschool has classes for 2-year-olds, 3 – 4-year-olds, and for children in Pre-Kindergarten (morning and afternoon sessions). For more information about September 2013 Playschool enrollment, please contact the Playschool office.



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Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 4

refugee families were able to take them home, which was a huge hit. Also, if any of our students or parents want to play music for a few minutes at the dinner, that would be great!

This is an excellent opportunity for our children to actively pursue tikun olam ("repairing the world") while sharing cultures and cuisine with new neighbors. And it's a lot of fun! If you and your child(ren) are able to participate, please contact Debby Freedman at dfreedman@clsphila.org or 215.292.1004.

If you cannot participate but would still like to play a role in the simḥa and success of this special Thanksgiving meal, please consider donating food for the dinner. You can contact Debby for a list of Thanksgiving food items and dishes needed for November 11. Food should be dropped off at Old Pine Community Center starting at 1 PM on the day of the event.

I wish you all a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving!



Third graders learn about tefillin as part of the "Jewish Symbols" theme elective.



Eatz Chaim Cookbooks

Call the office today to purchase your copy of the SHS Eatz Chaim Cookbook. In it you will find the best recipes for everything from appetizers to desserts—all straight from the kitchens of our own congregants and their families! Contact us at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org to purchase your copy today!

Ornament and Narrative: Women Artist's of Eastern Diasporas

Marty Rosenberg

As Society Hill Synagogue's resident art historian, I would like to invite my fellow congregants (and your friends) to see the exhibition I have just co-curated at Rutgers-Camden's Stedman Gallery. The exhibition is called "Ornament and Narrative: Women Artist's of Eastern Diasporas," and it includes artists who are originally from Iran, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and India.

On Sunday, November 18, from 10 AM until 4 PM, I have arranged for the gallery, which is in the Fine Arts Building adjacent to the Gordon Theater on the Rutgers-Camden campus, to be open so that SHS members will have the opportunity to see this very special exhibit. At 1:30 PM, I will give a guided tour and answer all of your questions. The exhibition is open to the public from October 15 through December 15. For more information, visit: <http://rcca.camden.rutgers.edu/exhibits.php>.

Below is a work by Indian Jewish artist Siona Benjamin called "Lilith in the New World." She is one of three Jewish artists in the exhibition.





Baby & Me Group SHS Babies Are Busy, Busy, Busy!

Jessica Downes

The Baby & Me Group had an exciting month in October! We went to the Magic Gardens on South Street and viewed the gorgeous mosaic dreamland created by Isaiah Zager. We also joined the Young Families Group for an outing at Johnson's Farm in Medford, New Jersey.

I love being the new coordinator of the Baby & Me Group, and I have many fabulous ideas for more activities that I can't wait to plan! I am always looking for new ideas too, so please feel free to email me at jessdownes@yahoo.com with your suggestions.

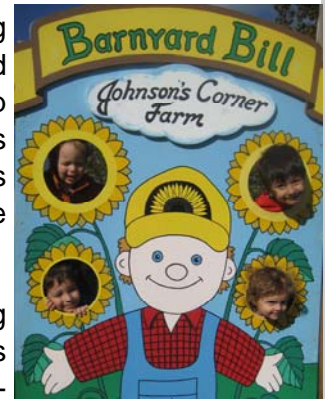
We have three fun events planned for November. First, we will be joining the Young Families Group at the **Please Touch Museum on Sunday November 18** (more details to follow). Second, we will be meeting for story time at the **Santore Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library (932 S. 7th Street) on Tuesday, November 13, at 10:15 AM**. Third, we will have a **classroom play date at SHS on Wednesday, November 7, at 3 PM**.

I look forward to seeing everybody at one or all of these events!

Young Families Group Join Us at the Please Touch Museum in November

Laurel Landau

In October, our Young Families Group joined the Baby & Me Group on an outing to Johnson's Corner Farm. Five families had a wonderful time together!



As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes families with a child between the ages of 2 and 5 (and of course older siblings are welcome). We go on excursions around town and attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue—including Tot Shabbats, Family Services, or special events.

Please join us for a play date at the Please Touch Museum on Sunday, November 18. More information about this event will follow via email.

Prospective members are always welcome at these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested in joining us, please pass on the information. To join the Young Families Group e-mailing list, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.

Cantor's Column

Continued from page 4

So cleverly did they do their work that, when all the melodic fragments are strung together, the result sounds like a coherent song. The melodies we use at our services come from the central Europe of the seventeenth century. If you go to the Sephardi synagogue Mikveh Israel, or a Moroccan synagogue, or a Yemeni one, you will hear different melodies. Furthermore, there are six different melodic systems: one each for chanting Torah, Haftarah, Torah on High Holy Days, Esther, Lamentations, and one for the other three books read in public—Ruth, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.

There is a concept in music composing called "art concealing art." It refers to applying a structure so skillfully and gracefully that the listener hears only beautiful music and must make an effort to perceive the technique. Maybe "art concealing art" was thought up by Jews who chanted Torah. The simple melody conceals the Masoretic system that clothed their linguistic analysis of a text that was our translation into human language of a revelation of supernal knowledge that emanated from the infinite ..., and on and on.

By the way, chanting text is not hard to learn. I can teach you how in about an hour and a half, though getting good at it requires more time. Please contact me at cantor@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590,



Interfaith Shabbat Service & Oneg

Debbie Stewart

In collaboration with the InterFaithways organization, SHS will be hosting an **Interfaith Family Shabbat Service on Friday, November 9, 6:15 PM**, followed by a special Oneg Shabbat.

Interfaith Shabbat services are being conducted at over 50 congregations in the Greater Philadelphia area from November 2-11 in an effort to help interfaith couples and families feel more connected to the Jewish community. SHS is thrilled to participate in the fourth annual InterFaithways Family Shabbat Weekend.

Please help us to provide a special welcome to our congregants with interfaith relationships/families and other individuals or groups who will be visiting us from our community. Resources and information to support the Jewish interfaith community is available at www.interfaithways.org. For additional details about this event, feel free to contact the SHS office at 215.922.6590, or contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

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In Case You Missed the Words of Our Honorees...

Fran Gallun and Staci Schwartz

On Saturday, October 13, we had a special Kiddush Luncheon to honor this year's Hatan Torah and Kallat B'reishit, Mitchell Bach and Lore Bryan. As per SHS tradition, each honoree is asked to share their "Synagogue history," namely, their life before SHS, what brought them to SHS, and what connections they have had, and continue to have, with our Synagogue. In case you were unable to attend this wonderful celebration, here are some excerpts from our honoree's speeches or subsequent interviews.

Mitchell Bach

What brought Mitchell to SHS?

"As I completed my education in Philadelphia and started my professional career here, in the sixties and seventies, neither organized Judaism nor a synagogue were part of my life. All five of my children attended The Philadelphia School at 25th and Lombard Streets, and I served on its Board of Directors for many years. That was how I met Nancy Ferst, whom I adored and admired, and often we would drive home together after TPS Board meetings. On one of those wonderful car rides, Nancy told me about SHS. Her enthusiasm was infectious; in a loving, non-judgmental way, Nancy encouraged me to reexamine and explore my Jewish roots. She planted a seed in my mind and in my heart, which turned out to be inspirational and truly significant."

"Cindy and I enrolled our daughters, Sarah and Emily, in the preschool and soon became part of the SHS preschool community. Cindy felt strongly that Sarah and Emily should receive a religious education, and we agreed to enroll our daughters in the Sunday School. When Sarah was entering third grade, we applied for a spot in the Hebrew School and became SHS members in 1997. By then we had become part of the greater SHS community, and we became close friends with Joanna and Andy Bottaro, whose daughters, Laura and Sophie, were friends with our daughters through their TPS and SHS connections."

Continued on page 13

Music with a Mission—Mazel Tov to Adina Goldstein!

Sahar Oz

To say that Adina Goldstein is passionate about music is an understatement. The Masterman senior loves learning new music, practicing it, and sharing its sounds and emotions with others. Adina is also dedicated to Jewish education and activism, continuing her studies in our Hebrew High post-confirmation class and working as a second grade aide in our Sunday School.

So when it came time for her to design an original service project this past year, Adina conceived a plan with a unique blend of Jewish values, entrepreneurial leadership, and musical performance. The groundwork began shortly after Adina and 18 other teenagers were selected for the Satell Teen Fellowship for Leadership and Social Activism, an innovative leadership development program for Jewish teens in the Greater Philadelphia area who want to make a difference in the community.

The fellowship prepares Jewish adolescents for leadership roles and consistent service, toward a lifetime of engaged citizenship. As a fellow, Adina participated in monthly leadership training programs and service activities that provided a better sense of essential needs in our community. “It feels so good to be able to help other people right here in our city,” she noted.

The fellows learned from prominent political leaders and business professionals how to better develop their own voice. In February, the teens traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met with government leaders and experienced, firsthand, how American culture, government, and policies connect with Jewish values.

For Adina, this trip to the nation’s capital was particularly meaningful. “It caused me to reconsider my plans for college, from studying music to focusing on government and political science,” she said, adding, “I hope to use my education in these areas to lobby on behalf of music education.”

Adina has been playing violin since age five and knows well the time and financial commitments entailed in this lifelong interest. She has also seen the

impact of funding cuts to city schools’ arts and music programs. Adina noted that many people do not realize how expensive music stands and sheet music are, so she hoped to educate the general public and simultaneously raise funds to support the music program at her high school.

Her planning spanned six months and included a lot of grassroots marketing, from word of mouth to e-mail, and Facebook to phone calls. Adina reached out to family, friends from synagogue, and high school classmates to support her endeavor, and this proved crucial to its success.

She organized a mini-concert in the spring in order to generate excitement for a larger event in June. The buzz was building, and on June 10, 2012, Adina’s goals came to fruition with a concert aptly titled, “Play Until They Hear You.” Adina had recruited seven acts, including almost 25 musicians, to perform at the Ethical Society. Performers ranged from a jazz trio to a cellist playing classical music and an a cappella group from Masterman.

The concert raised \$700, which combined with previous donations for a total of almost \$1,000 to support Masterman’s music program. After all of her hard work, from concept to execution, Adina was able to enjoy 12 days in Israel with the other Satell Teen Fellows—students who are similarly committed to creating a more compassionate and caring world.

Adina smiles as she notes that she had been to Israel twice before, “but there were some very special aspects to this trip. Hiking together up to Masada pre-dawn was exciting, a real rush! In Jerusalem, we explored areas significant to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. And then to celebrate Shabbat at the Kotel (Western Wall) was amazing.”

The personal connections, friendships, lessons, images, and sounds of the fellowship have made a major impact on Adina, one she hopes to continue to share with the community at large. We, at SHS, are very proud of Adina’s accomplishments.

For more information about the Satell Teen Fellowship for Leadership and Social Activism, visit www.satellteenfellowship.org.

General Fund

In Appreciation of
Michael Rochester
Iris Levine

SHS

Laurence Cramer
Joseph Freedman

Cantor Freedman

Betty van de Rijn
Lore Bryan

Cantor Freedman

Bob Blacksberg

In Honor of**Lore Bryan's 90th Birthday**

The Massey Family
Jacob Weinberger & Rita Altman
Harold & Ellen Stern
Hannah Silverman
Bea Acker

Lore Bryan, Kallat B'reishit

Jacob Weinberger & Rita Altman
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Mitchell Bach, Hatan Torah

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Birth of Max Natan Gelles

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Nadel

The Feinberg Family

Marriage of Jane Silberg & Marc Greenberg

Judy Spiller

Don & Helene Silberg on the marriage of their daughter, Jane to Marc Greenberg

Judy Spiller

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Sigmond Weinberg, Father-in-Law**

Rosemarie Weinberg

Walter W. Widman, Father

Judith Widman
Mindy Widman

Bernhard & Ella Britzmann, In-laws

Lore Bryan

Anna Weinberg Trust, Mother-in-Law

Rosemarie Weinberg

Anna Paller, Mother

Robert Paller

Anna Feinstein, Mother

Evelyn Eisenstadt

Abraham Widman, Grandfather

Mindy Widman
Judith Widman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**In Appreciation of****Rabbi Winokur**

Bob Blacksberg

In Honor of**Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Nadel**

The Nadel Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Philip Retter, Husband**

Helen Retter

Aaron & Janet Goldberg, Parents of Michael Goldberg

Helen Retter

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In Honor of

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 Joanna, Andy, Laura, and Sophie Bottaro

Lore Bryan's 90th Birthday

Evelyn Segal
 Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Lore Bryan, Kallat B'reishit

Iris Levine

In Memory of

Marvin Goldsmith, Father of Gloria Parris
 Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Samuel Michaels, Father
 Geoffrey Michaels

Robert Segal, Husband

Evelyn Segal

Annual Giving Fund

In Appreciation of
SHS
 Eliot & Lizette Wallack

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Morris Auerbach, Grandfather
 James Orman

Social Action Fund

In Honor of
Phyllis Denbo
 Anonymous

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Esther Deitch, Grandmother of Judy
 Tony & Judy Lalli

Anna Goldsmith, Grandmother of Judy

Tony & Judy Lalli

SHS Silver-Heit-Salkin Fund

In Honor of
The Confirmands, their Families, & their teachers
 The Massey Family

Merle Salkin for her support during Gabriel Nadel's Bar Mitzvah

The Nadel Family

Playschool Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Scott Pollack, Brother-in-Law
 Gloria Parris and Family

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of
Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Nadel
 The Nadel Family

Tzedakah Opportunities at Society Hill Synagogue

Please be generous at the time of a simḥa or a sad occasion, when honoring someone in life or in memory. These tax-deductible funds help us to support crucial programs at SHS.

Donation Opportunities:

General Fund
 Annual Giving Fund
 Building Restoration Fund
 Silver Heit Salkin Fund
 Prayerbook Fund
 Social Action Fund
 Jay R. Baer Fund
 Playschool Fund
 Cantor's Discretionary Fund
 Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

November Birthdays

Jim Becker
 Suzanne Schiller
 Harry Bach
 Samuel Luckman
 Adam Bonin
 Rachel Goldfinger
 Josh Meyer
 Lillian Shemtov
 Jacob Wycoff
 Judith Widman
 Philip Edelstein
 Steven Weissman
 Susan Levering
 Stephanie Naidoff
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 David Ladov
 Jacqueline Pack Segal
 Han Meadway
 Mark Dembert
 Ira Kauderwood
 Yuri Rubinov
 Arthur Cherry
 Scott Jordan
 Laura Bottaro
 Sophie Bottaro
 Nancy Burd
 Micah Hart
 Marcie Ziskind
 Deborah Casnoff
 Doris Casper
 Sara Chrismer
 Robert Biron
 Jake Morgan
 Daniel Nelson
 Eryn Appel

November Birthdays

Sydney Bladen
 Edward Landau
 Teresa Novick
 Pelley Brown
 Rina Mitchell
 Phoebe Bonin
 Iddo Harel

**November Anniversaries**

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman
 Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
 Robert & Soozee Caplan
 Steven & Lisa Eizen
 Gail & Manny Porat
 Dean Weisgold & Cheri Cutler
 Janet Kole & Wendy Leebov
 Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 James & Julie Wilson
 Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
 Kinney Zalesne & Scott Siff
 Jeremey & Fran Newberg
 Jay & Phyllis Denbo
 Jud Aaron & Susan Snedden

Did You Know That SHS Has a Social Action Contribution Fund?

Phyllis Denbo

A few years ago, a Social Action Fund was created to support a project at the George Washington Elementary School. Funds collected for this project came from a Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia grant and from an individual SHS member's contribution that was made specifically for Social Action activities. Although not regularly listed in the Kesher, this fund still exists for anyone who wishes to contribute to any of the various Social Action initiatives at Society Hill Synagogue. Please indicate on the memo line of your check, or on a note accompanying a cash contribution, if you would like future donations to be applied to the SHS Social Action Fund.

In Case You Missed the Words of Our Honorees

Continued from page 8

What connections has Mitchell had with SHS over the years?

“Joanna was instrumental in getting me involved with the SHS Board. We, along with Gail Levan, worked together on the Membership Committee, and then I went on to serve as Treasurer for the Board of Directors. Shortly before the traumatic events of September 11, 2001, Avi Winokur became our Rabbi. I cannot even begin to explain how much my relationship with Avi means to me, and how he has always inspired my participation in the Synagogue. So in 2002, when Avi challenged the Board to envision the future of SHS, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed, and I had the privilege of chairing this committee under President Fran Gallun’s guidance. For the next two years, I, along with the remarkable members of this committee, had the unique opportunity of finding out what really makes this place tick. Plus, we all achieved a far greater understanding of the history of SHS and its core values. In 2004, the Board approved the Strategic Plan, including our new Mission Statement. Then with a little coaxing from Avi, I agreed to succeed Fran as President so that we could focus on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

“The evolution of my involvement at SHS has been motivated by both love and friendship. My love for the SHS community and the enrichment of my life through the wonderful friendships I have formed here are enduring. I remain committed to SHS.”

What are the three most important things Mitchell feels that he accomplished as President?

1. *“Provided leadership and direction to a deeply divided Board to resolve a fundamental conflict concerning the donor recognition issue, in a manner consistent with SHS’s values.*
2. *Oversaw the implementation of our Strategic Plan, and helped to make SHS even more like the Synagogue our members had expressed to the Strategic Planning Committee that they wanted.*
3. *Strengthened the SHS Board and got younger members involved who will be the future leaders of the Synagogue.”*

Lore Bryan

What was Lore’s life like before she came to SHS?

Lore was born Lore Konigshofer (meaning King’s Court) in 1922 (she just celebrated her 90th birthday by reading from the Torah), in the small city of Plauen, Germany, near Leipzig. Her parents were Orthodox Jews; her father a sho^{het} (a ritual animal-slaughterer) and a melamed (a Hebrew School teacher), and her mother took care of the home. She had a brother, eleven years older, and a sister, ten years older, and so Lore was “spoiled”, according to her!

She attended school in Plauen and had a pleasant, normal childhood. She visited her grandmother, who was from Hamburg, weekly. The family did not speak Yiddish, only German.

Lore distinctly remembers her years in high school in 1938. She remembers a time when her fellow students were supposed to take swimming lessons at the pool, but she was not allowed in the pool because she was Jewish. Things had been getting bad, but this incident prompted her parents to send her to live with an uncle so that she could attend a Jewish high school in Leipzig. There, she associated only with Jews, unlike her experience in Plauen. But things continued to get worse. Her uncle lost his business and left for Shanghai. By this time, she had graduated from the high school, and so her parents came to Leipzig and took her to Holland by train. Lore’s parents had decided to send her to Liverpool to live safely with other relatives there. And so she sailed from Holland to Liverpool. She was 17 years old—it was the last time she ever saw her parents.

In Liverpool, Lore found a warm home with another uncle, (a physician), and his wife. They had no children, and soon Lore apprenticed with a dress-maker. Then she had to move on again, because Liverpool was a port city and all aliens were forced to leave. She headed to Glasgow, Scotland, to live with yet another uncle, and ultimately moved out on her own and worked as a photo re-toucher. She remembers her landlady from that time, a Miss Hutton, and laughed as she told me how Miss Hutton would say,

Continued on page 14

"The marks of your visitors feet are on the floor." Quite the ever-watchful housekeeper, Miss Hutton also drew a line on the bathtub to indicate Lore's allowance of water for her bath!

Lore went to dances at the Jewish Institute, and there she met a British soldier named Rudolf Britzmann, himself an immigrant from Germany. We remember this special man as Roger Bryan, Lore's dear husband.

Roger and Lore were married in 1943, at Jeninne's, the only kosher restaurant in Glasgow. Roger was away a lot and Lore worked as "Rosie the Riveter," helping to build airplanes.

(You must ask Lore about Roger's wartime experiences and how he became a translator at the Nuremburg Trials).

Their daughter Carol was born in 1947, and by then Lore's older brother lived in Philadelphia, and he assisted them in relocating here in the early 1950s. He helped Roger get a job as a thread salesman for the clothing industry and their lives began to settle down. Their son Jeff was born in 1957, completing the family.

What brought Lore and Roger to SHS?

Lore and Roger lived in the Overbrook section of the city and joined Har Zion, where they met Rabbi Ivan Caine, a superb and gifted teacher. When Rabbi Caine left to reenergize the old Roumanian synagogue in the re-developing Society Hill section of the city, Lore and Roger followed him here in 1976.

Lore and Roger were part of the fabric of SHS from the very beginning, and Lore fondly remembers making many new friends here, including Abe and Berta Bonderow and Helen and Lou Gallun.

Lore became a steady and able chanter of haftarot, and she thanks Cantor Alan Cohn for teaching her to chant. In 2010, she celebrated a triple Bat Mitzvah at Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun with granddaughter Alexis and daughter-in-law Ivy.

What are Lore's current connections to SHS?

Lore faithfully attends Torah Study and Shabbat services every week, and our SHS family continues to be enriched by Lore's presence over these many years. The SHS Shabbat regulars feel that everything is as it should be when Lore is seated in her regular spot in the third row.

Do yourself a favor and sit down with Lore and hear more about her life with Roger. Before you know it, she'll be asking about you, and you will have a most delightful new friend. Continue in strength, Lore!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazel Tov to

Judy and Richard Gelles on the birth of their grandson, **Max Natan Gelles**.

Condolences to

Rachel Domber and Family on the death of her husband, **Matthew Domber**.

Gloria Parris and Family on the death of her father, **Marvin Goldsmith**.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

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November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
SS-Sunday School HS-Hebrew School HH-Hebrew High PS-Playschool ELM-Education Leadership Meeting	EDM-Education Committee Mtg. BDM-Board Mtg. ECM-Executive Com- mittee Mtg.				6:15 PM Services	Va-yera 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Lena Popkin Clocks back 1 hour
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS/HH 11:15 AM Nosh/ Schmooze	12:30 PM ELM 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Talmud on Tap	7 PM Hebrew Class 7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Interfaith Shabbat Service	Hayyei Sarah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans' Day 9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS/HH		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Soul of Israel	7 PM Hebrew Class		6:15 PM Services	Tol'dot 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Hayman
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Phila. Marathon – No SS 11 AM HS/HH	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Torah with Rabbi 7 PM Talmud on Tap	No ASA No PM PreK Class 2 PM Office Closes	Thanksgiving Day Building Closed	PS & Office Closed 6:15 PM Services	Va-yetzei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services No Tot Shabbat
25	26	27	28	29	30	
No SS/HS/HH Building Closed	7 PM Offerings of the Heart	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Soul of Israel	7 PM Hebrew Class		6:15 PM TGISHabbat	

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER ISSUE 2012

Kesher



Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**
Bob Freedman, **Cantor**
Jonathan Weiss, **President**
Betty van de Rijn, **Executive Director**
Sahar Oz, **Education Director**
Gloria Parris, **Playschool Director**

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SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER

Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)

Our Exploration of *Three Faiths, One God* Continues

Debbie Stewart

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 7, at 7 PM. at Old St. Joseph's Church**, (located 321 Willings Alley) for our continued viewing and discussion of the video, *Three Faiths, One God*, exploring the common and unique features among the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic faiths.

For additional information about this event, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.