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418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.6590 Phone
215.922.6599 Fax



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 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!

To preorder Dr. Wolfson's books (only preordered books will be autographed), please contact the office with your credit card information, if you wish to place an order over the phone.



Rabbi's Column

Looking Forward to the Wolfson Shabbaton December 7–9

Avi Winokur

The four October conversations about Ron Wolfson's *The Spirituality of Welcoming* and our Membership Engagement Initiative were among the most enjoyable, interesting, and challenging get-togethers that I have experienced in my two-decades-plus rabbinate. Among the 69 people who attended, newish members, empty nesters, and families with post-B'nai mitzvah children were particularly well represented. Interestingly, many of the empty nesters were among the newer members.

Most gratifying to me and other Synagogue leaders was the spirit of constructive feedback and visioning. Although it is clear that there is an enormous amount that we need to improve on, the sessions were almost entirely devoid of whining and were instead incredibly enthusiastic. There seemed to be an unspoken understanding that we weren't talking about flashy programs that would bring people in for a particular evening. Rather, we were talking about strengthening the ties that bind, that make our community stronger and more engaging to our members.

The sessions revolved principally around the questions: What might connect you more with the Synagogue community? How might the Synagogue facilitate your connecting with others? Five subjects came up most frequently:

- Integrating newish members and reaching out to prospective members;
- Joining together for Shabbat meals at the Synagogue and in homes;
- Expanding social, get-to-know-each-other activities;
- Bringing more music (especially at the level of TGIShabbat) into the Synagogue; and
- Forming affinity groups for special interests like arts, walking groups, and Sisterhood/Men's Clubs.

In addition, people expressed concerns about the prayer book, the need for transliteration, and perhaps other modes of making the service accessible; more sophisticated use of social media; a more welcoming physical plant; nontraditional spiritual expression from yoga and meditation to nature walks; strengthening social action; and making sure that we keep Rabbi Berman.

All of this is a tall order, but I can assure you that the work has already begun. Terry Novick is spearheading the effort to produce a complete transliteration of our worship service; each of our Board members have volunteered to sponsor at least one Shabbat Kiddush or meal during the year; and the leadership is reviewing a protocol drafted by Vice President Debbie Stewart and Membership Chair Sadye Ladov to ensure that our community's warmth flows to members (veteran and new) and prospective members alike.

It was inspiring to lead these meetings, and I thank all of you who participated. Now it's time to go beyond the caucus of the 69. In our efforts to reimagine our community, we will have the pleasure of meeting the author of *The Spirituality of Welcoming* as our scholar in residence for our December 7---8 Shabbaton (on December 9, Dr. Wolfson will lead a retreat for our Board members). If you haven't had a chance yet, take a look at his book, and then join as we hear from and discuss with a man who has spent over a decade of his professional life thinking about, writing about, and involving himself in the question of how to deepen and strengthen synagogue community life.

Continued on page 8

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

Join One of Our Proposed Special Interest Groups

Jonathan Weiss

For the last few months you have been hearing about the Membership Engagement Initiative, a multifaceted project we have been working on at the Board level since last spring. This month's Shabbaton (**Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 – followed by a Board Retreat on Sunday, December 9**), featuring guest scholar Dr. Ron Wolfson, will mark the accomplishment of a major milestone with regard to this initiative. My hope is that most of you will join us for at least one of the scheduled activities that weekend. I wanted to spend a few minutes talking about some future aspects of the Initiative because we need as much participation as possible in order to reach our goals.

As you know, SHS members were sent a copy (one per household) of Dr. Wolfson's book, *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Congregation Into a Sacred Community*. Then, in the fall, Rabbi Winokur scheduled and led four different discussion sessions to the address issues and ideas that were introduced in the book. The sessions were held at various times for member convenience—two on weekend mornings, two on weekday evenings—and I am proud to report that nearly 70 members attended the groups. There were a lot of great conversations with interesting ideas shared at each of the four sessions, and a number of attendees volunteered to participate in, or serve as leaders for, future projects.

Several members have already agreed to form a steering committee to work with this group of enthusiastic volunteers to help them develop events and activities relating to five main identified areas of interest:

- New Member Integration – e.g., We could form a mentoring program where veteran or recent members would help new members learn what types of activities and events are available at SHS, so that they would have increased opportunities to connect with other congregants.
- Shabbat Meals – e.g., We could develop programs to facilitate Shabbat meals at SHS, at members' homes, and at local restaurants.

- Social Activities – e.g., We could plan more non-religious events (that may or may not have a Jewish component) as a way to facilitate engagement and connection opportunities within our community. InterNOSHional night is a great example of this type of event.
- Musical Events in the Synagogue – e.g., We could plan more concerts, singing events, or other musical offerings, based on the varied musical tastes of our members.
- Arts and Culture – e.g., We could encourage groups of members with common interests to attend cultural events in the city such as museums, art exhibits, musical programs, or presentations at SHS focused on arts and culture.

If you would like to be involved with any of these planning groups, we'd love to have your help. At the Shabbaton, we will have boards set up representing each of the above-mentioned proposed interest groups. Membership lists will be posted on each board, along with a package of stickers. Take a moment to put a sticker next to your name on the **l i s t** representing your group of interest. If you already know that you can't attend the Shabbaton, please send an email to Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com to let her know if there is a planning group you would like to join.

I look forward to seeing you most of you at the Shabbaton! I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah!





Cantor's Column

The Melody May Change, but the Text Remains the Same

Bob Freedman

Psalm 149 begins, "Sing unto God a new song!" Well said, Mr. Psalmist, but it's not that simple. Do we really need new melodies for our services? Why not keep those old melodies that we grew up with and not be confused? It may not surprise you that I have answers to those questions.

Every morning in the summer after I was in the seventh grade, my older brother put on the album by the Band "Music from Big Pink." Listening to it while we ate breakfast was his morning ritual. It was great music. But after three weeks, it got old. After a month I tuned it out or ate outdoors. I did not have the courage to suggest to him that we listen to something else for a change.

Sometimes when I am singing melodies for the Shabbat service that I have sung since I was very young, I feel a little like I did that summer. "Same old, same old," I think. Most often the feeling does not last. I really like to sing, and each time I sing that same old melody, I bring new challenges and new resolutions to making music in that moment. In this way I can fulfill the verse from Psalm 149. But there are times when that strategy doesn't help. Then I need a new melody to wake me up from my boredom.

There's text, and there are the feelings that the text evokes. The text doesn't change. It carries the same intellectual message that it has for 2,000 years. Melody carries the feelings that we bring to the words. A new melody added to an old text gives us a fresh emotional perspective on the text's message. Also, music should fit the context. If the crowd is large, and we're there to welcome the Sabbath bride with a shout, I can roll out a "L'cha Dodi" that'll rock the building. The gentle tune for "L'cha Dodi" I'll save for when there's an intimate group of worshipers that have had a long week and just want to settle in for a rest.

Continued on page 8



Ann Spak Thal School

Hanukkah: Let in the Light!

Sahar Oz

Hanukkah is just around the corner, and soon we'll be celebrating with dreidels, sufganiyot (doughnuts), and hanukkiyot (Hanukkah menorahs). We have a number of special events planned to engage all of our students and families as the festival of lights approaches.

Our Sunday School students are exploring Hanukkah through art, stories, games, and songs. In Hebrew School, we are delving into the history, mythology, and lessons of Hanukkah. We strive to make the legacy and morals of the Hanukkah story relevant for our children even though 2,200 years have passed since the Maccabean Revolt and subsequent collapse of the Hasmonean Dynasty.

On Friday evening, December 14, at 6:15 PM, we will have a special Hanukkah Shabbat service, led by the 12 sixth graders in our Dalet class, followed by dinner in the Social Hall at 7:30 PM. The students have been preparing for this service with their teachers and the Cantor, and they are excited for this "enlightening" beginning to Shabbat. We are asking everyone attending services that evening to bring their hanukkiyot with them so that we can light Hanukkah candles together before services and display the lit hanukkiyot in the Sanctuary.

Of course, it would not be a Hanukkah celebration at SHS without the Hanukkah Happening! On Sunday, December 16, we are changing the morning schedule so that Hebrew School, Hebrew High, and Sunday School classes will all meet from 9 – 11 AM, thus enabling Sunday School students to attend the Hanukkah Happening from 11 AM – 1 PM.

Everyone will get to enjoy a Hanukkah-themed show by award-winning Philadelphia magician, Poly, who deftly blends slight of hand, animal magic, classic illusions, and a sharp sense of humor. Here is the detailed schedule for the day:

9-11 AM: Sunday School Classes

Continued on next page

9–9:30 AM: Hebrew School and Hebrew High classes

9:30–10:30 AM: Magic By Poly show for grades 3 – 10 in the Sanctuary

10:30–11 AM: Hebrew School and Hebrew High classes in the Sanctuary and in the upstairs hallway; B'nai Mitzvah class with the Cantor for grade 6

11 AM–1 PM: Hanukkah Happening in the Social Hall for Playschool and Sunday School students, including Magic By Poly, music, and a variety of fun activities.

Please remember that our last Sunday and Tuesday classes before winter break are on December 16 and 18, respectively. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 6. Nearly a third of our teachers and I are traveling to Israel on a variety of trips during the break, so we wish n'siah tovah (a good trip) to Emily, Corey, and Karmi. And to everyone, Hag Urim Same'ah – Happy Hanukkah!

Students celebrate baking delicious challah in the Shabbat



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Playschool

2013 Application

Deadline is Monday,
December 17, 1 PM

Gloria Parris

The Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House will take place on Sunday, December 16, from 11 AM until 1 PM.

There will be Hanukkah crafts, festive music with Cantor Freedman, Magic by Poly, dreidel games, and cookie decorating. Of course, the amazing SHS Latke Brigade, led by Master Chef Len Weinberg, will be on hand to serve their delicious, homemade, world-renowned latkes!

The Playschool Open House gives parents the opportunity to meet our teachers, as well as current families who attend the Playschool. The Playschool has classes for 2-year-olds, which meet from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The class for 3 – 4-year-olds meets from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, and children can be enrolled two, three, four, or all five days per week. A packed dairy lunch is brought to school each day. Our Pre-Kindergarten classes meet five days per week. There is a morning class session from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and an afternoon class session that meets from 12 – 3 PM. We also offer an exciting Afterschool Arts program every afternoon until 3 PM. Children who are not enrolled in the regular Playschool are also welcome to sign up for Afterschool Arts activities.

Applications for the September 2013 school year will be available at the Hanukkah Happening and can also be found on the SHS website. If you are interested in enrolling your child/children in our Playschool, and you would like to submit an application prior to the deadline (**Monday, December 17 at 1 PM**), you can download the application from the SHS website, fill it out, and mail or bring it to the Synagogue. **SHS members receive priority consideration regarding Playschool enrollment, but we must receive all applications by the deadline date for any child to be considered for placement.**

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Playschool

Continued from page 5

Please contact me at 215.922.6590, ext. 28, or gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org for further enrollment information or to arrange for a tour of the Playschool.



Other important Playschool dates in December are:

Wednesday and Thursday, December 5 & 6: Parent Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, December 11: The 3 – 4-year-old class goes to the Art Museum

Friday, December 21: Last day of Playschool before the Winter Break

Wednesday, January 2, 2013: Playschool resumes after Winter Break

We hope to see you at the Hanukkah Happening!



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@societyhillssynagogue.org to purchase your copy today!

Young Families Group Join Us For Chinese Food on Christmas Eve!

Laurel Landau

Our Young Families Group enjoyed a lovely afternoon at the Please Touch Museum in November. 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 a variety of excursions around town and attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue—including Tot Shabbats, Family Services, or other special events.

Please join us at our annual **Chinese Dinner at a local restaurant on Christmas Eve** (Monday, December 24)! More information will follow via email.

Prospective members are always welcome to join us at these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested, please pass on the information.

To join our mailing list, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.

SHS Gathering for Interfaith Couples

Debbie Stewart

All Society Hill Synagogue congregants who are involved in interfaith relationships are invited to join us (people are welcome to come alone or as couples) for an informal dinner party at our home (located in the Queen Village area of the city) on **Wednesday, December 19, at 7 PM.**

Rabbi Winokur has accepted our invitation and will be available to answer questions and lead discussions about topics unique to our special demographic group within our Synagogue community. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy delicious food while getting to know other folks who have interfaith marriages, families, or relationships!

We hope to see you there! To RSVP, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community Another Discussion About *Three Faiths, One God*

Debbie Stewart

Please join us on **Wednesday, December 5, at 7 PM, in Parrish Hall, 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.



Join insurance actuary Sharon Feldstein and her sidekick, Shabbetai Zvi, as they travel the multiverse to change the history of footwear.

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Save the Date!

Second Annual SHS InterNOSHional Night Will Occur on Saturday, February 9

Debbie Stewart

Back by popular demand, we are once again seeking SHS members to participate in our 2nd annual InterNOSHional Night on Saturday, February 9. We are looking for at least a half a dozen volunteers to host a dinner in their homes featuring an international cuisine of their choice for 8 – 12 guests. Once we establish the host-chosen cuisine categories and associated menus, we will publicize this information so that the rest of our congregants can rush to sign up for a seat at a table! Don't miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation—all while supporting this community-building and fundraising activity for our shul!

If you are interested in hosting a dinner, contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

From one of our caucus of 69 participants, who also attended my Nuts & Bolts class last year: "Making good on my own thoughts and wishes for becoming more engaged, as well as those of [my husband], we'd like to offer to host a potluck in our home sometime after January 1. I believe you wanted to get last year's Nuts & Bolts group together.." Just before I composed this column, I officiated at the wedding of two other students from that class. When I mentioned to them this proposed potluck, they were delighted at the prospect.

This is the beginning of moving forward.



TGIShabbat: Chinese Food & Movie



On December 28, at 6:15 PM, come raise your voices and spirit with flutist Eve Friedman and Cantor Jessi Roemer, our guests at the December TGIShabbat. Together we'll lift each other up to welcome Shabbat!

A Chinese dinner will follow services and then we will have a special viewing of "*Circumcise Me: The Comedy of Yisrael Campbell*". Acclaimed comedian Yisrael Campbell looks more like a rabbi than a comic, but don't be fooled by the big black hat and the Hasidic side-curls. Born Chris Campbell, the son of an ex-nun and a Catholic schoolteacher, he converted to Judaism three times – Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox. His spiritual journey began as a drug-drenched teenager in Radnor and ended in Jerusalem. *Circumcise Me: The Comedy of Yisrael Campbell* is the hilarious, surprising, and heartfelt story of one man's quest for spiritual enlightenment.

Cantor's Column

Continued from page 4

It is also true that prayer should take us out of our comfort zone, and new melodies help us do that. So I am very proud of this congregation for learning so many of them. For Friday night alone, we know three tunes to "Shalom Aleichem," two for "Y'did Nefesh," five (!) for "L'cha Dodi," four for "Mi Chamocha," four for "Oseh Shalom," and four for "Adon Olam." These are tunes that we use regularly!

Don't worry; the old, familiar melodies will not disappear. Cantors respectfully call those constant tunes *misinai*, "from Sinai," meaning that they are from forever and belong to a category to which the word "change" doesn't apply.

Regarding change HaRav Kook said, "The old shall be new, and the new shall be holy." Let your love for the old melodies renew them for you each time you sing them, and give yourself the holy gift of learning new ones as well.

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Social Action

Holiday Gifts for George Washington Elementary School Students

Phyllis Denbo

Over the past three years, our Hebrew and Sunday School families have worked together to collect and donate gifts of toys, clothing, and super market gift cards to families and children in need. This year, we will collect items for students at George Washington Elementary School, who would otherwise receive few—or perhaps no—presents for Christmas. The school has provided us with a list of their most needy students (including the age and gender of each child).

This year, we hope that the entire SHS community will participate in this fulfilling project. SHS members can choose to purchase gifts for all of the children in one family or for just one or two children on the list. We would also like to provide these families with gift cards to Acme, Super Fresh, Pathmark, Shop Rite, or Target, which will allow them to purchase food and household items for the holidays.

If you would like to purchase gifts or food gift cards for a child or family from the George Washington School, please contact Carmen Hayman at Carmen@haymanfamily.com. **All presents and gift cards should be dropped off at the Synagogue no later than Sunday, December 16.** All gifts (please feel free to wrap your purchases) should include your assigned child(ren)'s name(s) on the package(s).



Dates to Remember

December 7-8-9	Wolfson Shabbaton
December 8 to 16	<u>H</u> anukkah
December 14	Dalet Class Service - 6:15 PM Followed by Dalet Class Shabbat Dinner
December 16	<u>H</u> anukkah Happening
December 19	Start of Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School Winter Break
December 21	Start of Playschool Winter Break
December 23	Building Closed
December 24	Building Closed
December 25	Building Closed No Minyan
December 28	TGIS habbat with Eve Friedman and Jessi Roemer
December 30	Building Closed
January 1, 2013	Building Closed No Minyan
January 2	Playschool Resumes
January 6	Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School Resumes and Purim Cantata Rehearsals begin

General Fund

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Lore Bryan's 90th Birthday**
Merlin-Rubinov Family

Jacob Hayman's Bar Mitzvah
Harris & Renee Hayman

**In Memory of
Joyce Lowery, Mother of Mary Ann Stover**
Larry & Carol Segal
Jerry & Joan Roller

Sarra Belkina, Mother of Yuri Rubinov
Lore Bryan

Gloria Steinberg's Mother
Lore Bryan

**Yahrzeit Remembrance
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Joan & Jerry Roller

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller
Joan & Jerry Roller

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Mildred Lizenbaum and Curtis Lizenbaum

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Rabbi's Torah Study

Rabbi Valerie Joseph

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Edward Levenson

Susan Levering

Howard & Judy Levin

Iris Levine

Joan Markman & Jim Becker

Rina Mitchell

Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Mel Nasielski & Nancy Burd

Jeremey & Fran Newberg

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Debbie Stewart

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Nuriye Uygur

Eliot & Lizette Wallack

Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Rosemarie Weinberg

Jacob Weinberger & Rita Altman

James & Julie Wilson

Flora Wolf

Zelda Wolf

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Maurice Acker, Husband**

Bea Acker

**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.

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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

December Birthdays

Meranda Love
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 Harrison Ziskind
 Howard Sedran
 Joel Chernock
 Evelyn Eisenstadt
 Myron Bloom
 Ariana Eizen
 Joanna Hart
 Michael Goldberg
 David Braemer
 Joanna Bottaro
 Leah Popowich
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 Rebecca Buse-Morley
 Lisa Coran
 Mimi Ella Hunter
 Ellianna Zack
 Bruce Luckman
 Marina Merlin
 Isaac Torchinsky-Field

December Birthdays

Lee Casper
 Joel Hirsch
 Berk Petersohn
 Lindsay Saligman
 Samuel Datlof
 Roberta Jacobs Meadway
 Emily Zimmerman
 Emily Bach

**December Anniversaries**

Adam & Amy Shapiro
 Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg
 Michael R. Rochester &
 Carole LeFaivre-Rochester
 Fred & Karen Edelstein
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
 Alan & Deborah Casnoff
 Herbert & Natalie Cohn
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Andrew Seaberg & Nella Bloom
 Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

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.



LIGHT UP
THE SUMMER.
FIND YOUR JEWISH CAMP.
OneHappyCamper.org



The Gift of Jewish Overnight Camp

Brian Mono

Looking for a Hanukkah gift that'll last a lot longer than a bag of chocolate gelt? Give your child the summer of their life at Jewish camp!

Jewish overnight camp offers endless activities—filmmaking, singing, rock climbing, you name it—but camp is about more than just campfires and color war. Your campers will return home confident and invigorated, sure of themselves and proud of their heritage.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, in partnership with the Neubauer Family Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, is pleased to once again offer incentive grants of up to \$1000 for first-time campers going to Jewish overnight summer camps across North America.

Camps are already filling up (and once grants are gone, they're gone!) so visit OneHappyCamper.org to start your application for \$1,000 off today. If you have any questions, please contact my assistant, Drew Martin, at 215.832.0530 or dmartin@jfgp.org.



Religion Committee

Tuesday Morning Minyan

Terry Novick and Marc Schwartz

In keeping with the goals of the Membership Engagement Initiative, a wonderful way to form connections with other members and build community is to attend Tuesday Morning Minyan. Please read the following eloquent appeal by Jerry Roller that was previously published in the April Keshet:

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. Thanks for your help.

Betty's Baked French Toast



1 Large loaf of challah-cut into 1" slices

Egg Mixture:

6 eggs
 2 c. of half and half
 2 c. of milk
 1 c. of pure maple syrup
 2 t. of vanilla
 Dash of cinnamon
 Dash of nutmeg

Filling:

16 oz. cream cheese (room temperature)
 1 t. of vanilla
 2 eggs
 1/2 c. of sugar

Arrange challah slices in a 13 x 9 baking pan that has been sprayed with Pam. Sprinkle bread with cinnamon.

Prepare the filling; mix all the ingredients until smooth and creamy.

Spread cream cheese mixture over bread. Layer with remaining challah slices and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Mix the eggs, half and half, milk, maple syrup, vanilla, and nutmeg. Slowly pour egg mixture over the top until all bread is soaked. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°, covered, for approximately 40 minutes. Then uncover and bake for 20 minutes longer. Let stand 5-10 minutes before cutting. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and serve with sautéed apples or peaches and pure maple syrup.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazel Tov to

Elayne Bloom on the birth of her granddaughter, **Tamara Itandehui Bloom**.

Condolences to

Mary Ann Stover on the death of her mother, **Joyce Lowery**.

Welcome New Members

Jane Nathanson and Andrew Newman



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

MARC L. SCHWARTZ, MD, FACP, FACC, FAHA
STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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(215) 955-8706

FAX (215) 955-8509

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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.					Va-yishlah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts & Bolts 10 AM Cantata Try outs 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	No Playschool PS Parent Confer- ences 7 PM Hebrew Class 7:30 PM EDM	No Playschool PS Parent Confer- ences	6:15 PM Services Wolfson Shabbaton	Va-yeishev Hanukkah Candle 1 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service Wolfson Shabbaton
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Hanukkah Candle 2 9 AM SS 11 AM HS/HH Wolfson Shabbaton Board Retreat	Hanukkah Candle 3	Hanukkah Candle 4 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	Hanukkah Candle 5 7 PM Hebrew Class	Hanukkah Candle 6	Hanukkah Candle 7 6:15 PM Dalet Class Service 7:15 PM Dalet Class Shabbat Dinner	Mi-ketz Hanukkah Candle 8 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Hanukkah Day 8 9-11 AM SS/HS/HH Last Day of SS 11 AM Hanukkah Happening	7 PM BDM 7 PM Offerings of the Heart	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS Last Day of HS 5:15 PM Torah with Rabbi 7 PM Talmud on Tap	7 PM Hebrew Class		Last Day of PS Winter Break Begins 6:15 PM Services	Va-yiggash 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 11:30 AM Tot Shabbat
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Building Closed	Building Closed	No Minyan Christmas Building Closed	1 PM Office Closes	1 PM Office Closes	1 PM Office Closes 6:15 PM TGShabbat with Eve Friedman & Jesse Roemer	Va-y'hi 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
30	31					
Building Closed	New Year's Eve 1 PM Office Closes					

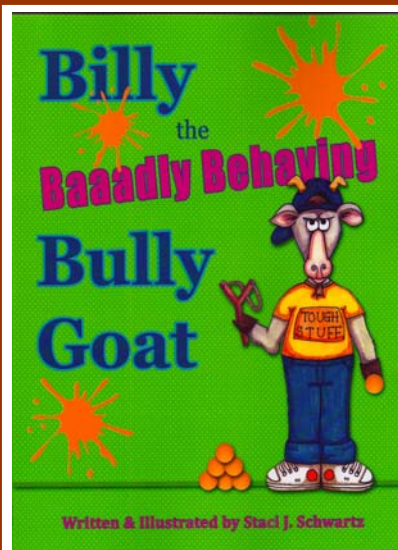
Kesher



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



Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat is a story, written in lighthearted rhyming verse, about a young goat named Billy who constantly picks on the other “kids” in his class. From stealing their lunch money to pulling their hair, Billy is making life miserable for his primary grade peers. When Mr. and Mrs. Goat realize that they have exhausted all of their own strategies to stop their son’s unacceptable behavior, they finally seek help from “The Wise Old Goat Upon the Hill,” a certified Goat Therapist. With a little bit of magic dust, some common sense, and family support—a brilliant plan is initiated to cure Billy of his bullying ways.

By describing the circumstances and feelings associated with bullying, *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat* provides children with the opportunity to identify bullying behavior and share their personal experiences with bullying—either as an intimidator, a victim, or a witness. This story should be part of every child’s personal and classroom book collection because it can open the lines of communication between child and parent, or child and teacher, and promote the discussion of strategies for dealing with peer-related verbal or physical aggression.

If you’d like to purchase a copy of *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat*, please contact Staci at stacischwartz7@yahoo.com. Soft cover copies are available for \$12.95 a piece.