

Inside

Messages from:

2 - 3

- Rabbi's Column
- President's Column
- Ann Spak Thal School

4 - 5

- Cantor's Column
- Playschool
- Young Families

6 - 7

- Member Engagement

8 - 9

- POWER
- Philadelphia Interfaith (PIC)

10 - 11

- Contributions

12 - 13

- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Community News

14 - 15

- November/December Calendars

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.6590 Phone
215.922.6599 Fax

 SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

www.societyhillsynagogue.org

The Importance of Annual Giving

Michael Hafter

If asked by a friend or acquaintance to choose one word to describe SHS, many of us would say “haimish,” a Yiddish word that means “warm and comfortable (home-like).” We have a wonderful Synagogue community, and we pride ourselves on treating each other with kindness, respect, and equality. Many of the decisions we make at the Board level reflect that sensibility. When we decided, several years ago, to invite Board Members to sit on the bimah during the High Holy Days, it was a gesture made for no other purpose than to introduce these hard-working volunteer leaders to the rest of the community.

This year, while members of the Religion Committee was tirelessly making calls to assign honors for the High Holy Days, one congregant asked, “Who decides who gets called?” It reminded us that unlike many shuls, we do not auction bimah honors or aliyot, and we do not sell seats in the Sanctuary to raise money. Instead, we offer honors to celebrate new members, recognize people who have volunteered their time to organize Synagogue activities, or to fulfill any member’s request to participate in High Holy Day services. We do that because that’s who we are, as a community. But it also means that we have to resort to other methods to achieve our fundraising goals to support Synagogue operations. Our main method of collecting this money is still achieved through our Annual Giving Appeal.

That sense of equality and appreciation of membership helps foster the strong sense of community that was described by last year’s survey respondents. When my daughter, Karen, spoke at Yom Kippur services last year, she articulately described what it means to her to be part of our community. There were many damp eyes. Sometimes we need to be reminded of what a wonderful thing we have, and why we need to support it.

For the second year, this time at Rosh Hashanah, David Ladov eloquently addressed the congregation on the topic of Annual Giving. He reminded us that in addition to our congregation’s diverse cultural, religious, and spiritual backgrounds, our members also have different financial capabilities. We do not turn away people who can’t afford our normal dues structure; we work out a payment plan that they can afford. We hope that every member contributes what he or she can, and we recognize that these amounts will change according to an individual’s circumstances. David requested that those who are able to contribute more than their own dues will help to support the dues of individuals, couples, or families who are unable to pay the full amount. The sponsorship he described is tzedakah in its truest form.

Continued on page 6



Rabbi's Column

My Thoughts About the Pew Survey of the American Jewish Community

Avi Winokur

The Pew survey of the American Jewish community is out, and it is a big deal, and it is provoking all sorts of reactions. Little in it is new. Intermarriage continues to climb. More and more Jews are uninterested in religion. (A) This is new? (B) While the trend is much greater among younger Jewish adults (hand wringing on three), not only does it *not* necessarily portend a trend, but it is utterly unremarkable. When the more religiously identified GenXers and Baby Boomers were the same age as today's Millennials, they, too, probably were less religiously identified.

Because there is so much in the survey, different people have found a lot to trumpet and a lot to fret about. Shmuel Rosner's L.A. Jewish Journal blog notes, "The Pew survey has enough material for everyone to be able to reaffirm their previous beliefs." It all depends on how you massage the facts. So, if you are a Conservative Jew who cares about the future of Conservative Judaism the survey is truly worrisome. If you're an Orthodox Jew, particularly ultra-Orthodox, you have much to trumpet. Yet Donniel Hartman, himself an Orthodox rabbi, was particularly harsh on Orthodox triumphalism.

Conservative rabbi and commentator Joshua Hammerman even found a way to celebrate the "no-religion" Jews: "When 94% of U.S. Jews (including 97% of Jews by religion and 83% of Jews of no religion) say they are proud to be Jewish, this is nothing short of miraculous, given the 'oy vey' version of Jewish history that so many generations have been force fed. Even Jews who are bringing their kids up *in another religion* are proud to be Jewish! That means they are not completely lost to us" (*italics in original*). Hammerman's observation that Reconstructionists will applaud is: "Ultimately, the big winners of the survey are Mordecai Kaplan and Theodor Herzl. Jewish peoplehood, culture, and civilization are prime motivators of Jewish pride and connection. Ritual observance is not."

Broadly speaking, there do seem to be trends in favor of stronger Orthodoxy (particularly ultra-Orthodoxy, even in America) and increasing secularism, with liberal religion losing more and more adherents. While those of us who believe religion is critical may lament these trends, the real question is how we adapt communally to them.

In my opinion, these trends will not be reversed by doubling the funds for Birthright Israel or aggressively underwriting hip new synagogues led by hip young charismatic rabbis like Rommemu in Manhattan (Rabbi David Ingber) and Ikar (Rabbi Sharon Brous) in Los Angeles. That is to say, either the trends are irreversible or at the very least not subject to reversal by social engineering through Jewish venture philanthropy. In other words, should these trends reverse, it will be as a result of society-wide mega-trends. In fact, trends within the Jewish community mirror almost exactly trends in the Christian community—more fundamentalist/evangelical Christians, fewer mainline Protestant, and more secularists whose parents associated with a church.

The challenge for synagogues is especially daunting. Synagogues are much more than religious institutions but, unlike JCCs or B'nai B'rith or the Anti-Defamation League, they are *primarily* religious institutions. Certainly that is how people think of them. Yet a whopping 30% of all Jews see themselves as basically not religious, and, while the number is higher among the 18-29 set (41%), a significant number of older Jews (GenXers, 33%; Baby Boomers, 24%; Silent and Greatest combined, 25%) describe themselves as essentially secular. On the other hand, that means 70% of all Jews self-describe in religious terms (with a denominational affiliation). But even among those 70%, we all know that a very high percentage see themselves as largely cultural Jews or, if while more religious than cultural, then with neither the Jewish religion nor Jewish culture being of particular importance in daily life.

Here then is the situation. Many Jews are not associated with a synagogue at all. But synagogues remain the primary Jewish address for Jews who have a Jewish address at all, including secular Jews since most secular Jewish institutions have died or

Continued on page 11



President's Column

Working Hard to Create and Maintain a Sacred Community

Jonathan Weiss

Every now and then, when I am waiting in the Spruce Street lobby of the Synagogue I take a look at the large framed document on the wall—it is an official charter from the original Synagogue that was housed in our historical building. This congregation was called The Great Roumanian Shul, and I find it to be an interesting document.

As I stare at the careful calligraphy and the dates listed on this document, I get chills as I think about these early Philadelphians who worked to change a Baptist church building into a suitable place for Jews to worship. I've always found it interesting that both men and women are listed as members of this early Board of Directors. I don't know why, but I've always thought that this was unusual. I think about that group of committed men and women who worked hard to create and maintain a sacred community.

Nearly 60 years later, another group of committed men and women founded our community. They initially called themselves "Or Hadash, Agudat Achim," which translates to "A new light, a society of brothers (and sisters)." Our founders worked hard to restore and rebuild our historic building, making it beautiful (and safe), and creating the vibrant community that we enjoy today.

Michael Hafter has written an article (see cover) highlighting the importance of contributing to the Annual Giving fund, as a follow up to David Ladov's High Holy Day Appeal. Please contribute what you can so that SHS will continue to thrive.

As fall turns to winter, we can look forward to a number of wonderful events.

In early November, we will have a New Member welcoming event (November 2), organized by our Membership Engagement Initiative group. We are hoping this Congregational Kiddush Luncheon, followed by a New Member Orientation program, will become an annual event.

Continue on page 13



Ann Spak Thal School

Commemorate, Ameliorate, Celebrate

Sahar Oz

November and December classes will present a wide variety of excellent opportunities for our students and families to learn about Judaism, eat delicious food, and see Jewish values in action.

On Sunday, November 10 at 12:15 PM, we will have a school-wide observance of Kristallnacht for grades 3-11. The students will consider this tragic day in history through personal stories expressed in testimony, poetry, film, and music.

The following Sunday, November 17 at 10 AM, Hebrew School and Hebrew High students from grades 6-11 and their families will meet at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) at 10980 Dutton Road in Northeast Philadelphia, along with hundreds of other volunteers from Greater Philadelphia. Together, they will pack fresh produce and non-perishable kosher food, load their cars with boxes, and deliver food and a smile to the homes of local Jewish neighbors in need.

This is an ideal opportunity to participate in tikkun olam (repair of the world) while experiencing meaningful face-to-face interaction with people you might not otherwise meet. JRA is the largest provider of food assistance to Jewish families in need in the Greater Philadelphia region and the third largest direct-service food pantry in our area, assisting over 3,000 low-income households.

Our next TGIShabbat service is set for Friday, November 22 at 6:15 PM. Two weeks later, on Friday, December 6, our students in Kitah Vav (6th Grade) will lead Shabbat services beginning at 6:15 PM, with a delicious dinner to follow. And on Saturday, December 14, Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students will help to lead the Shabbat morning service at 10:30 AM, with lunch following this joyous start to the day.

Enrollment fees for students in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High cover school families' participation in such meals following class-led services.

Continued on page 6



Cantor's Column

With Trust and Friendship, Our Prayers Become Richer

Bob Freedman

Worshippers need to feel safe and welcome when they come into a sanctuary to participate in a service. My colleagues and I often speak about the behavior of strangers who come to the synagogue for a celebration of Bar or Bat Mitzvah. They enter tentatively, looking around as if scouting for hidden danger. Finally finding their place, they sit for the first half of the service with a “deer in the headlights” look, not participating, certainly not singing. Finally, as they realize that no one is testing or threatening them, they relax and start to have a good time. By the end of the service, they often come to me saying that it was a wonderful, meaningful, even spiritual service.

The reason for their discomfort is not complicated. We humans are hardwired to be on edge when we come into a new place with new people. It's part of our self-protection mechanism. Of course strangers will have difficulty letting go of their vigilance, losing themselves in prayer, or singing in a new space surrounded by people they do not know.

Their difficulty touches on a deep aspect of prayer: to connect to something larger than ourselves requires that we surrender a part of our ego. Doing this when we feel threatened by unfamiliar surroundings is hard, if not impossible. Often, when I am leading a service, I will begin by asking everyone to look around and mark well where he or she is in the room. I explain that the experience of prayer will be like ascending in a hot air balloon attached by a long tether to its lift-off place. After wandering the mind pathways of the service, worshippers should know where they will return to reenter the physical realm. Those who come regularly to services are aware of this, and they tend to sit in the same place each time.

For many, even more intimidating than being in a strange place is to be with a strange group of people. Congregations that pay attention (our congregation is one!) know this. Acting on the “Walmart greeter”

principle—a customer who feels secure and valued will buy more—we do all we can to make newcomers and guests feel welcome. As if they were guests at our house, we greet them at the door, hand them books and readings, help them find a seat if necessary, answer questions, and do all we can to make them feel as though they belong.

What is true for strangers is equally so for members. They also need to be greeted warmly and made to feel welcome. For any community to evolve, its members need to learn to trust each other. This is especially true for a community that engages in worship, an activity that makes us vulnerable. As trust and friendship grows, our prayer becomes richer.

So remembering how, when you first came into our congregation, you appreciated being made to feel welcome, extend your welcome to newcomers. If you are new to our community, be a little less shy and get to know us; allow us to make you part of our community. We'll all benefit!



The SHS
Facebook
Page
Hannah Myers

Apparently there has been some confusion regarding our SHS Facebook (FB) page. Years ago, a page was started that can no longer be accessed. So, if you are interested in receiving information about SHS through FB, type **Society Hill Synagogue** in the Search box and open the page that has the picture of the outside of our building with a horse-drawn carriage on the street in front of it. “Like” this page and from then on, you will receive posted information about upcoming SHS events and programs on your newsfeed. If you have any difficulty joining the group, or getting the messages on your newsfeed, feel free to email me at carey.myers@gmail.com.



Playschool

Join Us at Our Annual
Hanukkah Happening on
Sunday, November 24,
11 AM–1 PM

Gloria Parris

The children in the Playschool have been quite busy during their first few weeks of pre-school. They are excited to come to school to play with their friends and to enjoy their fun-filled learning experiences. Even our youngest two-year-olds are now eager to participate in their class activities. All of the children have listened to story-books, learned new songs, created holiday crafts, have been introduced to the letters of the alphabet, have expressed themselves through art, and have celebrated Shabbat with their classmates.

In our Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children learned about their community and how a community works together for its neighbors. In conjunction with what the boys and girls were learning in class, the children recently took a walking trip to visit the local fire station. Also, parents were invited to speak to the children about their own jobs, and they presented hands-on activities to the children that related to these jobs.

The Playschool recently hosted Grandparents'/ Special Friends' Day for children in the 3–4- year-old class and in our two Pre-Kindergarten classes. Parents, grandparents, and family friends attended this special event. The children were very excited to introduce their guests to their teachers and to show them their preschool classrooms. A highlight of the day was for everyone to celebrate Shabbat together with songs, dance, and blessings. That same evening, the Playschool's Fall Shabbat Dinner and Art Exhibit was held for all of our Playschool families. We were very pleased to have had a fantastic number of families in attendance.

The annual Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House will take place on Sunday, November 24, from 11 AM until 1 PM. All Synagogue

Continued on page 13



Young Families Group

Havdalah PJ Party and Annual
Christmas Eve Dinner!

Laurel Landau

Please join Playschool and Sunday School families on **Saturday, November 16, from 6 – 7:30 PM**, for a **Havdalah PJ party** to end the Super Shabbat Weekend!

Eat dinner at home, then put on your cutest pair of pajamas and join us for a beautiful and fun Havdalah service, complete with wine (and grape juice), twisted candles (and glow sticks), and spices (make-your-own spice box). Enjoy a bedtime story and potluck dessert.

Please bring a new pair of pajamas to donate to children in need.

Also, plan to join us on **Tuesday, December 24, at Rich City** for our annual **Christmas Eve Chinese Dinner!**

As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes all families with a child aged 5 and under (and of course older siblings are welcome!) We go on excursions around town and attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue. Prospective members are always welcome at these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested in joining SHS, please pass on the information.

For more information, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.



Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 3

So we encourage all of our families to join us for these services and se'udot (meals). All we ask is that you e-mail Betty at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org no later than 2 days before each service to RSVP and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

The much loved Hanukkah Happening is scheduled for 11 AM – 1 PM on Sunday, November 24, so all classes from Gan (Kindergarten) through Kitah Yud Aleph (11th Grade) will meet that Sunday from 9 – 11 AM. Back by popular demand, award-winning magician Poly will blend slight of hand, animal magic, and Hanukkah humor in two shows: one for Hebrew School students and another performance during the Hanukkah Happening for our younger children.

Purim Cantata auditions will take place on Sunday, December 8, and we welcome everyone interested from grades 3 – 6 to come and try out. It's a lot of fun!

Last but not least, please remember that there are no classes on Sunday, December 1 (Thanksgiving Break), and our last day of classes before Winter Break will be Tuesday, December 17.



Third Grade students put together a giant puzzle of Israel with limited use of language, in a lesson on the Tower of Babel and communication.

The Importance of Annual Giving

Continued from cover

One final thought. In Leviticus, the responsibilities of the tribes are delineated. The Kohanim are to be the priests, the Levites must maintain the Sanctuary, and the rest are to financially support those efforts. There is no talk of glory, only of responsibility. No role is better than another. Thousands of years have blurred the old tribal lines, but our responsibilities as a people remain the same. Our Rabbi and Cantor provide spiritual leadership, the Board of Directors looks after the interests of the community, but **all** of us, together, are responsible for providing the funding to maintain our Synagogue home.

Thanks very much to those of you who have already responded to this appeal. For those who have not, please make a donation to the Annual Giving Fund based on your capability so that SHS can continue to thrive.

Over the next few weeks, a member of our Board of Directors will be calling you to ask for your pledge. If you want to make your gift before these calls are made, please send your check (indicate that your contribution is to be applied to Annual Giving on the memo line) to SHS at 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, or visit our website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org and follow the instructions for making a payment to your account.

Our goal is to achieve 100% member participation in Annual Giving.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

Membership Engagement Initiative

There is So Much Going On!

Debbie Stewart

1) “Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?”

Strengthening the synagogue community...
Helping congregants to build meaningful memories...

SHS has adopted the highly successful Shabbat Meal Program created by Debbie Albert for Temple Sinai in Dresher, PA. It is spreading like wildfire in Philadelphia and across the country. By adding the options of Saturday afternoon Shabbat meals and Saturday evening Havdalah meals, we have adapted the model to meet our needs.

We have scheduled three weekends this year for “Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?” events and look forward to continuing this program for years to come. We hope to grow the program exponentially—with invited guests then serving as hosts at subsequent events, leading to 100% inclusion of our members by the end of next year!

We will also invite prospective members to these meals as a strategy to grow our community. SHS can no longer be the best-kept secret in Center City; we need to let people know about our amazing shul!

Hosting a Shabbat or Havdalah meal, or attending as a guest, provides a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and enhance your enjoyment of being part of this special community, so let’s get started!

Don’t be shy. Let us now if you can host! Or would you rather be a guest? We want more congregants to get to know each other outside the walls of the Synagogue.

**“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?”
Super Shabbat Weekend Kick-off Event
November 15 and 16**

During the weekend of November 15 and 16, in lieu of the Friday evening Shabbat Service (that’s right, there will be NO services at the Synagogue that night!), those who have signed up will gather at host homes for a Shabbat meal. Some of us will join together for a Saturday afternoon Shabbat meal following services on November 16, and still others will gather for a Saturday evening Havdalah meal.

All hosts will receive a Shabbat or Havdalah kit!

Keep it simple; invite your guests to bring an appetizer, side dish, dessert or bottle of wine. Serve buffet-style or sit-down, barbeque or pizza—it all works!

Offer to host in November, and be a guest next time. Be a guest this time and host or co-host next time.

The worst that can happen is that you will have so much fun that you cannot wait for **the next “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?” meal event that will occur during the weekend of May 15—16!** You may even be inspired to start your own regular practice of celebrating Shabbat by inviting or joining your SHS friends.

We want to hear from you! For more information, contact Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828 or Bonny Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or 215.463.4715.

Continued on page 9

POWER**A Fair and Full Public School Funding Formula**

Debbie Stewart and Harry Oxman

POWER is forging ahead with its campaign for a Fair and Full Public School Funding Formula for Philadelphia and statewide. We will work to make this one of the biggest issues in the 2014 gubernatorial race. Attend a SHS POWER House Meeting and learn how you can make a difference in this effort.

Our first SHS POWER House Meeting took place on October 16, and these meetings will continue through November. The purpose of each meeting is to provide a space for a small group of people to talk about some of the most important issues, such as school funding, which are impacting our families and broader community. Participants are then invited to do something about these issues by engaging at some level.

In order to gain greater insight into the public school funding strategy, all SHS members are also urged to attend the POWER "Teach-In" on Sunday, November 10, 2–6 PM, at the Old First Reformed United Church of Christ located at 151 N. 4th Street (4th and Arch Streets).

For more information please contact Harry Oxman at 215.574.9645 or Carl Levitsky at 215.923.3749.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community**Shabbat Learning Service on****Friday, December 13, 6:15 PM**

Debbie Stewart

Please join PIC on the 4th Tuesday of each month for exciting discussions about a variety of interfaith topics.

Tuesday, November 26 at 7 PM: "Demonology" Among the Faith Traditions" will be presented at Old Saint Joseph's Church, located at 321 Willings Alley. The class will be held in the third floor Rectory library.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7 — 9 PM: Join us for a presentation and dialogue with Rabbi Avi Winokur at Society Hill Synagogue. The class will be held in the Sanctuary.

And please mark your calendars for a special Shabbat learning service for the members of PIC and interested SHS members on Friday, December 13 at 6:15 PM.

For additional information about these and other events please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

Adult Education**Fall & Winter Classes**

Marc Schwartz

There is still time to join:

Rabbi Winokur's Classes:

Discussions about Wendy Mogel's *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* on Sundays at 9:15 AM; 11/10, 12/8, 1/19, 2/9, 3/2, 3/30, 5/4

Nosh & Schmooze on Sundays at 11:15 AM; 11/17, 12/15, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/18, join us for discussions about ongoing education issues in our country.

Cantor Freedman's Class:

Introduction to Hebrew Grammar Class on Tuesdays at 7 PM; 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/17, 1/14, 1/28, 2/18, 2/25

Rafi Licht's Class:

Bavli and Bagels: A monthly taste of Talmud on Sundays at 11 AM; 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/2, 4/6, 5/11

Hard copies of the Adult Ed Brochure are in available in the office or you can download your own copy from the SHS website.

Membership Engagement Initiative

Continued from page 7

2) SHS's Third Annual InterNOSHional Night: Saturday, February 8

Back by popular demand, it is time to volunteer to host or co-host a dinner at your home for 6 or more congregants featuring an international cuisine of your choice. Once we establish the host-chosen cuisine categories and associated menus, we will publicize this information so that the rest of our members can rush to sign up for a seat at one of our hosts' tables!

Don't miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation, all while supporting this community-building and fund-raising activity for our shul!

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

3) New Member Integration

Saturday, November 2: Join us for our first Annual Congregational Kiddush Luncheon (after Shabbat services) for all congregants, followed by a New Member Orientation program. Help us to welcome our newest members!

4) Member Service Recognition Event

Wednesday, March 19 (2014): Member Service Recognition Event

It is time to recognize the many congregants who serve our shul in any number of ways. We look forward to giving thanks to all of those individuals who share their time, interests, knowledge, and talents to benefit our congregation and surrounding community.

- Independent Living
- Rehabilitation Services



LIONS GATE
Independence ♦ Continuing Care ♦ Jewish Tradition

- Assisted Living
Secure Memory Care
- Nursing Care

Phone: 1-856-782-1200 • www.lionsgateccrc.org

1110 Laurel Oak Road
Voorhees, New Jersey



General Fund*In Appreciation of***Attending Yom Kippur Services**

Margaret & Lewis Heller

*In Honor of***Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient**

Merle & Stan Salkin

Moshe & Orah Mahlab's Grandson's Bar Mitzvah

Iris Levine

*In Memory of***Sara Weyland, Great-Aunt of Ric Hayman**

Dan & Dana Feinberg and Family

Sadie Baughn, Grandmother of Carmen Hayman

Dan & Dana Feinberg & Family

*Yahrzeit Remembrance***Anna Paller, Mother of Robert Paller**

Robert Paller

Anna Feinstein, Mother of Evelyn Eisenstadt

Evelyn Eisenstadt

Ilse Roller, Mother of Jerry Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund

Richard and Claudia Balderston

Burton and Libby Harwitz Blender

Deborah Block and Doug Smullens

Elayne Bloom

Thomas Borawski and Libby Cone

Alan and Deborah Casnoff

Arthur and Janet Cherry

Neil Cohen and Debra Weissbach

Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof

Robert Einhorn

Peter and Susan Eizen

Steven and Lisa Eizen

Walter and Margie Ferst

Benjamin Field and Viktoriya Torchinsky-Field

Laurie Gold

Michael and Melody Goldberg

Lawrence and Jacqueline Goldfinger

Terry Graboyes

Michael and Leslie Hafter

Noah Herman

Bonny Hohenberger and Nathan Farbman

Bart and Betty Kaplan

Don and Karen Kaufman

Edwin and Etta Krauss

David and Sayde Ladov

Brent and Laurel Landau

Susan Levering

Carl and Caryn Levitsky

Joan Markman and Jim Becker

Geoffrey and Beverly Michaels

Rina Mitchell

Jeremey and Fran Newberg

Paula Ninerell

Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman

Peter and Caroline Piven

Sally Poulshock

Jonathan and Catherine Prokup

Michael and Carole LeFaivre Rochester

Jerry and Joan Roller

Paul and Wendy Rosen

Daniel and Barbara Rottenberg

Ira and Lynne Rubenfeld

Gerry Schneeberg

Marc and Staci Schwartz

Jordan Segall and Natalie Lesser

Alan and Elaine Shechtman

Barbara Spector

Larry and Ann Rosen Spector

Amy Steerman and Mary Ann Stover

Dennis Stein

Debra and Bill Stewart

Alton and Mona Sutnick

Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun

Rosemarie Weinberg

Harvey and Bonnie Weiner

Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

Zelda Wolf

Richard and Elizabeth Zack

*In Honor of***Staci Schwartz, 2013 Kallat B'reishit Recipient**

Merle & Stan Salkin

Nancy & Ray Swerdlow and Family

Rita Altman

Rena Wheaton's Baby Naming

Evelyn Segal

*Yahrzeit Remembrance***Samuel Michaels, Father of Geoffrey Michaels**

Geoffrey Michaels

Henrietta Levine, Mother-in-Law of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

William Steerman, father of Amy Steerman

Amy Steerman

*In Memory of***Sara Weyland, Great-Aunt of Ric Hayman**

Merle Salkin

Sadie Baughn, Grandmother of Carmen Hayman

Merle Salkin

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

are dying out. Synagogues are primarily religious institutions, while more and more Jews are less and less interested in religion (even though a substantial number are, in fact, interested in it). What is a synagogue to do, and what is the Jewish community to do, to find alternative Jewish addresses for non-synagogue Jews without antagonizing synagogues, synagogue movements, seminaries, etc.?

No one knows. This, however, I do know: any response to the challenges of the American Jewish community that is solely about ideas for change, even great ideas for change, are only as worthwhile as the mechanism for actually accomplishing the needed changes are realistic.

As a synagogue rabbi, it seems to me that synagogues will need to find a way to elevate cultural Judaism to a much more central place in their self-understandings while still satisfying the religious needs of Jews.

At the same time, they will have to meet the varying religious needs of Jews in ways that take into account new approaches to religion and spirituality without compromising service to the substantial number of Jews who remain committed to normative Jewish religiosity, whether, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, or transdenominational. Though this is asking a lot, anything less, it seems to me, will result in the continuing decline of synagogues in American Jewish life.

We at Society Hill Synagogue are tackling some of these issues. Our monthly Shabbat study sessions with Rabbi Marjorie Berman have added a non-liturgical component to our Shabbat offerings. Our commitments to POWER and other Social Action initiatives attract members for whom religious ritual is secondary to social justice. Even "Guess Who Is Coming to Shabbas?" our Shabbat meal initiative, though nominally about religious observance, is primarily about community-building and developing connections between members of our community. TGIShabbat and family services provide alternative worship experiences alongside our more traditional services. Sure, there is a lot more to do, and we will continue to look for new ways to connect to our community and also to Jews beyond our synagogue walls.

Here is the link to the Pew survey:

<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey>.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Hanukkah (next to coincide some 77,000+ years in the future)! Take a look at the survey. Talk to friends about it. Follow links to some interesting commentators like Hartman and Hammerman. The issues the Pew study raises are worth spending time on. What would be your prescription for a positive and thoughtful Jewish communal response to changes within the wider Jewish community and, more specifically, within the Society Hill Synagogue community?

NATIONAL WATCH & DIAMOND

**Over 400
Rolex in Stock**

*Rolex Repair,
Service & Refinishing
One Year Warranty*



(215) 627-WATCH

Visit our website.. NationalWatch.com

**Selling Pre-Owned
Rolex, Cartier, Breitling
and More for 25 Years**

Diamond Dials & Bezels

N.W.E. Is not an official Rolex jeweler

**CAC COINS
NOW IN STOCK!**
CAC

CORNER OF 8TH & CHESTNUT STREETS • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

November Birthdays

Jim Becker
 Harry Bach
 Samuel Luckman
 Adam Bonin
 Rachel Goldfinger
 Josh Meyer
 Andrew Newman
 Lillian Shemtov
 Jacob Wycoff
 Henry Gutstadt
 Steven Weissman
 Susan Levering
 Stephanie Naidoff
 Gabrielle Applebaum-Licht
 Jack Little
 David Ladov
 Jacqueline Pack Segal
 Mark Dembert
 Ira Kauderwood
 Yuri Rubinov
 Arthur Cherry
 Scotty Jordan
 Edward Kaplan
 Laura Bottaro
 Sophie Bottaro
 Nancy Burd
 Micah Hart
 Marcie Ziskind
 Deborah Casnoff
 Sara Chrismer
 Robert Biron
 Jake Morgan
 Evyn Appel
 Sydney Bladen
 Teresa Novick
 Pelley Brown
 Phoebe Bonin
 Sophia Yudell

November Anniversaries

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman
 Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
 Steven & Lisa Eizen
 Janet Kole & Wendy Leebov
 Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 James & Julie Wilson
 Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
 Jane Nathanson & Andrew Newman
 Kinney Zalesne & Scott Siff
 Jeremy & Fran Newberg
 Jay & Phyllis Denbo
 Judson Aaron & Susan Snedden

December Birthdays

Meranda Love
 Howard Sedran
 Joel Chernock
 Evelyn Eisenstadt
 Myron Bloom
 Ariana Eizen
 Joanna Hart
 Michael Goldberg
 Joanna Bottaro
 Leah Popowich
 Mikhail Rubinov
 Barbara Zalkind
 Max Ladenson
 Phoebe Ladenson
 Nancy Gellman
 Robin Schatz
 Steven Eizen
 Judith Lalli
 Roberto Pace
 Ned Wolf Weiss
 Aaron Wolson
 Margot Oxman
 Barbara Spector
 Dan Taub
 Steven Gendler
 Joshua Goldwert
 Thomas Kline
 Janet Kole
 Hannah Myers
 Daniel Weil
 Debra Auspitz Galler
 Abigail Gendler
 Steven Greenberg
 David Paskin
 Stanley Woloff
 Cole Pressman
 Rebecca Buse-Morley
 Lisa Coran
 Mimi Hunter
 Ellianna Zack
 Bruce Luckman
 Marina Merlin
 Isaac Torchinsky-Field
 Lee Casper
 Moshe Mahlab
 Berk Uygur Petersohn
 Lindsay Saligman
 Samuel Datlof
 Roberta Jacobs Meadway
 Emily Zimmerman

December Anniversaries

Amy & Adam Shapiro
 Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg
 Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
 Alan & Deborah Casnoff
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Andrew Seaberg & Nella Bloom
 Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

Community News**Mazel Tov to**

Mazel Tov to Mary Fish and Mark Dembert on the upcoming marriage of their son, **Andrew Fish** to David Ain.

Condolences to

Ric Hayman and Family on the death of his great-aunt, **Sara Weyland**.

Carmen Hayman and Family on the death of her grandmother, **Sadie Baughn**.

Welcome New Members

Joseph Freedman

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

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE
 PERSONALIZED CARE

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

1015 CHESTNUT STREET
 SUITE 1518
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

(215) 955-8706

FAX (215) 955-8509

Playschool

Continued from page 5

members, Playschool families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend our Hanukkah celebration. There will be Hanukkah crafts for the children, festive music, dreidel games, cookie decorating, sweet treats, and delicious homemade latkes made by the world-famous Latke Brigade.

The Playschool Open House gives prospective parents the opportunity to meet the teachers and our current students and their families, and to learn more about the Playschool. Applications for the September 2014–May 2015 school year will be available. The Playschool's enrollment policy offers a common deadline for submitting applications. **All applications must be received by Monday, December 16, to be considered for enrollment in the upcoming school year.** Priority for class preference will be given, first, to SHS members, followed by current Playschool families. The Playschool has two 2-year-old classes, one 3–4-year-old class, a Pre-K morning class session, and a Pre-K afternoon class session. The Playschool offers a wonderful “first school experience” for all young children. Parents are also involved in the preschool by participating in our Parent Cooperative. If you have any questions about our upcoming enrollment process, or if you would like to schedule an appointment to visit the Playschool, please contact me in the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 28,

On Tuesday, December 10, the children in the 3–4-year-old class will be taking their second trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the *Museum Looks and Picture Books* program. The theme of the lesson will be “Lines and Shapes in Art.” This program is designed for preschool-aged children and it provides a fabulous introduction to art.

On Wednesday, December 11, and Thursday, December 12, the Playschool will hold its Parent–Teacher Conferences. There will be no school in session on either of these conference days.

Friday, December 20, is the last day of Playschool before the winter break. The Playschool will open again on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

President's Column

Continued from page 3

Additionally, take a look at Debbie Stewart's article about “Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas,” and please find a way to join us, as a host or a guest, during the weekend of November 15 – 16.

We'll be enjoying the Festival of Lights early this year. Hanukkah begins in November (before Thanksgiving!), so keep your eyes open for an early Hanukkah Happening on Sunday, November 24.

Finally, plan to join us in December when we will have our fourth annual combination TGShabbat service/Chinese Food/movie celebration. More information about this event (including the title of the movie) will be posted in the weekly email updates.



MoxaGirl

ACUPUNCTURE
PAIN RELIEF

10% Off For All New Patients & Referrals

info@moxagirl.com 215 922 3235

at *juju* spa & organics

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year ~ Gabrielle Applebaum

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Tol'dot 2
					6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services New Member Kiddush Lunch Clocks fall back 2 hours
3	4	5	6	7	8	Va-yetzei 9
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	12:15 PM ELM Conference Call 7:30 PM AE-Of Longing & Belonging with Rabbi		6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Wycoff 10 AM Shabbat Study
10	11	12	13	14	15	Va-yishlah 16
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi	Veterans' Day 7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar	7:30 PM EDM Offiste		No Friday Night Services "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas" Weekend	9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Family Service 6 PM PJ Havdalah
17	18	19	20	21	22	Va-yeishev 23
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM AE-Of Longing & Belonging with Rabbi		6:15 PM TGIShabbat with Jack Kessler & Friends Shabbat Dinner to follow services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service Auf Ruf of Gerald Faich
24	25	26	27	28	29	Mi-ketz 30
9 – 11 AM SS/HS 11 AM Hanukkah Happening		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor	Erev Hanukkah 1 st Candle No PM Play-school	Hanukkah 1 2 nd Candle Thanksgiving Day Building Closed	Hanukkah 2 3 rd Candle Office/PS Closed 6:15 PM Services	Hanukkah 3 4 th Candle 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	Va-yiggash 7
Hanukkah 4 5th Candle 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi	Hanukkah 5 6th Candle 7 PM ECM	Hanukkah 6 7th Candle 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor	Hanukkah 7 8th Candle 12:15 PM ELM Conference Call	Hanukkah 8	6:15 PM Vav Class Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
8	9	10	11	12	13	Va-y'hi 14
9 AM Cantata Rehearsals 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi	7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	No Playschool PS Conferences 7:30 PM EDM Offsite	No Playschool PS Conferences	6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study With Rabbi Berman 10:30 AM 1 st Grade Class Family Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	Sh'mot 21
9 AM Cantata Rehearsals 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor			Last Day of PS 6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
22	23	24	25	26	27	Va-era 28
Winterbreak Building Closed	Winterbreak Building Closed	Winterbreak 7:15 AM Minyan	Winterbreak Building Closed	Winterbreak Building Closed	6:15 PM TGI Shabbat with Bob Blackberg	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
29	30	31				
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan 1 PM Office Closes New Year's Eve				

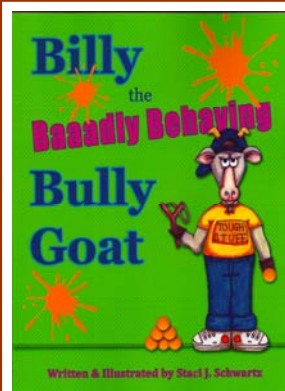
Kesher



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

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone 215.922.6590
Fax 215.922.6599
www.societyhillsynagogue.org

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.

Shop For All Your Holiday Gifts on November 24!

Shop at SHS’s Hanukkah Bazaar, featuring beautiful gift items from Dim Sum (owned and operated by our own Andrea Appel) just in time for the holidays! Dim Sum’s curated collection of artisan jewelry, accessories, and housewares will be displayed in the Spruce Street lobby on Sunday, November 24, during the Hanukkah Happening in our Social Hall. As always, a portion of all sales will be donated to SHS. For a sample of the inventory, please visit www.shopdimsum.com.

