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A Note from ..

Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin Rector at St. Peter's

Dear Friends at Society Hill Synagogue,

Thank you very much for your extraordinary hospitality during our "hour of need" this past summer. With the announcement that our sanctuary roof was "in danger of catastrophic failure" we closed our doors and found ourselves homeless. You welcomed us in. Each Sunday morning during June, July, and August the clergy and people of St. Peter's Church gathered at Society Hill Synagogue for worship, education, and fellowship. Your sanctuary and meeting rooms were just what we needed, and your staff addressed our every concern with grace and hospitality. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! May God pour out abundant blessings upon you and your ministry for years to come.

Peace! The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin, Rector



Congregation of St. Peter's Church



Rabbi's Column

Communal Ideals Can Be Discussed over Coffee

Avi Winokur

There is a reading that I found years ago in the 1975 Reform prayer book, *Gates of Prayer*, that spoke powerfully to me and still does. It is from a lost era, sometimes known as the Progressive Era. In 1930, William Pepperell Montague, one of the leading intellectuals of the time, published a book with the unassuming title *Belief Unbound: A Promethean Religion for Modern Times*. Some of you may vaguely recall it from past teachings.

“Religion is not merely a belief in an ultimate reality or an ultimate ideal. These beliefs are worse than false; they are platitudes, truisms that nobody will dispute. Religion is a momentous possibility, the possibility namely that what is highest in the spirit is also deepest in nature—that there is something at the heart of nature, something akin to us, a conserver and increaser of values ... that the things that matter most are not at the mercy of the things that matter least.”

The key to understanding, grappling with the reading is to know that the writer's reference to “an ultimate reality or an ultimate ideal” is a reference to God and that the writer is indeed a man of faith (in God). It is from that faith, not from atheism or agnosticism, that he declares in essence that beliefs in God “are worse than false; they are platitudes, truisms that nobody will dispute.”

The language is foreign to our twenty-first-century skeptical postmodern sensibilities. It feels stilted and awkward, but the heroic style speaks to me and always has, and I found myself again drawn to it as I think about it from a communal perspective, from the perspective of our Membership Engagement Initiative, from the point of view of adding meaning to the term Kehillah Kedoshah, or holy community.

Here are a few questions you might want to think about and even talk to some friends about over coffee:

- What are the values that we want to conserve, and how does one live a life that conserves values?
- What does it mean and how does one live to increase values? What values?
- What does it mean to assert that “the things that matter most are not at the mercy of the things that matter the least” and to live your life in concert with such a belief? One has to figure out what matters most and what matters least, and what it is about the world that makes one assume that too often the things that matter most are in fact at the mercy of the things that matter least.
- Are things that matter most—such as health, nutritious food, and freedom from violence—at the mercy of things that matter least, such as the accumulation of wealth or power, entrenched interests, or status?

Communally, what would it mean to lift up these questions as communal ideals (or in consultant-speak, goals and objectives, a mission statement, and so forth)? I can just see it now: someone is shul shopping—maybe they are busy professionals looking for a religious school for their children so the kids can become bar or bat mitzvah or they are empty nesters moving back into the city and looking for a community of people with whom they might share interests—and they read the following mission statement: “The mission of Society Hill Synagogue is to conserve and increase values within the context of an egalitarian, pluralistic, nondenominational Jewish community; to foster a culture where the things that matter most are not at the mercy of the things that matter least; and to create a community that strengthens each of us as we seek to embody these ideals in our personal lives.”

No, we cannot put such language in a mission statement, but what would such a community look like? What would we have to do to come closer to this ideal? As we move forward from our wonderful Scholar-in-Residence weekend to engage our members and deepen our connections to one another, maybe this lofty formulation from 1930 of what religion could be at its best can animate some of our thinking.



President's Column

We Invite You to Become Engaged

Jonathan Weiss

We spent a good deal of time in the fall preparing for a *Spirituality of Welcoming Shabbaton*, featuring Dr. Ron Wolfson, held during the weekend of December 7-9. I would like to take a few moments to thank the many individuals who worked so hard to make this event a success.

I am happy to report that we had a very strong turnout for the different activities throughout the weekend, beginning with a Friday night service featuring congregants and TGIShabbat jazz combo musicians Jud Aaron, Josh Nadel, and Joe Oxman. The energy in the room was electric! Following services, and after dinner, Dr. Wolfson spoke about *Building Good Tents: Envisioning the Synagogue of the Future*. The evening ended with all of us singing Mah Tovu together. Saturday morning's Torah Study and Family Service were also well-attended, and a capacity crowd filled the Social Hall for a delicious Kiddush lunch. After lunch, Dr. Wolfson gave an entertaining and informative lecture called *God's To-Do List*.

Debbie Stewart, Betty van de Rijn, and David Ladov worked diligently to organize the busy events of the weekend. Gail Massey coordinated the tasty and healthy food offerings on Friday and Saturday, and many members of the Membership Engagement Initiative Committee helped to ensure that everything went smoothly.

What I am most impressed about is the way that we have been able to continue the conversations we began in the fall, and I look forward to taking the next steps to energize and engage our community.

So you might ask, "What's next?" Well, as our Rabbi might say, "I'm glad you asked!" As I said when I first took on the position of President, I believe we need to do two things. First, we need to continue to do those things that we currently do well. Second, we need to slowly introduce some new programs and processes.

With regard to doing the things we do well, I encourage you all to join me in participating in next month's second annual InterNOSHional Night. Last year, this program involved over 50 participants. Six to eight SHS members hosted dinners in each of their homes featuring a specific type of international cuisine. Congregants then signed up to dine in a particular host's home based on the type of cuisine they were offering; the hosts' identities were revealed after dining assignments were made in an attempt to bring different groups of people together (i.e., people wouldn't only choose to go to someone's house because they already knew them). I hope we can keep this program going strong.

Additionally, I want to announce a recent opportunity that has become available to us as a result of our membership in the Center City Kehillah. SHS joined with several other Center City synagogues and submitted an application to the Jewish Federation and Jewish Learning Venture for an "Ignition Grant" aimed at increasing connections among the children of our different congregations. I am happy to report that we received the grant! This particular grant, submitted this fall, will provide funding to support programming and activities for post B'nai mitzvah students from our shul, BZBI, Keshet Israel, Mikveh Israel, and Rodeph Shalom—children from other groups and unaffiliated Jewish teens will also be invited to participate. We are already planning our course of action, including hiring a part-time youth program director who will be shared by our organizations, to develop and supervise these programs. We hope to conduct a needs assessment by the spring and to begin offering programs next fall. Interested? There will be many opportunities for you to participate in this new venture.

Finally, don't forget we are also inviting all SHS members to get involved with one or more of our Membership Engagement Initiative Special Interest Groups. Read Debbie Stewart's article on Pg. 13 to find out which group meets your needs.

Of course, you are always welcome to become involved in any of our standing committees (Finance, Religion and Observance, Building, and Membership). Feel free to contact me, or any Board member, if you are interested in joining one of these committees.



Cantor's Column

Four Kinds of Friday Night Services

Bob Freedman

For over two millennia, Jews have focused an intense Research and Development program on communal prayer. The result is that we know five worship modes that can consistently lift us out of our narrow preoccupation with ourselves and direct our feelings, intellect, and spirit toward the sacred. One of these modes is speaking aloud, as it were, to God. Another is singing with others, a very effective way we humans have of raising our thoughts above our own small lives. Like many other spiritual cultures, we have also used contemplation to strengthen the source of alert mindfulness within. Always popular among Jews is study, as we are taught: of all that we do to create an ideal world, the study of Torah is equal to them all. Most important in the Jewish worship tradition is that everyone be involved. Since the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem suspended the sacrificial cult, we have not passively watched priests conduct services for us. Rather, we have determined that each Jew is responsible to pray for him- or herself.

With these models in mind, two years ago Rabbi Winokur and I tried a sequence of four kinds of Friday night services. Each focused on one of the successful modes. Positive feedback let us know that our idea was working, so we are going to institute the sequence again. One service will be the popular TGIShabbat. Another will offer new melodies. A third will be a contemplative service that incorporates opportunities for meditation, and the fourth will feature study and dialogue. Though each service will have its own flavor, all will adhere to the traditional Jewish liturgical framework.

Of course you will come to the one that appeals to you. But don't limit yourself. As your life changes, a different mode may suit you. At times you will need the quiet of contemplation or the inner thrill of study; at other times you'll be looking for the high energy of TGIShabbat to begin Shabbat time. Rabbi Winokur and I know that you will "vote with your feet" to tell us which service you like. But please give us your verbal feedback too. See you in 2013!



Ann Spak Thal School

Join Us for the Purim Cantata on Saturday, February 23!

Sahar Oz

On Tuesday, December 11, we had a special visit from Rabbi Winokur, Cantor Freedman, Brian Mono (Director of the Jewish Federation's Center for Jewish Life and Learning), and fellow congregant Jim Rosenstein. They led the entire Hebrew School in a discussion about Soviet Jewish life and the conditions that led the American Jewish community to mount a decades-long campaign to free Refuseniks.

The discussion was timed to coincide with *Freedom 25*, marking a quarter-century since the historic march on Washington, DC in December 1987 when 250,000 people came together from across the U.S. to demand freedom for Soviet Jews. The Rabbi, Cantor, Brian, and Jim shared personal experiences, including accounts of travel to the USSR, smuggling religious texts to Refuseniks, and attending the huge rally in our capital. Student participation, including their excellent questions, made our discussion especially meaningful.

On Friday, December 14, our Dalet Class (6th grade) led a beautiful Shabbat service that began with the lighting of numerous families' hanukkiyot. Kudos to the entire Dalet Class, teachers Emily and Nate, and the Cantor for a very special evening. It was wonderful to have numerous families from all grades join us for the dinner that followed.

The Hanukkah Happening on Sunday, December 16, marked a joyous conclusion to Hanukkah for all grades from Pre-K to Hebrew High with arts and craft projects, delicious latkes, a viewing of *The Rugrats' Chanukah*, music with the Cantor, and Magic by Poly.

We also held Purim Cantata tryouts, and we have a terrific group of performers for our Saturday, February 23 show, including "veterans" and new participants. If your child was not able to audition before the winter break, and he/she would like to participate in the Cantata, please let me know. Adina Goldstein,

Continued on page 5



Playschool Purim Will Be Here Before We Know It!

Gloria Parris

It has been only a few short months since the start of the school year, and the smiles on the children's faces show us how happy they are to come to Playschool. From our youngest 2-year-olds to our oldest 5-year-olds, the children enjoy being "Kid of the Day," playing and laughing with their friends, creating art projects, listening to exciting storybooks, learning new songs, using their bodies to explore the movements of yoga and drama, riding bikes and playing outdoors, going on class trips, learning about Jewish holidays and traditions, and celebrating Shabbat on Fridays.

In January, the children will prepare for winter by learning songs about the cold weather, listening to stories about the snow, and making new seasonal art projects to display. In the Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children will focus on making resolutions for the New Year and learning the social skills of friendship. All of the children will plant parsley seeds for Tu B'Shvat. The boys and girls will care for their plants and observe their plants' growth before they take their parsley home for Passover.

February will bring Purim festivities to the Playschool. The children will create arts and crafts projects involving kings, queens, groggers, hamantaschen, and Haman. They will learn about Purim by listening to stories and singing songs to mark this fun-filled holiday. **On Thursday, February 21 and Friday, February 22, the children will celebrate Purim with parades and family lunches in their classrooms.** The boys and girls can dress in costumes that are traditional to Purim or they may dress in a costume of their choice. Families are invited to attend our celebrations to hear the children sing the Purim songs that they have learned in the Playschool. After each class performance, the children and their guests will have lunch together. Our Purim celebrations are always a highlight of Playschool programming for the children and their families.

Please join us on Sunday, February 24, from 11 AM until 1 PM, for our annual Purim Carnival. All Playschool, Sunday School, and SHS families and friends are invited to join us for this holiday event. We will have games, craft projects, face painting, music, and refreshments for children of all ages to enjoy. Prizes will be given to all of the boys and girls for their participation in the games. Costumes are welcome but not required. Tickets to play games or buy pizza, hamantaschen, soft pretzels, and beverages will be sold at the door. We hope to see everyone at the Purim Carnival!

The Playschool staff wishes a happy and healthy New Year to all of our Playschool families.



Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 4

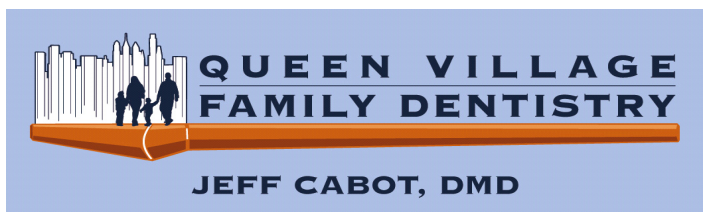
a senior in Hebrew High and a Sunday School aide, is directing this year's Purim Cantata. As for our theme, we will be taking a trip back to the 70s! Disco and Day-Glo, here we come!

Following winter break, classes will resume on Sunday, January 6, with progress reports sent later that month.

I will be in Israel from December 19 – 28, with limited access to e-mail, so I look forward to reading and replying to your e-mails upon my return.

It has been a great first semester and such a pleasure to see our children engaged, enthusiastic, and exploring Jewish life and community.

I wish all of you an enjoyable break, a peaceful end to 2012, and a wonderful start to 2013.



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Spirituality of Welcoming Shabbaton – A Huge Success

Debbie Stewart

What a weekend! I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come together as a community to learn, discuss ideas, sing, pray, and share communal meals while enjoying each other's company. I could not possibly name every individual who helped to make this weekend such a wonderful success, but I will try to express my appreciation to as many people as possible.

First of all, thank you to all of the SHS members who were able to join us! We had a wonderful turnout from our membership. In fact, we ran out of chairs at the Kiddush luncheon! This reminds me that we need to purchase more chairs (comfy ones)! Thanks for showing up to participate in services, Torah study, discussions, and communal meals. Kudos to those of you who signed up for Membership Engagement Initiative Special Interest Groups or shared additional ideas for additional activities.

Rabbi Winokur, thank you for your vision of a more welcoming, connected, and engaged community. Thank you for inspiring us, convening feedback sessions, and for bringing Dr. Wolfson to SHS to give us food for thought and action.

Cantor Freedman, thank you for engaging our member musicians (what talent we have among us!) and for adding such wonderful songs and music to Shabbat services.

Betty van de Rijn, our backbone, thank you for all of your efforts, soup to nuts, to support the Shabbaton's programs and activities. Thank you to Leanne for your help with so many of the details.

I want to offer a major shout out to Bobby, Rob, and Dave! Wow! They never stood still and took such amazing care of our needs. The work is endless, but you cannot get them to complain if you try.

Thanks to Gail Massey (and her helpers, bakers, and cooks), Phyllis Denbo, Carmen Hayman, and Terry Novick for organizing such delicious meals. We ate well and felt so welcomed by the special touches. Thanks also to Jonathan Feinman for setting up the food before the Board retreat and for helping out all weekend.



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!

Dr. Wolfson inspired many of us to purchase his books. Thanks to Judy Lalli for preordering books and creating such a smooth system to handle our purchases.

How would everyone have known about this special event if not for Staci Schwartz and her amazing communication and marketing efforts!

Talk about welcoming! Bonny Hohenberger, thank you for arranging for many extra gracious greeters, and boy did they greet! We appreciate your efforts to organize our greeters—this weekend and always.

We even had volunteers who provided childcare so that parents of young children could participate in services and activities! What a Mitzvah!

It was through the generosity of our SHS Board members that we enjoyed excellent wine with our meals; of course, the Rabbi's scotch collection was a special touch.

A number of folks volunteered to handle the Membership Engagement Initiative Special Interest Group sign up process on Friday evening and supervised the placement of those tiny stickers on the membership lists. Great job!

President Jonathan Weiss, thank you for your outstanding leadership and for hosting the Board Retreat at your office.

I guess you can tell that this was a real team effort.

Finally, I'd like to express our appreciation to two of our sponsors for their generous support: Richard Cohen of National Watch & Diamond (on the corner of 8th & Chestnut Streets) and the Jay R. Baer Fund.

Social Action

The George Washington School Gift Drive Was a Success!

Phyllis Denbo

We did it again! Thanks to the generosity of SHS members, 52 underprivileged children had a very special Christmas this year. These children, students at George Washington Elementary School, and their siblings might have received few, if any, presents were it not for all of the toys and clothing donated by the members of our congregation. Some of our Hebrew School families provided gifts for an entire George Washington family! Other members provided gift cards from Target, Acme, Pathmark, or Shop Rite that allowed the families to purchase food and household items for the holidays.

Special kudos to Carmen Hayman who organized the collection, wrapping, and delivery of the very full gift bags to fifteen families in the school's South Philadelphia neighborhood.

January & February TGIShabbat Services

Bob Freedman

Look forward to two special musical treats at the January and February TGIShabbat services.

On Friday, January 26, Charles Salinger, talented clarinetist, will return to SHS. If you've been to orchestra concerts in the Philadelphia area recently, you've heard him play with the Delaware Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Reading Symphony, The Philly Pops with Peter Nero, and many, many other ensembles. Obviously he loves music, and it certainly shows in his playing.

Then on Friday, February 23, the Blacksberg son and father duet, Dan and Bob, will come to lift our hearts and set our feet to dancing. Bob is a fine clarinetist, and inspired us with delicious hazzanut in October. His son, Dan, has become a renowned jazz trombonist who inherited a love of Klezmer music from his father. We can be certain they'll make that Shabbat one to remember.



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

Available for Kindle and PC on Amazon.com



Save the Date: Second Annual InterNOSHional Night on Saturday, February 9

Debbie Stewart

Back by popular demand, we are once again seeking SHS members to participate in our second annual InterNOSHional Night on Saturday, February 9. We are looking for at least six-eight volunteers to each 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 members 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 fund-raising activity for our shul!

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

God's Unfinished Business (GUB) What We Do & How You Can Help

Julie Wilson

God's Unfinished Business, affectionately known as GUB, performs services for many congregants in our Synagogue. Because everything we do is strictly confidential, we realize that many congregants are not even aware of our activities. Additionally, we are concerned that some of you might need something and not know to contact us.

Some of the things that GUB volunteers do:

- Make supportive phone calls
- Visit congregants who are ill or homebound
- Give rides to congregants who can't get to services on their own
- Help to make a minyan at a Shiva service
- Send bereavement notes to mourners
- Cook and deliver meals to families whose loved one is in the hospital

Winter seems to be the busiest time for GUB. Some of the things our GUB volunteers have done this past year: they have made calls to recuperating congregants, driven congregants to Shabbat morning services, and have helped a recovering congregant with her grocery shopping.

We need your help to provide all of these services so please contact me if you are interested in volunteering. You can volunteer to help a fellow congregant just once or twice, or you can volunteer on a regular basis.

Before we can provide these necessary services, we must identify congregants in need. If you know of someone who could use our help, please contact me at juliehwilson@yahoo.com or the SHS office at 215.922.6590. Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the GUB volunteers who are so caring and gracious with their time. GUB could not exist without you!



Young Families Group PJ Havdalah Party & Mini-Megillah Reading

Laurel Landau

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). Our activities take us on excursions around town, and we attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue, including To Shabbats, Family Services, and other special events.

Last month, we enjoyed a fun (annual) Chinese Dinner at Rich City on Christmas Eve!

Please join the Playschool and Sunday School families at the annual PJ Havdalah party on Saturday, January 26, from 6 – 7:30 PM. After a quick dinner at home, bring your little one(s) to SHS for a beautiful Havdalah service to mark the end of Shabbat, complete with wine (and grape juice), twisted candles (and glow sticks), and spices (make -your-own spice box). Parents and children—feel free to come in your pajamas, and we'll all enjoy delicious potluck desserts and beverages.

Please bring a pair of new children's pajamas or slippers to be donated to children in need!

This year, for the first time, SHS will have a mini-Megillah reading for the younger set!

Please join our clergy at 5:30 PM for this short but lively event before the Purim Cantata on Saturday, February 23. Come in costume! 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 our mailing list, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.



MéloManie Preview Concert

Eve Friedman

MéloManie will perform a chamber music

concert on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30 PM at Society Hill Synagogue. The Wilmington-based ensemble performs “provocative pairings of early and contemporary works” on period & modern instruments. This special preview performance reunites the ensemble with two of their favorite Philadelphia artists, Society Hill Synagogue members, flutist Eve Friedman and composer Roberto Pace.

Members of the ensemble will perform on baroque and modern instruments: Kimberly Reighley, flutes; Christof Richter, violins; Donna Fournier, viola da gamba; Douglas McNames, cello; and Tracy Richardson, harpsichord. Both Eve and Roberto have collaborated frequently with MéloManie in performances, recordings, and commissioned works. Eve recorded with MéloManie on its CD, *Florescence*—contemporary music written for the ensemble.

Roberto Pace’s piece, *Fantasie: MéloManie*, is featured in the concert, and Roberto will be in attendance to talk with the audience. MéloManie commissioned and premiered the work in 2009 and is looking forward again to performing this dynamic piece for two flutes, a violin, viola da gamba, cello, and harpsichord.

Next summer, MéloManie plans to record *Fantasie: MéloManie* on a new CD of contemporary music written for MéloManie.

Also on the program will be the world premiere of *Dreams* for flute and cello by Brazilian composer Sergio Roberto de Oliveira. Sergio has written often for MéloManie, and this season he has offered this piece for Kim and Doug—it has just arrived from Rio de Janeiro. The program continues with *La Piémontoise* (from *Les Nations*) by François Couperin. *Les Nations* is Couperin’s famous set of pieces with national titles, with *La Piémontoise* referring to the

European Piedmont, the historic region of northwest Italy bordering on France and Switzerland. *Les Nations* was first published in 1726 and is composed in Couperin’s style that combines French and Italian music styles. Friends of the flute, Eve and Kim, will perform, *Fantasy, Ditty and Fughettas* for two baroque flutes by Jack Beeson.

MéloManie looks forward to meeting you! SHS members and their guests are offered special ticket pricing for this performance: \$15 for adults; \$10 for students & seniors; children through age 15 will be admitted free. MéloManie invites you to meet the instruments, the composer, and the performers. The concert is a special preview performance, with additional regional performances following in Wilmington, Chestnut Hill, and Washington, D.C.

Visit MéloManie’s Web site at www.melomanie.org for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazel Tov to

Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof on the birth of their grandson, Oscar Milosz Eitzur.

Welcome New Members

Andrew Kadish & Vicki Clark-Kadish

Rachel

James & Anna Whitesell

Clayton

Philadelphia Interfaith Community Rituals of Transition to Adulthood

Debbie Stewart

Society Hill Synagogue will host an Interfaith Dialogue on **Wednesday, March 6 at 7PM**. Please join us to explore and discuss the *Rituals of Transition to Adulthood* with regard to different faith traditions.

For additional information, please feel free to contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.9828.

General Fund

In Appreciation of

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Joseph Freedman

Bob Blacksberg

Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter and Family

Volunteers at the Wolfson Shabbaton

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

In Honor of

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Yahrzeit Remembrance**Sadie Casper, Mother-in-Law of Doris Casper**

Doris Casper

Rachel Levin Troxell, Daughter of Howard & Judy

Howard & Judy Levin

Jacob Cohen, Grandfather

Judith Widman

Mindy Widman

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St. Peter's Church

Yarzeit Remembrance**Adelina Ciotti, Mother of Rita Altman**

Rita Altman

Clare Altman, Mother-in-Law of Rita Altman

Rita Altman

Restoration Fund**Yahrzeit Remembrance****Rosemond Curson Price, Aunt of Susan Schwartz**

Susan Schwartz

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Social Action Fund

Speedy Recovery to

Phyllis Denbo

Judy Lalli

Cantor Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Cantor Freedman

Barbara Spector

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Lena Popkin

Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter and Family

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In Appreciation of

Shabbaton Celebration

Richard Cohen

Rabbi Winokur

Barbara Spector

In Honor of

Lena Popkin's Bat Mitzvah

Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter and Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Shirley Graboyes, Mother of Terry Graboyes**

Terry Grayboyes

Sarah Auerbach, Grandmother of James Orman

James Orman

Tillie Meyer, Mother of Harold Meyer

Harold Meyer

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

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 Brent & Laurel Landau
 Edward & Ronnie Landau
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Edward Levenson
 Susan Levering
 Howard & Judy Levin
 Iris Levine
 William & Sari Love
 Joan Markman & Jim Becker
 Holman & Gail Massey
 Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
 Rina Mitchell
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
 Mel Nasielski & Nancy Burd
 Jeremy & Fran Newberg
 James & Camille Orman
 Harry & Eleanor Oxman
 Joe Oxman & Christi Rosengart
 Jacqueline Pack Segal

David & Linda Paskin
 Peter & Caroline Piven
 Sally Poulshock
 David & Jennifer Robkin
 Jonathan Prokup & Catherine Kiefer
 Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester
 Jerry & Joan Roller
 Paul & Wendy Rosen
 Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
 James & Linda Rosenstein
 Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
 Ira & Lynne Rubenfeld
 Nathan Saltz
 Caren Schiffman & Todd Cohen
 Marc & Staci Schwartz
 Howard Sedran & Martha Levine
 Irving & Sharon Shapiro
 Barbara Spector
 Amy Steerman & Mary Ann Stover
 Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
 Michael Stemmer & Nan Schiowitz
 Debbie Stewart
 Richard Summers & Merrily Williams
 Jared Susco
 Alton & Mona Sutnick
 Michael Temin
 Nuriye Uygur
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Rosemarie Weinberg
 Jacob Weinberger & Rita Altman
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 James & Julie Wilson
 Flora Wolf
 Zelda Wolf
 Richard & Elizabeth Zack
 Scot & Marcie Ziskind



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

January Birthdays

Phyllis Denbo
 Daniel Feinberg
 Walter Ferst
 Nathaniel Gearhart
 Michael Hafter
 Peter Piven
 Maxine Schoenholtz
 Nathan Farbman
 James Rosenstein
 Peter Eizen
 Joshua Wolson
 Nella Bloom
 Karen Kaufman
 Brian Gross
 Sheri Gifford
 Judith Green
 Leslie Hafter
 Rachel Margolin
 Jarad Eizen
 Jack Goldenberg
 Samuel Lear
 Sarah Backal-Balik
 Daniel Cohen
 Samuel Feinberg
 Elizabeth Sedran
 Stefanie Landau
 Rachel Schoenholtz
 Jesse Abrams-Morley
 Samuel Shemtov
 Debra Weissbach
 Shirley Kuhlman
 Nancy Morgenstern
 Scot Ziskind
 Beatrice Acker
 Jean Blumberg
 Mark Dichter
 Camille Orman
 Ethan Peet
 Talia Mono
 Richard Morgenstern
 Judah Galler
 Gabriel Goldberg
 Judy Levin
 Steve Morley
 Holman Massey
 Diane Harrison
 Laurel Landau
 Mindy Widman
 Susan Jaffe
 David Rosen
 Jonathan Prokup

February Birthdays

Sheila Katz
 Nancy Goldenberg
 Ric Hayman
 Carl Dranoff
 Susan Snedden
 Ira Rubinfeld
 Marc Goldenberg
 Gary Love
 Gus Schoenfeld
 Jeffrey Scott
 Linda Joy Goldner
 Aaron Davidson
 Randi Glatzer
 Sofia Newberg
 Paul Rosen
 Irwin Balik
 Daniel Perkins
 Aminda Kirshenbaum
 Len Weinberg
 Jack Dubin
 Hannah Smith
 Edward Levenson
 Gail Massey
 Adam Gifford
 Elayne Bloom
 Rachel Katz
 Stav Tjounakaris
 Shirley Cohen
 Liron Prystowsky
 Vicki Clark-Kadish
 Michael Yudell

January Anniversaries

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
 Marc & Staci Schwartz
 Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
 Joan Markman & Jim Becker
 Bruce & Diane Luckman
 Mitchell Bach & Cindy Elliott

February Anniversaries

William Goldberg & Tracey Weiss
 David & Linda Paskin
 Bill & Rina Mitchell
 Howard & Judy Levin
 Andrew Hohns & Leah Popowich
 Arthur & Janet Cherry

Adult Education**New Winter Offerings**

Avi Winokur

Beyond Fundamentalist Atheism & Fundamentalist Theism: Rethinking God in a Post-Modern Age

Day: Wednesday, January 9—**One Night Only!**

Time: 7:00 PM—Faculty: Rabbi Avi Winokur

Location: Sanctuary—Fee: No charge

Confirmed believer? Confirmed atheist? Probably won't get much out of this lecture. Seeker? Skeptic but open-minded? Try it. It's not your everyday approach to faith and God.

Paraphrasing Dylan: "Get out of the new world if you can't lend a hand; for the God, He/She/It is a changing." By all means cling to your skeptical atheism if you insist, or your old time religion, but this class assumes those are dead ends for most people. Let's talk about a God that might really matter, even if He/She/It may not answer your prayers or even know that you are praying.

Contemporary American Jewish Short Stories

Day: Tuesdays January 15, 29, February 19, March 12—Time: 7 – 8:30 PM

Faculty: Rabbi Avi Winokur—Location: Rear Playschool Classroom—Fee: No charge

During this stimulating course, we'll look at some well-known authors such as Nathan Englander, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, Shalom Auslander, and Nessa Rapoport—as well as some lesser-known authors such as Todd Hasak-Lowy, Naama Goldstein, and Joan Leegant. Ms. Leegant's questing protagonist in *Seekers in the Holy Land* muses, "What was there in America if you were Jewish? Temples with health clubs? Fund-raisers? Rabbis... preoccupied with building campaigns, numbers, membership rolls? Or, on the other side, rules, fetishistic rules, a black and white Orthodoxy. But for the soul, what was there?"

I promise that we will find some real gems for discussion.

Bereavement Support Group

Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of a loved one?

Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Greater Philadelphia is offering a Bereavement Support group to address issues associated with loss and bereavement. Participants will gain strength and comfort through sharing with others in a guided discussion facilitated by Bereavement Specialist Sylvia Ziserman.

The group begins Thursday, January 10, with additional sessions on 1/17, 1/24 and 1/31. All sessions will take place in the Northeast Philadelphia area from 1 – 2:30 PM. Pre-registration is required. The fee for all four sessions is \$18.

For more information, or to register (before January 4), call 267.256.2045 or send an email to Mfinegabbay@jfcspilly.org.

This program is made possible through a generous donation from Goldstein's Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

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

Membership Engagement Initiative Launch of Special Interest Groups!

Debbie Stewart

Shabbat Meals, Arts & Culture, Social Activities, New Member Integration, Music at SHS... What strikes your fancy? Come to SHS on **Wednesday, February 6 at 7 PM** to join one or more of these Special Interest Groups and begin sharing ideas to develop programs or activities this year! Refreshments will be served.

The feedback from approximately 70 participants in the Membership Engagement Initiative discussion sessions that were conducted in the fall with Rabbi Winokur revealed the five common areas of interest listed above—these areas are the seeds of our Special Interest Groups. During the Shabbaton, people either signed up for one or more of these groups, or they indicated other ideas or projects in which they wished to become involved.

Each Special Interest Group will identify a facilitator and a Board liaison. A Membership Engagement Initiative Steering Committee will also be established to provide guidance, help with logistics and event announcements, and offer other administrative assistance and support.

In addition to holding separate meetings for the five Special Interest Groups, we will also provide time to meet with those of you who have different ideas you wish to pursue. During the Shabbaton, one member expressed an interest in creating a Golf Group. Another member has connections with a group called Professors in Israel; perhaps we could invite members of that organization to speak at a future SHS Lunch and Learn.

I hope to see many of our members on February 6 so that we can begin to build new and stronger relationships within our community through shared interests.

If you have ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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.	No Minyan New Year's Day Building Closed	PS Resumes 7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Services	Sh'mot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 11 AM HS/HH	12:30 PM ELM 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Talmud on Tap	7 PM Beyond Fun- dametalist Atheism – One Night Only		6:15 PM Services	Va-era 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS/HH 11:15 AM Nosh/ Schmooze	7 PM Offerings of the Heart	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Torah with Rabbi 7 PM American Jewish Story	Melomanie Concert		6:15 PM Services	Bo 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS/HH	MLK Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Talmud on Tap			Erev Tu B'Shvat 6:15 PM TGShabbat Charles Salinger	B'shallah Tu B'Shvat 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 11:30 AM Tot Shabbat 6 PM PJ Havdalah
27	28	29	30	31		
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 11 AM HS/HH School Tu B'Shvat	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM American Jewish Story				

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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	Yitro 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 11 AM HS/HH	12:30 PM ELM 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM B/M Parent Meeting	7 PM Interest Group- Membership En- gagement Mtg. 7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Services	Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family Service Internoshional Nite
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 AM Cantata Reh 9 AM SS 9:30 AM Nuts/Bolts 11 AM HS/HH 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM Offerings of the Heart	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Talmud on Tap		Valentine's Day	No Playschool 6:15 PM Services	T'rumah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No School Building Closed in Observance of Presi- dent's Day	No Playschool Building Closed in Observance of Presi- dent's Day	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Torah with Rabbi 7 PM American Jewish Stories		Fast of Esther	6:15 PM TG Shabbat with Bob & Dan Blacksberg	T'tzavveh Shabbat Zachor 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 5:30 PM Mini- Megillah 6:30 PM Cantata 7:30 PM Scotch Tasting
24	25	26	27	28		
Purim 9-11 AM SS/HS/HH 11 AM Purim Carnival	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Talmud on Tap	Dates to Remember 3/6 Bat Mitzvah of Sofia Newberg 3/22 TGShabbat with Tess Seymour	Pesach begins the evening of 3/25— First Seder		

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—WINTER ISSUE 2013

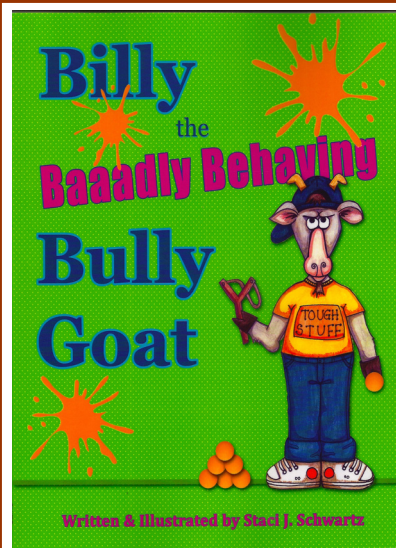
Kesher

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**

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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.