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418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.6590 Phone
215.922.6599 Fax

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Rabbi's Column

Arts & Culture: An Additional Avenue of Engagement

Avi Winokur

For a synagogue community to succeed in becoming and remaining vital, leadership must recognize that congregants and potential congregants require multiple avenues of engagement because—not to state the obvious—people are different. When it comes to our Membership Engagement Initiative, we have already featured two completely different avenues of engagement: 1) Guess Who is Coming to Shabbes? (a program designed to teach Home Shabbat practices) and 2) POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, & Rebuild—a Social Action opportunity).

While many of the same people may be interested in both avenues, each may certainly appeal to different people, because—at the risk of repetition—people are different.

An additional avenue of engagement involves Arts & Culture. In our congregation, we have a veritable cornucopia of Arts & Culture activities in which our own talented members participate. What follows is a just a sampling of some of these activities that will be taking place in the coming months. These are only activities and events about which I was informed. I am sure there are many other Arts & Culture events in which our congregants are the featured artists, writers, or performers. I would love to make this information available to our Synagogue community on a regular basis.

On a lark, I caught a show that SHS member Michael Yudell put on in collaboration with an improvisation group. The show, part of the Philly Fringe festival, was about the history of public health. Public health? Funny? Public health? Hilarious.

World-famous photographer/artist Judy Gelles has a spectacular, moving, and thought-provoking exhibit entitled "Fourth Grade Project" that features photos and a video. I've seen it before. It is truly something. You can see this exhibit at the Gallery at 543 Urban Outfitters, Inc. at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia (M-F, 8 AM until 5 PM). Hurry ... it ends on October 3.

Noah Herman, who grew up in this congregation and who has taught in our religious school and Playschool, is currently directing the 1812 Productions of *Bunny Bunny*, an imaginary biography of the life of Saturday Night Live actress Gilda Radner; see this production at the Walnut Street Theatre through October 27.

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President's Column

Highlights From My Kol Nidre Address

Jonathan Weiss

Welcome back! I know that we often feel like we're not ready to come back from the summer break and return to fall activities, but this year, the early holiday schedule has brought us back sooner than usual. It's hard to believe that by early October we've already celebrated the High Holy Days! I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate what I spoke to you about on Kol Nidre.

Traditionally, the High Holy Days offers those of us in the leadership a chance to address the congregation as a whole. We take the time during the services, when so many of you are present, to speak for a bit about what we've been up to, and what we are planning for the year ahead. I think we accomplished a lot last year, and this fall already looks like it will be full of new opportunities for all of us.

The major goal we achieved last year was the establishment of the Membership Engagement Initiative, which was created to provide ways for the members to become more connected to the community. I have written about this in my previous columns, and you have heard through other articles how this initiative got started, so I'm not going to repeat what you already know. I will say, however, that it was with a great deal of excitement and energy that we embraced the ideas of Dr. Ron Wolfson, both from reading his book and by talking with him when he conducted a Shabbaton about *The Spirituality of Welcoming* last year.

We took away many ideas from that weekend, and we have already implemented many of them. We have expanded our activities by organizing a number of different engagement groups that focus on social activities, musical functions, and tikkun olam. Members have already organized a trip to Fran Gallun's gallery opening, held a group discussion about Hannah Arendt after watching a movie at the Ritz, and planned a movie night at the Synagogue for school families.

We have also made some programmatic changes that will include member engagement as a core goal in everything we do.

First, thanks to Debbie Stewart's leadership, we now have a program called "Shul Guides." Many of you have volunteered to be guides for new members or families, helping them understand what makes this place special, and hopefully learning from them, what will make it better still.

A second new undertaking involves our association with POWER, a multi-denominational, faith-based organization that works to influence our local and regional government to make changes critical to develop true social justice within our city. You have heard, I am sure, about this group through various communications over the last six months, and many of you learned even more during the break on Yom Kippur when a representative from POWER was invited to speak. As contributing members to this organization, we now have SHS representatives on POWER's Board. Congratulations to Harry Oxman and Carl Levitsky, who will serve in this capacity. We're excited to learn how we can be part of this larger group and contribute to the city we love. Since Kol Nidre, many of our members and leaders attended meetings about the school budget and fair wages. I look forward to sharing more accomplishments with you over the coming year.

A third way that we have begun to engage our members involves our home base – literally. The idea of increasing our connection to Judaism through Shabbat meals is very primal – and whenever we discussed it we got excited. We have developed several events around the sharing of Shabbat meals.

Last spring, Bonny Hohenberger organized open Shabbat dinners for members after Friday night services, which got us rolling. We had more of these dinners hosted over the summer, proving that in Philadelphia it is possible to be Jewish and stay in town on Friday night. Also, I am excited to announce that we had our inaugural summer "Havdalah down the Shore" hosted by Walter and Margie Ferst and David and Sayde Ladov. I hope this wonderful event will be repeated again next summer, with your help. The success of these events inspired this fall's "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbes" program, which will have its debut on November 15 and 16. After the Rabbi talked about this on Rosh Hashanah, we had over 30 families volunteer to host or co-host—a terrific response!

I want to thank David Ladov for making a clear and impassioned appeal at Rosh Hashanah to make the case for Annual Giving. Within the next month, you will be receiving a reminder about this appeal, which focused on the idea that charity begins at home—that we all need to understand that what makes our community strong is its diversity. Our members have diverse economic circumstances; some members have limited or no ability to pay for membership and other expenses. David encouraged all who are capable of doing so to consider making a contribution that would help pay for another member who cannot pay full fees. The appeal was refreshing in its clarity and simplicity, and I want to thank those of you who responded immediately and generously. We have not yet reached our goal, but we're on our way. I ask the rest of you to remember David's thoughtful request as you decide what amount you will give for your annual contribution.

I finished my words on Kol Nidre with another appeal—an appeal for your assistance. On Sukkot, I was inspired by Rabbi Winokur's words about the Etrog and Lulav—four species that represent four different groups within the Jewish community at large. Palm, willow, myrtle, and etrog. He referred to an analogy where taste represents learning, and aroma represents good deeds. The etrog has both, the palm has taste but not fragrance, the myrtle has aroma but no taste, and the willow has neither. Similarly, the Jewish community is made up of a range of people with different connections to Jewish learning and different levels of participation. Just as is the case with the Etrog and Lulav, our strength comes from binding together all the different groups. The fact that this analogy is an old one is reassuring, telling us that we're not the first group to face these differences in connection. For my appeal, I am asking that each of us try to find some way to be involved in synagogue as activities and programs slightly more than we did last year—whether by attending a cultural event described in the Rabbi's column this month, participating in "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat," or becoming involved in one of our engaging other activities. You can help strengthen our community.

Finally, encourage friends, family, and colleagues to join SHS so they will learn what makes us such a special Synagogue community.



Ann Spak Thal School Jewish Journeys Across Time and Territory

Sahar Oz

The beginning of our school year has been busy with the High Holy Day season, and it was wonderful to celebrate Sukkot together with our students, parents, and grandparents at the Sukkot Family Service on September 22. As Tishri passes and we welcome Heshvan, this is an exciting time for new Jewish exploration.

In Sunday School, our kindergarteners are learning about the earliest events in *Genesis*, while our first grade students discover new Hebrew letters and take a closer look at our Patriarchs and Matriarchs. As our second graders hone in on key Jewish heroes from the *Torah*, they are also preparing for our next family service on Saturday, October 5, when their class will be featured.

That service starts at 10:30 AM and will be followed by a delicious luncheon. Please join us to celebrate Shabbat together! Your RSVP is essential to ensure that there is plenty of food for everyone to enjoy. Please e-mail the office at office@societyhillssynagogue.org by Wednesday, October 2, and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

Our fall theme for our Hebrew School electives is "Jewish Life Around the World," so our students in grades 3-6 are beginning their intercontinental journeys...without having to wait for connecting flights! Third and fourth graders will experience the history, geography, sounds, visions, and tastes of Jewish life in Ethiopia, Spain, and Argentina; students in grades five and six will travel to France, Italy, and South Africa.

Our seventh grade class is almost a month into its study of the Sho'ah (the Holocaust), using graphic novels, documentary footage, poetry, and art. Our teachers have crafted a multifaceted approach to learning about this dark period of history, and our students began their study by considering early examples of European anti-Semitism, from the Church Fathers through medieval times.



Cantor's Column

The Calm After the Spiritual Storm

Bob Freedman

The first three weeks of Tishri—Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and following on their heels, Sukkot—are high energy times. The head of the year, we call it. Not the beginning—that honor belongs to Nisan, the month of Passover. Tishri is rather the seventh month, a height from which we can look backward and forward.

For me, Ne'ilah is the most intense hour of the entire year. Adrenaline is coursing, and we're all on our feet, striving to get to the final shofar. For short bursts, as if we were in a race, we aim even higher, to the gates of repentance.

I went home exhausted and spent the next day groggily putting together my Sukkah. Working out the pattern of lashing the pieces together and tying the knots was all I could do, but when it was up it was homey and pretty. We ate in it as much as we could, and invited guests for dinners. It was very pleasant sitting outdoors with good wine, good food, and great company, being thankful for the holy gift of security without walls. Under the stars we floated on a high plane. It was completely different from the frenzied, desperate finale of Yom Kippur, but nevertheless well above the routine of being over-subscribed and catching meals as we can.

On Sh'mini Atzeret we said the prayer for rain, and reconciled ourselves to sitting inside watching drops hit the pavement. (It hasn't happened yet as I write this, but I have faith.) A final frenzy lifted our feet to dance with scrolls on Simḥat Torah, and then it was over.

In one way it's a relief not to live in such high spiritual intensity. But don't we miss the excitement, the crowds, the nervous energy, the demands that pull us away from routine? With only a touch of irony we refer to the month following Tishri as Mar, "bitter," Heshvan, since, O Dear, there are no festivals in it. It's a long way to Hanukkah, and the days stretch into darkness.

To sustain me to the Feast of Lights I mull over my impressions from that three-week succession of seminars on judgment, forgiveness, and grateful joy. To my mind come humility, as I reflect on how I never sing as well as I would like to; gratitude for the privilege of being a leader of prayer for such a generous and warm group of people; pride and satisfaction in how well my students chanted Haftarah and Torah, and failings at which I am still chipping away, and for which, I offered repentance on Yom Kippur. Those will give me more than enough to fill the coming weeks and months.

Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 3

For our Hebrew High students, the new curriculum's first service project will bring them together with other Center City Jewish teens to Neighborhood Foods, a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in partnership with Urban Tree Connection. Led by their teachers and our new Center City Youth Advisor, Terri Soifer, the teens will get their hands dirty as they help with this shared produce initiative in West Philadelphia.



(Edible sukkah creations)

Our school is brimming with students' and teachers' curiosity, creativity, wisdom, and enthusiasm for Jewish learning. Spread the word!



Playschool

The Playschool Art Exhibit Opens October 18

Gloria Parris

A new school year has begun in the Playschool. Our teachers have been busy welcoming all of our new and returning families. It is wonderful to see how enthusiastic the children are to come to preschool.

During the course of their day, the children will socialize with friends, create expressive art, listen to stories that will excite their imaginations, sing songs and recite rhymes that can be shared with their families, learn skills in preparation for Kindergarten, and experience the celebration of Jewish holidays and Shabbat. The children will also learn the social skills of sharing, taking turns, and participating in group activities. Often, the boys and girls make friendships that last long beyond the Playschool years.

Children in the 2-year-old classes are experiencing a school atmosphere for the first time. Each day, they have the opportunity to play, interact with friends, learn new songs and movement activities, ride bikes outdoors, listen to storybooks, and create unique art projects. During the first few weeks of Playschool, the boys and girls came to school for progressively lengthening periods of time to allow them to ease into the preschool schedule.

Most of the children in the 3 – 4-year-old class are returning Playschool students. These students were ready to come back to school to see their friends and to continue learning and having fun. We were excited to welcome many new Playschool students to this class, too. All of the children have been eager to participate in free playtime, circle time, calendar, story time, learning letters of the week, making art projects, riding bikes, singing songs, practicing yoga, and celebrating Shabbat.

Our Pre-K curriculum focuses on preparing our students to enter Kindergarten. In our two classes, the children learn reading readiness skills, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, community living, science, art, and Jewish holidays and themes.

Throughout the school year, the children will participate in a drama class that will encourage them to express themselves in fun and creative ways.

The Playschool also offers Afterschool Arts Clubs, every afternoon, from 12:30 PM until 3 PM. On Mondays, the children prepare healthy snacks in Cooking Club. Tuesdays are for learning about science, with hand-on scientific experiments. Wednesdays are for completing projects in Art Club. On Thursdays, the boys and girls participate in Movement Club that includes parachute games, obstacle course activities, dance, and aerobics. On Fridays, we have Music Club where the children learn new songs about the seasons, holidays, and Shabbat, or they sing songs just for fun. Children, who do not attend the Playschool, are welcome to attend Afterschool Arts. Please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 28, for more information about enrolling your child in our afternoon programs.

On Thursday, October 10, the Pre-K classes will be taking a walking trip to visit a local fire station. There, they will learn about community helpers and fire safety.

Grandparents' and Special Friend's Day, for the children in the 3 – 4-year-old class and Pre-K classes, will be held on Friday, October 18. That evening, our Fall Shabbat Dinner (Social Hall) and Playschool Art Exhibit (Spruce Street Lobby) will take place. Original works of art, created by all of the children in the Playschool, will be on display.

On Tuesday, October 29, the children in the 3 – 4-year-old class will be taking the first of four trips to The Philadelphia Museum of Art to participate in the *Museum Looks and Picture Books* preschool program.

We hope to see all of our Playschool families at the Fall Shabbat Dinner and Art Exhibit on Friday, October 18.

Social Action

See You at Philabundance on Tuesday, October 1!

Margie Ferst and Phyllis Denbo

Interested in volunteering to help fight hunger in Philadelphia?

Join Society Hill Synagogue volunteers to help sort and pack food on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning on **October 1, from 6:15 until 8:00 PM**, at Philabundance (located at 3616 Galloway Street). Car-pooling is available.

This is a wonderful hands-on opportunity to address the growing problem of hunger and food insecurity in one of the nation's most needy cities.

Contact Margie Ferst at Margieferst@gmail.com for more information.

Let's have a strong SHS turnout this year!

Baby & Me & Young Families Groups Visit to Johnson's Corner Farm

Laurel Landau

This year's Young Families Group is off to a great start! We enjoyed seeing so many familiar (and new!) faces at Playschool, Sunday School, and High Holy Day Services.

Please save the date on Sunday, October 13, when our group will go on a joint adventure with the Baby & Me Group to Johnson's Corner Farm in Medford, New Jersey. We will meet there around 2PM for a hayride, pumpkin and apple picking fun, and yummy cider donuts!!

Also mark your calendars for a PJ Havdalah Party on Saturday, November 16, from 6 until 7:30 PM! Jointly sponsored by Playschool and Sunday School, it will be a fun night for all! More details will follow.

As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes families with a child aged 5 and under (and of course older siblings are welcome). Our group goes on excursions around town, and we attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue. The Baby & Me Group, led by Jessica Downes, is a social and activity group for families with a child(ren) under the age of 2 and their parents or caregivers.

Stay tuned for upcoming events and emailed reminders about Synagogue events of interest! For more information, or to be included on our email address list, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.

Would You Like to Get Messages About SHS Events on Facebook?



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 contact me at carey.myers@gmail.com.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

Member Engagement Initiative (MEI)

Something For Everyone

“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbes?”

Debbie Stewart

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 Shabbes 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 Shabbes?” 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 Shabbes 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 Shabbes?” 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 Shabbes Meal Event! You may even be inspired to start your own regular practice of celebrating Shabbes 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.

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Foodie Alert: Mark Your Calendars for the Hazon Food Festival!

Betty van de Rijn

The Philadelphia Advisory Board of Hazon is pleased to announce that the first **"Hazon Food Festival: Liberty, Food, & Justice for All!"** will be held on **Sunday, October 20**, 9:30 AM until 5:30 PM, at Congregation Rodeph Shalom. I am delighted to share with you that SHS will be one of many area synagogues sponsoring this exciting inaugural Philadelphia Hazon Food Festival event!

Spend the day learning about food, sustainability, and Jewish life in Philadelphia. This food festival will represent a local twist on Hazon's successful national one-day food festivals and multi-day food conferences and will provide a taste of the Jewish Food Movement in Philadelphia.

Support this day-long festival, which will be chock-full of dynamic sessions on subjects such as DIY projects, text study, cooking, and social justice. Philadelphia foodies, rabbis, nutritionists, chefs, farmers, vegans, and omnivores will come together to explore the interplay of food, sustainability, Jewish traditions, and contemporary life in Philadelphia. In addition to these sessions, local vendors will present their products at the shuk (market), which will feature local sustainable food and other goods.

Come out for a fun day of tasting and learning! For more information, visit the Hazon Philly Food Festival at <http://www.hazon.org/programs/foodfestival/hazon-food-festival-philadelphia>.

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

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SUITE 1518
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

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FAX (215) 955-8509

POWER Update

Phyllis Denbo

Ten members of the Social Action Committee attended POWER's Fall Leadership Assembly and came away better informed and inspired to action. In the next couple of months, we will be working to educate and engage SHS members to advocate for public policies that are just and fair, especially for middle- and low-income families.

Focusing on jobs, schools, and immigration, POWER's goals for the year ahead are specific and strategic: passage of a living wage law for the City of Philadelphia; enactment of a fair funding law for school systems throughout the State of Pennsylvania; and citizenship for eleven million undocumented immigrants nationwide. The work ahead includes advocating for placement of a Living Wage Amendment on the May ballot, making school funding a top issue in the upcoming gubernatorial election, and providing a strong contribution to the national movement for immigration reform, among other major activities.

Are these goals ambitious? Yes! Important? Absolutely! Achievable? Yes, provided there are large numbers of supporters committed to action on behalf of the goals. To grow the number of people who are aware of and involved in POWER, member congregations will be holding house meetings across the city over the next two months. These meetings will be informal informational and sharing sessions for groups of eight to ten people. Several SHS Social Action Committee members have agreed to host house parties, but additional hosts are needed. If you are outraged about the dire state of the Philadelphia School System and would like to do something about it, while encouraging others to join you, please consider hosting a house party. Training in how to conduct a session will be provided

The co-chairs for POWER at SHS are Harry Oxman and Carl Levitzky. You may contact them at hjoxman@verizon.net or makeart4U@verizon.net, respectively for further information, to attend or volunteer to host a house party, or to become otherwise involved in this major new SHS initiative.

MEI**Holiday Meals Group**

Barbara Spector

Continued from page 7



Sixteen SHS-niks, including Cantor Bob and Sally Freedman, gathered for a potluck dinner on the first night of Rosh Hashanah at the home of Debbie and Bill Stewart. The celebratory meal, which was the first to occur in accordance with our new Holiday Meals Group, was a resounding success. We all got to know each other better and sample each other's delicious cooking. It was a delightful evening and a wonderful way to start the New Year.



Please contact Barbara Spector at barbara@familybusinessmagazine.com if you would like to add your name to the list of SHS members who join together for holiday meals. If you are able to host a meal, please indicate that in your email.

New Member Integration

Debbie Stewart

The Shul Guide/New Member Match has begun! Six new members have been matched with Shul Guides, and we are pleased to report that we have many more volunteer Shul Guides waiting in the wings to be matched to other new members.

Shul Guides will provide a warm welcome and continuing support to create a comfortable transition to SHS. We hope each new member of our community builds relationships that will enrich their SHS experience. We will continue to contact new members to learn of their interest in this program. If you would like more information please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or Libby Cone at cone@effectivemedicalenglish.com.

Other Engaging Activities...

Debbie Stewart

Save the Date:

For SHS's Third Annual Inter**NOSH**ional Night on 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

Mark Your Calendars...

Friday, September 25 at 6:15 PM: Enjoy a spectacular TGIShabbat event followed by a sponsored Oneg Kiddush

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

November 15 and 16: "Guess Who's Coming To Shabbes?" Super Shabbat Kick-off Weekend. The other "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbes?" weekend dates are March 7 –8 and May 15 –16.

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.

Arts and Culture

Still in its earliest stage of development, the Membership Engagement Initiative is planning to incorporate Arts & Culture events into our programs. Please see the Rabbi's Column on the cover for further details.

General Fund**In Appreciation of****High Holy Day Services**

Lorraine Weissbach

Rabbi Winokur & Jonathan Weiss

Michelle Abrams & Lindy Nelson

Rabbi's Nosh & Schmooze Class

Barbara Zalkind

In Honor of**Martin Pressman's 90th Birthday**

Judy Spiller

Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

In Memory of**Pearl Dranoff, Mother of Carl Dranoff**

Robin Schatz

Melvin Fuerst, Father of Claudia Balderston

Robin Schatz

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Sara Belkina, Mother of Yuri Rubinov**

Marina Merlin & Yuri Rubinov

David Merlin, Father of Marina Merlin

Marina Merlin & Yuri Rubinov

Sigmond Weinberg, Father-in-Law of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Anna Weinberg Trust, Mother-in-Law of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Annual Giving Fund**In Appreciation of****Society Hill Synagogue**

Bonny Flanagan

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Guilio Ciotti, Father of Rita Altman**

Rita Altman

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

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Robert Segal, Husband of Evelyn Segal**

Evelyn Segal

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

Iris Levine

Evelyn Segal, Great-Granddaughter's Baby Naming

Iris Levine

Playschool Fund**In Honor of****Caryn & Carl Levitsky's 40th Wedding Anniversary**

David & Jane Auspitz

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Marvin Goldsmith, Father of Gloria Parris**

Gloria Parris

Scott Pollack, Brother-in-Law of Gloria Parris

Gloria Parris

Rabbi Discretionary Fund**In Appreciation of****High Holy Days Services**

Madelaine Nathanson & David Abelsohn

In Honor of**Jane & Edward Rudolph, Birth of Grandson**

Alan & Elaine Shechtman

Tree of Life**Root**

Barry and Kathy Bernsten

Leaves**In Honor of****The 2009-2011 SHS Presidency of Walter Ferst**

The Ferst Family

Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient

The Ferst Family

Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient

Betty and Marty van de Rijn

Staci Schwartz, 2013 Kallat B'reishit Recipient

Betty van Marty van de Rijn

§

Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)**Hospitality Among Faith Traditions**

Debbie Stewart

Please join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 PM for Interfaith dialogue and community building. Each monthly discussion will focus on a topic of interest and application to all faith traditions. Our topic for Tuesday, October 22, will be "Hospitality Among the Faith Traditions."

We will gather at Old St. Joseph's Church, located at 321 Willings Alley. To enter the building, go through the courtyard and down the stairs to the Social Hall.

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

Rabbi's Column

continued from Cover

Nathaniel Popkin's book launch for his historical novel *Lion and Leopard* will occur on Wednesday, October 30, at 6:30 PM in the main hall of Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. A ticketed pre-event tour, featuring paintings that are discussed in the story, will be co-led by Nathaniel and a PAFA staff member at 5:30 PM.

One of our newer members, Deborah Block, is currently directing Theatre Exile's production of Mike Bartlett's *Cock* from October 17 to November 10 in Studio X located at 1340 S. 13th Street.

But wait that has just been a review of events that are occurring in October!

Josh Piven, best-selling author of *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* series (Chronicle Books) and many other non-fiction books, also grew up in this congregation. Don't miss Josh's new comedy *No Reservations* (a holiday farce) at the Adrienne Theater, November 29 to December 15.

And William Steinberger, yet a third young man who grew up at SHS, will be directing Tom Stoppard's comedy *Rough Crossing* from January 17 to February 1 at Allens Lane Art Center Playhouse (601 W. Allens Lane, Philadelphia).

Fran Gallun's beautiful artwork (mixed media, vintage photographs, and monoprints) will be featured in an exhibit at The Koslowe Judaica Gallery at the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamorneck, New York until December 5.

Sometime over the next year Marty Rosenberg, Professor of Art History, will be bringing an exhibit of Israeli Women's Art to the United States. Stay tuned for more information.

We also have a number of talented musicians in our congregation.

Don't miss Eve Friedman and Jessi Roemer's musical group *Sonic Theology* who will be performing on Saturday, November 16, 8 PM, at the "Little Shul": Shivtei Yeshuron, located at 2015 S. 4th Street. Tickets required.

Many of you know Dan Blacksberg (and yes, he grew up at SHS, too) the Klezmer Jazz, post-genre/genre-busting trombonist, who records on the Tzaddik label with Devyekus (among other groups). Dan plays at many venues in Philadelphia.

Our resident stand up bassist Joe Oxman also performs locally.

This list is far from exhaustive. These are just some of the events involving our talented congregants that have come to my attention via emails in the past few weeks. I hope that many of you will support our members in their artistic endeavors and invite friends to join you.

Our goal is to turn this treasure of the creative accomplishments of our own members in theater, music, art, and writing into opportunities for engagement as we continue to foster connections within our community. We have begun to have preliminary conversations about how to coordinate groups of congregants who share a love of Arts & Culture to attend and experience these types of events together.

Any of us can go see a member's exhibit, play, concert, or presentation on our own. But, creating an opportunity for people with common interests to go as a group is part of our ongoing goal to develop a congregation of relationships. As Ron Wolfson says in his new book, *Relational Judaism*, "it's about relationships."

Continued on page 13

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Society Hill- Hot & Healthy Series Continues in October

Is Alternative Medicine Right For My Aches & Pains?

Sharon L. Kolasinski, M.D., F.A.C.R.
Head, Division of Rheumatology
Cooper University Hospital

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
7 PM
Society Hill Synagogue

Free and Open to the Community
Refreshments will be served

October Birthdays

Andrew Kadish
Malcolm Kates
Craig Sobel
Elizabeth Becker
Lauren Ladov
Dan Bogen
Michelle Danoff
Allyson Katz
Andrea Appel
Lily Hayman
Joan Markman
David Morgan
Ellen Fennick
Jacob Mono
Suzanne Fierston
Gabril Gilbert-Trachtman
Sayde Ladov
Martha Levine
Gerald Faich
Charlotte Feinberg
Cora Rosin
Adam Shapiro
Burton Blender
Jeffrey Bladen
Roberta Dranoff
Jay Wussow
Janet Cherry
Sara Morgenstern
Nathan Saltz
Emma Salzman
Aaron Richman
Daniel Saligman
Skylar Hunter
Maxwell Gearhart-Robboy
Betty Kaplan
Amy Danoff
Noa Halpern
Lawrence Goldfinger
Linda Bach
Lila Roomberg
Lena Popkin
David Marmon
Cheryle Rosen
Bodin Snyder
Abigail Wolf
Jonathan Weiss
Jacob Hayman
Thea Applebaum-Licht
Olivia Backal-Balik
Melody Goldberg
Libby Taub
Paige Taub

October Birthdays

Hannah Feinberg
Courtney Meisel
Clara Gutstadt
Jon Jacoby
Dalia Meisel
Joshua Nadel
Brian Mono
Sharon Shapiro

October Anniversaries

Daniel & Carol Weil
Dan & Alli Taub
Joshua Nadel & Lana Noel
Joshua Goldwert &
Jennifer Schwartz
Craig Pressman &
Sandra Lazovitz
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Bonny Hohenberger &
Nathan Farbman
James & Camille Orman
Don & Karen Kaufman
Nicole & Daniel Perkins
Mark & Maxine Schoenholtz
Nathaniel Popkin &
Rona Buchalter
Mark Steinberger &
Ann Lebowitz Steinberg
Adam Bonin & Jennifer Weiner
Mel Nasielski & Nancy Burd

Community News

Mazel Tov to

Andrew & Vicki Clark-Kadish on the birth of their son, Jacob.

Bart & Betty Kaplan on the birth of their newest granddaughter, Ariela Bronstein.

Walter Ferst, Recipient of the 2013 Hatan Torah Award.

Staci Schwartz, Recipient of the 2013 Kallat B'reishit Award.

Welcome New Members

Edward & Susanne Kaplan

Moshe & Orah Mahlab

5774 New Year's Greetings

L' Shanah Tovah
Have a sweet year!



Stephen and Pelley Brown & Family

Joel Chernock

Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Theodore and Diane Danoff

Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof

The Eizen Family

Terry Graboyes

Malcolm Kates

David, Sayde, Hillary and Lauren Ladov

Edward Levenson

The Miller Family

Sally Poulshock

Jerry and Lois Rosenberg

Irv and Sharon Shapiro

Alton and Mona Sutnick

Rosemarie V. Weinberg

Harvey and Bonnie Weiner

Zelda Wolf

Barbara Zalkind

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 11

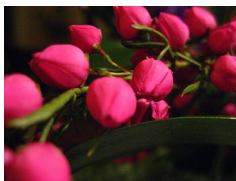
I love TGIShabbat. This past TGIShabbat service honoring our new members was a joy. As always, I loved the music of the three J's (Jud, Josh and Joe), but I was just as thrilled by the dinner afterwards—by the conversation, the joy, and the buzz in the room. Every time we have a meal at an event, I always make sure to step back once in a while and just listen. What I hear in the buzz is "This is community." At one point I stopped by a table where a former President sat with his wife. They, veteran members of 30 years, were sitting next another couple that I clearly did not know as well. The second couple had joined in the past year. They were getting to know each other. That is community. At another table, three of our younger members were busy talking with a new young couple. One of these members turned to me and said, "This is my job. I see younger folks, and I go over and talk up the synagogue." This is community.

Obviously, we don't have enough Keshet space to promote all of the causes and community activities in which our congregants are involved, but if you, as a member, are performing or sharing your personal talents at an event, please send an email to office@societyhillssynagogue.org.

My hope for the future: A group of congregants will go to see a play directed by another congregant. Many of them may not even know each other well. What they have in common is that they love the theater. Maybe they will go out for coffee or a drink afterwards. Maybe some of the folks who hadn't known each other well will start a conversation. Maybe they will begin a friendship. This is community.

This is my hope, and this is my dream.

Our warmest thanks to the following families who donated the beautiful flowers in our Sanctuary during the High Holy Days!



Judah and Rebecca, Devra, and Sarah Ferst in memory of their beloved mother, Nancy Ferst.

Paul and Wendy Rosen & Family in memory of their beloved mother, Belle Schwartz; beloved father, Edward Rosen; beloved sister, Harieta Rosen Gross; and their beloved aunt, Edna Einbinder.

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

Thank You....

to the following members for their High Holy Day

Sponsorships:

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In Memory of Jack J. Kates and Rea J. Kates
Malcolm Kates

In Memory of our Parents
Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman

In Memory of Parents, Mildred and Irving Zalkind
Barbara Zalkind

Theodore and Diane Danoff
Gerald Faich

Jonathan Feinman

The Hayman Family

Bonny Hohenberger and Nathan Farbman

Geoffrey and Beverly Michaels

Alton and Mona Sutnick

Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg

Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

Break-the-Fast and Sukkah Decorations

In Memory of Jacob and Fannie Jorovsky
Malcolm Kates

In Memory of Jack Luken, Ervin Weiner, & Josephine Weiner
Harvey and Bonnie Weiner

In Memory of William G. Williams
Rick Summers and Merrily Williams

In Memory of Mark Stanton Zimmerman
Jay Wussow and Emily Zimmerman

Theodore and Diane Danoff
The Einhorn Family and Seafood Unlimited
The Hayman Family

Marty and Susan Lisman

Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman

Michael and Carole Rochester

Rick Summers and Merrily Williams

Alton and Mona Sutnick

Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg

Harvey and Bonnie Weiner

Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

Jay Wussow and Emily Zimmerman

Barbara Zalkind



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
AE-Adult Ed HS-Hebrew School SS-Sunday School BDM-Board Mtg. ECM-Ex. Com. ELM-Ed. Leadshp. PS-Playschool		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 HS 7 PM AE Hebrew Class w/Bruce Hirsch	12:15 PM ELM 7 PM Society Hill Hot & Healthy		6:15 PM Services	Noah 9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Family Service with Bet Class & Tihon Aides
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM SS 11 AM HS	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE Hebrew Class w/Bruce Hirsch	7:30 PM Offsite EDM Meeting 7:30 PM AE Of Longing & Belong- ing with Rabbi Winokur		6:15 PM Services	Lekh L'kha 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Tal Prystowsky 10 AM Shabbat Study
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 AM SS 9:15 AM AE Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM AE Bavli & Bagels with Rafi Licht	Columbus Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM AE Bible Study with Rabbi 7 PM AE Hebrew Grammar with Cantor			Playschool Grandparents Day 5:30 PM PS Shab- bat Dinner 6:15 PM Services	Va-yera 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Thea Applebaum Licht
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Philly Food Festival 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE Hebrew Class with Bruce Hirsch	7:30 PM AE Of Longing & Belong- ing with Rabbi Winokur		6:15 PM TGISHabbat Featuring Tessa Seymour	Hayyei Sarah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
27	28	29	30	31		
9 AM SS 9:15 AM AE Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi	7:30 PM AE Justice in the City with Rabbi	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE Hebrew Grammar with Cantor				

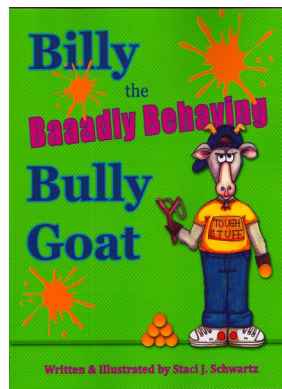
Kesher



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

