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*The SHS Board of Directors, Rabbi Avi Winokur,
Cantor Bob Freedman, President Jonathan Weiss,
Executive Director Betty van de Rijn,
Education Director Sahar Oz, Playschool Director Gloria Parris,
and the entire staff
wish you a joyous and sweet Pesah*

Please join us for the
**SHS Annual Congregation Meeting and
our first Annual Member Recognition Awards Ceremony**

On Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 PM
in the Social Hall
A lite buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 PM before the meeting.
For full details see page 16.

*SHS is proud to announce the 2014
Ann Spak Thal School
confirmation graduates:*

Confirmands and Parents

Jack Aaron

Son of Jud Aaron and Sue Snedden

Sam Feinberg

Son of Daniel and Dana Feinberg

Isaac Wycoff Freedman

Son of Debby Freedman

Jessica Newberg

Daughter of Jeremy and Fran Newberg

Caroline Rosen

Daughter of David and Cheryl Rosen

Ned Weiss

Son of Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

The Confirmation Service will take place
Saturday, May 31 at 10 AM.

Please join us for a Kiddush Luncheon following services.



Rabbi's Column

Let Us Consider the Nature of Our Freedom

Avi Winokur

One of the early to mid-twentieth century's most famous Jewish thinkers, Martin Buber (1878-1965) is best known for his classic *I and Thou* and for bringing the tales of the Hasidim out of Eastern European villages and towns and into the popular Jewish imagination. Buber was also a prolific essayist and passionate Zionist (far to the left of anything known as Zionist today, but in his day no one accused him of being anti-Zionist—even those who accused him of being anti-Israel). One of his most exquisitely crafted essays *Herut: On Youth and Religion*, delivered in 1918 and published in 1919 for the educated shell-shocked disoriented youth of post-World War I Austria and Germany, is a protracted and elegant riff/*midrash*, interpretation/*pairush* on Ethics of the Fathers/*Pirke Avot* 6:2: "God's writing is engraved (*harut*) on the tablets (Exodus 32:16)—do not read '*harut*' (engraved) but rather '*herut*' (freedom)."

The idea that what was engraved on the tablets of the law was God's freedom was as wild and almost incomprehensible to the Western mind (the mind that Buber was addressing in 1918) then as it is now, almost a century later. Buber, being Buber, was not talking about a strict, traditional understanding of either God or the Ten Commandments/Bible. Rather, he was concerned with a generation that, had it known Janis Joplin, was in danger of the sort of nihilism of "freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." In Buber's essay, the adversary was freedom from all constraint, freedom of the individual set adrift from all moorings and celebrating that anchorlessness. In opposition to this anomie, Buber crafted a radical approach to Judaism, God, and Torah that became the heartbeat of the kibbutz pioneers whom he touched.

Buber's concern remains very much with us. Freedom without commitment, community, and content, without roots in a rich soil of the spirit with room to grow and blossom, is a freedom of dubious worth.

As we approach this season of Pesah (*z'man herutainu*/the season of our freedom) and Shavuot (*z'man matan torateinu*/the season of the giving of our Torah), we might want to reflect, perhaps even self-critically reflect, on the nature of our freedom. What are our commitments? Not what do we think, what are our opinions and how do we vote once every few years.

Those are not commitments. What are our real commitments? How do they play out in our lives? If we are parents or grandparents, can our children and grandchildren readily discern those commitments by the way we live? Whether parents, grandparents, or not, can we articulate those commitments and live them in ways that are manifest?

To what God (atheists and agnostics, use your imaginations—substitute overriding ideals or transcendent understanding or what have you) do we owe allegiance? What is our Torah? It may be the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; the Torah, the prophets; the writings of the Persian Sufi Rumi, the Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, or the contemporary American Parker J. Palmer. It could be the Hippocratic Oath.

Is there anything or any combination of things to which we are bound and committed that gives our freedom meaning, dignity, or purpose? Or is our freedom the freedom to make whatever choices we deem appropriate at any given time, weighing whatever priorities are then salient and coming up with our best choice, constrained only by prudence (e.g., not breaking the law because the consequences for getting caught aren't worth the risk, as opposed to not breaking the law because we are committed to the law), but not by any overriding commitments.

At the risk of overgeneralization and oversimplification, Pesah and Shavuot are distinguished from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by the different questions these two holiday periods raise. The Days of Awe ask us more personal questions concerning how we treat each other and, in more contemporary times, how we treat ourselves. The Pesah-Shavuot pair asks us to consider to what we owe allegiance, what grounds our freedom and liberty.

Please consider these themes and challenges an opportunity to grapple with the kinds of questions we so rarely have time to consider and wrestle with. May your Pesah and Shavuot be seasons not only of celebration but also of thoughtful reflection and commitment to action.





President's Column

TGISHabbat/Bat Mitzvah Service on April 25

Jonathan Weiss

Those of you who read my article last month were probably amused by my optimistic hope that March would bring warmer weather. As I write this article, after what I sincerely hope is one last dusting of snow, it is again my hope that by the time you read this article we'll be well along into spring. We will be cleaning out our gardens for new growth, our pantries for Passover, and our closets—swapping scarves and parkas for lighter coats, and swapping winter shirts for ones with shorter sleeves.

This spring, we are preparing for a number of activities; as always, your participation will determine their success. Some will be programs that you will recognize, and some will be new programs that will become new traditions at SHS.

As many of you know, TGISHabbat is one of my favorite traditions at SHS. We have had a great deal of success with this musical service over the last three or four years since it was instituted, and I hope it will continue to grow in its popularity. I am pleased to announce that on April 25, SHS will have its first TGISHabbat service on a Bat Mitzvah weekend, and the Bat Mitzvah girl will help the Cantor, Jessi Roemer, and Eve Friedman to make this musical service a success. As I'm sure most of you know, it is a tradition that the B'nai Mitzvah celebrant leads the Friday Night service before being called to the Torah on Saturday morning. The fact that this particular Friday night will feature a TGISHabbat service will only add to the joy. Full disclosure—my daughter will become a Bat Mitzvah during this special weekend, so I was able to have some personal influence in getting her to agree to this arrangement. Everyone is invited to join us for dinner following the service!

"Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?"™ (GWCTS) was a great success last fall. More than half of the congregation attended a Shabbat dinner at another congregant's home either on Friday night for dinner, Saturday afternoon for lunch, or Saturday night for dinner and Havdalah. May 16-17 will be our second GWCTS weekend, and we're working hard to make sure we keep the momentum going. We have a number of volunteers who are willing to host, and we're building up a list of guests as well. Please contact Bonny

Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or 215.463.4715 if you're interested in participating, and we'll make sure there's a welcoming home to host you and your family. I know from my own experience last fall, as well as from all the testimonials I heard, that "GWCTS was a definite keeper—a program we really need to keep going next year and beyond." For more details, see page 17.

Lastly, I am going to mention that we're holding our Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 PM, and I hope you will all attend. This is a year of transition; I will be wrapping up my two-year term as President, and we will also be thanking several Board members who are stepping down after many years of service to the community. We will also conduct our annual election for this year's Board nominees and for our new President. In addition, we will have our first (and hopefully, annual) Member Recognition Awards Ceremony when we will recognize a group of individuals for their extraordinary service to SHS. It is a challenging and often thankless job to keep everything working as smoothly as it does, and this will be a first step in thanking many of you for the hard work you do to build and support this community. I call it a first step because we won't be able to thank everyone this first year, we'll continue to recognize our volunteers and supporters in future years as well. I hope you will take the time to join us for this important meeting.

I am going to repeat my frequent request—please look at all of our programs as opportunities for inreach and outreach. Please join in and participate, and reach out to invite your friends in your neighborhoods and work places as I do! Tell them, "I'm planning to attend this wonderful program or event at SHS—I hope to see you there!" By bringing your friends to your favorite events, you'll help show them what makes SHS such a wonderful place.

I look forward to seeing you here this spring!





Cantor's Column

Life Offers Coincidences That Deepen Its Richness

Bob Freedman

Each year I study a different set of songs by one composer. I choose based on my interest in the style of the composer, the technical challenges the music offers, and, of course, the text. In the past two years I've concentrated on settings of Psalms by Ned Rorem and settings by Ralph Vaughan Williams of poems from *The Pilgrim's Progress*. First I commit the songs to memory, then include them in my regular practice routine. This year I chose to sing through the cycle by Johannes Brahms, *Vier Ernste Gesänge* (*Four Serious Songs*).

Brahms wrote *Vier Ernste Gesänge* in 1896, though not in anticipation of his own death, which occurred in 1897. They were, rather, inspired by the impending death of his life-long love, Clara Schumann. The texts he chose are indeed serious. The first, from chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, declares that both humans and beasts die, and all ends in the same place, death. For humans the response must be to rejoice in their work. Alternating between a plodding 4/4 rhythm and swift three-beat measures, his music conveys both a matter-of-fact attitude and anxiety in contemplating the question, "Is this all there is?" For the second song, Brahms chose from the fourth chapter of Ecclesiastes, in which the author decries the great suffering of life and the dearth of comfort. Perhaps, the song concludes, it would have been better not to have been born. Paradoxically, its gentle and lyrical waltz melody seems to provide the solace that the text denies. The third song features a rare 6/2 meter (three half notes to a measure). This enables long elegiac lines that perfectly accompany a text from Ben Sirach about the bitterness of death for those who have enough and live well, and its sweetness for those who, afflicted by old age or poverty, are bereft of hope. The cycle ends on a positive note. The text of the final song, from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, opens with Paul saying (I paraphrase), "If I speak with tongues of angels, and understand everything, and burn with passion, yet have not love, I am nothing. Three things there are," he concludes, "faith, hope, and love. Of these the greatest is love."

Continued on page 6



Ann Spak Thal School

An Exciting End to the School Year

Sahar Oz

The last two months of our school year are packed with a variety of opportunities for education, inspiration, and celebration—beginning this coming weekend with a special Lunch and Learn following the Saturday, April 5, 10 AM Shabbat service.

Four of our Hebrew High students—Jack Aaron, Isaac Wycoff Freedman, Jessica Newberg, and Ned Weiss—represented our congregation at the Panim el Panim ("Face to Face") seminar in Washington, DC. See photos on page 21. Together with over 200 fellow Jewish teens from across the US, our quartet came face to face with homelessness, participated in service projects throughout the city, and engaged in discussions and debates with experts on healthcare reform and Israel.

On the last day of the seminar, our teens met with U.S. Representative Bob Brady and his staff to lobby on behalf of issues that are important to them. Listen to them share their experiences at this special Lunch and Learn. This is a sponsored lunch, but we need your RSVP to Betty by April 3: bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Our next class-led Shabbat Family Service is scheduled for the following Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 AM. We will celebrate Kitah Bet (2nd grade) as it prepares for its "aliyah" (move up) to 3rd grade and Hebrew School. There will also be special honors for our Hebrew High students who work as aides in Sunday School. Student tuition fees cover the lunch following this service, but Betty needs your RSVP by April 10.

Due to the Passover break, there will be no classes on two consecutive Sundays and Tuesdays: April 13, 15, 20, and 22. Classes for all grades resume on Sunday, April 27. At 12 noon that Sunday, students in grades 6-11, their parents, and the entire congregation are invited to a very special program in observance of Yom Hashoah (Remembrance Day for the Holocaust and Heroism), about which you can read more on page 8.

Continued on page 6



Playschool Busy End to Our Year

Gloria Parris

Are you looking for a fabulous “first school experience” for your child? The SHS Playschool offers classes for children who are between the ages of 2 and 4. We offer an age-appropriate academic curriculum, creative art projects, special events, outdoor play, and celebrations of Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Our teaching staff provides a warm and nurturing environment, and our parent co-operative component allows for parents to see first-hand what their children are learning in the classroom. Our popular AM and PM Pre-Kindergarten classes are fun and exciting, and our graduates leave well-prepared for elementary school.

There are still a few spots available for the September 2014–May 2015 school year. Interested parents are encouraged to make an appointment to visit the Playschool classrooms. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact me at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or Enrollment applications for all classes can be downloaded from the SHS website at www.societyhillssynagogue.org.

Many special events will be taking place in the Playschool during April and May. **On Friday, April 4, the Playschool will host the Spring Shabbat Dinner from 5:30–7 PM.** All of the Playschool students and their families are invited to attend this potluck meal. The children are always very excited to recite the blessings and sing the songs that they have learned during our weekly Shabbat celebrations. Shabbat Dinners are a wonderful way to celebrate this weekly ritual with other Playschool families.

All of the children in the Playschool will take part in *The Franklin Institute Traveling Preschool Science Show* on Tuesday, April 8. The science show, “Silly Shadow, Crazy Color,” will give our students the opportunity to help a groundhog find his shadow. Then, the boys and girls will make their own shadows using special lighting and explore a new way to combine colors.

The Playschool will be closed in observance of Passover from Monday, April 14 through Tuesday, April 22. We will begin classes again on Wednesday, April 23.

Class pictures will be taken on Monday, April 28, and Tuesday, April 29. All children should attend school on their assigned day so that they are included in their class picture. Individual photos of the children will also be taken on both of these days.

On Tuesday, April 29, the children in the AM and PM Pre-Kindergarten classes will take a trip to the Arden Theatre. They will see the play Dr. Seuss’s *The Cat in the Hat*. They are looking forward to finding out what the mischievous cat will do on a rainy day.

The children in the 3–4-year-old class will go on their fourth trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Tuesday, May 6. The theme of the lesson will be “Seasons in Art.” *The Museum Looks and Picture Books* program has given the children an outstanding opportunity to experience art through age-appropriate activities.

Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8, are Parent-Teacher Conferences. There will be no classes in session on either of these conference days. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn about their child’s progress throughout the school year.

The AM and PM Pre-Kindergarten classes will be taking a trip to The Insectarium on Tuesday, May 13. While on the tour of this insect museum, the children will watch a movie about insects, learn about the science of insects, and observe a variety of live insects.

Playschool graduations will be held on Thursday, May 22, and Friday, May 23.

Continued on page 6

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Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 4

May includes a pair of class-led Shabbat services for everyone to enjoy. On Friday, May 2, the Zayin Class (7th grade) will lead Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:15 PM, with a delicious dinner to follow. Student tuition fees cover this dinner, but Betty needs your RSVP by April 30. On Saturday, May 10, the Gimel Class (3rd grade) will lead Shabbat Family Services at 10:30 AM followed by lunch. This meal, too, is covered by tuition fees—remember, Betty needs your RSVP by May 8.

Our annual commemoration of Yom Hazikaron—Remembrance Day for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism—and celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) will take place during Hebrew School on Sunday, May 4. This will include both spiritual and digestive nourishment, with reflective readings, music, and delicious Israeli food.

Our last Sunday of classes is May 18, with Tuesday classes concluding on May 20, and we will have an end-of-year celebration for students in all grades. But wait, there's more! Join us at the 10 AM Confirmation Service on Saturday, May 31, as we celebrate the dedication to Jewish learning of six terrific 10th graders: Jack Aaron, Sam Feinberg, Isaac Wycoff Freedman, Jessica Newberg, Caroline Rosen, and Ned Weiss.

I wish everyone a happy Pesah!

**Cantor's Column**

Continued from page 4

I set out on my study of *Vier Ernste Gesänge* months before he died and not anticipating his passing. But often life offers (so-called) coincidences that deepen its richness. For that I am constantly grateful.

Playschool

Continued from page 5

The children in the Kitten Class will celebrate their graduation on Thursday, and the Puppy Class will graduate on Friday. The 3–4-year-old class graduation and the AM Pre-K class graduation will take place on Friday morning. The PM Pre-K class graduation will be held on Friday afternoon. We wish all of our Pre-K students the best of luck as they transition to their new schools next year.

The Playschool Summer Camp offers a fun-filled way for children to spend their summer mornings. Many of our Playschool students continue their preschool experience in our camp program. We also welcome children who will be starting preschool in September to spend their summers with us.

The camp season begins on Monday, June 2, and extends for eight weeks through Thursday, July 24. Camp is in session Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Children can be enrolled for the full eight-week program, weekly, on a Monday and Wednesday schedule, a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, or daily. Our camp program offers indoor and outdoor play, themed arts and crafts projects, circle time, storytelling, bike-riding, creative movement, camp songs, and water fun in our wading pools. Each day, a healthy snack is provided by one of our families and children bring their own dairy lunch. Summer is almost here and now is the time to make plans for your child. Please contact the Playschool office for more information or to obtain an application.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

Pesah Service Schedule

In observance of Pesah, the SHS office will be closed on April 14-15-16 and April 21-22.

Monday, April 14

Building Closed

Tuesday, April 15

No Tuesday Minyan

9:30 AM Services

Wednesday, April 16

Building Closed

Friday, April 18

6:15 PM Services

Saturday, April 19

9 AM Torah Study

10 AM Services

Kiddush Luncheon

Monday, April 21

Building Closed

Tuesday, April 22

No Tuesday Minyan

9:30 AM Services/Yizkor

The Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide provides a brief outline of the policies for kashering a home for Pesah.

Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide



Memorial Plaque
Dedication Service

Friday, May 2
at 6:15 PM

The SHS Memorial Plaque Dedication service is for all families who have purchased a memorial plaque over the past year in memory of a loved one. Each family will be invited to "unveil" the plaque during a special memorial portion of this Friday night Shabbat service.

Plaques need to have been ordered by January 1, 2014, to be ready in time for this annual dedication service.

Hebrew School Events and Services

Panim Lunch & Learn

April 5

Family Services

Bet Class Move-Up and Ceremony

April 12

Gimel Class

May 10

Confirmation Service

May 31

Nashirah presents



Colors of Israel

Through the eyes of her composers
Yehezkel Braun, Paul Ben-Haim, Marc Lavry, and more!

**Sunday
April 6th 2014
at 3:00 PM**

Society Hill Synagogue,
418 Spruce Street,
Philadelphia

Nashirah, The Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia.
Jonathan Coopersmith, Artistic Director.
Ticket information: www.nashirah.org, T: 888.901.6274
All tickets \$25



Join Us For a Very Special Yom Hashoah Program on Sunday, April 27

Sahar Oz

The entire congregation is invited to attend a very special program on Sunday, April 27, from 12 until 1 PM, in observance of Yom Hashoah—Remembrance Day for the Holocaust and Heroism. Manny Bekier, a renowned medical illustrator and father of SHS member Julie Wilson, will give a presentation titled, “The Courage to Save, and the Courage to Live.”

Born in a Displaced Persons camp in Munich, Germany to a father who was hidden during the Holocaust and a mother who survived Auschwitz, Manny has participated in humanitarian missions to stop genocide around the world—including missions in Kosovo and Sudan. He served as a documentary interviewer with Steven Spielberg’s Shoah Foundation and has contributed to bringing to justice Nazi war criminals who were hiding in the United States.

Based on Manny’s research and submission to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel’s Ambassador to Poland asked him to present the “Righteous Among the Nations” medal to the family of the man, see photo below, who risked his life in order to save five Jews during the Holocaust, one of whom was Manny’s father. This event, which took place in Poland, was the culmination of Manny’s 20-year search to locate the rescuer’s family.

This program is suitable for ages 12 and older and is sure to leave an indelible impression on all who attend. Please join us to remember the victims, honor the rescuers, and perpetuate the core value of tolerance.



Social Action

Help is Needed For POWER’s Voter Engagement Initiative

Phyllis Denbo

As members of POWER, Society Hill Synagogue will be participating in POWER’s major Voter Engagement Initiative in the spring. The goal is to ensure a high voter turnout in the May primary to achieve two objectives: strong support of a referendum that will appear on the ballot asking Philadelphia voters to strengthen the City’s minimum wage law and election of gubernatorial candidates committed to a Full, Fair-Funding Formula for Pennsylvania’s schools. The primary focus will be on infrequent voters—people who, for one reason or another, tend not to vote on a regular basis. Teams at each of POWER’s 40-plus congregations will be canvassing voters by telephone and, eventually, on foot. Data will be collected on all contacts and sent to the Voter Activation Network (VAN), maintained by POWER.

SHS members who will be coordinating the phone banks include Debbie Stewart and Susan Levering, and they are in urgent need of volunteers. Nine sessions have been scheduled, most in the evening, over the next month and a half. Please contact Debbie at beachethic@gmail.com or Susan at susan.levering@gmail.com to assist in this important endeavor.

For further information on the Voter Engagement Initiative, and to find out how you might become involved, feel free to contact the POWER Co-Chairs Harry Oxman at 215.574.9645 and Carl Levitsky at 215.923.3749.



Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)

Join Us For A Discussion

About Hope

Debbie Stewart

Please join us on Tuesday, May 27, 7-9 PM in the 3rd floor library of Old St. Joseph's Church (321 Willings Alley) for an interesting discussion about the topic of hope, as it is considered in each of our faith traditions.

Please think about the following questions in preparation for our discussion*:

"What in your religious tradition gives and sustains your hope in face of personal loss, oppression, or rejection? And in the midst of chaos and evil in the world?"

To whom or what do you turn when you are overwhelmed?

As a member of your religious tradition, what do you see as positive or hopeful in the world?

How is the acknowledgement of a transcendent reality (sacred/driving/formless/God/superior power) related to movement toward a better situation for all people and all creation?"

*Excerpt taken from *Workbook for Encountering Other Faiths: An Introduction to the Art of Interreligious Engagement* by Maria Hornung; (disseminated by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia)

For additional information, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com.

April Anniversaries

Lennard & Gloria Steinberg
 Carl & Roberta Dranoff
 Paul & Susan Jaffe
 Moshe & Orah Mahlab
 Joshua & Stephanie Wolson
 Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 Ian & Jessica Downes

May Anniversaries

Zachary & Courtney Meisel
 Derek Little & Melanie London
 Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
 Matthew & Brooke Salzman
 Michael & Stephanie Naidoff
 Holman & Gail Massey
 Daniel & Dana Feinberg
 Steven & Ruth Greenberg
 Daniel & Jillan Sackett
 Irving & Sharon Shapiro
 Ric & Carmen Hayman
 Josh Meyer & Abigail Reed
 Andrew & Joanna Bottaro
 Jonathan Prokup & Catherine Kiefer
 Ira & Lynne Rubenfeld

Community News

Condolences to

Samantha Chaikin and David Halpern on the death of Samantha's father, Rabbi Richard Levine.

The Robbins Family on the death of Max Robbins.

Mazel Tov to

Jim and Julie Wilson on the birth of their daughter, Ellie Jane Wilson.

Andrew Newman and Jane Nathanson on the birth of their daughter, Lily Abelsohn Newman.

Moshe and Orah Mahlab on the engagement of their daughter, Dana, to Steve Sclarow.

Holman and Gail Massey on the birth of their granddaughter, Elianna Robin Katz.

Save the Date!

Our April **TGIS**habbat, Friday, April 25 at 6:15 PM

Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf

Come and raise your voices and lift your spirits with flutist Eve Friedman and Cantor Jessi Roemer of Sonic Theology, our guests at the April **TGIS**habbat!

Please share our joy, as our daughter, Amalya, helps to lead the **TGIS**habbat service with Cantor Freedman, Rabbi Winokur, Cantor Jessi Roemer, and Eve Friedman.

Join us for a Shabbat dinner immediately following services, sponsored by Flora Wolf, in honor of her granddaughter, Amalya, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Please **RSVP** (required) to the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org or call 215.922.6590.



Save the Date!

Our Final **TGIS**habbat for the Season, Friday, May 30 at 6:15 PM

Please join us for our final **TGIS** of the season when Gabe Globus-Honig and Mimi Stillman will appear at our **TGIS**habbat service. Both of them continue to expand their already extraordinary range of virtuosity with which they will grace our Shabbat evening. Come ready for the fast track to Shabbas rest and relaxation!

Shabbat dinner immediately following services sponsored by Irv and Sharon Shapiro in honor of their 47th Wedding Anniversary.

There is no charge for dinner, but, **RSVP's** are required.



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

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April Birthdays

Richard Summers
 Olivia Coran
 Alex Dubin
 Lennard Steinberg
 Leah Jordan
 Andrew Seaberg
 Alan Casper
 Sheryl Glassman
 Brian Jerusik
 Robert Blacksberg
 Natalie Lesser
 Alan Ominsky
 Barbara Rottenberg
 Marcia Harwitz
 Greyson Sobel
 Benjamin Berman
 Zachary Downes
 Isaac Freedman
 Jordan Gifford
 Evelyn Segal
 Harrison Feinberg
 Lana Noel
 Jessica Downes
 William Goldberg
 Tobey Dichter

Brian Englander
 Jonathan Katz
 Kathy Bernsten
 Stephen Brown
 Hannah Davidson
 Meredith Buse
 Mary Fish
 Ruth Greenberg
 Adina Zalesne Siff
 Bruce Hirsch
 Derek Jordan
 Iris Levine
 Mona Sutnick
 Tess Reed
 Richard Balderston
 Esme Oxman
 Deborah Shapiro
 Scott Siff
 Alli Taub
 Rafael Winokur
 Thomas Borawski
 Jessica Mono
 Beverly Michaels
 Hudson Weissman
 Carl Levitsky
 Murray Dubin

May Birthdays

Noah Chrismer
 Jordana Harwitz
 Barbara Einhorn
 Jerome Rosenberg
 Nicole Perkins
 Daniel Stemmer
 Steven Datlof
 Margot Palley
 Ryan Taub
 Liz Abrams-Morley
 Etta Krauss
 Jeremy Landau
 Margie Ferst
 Larry Spector
 Lucy Bonin
 Douglas Eizen
 Nuriye Uygur
 Sandra Lazovitz
 Linda Glass
 Scarlett Jacoby
 Sara Steinberger
 Carolyn Saligman
 Sidney Jacoby
 Wayne Spilove
 Merrily Williams

Emma Chrismer
 Joan Roller
 Kinney Zalesne
 Sarah Bach
 Caroline Rosen
 Tess Casper
 Yelena Michaels-Koenig
 David Aaron Oxman
 Rona Buchalter
 Samuel Levin
 Samantha Coran
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 Alan Zuckerman
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David Sheinson, Father of Elaine Shechtman

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Jonathan Weiss, President of SHS

Marty and Betty van de Rijn

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Leon Spector, Father of Barbara Spector**

Barbara Spector

Martin Greenhouse, Father of Debra Stewart

Debra Stewart

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Ric & Carmen Hayman

Harris & Renee Hayman

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Louis & Helen Gallun, Parents of Fran Gallun**

Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Memory of

Max Robbins

Merle Salkin

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of

Father of Sally Freedman

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In Honor of

Wedding of Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Baruch Blumberg, Husband of Jean Blumberg**

Jean Blumberg

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Continued on next page

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Chametz, also *Chometz*, *H*ametz and other spellings transliterated from Hebrew: חָמֵץ are leavened foods that are forbidden on the Jewish holiday of Passover. According to Jewish law, Jews may not own, eat or benefit from *chametz* during Passover. This law appears several times in the Torah; *Chametz* is a product that is both made from one of five types of grain, and has been combined with water and left to stand raw for longer than eighteen minutes.

Please mail the form below to Rabbi Winokur before **April 11**. It is customary to make a donation for tzedakah as part of this transaction. Mail to: Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Hametz Sale

I, _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Avi Winokur to dispose of all my hametz wherever it may be stored. This I do in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish Law.

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Hebrew Name _____

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Can We Count on You?

We have been enjoying regular once-a-month Shabbat dinners on **TG**Shabbat and delicious Kiddush luncheons, sponsored by many of our Board Members, Hebrew School Families, and congregants.

Sponsoring a Kiddush is an wonderful way to honor a friends' or loved one's birthday, anniversary, baby naming, auf ruf, and many more special occasions!

For more information, please contact Betty van de Rijn at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 23.

Kiddush Sponsorships

Thank you to all who have sponsored this year

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Nuriye Uygur

Marty and Betty van de Rijn

Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

Rabbi Avi Winokur and Susan Berman

Matzah Making at the SHS Playschool



Membership Engagement Initiative

1. Holiday Meals: Are You Looking to Join a Seder? Do You Have Room at Your Table for a Guest?

Barbara Spector

The Holiday Meals Initiative will help join SHS congregants who are interested in participating in a potluck Seder, or we will match hosts and guests at the Seders in some of our members' homes. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to me at barbara@familybusinessmagazine.com. Please include the following information:

- Do you have space for a guest at your Seder? If so, how many guests can you accommodate, and is your Seder the first (Monday, April 14) or second night (Tuesday, April 15) of Pesah?
- Are you able to host multiple members of our community in your home for a potluck Seder? If so, how many guests can you accommodate?
- Do you wish to participate in a Potluck Seder or accept a guest invitation to a congregant's Seder? Do you prefer the First Seder (Monday, April 14), the Second Seder (Tuesday, April 15), or both?
- What is the degree to which you observe Kashrut?
- Do you prefer to use a mostly English or traditional Haggadah?
- What is the number of people (include children's ages) in your party?
- What is your email address and phone number?
- We will do our best to help everyone find a Seder!

2. Member Service Recognition Awards

Debbie Stewart

Don't miss SHS's upcoming double-header! **Please join us on Wednesday evening, May 14, at 6:30 PM, for our Annual Congregation Meeting and our first Member Service Recognition Awards Ceremony.**

The Annual Congregation Meeting will begin with a lite dinner and then our Board of Directors will present awards to certain members of our congregation who have provided extraordinary service to our community.

These members have been selected from a wonderfully expansive list of individuals who have given their time and expertise to support Synagogue programs and services. While we are extremely appreciative of the service of each member who has come to our attention in this regard, each year we will highlight those whose efforts have been extraordinary. We look forward to recognizing these deserving individuals and hope that we have a strong turnout of congregants to congratulate our honorees.

Also on our agenda for our Annual Congregation Meeting is the election of new Board members and our new Synagogue President.

As Jonathan Weiss's term as President comes to a close, we want to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation for his outstanding service and contributions to our Synagogue.

Please join us on May 14 to hear about what we have accomplished in the past year, as well as what we plan to accomplish in the coming year. Show your support for those members being recognized for their outstanding service and for lay leaders being elected to the Board. Finally, don't miss this opportunity to cast your vote for the next President of SHS!

Continued on next page

3. “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ is Back!

Bonny Hohenberger

It was “all the rave” last fall and it is back again! Spring is here and our next “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ event will occur during the weekend of **Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.**

Who will be at your table? Perhaps an artist, a musician, or a writer. Perhaps a doctor, a lawyer, a Rabbi, or a Cantor. Whoever comes to your house for lunch or dinner, you can be sure that your guests will be wonderful and interesting people from our community. Singles, couples, families; we have it all! Let’s mix it up.

Last fall, Society Hill Synagogue adopted a highly successful Shabbat Meal Program called “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ Originally implemented at Temple Sinai in Dresher, this program was created by Debbie Albert.

On Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16, of last year, sixteen (16) gracious SHS members hosts opened their homes for either a Friday night dinner, Saturday afternoon luncheon, or Saturday evening Havdalah respite. Ninety-one members (including singles, couples, and families), and one prospective member, attended one of these planned meals. In addition, 15 families participated in a Havdalah Pajama Party on the evening of November 16. In total, 85 member units participated in this kickoff event.

Did you miss it? Well, here is your chance to see why everyone had such a good time. So, you will have another opportunity to meet that musician with whom you would like to jam, or get to know someone in our community who might have interests that are similar to yours—all while learning or re-learning Shabbat rituals.

As we did in November, we will ask for member volunteers to host Friday evening meals, Saturday luncheons, and Saturday Havdalah meals. All hosts will receive a Shabbat or Havdalah kit!

Would you like to participate in this event as a host, co-host, or guest?

Were you a guest in November, and now you are interested in hosting or co-hosting with a friend?

You don’t have to be a gourmet cook. Keep it simple; invite your guests to bring a dish or bottle of wine. Serve buffet-style or sit-down, anything from barbecue to pizza—it all works. The camaraderie is what’s important!

We need to hear from you! For more information, or to sign up as a host or a guest, please contact me (Bonny Hohenberger) at bjh711@gmail.com or 215.463.4715 or Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

4. Shared Recipes From InterNOSHional Night—A Taste of Tuscany

Debbie Stewart

After spending a spectacular week last summer exploring the Tuscan countryside, we had no choice but to select this amazing cuisine for our guests during this year’s InterNOSHional Night celebration. Wine and produce were the largest components of the grocery list for this meal. Our meal incorporated kale, chard, fennel, arugula, tomatoes, fresh herbs, blood oranges, tangerines, and cherries and a variety of Tuscan wines, including an amazing Vin Santo dessert wine. I felt like we were back in the local markets and wineries of Tuscany. I also could not wait for the opportunity to try my hand at homemade pasta and biscotti. Our Tuscan hotel chef and cooking instructor would be proud.

Continued on page 18

Shared Recipes

Continued from page 17

We had a great time hosting a group of warm, congenial, and interesting guests, and we were able to get to know fellow congregants within a comfortable environment while enjoying a unique home-cooked meal. I am delighted to share two of our dinner recipes:

Kale, White Bean, and Sausage Soup (serves 12) from *The Tuscan Sun Cookbook* by Frances Mayes and Edward Mayes –“This substantial soup is balm for the spirit”.

2 sausages (Kosher; Italian or chicken with casings removed)

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

2 yellow onions, chopped

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 quarts chicken stock

1 cup white wine

1 tsp. fresh thyme leaves or ½ tsp. dried

1 bunch kale, stalks included, washed and chopped

½ tsp. salt, plus additional to taste

½ tsp. pepper

4 cups cooked cannellini beans (To cook dry beans, soak at least 5 hours and bring them to a boil in abundant water. Add a carrot, celery stalk and ½ onion. Lower the heat, partially cover, simmer until done, firm and giving— and just keep testing for that. The cooking time can be as short as 45 minutes if the beans are young. Discard the vegetables and drain. Another option to avoid soaking the beans, boil them for 2 minutes and then turn off the heat and let them sit for one hour before cooking.)

In a stockpot over medium heat, brown the sausages in 2 Tbs. of olive oil, breaking them up with a wooden spoon. Remove and place them in a bowl. Add the remaining olive oil along with onions and garlic, and cook on medium-low until translucent. Add the chicken stock and wine, and raise the heat to medium for 15 minutes. Stir in the thyme, kale, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil. Cover pot and lower the heat to simmer for 15 minutes. Add the sausages and beans, and simmer another 10 minutes. Taste for salt. Serve with Italian or artisan bread.

Cherries Steeped in Red Wine (serves 4)

1 ½ cups red wine

1 pound of cherries, pitted

zest of 1 lemon

1 Tbs. sugar

Sweetened mascarpone (In a small bowl blend the following ingredients with a fork until smooth: 1 cup/8 oz. mascarpone, ½ cup heavy crème, 4 Tbs. sugar and zest of 1 orange or lemon.)

In a medium saucepan, bring the wine to a boil, and then add the cherries, lemon zest, and sugar. Reduce the heat immediately to simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cover the cherries and let them stand for 2 to 3 hours. Serve in bowls with plenty of wine juice and a dollop of the mascarpone. Either lemon cake or biscotti is a nice accompaniment to this dessert.

Photos from "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?"™



More photos of "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?"™



HS Class Trip to Panim el Panim in Washington, DC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	12:15 PM ELM		5:30 PM PS Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM Services	M'tzora 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services Panim Lunch & Learn 6 PM HS Havdalah & Movie
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi 3 PM Nashirah Concert	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM POWER Meeting	7:30 PM EDM- Off-site 7:30 PM Halevi Book Discussion with Rabbi		6:15 PM Services	Aharei Mot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Bet Move Up Family & HH Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
No School	Erev Pesah Building Closed No Playschool	Pesah 1 9:30 AM Services No Playschool Office Closed No Minyan	Pesah 2 Building Closed	Pesah 3 No Playschool	Pesah 4 No Playschool 6:15 PM Services	Hol Hamoed Pesah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pesah 6 No School	Pesah 7 Building Closed	Pesah 8 Schools/Office Closed 9:30 AM Service/ Yizkor	PS Resumes		6:15 PM TGIS Shabbat Service featuring Jesse Roemer & Eve Friedman	K'doshim 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Amalya Weiss
27	28	29	30			
Yom Hashoah 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze 7 PM Services	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					6:15 PM Memorial Plaque Dedication and Zayin Class Service & Dinner	Emor 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi 11 AM HS	Yom Haatsmaut 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM POWER Meeting	No Playschool Parent Confers. 12:15 PM ELM 7:30 PM Shavit Book Discussion with Rabbi	No Playschool Parent Confers.	6:15 PM Services	B'har 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Family & Gimel Class Service
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day 9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels	7:30 PM Justice in the City	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM POWER Meeting	6:30 PM Lite Buffet Dinner 7:30 PM Annual Congregation Meeting & Member Recognition Awards		No Services Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™	B'hukkotai 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lag B'Omer 9 AM SS- Last Day 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Shavit Book Discussion with Rabbi		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS-Last Day		PS Graduations	6:15 PM Services PS Graduations Last Day of PS	B'midbar 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Building Closed	Memorial Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan	Yom Yerushalim		6:15 PM TGIS Shabbat Services Featuring Mimi Stillman & Gabe Globus-Honig	Naso 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Confirmation Service

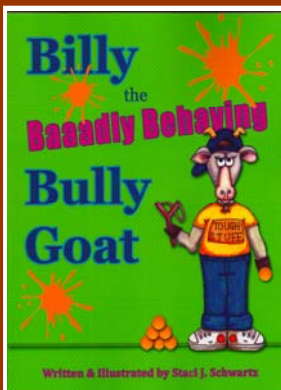
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If you’d like to purchase a copy of *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat*, please contact Staci at stacischwartz7@yahoo.com. Soft cover copies are available for \$12.95 a piece.