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SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

www.societyhillsynagogue.org



Membership Engagement Initiative

RSVP by January 24 for SHS's Third Annual Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night!

Amy Shapiro and Debbie Stewart

Please join us for SHS's third annual Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night on **Saturday, February 8 at 7 PM!** The fee remains unchanged at \$54 per person, and all proceeds benefit this year's Annual Giving Fund. If space permits, this event is also open to non-members.

Our gracious hosts have prepared their menus; now you must decide which cuisine you'd prefer and RSVP for a seat at that particular table. Host homes are not necessarily Kosher, however any chicken or meat used will be from a Kosher manufacturer, no dishes will contain shellfish, and meat will not be mixed with dairy.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 24! To reserve your spot at a table, RSVP to Amy Shapiro at hasajd@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can simply **CLICK HERE** (if you are reading the electronic version of the Keshet), or you may respond via the weekly E-News. Hurry, the RSVP deadline is **Friday, January 24!**

Remember, spaces will be reserved on a **first-come, first-served** basis, so respond quickly to ensure you will have your choice of cuisine. "A Taste of Europe " is already full, so don't delay in signing up!

Choose from the amazing menus on page 11!:



Rabbi's Column

A Futuristic Jewish Dystopian Vision

Avi Winokur

The Pew survey on American Jewish Life continues to spawn articles lamenting the sorry state of American Judaism, some predicting the end of Judaism in America. Here is Rabbi Ed Feinstein's pronouncement at the recent Conservative Movement's post-PEW conference: "Our house is on fire. . . . If you don't read anything else in the Pew report [you should note that] we have maybe 10 years left. In the next 10 years, you will see a rapid collapse of synagogues and national organizations that support them." These doom-and-gloom pronouncements brought to mind the classics of dystopian fiction from the likes of George Orwell and Aldous Huxley; of course, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*; and the post-nuclear-war cult classic *A Canticle for Liebowitz*. With those dystopian visions as my inspiration, I offer a draft of the opening of my original futuristic PEW American Jewish dystopian (soon to be a major motion picture) vision. Enjoy and remember, this is a work of fiction . . . or is it?

The couple was ushered into the attractive waiting room of Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C. They handed the receptionist a copy of the intake form, which they had filled out on line. The receptionist invited them to sit in the comfortable chairs, offered them coffee, and told them it would be only a few minutes.

Five minutes later, a well-dressed gentleman in a well-pressed suit came in and warmly shook their hands. "Hello, Mr. and Ms. K, so pleased to meet you, I'm Rabbi Tannenbaum. Follow me." The rabbi ushered the K's into a small conference room with a small table, more comfortable chairs, and photographs of the Western Wall—Safed at sunset against the Galilean hills and Yad Vashem on the walls.

"We at Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C., are delighted that you have chosen us for your daughter's Bat Mitzvah. I've had a chance to review your information sheet. Let me just check a few things with you and we'll begin the process."

"Wonderful!" said Ms. K, "We've been to a number of your Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. You do an excellent job and we've spoken to parents who rave about your firm. So we know we've made the right choice."

"We at Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C., know that there are a lot of rabbinic firms out there and we'd like to think that ours delivers the kind of product that parents are looking for. . . ."

That is how it begins. The ending will take a page from John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, in which Fowles inserts himself into his novel and offers two alternative endings. While I'm sure you can't wait to read my foray into imaginative literature, don't hold your breath. This short story idea came from a conversation I had with one of the more prominent and successful pulpit rabbis in the area wondering about whether the synagogue will eventually give way to the rent-a-Rabbi approach to B'nai Mitzvah celebrations.

The combination of consumerism and the growth in extreme individualism leads to the migration of religion from the realm of the sacred to the realm of the ordinary, where it becomes just another commodity among commodities. (Do I go to synagogue on Shabbat or do I go shopping?) This in turn leads to Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond. Instead of paying dues for several years and sending your children to Hebrew School (requiring the payment of tuition) under the rules of a particular synagogue (3 days/week, 2 days/week, 1 day/week) with certain requirements (10 Shabbat services, 6 Shabbat services, 2 Shabbat services), you go to the firm, and you negotiate the Bar or Bat Mitzvah of your choice, a designer Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Depending on the experience of the Rabbi (for the less affluent we have Rabbis with less than 5 years of experience, but don't worry, they are well supervised) and the Cantor and the quality of various amenities (such as the Social Hall), one purchases a triple-*hai* Bar Mitzvah, a double-*hai* Bat Mitzvah, or a *hai* Bat Mitzvah, with certain a la carte extras that can be purchased in the same way that certain things are standard in new cars and other things are extra.

As Ron Wolfson illustrates in *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Synagogue into a Sacred Community* and again in his new book, *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*, the factors underlying this dystopian vision have been present for decades. At SHS, we try our best to counter these considerable forces. Too many are the horror stories that adults have shared concerning their own B'nai Mitzvah. We try our best to create a different kind of Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience. Our Membership Engagement Initiative is designed to offer multiple avenues of engagement with the community far beyond the Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience for members at all life stages.

There needs to be a place where consumerism, the commodification of life, and extreme individualism do not reign supreme if we are to lead healthy lives of depth and meaning. That place ought to be your religious community. We will keep striving to be that place for each and every one of you.



President's Column

It's All About Offering Successful Programs and Building Our Membership

Jonathan Weiss

This month, as we settle into winter, I wanted to reflect on traditions. I think like many of you, I am comforted by some familiar traditions, but there are also traditions that I choose not to continue, for one reason or another. Having lived in Philadelphia for more than 20 years (an old-timer to some, a newbie to others), I have embraced some Philadelphia traditions (the Phillies, the Eagles, John's Water Ice), while leaving some traditions to others (cheese steaks, scrapple). It occurred to me that part of what I've been enjoying over the last few years, as a member of SHS, is the opportunity to witness and participate in the creation of some new traditions.

Years ago, when the Jewish Museum existed at its previous location, my family and I used to attend an annual "Being Jewish at Christmas" event, which included a chaotic, crazy crowd of what must have been every Jewish child within a 10-mile radius packed into one room. While that was a fun tradition, I'm so glad that we have organized our own SHS version of this celebration—a TGIShabbat Service, followed by dinner and a movie. This event, in its fourth year, has gotten better and better with time. I look forward to your comments about how you thought it went, and would love to hear suggestions for *next* year's movie. Thanks so much to Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick and Harry and Eleanor Oxman for sponsoring the dinner; it was very much appreciated.

Five years ago, two parents in the Hebrew School started a program where they solicited gifts from the congregation to send to families in the Philadelphia area who would otherwise not be able to give gifts to their children. Working with the Social Action Committee, names were collected from the school that SHS has adopted, the George Washington Elementary School, which, due to

Continued on page 6



Ann Spak Thal School

A Cornucopia of Tu B'Sh'vat and Shabbat Celebrations

Sahar Oz

Our spring semester brings early blossoms with a delicious set of Tu B'Sh'vat festivities. Tu B'Sh'vat—the 15th day of the Hebrew month, Sh'vat—has always been one of my favorite holidays: tasty fruits, rich aromas, happy songs full of hope, and a heightened emphasis on nature and our environment.

We will celebrate Tu B'Sh'vat with a variety of arts and crafts projects, class skits in Sunday School on January 12, and a school-wide Tu B'Sh'vat seder in Hebrew School on Tuesday, January 14.

It is wonderful to see our students at Shabbat services, and this is an excellent way for them to take pride in their learning and use their growing Hebrew skills. The next two months will present a wide range of special Shabbat experiences, from three b'nai mitzvah celebrations in January to our stylish TGIShabbat service at 6:15 PM on Friday, January 31, which is also Rosh Hodesh Adar I.

The following day, February 1, our ever popular Havdalah Pajama Party will feature an interacted story performed by Staci Schwartz, songs, arts and crafts, and delicious homemade desserts for Play-school and Sunday School families. The fun starts at 5:30 PM, and parents and children are encouraged to come in pajamas!

February also will feature two class services as our Gan (Kindergarten) class helps to lead the Family Shabbat Service on February 8 at 10:30 AM, and Kitah Hay (5th grade) leads the evening Shabbat service on Friday, February 21 at 6:15 PM. These class services will be followed by lunch and dinner, respectively.

Enrollment fees for students in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High cover school families' participation in such meals following class-led services. So we encourage all of our families to join us for these services and se'udot (meals). Please RSVP to the office no later than two days (office@societyhillssynagogue.org) before each service to let them know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

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Cantor's Column

A Chance to Be Still and Quiet

Bob Freedman

On the last Tuesday of each month we have a *ma'ariv* service for all the students in the Hebrew School. For the last forty-five minutes of the school session we invite them to come upstairs into the Sanctuary. I greet them at the door and invite them to sit in the front three rows.

In previous years we would hand each student a *Sim Shalom* prayer book, the one the adults use for Shabbat. But *Sim Shalom* is not easy for them to use. The print is small, and for most the English translations are above their reading level. So this year I prepared an eight-page *siddur* for them. It presents the prayers of the evening service in alternating English and Hebrew, and everyone reads or sings everything. There is a short silent Amidah, and we finish with Aleynu. The younger students join in as they can, and everyone daydreams some. Most of the older ones say or sing all the text. The whole service takes a little more than twenty minutes.

Before we begin, I talk to them about some aspect of prayer. In November, I spoke about being thankful. In December (it is six days before the solstice as I write this), I'll talk about the wonder of the change of seasons.

After the Amidah we offer a prayer for healing. I ask them to say the names of those they know who are ill. They will mention a grandparent, a parent, perhaps a friend from school. The room gets very quiet.

After Aleynu I ask them to tell about something wonderful that has happened to them recently. One will say she made an A on a test. Another will report a victory for his sports team. Getting pets is a big item. These are little things perhaps, but great in the life of a small person.

At the first service this year, in September, the students ran into the Sanctuary, excited and loud.

Some went off to hide under the seats; others wanted to play with the microphones. During the service they giggled and wiggled and after it was over some of the *siddur* pages lay unstapled on the benches. There was at least one paper airplane. Over the next months this changed. In October they were orderly, and at the service in November they were quiet and attentive.

One goal for our *ma'ariv* is to give students an opportunity to absorb the sequence of prayers and learn their texts outside the classroom. Another is to get them used to being attentive during a service and to appreciate worship by doing it.

A primary goal is to offer them a chance to be still and quiet. So much of their life is spent in excitement. Their school teachers exhort them to high levels of attention. Coaches encourage them to play hard and competitively. Watching fast-paced television shows and movies drives up their adrenaline levels. These *ma'ariv* services give them a respite, a time just to be. I want that to happen in the Synagogue, in a Jewish context, so that along with their learning and play they will associate quiet, meditative stillness with being Jewish.



The SHS
Facebook
Page
Hannah Myers

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



Playschool

Applications Are Still Available for the 2014-15 Academic Year

Gloria Parris

Our students will return to the Playschool, following the winter break, on Thursday, January 2, 2014. As they prepare for the winter season, the boys and girls will learn new songs about winter, listen to stories about the snowy weather, and make new art projects to display in their classrooms. In the Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children will focus on making resolutions for the New Year and learn about the social skills of friendship. All students will learn about Tu B'Sh'vat by planting parsley seeds. They will care for their plants and observe their plants' growth before they take their parsley home for Passover.

The children in the 3–4-year-old class will be taking their second trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Tuesday, January 14. The theme of the lesson is “Lines and Shapes in Art.” Our preschool participates in the *Museum Looks and Picture Books* program where art concepts are introduced to young children. The lesson includes reading a selected book, viewing art that relates to the theme of the book, and creating an art project to take home. The AM and PM Pre-K classes will be taking a trip to Bartram’s Garden on Tuesday, January 28. They will participate in a lesson on butter-making where the children will mix cornbread and churn cream into butter. The boys and girls will also have the opportunity to take a tour of the gardens.

There are still spots available in our classes for the upcoming school year, September 2014– May 2015. The Playschool offers two classes for 2-year-old children: one meets on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule, and the other class meets on a Tuesday, Thursday schedule. In these classes, the children have the opportunity to play, interact with friends, learn new songs and movement, play outdoors, listen to storybook readings, create unique art projects, and celebrate Shabbat. These classes provide an outstanding “first school experience” for children who are two years old.

The children in the 3–4-year-old class participate in free-play time, circle time, calendar, story time, art creativity, outdoor bike time, yoga, learning new songs, poems, and games, celebrating Shabbat, and focusing on a letter-of-the-week curriculum. This class uses the bright and welcoming Social Hall for their classroom which allows for a larger class size and five teaching staff each day.

There are two Pre-Kindergarten classes, a morning class and an afternoon class. The Pre-K curriculum focuses on preparing our students for entering Kindergarten. The children learn reading readiness skills, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, community living, science, art, Shabbat, and Jewish holidays and themes. Throughout the school year, the children participate in a drama class that encourages them to express themselves in fun and creative ways.

The Playschool is a parent co-operative preschool where parents are scheduled to assist in our classrooms. This aspect of our program allows parents to take an active role in the preschool. Parents assist by providing the snack, interacting with the children, bringing their own talents into our classrooms, and helping to make each day an exciting learning experience for all of the children.

If you would like to visit any of our classes or if you have any questions regarding the Playschool, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or call me at 215.922.6590, ext 28. Applications for the upcoming school year can be downloaded from the SHS Website.

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

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Member
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President's Column

Continued from page 3

district budget cuts, has recently merged to become the Vire-Washington Elementary School. Please see Phyllis Denbo's Social Action article on P. 17 for a full report about this successful endeavor. Many thanks to Carmen Hayman and her band of "gift wrapping elves" for all of their hard work.

Three years ago, the board came up with an idea for a fundraiser/community-building event called "Inter-NOSH-ional Night." The way it works is that members volunteer to host a dinner in their homes featuring a particular type of international cuisine. Other members reserve a spot at the table of one of the hosts' homes featuring the cuisine of their choice. Hosts and guests remain anonymous to each other until the final lists are created; this method provides an opportunity for guests and hosts to mix and mingle with members whom they may not already know because choices are based on cuisine as opposed to dining companions. Our third annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night will occur on **Saturday, February 8**. I hope that you will give it a try. We have some new hosts this year, and we have some repeat hosts who did such a great job in previous years that we've encouraged them to host again. Some of you may have seen Dana Feinberg's recipes that she shared last spring after hosting a dinner in her home. I hope that Inter-NOSH-ional Night becomes a long-standing tradition at SHS. You can read more about this event, and see the tantalizing menus, in the article by Debbie Stewart and Amy Shapiro on the cover.

As we continue to preserve existing traditions, we have also focused our efforts on developing new ones. "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" is a program we adopted this summer, and we had a kickoff event during the weekend of November 15-16.

Participants had opportunities to share a meal at a host's home on Friday night, on Saturday following services, or on Saturday night following a Havdalah service and Pajama Party. Please see the comprehensive article by Debbie Stewart and Bonny Hohenberger on P. 7 for full details. For me, this event provided a wonderful opportunity to spend time with some congregants whom I did not know very well beforehand, allowing me to learn more about our wonderful community. You will be amazed at the extensive list of people who worked tirelessly to make this weekend a ringing success, and I thank each and every person for their efforts. We'll be having another "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" weekend in the spring, so stay tuned for more information!

Lastly, I want to spend a moment asking again for your help. Although we received a good response for Annual Giving this fall before January 1, we have not reached our goal yet. Thanks to all of you who have already generously given. If you haven't yet made a donation, please take a moment to send in a check, call the office and make a pledge, or pay via Paypal on the Synagogue Website. We need 100% member participation to pay for all the programs we offer, and to support our valued members who are unable to pay full dues. No amount is too small.

Another way you can support our shul is to bring your friends and colleagues to our spring programs, classes, and events. Encourage them to join the community! Spread the word about our fabulous Playschool and Hebrew School. Even though we have been focusing on "in-reach" to encourage your participation as members, we always need to keep an eye out for potential new members so that we can invite them to see the special place that is SHS.



Debbie Zak Cohen PHOTOGRAPHY

dkzak.com

SOCIETY HILL RESIDENT. MOTHER. MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPHER.

Membership Engagement Initiative

“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?™” Event Was a Great Success!

Debbie Stewart and Bonny Hohenberger

A very special Member Engagement Program has taken root at Society Hill Synagogue; it is called “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™”

We are proud to announce that our kick-off event, held during the weekend of November 15 – 16, offered three opportunities for our members to share a meal; either on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon for Shabbat or on Saturday evening after Havdalah at one of our 16 gracious host’s homes. On November 16, we also had a great turnout at the Havdalah Pajama Party for our Sunday and Playschool families.

Ninety-one members (including singles, couples and families) and one prospective member attended one of the planned meals, and another 15 families participated in the Havdalah Pajama Party. Another way to look at the statistics is that 86 member units participated in this kickoff event! The pictures at the end of this article tell the wonderful story of family and community joining together for rituals, song, food, and friendship. New friendships were forged and others were deepened. Sacred traditions were shared, and joy was experienced in each setting.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable:

“Thank you for inviting us to your lovely home for a Shabbat dinner. We enjoyed the good food, warm hospitality and friendly conversation! What a nice evening for a new program.” –Sharon and Irv Shapiro

“Thanks so much for inviting me into your home for a warm and delicious evening. I enjoyed meeting SHS members and sharing stories with them. Best wishes to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving. May all you give to others come back to you three-fold.” –Susan Levering

“Thank you for creating such a wonderful program and such a beautiful evening. I felt the warmth and bonds of our breadth of community that I remember from earlier years of my affiliation.” –Linda Joy Goldner

Host, Randi Glatzer, shared how special and heartwarming it was to have her family and friends sitting in her living room as the Cantor sang Shabbat songs. This is a tradition she wants for her children. *“Bringing our Synagogue community into our homes is so special.”*

Our spring “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?” event is scheduled for May 16 and 17. We invite guests and organizers to pay it forward by hosting a meal that weekend. As we did this time, we will help with guest lists, rituals descriptions, and materials.

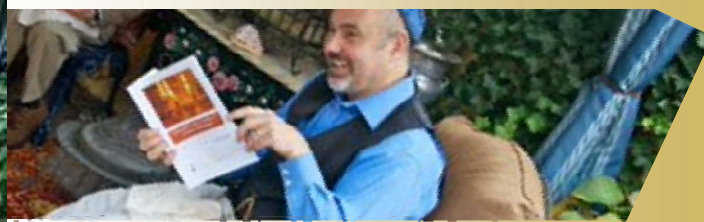
It is not too early to contact Bonny Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com to sign up as a host or a guest for the May event.

All Shabbat and Havdalah songs sheets, ritual descriptions, and MP3's can be found on our Website for use throughout the year.

Host, guests, and team organizers were honored with a group aliyah on Saturday, December 7. Again, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this event! See the list on page 10

Continued on next page

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER





Hosts:

Elayne Bloom
 Phyllis and Jay Denbo
 Jonathan Feinman and Kevin Kuehlwein
 Carmen and Ric Hayman
 Nancy and Richard Morgenstern
 Jacqueline and Lawrence Goldfinger
 Mona and Alton Sutnick
 Jesse Abrams-Morley and Meredith Buse
 Randi Glatzer
 Nan Schiowitz and Michael Stemmer
 Jared Susco and Chris Sterns
 Flora Wolf
 Suzanne and Edward Kaplan
 Ruth and Steve Greenberg
 Gail and Holman Massey with co-hosts Libby Rosof
 and Murray Dubin
 Debbie and Bill Stewart

We also want to recognize the efforts and volunteer spirit of potential hosts Karen and Paul Flora and Ruth and Gerry Schneeberg.

Project Team:

Bonny Hohenberger - Co-coordinator
 Debbie Stewart - Co- coordinator
 Phyllis Denbo – Challah: tradition, symbolism, and recipe
 Terry Novick - Ritual booklet
 Bob Blacksberg - Google docs creator and teacher
 Jared Susco - Ritual booklet, Havdalah kits, and host liaison
 Jonathan Feinman - Host bag assembly
 Carole and Michael Rochester - Host email editors
 Ellen Fennick - Host email editor
 Betta Kolansky - Host bag assembly and editor
 Judy Lalli - Host liaison
 Marcie Ziskind - Host liaison
 Deborah Shapiro - Host liaison
 Betty van de Rijn - Office event coordinator, documents/materials printer, host bag assembly, and organizational support
 Leanne Bendetti- Administrative support, host bag assembly
 Staci Schwartz – Communications editor for all documents and printed materials
 Marc Schwartz - Hebrew editor for ritual booklet and documents
 Ric Hayman - Website support
 Rabbi Winokur - Ritual booklet
 Cantor Bob Freedman – Ritual descriptions, song sheets, and MP3's
 Jonathan Weiss - Host bag design, leadership, and organizational support

Project Donors:

Jared Susco,
 Jonathan Weiss
 Debbie Stewart

PJ Havdalah Team: (Who also collected a bunch of donated pajamas for *Cradles to Crayons!*)

Cantor Bob Freedman
 Education Director Sahar Oz
 Laurel Landau
 Brooke Salzman
 Rafi Licht

Young Families Group

You Are Invited to a Havdalah Pajama Party on February 1!

Laurel Landau

We had such a great time at our Annual Chinese Dinner at Rich City on Christmas Eve!

Please join the Playschool and Sunday School families on Saturday, February 1 from 5:30 until 7:30 PM, for another fun-filled Havdalah Pajama Party! Eat dinner at home and then head to SHS in your snazziest PJs for a beautiful Havdalah service with wine (and grape juice), twisted candles (and glow sticks), spices (make-your-own spice box), and a potluck dessert. This evening will include an interactive reading of Staci Schwartz's book, *The New Bear on the Block!* Personalized, signed books will be available for purchase after the reading.

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 attends all age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue.

For more information, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com. Prospective members are welcome at all of our events, so if you know anybody who may be interested, please pass on the information.

Continued from front cover

Choose from the following the amazing menus:

1. A Taste of Tuscany

Appetizers: Tuscan Chickpea Crostini, Olives, Pecorino Cheese

First Course: Fennel and Citrus Salad; Kale, White Bean, and Sausage Soup, Pici (pasta) with Tomatoes and Fava Beans

Second Course: Chicken with Artichokes, Sundried Tomatoes, and Chickpeas; Chard with Raisins and Orange Peel

Dessert: Cantucci (biscotti) and Cherries Steeped in Wine

Beverages: Tuscan Wine, Coffee, and Tea

2. Asian Fare With Flair Featuring Sake and Wine Pairing

Appetizers: Salmon/Vegetable Sushi Rolls and Chicken Satay (Japanese), Vegetable Summer Rolls with Dipping Sauce (Vietnamese)

First Course: Japchae Noodle Salad (Korean)

Second Course: Lemongrass Beef Stew (Thai) and Pineapple Chicken Fried Rice (Thai/Burmese)

Dessert: Mochi Ice Cream, Assorted Asian Pastries

Beverages: Sake, Wine, Coffee, and Tea

3. Savory Indian Delights

Appetizers: Chicken Wings and Papdum

First Course: Garden Salad

Second Course: Chicken Kebabs (Sauce), Salmon Fillets (Sauce), Assorted Julienned Vegetables with Roasted Garlic, Basmati Rice, Garlic Naan, Paratha (Non-Dairy Indian Flat Breads)

Dessert: Parve Fresh Fruit Tarts

Beverages: Wine, Coffee, and Tea

4. Southwestern U.S. Delicacies

Appetizers: Spicy Polenta Squares

First Course: Roasted Vegetables

Second Course: Barbequed Brisket with Ancho Chile Sauce, Sweet Potato Tamales, Rice and Corn Salad, and Jicama Slaw

Dessert: Chocolate Chipotle Flourless Cake, Avocado and Lime Sorbet

Beverages: Tequila Sunset and Southwest Cooler Cocktails, Coffee, and Tea

5. A Taste of Europe

Appetizers: Assorted Hors d'oeuvres

First Course: Potage of Broccoli

Second Course: Poached Salmon Rollatine with Montrachet Cheese, Pine Nuts, Greens served with Quinoa, Wheat Berries, or Faro; Roasted Vegetables

Dessert: Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie

Beverages: Wine, Coffee, and Tea

6. A Mediterranean Feast

Appetizers: Assorted Hot and Cold Mediterranean Hors d'oeuvres

First Course: Salad of Beets and Artichokes with Citrus Vinaigrette

Second Course: Penne Pasta with Sauce and a Medley of Vegetables

Third Course: Baked Branzino with White Wine and Herbs, Roasted Asparagus

Dessert: Italian Cheese Cake with Strawberry Sauce

Beverages: Wine, Coffee, and Tea

7. Smokin' Hot Texas Barbeque

Main Course: Smoked Barbequed Brisket, Grill-Smoked Chicken, Spicy Cole Slaw, Yukon Potato Salad, Vegan Black Beans, Corn Bread, Traditional Greens

Dessert: A Pareve Selection of treats TBD

Beverages: Lemonade, Growlers of Beer, Coffee, and Tea

Don't miss your opportunity to tantalize your taste buds by participating in this very fun and popular community-building and fundraising event at SHS!

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STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

Continued from page 3

The month wraps up with another fabulous TGIShabbat service on Friday, February 28 at 6:15 PM, so don't miss out!

Last, but not least, given our unpredictable weather, please remember that our KYW 1060 snow closing number is 261. During inclement weather, Hebrew School will be canceled whenever the Philadelphia public schools close, dismiss early, or cancel after-school activities. If there is inclement weather on a Sunday, I will e-mail all families as soon as it is determined that school will be canceled.

Community News

Mazel Tov to

Walter and Margie Ferst on the birth of their grandson, Noah Ferst, son of Judah and Rebecca Ferst.

Stan and Judy Woloff on the birth of their grandson, Shaya Woloff, son of Isaac and Rebecca Woloff.

Jesse Abrams-Morely and Meredith Buse-Morley and Steve and Liz Abrams-Morley on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, Sarah Blossom Buse-Morley.

Marty and Betty van de Rijn on the birth of their grandson, Cole Goldberg, son of Jeff and Michele Goldberg.

Condolences to

Family and Friends of **Malcolm Kates**.

Scot Ziskind and Family on the death of Scot's mother, Harriet Ziskind.

Stan Woloff and Family on the death of Stan's mother, Shirley Woloff.

Dan Rottenberg and Family on the death of Dan's father, Herman Rottenberg.

Terry Graboyes and Noah Herman on the death of their father and grandfather, Joseph Graboyes.

Steve Morley and Family on the death of Steve's mother, Lottie Morley.

Merrily Williams and Family on the death of Merrily's mother, Elizabeth Morely Williams.

Susan Stein on the death of her father, Marvin Stein.

January 4: Lunch & Learn with Darfur Genocide Survivor & Award-Winning Human Rights Activist

Avi Winokur

Please join us on **Saturday, January 4**, as we welcome to SHS special guest Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, a former resident and survivor of Darfur, prisoner of the Sudanese government, United Nations interpreter, human rights activist, and speaker. Hawa Salih came to the US on March 3, 2012, received the International Woman of Courage Award, and claimed asylum. Alone and without a way to support herself, her struggles continued as she lived on the street, in churches, and in shelters. Finally, Hawa's lawyer connected her with members of the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) organization who placed her with a host family in Philadelphia. Still unable to get an appropriate full-time job, and unwilling to stop her relentless pursuit of human rights causes, Hawa has moved back to a Flemington, NJ shelter and is trying to figure out if her immediate future will include school or some type of occupation. Hear her amazing story after a special Kiddush Luncheon in the Social Hall sponsored by Debby, Isaac, & Jacob Freedman in memory of their beloved husband and father, David Wycollf.

Shabbat Across America Comes to SHS on March 7—Be here!

Avi Winokur

What is **Shabbat Across America**, and why do we care? **Shabbat Across America** is a nationwide Shabbat program involving hundreds of synagogues. With national advertising provided by the National Jewish Outreach Program, unaffiliated Jews are connected with participating synagogues. Synagogues offer a Learner's or Introductory Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a Shabbat dinner. It is a wonderful way to reach out beyond our membership list to introduce Philadelphia Jews to our wonderful community. In order for it to succeed, however, we need members there to welcome these new-comers. If you attend, not only will you be helping out your community, you will learn the true inner secrets of the Shabbat service—including what the prayers mean beyond the translation, why each prayer is placed precisely where it is, and the purpose of each prayer in the spiritual choreography of the service. All this, plus a free Shabbat meal! Such a deal!

SHS Hebrew School Students Help Out at JRA

Carmen Hayman



On Sunday, November 17, 37 Hebrew School children in grades 6-12 along with 13 parents, volunteered at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA). The group packed boxes and then delivered them to Jewish senior citizens. Special thanks goes to Mike Roe and Max Weisman, Hebrew School teachers who chaperoned. Our group plans to return for the April distribution date.



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General Fund

Speedy Recovery to

Terry Novick

Lore Bryan

In Appreciation of

Terry Novick

Lore Bryan

Al & Mona Sutnick

Lore Bryan

In Honor of

Birth of Noah Ferst, first grandson of Walter & Margie Ferst

Ann & Mark Steinberger

William Steinberger

Sara Steinberger

Joan & Jerry Roller

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Birth Cole Goldberg, grandson of Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Iris Levine

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Birth of Shaya Woloff, grandson of Stan & Judy Woloff

Iris Levine

Jerry & Joan Roller

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Debra & Bill Stewart for hosting a***Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas* dinner**

Iris Levine

In Memory of

Shirley Woloff, Mother of Stanley Woloff

Robin Schatz

Ann & Mark Steinberger

Betty & Bart Kaplan

Joan & Jerry Roller

Harriet Ziskind, Mother of Scot Ziskind

Robin Schatz

Joan & Jerry Roller

Joseph Graboyes, Father of Terry Graboyes

Jay & Roberta Meadway

Jerry & Joan Roller

Elizabeth Morley Williams, Mother of Merrily Williams

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Eugene Lizenbaum, Husband and Father

Mildred Lizenbaum & Curtis Lizenbaum

Harriet Cutler Treatman, Mother of Jack Treatman

Jack, Ruth, Mira & Reuben Treatman

Bernhard & Ella Britzmann, In-Laws of Lore Bryan

Lore Bryan

Edward & Lenore Neckritz, Parents of Gloria Steinberg

Gloria Steinberg

Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Ethel Schwartz Blender, Mother of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender

Sarah Auerbach, Grandmother of James Orman

James Orman

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Michael & Carole Rochester on the birth of their grandchildren

Barbara Spector

In Memory of

Shirley Woloff, Mother of Stanley Woloff

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Adelina Ciotti, Mother of Rita Altman

Rita Altman

Clare Altman, Mother-in-Law of Rita Altman

Rita Altman

Rita Bellarmeno

Rita Altman

Morris Chernock, Father of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Doris Casper

Sinclair Winton & Julia Sinclair Winton

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Walter & Margie Ferst on the birth of their grandson

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of

Harriet Ziskind, Mother of Scot Ziskind

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Shirley Woloff, Mother of Stanley Woloff

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Tillie Meyer, Mother of Harold Meyer

Harold & Eleanor Meyer

SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Honor of

Walter & Margie Ferst, birth of their first grandson

Merle & Stan Salkin

In Memory of

Lotte Panofsky, Grandmother of Jon Panofsky

Merle Salkin

Harriet Ziskind, Mother of Scot Ziskind

The Salkin Family

Social Action Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debra Weissbach

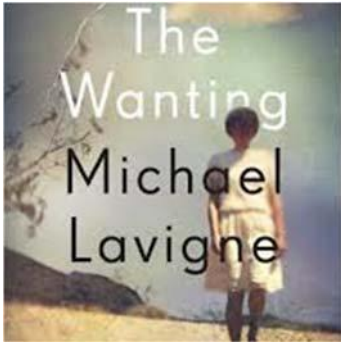
Debra Weissbach

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin



One Book One Jewish Community Comes to SHS!
Susan Levering

Join Rabbi Avi Winokur on **Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 PM** and **Sunday, February 2 at 11:15 AM** for thought-provoking discussions about Michael Lavigne's novel, *The Wanting*.

"In this exquisite novel of longing and loss, Lavigne has woven multiple stories of intersecting lives and conflicting desires. From the snowy streets of communist Moscow to the scorching heat of a Palestinian-controlled desert, we travel with characters at once ruined and resilient, some idealistic, others world-weary, all pursuing that most essential but elusive want: a place to call home. A beautiful meditation on love, and on all the ways in which stories are remembered and told."□

- Dalia Sofer, author of *The Septembers of Shiraz*

Meet the Author on Sunday, January 26, 3:30 PM, at Adath Jeshurun, located at 7763 Old York Road, Abington, PA.

All events are free and open to the public.

POWER

Voices of Power on January 26!

Eleanor Oxman

On Sunday, January 26, from 2 until 5 PM, POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild) will hold a fundraising event at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue, located at Broad and Mount Vernon Streets AND ALL ARE INVITED. The event, entitled **Voices of Power**, will feature choir and musical performances by approximately eight member groups of this organization.

Refreshments, fellowship, and music will begin at 2 PM. The concert will begin at 3 PM.

Cantor Bob Freedman, along with several musical members of the SHS congregation, will share their musical talents before and during the concert.

This special event is of great importance to the POWER organization and its faith-based members because more funds are required to support POWER's important initiatives. We hope that all will attend the event and contribute to the support of this organization's worthy causes:

- A fair and equitable school funding formula
- Living wages and economic justice
- An immigration plan that provides a pathway for citizenship

A contribution of \$10 per person is requested for all adults who attend this concert. Children will be admitted for free. Tickets may be purchased in the SHS office, and they will also be sold at the door on January 26.

We look forward to seeing you! If you have other questions, or you would like further information, please contact at Harry Oxman at 215.574.9645 or hjoxman@comcast.net or Carl Levitsky at 215.429.2019 or makeart4u@verizon.net.

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January Birthdays

Phyllis Denbo
 Daniel Feinberg
 Harry Feinberg
 Walter Ferst
 Nathaniel Gearhart
 Michael Hafter
 Peter Piven
 Maxine Schoenholtz
 Nathan Farbman
 James Rosenstein
 Peter Eizen
 Joshua Wolson
 Nella Bloom
 Karen Kaufman
 Jennifer Schwartz
 Ezra Goldfinger
 Hava Goldfinger
 Sheri Gifford
 Judith Green
 Leslie Hafter
 Rachel Margolin
 Jarad Eizen
 Jack Goldenberg
 Samuel Lear
 Daniel Cohen
 Samuel Feinberg
 Elizabeth Sedran
 Jesse Abrams- Morley
 Samuel Shemtov
 Debra Weissbach
 Nancy Morgenstern
 Scot Ziskind
 Beatrice Acker
 Jean Blumberg
 Mark Dichter
 Camille Orman
 Ethan Peet
 Talia Mono
 Richard Morgenstern
 Judah Galler
 Steve Morley
 Holman Massey
 Diane Harrison
 Laurel Landau
 Susan Jaffe
 David Rosen
 Camille Weil
 Jonathan Prokup

January Anniversaries

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
 Mark & Sylvia Sobol
 Marc & Staci Schwartz
 Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
 Joan Markman & Jim Becker
 Mitchell Bach & Cindy Elliott

February Birthdays

Nancy Goldenberg
 Tobias Hart
 Ric Hayman
 Carl Dranoff
 Susan Snedden
 Ira Rubinfeld
 Marc Goldenberg
 Gary Love
 Linda Joy Goldner
 Aaron Davidson
 Randi Glatzer
 Sofia Newberg
 Zoe Perkins
 Paul Rosen
 Irwin Balik
 Daniel Perkins
 Aminda Kirshenbaum
 Len Weinberg
 Jack Dubin
 Hannah Smith
 Edward Levenson
 Gail Massey
 Giacomo Weil
 Adam Gifford
 Elayne Bloom
 Rachel Katz
 Stav Tjoumakaris
 Michael Yudell

February Anniversaries

William & Tracey Goldberg
 David & Linda Paskin
 Rina & Bill Mitchell
 Paula & Larry Ninerell
 Andrew Hohns &
 Leah Popowich
 Arthur & Janet Cherry

POWER

In Honor of
Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient
 Debra Stewart

Staci Schwartz, 2013 Kallat B'reishit Recipient
 Debra Stewart

Playschool Fund

In Appreciation of
Gloria Parris and Teachers for Grandparents Day
 Beverly Paulvin

Ed & Suzanne Kaplan, for a wonderful evening
 Steven & Lisa Eizen

In Honor of
Betty van de Rijn on the birth of her grandson
 Steven & Lisa Eizen

In Memory of
Bernice Ettingoff, Great-Grandmother of Hudson Weissman
 Beverly Paulvin

Elizabeth Morley Williams, Mother of Merrily Williams
 Steven & Lisa Eizen

Cantor Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Cantor Bob Freedman
 Juliet Englander

In Honor of
Thea Applebaum-Licht's Bat Mitzvah
 The Applebaum-Licht Family

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Winokur
 Rabbi Valerie Joseph

In Honor of
Thea Applebaum-Licht's Bat Mitzvah
 The Applebaum-Licht Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Beatrice Chernock, Mother of Joel Chernock
 Joel Chernock

Steven Dranoff, Brother of Carl Dranoff
 Carl & Roberta Dranoff

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herb Cohn
 Herb Cohn

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown
 Stephen & Pelley Brown

Social Action

Please Complete Our Volunteer Survey by January 10

Phyllis Denbo

Six years ago, the Hebrew and Sunday School parents donated gifts for students at George Washington Elementary School, who, because of significant economic challenges, would likely find few, if any, presents from Santa under the Christmas tree, if indeed there were a tree. In what is now an annual drive, individual gifts are provided for each needy student identified by the school and categorized by family, age, and gender. Often an SHS family is matched with a school family, so that our children can select gifts for children in need of similar age and gender. In addition, we provide grocery gift cards to the families. Fifty SHS families, a record number, collected toys and clothing this year for 87 children from 32 families, and donated \$2,200.00 in grocery cards! SHS members helped to wrap the presents, organize the packages for delivery, fill out holiday cards, and decorate the gifts with candy canes. The gifts, given anonymously, were delivered to the children's homes by our amazing delivery team (several members returned for their 5th year) the week before Christmas.

The gift drive is our first project with our new partner, the Vare-Washington Elementary School, but we anticipate many more in the coming months and years. At a Lunch and Learn in early December, we met the principal, Joanne Capriotti, and seven teachers— four from the former Vare School and three from the former Washington School. Ms. Capriotti spoke about the many challenges they faced in the past year and expressed appreciation and excitement regarding a Vare-Washington/Society Hill Synagogue partnership. Especially gratifying were the comments of the three Washington teachers, who spoke warmly about our past volunteers, our continuing commitment to the school, and the value of our work to the students and teachers.

The SHS volunteers have, in turn, found the experience very enjoyable and rewarding. As Judy Gelles says, "Volunteering adds many wonderful surprises to your life."

I hope many of you are now wondering what you can do. There are lots of opportunities at the school to work with students one-on-one or in small groups, to assist teachers in the classroom or to offer after-school programs, to provide much-needed services that don't require regular student interaction, to help with the school play or a class trip, to make a presentation on a topic of interest to you, and much more.

To let us know what you would like to do will take just a few minutes of your time. Go to the SHS website, click on SURVEY at the bottom of the home page, indicate your preferences, and press send when you complete the questions. We will work with the principal and teachers to match you with the most appropriate opportunities. Please complete the survey by Friday, January 10. Our goal is to have the volunteer program in place by the end of January.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 215.755.2734 or prdenbo@gmail.com.

Finally, I am delighted to report breaking news that will further solidify our partnership with the Vare-Washington School! We just received word that Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) has awarded a Picasso Grant to the school that will enable Judy Gelles, in cooperation with the art teacher, to offer a new version of the photography and writing program. The focus will be on building a strong sense of community at the recently combined school—to encourage students who differ by school background, grade level, and ethnicity to understand and appreciate one another. Ten students in grades six to eight will be given cameras and will receive instruction in portrait photography and interviewing. They will then compile visual and written portraits of fifty additional Vare-Washington students. An exhibit of the students' work will be displayed at the school, at Society Hill Synagogue, and at other venues. As in previous years, a book of the students' work will be published at the conclusion of the project.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day Building Closed	Playschool Resumes	6:15 PM Services	Bo 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services Darfur Lunch & Learn
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 9 AM Finance Mtg 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Social Action Comm Mtg	12:30 PM ELM 7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Services	B'shallah Shira 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Sam Shemtov 10 AM Shabbat Study
12	13	14	15	Tu B'Sh'vat 16	17	18
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi	7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi W and Susan Berman	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor			6:15 PM Services	Yitro 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Gilbert Trachtman
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi W 11 AM HS	MLK Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi W	7:30 PM God's Lecture & More with Rabbi W		6:15 PM Services	Mishpatim 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Smith
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze 2 PM POWER Choir Event	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM PIC Meeting 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor	7 PM OBOJC- One Book One Jewish Community Mtg.		6:15 PM TGIS Shabbat Service with Charles Salinger	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						T'rumah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 5:30 PM PJ Havdalah Service
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundhog Day 9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM OBOJC Events	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Penn Lecture Series	12:30 PM ELM 7:30 PM God's Lecture & More with Rabbi W		6:15 PM Services	T'tzavveh 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Gan Class Family Service Inter- NOSH -ional Night Off-site
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi	7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi W and Susan Berman	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM EDM Off-site		No Playschool 6:15 PM Services	Ki Tissa 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
President's Day Building Closed	President's Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi 6:15 PM B/M Parent Meeting	7 PM POWER Meeting 7:30 PM God's Lecture & More with Rabbi W		6:15 PM Hay Class Service	Va-yak hel 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor			6:15 PM TGIS habbat Service featuring Dan and Bob Blacksberg	

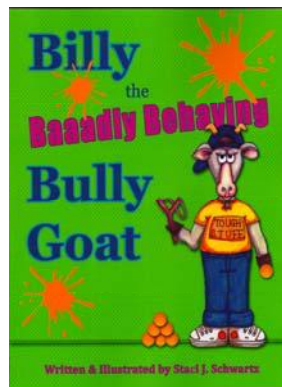
Kesher



Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**
Bob Freedman, **Cantor**
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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.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)

Faith and Deed in Judaism

Debbie Stewart

Please join us at our next PIC meeting on Tuesday, January 28 at 7 PM at Society Hill Synagogue, when Rabbi Winokur will be our featured presenter. All are welcome to attend. Rabbi Winokur will lead a discussion about the topic of “Faith and Deed in Judaism.”

For additional information, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.