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418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.6590 Phone
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Join us for TGISHabbat Services at SHS

Friday, November 21

Friday, December 19

Looking for some Jewish Music, Spirit,

Food and Community...**All in One Night?** We've **Got It!**

Our November **TGISHabbat** service will feature Charles Salinger. Charles is well known in local music circles as a versatile clarinetist. He is principal clarinetist with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Opera Delaware Orchestra, and the New Jersey Opera Theater Orchestra. He also free-lances with several Jazz, Pop, and Klezmer bands.

Our December **TGISHabbat** service will feature Bob Blacksberg. Bob is our very own in-house clarinetist, who will draw again on our heritage of Yiddishkeit. Bob seeks to make his clarinet's voice inherit and inhabit compositions of the great Hazzanim from the Golden Age, to let its sound draw our spirits to the full height of our magnificent place of worship!



Hanukkah Happening!
Playschool Open House
Sunday, December 14
11 AM to 1 PM



Rabbi's Column

SHS Judaism: Religious, Spiritual, Communal, and Cultural

Avi Winokur

Recent changes in thinking about Jewish communal life reminded me of a commercial for Certs from my childhood. A says: "Certs is a breath mint." B: "No, Certs is a candy mint." A: "Breath mint." B: "Candy mint." Omniscient announcer, usually with deep baritone authoritative voice, says: "Certs is two, two, two mints in one, a breath mint and a candy mint."

For much of Jewish history, Judaism was, well, just Judaism. It was un-self-conscious. That is, the vast majority of Jews didn't puzzle over questions of whether Judaism was primarily a religion or a people or an ethnicity. It just was the way Jews lived. Then with the European Enlightenment, things changed. The more modern Jews thought of Judaism as a religion just as Christianity was a religion. At the same time, Jews' experience of Judaism was not always religious. Jews lived often as a people or a community or a culture. Some of them were also religious (in which I include Reform and Conservative, rejecting the idea that religious means only Orthodox) and some were not. Some were socialist and some were not. Some spoke Yiddish and some did not. My father's father was such an amalgam: a Yiddish-speaking Talmud teacher at a Brooklyn yeshiva, an early Zionist, an admirer of the often heretical Hebrew and Yiddish writings of Jewish Enlightenment thinkers, and also the president of a Hasidic shul.

Around the same time that my grandfather was active in the early and mid-twentieth century, Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, gave voice and pen to the reality that Jews were a people who inhabited a multilayered culture with religion as central to its identity but that it was more than a religion. That is, religion was central even to the identity of secular Jews. A vegetarian atheist Seder is based on the very religious Seder that its creators are consciously rejecting.

One consequence of Jews' gravitation to thinking of Judaism in communal and cultural terms was that in the course of elevating peoplehood and community, religion became less important to more and more Jews. Beginning in the 1960s with the Havurah movement and picking up steam with the emergence of Jewish Renewal and a general interest in spirituality, a countermovement grew that tended to devalue peoplehood and lift up the spiritual and religious.

I believe we have finally arrived at the Certs moment: Judaism is both religious/spiritual and peoplehood/community/cultural together. That was certainly a central message of Ron Wolfson's *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Congregation into a Sacred Community*. We, the American Jewish community, have learned (I hope) that we need not privilege either the religious/spiritual or the communal/cultural. Rather, we understand that both are important.

SHS certainly aims to raise up both. TGIShabbat, the upcoming adult education classes exploring the intersection of Buddhism and Judaism, Heschel's *The Sabbath*, and Buber's *I and Thou*, and all our services raise up the religious/spiritual. *Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™*, the communal synagogue meals, the cultural activities such as the sorties to plays and art exhibits, and our Sunday Nosh 'n' Schmooze raise up the communal/cultural.

If you peek behind many of these offerings, you will find a mix of religious/spiritual and communal/cultural, in which each of you can take from it that aspect of our shared Jewishness that works for you. One person's TGIShabbat is a spiritual and/or religious experience. The person sitting next to her may experience it as a community-building event, and the person sitting next to him may experience it as a little of both.

I am reminded of a wonderful scene from Rodger Kamenetz's *The Jew in the Lotus* (a book I heartily recommend) in which Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi is conducting a service up in Dharamsala while visiting the Dalai Lama with a number of Jewish leaders at the Dalai Lama's invitation.

Continued on page 6



President's Column

There is So Much to Look Forward to in the New Year

Debra Stewart

It was such a delight to have a packed Sanctuary and Social Hall during our High Holy Day services. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year, with meaningful services, the hope that our names will be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life, and a strong sense of community. I especially enjoyed our multi-generational service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. What a delight it was to see Board member Susan Eizen on the bimah with her children, while her mother-in-law, Lisa Eizen, performed a reading; we witnessed the special traditions of our faith passing from one generation to the next, l'Dor v'Dor.

We have so much for which to be thankful and many exciting times ahead.

While honoring Michael Coran as our Hatan Torah, and Leslie Hafter as our Kallat B'reishit at a special luncheon on October 18, we had an opportunity to learn about his and her individual journeys of faith and involvement in our Synagogue community. Again, I want to recognize these members for their truly exceptional dedication and service. We hope this honor makes this year, and all those to come, very sweet.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Harry Oxman, a Board member who has demonstrated significant commitment, on his new appointment as Recording Secretary. Harry will now be responsible for preparing the minutes from all Board meetings, thereby preserving in a written record our important decisions, discussions, motions, and action plans.

The impressive turnout of veteran members, new members, and guests during the High Holy Days and recent TGISHabbat services has energized our drive to increase our membership. We have initiated an active campaign to attract new members by word-of-mouth, ads in local newspapers and neighborhood newsletters, and flyers. To know us is to feel the warmth of this community. It is hard to visit this shul and not feel the positive energy—it is palpable. A number of recent visitors have shared these feelings with me. We give off a wonderful vibe and are on our way to becoming “the place to be.” Please keep up the good work!

Our new mantra: **Be Engaged & Reach out (BeER)!** I invite each of you to **engage** in those aspects of synagogue life that you enjoy. Build relationships with others in our community. **Reach out** and welcome friends, colleagues, and family members into our shul. Guess what? If you bring a potential new member to services or you invite him or her to participate in an SHS activity, let me know and I will buy you a beer!

“Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ is an SHS tradition we have initiated that occurs twice each year! During this event, we come together in homes, or at SHS, to share a Shabbat or Havdalah meal. The positive response to this program has been overwhelming. If you are hosting this season, we thank you for your hospitality and generosity. If you are a guest, we thank you for participating and contributing to the meal. We hope that everyone will enjoy these special meals and build bonds with one another. These gatherings will enhance your sense of belonging to our community—a community that sustains us in good times and in times of need.

Did you know that we have 12 B’not Mitzvahs scheduled for this year? Please join us for these very special celebrations, and recognize—along with a very proud group of parents—the wonderful achievements of these Hebrew School students. Let’s demonstrate to all of the family and friends of these members how much we value this life-cycle event at SHS. Join our clergy in singing the prayers with our unique melodies.

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Cantor's Column

Hanukkah Math

Bob Freedman

For two years my study partner Steve and I have been studying the Hassidic *sefer* (book) called *B'ney Yissaskhar* by Tz'vi Elimelech Shapira of Dinov, who lived from 1783 to 1841. He called his book *B'ney Yissaskhar* because, according to midrash, the tribe of *Yissaskhar* were masters of the knowledge of the seasons, able to explain what Israel should do at each one. The work, three thick volumes, is arranged by the months of the year beginning with Kislev. A little more than the first quarter of the entire work is about Hanukkah! We are still reading about Hanukkah, learning new things each week.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Rabbi Tz'vi Elimelech's exploration is his use of *gematria* to enhance our understanding. *Gematria* (numerology) assigns to each Hebrew letter a numerical value. *Aleph* through *yud* are 1–10; *kaf* through *tzadi* are 20–90, and *kuf* through *tav* are 100–400. By “discovering” that the value of the letters in a word or phrase is the same as in another word or phrase (sometimes massaging the values a bit), the numerologist finds “hidden truths” about the meanings of those phrases. I know it sounds a little crazy, but don't leap to conclusions: it's a great teaching tool.

Here's one of my favorites. The value of the letters in *l'hadlik ner Hanukkah*, “to light the Hanukkah candle,” adds up to 518. Add to this one more to stand for the phrase itself and the total is the same as the value of the letters (519) in *or hadash*, “a new light.” The phrase *or hadash* refers to the time of the Messiah, when God will shine a new light upon Zion. From this connection Rabbi Tz'vi Elimelech taught that the lights of Hanukkah are like training wheels to use now so we can be completely ready to enjoy the new light of the coming time.

Does it sound far-fetched? Not when we consider that we all would like better times to come, when lighting our way through darkness and difficulty and

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Ann Spak Thal School

To Remember and

To Rejoice

Sahar Oz

Many of you have heard me say that I believe Jewish education is, to a great extent, about creating Jewish memories. As Jonathan Safran Foer notes, “Jews have six senses: touch, taste, sight, smell, hearing... memory.” At our Hebrew School, we strive to build a community of learners in which our students can experience Judaism through a multi-sensory approach, one which impacts them positively with both immediate and long-term consequences.

And indeed, these next two months present a variety of opportunities for students and parents to come together as we create, honor, and celebrate Jewish memories. On Sunday, November 9, we will hold our annual ceremony in memory of the victims of Kristallnacht. This program is designed for students in grades 3 to 11—our entire Hebrew School and Hebrew High—and will take place from 12:20 to 1:00 PM. Parents are welcome to join us.

The following Saturday, November 15, our Kitah Aleph (first grade) students will help to lead the Shabbat family service at 10:30 AM, with a delicious lunch to follow. This buoyant service is perfect for all ages! School enrollment fees cover every family's meal, but **Betty needs your RSVP along with any dietary requests or allergy information by Thursday, November 13, contact her at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org.**

The next day, on Sunday, November 16, students from grades 6–11 will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia and join hundreds of other volunteers from Greater Philadelphia as everyone packs and then delivers food packages to Jewish neighbors in need of assistance. We have secured a bus to bring our delegation to the JRA and then take us on the delivery route.

Parents are encouraged to join us, and everyone going from our school can either drive on their own to

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Playschool

Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House: Sunday, December 14! Gloria Parris

In early September, Betty van de Rijn arranged for the Playschool staff and the SHS staff to take part in a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class with instruction on the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The class taught us to recognize and respond to emergency situations where CPR and the use of an AED might be indicated. Our CPR Certification will be in effect for two years and we thank Betty for scheduling this class for the Playschool teachers.

The children in the Playschool have had a fantastic start to the school year. They are excited to see what each day's activities will be and they are enthusiastic to interact and socialize with their classmates. The boys and girls in the 2-year-old Puppy class are eager to participate in the preschool experience. The children in the 3–4-year-old class are excited when they learn a letter of the alphabet each week. The Pre-Kindergarten children have begun learning to write, using a workbook, and they have taken a walking trip to the local fire station for community helpers week. All of the children have learned about the holidays, made art projects, listened to story books, and have celebrated Shabbat together.

Our After School Arts Clubs are being attended by many of the Playschool students. Each afternoon, an exciting theme is presented. Children cook and prepare simple foods on Mondays, they explore science on Tuesdays, creative and unique art projects are prepared on Wednesdays, the children demonstrate their movement skills on Thursdays, and they sing songs and play instruments on Fridays. Special guests will be teaching during After School Arts, too. Noah Herman, a former Playschool teacher, presented three dramatic acting classes to the children in October. In the upcoming months, a children's author and a musician will be presenting their talents to the children in After School Arts. Free -play time, story time, the themed activity, snack, and outdoor bike riding fill the afternoon sessions.

Children may be enrolled any number of afternoons each week, and we would love to have everyone join us.

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 14, when the Playschool will host Grandparents'/Special Friends' Day in the 3 – 4-year-old class and in the Pre-K Class. Parents, grandparents, and family friends are invited to attend this special event. One of the highlights of the morning will be celebrating Shabbat together with songs, dance, and blessings. In the evening, at 5 PM, the Playschool's Art Exhibit and Fall Shabbat Dinner will be held for all of our Playschool families. Original works of art, created by all of the children in the Playschool, will be on display in the Social Hall. Our artists have worked hard to create their paintings and to make them visually pleasing. Please take a few moments to view the Playschool Art Exhibit when you are in the Synagogue.

On Tuesday, December 9, the boys and girls in the 3 – 4-year-old class will be going to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Museum *Looks and Picture Books* program. The theme of the lesson will be "Shapes and More Shapes." This program is designed for preschool-aged children and it is a fabulous introduction to art. The class makes four visits to the Art Museum during the school year.

On Wednesday, December 10, and Thursday, December 11, school will be closed for Parent Teacher Conferences.

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Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

When Reb Zalman gets to the phrase *Adonai elohaikhem emet*, "Adonai your God (is a God of) Truth," he stops and walks up to one person and says, "Your God is a true God" and then to the next person, "Your God is a true God," and then to the next person and so on, emphasizing that each person's God or God-understanding is true.

We at SHS are trying in our own way to say to you and all Jews, "This is a big tent. We've got plenty of room for multiple expressions and explorations of Judaism. Your Judaism is a true Judaism. Your neighbor's Judaism is a true Judaism. Come on in. Make yourself at home." And to your non-Jewish family and friends, we take a page from another old commercial, the one with the African American youngster or the Native American gentleman or the Asian gentleman with a big slice of rye bread in their hands and the caption, "You don't have to be Jewish to love Levy's: real Jewish rye." You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Judaism.

Wherever you are in your journey, we're delighted to do what we can to make your journey engaging, both fun and at the same time challenging in an uplifting way. If you care to look, I think you will find something that will work for you.

President's Column

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Mark your calendar for the Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House on Sunday, December 14, from 11 AM until 1 PM. Watch for the upcoming Havdalah PJ Parties. Check out the activities planned for our Baby and Me and Young Family Groups. Find out what our young professionals are doing, and join them at the next A Beer and A Blessing event! Be sure not miss our TGIShabbat services. See what is up next on the Arts/Culture menu. And it is never too late to attend an Adult Education class or a Nosh and Schmooze session. Most of all, enjoy SHS, our "Jewel of a Shul."

Wishing you a joyous Thanksgiving filled with many blessings and wonderful food, to be enjoyed with those near and dear to you and those in your heart.

Cantor's Column

Continued from page 4

occasional despair will become easier, when new light generated by determination, courage, and miracles will transform our world into a brighter place.

At first Steve and I were put off by the importance that Rabbi Ts'vi Elimelech places on what seemed to us to be coincidence. Now we see the connections he makes as an expression of his belief in the radical unity of all existence. Everything, he seems to be saying, including our conceptions of everything, is related to everything else. The past, present, and future, our actions and the deeds of our ancestors, are all one. Lighting the candles, we bring the ancient courage of the Maccabees into the present and strengthen our resolve to illuminate our way into the future. Happy Hanukkah!

Ann Spak Thal School

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JRA and meet us there at 10 AM **or arrive at the synagogue by 9 AM and board the bus.** We will return to the Synagogue by 1 PM. Carmen Hayman, Education Committee Chair, will once again proudly lead our JRA delegation.

Following our Thanksgiving break on Sunday, November 30, classes resume, and December brings Hanukkah happiness! **On Sunday, December 14, classes for all grades—Pre-K through Hebrew High—will meet from 9 to 11 AM,** and then the Hanukkah Happening will feature latkes, laughter, and lots of fun from 11 AM until 1 PM.

On the last Tuesday session of each month, our Hebrew School students in grades 3–7 come together for the Ma'ariv (evening) prayer service, led by Cantor Bob Freedman. Our last such service for the calendar year 2014 will be on December 16, which is also the first night of Hanukkah. Coming together in the Sanctuary with 60 schoolmates, teachers, and the Cantor to light the first candle of Hanukkah – now that's a Jewish memory!

Our teachers and I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving and an unforgettable Hanukkah filled with light and love (and latkes!).

Playschool

Continued from page 5

On Sunday, December 14, from 11 AM until 1 PM, the Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House will take place. All synagogue members, Playschool families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend our Hanukkah celebration. There will be Hanukkah crafts for the children, festive holiday music, dreidel games, cookie decorating, sweet treats, and delicious homemade latkes made by the Latke Brigade.

The Playschool Open House gives prospective parents the opportunity to meet our teachers and current families and to learn more about the Playschool. Applications for the September 2015-2016 school year will be available. If you are interested in enrolling your child/children and would like to submit an application before the Open House, you can download the application from the SHS website in early December. The Playschool's enrollment policy offers a common deadline for submitting applications. **All applications must be received by Monday, December 15, to be considered for enrollment in the upcoming school year.** The Playschool has classes for 2-year-olds, 3-4-year-olds, and a Pre-Kindergarten program with morning and afternoon sessions. The Playschool offers a wonderful "first school experience" for all children. Parents are also involved in the preschool by participating in our Parent Cooperative. If you have any questions about our upcoming enrollment process or if you would like to schedule an appointment to visit the Playschool, please contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or email gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org.

Friday, December 19, is the last day of Playschool before the winter break. The Playschool will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2015.



Baby & Me Group

November 3—Play Date and Happy Hour

Jackie Goldfinger and Joanna Hart

Join the SHS Baby & Me group for a Play Date/ Happy Hour on Monday, November 3, from 5:30 until 6:30 PM in the Society Hill Synagogue Preschool Playroom! Families with children age 2 and under will gather to play, while their parents and caretakers chat and relax with a glass of wine.

SHS is a vibrant, egalitarian congregation, welcoming people of all backgrounds and approaches to Judaism. You do not need to be a member of SHS to attend our meetings—you do not even need to be Jewish to join our friendly group.

For further information, or to be included on our Email list, please contact Jackie at jacquelinegoldfinger@yahoo.com. You are also invited to join our Google group at shs-families@googlegroups.com.

KinderBat; A New Service for Children Aged 3-7!

Jessi Roemer



SHS is proud to announce a brand new service for kids called **KinderBat!** Children between the ages of 3 and 7, along with their families, are invited to join me, Cantorial Candidate Jessi Roemer, on Saturday mornings when we'll celebrate Shabbat with singing, dancing, storytelling, interactive prayer, and Torah! This 45-minute service will begin at 11 AM and will be held once each month on 11/15, 12/13, 1/17, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, and 5/9. This new program will adapt the basic elements of the morning service to create a joyful, musical Shabbat experience for families with children in this age group. We look forward to seeing you there!

Adult Education

Don't Miss This Year's Interesting Variety of Classes

Marc Schwartz

There is still time to attend the following classes:

Introduction to Reading Hebrew

Tuesdays 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, and 12/9, 7–8:30 PM, in the rear Playschool classroom.

Bavli & Bagels: A Monthly Taste of Talmud

Sundays 11/9, 1/25, 2/22, 3/15, 4/19, and 5/17, 11 AM–1 PM, in the rear Playschool classroom.

Monthly Shabbat Study—Shalosh Regalim with Rabbi Berman

2nd Saturday of each month (except for February class on 2/27), 10 AM–Noon, in the Social Hall.

Rabbi's Monthly Nosh & Schmooze

Sundays 11/23, 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, 3/8, 4/12, and 5/3, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM, in the Rabbi's Study.

That's Funny, You Don't Look Buddhist

Tuesdays 7–9 PM, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, and 12/9
Sundays 9:15–11:15 AM, 11/23, 12/14, and 12/21
Remember, the same course is being offered on two different days of the week. Both class groups will meet in the Beit Midrash.

I and Thou

Tuesdays 7–9 PM, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, and 2/3
Sundays 9:15–11:15 AM, 1/11, 1/18, 2/8, and 3/1
Remember, the same course is being offered on two different days of the week. Both class groups will meet in the Beit Midrash.

The Sabbath

Tuesdays 7–9 PM, 3/10, 3/17, and 3/24
Sundays 9:15–11:15 AM, 3/22, 3/29, and 4/19
Remember, the same course is being offered on two different days of the week. Both class groups will meet in the Beit Midrash.

An Introduction to the Book of Psalms

Wednesdays 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, and 3/11, 7:30–9 PM, in the Beit Midrash.

Suddenly, a Knock on the Door

Tuesdays 4/21, 5/5, 5/12, and 5/19, 7–9 PM, in the Beit Midrash.

Continued

See the 5775 Adult Education brochure for faculty and full course descriptions. Copies are available in the Spruce Street lobby or on the website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org.

Yom Kippur D'var Torah & Sermon Debra Stewart

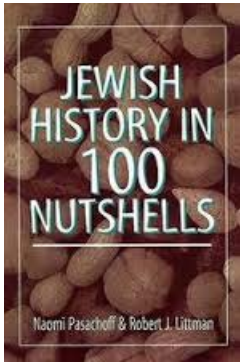
Many of you have requested a copy of the wonderful D'var Torah given on Yom Kippur by our talented Rabbinic Intern, Nathan Kamesar.

I thank Nathan again for preparing such meaningful remarks.

Also, many of you have requested a copy of Rabbi Winolkur's inspiring Yom Kippur sermon about Israel.

Both of these talks are available on the homepage of our website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org.





Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

Larry Spector

Anyone identifying as being Jewish, even just ethnically if not religiously, should know the history that comes with that identity. Yet in our American culture where even essential American history is not well known, Jewish history can become even more removed from our basic book of knowledge. Future editions of the Keshet and our SHS website will address this problem. In each Keshet, I will share an excerpt from the book entitled, *Jewish History In 100 Nutshells* by Naomi Pasachoff and Robert Littman (J. Aronson Inc., 1995). The authors have graciously given us permission to make use of their book. Each nutshell is short— 2 to 4 pages—but provides an excellent quick study of an important chapter in Jewish history. These texts provide much more than a Sunday school lesson tied to a celebration of Jewish holidays. We hope that in some small way, they will educate and make readers more aware of how their current Jewish identity is positioned on the timeline of Jewish experience. The first installment is called “The Dreyfus Affair.” To view the pdf, please visit the SHS website and click on the November/December link under “Nutshell Excerpts.” Enjoy!



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The Dr. Effy Oz Memorial Fund

Sahar Oz

The newest fund established at SHS is the Dr. Effy Oz Memorial Fund, which offers need-based financial aid to families wishing to enroll their children in the Ann Spak Thal School for Sunday School, Hebrew School, or Hebrew High. This fund honors Effy Oz, an internationally renowned scholar and professor in the field of Management Information Systems (MIS), who died of sudden cardiac arrest on July 12, 2008. Effy was the father of our Director of Education, Sahar Oz.

After serving in the Israel Defense Forces and earning an MBA at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Effy embarked upon a career in the defense sector, rising to Deputy Director of Finance at Israel Aerospace Industries. A passionate learner, he decided to leave the private sector for the education arena and earned a doctorate in MIS from Boston University. He also taught at Boston University, and later at Boston College, Wayne State University in Detroit, and Penn State Great Valley from 1996 until he passed away.

Effy won numerous awards for innovative teaching and distinguished research. He also wrote 10 books, including the first six editions of *Management Information Systems*, which continues to be one of the most widely used MIS textbooks in the world.

Effy's greatest passions were his family, education, Judaism and Israel, and healthy living. He was a voracious reader, with a particular affinity for history, languages, ethics, politics, and religion. Effy was an expressive, sensitive man with a sharp sense of humor who communicated as eagerly, fluently, and attentively with young children as he did with leaders in his academic field. He exuded integrity and always pursued justice.

Effy was also a lifelong athlete. He was always a gentleman who derived the greatest pleasure from time spent with family.

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November Birthdays

Jim Becker
 Harry Bach
 Rachel Goldfinger
 Josh Meyer
 Andrew Newman
 Lillian Shemtov
 Jacob Wycoff
 Henry Gutstadt
 Susan Levering
 Stephanie Naidoff
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 Jack Little
 David Ladov
 Jacqueline Pack Segal
 Mark Dembert
 Ira Kauderwood
 Sarah Levitsky
 Lia Oxman
 Arthur Cherry
 Scotty Jordan
 Edward Kaplan
 Stephanie King
 Nancy Burd
 Micah Hart
 Marcie Ziskind
 Deborah Casnoff
 Sara Chrismer
 Brad Pirok
 Evyn Appel
 Sydney Bladen
 Teresa Novick
 Pelley Brown
 Rina Mitchell
 Sophia Yudell

December Birthdays

Sarah Buse-Morley
 Howard Sedran
 Joel Chernock
 Evelyn Eisenstadt
 Myron Bloom
 Ariana Eizen
 Joanna Hart
 Chloe Pirok
 Joanna Bottaro
 Leah Popowich
 Barbara Zalkind
 Nancy Gellman
 Robin Schatz

Barry Slosberg
 Ned Wolf Weiss
 Aaron Wolson
 Margot Oxman
 Barbara Spector
 Steven Gendler
 Joshua Goldwert
 Janet Kole
 Hannah Myers
 Daniel Weil
 Debra Auspitz Galler
 Abigail Gendler
 Steven Greenberg
 David Paskin
 Stanley Woloff
 Cole Pressman
 Rebecca Buse-Morley
 Lisa Coran
 Mimi Ella Hunter
 Ellianna Zack
 Isaac Torchinsky-Field
 Barbara Miller
 Lee Casper
 Moshe Mahlab
 Berk Uygur Petersohn
 Lindsay Saligman
 Samuel Datlof
 Elia Lichterman
 Emily Zimmerman
 Sabryna Pasternak

November Anniversaries

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman
 Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
 Steven & Lisa Eizen
 Dean Weisgold & Cheri Cutler
 Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 Matthew Roth & Stephanie King
 James & Julie Wilson
 Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
 Andrew Newman & Jane Nathanson
 Scott Siff & Kinney Zalesne
 Jeremey & Fran Newberg
 Jay & Phyllis Denbo
 Jud Aaron & Susan Snedden

December Anniversaries

Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
 Adam & Amy Shapiro
 Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg
 Michael & Carole Rochester
 Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
 Alan & Deborah Casnoff
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

Dear Rabbi,

**Thank you for making my naming
 so wonderful. I was especially
 happy that everyone was able to
 participate in this most important
 life cycle event. And by the way I
 love my SHS onesie.!**

**L'Shanah Tovah,
 Reese Madeline Wheeler & Family
 Jerry Faich and Bonni Rubin-
 Sugarman & Family**



Dr. Effy Oz Memorial Fund

Continued from page 9

This special time included thousands of racquetball games, long bike rides in Boston and Chester County, kayaking and canoeing, and many other trips together. Effy often referred to his wife, Narda, whom he called “my beloved,” and their four children, in his classes.

Inspired by Effy’s zeal for life and all that he held dear, the Oz family decided shortly after his death to establish the Dr. Effy Oz Memorial Fund. Since 2009, this fund has awarded thousands of dollars in academic scholarships to Chester County students at two synagogues, two public high schools, and Penn State Great Valley. Given the family’s deep involvement in Jewish education, the Directors of the fund have decided to concentrate more of the allocations in this area and is thrilled to include SHS as one of three synagogues whose religious schools will receive funding.

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

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Community News**Mazel Tov to**

Larry Spector and Ann Rosen Spector on the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth Spector, to Nicole Loudon.

Jonathan Freitag and Sara Shelley on the birth of their son, Xavi Alexander Freitag.

Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick on the upcoming marriage of their son, Daniel Blacksberg, to Christiana Kugel.

Condolences to

Jared Susco on the death of his father, Paul Susco.

Ben Field on the death of his father, Michael Field.

Welcome New Members

Jonathan Auerbach

Riva Auerbach

Alexander Botwick and Andrea Lubitz

Shlomo and Doris Cohen

Tova Ztaoui

Allison Esslinger

Cristina Fey
Maya

Josh and Leslie Heller
Charlotte

Alan Mittelman and Barbara Freed

Brad and Maya Pirok
Caleb, Cybele, and Chloe

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General Fund

In Appreciation of

Marc Schwartz

Don & Karen Kaufman

SHS

Michael & Margaret Meyer

HHD at SHS

Daniel Gilbert

Meryl Stein

Jonathan Bernstein

Ernest Mukamal

Andrew Lechuk

Maurice & Judy Kaplow

In Honor of

Rick Summers

Cliff Klein

Michael Coran, 2014 Hatan Torah Recipient

Arnold & Susan Coran

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Leslie Hafter, 2014 Kallat B'reishit Recipient

Jim & Linda Rosenstein

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of

Paul Susco, Father of Jared Susco

Debbie Stewart

Robert Baker, Brother of Barbara Silver

Judy Spiller

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector

Bonny Hohenberger & Nate Farbman

Lore Bryan

Adam & Caren Levin

Linda Joy Goldner

Susan & Bill Schwartz

Gloria Steinberg

Marina Merlin & Yuri Rubinov

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Benjamin Levering, Father**

Susan Levering

Seymour Schwartz, Father of Susanne Kaplan

Edward & Susanne Kaplan

Ilse Roller, Mother of Jerry Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Sigmond Weinberg, Father-in-Law of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Anna Paller, Grandmother of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

David Merlin, Father of Marina Merlin

Merlin-Rubinov Family

Alexander Rubinov & Sara Belkina, Parents of Yuri Rubinov

Merlin-Rubinov Family

Lillian Freedman

Joseph Freedman

Maurice Acker, Husband of Beatrice Acker

Beatrice Acker

Annual Giving Fund

Harry Bach

Linda Bach

Mitchell Bach

Liesel Baker

Richard & Claudia Balderston

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Elayne Bloom

Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses

Thomas Borawski & Libby Cone

Richard Braemer & Amy Finkel

Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach

Herbert Cohn

Theodore Danoff & Diane Siegel

Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison

Jay & Phyllis Denbo

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Robert Einhorn

Peter & Susan Eizen

Neil Epstein

Gerald Faich & Bonny Sugarman Rubin

Dan & Dana Feinberg

Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Joseph Freedman

Avi & Debra Galler

Linda Joy Goldner

David & Julia Gutstadt

Michael & Leslie Hafter

Noah Herman

Nathan Farbman & Bonny Hohenberger

Jonathan & Elana Hunter

Merle Jaffe

Edward & Susanne Kaplan

Don & Karen Kaufman

Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger

Judith & Tony Lalli

Susan Levering

Carl & Caryn Levitsky

Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum

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Myer Magen

Jim Becker & Joan Markman

Joel & Alexis Marmar

Zachary & Courtney Meisel

Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels

Rina Mitchell

Richard & Nancy Morgenstern

Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Michael & Stephanie Naidoff

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Peter Piven

Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter

Sally Poulshock

Lila Roomberg

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 Barbara Spector
 Larry Spector & Ann Rosen Spector
 Wane Spilove
 Amy Steerman
 Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
 Debra & Bill Stewart
 Abraham Summers & Xing Xing Shang
 Richard Summers & Merrily Williams
 Jared Susco
 Alton & Mona Sutnick
 Nuriye Uygur
 James & Julie Wilson
 Richard & Elizabeth Zack

In Honor of

Jonathan Freitag & Sara Shelley, Birth of Son, Xavi Alexander

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Leon & Sara Magen, Parents of Myer Magen

Myer & Miriam Magen

Harry & Rose Greenberg, Parents of Miriam Magen

Myer & Miriam Magen

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Lois Vederman

In Memory of

Lore Bryan

Jeffrey Bryan and Family

SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Honor of

2014 Confirmands Class

Merle Salkin

Leslie Hafter, 2014 Kallat B'reishit

Stanley & Merle Salkin

Playschool Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Marvin Goldsmith, Father of Gloria Parris

Gloria Parris

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of

SHS

Cantor Bob Freedman and Sally Freedman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Winokur's Torah Study

Rabbi Valerie Joseph

High Holy Day Services

Harris & Renee Hayman

Wendi Univer

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Jean Schertz Sablove, Mother of Pelley Brown

Pelley Brown

Tree of Life

Leaves

In Honor of

Mark Steinberger's 65th Birthday

Walter & Margie Ferst

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Adult Education

Shabbat Study Class

Johanna Markind



Shop For All Your Holiday Gifts on
 November 16 and December 14!

Shop at SHS on two dates for all your Hanukkah gifts. Beautiful gift items from Dim Sum (owned and operated by our own Andrea Appel)! As always, a portion of all sales will be donated to SHS. For a sample of the inventory, please visit [Dim Sum](#).



Membership Engagement Initiative

1) Holiday Meals: "SHS-niks" Start 5775 By Dining Together

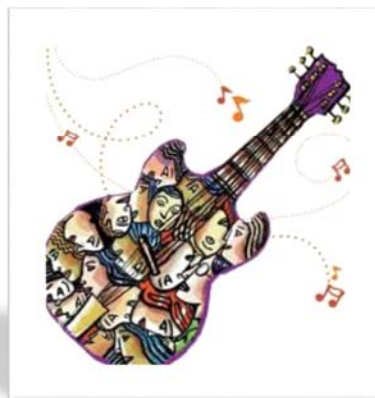
Barbara Spector

About 20 SHS members, plus some prospective members and members' guests, gathered at three homes to share dinner on the second night of Rosh Hashanah. Debbie and Bill Stewart, Flora Wolf and Laslo Boyd, and Barbara Spector were the hosts. Guests contributed potluck dishes, great conversation, and holiday ruach (spirit).

It was wonderful to bring together so many people to welcome the New Year in the spirit of celebration and community.

The good news is that our Holiday Meals Initiative is meeting a real need for SHS members who would otherwise eat their holiday meals alone. The bad news is that the number of people who would like to be guests is far greater than the number of volunteer hosts. The SHS board will be meeting to consider options that would enable us to keep the program going for other holidays in 5775 and beyond.

Please contact Barbara Spector at Barbara@familybusinessmagazine.com if you would like to be a guest or host for future holiday meals.



2) TGIShabbat

Debra Stewart

Join us on **Friday, November 21** featuring Charles Salinger and on **Friday, December 19**, Bob Blacksberg will perform at our next two TGIShabbat services. These services begin at 6:15 PM, and each service will be followed by a delicious Shabbat meal in the Social Hall.

Continued on next page



3) Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™

November 14-15

Bonny Hohenberger

It's not too late!!! We need guests!!! We now have 10 and possibly 11 hosts for this marvelous event but only 32 people have signed up to be guests. This is a wonderful opportunity to create or strengthen your relationships with other members of the SHS community by sharing meals, rituals, and songs.

How does it work? The regular Friday evening service on November 14 will be canceled and Synagogue members will be encouraged to attend a dinner at a host family's home. On that night, parents of the preschool children will attend a Preschool Shabbat Dinner/Grandparents' Day event at 5 PM in the Social Hall.

On Saturday, November 15, the Aleph Class will help to lead the Shabbat service. A luncheon in the Social Hall will follow the service. Other members will be able to attend a Shabbat luncheon afternoon or a Havdalah meal and service on Saturday night at the home of a host congregant.

Keep it simple; invite your guests to bring a dish or bottle of wine. Serve buffet-style or sit down, barbecue or pizza – it all works. The camaraderie is what's important!!!

All hosts will receive a Shabbat or Havdalah kit including blessings, songs, and conversation cards (which most participants never needed).

Please do not wait!!! The sooner we confirm our list of hosts and guests, the better our planning (we try to place members in homes which are geographically convenient and age compatible).

To become a host or guest, or for more information, contact Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828 or Bonny Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or 215.463.4715.

4) Interfaith and Learner's Service

Debra Stewart

The next Interfaith and Learner's Service will take place at SHS on Friday, November 7 at 6:15 PM.

5) A Beer and a Blessing

Deborah Shapiro



The first A Beer and A Blessing event for young professionals was held at the Barrel House on October 17. There were many beers and great conversations shared among newcomers and veteran members. Afterwards, many attended Friday night services and dinner at the shul. Find out more about the Young Professionals Committee and what we're planning next. Contact deborahshapiro@gmail.com!

Continued on page 16

6) Arts & Culture Initiative

Jonathan Feinman

This year is proving to be an exciting year for the Arts and Cultural Initiative. We have something scheduled for each month thanks to your excellent ideas. I would especially like to thank Rina Mitchell for suggesting September's outing to see *Little White Lies* at the Gershman Y. Fifteen congregants attended the performance, and about ten people who went to dinner together afterwards. I did not attend the dinner, but I was told that everyone enjoyed the meal. I want to thank Rina for agreeing to co-lead this outing when I thought I would not be able to attend!

On Saturday, October 25, 19 people ate dinner together at Spasso's Italian Grill and then 22 people went to see *Old Jews Telling Jokes* at the Penn's Landing Playhouse. All who attended had a great time. See photos.



On November 12, at 5:30 PM, join us on an outing to the Gershman Y to see Judy Gelles's Fourth Grade Project photo/text exhibition, and hear her speak about the project at 6 PM. Over the past six years, Judy has interviewed and photographed over 200 students from China, India, Korea, England, and many areas of the America. She asked all of the students the same three questions: "Whom do you live with? What do you wish for? What do you worry about?" Come and see some of the moving and insightful answers to these questions. We will meet for dinner at More Than Just Ice Cream at 12th & Locust Streets afterwards for those who would like to continue the discussion.

On Tuesday, December 2, 6-8 PM, we will attend the first of two of Susan Leshnoff's Adult Education Workshops at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Susan will be teaching "Hebrew Calligraphy and the Gilded Word." The second workshop will occur on Sunday, December 7, 2-4 PM. SHS members can order tickets before they are made available to the general public! Please contact Director of Education at the NMAJH Katerina Romanenko at kromanenko@nmjah.org. You can sign up for one or both workshop dates.

On Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 8 PM, join us for a trip to the Rutgers-Camden Performing Arts Center to see a production of *Symphony in C*, featuring the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No.1 and Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony in B minor (based on Lord Byron's dramatic metaphysical poem)*. The soloist will be Roman Rabinovich on piano. Some of you may remember Roman, a very talented young man who used to be a congregant of SHS when he lived in Philadelphia. He performed in our very own Sanctuary.

To learn more about Roman, visit <http://www.symphonyminc.org/performances/roman-rabinovich>. Take advantage of the special 25% discount for Society Hill Synagogue members! To purchase your tickets, call Symphony in C at 856.963.6683 or visit www.SymphonyminC.org. Use the code Society Hill to receive the discount. Please also feel free to invite non-member friends; they are also eligible to receive the discount.

Can you believe, we already have an outing scheduled for May? Join the group as we attend the 1812 Productions play, *An Evening Without the Catskills: A Brief History of Jewish Humor*. This play debuted as a one-night-only special event last March, and the response was so positive, they are bringing it back. **We are planning to attend the performance on Monday, May 4, at 7:30 PM, at the Christ Church Neighborhood House (located at 20 N. American Street in Old City).** When congregants purchase tickets online, they must use the discount code "SHS1812." If you buy them over the phone mention the discount code or mention that you are a member of Society Hill Synagogue. Please note that these discounted tickets are \$20, but there is an additional \$4 credit card handling fee per ticket.

Let me know if you hear about any arts or cultural events in and around the city that you think would be of interest to other congregants. Also, if you are an artist or performer in the congregation, please let me know so that we can share your talent with our members.

Finally, please RSVP to me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com for the scheduled events listed above so that I can get an idea of the approximate size of the group that will be attending.

Additional High Holy Day Thank yous...

Honey-Tasting-Oneg, Break-the-Fast, and Sukkah Decorations

Alan & Deborah Casnoff
 Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 Nathan Frarbman & Bonny Hohenberger
 Jonathan Feinman
 Michael & Carole Rochester
 Gerry Schneeberg
 Deborah Shapiro
 Rick Summers & Merrily Williams
 Jared Susco
 Alton & Mona Sutnick
 Rosemarie Weinberger
 Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
 Jay Wussow & Emily Zimmerman
 Barbara Zalkind



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Lekh L'kha 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Nina Saligman
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2 AM Clocks turn back 1 hour 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Bad Things Good People with Nathan	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Bad Things Good People with Nathan 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch	7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Interfaith & Learners Service	Va-yera 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Ben Rosin 10 AM Shabbat Study with Rabbi Berman
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi 11:15 AM Bad Things Good People with Nathan		Veterans' Day 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch			Grandparents Day 5 PM PS Shabbat Dinner No Services "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?"™	Hayei Sarah 9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Aleph Class Service & Luncheon 11 AM KinderBat
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Bad Things Good People with Nathan Dim Sum Sale	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Buddhism with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch			6:15 PM TGISHabbat featuring Charles Salinger	Tol'dot 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Feinberg
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Buddhism with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Buddhism with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		Thanksgiving Day Building Closed	Office & School Closed 6:15 PM Service	Va-yetzei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
30						
No SS/HS Building Closed						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Buddhism with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch	7:30 PM EDM		6:15 PM Service	Va-yishlah 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Bladen
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Buddhism with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch	No Playschool Parent Conferences	No Playschool Parent Conferences	6:15 PM Service	Va-yeishev 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service 10 AM Shabbat Study 11 AM KinderBat
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9-11 AM SS & HS 9:15 AM Buddhism with Rabbi 11 AM Hanukkah Happening	7 PM BDM	Erev Hanukkah 1 st Candle 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS-Last Day before Winter Break	Hanukkah I 2 nd Candle	Hanukkah II 3 rd Candle	Hanukkah III 4 th Candle Last Day of PS 6:15 PM TGISHabbat featuring Bob Blacksberg	Hanukkah IV 5 th Candle M-iketz 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Hanukkah V 6 th Candle 9:15 AM Buddhism with Rabbi No HS	Hanukkah VI 7 th Candle No Playschool	Hanukkah VII 8 th Candle 7:15 AM Minyan No HS No Playschool	Hanukkah VIII No Playschool	Christmas Building Closed	6:15 PM Service No Playschool	Va-yiggash 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
28	29	30	31	1	2	
No HS Building Closed	No Playschool	7:15 AM Minyan No HS No Playschool	New Year's Eve 1 PM Office Closes No Playschool	New Year's Day Building Closed	6:15 PM Service	

NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 ISSUE

Kesher

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**

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Bob Freedman, **Cantor**
Debra Stewart, **President**
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