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SYNAGOGUE

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PHILABUNDANCE

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Social Action

Join Us at Philabundance the 1st
Tuesday of the Month

Rob Einhorn

For the past two years, once a month, a small group of SHS members (3 or 4 people) has volunteered at Philabundance. Over time, our volunteer group size has begun to shrink. Unfortunately, the need for the food that Philabundance provides continues to grow.

Please join us at Philabundance on **the first Tuesday of each month, from 6-8 PM** to help sort and pack food. Parents, if your children need to satisfy a community service requirement for their school, this is a great way to do that!

Philabundance is located at 3616 Galloway St. In the Food Distribution Center near the stadiums. For further information, please contact me at merkava@msn.com or Phyllis Denbo at prdenbo@gmail.com.



SHS Jazz Orchestra's Fundraising Performance

Don't miss your chance to attend a wonderful fundraising concert entitled, *The Great American Songbook: From Berlin to Bacharach*, on

Sunday, April 26, 3-5 PM, in our very own Sanctuary. Our amazingly talented congregants Jud Aaron (saxophone), Josh Nadel (drums), Joe Oxman (bass), and Bob Blacksberg (clarinet)—along with Rachel Moran (vocals) and several guest musicians— will perform songs highlighting the great Jewish American composers of the 20th century. From Irving Berlin's 1920s hit "Bei Mir Bistu Shein" to Burt Bacharach's 1960s chart buster "The Look of Love," the SHS Jazz Orchestra will dazzle you with their renditions of these timeless classics, while providing additional information about the songs and composers. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 per person by calling the office at 215.922.6590 (credit card) or sending a check to SHS at 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$30.



Rabbi's Column

Why Have a Congregational 2nd Seder?

Avi Winokur

There is a long tradition of “fifth questions” at the Passover Seder that was brought to consciousness by the Soviet Jewry movement of the 1980s. Since then it has been used any number of times to illuminate any number of pressing issues. I recall the Darfur questions of several years ago, which I still have at home. So this year’s fifth question is: Why have a congregational second Seder?

The *Maggid*, the narrative section of the Passover Haggadah, begins with the Aramaic liturgical piece *Ha Lakhma Anya*/This Is the Bread of Affliction. Though very brief, it is enigmatic and challenging. Among the lines that beg for interpretation are:

Let all who are hungry/*kol dikhfin* come and eat/*yeitei ve-yeikhol*.

Let all who are in need/*kol ditzrikh* come and celebrate/*yeitei ve-yifsakh*.

We know the hungry and we know that they need to eat. But who are the needy and why do we invite them to celebrate and not to eat?

The late Orthodox sage Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik offered this interpretation:

“Although they may initially seem redundant, the two invitations we issue in *Ha Lakhma Anya*—‘Let all who are hungry, *kol dikhfin*, enter and eat’ and ‘Let all who are in need, *kol ditzrikh*, come and celebrate the Passover’—in reality are not. *Kol ditzrikh* means those who are in need—but not in need of bread. Whoever is in need of bread, *dikhfin*, is hungry. *Kol ditzrikh* refers to one who is alone, who has a lot of matza and wine but no home or family. There are indeed many ways to be included among the *kol ditzrikh*. The invitation to ‘all who are in need’ is not *yeitei ve-yeikhol*, ‘to eat with us’; rather, it is to spend the Pesah with us, *yeitei ve-yifsakh*, ‘to celebrate with us.’ It is an invitation addressed to unfortunate and lonely people. They might be millionaires; it is completely irrelevant. Whoever is in need should come and celebrate.

“*Ha Lakhma Anya* is the renewal of a pledge of solidarity among the Jewish people—solidarity between the individual and individual, and between the individual and the Jewish community as a whole. It is a proclamation that we are one people, and that we are ready to help one other. Pesah night is a time of sharing; if the sense to share and to participate are not manifested and demonstrated, the whole Seder becomes meaningless.”

Within our community we have any number of members whose family is not nearby or who are estranged from family. Perhaps they would be interested in attending a second Seder with members of their Synagogue community. Maybe some families have plans with their relatives for only the first Seder; perhaps they would like to have a second Seder. Because our InterNOSHional Night and “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” events continue to be so popular and well attended, one thing is clear: SHS members enjoy sharing meals together. So, why not have a second Seder together? Betty has found a very wonderful new caterer to provide a high-quality kosher meal at a reasonable price. We are hoping to get 50 members to attend; together we will have the interesting conversations and shared experiences that lead to deeper bonds within our community. You can even bring your own Seder plate and relate stories about its importance in the history of your family.

There are so many pressures on our time and attention that militate against strong community ties. For many of us, the idea of a second communal Seder is also an expression of the need to counter this trend and, by our presence, to reassert the value of community in our busy lives. So as community we call out:

Let all who are hungry/*kol dikhfin* come and eat/*yeitei ve-yeikkhol*.

Let all who are in need/*kol ditzrikh* come and celebrate/*yeitei ve-yifsakh*.

If you would like to reserve a seat at the Society Hill Synagogue Second Seder, please contact Betty at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 23.





President's Column

Think Spring, Think Seder

Debra Stewart

Believe it or not, spring is around the corner. I am imagining the sights and sounds of spring, including flowers peeping through the soil and birds singing. These thoughts help me through the cold days of winter. Another surprising thought that keeps me looking forward is planning for a Second Night of Passover Seder at Society Hill Synagogue! Please sign up as soon as possible. Seating will be limited. Betty has kept the cost of a delicious Kosher meal to a minimum, and you can bring your own Seder plate. I am looking forward to celebrating this special evening with so many people from our community while hosting guests who may be visiting our shul for first time.

As you know we are moving forward with the exciting steps to solicit input, clarify priorities, and analyze expenses for the development of our 430 Spruce Street property in conjunction with implementing the necessary updates and renovations to our current building. A survey is available on-line for a limited amount of time, so please take the time to let your voice be heard. Paper copies of the survey are also available upon request. We will be scheduling focus groups as well.

I find this initiative to be significant for a number of reasons:

- ◆ First of all, in 2007, many of our congregants took a leap of faith, stretched their budget, and gave generously to a Capital Campaign that enabled us to take advantage of our only opportunity to expand by purchasing the adjacent building. These donors supported a comprehensive plan to develop this building and make improvements to our 418 Spruce Street property to meet the current and future needs of our congregation.
- ◆ Second, I believe the underlying values that inspired us to expand and renovate our spaces would serve as a legacy that we would hand down to future generations of Jewish families and individuals who would benefit from our vision and commitment.
- ◆ Third, I am proud to report that a group of 18 committed congregants have done a significant amount of work to lead this effort to expand, update, and renovate our spaces, with the full support of our Board of Directors.
- ◆ And finally, during this initiative, we will be able to benefit from the groundwork and lessons learned from our successful Campaign in 2007, while taking a thoughtful, financially realistic, input-driven reassessment of our needs, priorities, and vision to order to create a plan going forward.

I believe that the members involved in the 2007 Capital Campaign made wise decisions that resulted in the successful purchase of the 430 Spruce Street property (purchase phase), and now we have the opportunity to make a collective commitment to move forward and focus our attention on the development of all of our spaces to best serve the needs of our current and future congregants (development phase). L'dor v'dor, generation after generation will enjoy the fruits of our labor.

I would like thank the members of the Board of Directors for their guidance and support, and I would like to give special recognition to certain individuals who spent many hours in meetings to bring us to where we are today:

Immediate Past President Jonathan Weiss and Past President Irv Shapiro have led this effort that began with an extensive review of the 430 Spruce Street property. A detailed report was prepared for and delivered to the committee with the assistance of Executive Director Betty van de Rijn, who was the "go to" person for records and current operational information.

Continued on page 6



Cantor's Column

Making a Difference

Bob Freedman

Tikun Olam, literally repair or correction of the world, has become a familiar phrase among U.S. Jewry. But it was a revolutionary idea when it was first spoken of by the Kabbalists of S'fat in 1670. Their teacher, Isaac Luria, proposed a creation myth. God prepared vessels to hold creation; some of the vessels could not withstand creation's brilliance and shattered. The sparkling shards scattered throughout all existence. It is the task of humans, Luria taught, to gather them, complete God's labors by repairing them, and redeem themselves in the process. His vision was revolutionary in saying that mere humans have the power to affect the cosmos, a power that reaches even to the celestial throne from which creation emanates at each instant.

In January, I attended a conference of Jewish Renewal rabbis (ask me about Jewish Renewal or see www.ALEPH.org) that was devoted to tikun olam. The featured speakers were major figures of tikun in the United States: Ruth Messinger of AJWS, Rebecca Sirbu of Rabbis Without Borders, and Justus Baird of Auburn Seminary. AJWS (American Jewish World Service) pursues lasting change by providing financial support to local grassroots and global human rights organizations working in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and mobilizes American Jews and others in the United States to advocate for policies that will benefit people in the developing world. Rabbis Without Borders convenes a cohort of rabbis each year to meet with leading thinkers in the fields of media, politics, and business and explore trends in contemporary religion and spirituality. Their goal is to learn how to use Jewish wisdom to speak to contemporary American issues in inclusive language. Justus Baird conducts interfaith education projects for Auburn Seminary. Currently he is promoting faith-based community action, using contemporary interfaith theology to support joint efforts.

Hearing them was thrilling! I was greatly impressed by their vision, their eloquence, and their organizational brilliance.

But I was also more than a little overwhelmed. Their projects are global and transcendent, and I am not that kind of person. I need distinct, discernible, local activity to feel fulfilled in my efforts to repair the broken world.

In my chaplaincy work at the Princeton Medical Center, I try to counter the impersonal attitude that doctors and nurses need to carry out their functions, and help patients and their families address fear, anguish, disappointment, and loss of hope and faith. My work is with one or two people at a time and very concrete.

At Society Hill Synagogue, my urge for Tikun Olam is satisfied by teaching the students in the school, and particularly by my study with the Bar and Bat Mitzvah candidates. It is my great privilege to help each young person acquire Judaic knowledge and life skills at a critical time in their lives.

I call my style of Tikun Olam the starfish model. The name is from a story. After a night of storm, a young woman was walking along the beach, tossing stranded starfish into the water. A man approached her and said, "What you are doing makes no difference. There must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You will never be able to rescue them all." Without pausing, the young girl tossed another starfish into the waves and answered, "It made a difference to that one."

2015 SHS Nominating Committee

Chair, Jonathan Weiss
 Andrea Appel
 Lisa Eizen
 Walter Ferst
 Fran Gallun
 Staci Schwartz

Adult Education

Check Out These Interesting Spring Courses!

Marc Schwartz

In addition to our year-long offerings including Nuts & Bolts, Nosh & Schmooze, and Torah Study with Rabbi Winokur; Bavli & Bagels with Rafi Licht; and Shalosh Regalim with Rabbi Berman, there are several new spring courses you might find interesting!

An Introduction to the Book of Psalms

They are the oldest form of devotional literature in our tradition, yet most of us know so little about them. The Psalms have been an inspiration to Jews, Christians – indeed all humans – for at least 2500 years. Join Cantor Freedman as he explores the history of the book, the world-view and philosophies that the poems embody, and the ancient, elegant texts. This class will meet on Wednesdays, 7:30-9 PM, on 2/11, 2/25, 3/18, and 3/25. You are invited to come to all, some, or one of the sessions, as your schedule allows.

9 Adar: Jewish Day of (De)Constructive Conflict

Join Birgit Klein on Tuesday, March 3 (Adar 13), 7—8:30 PM, for a discussion of Jewish texts and values and learn how they can help us to conduct our conflicts constructively.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, on the 9th of Adar, the constructive dispute between the two leading Jewish schools of learning, Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai, turned into a violent fight, causing the death of many. Today 9 Adar—the Jewish Day of Constructive Conflict—is dedicated to the study of Jewish traditions of beneficial disagreement known as “disputes for the sake of Heaven” (Mah_loket L’shem Shamayim).

Nathan Discusses Heschel’s *The Sabbath*

Join Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar for a stimulating discussion of Abraham Joshua Heschel’s short work, *The Sabbath*. The class will involve discussions of both the book and our own spiritual lives. This class is offered twice: on Sundays, 9:15-11:15 AM, on 3/22, 4/12, and 4/19 and again on Tuesdays, 7-9 PM, on 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/31.

Special Lecture on Thursday, March 12!

Come and hear Dr. Noam Flinker, Associate Professor at the University of Haifa and author of the book, *The Song of Songs in English Renaissance Literature: Kisses of Their Mouths* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2000), speak about the Song of Songs and its influence on Yehuda Amichai. Dr. Flinker has published numerous articles on many aspects of English and American literature and the influence of the biblical world on these cultures.

The Reestablishment of Liberal Judaism in Germany since the 1990s

Join Birgit Klein on Sunday, March 29, 9:15—11:00 AM, for a stimulating discussion about how, after the Shoah, Liberal Judaism wasn’t reestablished in Germany until the 1990s. In the 19th century, German Jews created and shaped Reform and Liberal Judaism. What were and are the obstacles? How does Liberal Judaism reconnect to the German Reform Judaism that existed before the Shoah? In what ways does it differ?

Suddenly, A Knock on the Door

Join Rabbi Winokur and/or Educational Director Sahar Oz for an exciting discussion about the Israeli short story, *Suddenly, A Knock on the Door*, by Etgar Keret. This class is offered on Tuesdays, 7-9 PM, on 4/21, 5/5, 5/12, and 5/19.

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Member
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President's Column

Continued from page 6

1st Vice President David Ladov and Board members Jeremy Newberg and Rafi Licht provided considerable guidance to this committee and took the lead in planning for stakeholder input.

This was a working committee with a wealth of expertise. In addition to Jonathan, Irv, David, Jeremy, Rafi and Betty, the following members provided considerable engagement in this effort: Ric Hayman, Adam Shapiro, Mike Davidson, Harry Oxman, Terry Graboyes, Lisa Eizen, Mitchell Bach, Peter Saligman, Steve Gendler, Mark Steinberger, and Staci Schwartz.

We have much more work ahead of us!

Additional shout outs! Please know that while I can only recognize a few folks each month, there are so very many members of our community, including our clergy and staff, who work hard to create the meaningful and memorable opportunities for all of us at SHS. And it is the engagement of our members that fosters our sense of community.

Our 4th Annual InterNOSHional night was once again a success. Amy Shapiro took the reins and utilized Sign-up Genius, with support from Betty van de Rijn, to coordinate events at 6 host homes. This is no easy feat. Thanks to the generosity and spirit of our hosts, approximately 40 guests, and additional donors, we enjoyed an evening of community, conversation, and fine food! And we even raised some money for the Synagogue. I would like to extend sincere thanks to Alan Casnoff and Walter Ferst, as InterNOSHional Night was their brainchild. I would also like to thank our hosts, Amy and Adam Shapiro, Fran and Jeremy Newberg, Sara and Noah Chrismer, Joanna and Micha Hart, Flora Wolf and Laslow Boyd. My husband Bill and I also hosted a meal at our house.

The Havdalah Pajama Party continues to be an enjoyable and enriching family event. Thanks to Laurel Landau, Susan Eizen, Lisa Eizen, Gloria Parris, Cantor Bob, Sahar Oz, and many parents for planning this wonderful event.

Once again our Adult Introduction to Hebrew Class, taught by Bruce Hirsch, successfully engaged

members to learn to read this ancient language. We thank Bruce for his time, patience, and dedication.

I also want to thank our very own Talmudic Scholar, Rafi Licht, for leading his monthly *Bavli & Bagels: A Monthly Taste of Talmud* classes.

Please note that we have had wonderful additions to our Adult Education offerings provided by Birgit Klein. Here from Germany while attending the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College for advanced studies, Birgit has created three interesting and enriching classes for adult students. Please see the ENews blasts for dates and times..

Our Arts and Culture Initiative is alive and well under the leadership of Board Member Jonathan Feinman. Please read more in the Keshar about upcoming events and contact Jonathan with any ideas for future programs and outings.

This year we have also kicked-off a Young Professional Inreach and Outreach led by Rabbinical Intern Nathan Kamesar and Board Members Deborah Shapiro and Jonathan Freitag. Their events, geared for young adults in their 20s and 30s, are unique and engaging. Please see page 7 for additional details.

Speaking of our Rabbinical Intern, we are thrilled to look forward to an unexpected second year with Nathan, supported jointly by the RRC and SHS. This is truly a mutually beneficial arrangement. We been lucky to be enriched by Nathan's D'var Torahs, but he is becoming increasingly engaged with our Young Adults and Hebrew School teens, and he has been assisting us with our membership outreach.

Speaking about membership, I direct your attention to two articles in the MEI section of the Keshar. One has been submitted by new member Shlomo Cohen, and it describes the benefits of developing a member listserve. The second piece has been submitted by Board Members and Membership Co-chairs Larry Spector and Steve Greenberg, and it describes some of their thoughts about inreach

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President's Column

Continued from page 6

and outreach. They are looking for your input to help us better connect with one another and create programming that will engage our members and attract area non-affiliated Jews.

By the way, if you live in a vertical residential building and would like to host a salon with the Rabbi for your neighbors and friends, please reach out to Steve Greenberg.

I hope to see you at our upcoming Purim events, Passover Seder, Shabbat Services, classes, "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™", Arts and Culture outings, and strolling in the neighborhood. Remember, spring is around the corner.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the support that many of our congregants have shown to members in their homes of mourning. Rabbi Winokur tells a special story during these times, one that he hopes will endure well beyond his years. This story speaks to searching for God and finding God in community. I do feel that SHS is a holy community, Kehillah K'doshah. Please continue to do Godly work, supporting one another at Shiva minyanim and at Tuesday morning Minyan at SHS. If you would like to assist in other ways with the needs of our members, please reach out to Julie Wilson, Chairperson of God's Unfinished Business.



Young Adult Education

Two Sides To Law: How The First Amendment Approaches Religion & How Judaism Approaches Secular Law

Deborah Shapiro

Join Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar on **Sunday, March 8, 2:30–4 PM**, at La Citadelle (1600 Pine Street), for a discussion entitled, *Two Sides To Law: How The First Amendment Approaches Religion and How Judaism Approaches Secular Law*.

Geared for young adults in their 20s and 30s, this discussion will examine American treatment of religion in the public sphere with a particular focus on the Supreme Court's treatment of the First Amendment. We'll consider questions related to prayer in schools, public funding of faith-based initiatives, recent controversies around funding contraception in the health care law, and a range of other controversial topics. We will also briefly examine traditional Jewish practice and consider whether or not it is a mitzvah (commandment) for Jews to follow secular law.

Economic Inequality: Exploring a 20th Century History of How it Developed Alongside Jewish Spiritual Treatment of the Subject

Then, join Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar again on **Sunday, April 26, 2:30–4 PM** (Location TBD) for a discussion entitled, *Economic Inequality: Exploring a 20th Century history of how it developed alongside Jewish spiritual treatment of the subject*.

Geared for young adults in their 20s and 30s, we will examine why public policy issues inevitably involve conversations about the extent to which our faith, our religion, and our peoplehood inform our policy choices. We will explore this question, within the framework of taking a particular look at economic inequality and a recent history of how it developed, alongside Jewish texts related to institutions set up to combat poverty and inequality.



Ann Spak Thal School SPRING-ing Into New School Adventures

Sahar Oz

From Purim to Passover, these next two months include a change of season, a variety of festive food, and a lot of learning both in and out of the classroom. We begin with the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 1, from 11 AM until 1 PM, followed three days later with the culmination of our Purim celebration for all ages on Wednesday, March 4.

The Mini-Megillah for Playschool and Sunday School age children begins at 5 PM, followed by this year's Purim Cantata, "Megillah Around the Clock," at 6 PM. in the Sanctuary. A scotch tasting will take place downstairs in the social hall at 6:45 PM, with the Megillah reading upstairs in the sanctuary at 7:15 PM. Come in costume, and join us for a fun evening of adventure, songs, treats, and a lot of laughter!

On Sunday, March 8, everyone in grades 3–11 is taking a journey to Jerusalem via the Franklin Institute's Tuttleman Imax Theater. We are going to see the acclaimed National Geographic film, *Jerusalem*, which features unprecedented big-screen access to some of the city's holiest sites for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Our bus will leave the synagogue at 10:20 AM sharp, and we will return at 12:25 PM for a school-wide discussion about the film. The total cost per student for discounted film tickets and bus transportation is \$10. Please send payment by March 5.

Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 AM when Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) students will help to lead Shabbat services. This fun family service will be filled with music and followed by a delicious lunch. Please RSVP to Betty via e-mail—bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org—by March 12 and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

On Sunday, March 15, and Sunday, April 12, our Hebrew High teens in grades 8–11 will get to

"Nosh with Nathan" at local cafes, as Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar leads them in Jewish learning and "hot topics" discussions particularly relevant to them as teenagers. We're excited for this new initiative!

Also on the Hebrew High horizon, we're proud to establish a tradition with our second annual Panim el Panim delegation of Hebrew High students. They will represent our school and synagogue at this acclaimed national seminar in Washington, DC, from March 29-31.

Panim el Panim (Hebrew for "Face to Face") brings hundreds of Jewish teenagers from across the U.S. literally face to face with some of the most pressing domestic and foreign policy issues of the day, from homelessness and education to immigration and national security. The seminar culminates with a visit to Capitol Hill, where our students will meet with a member of Congress and lobby on the issues most important to them.

There will be no classes on Sunday and Tuesday, April 5 and 7, due to our Passover break. Classes for all grades resume on Sunday, April 12, and we will have a brief memorial observance on Tuesday, April 14 for Yom Hashoah (Remembrance Day for the Holocaust and Heroism). On Sunday, April 19, we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) with delicious Middle Eastern treats for all grades. That celebration for grades 3-11 will be preceded by a brief observance of Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism).

Our faculty and I wish you a happy Pesah_h rich in meaning, flavor, and the joy of freedom! Hag Sameah!

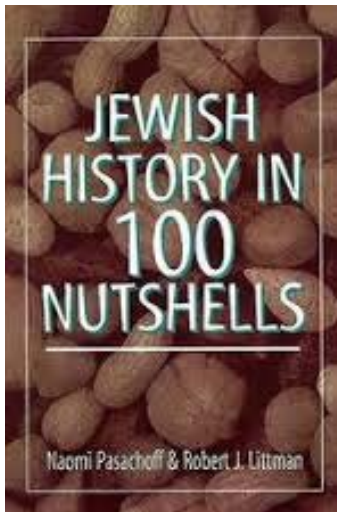


Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

The Balfour Declaration

Larry Spector

Decades before he became the first president of the state of Israel, Chaim Weitzman worked at Manchester University on a chemical process that was crucial for producing munitions. He was brought to London as a chemical adviser to help the British develop weapons for World War I. Weitzman's work gave him the respect of Prime Minister David Lloyd George who became sympathetic to Zionism and instrumental in issuing the Balfour Declaration of November 1917. That document provided the diplomatic groundwork that led to a century of conflict between Jews and Arabs. Check out this history in a nutshell from the book entitled, *Jewish History in 100 Nutshells*, (Naomi Pasachoff and Robert Littman) on the SHS website. Click on the March/April link under "Nutshell Excerpts."

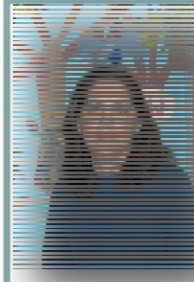


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Playschool

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Gloria Parris



Applications are available for the September 2015–May 2016 school year. Our preschool offers outstanding classes for children who are 2 and 3 years old by September 1. In addition, the Playschool has a fantastic Pre-Kindergarten program for 4- and 5-year-olds that focuses on preparing our students for entering Kindergarten.

There are two classes for 2-year-old children. One class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the other class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class hours are 8:30 AM– 11:30 AM with an option to stay for lunch until 12:30 PM. The children participate in free playtime, circle time activities, story, snack, creating arts and crafts projects, holiday celebrations, indoor and outdoor tricycle riding, and Shabbat.

Three-year-old children may be enrolled for two, three, four, or five mornings each week. The hours for this class are 8:30 AM–12:30 PM. The age-appropriate curriculum focuses on play, socialization skills, learning the alphabet and numbers, listening to stories, art creativity, yoga, outdoor play, holiday practices, and celebrating Shabbat each week. This class uses the bright and welcoming Social Hall for their classroom which allows for a larger class size and additional teaching staff. Each day, the boys and girls bring in a home-packed dairy lunch.

The Pre-Kindergarten Class is extending their class day in the upcoming school year. The children will now be attending the class Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM–2 PM. This will allow more time to spend on academics and arts. Reading readiness skills, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, community living, science, art, Jewish holidays and themes, and Shabbat are all included in the Pre-K program. The children in this class go on field trips and they participate in a drama class each week.

The Playschool is a parent cooperative preschool where parents are scheduled to assist in our classrooms.

Continued on page 14

March Birthdays

Theodore Danoff
 Libby Rosof
 Sadie Margolin
 Lily Newman
 Raphael Englander
 Mayah Gold
 Linda Rosenstein
 Justin Backal-Balik
 Sloan Uygur Petersohn
 Amy Finkel
 Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
 Diane Siegel Danoff
 Alan Casnoff
 Jack Epstein
 Marjorie S. Goldstein
 Rachel Ladenson
 Lysander Michaels-Koenig
 Richard Braemer
 Jonah Cohen
 Ronald Krasnick
 Raphael Licht
 Charlotte Rotter
 Amy Shapiro
 Jeremy Newberg
 Anita Stein
 Dinah Lovitch
 Eloise Wilson
 Charlotte Coran
 Margot Englander
 Jacqueline Goldfinger
 Noah Herman
 Staci Schwartz
 Benjamin Kauderwood
 Odilia Kirshenbaum
 Alan Mittelman
 Amalya Wolf Weiss
 Jessica Balderston
 Susan Berman
 Nancy Moses
 Lilah Whitesell
 Sophie Coran
 Sally Gendler
 Eleanor Oxman
 Risa Stolker
 Rita Bernstein
 Nina Datlof
 Carole LeFaivre-Rochester
 Finley Little
 Louis Golding
 Stephanie Wolson

April Birthdays

Richard Summers
 Olivia Coran
 Susan Leshnoff
 Leah Jordan
 Alan Casper
 Sheryl Glassman

Brian Jerusik
 Robert Blacksberg
 Natalie Lesser
 Alan Ominsky
 Barbara Rottenberg
 Greyson Sobel
 Benjamin Berman
 Zachary Downes
 Isaac Freedman
 Evelyn Segal
 Lana Noel
 Stella Wolson
 Jessica Downes



William Goldberg
 Tobey Dichter
 Brian Englander
 Kathy Bernsten
 Stephen Brown
 Hannah Davidson
 Meredith Buse
 Ella Gutstadt
 Mary Fish
 Ruth Greenberg
 Adina Zalesne Siff
 Paul Sobel
 Bruce Hirsch
 Derek Jordan
 Iris Levine
 Isabella Sobel
 Mona Sutnick
 Tess Reed
 Anna Whitesell
 Richard Balderston
 David Miller
 Esme Oxman
 Deborah Shapiro
 Scott Siff
 Thomas Borawski
 Jessica Mono
 Gewndolyn Roth
 Rafael Winokur
 Beverly Michaels
 Cristina Dorona Fey
 Carl Levitsky
 Murray Dubin

March Anniversaries

Jeffrey Bladen & Margot Palley
 Benjamin Berman & Suzanne Fierston
 Scot & Marcie Ziskind
 Michael Yudell & Jacqueline Rick
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
 Judith & Tony Lalli
 Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
 Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

**April Anniversaries**

Ian Goldwasser & Leigh Superfine
 Carl & Roberta Dranoff
 Paul & Susan Jaffe
 Moshe & Orah Mahlab
 Joshua & Stephanie Wolson
 Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 Ian & Jessica Downes

What is the Kiddush or Shabbat Dinner?

Customarily at the end of Shabbat morning and holiday services, the SHS community joins together to bless the wine (make "Kiddush") and the bread (make "Motzi"), and enjoy good food and company! This is what we call "the Kiddush."

Similarly, at the conclusion of Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat, we gather for Oneg or Shabbat dinner, where we bless the wine & bread and share light refreshments or dinner. Sponsoring this weekly community event is a wonderful way to celebrate a *simha* or joy, mark a special moment in one's life, honor someone, or commemorate a Yahrzeit. Sponsoring a *Kiddush or Shabbat dinner* helps the community to get to know you and share important moments in your life. It is also a way to say thank you to your community.

Please call the SHS office at 215.922.6590 or email us at office@societyhillsynagogue for more information.



Friends,

When visiting the Synagogue during the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM, please enter at the Spruce Street doors. For security reasons, members and non-members must check in at the synagogue office to state the purpose of their visit (appointment with clergy or staff member). Many of you may not know, that visitors may only enter the building after 3 PM, when the Playschool students have been dismissed. We take this precaution for the safety and welfare of our children in the building.

Playschool families should enter the building through the Lawrence Court doors, and all other visitors should enter through the Spruce Street doors.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Betty van de Rijn

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

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FAX (215) 955-8509

Community News

Mazel Tov to

Debra & Bill Stewart on the birth of their grandson, Julian Morton.

Condolences to

Sandra Lazovitz and Family on the death of her grandfather, Robert Lazovitz.

Jim, Andrew, and Elizabeth Becker on the death of Jim's wife and Andrew and Elizabeth's mother, Joan Markman.

Stanley Levy and Family on the death of his wife, Martha Levy.

Joan Roller and Family on the death of her father, Roy Reider.

Phyllis Denbo and Family on the death of her mother, Sylvia Ruttenberg.

Leah Jordan and Risa Stolker and Families on the death of their father, Leonard Stolker.

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose... All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

- Helen Keller

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General Fund**In Appreciation of****SHS**

Johanna Markind
Michael & Margaret Meyer
Bonny Flanagan

In Honor of**Walter Ferst's Birthday**

Merle Jaffe & Greg Weidler

Nate Farbman's 75th Birthday

Barbara Spector
Herbert Jacobson & Helene Ludwin
Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick, Marriage of Dan & Christiana

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester
Jerry & Joan Roller

Jay & Phyllis Denbo's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Judith Wertheim

Jay & Phyllis Denbo's Daughter's Wedding

Judith Wertheim
Phyllis Snyder

Bill & Debra Stewart, Birth of their grandson, Julian Morton

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Linda Joy Goldner's Birthday

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

In Memory of**Michelle Goldberg Levin, Mother of Jay Levin**

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Joan Markman

Esther Halpern
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester
Marc Falkowitz

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Marleen Baron
Mark & Susan Novack
Robert & Lynn Benjamin
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Jay Meadway & Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway
Mabel Capolongo
The Erfer Family
Carl & Caryn Levitsky
Marilyn Reader

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Carl & Caryn Levitsky

Martha Levy

Steve Bergstein & Nanci Goldman

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Natalie Smith, Sister of Alexis Berg Marmar**

Joel Marmar & Alexis Berg Marmar

Belle Mandell Fodor, Mother of Alexis Berg Marmar

Joel Marmar & Alexis Berg Marmar

Adam Levy

Joseph & Dorene Rosenthal

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Philip Rosen, Father of David Rosen

David & Cheryle Rosen

Len Levin

David & Cheryle Rosen

Louis Blender, Father of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz

Annual Giving Fund**In Honor of****Jay & Phyllis Denbo's 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Barbara Spector

Jay & Phyllis Denbo's on the marriage of their daughter

Barbara Spector

In Memory of**Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller**

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Mark Zimmerman, Father of Emily Zimmerman**

Jay Wussow & Emily Zimmerman

Restoration Fund**In Memory of****Martha Levy**

Stanley & Judith Woloff
Bill & Susan Schwartz

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

Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund**In Memory of****Joan Markman**

Merle Salkin

Effy Oz Memorial Fund**In Memory of****Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo**

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Social Action Fund**In Honor of****Jay and Phyllis Denbo's 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Sally Poulshock
 Judy & Tony Lalli
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Susan Levering
 Holman & Gail Massey
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
 Dan & Dana Feinberg and Family
 Harry & Eleanor Oxman
 Lee & Elaine Dushoff

Nate Farbman's Birthday

Judy & Tony Lalli
 Stephen & Susan Lesnoff

In Memory of**Joan Markman**

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Babara Spector

POWER**In Honor of****Jay & Phyllis Denbo's 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Debbie Stewart

Jay & Phyllis Denbo's Marriage of their daughter

Debbie Stewart

Cantor Discretionary Fund**In Appreciation of****Cantor Bob Freedman**

The Family of Leonard Stalker

In Honor of**Shabbat Dinner Musical Service**

Jay & Phyllis Denbo

Rabbi Discretionary Fund**In Appreciation of****Rabbi's Torah Study Class**

Rabbi Valerie Joseph

In Honor of**Jay & Phyllis Denbo's 50th Wedding Anniversary****Karen Kaufman's 60th Birthday**

Ivy Silver

Nathan Farbman's 75th Birthday

Iris Levine

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Isadore Schertz, Grandfather of Pelley Brown**

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Rose Schertz, Grandmother of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Col. Milton Rosen, Father of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Pauline Schertz Rosen, Mother of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Tillie Meyer, Mother of Harold Meyer

Harold Meyer

Beatrice Chernock, Mother of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Clarence Lovitch, Father of Dinah Lovitch

Fred & Dinah Lovitch

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn

Herbert Cohn

Lillian Dictor, Mother-in-Law of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Kiddush Fund**In Memory of****Joan Markman, Wife of Jim Becker**

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Yahrzeit of**Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine**

Iris Levine

You can make a donation for any occasion, be it joyful or sad, for someone you care about. Just make a contribution for a minimum of \$10 to the fund of your choice. Please be understanding of human errors. If you do not see your donation listed, it will be listed in the next Keshet issue.

Playschool Column

Continued from page 9

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.

The Playschool also offers After School Arts from 12:30 PM–3 PM. Each afternoon presents an exciting theme. Cooking, science, art, movement, and music are our weekly activities. In addition to these themes, After School Arts offers free play-time, story, snack, and indoor or outdoor tricycle riding. Children who are not current students in the morning Playschool are welcome to be enrolled in After School Arts.

The Playschool is known for its wonderful “first school experience” for all children. If you are looking for a warm and nurturing preschool for your child, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or call 215.922.6590, ext. 28, to receive more information about our classes. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment to visit the Playschool classrooms to find out what the children are learning and to see how much fun they are having. Applications for the upcoming school year can be downloaded from the SHS website.

March will bring Purim festivities to the Playschool. In our classrooms, kings, queens, groggers, hamantaschen, and Haman arts and crafts projects will be uniquely created by the children. They will learn about Purim by listening to stories and singing songs to mark this fun-filled holiday. On Thursday, March 5, the children in the Pre-K Class and the 3 – 4-year-old class will celebrate Purim with parades and family luncheons. On Friday, March 6, the children in the 2-year-old Puppy Class will celebrate with their parade and luncheon. The boys and girls will dress in costumes that are traditional to Purim or they may dress in a costume of their choice. Families are invited to attend to hear the children sing the Purim songs that they have learned. Following each class performance, the children and their guests will have lunch together.

Our Purim celebrations are always a highlight of Playschool programming for the children and their families.

On Tuesday, March 17, the 3 – 4-year-old class will be taking their third trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Museum Looks and Picture Books lesson. This program introduces the museum and art concepts to preschool-aged children. The theme of the museum tour will be Imagination Worlds.

On Tuesday, March 24, the children in the Pre-K Class will visit Bartram’s Garden to have a lesson on Bartram’s Honeybees and to learn why bees are important in the garden.

It is not too early to begin thinking about summer as the applications for the Playschool Summer Camp will be available soon. Summer camp offers a wonderful way for children, ages 2 – 4 years old, to spend their summer mornings. The camp program will begin on Monday, June 1 and extend for eight weeks through Thursday, July 23. Children participate in indoor and outdoor play, themed arts and crafts projects, circle time, storytelling, tricycle riding, creative movement, camp songs, and water fun in wading pools. Summer camp is in session Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM with a variety of enrollment options. Children must be 2 years old by June 1 to be enrolled.

Please contact the Playschool office for more information about any of our classes and to receive the Summer Camp application and/or the Playschool 2015-2016 application.



POWER Choir Concert

Harry Oxman

On Sunday, March 22, POWER will hold the Second Annual Interfaith Music Celebration entitled "Voices of Power" from 4 – 6 PM, at St. Malachy Catholic Church located at 1429 North 11th Street in Philadelphia. This event will bring together hundreds of POWER volunteers and members of the public to celebrate the organization's success in striving for fair and equitable school funding, living wages, and racial justice throughout the Philadelphia community. The monies raised from this event will be utilized to support continued efforts during 2015.

Many SHS members will remember the fundraising concert held last year at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue at which Cantor Freedman, Judd Aaron, Josh Nadel, and Joseph Oxman performed before a crowd in excess of 400 people. Our fundraising efforts for last year's event were highly productive, and our congregation was recognized as one of the leading fundraising members of POWER. While our congregants will not be performing this year, I urge each and every SHS congregant to attend, to sponsor the event, or to place an ad in the event program. Suggested ticket donations are \$10. Program ad prices range from as little as \$30 for a quarter page to \$100 for a full page. Individual sponsorships are available for either \$250 or \$500.

In the past year, POWER members have successfully contributed toward the goal of increasing the minimum wage for employees of contractors and subcontractors working under contract with the City of Philadelphia. With regard to the educational initiative, our members helped to elect a governor who appears fully committed to the endorsement of a full and equitable funding formula that is adequately funded with state-raised revenue. These accomplishments are cause for some celebration; however, there is much more to be done. Your financial support of POWER can begin or continue with a purchase of tickets, a sponsorship, or a program ad for the March 22 concert.

Please contact me at 215.574.9645 (home) or 215.665.9999 (office) or hjoxman@comcast.net for further information about tickets, sponsorships, and advertisements.



Would You Like to Host a Visitor During the Papal Visit?

Betty van de Rijn

As you know, Pope Francis will be visiting Philadelphia for the first time on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27. The full details of the Papal Visit have not yet been confirmed, but we do know that he will be attending the World Meeting of Families.

From the website worldmeeting2015.org:

"Held every three years and sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families is the world's largest Catholic gathering of families. Each World Meeting of Families has a theme that energizes and enlivens the event while adding great depth of meaning to our understanding of families. The theme of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive," emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families on our society."

About 40,000 pilgrim families with children and groups of youth from the U.S. and all over the world are expected to attend this meeting. With this many visitors to our city, you can imagine that hotels will be packed! Executive Directors and clergy of religious institutions have been contacted to see if visitors can be accommodated in their spaces or in the homes of their congregants. The majority of pilgrims will arrive on Friday night, September 25, and they will depart the morning of Tuesday, September 29.

Rabbi Winokur has written a letter to Archbishop Chaput inviting the Pope to our September TGShabbat service. Wouldn't that be amazing if he joined us? We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, if you would like to open your home to visitor(s) to our city, please fill out the World Meeting of Families host form on our website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org.

Membership Engagement Initiative

1. Membership Outreach & Inreach- Please Share Your Thoughts

Larry Spector

As we continue our efforts to increase membership we ask: What are the reasons someone would want to join SHS? The obvious answer is to have a place for worship. But for many Jews who feel that their ethnic identity is just as, or more important, than how often they attend services, SHS must also provide cultural, intellectual, and social programs to fulfill those interests. We already offer a great deal of activities for a synagogue of our size: Adult Education classes about Bible, Torah, Talmud, Jewish literature and history; Nosh and Schmooze sessions that focus on a range of topics from elections in Israel to the effectiveness of the American military; and we even have Scotch tasting sessions for those who are so inclined.

But these questions remain: Are these activities enough to attract prospective members who may not be interested in attending services other than on the High Holy Days? Are they enough for people who find routine Shabbat services boring? Are they enough to grab the attention of people who have other interests that seem to take priority over coming to a synagogue?

These are the questions we discuss at Board meetings. How can we enhance our programming to better appeal to prospective members and generate more participation within our existing membership? Perhaps services could occasionally be shorter to make time for a 15-minute segment unrelated to the liturgy that draws on the wealth of experience and talent within our congregation. Someone could share information about a trip to a place related to our Jewish experience, about something that happened as a result of being Jewish, about personal involvement in a current or historical event, or about something of interest in his or her own job. Perhaps we could try to bring in more outside speakers for Lunch and Learn discussions. Perhaps we can invite our own wealth of interesting and talented members to offer presentations and workshops or lead book or travel related discussions. Perhaps we can organize more group outings to restaurants or area events. Any of these activities could help us get to know one another better, create a greater sense of SHS as a community, and help our new membership outreach efforts.

We would welcome your reaction to these ideas. Do you know of anyone who might want to work part-time as a Programming Director for SHS? Would you be willing to become involved in a programming effort as a volunteer? Would you like to present or lead a discussion or a workshop for our community? Do you have any ideas for a presentation or discussion, either during a service or as a separate event, which could be added to our calendar? If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," please contact me at lspector@lspector.com, Steve Greenberg at steve@uniquelearning.org, or Nathan Kamesar at kamesar@gmail.com so that one of us can get back to you and hear what you have to say.

2. Guess What's Coming Soon?

Bonny Hohenberger

Save the dates! Our next "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas (GWCTS)?™" event is scheduled for Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16. Our last GWCTS event occurred back in November, and over 100 participants had the opportunity to share meals as they created new friendships.

How does it work? On Friday, May 15, Kabbalat services at the Synagogue are canceled so that members can attend Shabbat dinners at members' homes. Other members will host Shabbat luncheons after services on Saturday, May 16, and a third group of members will host dinners and Havdalah services in their homes on Saturday night.

Continued on next page

Members can choose to be either hosts or guests and the meals are arranged to best accommodate individual and family participants (however, a request has been made for more multi-generational groupings). As a host, you can decide if your meal will be formal or informal, sit-down or buffet, or potluck or semi-potluck. In November, one group decided to arrange a progressive dinner where the main meal was in one home and dessert was in another.

Hosts receive tote bags that contain Shabbas prayer and song booklets and “conversation starter” cards (although many people reported that the conversation during past meals flowed so freely that they never had to use them).

It's not too early to sign up! A relatively new member, Doris Cohen, will be working with Debbie Stewart and myself to plan this event. If you would like to participate, please email us ASAP. Please indicate your wishes as follows:

- 1) Would you like to be a host or a guest?
- 2) Would you like to participate on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, or Saturday night (Havdalah)
- 3) Would you prefer to be part of a homogeneous or heterogeneous age group?
- 4) Would you like to be in a group that includes children?
- 5) Do you have any restrictions that might influence what or where you would dine (dietary, allergies, mobility, geographic)?
- 6) Do you have suggestions to make this event even MORE fun?

Wouldn't it be great if our entire congregation participated? We look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me at bjh711@gmail.com, Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com, and Doris Cohen at doriscohen9@gmail.com. Please copy all of us in your emails. See photos from GWCTS on page 22.

3. Enhancing Efforts to Strengthen Our Community With a Listserve

Shlomo Cohen

Several weeks ago, many SHS members participated in the march and rally commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King. Unfortunately, we did not participate *together*, although purely by chance, some of us did bump into one another at the rally. How much more might each of us enjoyed the rally had we known that other SHS members were going?

Before joining SHS, Doris and I were members of Congregation Adat Shalom, a community of more than 500 families outside of DC. Adat Shalom had a very active listserve that allowed many synagogue members to organize community and congregational events. In addition, discussions on the listserve were joined and followed by many who had interest. Many Divrei Torah were posted to the listserve and interesting discussions ensued on and off the list. Members who had sudden and unexpected needs could ask for and receive help relatively quickly.

A congregational listserve, open to any member of SHS who wishes to be included, could greatly help us to organize ourselves to participate in community events, congregational events, and events of a smaller scope which might involve groups of us who share particular interests. A listserve would also be beneficial to individual members who may need help in a particular situation or who want to invite SHS members to particular activities. Some sample listserve postings could be:

“I have a doctor's appointment at such and such a place on (day and time). My car is in the shop. If anybody is heading in that direction at that time, can I hitch a ride? Please respond to me off list by (date) at (email address).”

Continued on next page

"I am driving to DC on (day, date, time). If anybody wants a lift to DC at that time, it could be fun to travel together. Please respond to me off list at (email address)."

"I have two tickets to the Arden tonight and can't use them. If you can use them, please email me at (email address). First come, first served."

"Does anyone have a mixer I can borrow? If so, please respond quickly to (give email address)."

"Next Saturday night (date and time), following Havdalah), we're having a good old fashioned evening of folk singing (a hootenanny) at (address). Several members are bringing their guitars. Join us and bring your instrument, your voice, and your song sheets. We'll provide some snacky things. RSVP to (email address)."

"Anyone know of a good plumber?"

"My son/daughter (name, age, experience) is available for babysitting. (S)he is reliable and responsible. You can reach him/her at (email, phone)."

"Does anybody have a recipe for a spicy gazpacho soup? If so, please send it to (email address)."

As you can imagine, setting up and maintaining a listserve will take time and effort. An administrator would have to establish rules regarding listserve etiquette and admissible content. For example, we might set limitations on potentially divisive issues such as politics and matters of religious practice or preference, etc.

If there is sufficient desire to establish a congregational listserve, we will need a computer savvy person who is willing to devote time and energy to getting it off the ground. I do not have the skills or experience to do this, but I am willing to help anyone who wishes to take the lead on this project.

If you are interested in establishing an SHS listserve, please contact me at shlomocohen2604@gmail.com.

4. InterNOSHional Night: Our Fourth Year and Still a Hit!

Debra Stewart

Originally conceived by Alan Casnoff and Walter Ferst, InterNOSHional Night, a variation of the former Round Robin dinner, continues to be a hit among SHS members. This special event allows participants to sample great cuisines and enjoy conversations with members in host homes. Until the date approaches, guests do not know where they are going; they select their host's home by the featured cuisine. It is a night for meeting new people, getting to know others better, and raising funds to support our "Jewel of a Shul."

Amy Shapiro took the reins this year and applied her marketing and technology skills to solicit volunteer hosts and streamline the reservation process. This year, joining my husband, Bill, and I, our other generous and creative hosts included: Amy and Adam Shapiro, Fran and Jeremy Newberg; Joanna and Micha Hart, Flora Wolf and Laslow Boyd, Sara and Noah Chrismer.

Thanks to all those who generated this concept, worked to coordinate this event, and participated as hosts, guests, and contributors. This is a winning wintertime event. We also got to meet some members who have recently joined SHS, which was delightful.

Here are a few comments from some of this year's guests:

Continued on next page

"Thank you for hosting such a delicious dining experience. The evening was full of fabulous food and wine plus terrific conversation. I hope you both felt like you were able to enjoy the evening as much as we did. You really put so much time and energy into creating your menu. We left with quite full bellies and hope you will share the recipes!"

"Hi Amy, Thanks for all of your work to coordinate this event. Our hosts outdid themselves in creating a true international cuisine dining experience! Everything was delicious and authentic. They were gracious hosts and we loved being with our synagogue friends during an evening of good food and discussion."

Here is a recipe from one of our hosts:

Tarte Flambée (Alsatian Bacon* and Onion Tart)

*Please note: we substituted smoked salmon for the bacon

Credit: Todd Coleman

Makes 3 large tartes

INGREDIENTS

½ cup crème fraîche

1 cup fromage blanc

(available at [Murray's Cheese](#)) or cream cheese at room temperature

⅛ tsp. nutmeg, freshly grated

1 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste

Freshly ground white pepper, to taste

1¾ cups flour, plus more for dusting

1 tsp. baking powder

3 tbsp. olive oil

2 egg yolks

8 strips smoked bacon, finely chopped

1 medium white onion, thinly sliced

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat an oven to 500° with a pizza stone positioned on center rack. Mix crème fraîche, fromage blanc, nutmeg, and salt and white pepper in a bowl. Set aside.

2. Whisk flour, baking powder, and 1 tsp. salt in a bowl; make a well in the center. Whisk oil, yolks, and ½ cup water in another bowl, and pour into well. Using a fork, stir until a loose dough forms. Turn out onto lightly floured surface; knead dough for 1 minute. Divide dough into 3 pieces. Working with 1 piece of dough at a time, roll into a 12" circle, and place on a parchment paper—lined baking sheet. Spread ½ cup cheese mixture over circle, leaving a ½" border around edge. Sprinkle with a little of the bacon and onions. Transfer dough (on parchment paper) to pizza stone. Bake until lightly browned and crispy, 8–10 minutes. Repeat. See photos from InterNOSHional Night on pages 23 and 24.

5. Arts & Culture Initiative

Jonathan Feinman

Join the Arts & Culture Initiative for two interesting events in May. On Monday, May 4, we will go to see the 1812 Productions play *An Evening Without the Catskills: A Brief History of Jewish Humor*. Then on Wednesday, May 13, join us for a trip to the Lower East Side to see the Tenement Museum and visit galleries in New York.

During a one-night only special event last March, 1812 Productions debuted *An Evening Without the Catskills: A Brief History of Jewish Humor*, and the positive response it received was so overwhelming they are bringing it back. Join the group on Monday, May 4, at 7:30 PM, at the Christ Church Neighborhood House (located at 20 N. American Street in Old City) to see this wonderful production. 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.

Continued on next page

Our second offering, in partnership with the Gershman Y, is a trip on Wednesday, May 13, 8 AM–8 PM, to tour the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, visit nearby galleries and artist studios, and enjoy a group lunch. SHS congregant Jeanne Bell will be our point person for this trip. Non-members are welcome to join us. For further information or to register for the trip, please contact Jeanne at jbgolden617@comcast.net.

The fee for this trip is usually \$125 per person, however there is an exclusive SHS member discounted fee of \$115 per person if you use the code: "LowerEast10" when you register. There is a \$6 charge for using a credit card. You can make your reservations online at GershmanY.org or by calling 215.545.4400.

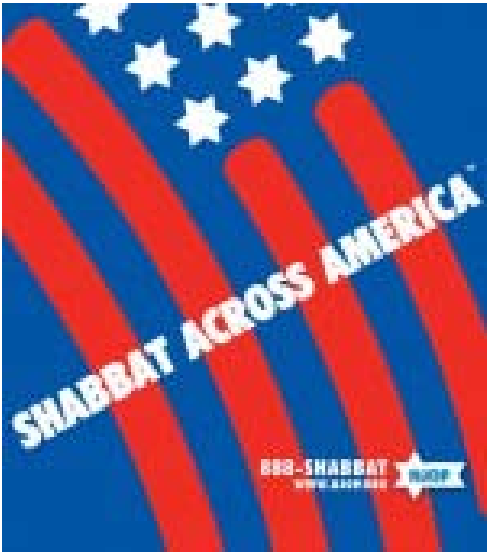
The \$115 includes transportation, lunch, and all admission fees. Buses will pick us up at 8 AM and we will return to the Gershman Y (located at 401 S. Broad Street) at 8 PM. Refreshments will be served on the bus (bagels and coffee in the AM and snacks on the return trip). The tenement tour will include a visit to restored businesses of past residents from different time periods. We will enjoy a Chinese lunch in the neighborhood followed by a group tour of several galleries.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 15 for SHS members. Please make your own reservations directly with the Gershman Y, but please send an email to Jeanne and me as well. We both look forward to hearing from you. I want to thank Jeanne for all of her hard work on this event!

If you hear about any Jewish-themed Arts & Culture events in and around our city that you think would be of interest to other congregants, or if you are an artist or performer who would like to share your talents with our members, please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com. Hag Sameah!



Shabbat Across America Comes to SHS



On **Friday night, March 13**, tens of thousands of Jews across America will come together to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate, and celebrate at the 19th Annual **Shabbat Across America!**

The National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP, www.njop.org) has invited Society Hill Synagogue to partner with them by hosting a communal meal for the Shabbat Across America program! Please join us in this continent-wide initiative to invite the unaffiliated Jews in our area to participate in a “taste of Shabbat.”

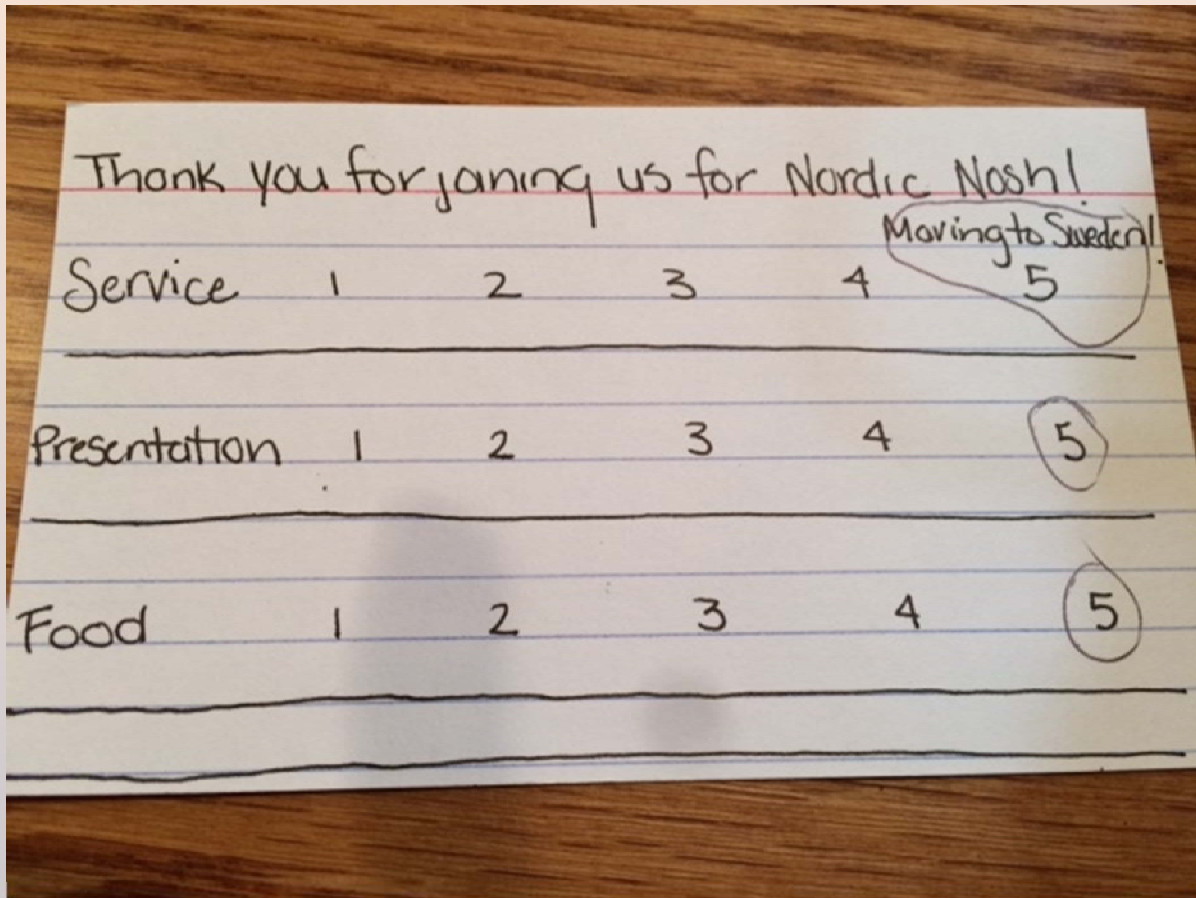
This special Shabbat program will include explanatory services, traditional rituals, delicious meals, lively discussions, and the opportunity for participants to spend the evening with like-minded people, friends, and family. NJOP will advertise this event throughout the region, making this an excellent outreach opportunity for us to introduce the unaffiliated Jewish people in our area to our gem of a shul.

So, mark your calendars and invite your unaffiliated friends, colleagues, and neighbors! If you'd like to make a donation toward the Shabbat Dinner, please contact the SHS Office (office@societyhillsynagogue.org).

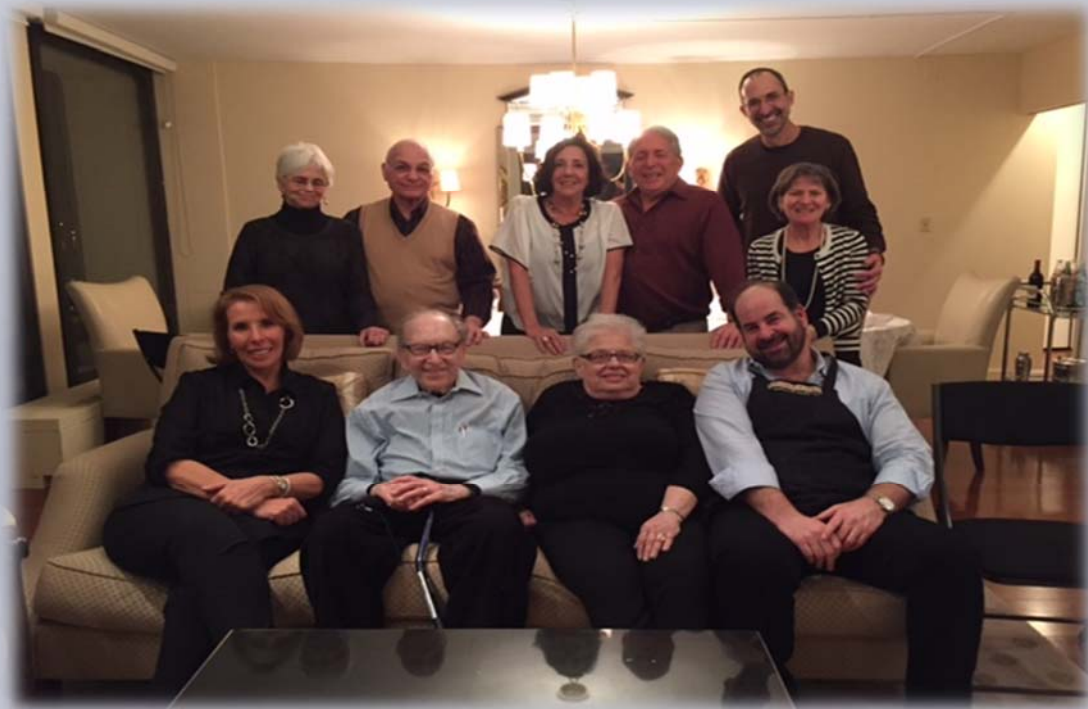
Photos from "GWCTS?"



Photos from InterNOSHional Night



Photos from InterNOSHional Night



Sunday School students explore the "Seven Species" of Israel in their Tu B'Sh'vat play



Hebrew School students rejoice at the Tu B'Sh'vat Seder

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 AM SS/HS 9:15 AM I & Thou with Rabbi 11 AM – 1 PM Purim Carnival	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM 9 Adar Conflict with Birgit Klein 7:30 PM Rabbinical Pearls- Offsite	5 PM Mini-Megillah 6 PM Cantata 6:45 PM Scotch Tasting 7:15 PM Megillah Reading	Playschool Purim Parades	Playschool Purim Parades 6:15 PM Services	Ki Tissa 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bots with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh and Schmooze with Rabbi	7 PM BDM 7 PM Young Professionals Topics on Tap with Nathan - Offsite	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Heshel's The Sabbath with Nathan 7:30 PM Rabbinical Pearls- Offsite		7:30 PM Special Lecture by Dr. Noam Flinker	6:15 PM Shabbat Across America Service	Va-yak hel/Pedudei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study with Rabbi Berman 10:30 AM Bet Class Service & Lunch 11 AM KinderBat
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Heshel's The Sabbath with Nathan	7:30 PM Book of Psalms with Cantor		6:15 PM Service	V-ayikra HaHodesh 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service Landes Baby Naming
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Heshel's The Sabbath with Nathan		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Heshel's The Sabbath with Nathan	7 PM You Don't Look Buddhist with Rabbi 7:30 PM Book of Psalms with Cantor 7:30 PM Ed Comm Meeting		6:15 PM TGIS Shabbat Featuring Tessa Seymour	Tzav Hagodol 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
29	30	31				
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Liberal Judaism with Birgit 11 AM HS 11:15 AM The Sabbath with Nathan 11:30 AM Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent Meeting		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS-Last Day before Spring Break 7 PM Heshel's The Sabbath with Nathan				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Last Day of PS before Spring Break	PS Closed	PS Closed Erev Pesah 1st Seder No Friday Night Services	Pesah 1 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 2nd Seder 6 PM SHS Community Seder
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Pesah 2—Omer 1 Easter Building Closed No Hebrew School	Pesah 3 PS Closed 7 PM ECM	Pesah 4 PS Closed 7:15 AM Minyan No Hebrew School 7 PM AE TBA with Birgit Klein	Pesah 5 PS Closed	Pesah 6 PS Closed	Pesah 7 PS/Office Closed 6:15 PM Services	Pesah 8 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10 AM Service with Yiskor Lunch & Learn—Endowments
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan PS After School Arts Special Guest Eve Friedman 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE TBA with Birgit Klein	7 PM PIC Philadelphia Interfaith Community Meeting	Yom Hashoah	6:15 PM TGI Shabbat featuring Nitzan Haroz Followed by Shabbat Dinner	Sh'mini 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah Service of Mayah Gold
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavlie & Bagesl with Rafi 11:15 AM Heschel's The Sabbath with Nathan		7:15 AM Minyan PS After School Arts Special Guest Eve Friedman 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Suddenly, A Knock on the Door with Rabbi Avi		7 PM Young Professionals- Topics on Tap with Nathan at Drinkers Pub	Yom Haatsmaut 5 PM PS Family Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM Services	Tazri/M'tzora 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
26	27	28	29	30		
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Heschel's The Sabbath with Nathan 2:30 PM Contemporary Jewish Issues 3 PM SHS Jazz Concert		7:15 AM Minyan PS After School Arts Special Guest Eve Friedman 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Funny You Don't Look Buddhist with Rabbi				

NEWSLETTER—MARCH/APRIL 2015 ISSUE

Kesher



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