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Friday, May 29, 6:15 PM

An Evening With Dr. Ruth Calderon

Thursday, June 4

Avi Winokur

On Thursday, June 4, Society Hill Synagogue will have the honor of hosting Dr. Ruth Calderon, Israeli author of *The Market, The Home, The Heart*. Join us for dinner in the Social Hall at 6:30 PM followed by a presentation by our distinguished guest at 7:30 PM.

Dr. Calderon, a member of the last Knesset from the centrist Yesh Atid party, holds a Ph.D. in Talmudic Literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is one of the primary architects of the Israeli Jewish Renaissance.

In 1989, Dr. Calderon founded Elul—the first Israeli, secular, pluralistic, and egalitarian Beit Midrash for men and women in Jerusalem, and in 1996, she co-founded Alma-Home for Hebrew Culture in Tel Aviv; these are two of the founding institutions of the Jewish Renaissance in Israel. Through these institutions, Israelis who were shut out from their traditions through the hegemony of the Orthodox gained access to traditional Jewish texts and traditional Judaism and have become engaged in creative, dynamic, and inspiring ways. The capacity of this Jewish Renaissance movement to revolutionize and revitalize Judaism within Israel has continued to grow and is just beginning to be felt in the Diaspora.

Don't Miss The Philadelphia Jewish Night of Learning

When: Saturday, May 23, 8 PM—Sunday, May 24, 8 AM

Where: The Gershman Y at Broad and Pine

Cost: Suggested donation \$10-25 (students \$5-18)

Register: www.phillyshavuot.com

For more details see page 15



Rabbi's Column

Dr. Ruth Calderon: A Renaissance of Judaism in Israel

Avi Winokur

On the evening of Thursday, June 4, Society Hill Synagogue will host Ruth Calderon, a member of the last Israeli Knesset (parliament) from the centrist Yesh Atid party, the holder of a Ph.D. in Talmud from Jerusalem's Hebrew University, and one of the architects of the Israeli Jewish renaissance. Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM and the lecture will begin at 7:30 PM.

You might be thinking, "Israeli Jewish renaissance? I thought Israel was the Israeli Jewish renaissance." It's not so simple. Let me explain.

While it is true that the creation of Israel was a renaissance for the Jewish people, it is less clear that it was a renaissance for Judaism. In some ways it clearly was and is. In literature and art Israel has spawned spectacular creativity. Yet ironically, when it comes to Jewish tradition, it has lagged behind the Diaspora. In fact, for the most part, Judaism in Israel has been imported from the Diaspora.

Orthodox Judaism is a Diaspora creation (remember that we have two Talmuds, the Jerusalem Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud, and even in Israel the Orthodox follow the Babylonian Talmud). Orthodox Judaism grew up primarily in Europe, and it is the official Judaism of the State of Israel. Furthermore, the religious Jews who came from North Africa and the Middle East brought with them a Judaism that was very much akin to Orthodox Judaism and that still resembles the Judaism from the North African and Middle Eastern Diaspora rather than something new and indigenous to Israel. Like Orthodoxy, the relatively small non-Orthodox Jewish communities are imports—Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel are transplants from the United States, Europe, and South Africa, not indigenous Israeli creations.

Further, a plurality of Israeli Jews are not Orthodox Jews, traditional Middle Eastern Jews, or liberal (Conservative, Reform, etc.) Jews. They are secular, and much of their secularism is rooted in the Diaspora. Certainly, the flowering of literature,

Israeli. But the signature Israeli social expression, the kibbutz, is fading in importance, and it exercises a mere shadow of the influence that it once did. In its place, American-style capitalism and materialism have thrived. Israel has not seeded, grown, or cultivated an alternative to the Judaism it has imported from the Diaspora, until now.

In recent years, there has been a renaissance of Judaism in Israel—an indigenous alternative to Orthodoxy that is not a transplant from the Diaspora; it is not beholden to liberal Diaspora streams of Judaism either. It is utterly new and completely exciting, and Ruth Calderon, our guest, was the founder or cofounder of two of the earliest and most important institutions of this exciting renaissance: Elul, in Jerusalem in 1989, and Alma, in Tel Aviv in 1996. Ruth Calderon exemplified this renaissance in her inaugural speech in the Knesset, in which she chose to teach Talmud (a woman teaching Talmud while ultra-Orthodox Jewish men are in attendance is unheard of). The video of that speech has gone viral and has been translated into English.

But it is not simply that Dr. Calderon exemplifies a new Israeli Jewish renaissance in a way that even some of the most profound writers and thinkers in Israel have not. She also exemplifies what many of the early Zionists of seventy, eighty, and even a hundred years ago dreamed of. These Zionists did not dream about a Jewish state, a military power. They were idealists. Certainly, they dreamed that reuniting Jews with their roots in the Holy Land, the land of Zion, would revitalize the Jewish people as a whole. But they also dreamed that planting Jews in our own soil, our homeland, would revitalize Judaism itself, create an indigenous Judaism that was at once continuous with Jewish tradition (so much a product of the Diaspora) and new—hence the term "renaissance" or "rebirth." Thanks to Ruth Calderon and those who labored alongside her, those dreams are being realized.

It is a signal honor to host Ruth Calderon, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, which is bringing her from Israel to receive an honorary degree at graduation ceremonies and made Ruth available to us at my request.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event.



President's Column

A Year in Review and an Eye Towards the Future

Debra Stewart

During our upcoming Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 20 (lite buffet at 6:30 PM, meeting begins at 7:30 PM), we will recap the many highlights of this past year, discuss where we are headed, and examine some of the challenges we'll face going forward. I am convinced that no challenge is too great for this community; challenges provide opportunities for us to grow stronger together. During the Annual Meeting, we will also thank Board members who have completed their terms of service, nominate new Board members, and honor members who have provided exceptional service to our community. We bestowed our first Exceptional Service Awards at last year's meeting, and we will continue the tradition this year by recognizing five more members from a pool of many worthy candidates.

We are looking forward to celebrating the renewal of Rabbi Winokur's contract, and we are thrilled to have one of the country's "Most Inspiring Rabbis" to guide and motivate us for years to come. Thanks to Debby Freedman and Betty van de Rijn for creating and distributing a press release to a variety of media outlets to announce this recognition. See page 5 for further details.

As my first year as your President draws to a close, I will tell you that it has been my great pleasure to work with such a dedicated, knowledgeable, hard working, and collaborative group of lay and professional leaders in this Synagogue. I am continually heartened by the sense of community we experience in all facets of our congregational programs and services, and I remain impressed by the degree to which members volunteer to serve our community.

One of my goals for the coming year is to continue efforts to facilitate connections and relationships among our members. We will continue to provide organized Synagogue programs and services to empower our members to readily and independently connect around common interests and needs. You may recall that in the March/April Keshet, Shlomo Cohen suggested that we might foster connections through the creation of a Listserve. Alternatively, we may want to consider forming a Google Group. Certainly we would establish a framework and parameters for communications, and joining such groups would be voluntary. Each member would be able to choose categories of information about which they would receive information. Shlomo offered examples of possible postings—including everything from arranging transportation to doctor's appointments, events, or travel destinations, to selling show tickets that you cannot use, to sharing great recipes. You could invite other members to go to the movies, to go out for dinner after Shabbat services, or to attend a particular SHS class or event in which you are interested. My hope is that such a tool would help to integrate new members into our community and enrich the SHS experience for all members, making our "Jewel of a Shul" shine even brighter. By the way, we have Staci Schwartz to thank for this description of SHS!

Judaism is all about tradition, and we may have started yet another one at SHS. Our Second Night Seder was a winner. With over 90 participants of all ages, a wonderful Haggadah, terrific food, beautiful table settings, and our inspiring Rabbi Winokur leading us through the prayers and stories of the Seder—the experience was both enjoyable and meaningful! Barbara Spector, who created and continues to organize our Holiday Meal Initiative, planted the seed for establishing a Seder at the Synagogue on the second night of Pesach. Jonathan Feinman shared the idea with the Board and invited groups of members (which would have been much easier to do with a Google Group in place). As always, Betty van de Rijn identified an excellent, reasonable Kosher caterer, and took care of all of the details to make it happen. See Jonathan's article on page 16 for a further description of the event and quotes from some of the participants. Be sure to mark your calendars for our second annual Second Night Seder next year!

Continued on page 14



Cantor's Column

May Our Rituals Foreshadow a Better World

Bob Freedman

A fascinating theme in Torah commentary is that events in the Torah foreshadow and even direct the subsequent history of the Jewish people. For example, beset by famine in Canaan, Abraham and Sarah took refuge in Egypt (Genesis 12). But God had promised Abraham support. When Abraham doubted God and went to rely on Egypt for help instead, this commentary holds that he caused the later descent of the family of Jacob into Egypt, where they were enslaved for four hundred years.

Here is a more positive example. Abraham was famous for actively inviting strangers into his tent. Even on a hot day he would stand outside his door to welcome passersby. According to our theme, his hospitality doesn't just provide us with an example to follow. It literally enables us to do the same, even when it is not easy and we are reluctant.

This foreshadowing gets put to use in the Passover Seder. The Haggadah urges us to consider that we ourselves came out of Egypt. The simple meaning is that liberation from slavery in Egypt foreshadows the liberation of each generation from its own narrow places. Hasidic thought carries the theme further, claiming that the Exodus makes liberation possible for each person.

It's not an abstract idea. We all encounter things that seem very difficult to do. After talking about the task with others and finding out that it has been done in the past, or after comparing it to something hard that we have done before, we may see that it is possible after all. Knowing that it or something much like it has been done successfully empowers us.

Rituals are expressions of a similar theme. Once they are established, they affect us in a similar way each time we perform them. As each Friday evening service begins, we sing the melody "Shalom Aleikhem," welcoming angels that usher us into Shabbat.

continued

What a sweet thought, that angels gently carry us away from the past six days and from our anxiety about all the work that we left unfinished. A long time ago some unknown rabbi or cantor wrote that song and added it to the Friday-night service, making it possible for us to experience that same release every Friday night. It's like a gate into Shabbat time left open for us.

We think that the acts of the patriarchs and the Exodus from Egypt are exceptional. But surely each of us does one thing, maybe many things, in our lifetimes that foreshadow and perhaps direct the lives of our children and students. Let's hope that our actions foreshadow a better world!

Social Action

Join Us on the First
Tuesday of Every Month at
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.

Avi Winokur Named One of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis

In case you hadn't heard the news, our own Rabbi Winokur was named in the Jewish Daily Forward as one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis." The Forward solicited nominations from congregations nationwide and selected 36 Rabbis as the most inspiring leaders. To see the full list, visit Forward.com.

The Forward cited nominations by seven members of the Synagogue, including Board of Directors member Debby Freedman who wrote:

"Rabbi Avi Winokur has been a leader in many ways. He is warm and welcoming, but also insightful. His combination of intelligence and passion has brought many new and diverse members to our Synagogue. Rabbi Winokur has a son who struggles with very serious health conditions. Watching the grace with which Rabbi Winokur handles this tremendous struggle inspires many members of the congregation to bear their own burdens better—including me. Rabbi Winokur inspires the Hebrew school students with his love of learning and interest in their own spiritual journeys. He spends many hours one-on-one with each B'nai Mitzvah candidate, which makes the experience more meaningful. Because he has made it such a wonderful process, we are seeing adults becoming B'nai Mitzvah; many more have become very engaged in Adult Education. Rabbi Winokur also teaches Adult Education classes and has spread Jewish learning throughout our community—members and non-members flock to his classes. Rabbi Winokur has been a leader in promoting the Synagogue's social justice efforts. Recently, he spoke at rallies in support of school funding and fair wages. In the past five years, I have had breast cancer and my husband died, and Rabbi Winokur was there to support me through it all."

Baby & Me and Young Families Group Two Groups Become One

Joanna Hart

Society Hill Synagogue's Baby & Me and Young Families Groups are merging to bring together all parents, caregivers, and their young children for fun activities while enjoying the support and friendship of our Jewish community!

Unwind after a hectic week and join us at the final TGIShabbat service of the season on Friday, May 29, at 6:15 PM. This family-friendly and upbeat service will include plenty of dancing and clapping. After the short service, join our newly merged group for dinner and a spring craft project in the Social Hall. Come visit with old friends and make some new ones!

Stay tuned for new events in the coming year and enjoy the start to summer!

Please join our "SHS Families" Google Group (email joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com for help) to stay up-to-date on events and share your parenting questions and knowledge! Prospective members, expectant parents, and any caregivers are welcome to join!

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In Case You Missed Mark Steinberger's Lunch & Learn...

During a Lunch & Learn held at the Synagogue on Saturday, April 11, Treasurer Mark Steinberger described tax/investment-smart methods for charitable giving to SHS. He spoke about tax-smart methods for paying annual obligations to the Synagogue (dues, Building Maintenance Fund, and Annual Giving payments) and about the importance of donating to SHS's endowment fund to support the education of future young congregants (several of whom were playing in a corner of the Social Hall at the time of this discussion) in Jewish practice and traditions.

Mark began by reminding the audience that with stock markets close to all-time highs, congregants with such investments (individual stocks or mutual funds) can capture, *tax-free*, some of today's high values by gifting appreciated securities to the Synagogue. Members can call Betty and provide instructions to earmark their contribution for dues not yet billed, Annual Giving of \$X and \$Y for the next two budget years or Building Maintenance Fund payments for a set number of years. An earmarked contribution today against invoices that are not anticipated for 3 (or even 15) months out truly gives the donor full benefit of appreciation in his/her donated investment and removes those shares of stock from the downward portion of cyclical stock price movements.

Mark noted that very few congregants contribute appreciated stock or mutual funds to the Synagogue as payment for Annual Giving or membership fees. He emphasized that any congregant who occasionally sells securities to raise cash for necessary expenses is failing to legally avoid the capital gains tax on any gains realized in those sales. Shares donated to SHS against dues and/or Annual Giving accounts have the capital gains taxes on them automatically forgiven. It should be nearly axiomatic for any congregant who expects to sell shares in the next 12 months in order to raise cash, to first discuss with her or his investment advisor (or accountant) the value of donating appreciated shares to Society Hill Synagogue.

Mark further pointed out that even those congregants who do not sell securities to raise cash can keep more of their existing money by paying

Annual Giving contributions and dues by transferring securities to the Synagogue's account. (Betty and the office staff can e-mail the "wire transfer instructions" that you will need.) With regard to supporting and sustaining the Congregation far into the future via bequests to its Endowment fund, Mark mentioned the following two ideas.

The first idea involves the use of one's IRA to pay a bequest to the Synagogue. That would be nice, period. Thank you. However, if a congregant has an IRA account naming his or her children as the beneficiaries and names Society Hill Synagogue as a legatee under the Will for, say, \$30,000, then this is not tax-smart. The surviving children will pay income taxes as the IRA monies are distributed to them. If the IRA beneficiary designation were changed to "the first \$30,000 to Society Hill Synagogue, and the balance to my children equally," then SHS and the children end up with the same amount and really, the children end up with more by saving income taxes on that \$30,000.

The second idea may be of interest to a congregant who would love to convert an appreciated asset (stocks or valuable objects such as paintings or antiques) into an investment fund that would pay income annually to him or her with nearly no capital gains taxes. This technique involves a special trust (you'll need an attorney for this work) called a CRUT [Charitable Remainder Uni-Trust]. If the appreciated asset is transferred to the CRUT, the trustee can sell the Picasso and re-invest in a diversified portfolio of investment assets with little capital gains tax falling on either the trust or the congregant. The trust—by pre-arrangement—will pay out X% of its annual value to the congregant for as long as he or she lives and then Society Hill Synagogue will receive the balance of the fund after the congregant's death. The congregant can claim a charitable deduction to further reduce their federal income taxes in the year the trust is established.

In summary, congregants can take simple steps to permit the IRS and/or cyclical impersonal stock markets to meet some of the financial obligations to our Synagogue—now and in the future. Mark—as SHS's Treasurer—is available to have conversations about these notions with interested congregants. Just call the office to arrange a chat!



Ann Spak Thal School A Sweet Ending to the School Year

Sahar Oz

The past year seems to have flown by so quickly, with our students expanding their Hebrew skills, exploring Jewish history, and enriching our community with their curiosity, creativity, and compassion. And we still have a few more adventures before our Hebrew School year comes to an end.

On Sunday, May 3, students in grades 6-11 will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia and join other volunteers from the Greater Philadelphia area 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! Parents and teachers can drive to JRA on their own and meet us there at 10 AM. **All parents, students, and teachers who plan to join us on the bus must arrive at the Synagogue by 9 AM!** We will return to the Synagogue by 1 PM.

Our last class-led Shabbat service of the year will feature students in Kitah Gimel (3rd Grade) joining the Cantor on the bimah on Saturday, May 9, at 10:30 AM. This fun Family Service will be followed by a delicious lunch. Please RSVP to Betty via e-mail (bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org) by May 7, and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

On Sunday, May 10, classes for all grades will meet from 9-11 AM so that everyone can celebrate Mother's Day. Following our tradition from last year, our last Sunday of classes will feature delicious sundaes, to end the year on a sweet note. Parents are invited to join us on May 17, at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM for Sunday School and Hebrew School, celebrations respectively, for our "Sundae Sunday!"

School registration forms for 5776 / 2015-2016 will soon be sent to the families of all currently enrolled students; these forms can also be downloaded from our website. **The completed forms with a deposit are due by Monday, July 13.** Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join our exciting journey of Jewish learning and discovery!

The faculty and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Sunday, September 20. Have a wonderful summer!



Hebrew Numbers: 4th Grade students come together in a group of nine to show they know what "teisha" means during a Hebrew numbers game.



Israeli Games: 5th Graders strategize in an Israeli geography game similar to "Go Fish."

Adult Education

The Last Classes of the Season

Marc Schwartz

May 3 & 17, Sundays, 9:15 AM
Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi Winokur

May 3, Sunday, 11:15 AM
Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi Winokur

May 5, 12, & 19, Tuesdays, 7 PM
Suddenly, A Knock on the Door with Rabbi Winokur

May 26, Tuesday, 7 PM
Funny, You Don't Look Buddhist with Rabbi Winokur

Sunday, May 17, 11 AM
Bavli & Bagels with Rafi Licht

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Young Folks Programming Survey

Deborah Shapiro

Judaism can mean many things to many people. For some, it provides an opportunity to engage with the spiritual—to reflect, to pray (daven), to attend services. For others, it provides an opportunity to build community—to meet people, to celebrate holidays, to have good meals together. For still others, it provides an opportunity to learn—to engage with our textual tradition, to study theology, history, and spirituality. For many, Judaism provides some combination of all of these things.

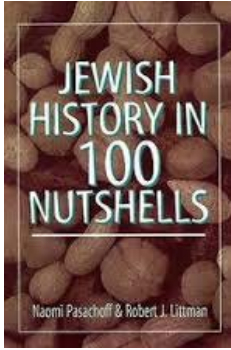
At SHS, we're looking to create a community that is responsive to the many different needs of young professionals, students, and any adults in their 20s and 30s. We invite SHS members, friends, family members, and anyone who is simply looking for a Jewish experience or to be involved with a Jewish community to join our group.

If you are a young adult in this demographic age range, we would love to learn about what you're looking for when it comes to Jewish community. Please take a few moments to complete the survey at <http://bit.ly/1Dp9VVV>. We recognize that we may not always be able to meet everyone's needs all the time, but building community begins with questions and conversation, so we thank you for your input.

To learn more about programming for young adults, contact Nathan Kamesar at kamesar@gmail.com.



Yom Hazikaron: Grades 3-11 students, parents, and faculty listen to as our special guest, Lital shares her story of combat service in the Israel Defense Forces during our Yom Hazikaron observance.



Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

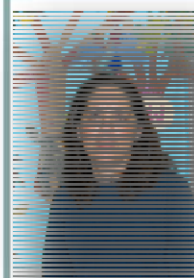
The White Papers
Larry Spector

The “White Papers” issued by Great Britain in the 1920s and 1930s concerning the circumstances under which Jews could emigrate and make Palestine a Jewish homeland progressively made those prospects less likely. Arab riots and strikes, and Britain’s strategic interest in maintaining Arab cooperation with regard to the oil needed to fight World War II caused Britain to all but reverse its position in the 1917 Balfour Declaration that was receptive to Zionism. To see this Nutshell, go to the SHS website, click on the May/June link under “Nutshell Excerpts,” and read how these papers led to the concept of partition that preceded the eventual creation of the State of Israel.

Annual Congregation Meeting
Wednesday, May 20
6:30 PM Lite Buffet
7:30 PM Meeting



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Playschool

Playschool Students Will Graduate on Friday, May 22!

Gloria Parris

Another fantastic school year is drawing to a close in the Playschool. The children are still excited to come to preschool, and it has been wonderful to see them enter their classrooms with smiling faces as they looked forward to interacting with friends and teachers. All of our activities, projects, trips, and special events were chosen with the children in mind. Our teaching staff remains dedicated to making all classroom experiences age-appropriate, creative, and fun.

On Monday, May 4, the children will see a traveling science show from The Franklin Institute called, *Stop That Ball!*

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, May 6, and Thursday, May 7. There will be no classes in session on either of these days. Parents are encouraged to attend these conferences to learn about their child’s progress throughout the school year.

On Tuesday, May 12, the Pre-Kindergarten class will be taking a trip to The Insectarium, where they will learn about a variety of insects through movies and live observation.

Playschool graduation ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 22. Following the graduations, all classes will celebrate with luncheons. We send our best wishes to all of the Pre-K children who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall.

Are you looking for a fabulous summer camp program for your child? The Playschool Summer Camp provides a wonderful way for children aged 2 – 4 years old to enjoy summertime activities such as water play, arts and crafts, music and movement, tricycle riding, storytelling, snack, and a home-packed lunch. **Camp begins on Monday, June 1 and extends through Thursday, July 23.**

Continued on page 11

May Birthdays

Noah Chrismer
 Barbara Einhorn
 Jerome Rosenberg
 Steven Datlof
 Margot Palley
 Liz Abrams-Morley
 Etta Krauss
 Jeremy Landau
 Margie Ferst
 Larry Spector
 Nuriye Uygur
 Sandra Lazovitz
 Linda Glass
 Leslie Heller
 Scarlett Jacoby
 Sara Steinberger
 Carolyn Saligman
 Sidney Jacoby
 Wayne Spilove
 Merrily Williams
 Andrew Becker
 Emma Chrismer
 Shlomo Cohen
 Joan Roller
 Kinney Zalesne
 Rian Berger
 Yelena Michaels-Koenig
 David Oxman
 Rona Buchalter
 Samuel Levin
 Elizabeth Heit
 Lindsay Gorsen
 Rosemarie Weinberg
 Colby Grossman
 Sahar Oz
 Alan Zuckerman
 Julie Wilson
 Jay Meadway

June Birthdays

Carol Weil
 Henry Weil
 Herbert Cohn
 Bonnie Weiner
 Jonathan Feinman
 Jonathan Hunter
 Richard Yaskin
 Lara Goldwert
 Rebecca Hafter
 Nathaniel Stover-Steerman
 Joan Lear
 Boris Pasternak
 Jack Aaron
 Jud Aaron
 Daniel Rottenberg
 Eliana Gilbert-Trachtman
 Michael Coran
 Lilyan Galler
 Andrew Hohns

Rita Roy
 Rose Berman
 Avi Galler
 Catherine Kiefer
 Fred Lovitch
 Adina Goldstein
 Maren Prokup
 Maya Salzman
 Noah Kauderwood
 Jesse Flora
 Clayton Whitesell
 Lois Rosenberg
 Don Kaufman
 William Love
 Geoffrey Michaels
 Michael Davidson
 Jenavieve Kranzel
 Eve Friedman
 Asa Schneeberg
 Paul Jaffe
 Gabriel Cohen
 Benjamin Zack
 Samuel Hamilton
 Marlene Lachman
 Zelda Wolf
 Libby Cone
 Stephen Shiekman

**May Anniversaries**

Zachary & Courtney Meisel
 Alex Botwick & Andrea Lubitz
 Daniel & Dana Feinberg
 Ric & Carmen Hayman
 Abigail Reed & Josh Meyer
 Jonathan & Catherine Prokup

**June Anniversaries**

Brian & Juliet Englander
 Michael & Leslie Hafter
 Michael & Lisa Coran
 Avi & Debra Galler
 Samuel & Joan Lear
 Roberto Pace & Eve Friedman

Community News**Mazel Tov to**

Libby Rosof and Murray Dubin on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Stone Dubin.

Condolences to

Nancy Burd and Family on the death of Nancy's father, Emanuel Burd.

Steve and Peter Eizen and Families on the death of Steve's mother and Peter's grandmother, Mildred Eizen.

Welcome to New Members

Michael and Holly Gorsen
 Lindsay and Jordyn

Arthur Shapiro

What is a Kiddush or Oneg?

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 service, we gather for an 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*, *Oneg*, 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.

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

May 2

Derek Jordan

Son of Brent and Leah Jordan

May 16

Berk Petersohn

Son of Nuriye Uygur and Josh Petersohn

June 20

Isaak Popkin

Son of Nathaniel Popkin and Rona Buchalter

June 27

Asa Schneeberg

Son of Ruth Schneeberg

Playschool

Continued from page 9

The hours are 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM Monday through Thursday. Flexible enrollment options are available. Please contact me at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 28, for more information and to receive a summer camp application.

Applications are still available for the September 2015 school year and there are spots remaining in each of the classes. Please let your friends and neighbors know about us, too!

For any information about the Playschool, Summer Camp, After School Arts, or to make an appointment to visit our classrooms, please contact the Playschool office.



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

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In Appreciation of

Jud Aaron, Joe Oxman, Josh Nadel, & Bob Blacksberg for TGISHabbat

Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

Steve Greenberg

Nancy Halpern

In Honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Iris Levine's Grandson

Paula & Larry Ninerell

Mr. & Mrs. David Maimin, Birth of twin grandsons

Judy Spiller

Susan & Steven Leshnoff on the birth of their grandson

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

In Memory of

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Joe & Vivian Katz

Henry & Anita Schwerner

Judy & Richard Muhlberg

Marty & Lauren Miller

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Phyllis Snyder

Muriel Basen

Barry & Joann Slosberg

Emanuel Burd, Father of Nancy Burd

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Walter & Margie Ferst

Mildred Eizen, Mother of Steven Eizen

Walter & Margie Ferst

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Samuel Goldner, Father of Linda Joy Goldner

Linda Joy Goldner

Jack Cohn, Father of Alan Cohn

Alan Cohn

Sarah Paller, Mother of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Martin Greenhouse, Father of Debra Stewart

Debra Stewart

David Merlin

Merlin-Rubinov Family

Herman Mishkin, Father of Laurette Feltoon

Laurette Feltoon

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Steve & Susan Leshnoff, on the birth of their grandson

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Joan Newberg, Mother of Jeremey Newberg

Newberg Family

Josh Newberg, Brother of Jeremey Newberg

Newberg Family

Leon Spector, Father of Barbara Spector

Barbara Spector

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Jamie Schwartz's Early Acceptance to University of Pennsylvania

Lois Vederman

Jacqueline Rose Hott's 90th Birthday

Lois Vederman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Aaron Markowitz, Father of Sayde Ladov

David & Sayde Ladov

Social Action Fund

In Memory of

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Feinberg Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Ben Dubin, Father of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin

Stanley Dubin, Brother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin

Rosamond Levering, Mother of Susan Levering

Susan Levering

Adrienne Barth, Mother of Flora Wolf

Flora Wolf

Ned Wolf, Husband of Flora Wolf

Flora Wolf

Albert Miller, Father of Paula Ninerell

Paula & Larry Ninerell

POWER

In Honor of

Eleanor Oxman's Special Birthday

Debra Stewart

Iris Levine

Jay R. Baer Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Jay R. Baer, Husband of Carol Baer Mott

Carol Baer Mott

Playschool Fund

In Memory of

Morgan Grace Donato

Gloria Parris

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Adult Education

In Appreciation of

Monthly Shabbat Study & Nosh & Schmooze

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In Honor of

Rabbi Avi Winokur

Mark Kushner

Jeremey Newberg's 50th Birthday

Adina and Norman Newberg

Birth of Grandson, Benjamin Stone Dubin

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Mona Sutnick's Birthday

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In Memory of

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Jay & Phyllis Denbo

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

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Yahrzeit Remembrance

Elan Prystowsky, Son of Seymour & Cochava Prystowsky

Seymour & Cochava Prystowsky

Harry Winston, Father of Fred Lovitch

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Susan Dictor, Wife of Joel Chernock

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Susan Dictor, Mother of Elyssa and Sarina Chernock

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Laurette Feltoon

Mae Mishkin, Mother of Laurette Feltoon

Laurette Feltoon

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Sally Poulshock

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Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin

Kiddush Fund

In Honor of

Iris Levine's Special Birthday

Alma Wurtzel

Rabbi Avi Winokur's Award

Dinah & Fred Lovitch

In Memory of

Sylvia Ruttenberg, Mother of Phyllis Denbo

Judy Wertheim

Walter & Margie Ferst

Betty & Marty van de Rijn

Emanuel Burd, Father of Nancy Burd

Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Mildred Eizen, Mother of Steven Eizen

Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Stan & Judy Woloff

Walter & Margie Ferst

Betty & Marty van de Rijn

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Edith Shechtman, Mother of Libby Harwitz Blender

Libby Harwitz Blender

Jack Cohn, Father of Alan Cohn

Alan Cohn

Charles Perkis, Father of Mildred Lizenbaum

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Sale of Chametz

Iris Levine

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Richard & Judy Gelles

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Jeremey & Fran Newberg

Barbara Spector

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 Kesher issue.

President's Column

Continued from page 3

When I first became President, I mentioned that another goal of mine was to increase our membership. This objective is more important than ever. So, how do we, as SHS Ambassadors, give other folks a clue about our special congregational family? Invite friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to join you at any of the many wonderful events, programs, classes, or services that SHS has to offer! Where else are they going to see a Rabbi in a clown costume (hopefully only on Purim), taste an amazing array of scotch and bourbon on Shabbat, be entertained by our talented and enthusiastic Hebrew school students performing a Rock and Roll themed Cantata, or enjoy musical **TG**Shabbat services with some of the most talented musicians in the area? (By the way, a special shout out is due to Noah Herman, who not only directed this year's Cantata, but pulled it off despite multiple practice and dress rehearsal cancellations due to the inclement weather.) Let's not forget our joyous holiday celebrations, stimulating Adult Education classes, Havdalah Pajama Parties, "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" and Inter**NOSH**ional Night meals, Arts and Culture events, Lunch & Learns, SHS nights at Philabundance, and KinderBat services. The list goes on and on, so whomever you choose to bring is sure to enjoy their experience with us. After they get a taste of what we have to offer, let them know about upcoming activities so they will visit on a regular basis.

I have heard Society Hill Synagogue described as offering "Judaism on your own terms," "A family without relatives," and "A spiritual home." Remember that SHS stands for: **S**ense of Community, **H**amish, and **S**piritual Connection. How would you describe SHS? Please spread the word. Remember, you are our best ambassadors, and it is our members that make SHS the special place it is. Membership growth and retention is our shared responsibility.

As I write this column, I am preparing for my first trip to Israel on April 23. I cannot fully express the feelings I am having in anticipation of this very special journey.

I feel my faith deep within my heart and soul and know I will have a profound and extraordinary experience. As many of you know, my husband is Catholic, and he also has a leadership role in his church and a strong connection to his faith. We have been involved in interfaith dialogues for many years and look forward to visiting and learning more about the holy sites of the three Abrahamic Faiths.

SHS enjoys the membership of many interfaith couples and families. We will continue to design programs that will be of interest to those in interfaith relationships. Because interests and needs vary greatly, I am seeking your thoughts and ideas. How can we enrich the SHS experience for Interfaith couple and families? Please let me know.

Unfortunately, I will miss the Jazz Fundraising Concert on Sunday, April 26, *The Great American Songbook: From Berlin to Bacharach*. I want to take this opportunity to thank Joe Oxman, Judd Aaron, Josh Nadel, Bob Blacksberg, and Rachel Moran for offering their time and amazing talents to benefit our Synagogue. I have no doubt that it will be a spectacular event and hope to hear that we had a huge crowd in attendance.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who are participating as a guest or a host at our "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" event on May 8 and 9. I extend special thanks to Bonny Hohenberger for leading this initiative and to Doris Cohen for her help and support.

I hope to see you at our Annual Congregation Meeting on May 20. In the meantime, enjoy springtime in the city. The flowers, trees and birds can
in-
a
spire



A Jewish Night of Learning

Deborah Shapiro

You're invited to the Gershman Y (401 S. Broad Street) to celebrate the holiday of Shavuot with the Center City Jewish community! The third annual **Center City Tikkun Leil Shavuot** program will begin on **Saturday, May 23, at 8 PM, and it will run until Sunday, May 24, at 8 AM.** Enjoy delicious dairy meals and snacks, learn from leading local Rabbis and educators, and be part of the biggest Shavuot event Center City has ever seen!

The evening will kick off with keynote speaker Elsie Stern, Ph.D., followed by a variety of educational sessions throughout the night. Stay for part of the evening, or stay straight through until the concluding sunrise services. Childcare will be available upon request. All are welcome.

This event is sponsored by the Center City Kehillah, in cooperation with, and funded by, The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and co-presented by Society Hill Synagogue and 16 other Jewish communities in Center City. The suggested donation to participate is \$10-25 (students \$5-18). Register online at www.phillyshavuot.com.



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 (MEI)

1. 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.

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 \$125 per person, 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 \$125 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.

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.

2. Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™

Bonny Hohenberger

This is just a reminder that the next GWCTS event is scheduled for Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9. **There will be no services on Friday night, May 8.** If you have any questions or would like to know if any seats are still available, please contact Bonny Hohenberger (bjh711@gmail.com), Debbie Stewart (beachethic@gmail.com), and Doris Cohen (doriscohen9@gmail.com) ASAP!

3. The Second Night Seder at SHS

Jonathan Feinman

Thank you to all of the 97 participants who attended our first communal Second Night Seder at SHS in many years. We all enjoyed a wonderful family atmosphere as we celebrated our liberation from slavery and the story of Pesah.

Continued on next page

Rabbi Winokur, led us through the Haggadah and highlighted both old and new traditions with humor and song. Even the children enjoyed reading to the group, which was very heart warming.

Special thanks to all volunteers who helped plan this event and to Betty and her staff for making sure that everything ran smoothly. Without them this evening would not have been possible.

The SHS Second Night Seder came about as an extension of Barbara Spector's Holiday Meals Initiative. The Board approved the idea on the condition that we could find a minimum of 50 participants. To our delight, the demand for seats turned out to be almost double the number for which we had hoped!

We learned through a process of inquiry that many SHS members like to spend the first night of Pesah with their relatives. Fortunately, because many of our congregants have developed strong ties with one another, many members also had the desire to celebrate with their "extended family," their friends at SHS. I am happy to report that the event was a huge success, and by the end of the night, I heard several people expressing the hope that we had begun a new and special tradition of observing the second night of Pesah at SHS.

We have received so many wonderful comments about this event. Carol La Faivre-Rochester wrote:

"For a most memorable Seder, I thank you all, as does Michael. The food, the atmosphere, the wonderful Haggadah, and most especially the opportunity to share a precious religious experience with our congregational family were wonderful. Avi, the Yemenite melody you used for one of the traditional songs was something I want to hear again and again. You are an inspiring Rabbi for more reasons than you know."

My husband Kevin, who is not Jewish, said:

"It was lovely to see such a large and lively community come together in joy to celebrate the holiday and enjoy good food. I enjoyed talking with friends in a festive atmosphere."

Our President, Debra Stewart, shared:

"Thanks so much to Betty and Rabbi, and thanks to Jonathan Feinman and Barbara Spector for planting the seed for the Second Night Seder. We enjoyed a memorable and meaningful holiday together. I hope we have begun a new and special tradition at SHS."

We were lucky to have some non-members among us— people who attended with friends or who heard about the event from the SHS Meetup page. Larry Stier and his wife, Rita, who are not congregants but were looking to attend a Seder on the second night of Pesah, said:

"The rabbi's easygoing style and humorous way of approaching the tradition is an inspiration."

If you have any suggestions or feedback, please feel free to email me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com. Let us see if we can carry these inspiring feelings forward while we plan to spend the second night of Pesah together again next year.

4. Annual Congregation Meeting

Debra Stewart

Please join us on Wednesday, May 20, for the SHS Annual Congregation Meeting. Express your appreciation for Board Members who have finished their terms, help to vote in newly nominated members. Show your support for the 5 members who will be honored for their exceptional service to the Synagogue. A budget report will be presented, and we will discuss our goals for the coming year. A lite buffet will be served at 6:30 PM, and the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					6:15 PM Memorial Plaque Service	Aharei/K'doshim 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Derek Jordan
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7:30 PM Arts & Culture: Play on Jewish Humor- Offsite	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6 PM Philabundance Night 7 PM AE: Israeli Short Story with Rabbi	No Playschool PS Parent Conferences 7:30 PM Educa- tion Committee Meeting	No Playschool PS Parent Conferences	No Friday Night Services – “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ Weekend	Emor 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Gimel Class Service & Lunch 11 AM KinderBat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 9 – 11 AM SS/HS	7 PM Executive Committee Meeting	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE-Israeli Short Story with Rabbi	Arts & Culture – Day Trip to NYC Tenement Museum-Offsite		6:15 PM Services	B'har B'hukotai 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Berk Petersohn
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Yom Yerusalayim 9 AM SS/Last Day 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Bavli & Bagels with Rafi		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS/Last Day 7 PM AE-Israeli Short Story with Rabbi	6:30 PM Lite Buffet 7:30 PM Annual Congregation Meeting		Last Day of PS 6:15 PM Services	B'midbar Erev Shavuot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 8 PM Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Shavuot Day 1 9:30 AM Services and Yizkor	Shavuot Day 2 Memorial Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 7 PM AE-Funny You Don't Look Buddhist with Rabbi	7 PM Social Action Committee Meeting		6:15 PM End of Season TGIS habbat featuring Mimi Stillman	Naso 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
31						
Building Closed						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	PS Camp Begins	7:15 AM Minyan 6 PM Philabundance Night	7:30 PM Education Committee Meeting	An Evening with Dr. Ruth Calderon 6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lecture	No PS Camp 6:15 PM Services	B'ha a lot'kha 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Building Closed	7 PM Executive Committee Meeting	7:15 AM Minyan			No PS Camp 6:15 PM Services	Sh'lakh L'kha 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Building Closed	7 PM Board Meeting	7:15 AM Minyan			No PS Camp 6:15 PM Services	Korah 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Isaak Popkin
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No PS Camp 6:15 PM Services	Hukkat 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Asa Schneeberg
28	29	30				
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan				

NEWSLETTER—MAY/JUNE 2015 ISSUE

Kesher



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