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President's Column

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Debra Stewart

Thank you for electing me to serve a second term as your President. With my first year behind me, it is important to reflect on the work we have accomplished and to share plans for the coming year.

First, I wish to thank Debby Freedman and Jonathan Prokup, who have completed their terms of service on the SHS Board of Directors, for their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to Betta Kolansky and Judy Lalli who were recently elected to the Board. We are extremely fortunate to have a diverse, dynamic, and committed group of lay leaders to serve our community. A full list of Board members can be found on P. 5.

For those of you who were able to attend our Annual Congregation Meeting in May, not only did we hold elections, we also heard a thought-provoking and inspirational D'var Torah from Rabbi Winokur, a review of events that took place over the past year, a report on our financial status from our Treasurer, a pre-High Holiday Annual Giving appeal, and a comprehensive presentation on the feedback received thus far from our Space Improvement Needs Survey and focus groups. We also publicly acknowledged and celebrated the honorees of this year's Exceptional Service Award. The award recipients are listed below:

Libby Cone

Libby has been an active SHS member for about 7 years. She currently serves on the Religion Committee and helps to make calls to members to offer High Holy Day Honors. She is an active participant in many Adult Education classes. She has chanted the Musaf service and is a regular attendee of Shabbat services, where she always sits in "The Pew that Rocks." Libby is a regular editor of Keshet articles and a member of God's Unfinished Business (GUB), helping to provide assistance and support to SHS members in need. Libby was involved in creating and coordinating the Shul Guide program, and she is a regular Greeter at Shabbat and holiday services. She is a supporter of our Arts and Culture Initiative, and she started an SHS knitting group, which has become quite popular. Libby's engagement, positive attitude, and commitment to our community have enhanced our shul in countless ways.

Carole LaFaire-Rochester

A dedicated and engaged member of SHS, Carole stepped up to run the SHS office as an interim administrator at a very critical time in the early 2000s. Carole took over all operational responsibilities with no training from the prior administrator and provided invaluable service for several months until we hired Lori Dafilou, Betty's predecessor.



Rabbi's Column

A Parable About Membership Engagement

Avi Winokur

Like Jesus, his Jewish contemporaries, the early rabbis, loved parables. The classic form goes: “A: to what can it be compared (*L'ma hadavar domeh*)? To B.” B is then described, and then the parable concludes, “So it is (*Kakh*) with A just as with B.” Now let me tell you a parable.

Synagogue membership: to what may it be compared? To Saint-Exupéry's classic, *The Little Prince*, particularly the lesson of the rose. You may recall that the Little Prince lives on a very small planet, and on this planet, among other things, is one lone rose that blew in as a seed from someplace unknown. The rose explains that she is unique in all the universe. While the Little Prince tends and watches over the single rose, he finds her far too demanding. So the Little Prince goes visiting other planets to acquire wisdom. After wandering on many planets, meeting many different people, he comes to a planet called Earth. There he sees many roses and is sorely disappointed. After all, his rose told him that she was unique in all the universe.

The Little Prince continues to explore Earth and meets a fox, and the fox teaches him about taming or establishing connections. The Little Prince does not understand, and the fox explains that the Little Prince is just like thousands of other little boys to him and that the fox is just like thousands of other foxes to the Little Prince. Neither one is special to the other. But, the fox explains, if the Little Prince takes the time to tame the fox, then the fox will be unique to the Prince in all the world, and the Prince will be unique to the fox. They will be special to each other. The Prince did so, and they were special to each other.

But at one point, the Prince pauses, “There is a flower. . . . I think she has tamed me.”

So although the Prince tamed the fox, the Prince had to leave. The fox told him to first say good-bye to the roses and then come back. When the little prince returned, what the fox told him

I have remembered from when I first read this modest little tale decades ago: “It is the time you have wasted/lost for or dedicated to your rose that makes your rose so important.” (The French *perdre/perdu* does not translate well in this context.)

It is a simple statement, but to me a powerful one, and I have never forgotten it. So it is with the synagogue. It is the time that you engage with/spend taming/wasting for and with your synagogue that makes the synagogue so important.

Dugmah/An example: Two people join the synagogue. They've shul shopped. They like the place, the ambience, the warmth, the energy. Neither of them knows anyone in the synagogue. Sarah looks at what the synagogue has to offer, and although she doesn't see something that excites her, she tries out a few different things. She goes to TGIShabbat, although she is not into services. She signs up as guest for “Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™,” even though she is walking into a stranger's house and didn't join the synagogue looking for people to have Shabbat dinner with. She goes to a couple of Arts and Culture Initiative events, though none of them is exactly up her alley. She also tries out Adult Education. Rebecca, although she likes the ambience, warmth, and energy, is not drawn to any of these events, just as Sarah was not. But she makes a different decision. Since she's not drawn to any one of these events, she doesn't go, or maybe she goes to just one.

At the end of the year, Sarah has several new acquaintances. None of them is as close to her as her closest friends, but they are glad to see her and she is glad to see them and she does connect with a few and they go out a few times outside of synagogue activities. Over the years friendships deepen, and she becomes active in the synagogue. Some years down the road, when her mother dies suddenly, it is her friends in the synagogue who understand shiva and mourning who are really there for her in ways that even her oldest and dearest friends are not.

Rebecca, on the other hand, sticks it out for one more year, but again, although a few things look possibly interesting, none really calls to her.

Continued on page 6

President's Column

Continued from Cover page

Carole was also responsible for assembling and safely delivering the SHS's archival materials to the Philadelphia Jewish Archives. Carole was a presenter and active participant in the Interfaith Dialogue Group, a partnership among SHS, Old Pine, and Old St. Joe's congregations. In fact, it was in this group where I met Carole and her husband, Michael, and they subsequently welcomed me into SHS. At one time, Carole assisted in the development of a men's group, an Israeli Advocacy/Education group, and more recently, she assisted in the implementation of our "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" program. She and Michael have hosted a number of Shabbat gatherings for our congregation. Carole remains engaged in worship, Adult Education, and many SHS activities. Her ongoing commitment and dedication to SHS are truly exceptional.

Bonny Hohenberger

Bonny has been referred to as "the welcoming face of SHS;" she is often the first person a visitor or member sees outside of the Sanctuary. Bonny joined the Board of Directors and immediately volunteered to coordinate the Greeter Schedule for Shabbat services. Accompanied by her husband, Nathan, Bonny warmly welcomes all members and visitors. Bonny helps to orient new Greeters, encouraging all members to participate in this important service. Bonny served as Recording Secretary on the Board, a time consuming and critical role. She has also initiated the implementation of a much-needed, home-based Shabbat Meal program. After hosting and coordinating a few meals at members' homes, she facilitated the adoption and modification of the "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" program. She has now taken the lead in running this successful semi-annual event. Member Engagement was of significant interest to Bonny right from the start of her tenure on the Board. Bonny and I co-hosted a complex Vietnamese meal during SHS's first InterNOSHional night. I could not have done this without her. Bonny's leadership and commitment have truly made a positive impact on our community and Synagogue life.

Elizabeth Zack

Elizabeth Zack has been part of the SHS community since 1996. She is a full-time primary grade teacher at The Philadelphia School. Elizabeth started working with our Hebrew High School when SHS, RS, and BZBI had a combined program from 1996-2000. After a short break, Elizabeth returned as a Sunday School teacher in 2003. She taught students in the first grade or second grade—really wherever Mrs. Salkin needed her—until 2012. Elizabeth was an active member of the Education Director Search Committee, which was tasked with finding someone to fill the large shoes of Merle Salkin. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Elizabeth because she is responsible for bringing Sahar's resume to the committee. Elizabeth also helped to organize Merle Salkin's retirement party. She was recruited to serve on the Education Committee in 2013 and remains an active, current participant. Over the past school year, Elizabeth has served as a valuable consultant for our Sunday/Hebrew School staff, helping them to develop classroom management and discipline skills. Finally, if you attend the Sunday or Hebrew School High Holy Day services, you will have the opportunity to hear Elizabeth sound the shofar for our students and their families! For the last 5 years, she has not only participated in these services, she has taught several children how to sound the shofar.

Gail Massey

A long-time member, Gail Massey has always been ready to lend a helping hand. She has been involved in many key SHS activities. She was a member of the Board of Directors and held the office of Recording Secretary for the maximum time she could serve. Gail was also an active member of the Membership Committee, responsible for many outreach and inreach initiatives, including sending out the adorable SHS onesies to all of the newborn babies in our community. A member of the Synaplex™ Committee from its inception, she helped to plan the programs and took the lead in organizing the meals. As the size of the committee declined over time, Gail handled many of the events with minimal support. She also helped to arrange a number of Scholar-in-Residence weekends. She passed her commitment to SHS on to her daughter, Esther, who was a much-loved Sunday School teacher in the Ann Spak Thal School before she married Phillip and moved to Omaha to raise her own family. Gail and her husband, Holman, have continued to support our shul by hosting Havdalah meals during recent "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" programs. When the Synagogue hosts a special event, we can usually find Gail behind the scenes organizing and preparing table decorations in the Social Hall. We are so appreciative of the exceptional service that Gail has provided to SHS over many years.

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Cantor's Column

Another Group of SHS Adults Become B'nai Mitzvah on August 1!

Bob Freedman

On Saturday, August 1, a group of Society Hill congregants will celebrate what we have come to call "adult B'nai Mitzvah." They will chant Torah and Haftarah and tell us about what motivated them to undertake such a commitment in the midst of being busy employees, parents, and students.

For them and for us, the community, it's a different kind of event from when we gather for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration of a thirteen-year-old. The youth is just embarking on the beginnings of adulthood. Her learning and motivation have the goal of being accepted by the community as a responsible member. On the other hand, these adults have been practicing Jews and recognized as responsible community members for many years. I'd like to suggest that their adult B'nai Mitzvah experience is not for *taking* acceptance from the community but, rather, for *giving* to the community the time and effort they spent in study preparing for the event. By their gift they will confirm, to themselves and to us, their commitment to Judaism and to our congregation.

I am writing this during the week when we read from the Torah portion about Korah's rebellion in the desert against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. The story begins with the words "Korah took" and goes on to describe him and his followers as men who started arguments in order to seize power. Later commentary characterized their disputes as "not for the sake of heaven," implying that the resolution of disputes begun for selfish ends would not endure. Indeed, Korah and most of his band were swallowed by the earth or destroyed by fire in miraculous, divine retribution for being community destroyers.

Very consciously we set the date of this adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration on the Shabbat of Va-ethannan in the book of Deuteronomy.

This is the Torah portion that contains the repetition of the Ten Commandments and the paragraph that begins with the phrase "Sh'ma Yisrael." The Haftarah passage is the first of seven portions of consolation by the prophet Isaiah read on the Shabbatot following the fast of the Ninth of Av. In remarkably beautiful poetry, it reassures the nation of Israel that destruction is not permanent and that Jerusalem will be rebuilt. The Torah and Haftarah portions of Va-ethannan are as ringing declarations of the endurance of Jewish community and heritage as any in the entire Tanakh.

Join us on August 1 to receive the gifts these adults bring to us as they celebrate being part of our Jewish community.

Center City Kehillah

The 2015 Jewish Night of Learning Was a Great Success!

Deborah Shapiro

Thanks to all who participated in the Center City Kehillah's Jewish Night of Learning on Shavuot! Over 250 people attended this event; they brought open minds, empty stomachs, and the desire to be part of an joyful (and exhausting) communal experience. If you didn't make it, I hope you heard from friends and fellow community members what a wonderful, pluralistic, and awe-inspiring opportunity it was to eat, learn, and celebrate together.

The Center City Kehillah's mission is to represent the diversity of Jewish life in urban Philadelphia, and the event exemplified that goal. With support from 18 co-presenting organizations and nearly two dozen speakers representing the broadest range of affiliations and observance levels, we spent the night growing closer as a community while engaged in the study of Torah. I would like to give special thanks to Sahar Oz, Cantor Freedman, and Rabbi Winokur for their help with organization and education, and thanks to all those who stayed until sunrise!

Keep up with Center City Kehillah news and events at www.facebook.com/centercitykehillah.

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Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

Again she goes to one or two things, feels like a stranger, and after the second year she resigns her membership. (Although not an exact analogue, see the early rabbinic parable of the flax and wheat, which bears some similarities to this example).

Society Hill Synagogue is a synagogue. It's a synagogue housed in a special, historic building. But it is a synagogue, much like other synagogues to outsiders, maybe with a pleasing ambience, warmth, and energy, but otherwise . . . But to those of us who have engaged with/tamed/wasted time with this community, it is special beyond words.

During this summer, as you think about the coming year, think of *The Little Prince* and choose from the many diverse offerings of our wonderful community, not because they are the most spectacular but because the time you spend engaged with this community will make it important for you, as the rose was "so important" to the Little Prince.



Our annual SHS High Holy Day Membership Renewal packet has been mailed! Please fill out all forms and return them in the enclosed envelope with the required payment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 215.922.6590.





Ann Spak Thal School Tz'dakah and Our Community

Sahar Oz

While the Hebrew word, "tz'dakah," is often translated as "charity," its origin is in the three-letter root transliterated as tzadi-dalet-kuf, which is also the basis for the word, "tzedeck," meaning justice and righteousness. Elie Wiesel has said that "there are no coincidences in Jewish history," and there are certainly no coincidences in the Hebrew language.

This past school year, we sought to increase student participation in tz'dakah during Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High classes. We were thrilled with the response, as more students took part and did so more frequently, as well. We saw a 55% increase from \$200 raised last year to \$310 this year.

On our last day of classes, children in grades 3-7, who comprise the majority of our students and the largest number of donors, voted on how the tz'dakah funds would be allocated. The options were Philabundance, Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia (SREHUP), and Chai Lifeline.

With options to support four good organizations that address hunger, animal welfare, homelessness, and children with serious illness, respectively, it was a challenging decision for our students. Following a polite discussion with strong opinions, they voted to divide the allocation evenly between two of the nonprofits, and so PAWS and SREHUP have each received \$155. Our school's goal for next year is to raise \$400 for allocation to one or more worthy causes.

Our faculty and I are busy finalizing and enhancing plans for the upcoming school year, and school registration forms for 5776 / 2015-2016 have been sent to all of our families. They can also be downloaded from our website.

The completed forms and a deposit are due by **Monday, July 13**. The Jewish community we have created at our school is vibrant, varied, and very special. Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join our exciting journey of Jewish learning and discovery!

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, September 14, the first day of Rosh Hashanah at 9:30 AM for the Sunday School service and 10:45 AM for the Hebrew School service. Our first day of classes for everyone follows six days later, on Sunday, September 20.

Have a wonderful summer!



Arts & Culture

1. Philly Pop Shabbat

Jonathan Feinman

On Friday, July 3, at 8 PM, the Philly Pops will perform on Independence Mall. Prior to the concert, SHS members are invited to the home of Betta Kolansky, 5:30-6:30 PM for a celebration of Shabbat, including candle lighting, blessing of the wine and challah, snacks, and schmoozing! Then everyone will walk to Independence Mall to share a Shabbat picnic dinner while watching the Philly Pops. Pack a picnic dinner or arrange to share potluck meals, and bring a blanket, beach towel, or lawn chair to enjoy a musical fun-filled Shabbat.

Please RSVP to Betta at bkolansky@comcast.net by Wednesday, July 1.

2. *Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art*

Martin Rosenberg

Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art offers a unique opportunity to view contemporary art and participate in extensive related programming (information about which I will share in the September/October issue of the Keshar), that will allow a better understanding of the complexities of the country of Israel. Geography, in its physical, personal, religious, intellectual, political, existential, historical, and manifestations, is an inescapable part of Israeli life. The issues related to Israel's geography are some of the most pressing ones in the contemporary world.

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This exhibition will include 51 works by 36 contemporary artists, half of whom are women, and all of whom are Israeli citizens. Most of the artists are Jewish from many different backgrounds, but others are Arab-Muslim, Arab-Christian, and Druze. At a time when Israel is often viewed in narrow, limited, and biased ways in the media and in public discourse, an exhibition demonstrating the richness, complexity, and diversity of perspectives in contemporary Israeli art, and by extension, Israeli society, is particularly relevant. Perhaps this exhibition can also encourage a broader, more open dialogue relating to the geographical complexities of this region.

As Professor of Art History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, I am very pleased to invite my Society Hill Synagogue community to attend this major exhibition of contemporary Israeli Art at the nearby Rutgers-Camden campus. The exhibition will run from Thursday, September 17, through Saturday, December 12, at the Stedman Art Gallery, Rutgers University, in Camden, New Jersey. A reception will take place on Sunday, October 11, featuring a lecture by Ruth Direktor, Curator of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

On Saturday evening, September 19, Symphony in C will perform with an outstanding, internationally renowned pianist. I will give tours of the exhibition at 6:30 and 7:30 PM. (Please note schedule and soloist changes due to the Pope's visit.)

Additionally, I will give a brief slide preview of the exhibition after the Shabbat service on Friday, October 23. See photo on P. 9 for an example of the beautiful art work in this exhibition. This work is entitled, Oded Balilty, *A Royal Wedding*, 120 x80 cm., Archival Print, 2012.

Sunday, November 1, is "Society Hill Synagogue Day" at the exhibition. In addition to tours at 1:00 and 2:00 PM, there will be a free concert in the Gordon Theater by our good friend Mimi Stillman and her ensemble Dolce Suono. The program will feature a work they commissioned from Pulitzer-prize winning contemporary Israeli composer Shulamit Ran. Continued on next page

Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art

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Finally, I also wanted to share information about related exhibitions by artists who have works in the *Visions of Place* exhibition:

Visit a one-person installation by Ariane Littman, September 3, 2015—January 3, 2016, at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts in Wilmington.

Visit a one-person exhibition by Dorit Feldman, September 17—December 13, 2015, at the Gershman Y Gallery in Philadelphia.

All programs are free and open to the public except for the Symphony in C concert (SHS members are eligible to receive discounted tickets). For further information regarding any of the Rutgers events, contact Dr. Rosenberg at mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu.



Oded Balilty: *A Royal Wedding*



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Playschool

Please Join Me in Welcoming My New Playschool Co-Director!

Gloria Parris

Our big news is that Pre-Kindergarten teacher Ali Kaplan will now be sharing Playschool Director responsibilities with me. As co-directors, we look forward to working together to fine-tune our curricula and increase our marketing to expand enrollment in all classes—all while ensuring that our talented staff continues to provide the nurturing support that makes SHS Playschool such a wonderful learning environment for our students.

The Playschool Summer Camp is now in session. Our 2- to 4-year-old campers enjoy indoor activities such as free play, circle time, themed arts and crafts projects, creative movement, stories, and camp songs. Outdoor activities include tricycle riding and water play in our wading pools. Each day, the children eat a healthy snack and a home-packed dairy lunch. Summer camp is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM; the last day of camp is Thursday, July 23. Children may be enrolled any number of days each week. There are still available spots so if you are interested in sending your child to camp, please contact the Playschool office for a summer camp application (215.922.6590, ext. 28). We would love to have your child join us for summer fun!

Applications are still available for Playschool enrollment in the upcoming school year. Our preschool offers classes for children who are 2 (for our youngest classes in the rear Playschool room) and 3 (for our middle class in the Social Hall) years old by September 1. In addition, the Playschool has a Pre-Kindergarten Class for 4- and 5-year-olds (in the Beit Midrash) that focuses on preparing our students for entering Kindergarten. The Playschool is known for its wonderful “first school experience” for all children.

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July Birthdays

Neil Epstein
 Abigail Shapiro
 Amy Steerman
 Carmen Hayman
 Ruth Schneeberg
 Noah Davidson
 Jacqueline Rick
 Claire Golding
 Alton Sutnick
 Richard Gelles
 Joseph Gifford
 Alice Goldenberg
 Carla Krasnick
 Judah Reed Meyer
 Josh Heller
 Mitchell Bach
 Matthew Zalesne Siff
 Marc Schwartz
 Laurette Feltoon
 Liza Gendler
 Juliet Englander
 Judith Woloff
 Gabriel Steerman
 Michael Temin
 Joseph Oxman
 Jordan Segall
 Mia Guzman
 Macy Krohner
 Harry Oxman
 Craig Pressman
 James Wilson
 Reuben Treatman
 Libby Harwitz Blender
 Gideon Ziff
 Abigail Hamilton
 Daniel Greenberg
 Zachary Goldberg
 Xing Xing Zhang
 Isaac Hohns
 Jordyn Gorsen
 Michelle Nelson
 Joshua Smullens
 Judy Gelles
 Lev Ziskind

**August Birthdays**

Gabriel Nadel
 Peggy Backal
 Barbara Freed
 Samantha Goldwert
 Irving Shapiro
 Debra Stewart
 Fran Newberg
 Alexander Meisel
 Claire Englander
 Mark Steinberger
 Zachary Gearhart-Robboy
 Myer Magen
 Jerry Roller
 Matthew Salzman
 Jane Nathanson
 Abigail Reed
 Leo Aaron
 Ian Downes
 Wendy Rosen
 Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
 Wendy Leebov
 Abigail Bladen
 Nina Saligman
 Marsha Silver Heit
 Isaak Popkin
 Debby Freedman
 Caleb Landau
 Harvey Weiner
 Susan Eizen
 Edwin Krauss
 Joseph Freedman
 Terry Graboyes
 Jonathan Auerbach

July Anniversaries

Leah & Brent Jordan
 Steven & Sally Gendler
 Theodore Danoff &
 Diane Siegel Danoff

August Anniversaries

Sidney Jacoby & Stav Tjoumakaris
 Raphael Licht &
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 Jesse Abrams-Morley &
 Meredith Buse
 Peter & Susan Eizen
 Dan & Anya Rosin
 Burton Blender &
 Libby Harwitz Blender
 Brent & Laurel Landau

Community News**Mazel Tov to**

Josh and Leslie Heller, and big sister Charlotte Lawton, on the birth of their son and brother, Ari Edward Heller.

Condolences to

Merle (Stanton) Salkin and family on the death of Merle's mother, Helen Adelman.

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.

Playschool

Continued from page 9

Classes for 2-year-olds meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM with an option to stay for lunch until 12:30 PM. The children participate in free-play time, circle time activities, story, snack, arts and crafts, holiday celebrations, indoor and outdoor play, and Shabbat celebrations. In this class, the boys and girls learn how to interact with each other, make friends, and gain skills that help them become more independent toddlers.

Classes for 3- and 4-year-olds meet Monday through Friday, and children may be enrolled children two, three, four, or five mornings per week. The hours are 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. The age-appropriate curriculum focuses on imaginative play, socialization skills, learning the alphabet and numbers, listening to stories, art creativity, snack, yoga, outdoor play, holiday practices, and celebrating Shabbat each week. Each day, the boys and girls bring in a home-packed dairy lunch.

The Pre-Kindergarten Class meets Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. Reading readiness skills, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, community living, science, art, celebration of Jewish holiday, themes, and Shabbat are all included in the Pre-K curriculum. The children in this class take field trips and they participate in a drama class each week.

The Playschool is a parent-cooperative preschool. Parents (or caregivers) are scheduled to assist on a rotating basis in our classes for 2-year-olds and the larger class of 3–4-year-olds. This aspect of our program allows parents to take an active role in the preschool. Parents assist by providing a healthy snack for the class, interacting with the children, bringing their own talents into our classrooms, and helping to make each day an exciting learning experience. Parents of the Pre-K children come into their child’s classroom on Fridays as “Royal Readers,” when they read a book of their choice to the kids; then they assist with the Shabbat celebration.

The Playschool also offers extended hours with our an After School Arts program, which runs Monday through Friday from 12:30 – 3 PM. Each afternoon features a different theme such as cooking, science, art, movement, and music. In addition to these themes, the children participate in free-play time, story time, snack time, and indoor/outdoor tricycle riding. Flexible enrollment options are available, and children do not have to be students in the Playschool to attend After School Arts.

Continued on page 13

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

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Yahrzeit Remembrance

Lester Eisenstadt, Husband of Evelyn Eisenstadt
Evelyn Eisenstadt

Rose Hechler, Mother of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Eugene Paller, Grandfather of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Reva Goldner, Mother of Linda Goldner

Linda Goldner

Bonnie Abramsky, Sister of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Al Shreibman, Father-in-Law of Doris Shreibman

Doris Shreibman

Annual Giving Fund

Judith Axler
Judy & Richard Gelles
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

In Honor of

Conversion of Beverly Michaels and Daughters
Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector
Barbara Spector

Social Action Fund**Yahrzeit Remembrance**

Robert Weissbach, Brother of Debra Weissbach
Debra Weissbach

Molly Miller, Mother of Paula Ninerell

Paula Ninerell

Cantor's Discretionary Fund**In Honor of**

Cantor Freedman's Guidance for Berk's Bar Mitzvah
Nuriye Uygur and Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Rose Michaels, Mother of Geoffrey Michaels
Geoffrey Michaels

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**In Honor of**

Rabbi Winokur's Guidance for Berk's Bar Mitzvah
Nuriye Uygur and Family

SHS

Dan & Barbara Rottenberg
Rabbi Valerie Joseph

Rafi Winokur's Graduation from High School

Debbie Stewart
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Evelyn Bach, Wife of Harry Bach
Harry Bach

Martin Auerbach, Father of Jonathan Auerbach

Jonathan Auerbach

Ben Zion Meyer, Father of Harold Meyer

Harold Meyer

Arthur Schneeberg

The Schneeberg Family

Harry & Ida Schneeberg

The Schneeberg Family

Bernard Brown, Father of Stephen Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Jean Schertz Sablove, Mother of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Samuel Dictor, Father-in-Law of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Adult Education**In Honor of**

Jamie Schwartz's Graduation from High School
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Kiddush Fund**In Honor of**

Betty van de Rijn's assistance with Berk's Bar Mitzvah
Nuriye Uygur and Family

Nuriye Uygur & Josh Petersohn

Faye Baum

TGISHabbat Dinners

Anonymous Donor

In Memory of

Helen Adelman, Mother of Merle Salkin

Walter & Margie Ferst and Family
Betty & Marty van de Rijn

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector

Barbara Spector

Mannie Hechler, Father of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Kiddush Sponsorships

Leah & Brent Jordan

David & Sayde Ladov

Nuriye Uygur & Josh Petersohn

Barbara Spector

Debbie Stewart

Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

Ruth Schneberg

Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Memory of

Justin Zemser, Cousin of Steve Greenberg

Debra Stewart

Helen Adelman, Mother of Merle Salkin

Staci, Marc, and Jamie Schwartz

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

Continued from page 11

If you are looking for a warm, nurturing preschool or camp for your child, please contact Gloria Parris in the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to visit the Playschool at any time.



Thank you to Rita Bernstein & Alan Zuckerman and Mona & Alton Sutnick for their generous donations. We now have a beautiful Baby Grand piano in our Sanctuary and an upright piano in our Social Hall to compliment our services and programs.



Membership Engagement

Our Third Annual GWCTS Events Were As Popular As Ever

Bonny Hohenberger

Our "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" (GWCTS) events are becoming an established tradition at SHS. We just completed a third year of organizing and implementing this popular community program that involves Synagogue members and prospective members gathering for Shabbat dinners, Kiddush luncheons, and Havdalah services and meals at members' homes. Participants experience warm camaraderie while learning more about Judaism.

Our most recent GWCTS weekend occurred on May 8 and 9; there were 8 host homes and 51 guests. Many, many thanks to our gracious and generous hosts: Marty and Ellen Rosenberg, Doris and Shlomo Cohen, Steve and Ruth Greenberg, Joanna and Micha Hart, Deborah Shapiro, Betty and Bart Kaplan, Jonathan Feinman, and Bruce Hirsch. And thanks to all of the guests who were willing to attend new homes and meet new people. Finally, thanks to the many parents who sponsored and attended a luncheon at the Synagogue to honor the Hebrew School students who helped to lead that weekend's Saturday morning service.

We have received many emails expressing appreciation for this opportunity to become more engaged with our community. Take a look at the joyous photos and remember them when the next GWCTS is announced, sometime in the fall. Our goal is to have everyone in our Synagogue participate at least once.

I wish to extend a special thank you to Debra Stewart and Doris Cohen for helping me to organize these events. See how much fun our members had in the following photos.





President's Column

Continued from page 3

I extend my appreciation to Exceptional Service Award Selection Committee members Noah Chrismer, Phyllis Denbo, Jonathan Freitag, Betty van de Rijn, and Staci Schwartz.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Congregation Meeting. While I will now share some of the highlights we discussed, the details are always better learned in person. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to join us next year to fully appreciate and enjoy this annual gathering. Over the past year:

- We have enjoyed each other's company in classes, during services and lifecycle celebrations, and while sharing meals and various activities together.
- We have also supported one another in times of need. We have seen an increase in the number of members who attend Shiva minyanim. GUB continues to send notes of support and condolence behind the scenes.
- We've initiated new Membership Recruitment strategies and have formed a new Young Professionals Group. I want to thank Deborah Shapiro, Jonathan Freitag, Nathan Kamesar, Larry Spector, and Steve Greenberg for taking the lead on Membership.
- Utilizing the new collection strategy first implemented last year, we had the most successful Annual Giving Campaign to date. I want to thank David Ladov and Betty van de Rijn for implementing the new collection method, and I thank our members for their support and cooperation.
- Our Arts and Culture Initiative has been a huge success thanks to Jonathan Feinman's leadership and the enthusiastic participation of our membership.
- We are delighted to report that our "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" and InterNOSHional Night events are going strong! Special thanks to of Bonny Hohenberger, Doris Cohen, and Amy Shapiro for their leadership.
- Under Sahar Oz's excellent leadership, our Hebrew School had an excellent year with many special opportunities for experiential learning and engagement.
- Special events such as the Hanukkah Happening, Purim carnival and cantata, and Havdalah PJ parties were highly successful this year. Special thanks to Laurel Landau, Staci Schwartz, Susan Eizen, Lisa Eizen, and Noah Herman.
- Our new KinderBat services were a hit with the younger set. Special thanks to Jesse Roemer and the Education Committee led by Carmen Hayman.
- We conducted our first Second Night Passover Seder in the Social Hall; we had a full house and great reviews. Special thanks to Jonathan Feinman, Betty van de Rijn, and Rabbi Winokur.
- We had our first Jazz Fundraising Concert featuring exceptional music provided by Jud Aaron, Josh Nadel, Joe Oxman, Rachel Moran, and Bob Blacksberg.
- We have a beautiful and secure new front door.
- We have new Kabbalat Shabbat Sidurim (complete with transliterations) for Friday night services. Special thanks to Cantor Bob, Terri Novick, and Marc Schwartz for creating these booklets.
- Our Keshet Newsletter remains an important source of information for all of our members. Thanks to Staci Schwartz, Betty van de Rijn, and the team of Keshet contributors and editors. We also have newly formatted Shabbat Announcements.
- The Playschool students enjoyed the talent of special guests Eve Freedman, Staci Schwartz, and Noah Herman.
- We have been so fortunate to have the services of our first Rabbinical Intern, Nathan Kamesar, who has enriched our community in many ways. We are pleased to report that Nathan will be with us for an additional year.
- We have taken significant steps to reevaluate the 430 Spruce Street property and to determine the space needs of the current programs in our building. Jeremey Newberg provided a comprehensive presentation of survey results. I extend my appreciation to Jonathan Weiss, Irv Shapiro, Jeremey Newberg, Ric Hayman, Rafi Licht, Adam Shapiro, and Carmen Hayman for the significant efforts that have been put forth in this process.

Continued on page 17

President's Column

Continued from page 16

Looking ahead:

- We will be celebrating Society Hill Synagogue's 50th Anniversary with a Gala event next spring. Please let Betty know if you can lead, co-lead, or help with this special event.
- Save-the-date of Sunday, November 1, for Society Hill Day at the Israeli Art Exhibit, curated by Marty Rosenberg at Rutgers Camden, along with a special Concert featuring Mimi Stillman and Quartet.
- We will host a second Jazz Concert fundraiser and our second, 2nd Night Passover Seder.
- We are developing a new approach to B'nai Mitzvah Preparation for Hebrew School students and their families.
- Rabbinical Intern Nathan Kamesar will help us to focus on Membership retention and growth.
- We will continue to evaluate our space improvement needs and renovation options for 430 Spruce Street.
- Our Membership and Religion Committees are developing activities to enrich our Shabbat services in two ways: by engaging some of our many interesting and talented members to provide mini talks during Friday evening services and by creating additional alternative Saturday morning Shabbat services.
- Starting in the fall, Gloria Parris and Ali Kaplan will serve as Co-Directors of the Playschool. They will each bring their unique strengths and interests to their leadership roles to further enhance our Playschool programs and, along with the help of the Playschool Committee, expand enrollment.
- Shlomo Cohen, with assistance from Nathan Kamesar, we will be creating a Google Group through which members can communicate with one another.
- Finally, we are looking forward to finalizing Rabbi Winokur's contract and hope to enjoy his talents as our spiritual leader for many more years..

In summary, we have three areas of focus for the year ahead:

1. Membership
2. Playschool
3. Space Planning

Difficult decisions were made that resulted in necessary cost reductions in order to create a balanced and realistic budget.

We are counting on the generosity of our members to sponsor or co-sponsor Oneg Shabbats, Shabbat dinners, and Kiddush lunches. Also, we need your early support for Annual Giving contributions and timely Membership Dues remittance.

Each of us values our Jewish faith and Society Hill Synagogue community. Some of us have greater financial means than others. Some of us have more availability of time to serve than others. I ask that we each do our best to contribute and support this "Jewel of a Shul" in a way that reflects our values and means. We have an individual and collective obligation.

I am looking ahead to a year of joy in belonging to such a special community.

The summer is a time of renewal. In addition to spending time with family and friends, we often have a chance to enjoy a few books. I will share my summer reading picks within four categories:

- For the Soul: *Beautiful Souls* by Eyal Press;
- For the Mind: *The Teenage Brain* by Frances E. Jensen; and *The Lost: The Search for Six in Six Million* by Daniel Mendelsohn;
- For Tikun Olam (Repairing the World): *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City* by Alice Goffman; and
- For a "Good Read": *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					No Services Building Closed Philly Pop Shabbat	Balak 4 TH of July 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		7:15 AM Minyan 6 PM Philabundance 7 PM Adult B/M Class	12:15 PM ELM		No Services	Pinḥas 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan Here I am!			No Services	Mattot/Mas'ei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	7 PM Board Mtg.	7:15 AM Minyan		Last Day of PS Camp	No Services	D'varim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Va-ethannan 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services Adult B'Nai Mitzvah
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		7:15 AM Minyan 6 PM Philabundance			No Services Building Closed	Eikev 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Services Building Closed	R'eih 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Services Building Closed	Shof'tim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services Building Closed	Ki Tetzei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
30	31					

NEWSLETTER—JULY/AUGUST 2015 ISSUE

Kesher



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