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Rabbi's Column

And on Yom Kippur It Is Sealed . . .

Avi Winokur

The run-up to the High Holy Days, the Yamim Noraim/ the Days of Awe, begins the month before in Elul, when we traditionally begin the process of *heshbon nefesh*/taking account of our lives. A week before Elul, I was in California visiting my frail almost-92-year-old mother, and by the time Elul came, she had been admitted to the hospital with difficulty breathing and fluid in her lungs and had been diagnosed with stage IIIB cancer. My sister, my mother, and I, after talking to three different physicians, decided that she belonged in hospice—that it was not worth the agony attendant to the kind of aggressive treatment that might extend her already long life.

Given my mother's situation, it is natural at this time of year that my attention turns to one of the most well-known and unsettling prayers of the High Holy Days, the *Unetaneh Tokef*, with its refrain,

On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed:
Who shall pass away and who shall be born
Who shall live and who shall die.

And I know one thing for sure. If not this year, 5775, then in early 5776 my mother will be among those who die. There is no uncertainty here.*

It also brings to mind an alternative version of the *Unetaneh Tokef* that my father's colleague, the late Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, of Washington, D.C.'s Adas Israel, wrote some decades ago and that appears in an edited version in our High Holy Day prayer book:

On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed:
Who shall be truly alive,
And who shall merely exist. . . .
Who shall be serene,
And who shall be distraught;
Who shall be at ease
And who shall be afflicted with anxiety.

It is simply true that we all will die. What Rabbi Rabinowitz was trying to get at is that, given mortality, what we do with the time we have, whether long or short, is the issue that truly confronts us year after year. As medicine becomes ever more capable of lengthening our lives—whether as a 45-year-old suffering from incurable breast cancer or as a 91-year-old suffering from incurable lung cancer—the question has become urgent in a new way in recent years.

Continued on page 2

Rabbi's Column

Continued from cover

This year it is urgent for me. Last year it was urgent for some of you. Next year it will be urgent for others. Absent a massive fatal heart attack or stroke or a car accident or other catastrophe, that question will be urgent for almost all of us at some time—what to do with the time remaining.

At what point do we say, “Enough! I cannot endure one more desperate round of chemo, radiation, or invasive surgery with terrible side effects and pain for a 20% chance that my life will be extended three weeks or two months or even six months. Enough! Let me live my remaining days in comfort with my wits about me for as long as I can. Let me spend time with family, however much time it is. Let me spend time with closest and dearest friends. Let me tie up some loose ends, hand off some projects that are dear to me to others whom I trust. Please, let me go home with palliative and hospice care. Don't make me end my days with tubes sticking in every orifice including some created that were never there before, unconscious and a living vegetable. Please, if you care. Please!”

This urgent question—what do we do with the time remaining in the face of terrible illness or disease—was the impetus behind Atul Gawande's powerful book, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Gawande, a surgeon in Boston, a contributing writer to the *New Yorker*, and bestselling author, reflects on the terrible toll that the over medicalization of life has taken.

Toward the end of this extraordinary book, after writing in poignant detail of his own father's dying and that of many of his friends, patients, and acquaintances, Gawande reflects, “We've been wrong about what our job is in medicine. We think our job is to ensure health and survival. But really it is much bigger than that. It is to enable well-being. And well-being is about the reasons one wishes to be alive. . . . If to be human is to be limited, then the role of caring professions and institutions—from surgeons to nursing homes—ought to be aiding people in their struggle within those limits.” This is the role of clergy and religious communities as well.

Whether the time frame is short or long, all of us need to confront the end-of-life issues discussed in

Gawande's book. If you have not read the book, I urge you to find within yourself the courage to pick it up. Once you do, you will not be able to put it down; it is fascinating.

And I want to urge us, as a synagogue community, to embrace both the life and the death, the potential and the finality, that threads through the liturgy of this High Holy Day season. In becoming intimate with death, we can feel the sparks of courage, connection, and caring rising within us. The calendar presents an occasion not only for eating sweet challah and honey but also for pausing to inquire and to feel: What gives meaning to my life and to the lives of my loved ones, friends, and fellow community members? How can we support each other in opening both to the painful reality of constraint and to the texture of each moment?

Each year we wish each other a Shanah Tovah Um'tukah/a good and sweet year, and I certainly wish that for each of you. But may this also be a year of courage and wisdom that stands you in good stead for what we all pray will be a long time to come—time that is measured in quality, not just quantity.

**Sadly, Rabbi Winokur's mother, Charlotte Winokur, passed away on August 27, just days after this article was written.*

Please Send in Your Forms!

Before the summer began, you received your annual Membership Renewal/High Holy Day information packet in the mail. Please fill out all forms and return them in the enclosed envelope with the required membership dues and holiday-related payments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Remember, membership renewal fees and previous balances must be paid in order for you to receive your High Holy Day tickets. All entries to be included in this year's Yizkor Book must be received by **September 10**. Please do not assume that names will automatically be repeated from last year.



President's column

SHS Celebrates 50 Years!

Debra Stewart

It's hard to believe, but we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary this year!

We've Been Here for Half a Century – Join Us as We Envision the Second Half Together!

This is a great tagline for the next 50 years.

We are a welcoming, vibrant, independent, and progressive community.

There's another fabulous tagline. Keep an eye out for our new banner and special event save-the-date cards. We have much to celebrate!

In preparation for our anniversary celebrations next April, we need each of you to help us collect or donate silent auction items. Be creative. Scour your homes and think about skills, services, or items you can offer. Do you have a vacation home or tickets to music, arts, or sports events? Do you know how to create unique themed baskets? Can you solicit donations from the businesses of your associates and friends? Please let me know what you can offer or call me to discuss any ideas. It is time to raise the necessary funds to “burn the mortgage” on 430 Spruce Street and begin Phase 2 of the development of this valuable property!

This year we are bringing back all of the programs that we have come to love, and we'll be adding a few more that will further pique your interest and enrich your lives. Wait until you see the line up of activities! I do not want to tip our hand too much, but we will be learning from presentations by some of our many interesting and talented members, experimenting with some special alternative Shabbat services, cooking Jewish foods together, and enjoying exceptional Israeli art and other cultural experiences throughout the year.

During our 50th year as a community, we should take the opportunity to reflect upon the value of our relationship to one another, our responsibility to one another, and our communal and individual expectations of one another. Toward this end, I will be engaging our community in creating our first covenant, establishing SHS as a covenantal community. We will be etching in stone, so to speak, our ideals—reference points for celebrating our Jewish values as a community. This is critical to ensuring a strong, moral, caring, giving synagogue for the next 50 years and beyond. As we join together in this covenant, we will actualize our responsibilities to improve the spaces in our buildings, with the hope that one day these spaces will fully reflect our values of warmth, dignity, respect, life-long learning, diversity, and generosity. Our community will continue to thrive, as we worship together, celebrate each other's life cycle events, and create our legacy—under sound fiscal stewardship. SHS, as a covenantal community, will provide the moral foundation and physical environment in which we can each enjoy our Jewish journey. Such a sacred community is a gift we will give not only to ourselves, but to our children, grandchildren, and all those who come to our doors seeking a spiritual home— an everlasting “Jewel of a Shul.”

In closing, I'd like to offer a hearty Mazel Tov to our members who have recently become B'nai Mitzvah: Beverly Michaels, Julie Koenig-Michaels, Carolyn Michaels, Mary Fish, Randi Glatz, and Jared Susco.

Wishing all SHS members and their families a sweet, healthy, and joyful New Year. L'Shanah Tovah.



Cantor's Column

May the Shofar Rouse You from Your Lethargy

Bob Freedman

I bought my shofar from the big Judaica store in the middle of Me-ah Sh'arim, in Jerusalem. They had a bin of short ones, thirty or more, and a few of the long ones. I tried the long ones just for the fun of hearing their deep, mellow tone, but I really wanted a shofar that made a shrill, unpleasant, biting cry. I was thinking of the famous quote from Maimonides that we read in our Maḥzor. It begins, "Awake from your slumber, and rouse yourself from your lethargy." So I did not want a sonorous French horn sound that would remind me of peaceful forest vales and Mozart's divine Horn Concerti. No, I was looking for a sound that would make listeners wince. So I tried all of them and finally found one that made a big, raucous BLATT, loud enough to bring down the walls of Jericho, if that was called for.

Each of the three "notes" of the shofar—*t'ki-ah*, *sh'varim*, and *t'ru-ah*—has its own significance. *T'ki-ah* is a call to gather. *Sh'varim* imitates broken sighs, and *t'ru-ah* is an alarm. When I sound them, I try to express the emotion of each, but not to emphasize one over the other, so I give the same duration to each of those three. But the fourth note, *t'ki-ah g'dolah*, is different from the others. When I hear someone hold it for a long time, I begin to tremble. It's such an ancient cry that I can hardly bear the weight of the history that it carries. And the longer it goes, the more I shake, until sometimes I find myself begging for the blower to stop. Of course, when I am the one blowing the shofar, I hold that note as long as I possibly can!

Ultimately, the deepest significance of the shofar for me is that it is an empty tube. It can't make sound by itself, and it can only shape the vibrating air that someone passes through it. I aspire to be like the shofar, a vessel through which God blows. (If "God" poses difficulty for you, try substituting "universe.") I know that, like a shofar, I will not be completely passive to that breath; my personality, memory, and desire shape the waves of idea and event that pass

through me. I'd like to be somewhere on the spectrum between open receptivity and being a partner with God in creation.

During the High Holy Days, though, I strive to approach the pole of receptivity. We pray, "*Sh'ma koleinu*," "hear our voice." Not our words, though we say a great many words during this season. Hear our voice, unladen by the lies, political games, tensions, and need for control that words inherently convey. At least for this season of turning, I'd like to be like the shofar, a clear vessel, receiving and giving pure sound.

Sally and I wish for you a sweet and healthy New Year that brings you much to be grateful for. May you be written and sealed in the Book of Life.

Center City Kehillah

Pop-Up Park

Deborah Shapiro

Visit the Center City Kehillah at their pop-up park on PARK(ing) Day, September 18, from 8 AM until 5 PM, on the 200 block of South 19th Street, near Rittenhouse Square. There will be activities for all ages and information about Jewish organizations in Center City. Come out to meet your neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Jewish life in Philadelphia!

For more information on PARK(ing) DAY events across the city, visit www.parkingdayphila.org/ or email centercitykehillah@gmail.com.

KinderBat: A Special Service for Children Aged 3-7

Children between the ages of 3 and 7, along with their families, are invited to join Hebrew School teacher Rachel Moran on one Saturday each month for singing, dancing, storytelling, and interactive prayer. This 45-minute service will begin at 11 AM on the following dates: October 24, December 5, January 9, February 20, March 12, April 16, and May 7.



Ann Spak Thal School A New Year of "Doing"

Sahar Oz

As we prepare to celebrate a new year, I find the digits of this year – 5776 – particularly inspiring. First, look at the last two digits: could there be a more appropriate Jewish year for Philadelphians to celebrate than one that ends with 76? To our NBA team, the Schuylkill Expressway, the Vine Street Expressway, the Blue Route, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, we can now add the new Jewish year as one more "institution" with a 76.

And since 5776 is a leap year, we get to enjoy it for 385 days, the greatest number of days possible in any Jewish year. But the Hebrew calendar uniqueness of 5776 does not end there. In Hebrew, we use letters to express dates, since each letter has a numerical value. To signify 5,000, we add a HEY to the beginning. Because the HEY is so ubiquitous in the representation of years, it is often left off the Hebrew expression of the Jewish year in printed calendars, magazines, or journals.

However, the other letters used to express the Jewish New Year never get dropped. This year, we use the TAV (value of 400) and SHIN/SIN (300) to symbolize 700; AYIN for 70; and VAV for 6. In order, that's TAV - SHIN/SIN - AYIN - VAV. If we switch places between the SHIN/SIN and the AYIN, we get TAV - AYIN - SHIN/SIN - VAV. Now, let's use the SIN but not the SHIN in that combination, and (with vowels) we have the word, **TA'ASU**, which means: "**you (plural) will do.**"

Indeed, I hope and believe that this will be a new year in which we all **do** a lot: a lot of learning, a lot of discovering, a lot of laughing, a lot of thinking, a lot of discussing, a lot of listening, a lot of questioning, a lot of opining, a lot of empathizing, a lot of helping, a lot of supporting, a lot of understanding, and a lot of welcoming. As we welcome the New Year 5776, let us welcome new students and new teachers with a smile and enthusiasm that will truly make this our sweetest year yet.

Bruhim haba'im (welcome) to new Sunday School students Jenavieve Kranzel, Pippa Pasternak, Noah Schindler, and Yul Summers; new Hebrew School students Chuck Schaeffer and Nick Schaeffer; and our 3rd graders and 8th graders, who are new to Hebrew School and Hebrew High, respectively. While most of our faculty and aides are back for 5776, we have two new teachers – Siona Stone in Hebrew High and Sydney Halberstadt in Sunday School and Hebrew School – and one new student aide, Mayah Gold.

Everyone will get to meet all of our teachers and aides on the first day of classes, Sunday, September 20. In addition, we invite all parents to join us at that morning's annual "Welcome Back to School" programs at **9:20 AM (for Sunday School parents)** and **11:15 AM (for Hebrew School and Hebrew High parents).**

These meetings provide a great opportunity to connect with fellow parents, members of the Education Committee, and the Rabbi and Cantor to hear about key calendar dates and Shabbat services and meals. Parents will also have a chance to learn more about our upcoming school celebrations and special programs. Light refreshments will be served at each of these "Welcome Back" sessions.

Given the High Holy Day schedule, there will only be two days of classes in September: Sunday, September 20, and Sunday, September 27. We understand that some of our families may be away in the days leading up to and including September 27, when Pope Francis visits. Traffic will be challenging, so we will be revisiting the plan to hold classes that day. Please stay tuned for an update via e-mail in case classes are canceled.

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A Message From the Religion Committee

Terry Novick and Marc Schwartz

The members of the SHS Religion Committee would like to thank all of the congregants who have volunteered to participate in this year's High Holy Day services. We would also like to invite anyone who is interested in leyning Torah or leading Musaf during our regular Shabbat services to contact one of us at terry.novick@gmail.com or marcschwartzus@yahoo.com.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year. L'Shanah Tovah!

Jewish History in 100 Nutshells Mohammed and The Jews

Larry Spector

So how did Mohammed get along with the Jews? Was he the true founder of Islam? What is Islam's version of the *Shema*? To see this Nutshell, visit the SHS website, click on the September/October link under "Nutshell Excerpts, and find the answers to these thought-provoking questions.

Important Note

High Holy Day tickets will be mailed shortly. Along with your tickets to services, the package will include: HHD Parking information, a HHD Service Schedule, and information about stroller parking and babysitting.



Social Action School Supply Drive

Phyllis Denbo

There is a new principal at the Vare-Washington Elementary School. His name is Zachary Duberstein, and he is a graduate of Philly PLUS, a residency program created four years ago by the Philadelphia Great Schools Compact and the Philadelphia Schools Partnership to put a select group of promising educators on the fast track to leadership in the city's public schools. This is the sixth principal with whom we have worked since we first partnered with the George Washington Elementary School more than eight years ago. There has been a lot of change for the teachers and students, but as the members of the Social Action Committee have concluded, this is another reason our help is needed there, now more than ever. Our volunteers provide continuity and our presence is very much appreciated.

Mr. Duberstein is well aware of our work with the school, and in a recent email he said, *"I could not be more excited for our partnership!"* Our first project with him is a school supply drive to kick off the new school year. He indicated that the most important item that teachers need is **printer paper**. In addition, they have requested the following items: **Marble composition notebooks, #2 pencils, pencil boxes, erasers, dry-erase markers, pens, hand sanitizer, chart paper, 3x5 index cards, highlighters, 2" and 3-ring binders, and tissues.**

Monetary donations to the school are also welcome. The money goes into the student activity account to be used for field trips, extracurricular activities, and related programs that benefit the students.

Please leave your donated items in the synagogue office. A member of the Social Action Committee will pick them up each week and deliver them to the school. After the High Holy Days, we will be contacting you about the many other ways our congregation can serve the Vare-Washington Elementary School.

Baby & Me & Young Families Groups We Look Forward to Seeing You at

Joanna Hart

Society Hill Synagogue welcomes all young children to our congregation and delights in the energy and enthusiasm they bring! In the hectic rush of caring for young children during High Holy Day and regular services, we want families to feel that SHS is a warm and inviting place to reflect and find support.

We look forward to meeting new friends at the Sunday School Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During services in the Main Sanctuary, little ones are welcome to borrow a book from our Young Families' Library located in the foyer! If we can do anything to assist your family during the High Holy Days, whether it is to provide a clean diaper or lend a helping hand, please reach out to one of the ushers.

Our Baby & Me and Young Families Groups have combined to bring together all parents or caretakers of babies and young children for activities, support, and a sense of Jewish community! Following the High Holy Days, we will celebrate Sukkot on Sunday, October 4, 10 AM, at the Family Service. Also look for us at TGI Shabbat services where we dance in the aisles and do plenty of clapping!

Please join our "SHS Families" Google Group and email list by contacting me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com to stay up-to-date on events and share your parenting questions and knowledge! Prospective members, expectant parents, and any caretakers are welcome to join!

Attention Ushers

Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers during RH & YK services. Your participation is essential to maintain the dignity of our services and to ensure appropriate decorum. We would appreciate your help at as many services as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty van de Rijn at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590.

Membership Engagement Initiative (MEI)

1. "Guess Who's Coming To Shabbas?™" (GWCTS)

Bonny Hohenberger

As I write this article, it is a sultry 92 degrees outside, and it's hard to imagine that we will soon be wearing light jackets when we gather to celebrate Shabbat dinners, luncheons, and Havdalah rituals in the homes of our friends and congregants. For the FOURTH straight year, SHS will be inviting members to participate in another popular **GWCTS event during the weekend of Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17.**

Again, we are looking for members to volunteer to open their homes to fellow congregant guests and prospective synagogue members to host a Shabbat dinner, luncheon, or Havdalah meal. Of course, we are also looking for guests. Gatherings can include everything from very formal sit-down meals to casual garden potluck picnics (including one which was not really casual because we ate on fine china). Past participants have commented that they really enjoyed getting to know other congregants and deepening their knowledge of Jewish rituals and prayers.

We will soon post sign up sheets at the synagogue for you to indicate whether you would like to be a host or guest (many previous guests have offered to be hosts at the next event). Or feel free to contact me (Bjh711@gmail.com or 215.263.4715) with any questions, to let me know if you'd like to participate, or to let me know about any dietary restrictions you may have, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.



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Ann Spak Thal School

Continued from page 5

On Sunday, October 4, we will have a school-wide Sukkot Family Service at 10:30 AM, and this is truly one of the most joyous and invigorating services of the year, during which everyone will have a chance to shake the lulav and etrog on the bimah. Come for the community spirit, come for the tradition, come for the colors and aromas, and shake, shake, shake your way to a great Sukkot celebration!

Last, but certainly not least, please mark your calendars for our **Rosh Hashanah School Services on Monday, September 14, 9:30-10:30 AM for Sunday School and 10:45 AM-12:00 PM for Hebrew School**. Nine days later, please join us for **Yom Kippur School Services on Wednesday, September 23, 9:30-10:30 AM for Sunday School and 10:45 AM-12:00 PM for Hebrew School**.

I look forward to welcoming all of you and your children to a new year of joyous Jewish learning. Shanah Tovah Um'tukah, M'le'at Ahavah V'shalvah – wishing you a good and sweet year filled with love and serenity.

STROLLER PARKING

In order to comply with fire safety regulations, kindly park your child's stroller in the Social Hall along the 5th Street side of the room before joining us for services.

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Terry Graboyes

In Memory of Our Parents
Marlene Lachman & Alan Ominsky

Break-the-Fast

Michael & Holly Gorsen
Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels

In Memory of Irma Friedman
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Terry Graboyes

Sukkah Decorations

In Memory of Irma Friedman
Jonathan Feinman

In Memory of Shirley and Joseph Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Additional Thank Yous will be printed in next Kesher.



If you are interested in purchasing a Lulav & Etrog set for Sukkot, please contact Leanne at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org. The cost is \$40 per set. We have limited amounts so order soon!



Playschool
Big News:
SHS Playschool Has
Extended Hours!
 Gloria Parris and Ali Kaplan

We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer! Now it's time to start looking forward to another exciting school year filled with creative projects, surprise guest visitors, and NEW extended Playschool hours!

The staff has been working hard all summer to develop extended morning and afternoon programs for our Playschool families. **Our extended morning hours will run from 7:45 –8:30 AM, Monday through Friday. Our extended afternoon hours will run from 3 – 6 PM, Monday through Friday.** Children in every class are welcome to stay every day or any day, as needed. Our goal is to provide our parents with more flexible hours, and to provide our students with extra time to play and learn with their friends! Ask about our available multi-day discount packages!

The Playschool also offers an engaging After School Arts program! Each weekday, students will participate in themed projects (Cooking on Mondays, Science on Tuesdays, Arts and Crafts on Wednesdays, Movement and Games on Thursdays, and Music on Fridays). The After School Arts program runs from 12:30 until 3 PM, Monday – Friday. Your child will have a blast participating in these activities, so sign up now!

Please make note of some important Playschool dates during the months of September and October. Parents are invited to stay with their children during the welcome parties and should plan to attend the Parents' Welcome Meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

September 8	7 PM	Parent Welcome Meeting
September 9	9 AM	Puppy Class Welcome
September 10	9 AM	Puppy Class-1st Day
	10 AM	Pre-K Welcome
	11:30 AM	3-4 Class Welcome
September 11		First Day of School

On the first day of school, students in the Puppy Class will come to school from 9 until 10 AM, students in the class for 3 – 4-year-olds will have a regular school day from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, and students in the Pre-K will have a regular school day from 8:30 AM until 2 PM.

Playschool will be closed on the following days in September and October:

September 14 & 15	Rosh Hashanah
September 22	12:30 PM Dismissal
September 23	Yom Kippur
September 24 & 25	Philly Schools Closed
September 28 & 29	Sukkot
October 5	Sh'mini Atzeret
October 12	Columbus Day

There is still time to enroll your child in any of our Playschool classes for the 2015-2016 academic year. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, please contact Gloria Parris (gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org) or Ali Kaplan (abernstein@societyhillssynagogue.org), or call the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28.



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September Birthdays

Judy Lalli
 Lyn Kirshenbaum
 Robby Saligman
 Neil Cohen
 David Gutstadt
 Anya Rosin
 Madeleine Wilson
 Edgar Einhorn
 Andrea Ehrlich
 Asher Dubin
 Valerie Lichtman
 Martin Rosenberg
 Jay Denbo
 Mel Nasielski
 Stephen Stein
 Karen Hafter
 Bart Kaplan
 Joann Slosberg
 Anya Applebaum Licht
 Alexandra Rosen
 Brooke Salzman
 Betta Kolansky
 Paula Ninerell
 Ann Rosen Spector
 Lynne Rubenfeld
 Charlotte Lawton
 Jared Susco
 Aldo Friedman
 Doris Cohen
 Fran Gallun
 Michael Rochester
 Benjamin Cohen
 Dana Feinberg
 Sari Love
 Xavi Freitag
 Ben Rosin
 Robert Einhorn
 Caryn Levitsky
 Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton
 Jessica Newberg
 Jamie Schwartz
 Josie Chrismer
 Lisa Eizen
 Allison Esslinger
 Anne Ballen Ladenson
 Andrew Bottaro
 Rebecca Stolker

**October Birthdays**

Craig Sobel
 Elizabeth Becker
 Lily Hayman
 Lauren Ladov
 Dan Bogen
 Michelle Danoff
 Caleb Pirok
 Cybele Pirok
 Andrea Appel
 Ellen Fennick
 Jacob Mono
 Suzanne Fierston
 Gabriel Gilbert-Trachtman
 Sayde Ladov
 Martha Levine
 Gerald Faich
 Cora Rosin
 Ylanah Sloane
 Alexander Kranzel
 Adam Shapiro
 Burton Blender
 Roberta Dranoff
 Jay Wussow
 Janet Cherry
 Stephen Leshnoff
 Nathan Saltz
 Emma Salzman
 Scott Richman
 Daniel Saligman
 Skylar Hunter
 Maxwell Gearhart
 Greg Guzman
 Abraham Summers
 Riva Auerbach
 Betty Kaplan
 Tal Prystowski
 Amy Danoff
 Lawrence Goldfinger
 Linda Bach
 Lila Roomberg
 Lena Popkin
 Willa Pasternak
 Abigail Wolf
 Jonathan Weiss
 Jacob Hayman
 Thea Applebaum Licht
 Olivia Backal-Balik
 Hannah Feinberg
 Clara Gutstadt
 Joshua Nadel
 Brian Mono
 Sharon Shapiro

September Anniversaries

Noah & Sara Chrismer
 James & Linda Rosenstein
 Irwin Balik & Peggy Backal
 Richard Braemer & Amy Finkel
 James & Anna Whitesell
 Jay Wussow & Emily Zimmerman
 Carl & Caryn Levitsky

**October Anniversaries**

Daniel & Carol Weil
 Joshua Nadel & Lana Noel
 Craig Pressman & Sandra Lazovitz
 Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
 Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman
 Don & Karen Kaufman
 Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter
 Sahar & Alli Oz
 Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
 Mel Nasielski & Nancy Burd

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.



Mark your
calendars
for the following
TGShabbat
Services

October 2
October 30
November 20
December 25
January 22
February 26
March 25
April 15
May 27

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Community News

Mazel Tov to

Judy & Richard Gelles on the birth of their granddaughter,
Lia Gelles.

Welcome New Members & Families

G Bartell

Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich

Harold Jacobs

Harry & Sheryl Linhardt

Matthew & Laura Mehrman

Ashleigh Reibach

Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg

Charles and Nicholas

Benjamin Schindler & Rebecca Rohtbart

Noah and Kiera

Sara Steinberger & Jared Shapiro

Ryan Wheeler & Kara Sugarman Wheeler

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General Fund

In Appreciation of

SHS

Bonny Flanagan

In Honor of

Mary Fish, Beverly Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig, Carolyn Michaels, Randi Glatz, and Jared Susco on their recent Adult B’Nai Mitzvah

Mark & Ann Steinberger

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Joseph Poulshock, Husband of Sally Poulshock

Sally Poulshock

Dolores Borawski, Mother of Tom Borawski

Tom Borawski & Libby Cone

Jack Paller, Father of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Roger & Lore Bryan, Parents of Jeffrey Bryan

Jeffrey & Ivy Bryan

Benjamin Levering, Father of Sally Poulshock

Sally Poulshock

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Jared Susco’s Bar Mitzvah

Barbara Spector

Beverly Michaels’ Bat Mitzvah

Barbara Spector

Social Action Fund

In Appreciation of

Debbie Stewart for helping with our move

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

In Honor of

Beverly Michaels on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Michele Zeldner & Ian Wachstein

Bat Mitzvah of Mary Fish

Miriam & Sandy Ain

Playschool Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Bernice Lieberman, Grandmother of Andrew Hohns

Nancy Hohns

Bernice Lieberman, Great-Grandmother of Isaac Henry Hohns

Nancy Hohns

Cantor’s Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Preparation for Adult B’Nai Mitzvah

Jared Susco

Beverly Michaels and Family

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Mary Fish

Betty & Bart Kaplan

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Mark Dembert

Peggy Anderson

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Beit Din of Beverly Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig & Carolyn Michaels

Beverly Michaels and Family

Preparation for Adult B’Nai Mitzvah

Beverly Michaels and Family

Shiva Service for Nancy Morgenstern’s Mother

Nancy Morgenstern

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Murray Rosof, Father of Libby Rosof

Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn

Herbert Cohn

Alan L. Jacobs, Father of Nancy Goldenberg

Nancy Goldenberg

Nathan Richman, Father of Scott Richman

Scott Richman

Bertram Pincus, Grandfather of Scott Richman

Scott Richman

Sara Weyland

Renee & Harris Hayman

Adult Education Fund

In Appreciation

SHS & RRC Joint Event Dinner

Steve & Susan Leshnoff

In Honor of

Mimi Stillman & Gabe Globus-Hoenich for the May TGIShabbat

Steven & Susan Leshnoff

Kiddush Fund

In Honor of
SHS TGISHabbat Services
 Amy Michael

B'nai Mitzvah of Mary Fish, Randi Glatzer, Beverly Michaels, Carolyn Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig, & Jared Susco
 Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of
Marjorie Pressman, Mother of Nancy Morgenstern
 Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector
 Steve & Susan Leshnoff

Kiddush Sponsorships
 Noah & Sara Chrismmer
 Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
 Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
 Carolyn Michaels
 Julia Michaels-Koenig
 Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
 Debra Stewart
 Jared Susco

L' Shanah Tovah
 Have a sweet year!



Joel Chernock
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
 Diane & Theodore Danoff
 Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
 Lisa & Steven Eizen
 Jonathan Feinman
 Terry Graboyes, Noah Herman & Ashley Kerns
 Betta Kolansky
 Fred & Dinah Lovitch
 Harry (aka Jerry) and Eleanor Oxman
 Flora Barth Wolf & Laslo V. Boyd
 Lois & Jerry Rosenberg

Additional New Year Greetings will be printed in the next issue of the Keshet.

Annual Giving Appeal

Thank you for your contributions to the **SHS Annual Giving Fund** which are vital to the financial health of our Synagogue. Your generosity has enabled us to make up the difference between our income from Membership dues and Playschool tuition and our operating expenses.

Harry Bach
 Linda Bach
 Mitchell Bach
 Jim Becker
 Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
 Libby Cone & Tom Borawski
 Noah & Sara Chrsmmer
 Herbert Cohn
 Theodore Danoff & Diane Siegel Danoff
 Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
 Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
 Robert Einhorn
 Steven & Lisa Eizen
 Neil Epstein
 Jonathan Feinman
 Cristina Dorona Fey
 Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 Joseph Freedman
 Avi & Debra Galler
 Randi Glatzer
 Michael & Holly Gorsen
 Steven & Ruth Greenberg
 David Gutstadt & Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
 Michael & Leslie Hafter
 Merle Jaffe
 Edward & Susanne Kaplan
 Thomas Kline
 Betta Kolansky
 Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
 Edwin & Etta Krauss
 Judith & Tony Lalli
 Carl & Caryn Levitsky
 Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum
 Rina Mitchell
 Jane Nathanson & Andrew Newman
 David & Linda Paskin
 Ylanah Sloane
 Barry & Joann Slosberg
 Barbara Spector
 Debra & Bill Stewart
 Nuriye Uygur
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 James & Julie Wilson
 Flora Wolf

2. Arts & Culture

Jonathan Feinman and Betta Kolansky

The members of the Arts and Culture Committee hope that all of you had a restful summer and are ready for a lot of fun activities in the coming months. We have eleven activities planned for this year so far, and we hope to add more as the year progresses. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. We are reaching out to people for help with some new initiatives this year including an Adult Hanukkah Party, a 2nd Night Seder (Pesah), cooking classes, and other events. If you are looking for a fun way to be involved at SHS, please join our group. Also, if you are not currently getting updates about Arts and Cultural Events please contact me at so that I can include you on our email list.

Our first three offerings are connected to Marty Rosenberg's exciting exhibition, *Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art*, located at the Stedman Gallery at Rutgers-Camden campus. (The Stedman Gallery is located at 314 Linden Street in Camden, NJ, near 3rd and Cooper Streets. There is a large parking lot on 3rd St., Lot 14, that offers free parking on Sundays.) The exhibition will run from Thursday, September 17 through Saturday, December 12 and includes 51 works by 36 contemporary Israeli artists, half of whom are women, and all of whom are Israeli citizens. For more information about the exhibit, you can visit the Facebook page *Israeli Visions of Place*, or click on the following link to view Marty's interview with Comcast newsmakers. <http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2015/07/27/visions-of-place/>

The events connected to the Israeli Art Exhibition is as follows:

Continued on next page

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athletes, rising stars. And we encourage all of them to choose their own path. There's a place for your family here. Come love where you learn.

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Time: 9:30am - Noon



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MEI

Continued from previous page

On Saturday evening, September 19, Marty will offer brief tours of the exhibition at 6:30 and 7:30 PM. Then, Symphony in C will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, Op. 36 in F minor with internationally renowned Russian-Jewish pianist Alexander Kobrin. For more information check out Symphony in C's website at <http://www.symphonyc.org/>. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive two, send an email to mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu.

On Friday, October 23, Marty will give a brief overview of the exhibition following Shabbat services and dinner.

Sunday, November 1, is "SHS Day" at the exhibition. There will be tours for SHS members and guests at 1:00 and 2:00 PM, followed by a free concert by Mimi Stillman and her Dolce Suono Ensemble at 3:00 PM. The program will feature a work they commissioned from Pulitzer-prize winning contemporary Israeli composer Shulamit Ran. A reception will follow.

Please send me an email if you plan to attend and let me know if you can take an additional passenger in your car. We have many people who would like to attend this event but cannot do so if they can't find a ride. People without rides should also contact me so that I can try to match them with a congregant who can accommodate them.

On Sunday, November 15, join us for a Hanukkah Baking Class at SHS at 1 PM, following Hebrew School. This class will be led by local neighborhood pastry chef Roz, owner of *Homemade Goodies by Roz*, located on S. 5th Street. The charge for the class will be \$5 per person and \$10 per family. Tickets for this event will be sold in advance and on a first-come, first-served basis. There is only room for 20 people to participate, so reserve your spot early.

In December, we will have our first Adult Hanukkah party. This event will include dinner, a performance by a comedian, musical entertainment on the piano by new member G Bartell, a candle-lighting demonstration, and dancing. Bring your menorah and dancing shoes—it is going to be a fun-filled evening! We need volunteers to help decorate the Social Hall a few days beforehand. If you would like to help out, please contact Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net.

On Saturday night, January 9, we will have Havdalah and Movie Night. After a short Havdalah service, we will watch a Jewish-themed movie, eat pizza and popcorn, and enjoy each other's company. The snow date for this event will be Saturday night, January 16.

On Saturday, February 27, we will have our first SHS Open Mic Night. This is the night that all of you extroverts have been waiting for! Here is your chance to show off your special talent, whether your performance involves comedy, singing, dancing, or playing an instrument. Snacks will be served. See you there!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 13, and learn how to cook gefilte fish at SHS for Pesah.

On Saturday, April 16, Jonathan Leshnoff, noted contemporary composer, and son of Susan and Steve Leshnoff, is scheduled to perform the world premier of his clarinet concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra, featuring Ricardo Morales, at the Kimmel Center. Jonathan is a professor of music at Towson University in Maryland and has recorded several CDs. All ticket holders who attend the event will be invited to a kosher post-concert reception at the Double Tree Hotel on Broad Street in Jonathan's honor. Please RSVP to Susan Leshnoff at susan.leshnoff@gmail.com.

Continued on page 16

MEI

Continued from page 15

On Saturday, April 23, the 2nd night of Pesah, we will be gathering in SHS Social Hall for another fun-filled Second Night Seder.

Finally, on Sunday, May 1, we will travel to NYC's Lower East Side to visit the Tenement Museum and the nearby historic Eldridge Street Synagogue, followed by lunch at a local Jewish restaurant. Stay tuned for further details.

We hope to see you at any or all of these events and welcome your questions, suggestions and, most of all, your help. If you would like to join the Arts & Culture Committee or you would like to help just once with a specific task, please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com or Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net.

On behalf of our committee, we wish you a sweet and healthy New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah tikatevu v'tehatemu.

3. Tuesday Morning Minyan

Debra Stewart

As you may know, an SHS member leads a brief morning service every Tuesday at 7:15 AM. We need your help to secure a minyan at this service for those individuals in our SHS and local communities who wish to say Kaddish.

In the words of Judy Lalli:

"As a 'no-longer-a-morning-person' who attends the Tuesday morning service, I will tell you that it's hard to get there and always worth it once I do, especially when I'm the 10th person. We have a hamish group, and it is really gratifying when someone new shows up who really needs the minyan. We start the day together, and we finish the service in under a half hour, start to finish."

Please consider attending this brief, important service. You never know when you may be the 10th person required to make a minyan for someone who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Coffee and bagels will be provided after the service.





The Society Hill Synagogue Clergy, Staff, Officers, & Board of Directors wish you and your family L'Shanah Tovah!

May the New Year bring all that is sweet to you and your loved ones.

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Help us combat hunger by participating in our High Holiday Food Drive. Your donations will help feed more than 3,000 families in need, each year through the Jewish Federation's Mitzvah Food Project.

Donate your canned food this High Holy Day Today!

Kosher Canned Beans
 Kosher Nut Butters
 Kosher Canned Fish

All food must have a current date and be unopened; no bulk sizes or glass items please.

For your convenience, a large blue container will be in the lobby on the ground floor.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services Building Closed	Ki Tavo 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 9 PM Selihot
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labor Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 8 AM Meeting HS Teachers PS Teachers 6 PM Hatan Torah 7 PM PS Parent Meeting Philabundance	PS 2 Year Old Welcome	PS Pre-K & 3 Year Old Welcome	1 st Day of PS 6:15 PM Services	Nitzavim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:30 PM Service	Rosh Hashanah I 9 AM Service 9:30 AM SS Srv. 10:45 AM HS Srv.	Rosh Hashanah II 10 AM Service	7 PM Social Action Meeting		6:15 PM Service	Va-yeilekh Shabbat Shuvah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1 st Day 9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Breakfast in Babylon with Rafi	7 PM ECM	12:30 PM PS Dis- missal Kol Nidre 6:30 PM Service	Yom Kippur 9:30 AM Service 9:30 AM SS Srv. 10:45 AM HS Srv. 7:15 PM Shofar 7:30 PM Break-the -Fast	Building Closed	Building Closed No Friday Night Service	Ha-azinu 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
27	28	29	30			
Erev Sukkot 9 AM SS 10 AM HS	Sukkot I 9:30 AM Service Office & PS Closed	Sukkot II Building Closed	Sukkot III			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Sukkot IV	Sukkot V 6:15 PM TGIS habbat featuring Jud Aaron and Joe Oxman	Hol Hamoed Sukkot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sukkot VII 10 AM School Family Sukkot Service	Sukkot VIII Sh'mini Atzeret 9:30 AM Service & Yizkor Simhat Torah 6:30 PM Service PS/Office Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS Philabundance			6:15 PM Service	B'reishit 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10 AM Service Hatan Torah Kallat B'reishit Kiddush
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 1:15 PM HS Facul- ty Meeting	Columbus Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Social Action Meeting 7:30 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		No Services "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?" Weekend	Noah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?" Weekend
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		6:15 PM Service Arts & Culture Dinner & Visions Slide Show pre- sented by Martin Rosenberg Art Professor at Rut- gers University	Lekh L'kha 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Aleph Class Service with Jessi Roemer Followed by Kid- dush Lunch
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM AE Class with Rabbi-TBA	7:30 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		6:15 PM TGIS habbat featuring Bob and Dan Blacksberg Dinner following services in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hayman	Va-yera 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hayman

Kesher



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