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President's Column

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration: April 1, 2, and 3

Debra Stewart

We are committed to meeting the needs and interests of our members for home- or SHS-based holiday celebrations. For many years, we have had a community Hanukkah celebration for the kids in our Playschool and Sunday school. This year, the Arts & Culture Committee organized our first adult Hanukkah party, which was a smashing success. Our next SHS-based holiday celebration will be our Second Night Seder during Pesach.

In the meantime, we are planning what has become one of our signature events, Inter-**NOSH**-ional night. Sign up now to be a guest in someone's home, based on which type of cuisine you prefer. Menus will be sent in a congregational email in early January. The identity of the host(s) will be revealed after you choose your cuisine. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this wonderful event that builds community while raising needed funds for our shul.

SHS is becoming known as "The Synagogue for Music." From our highly acclaimed TG**IS**habbat services featuring talented members and guest musicians, to our exceptional Hebrew School fundraising concerts (performed gratis) by our own SHS Concert Band featuring Joe Oxman (bass), Jud Aaron (saxophone), Josh Nadel (drums), Bob Blacksberg (clarinet), and G Bartell (piano), and Rachel Moran (vocals), we are developing more and more events for fans of music.

Our Membership Committee has created some winning new offerings: the monthly Friday Shabbat Speaker's Corner series and the Lunch & Learn lecture series. Rabbi Winokur has developed a monthly Meditative Shabbat Service. Our Arts & Culture Committee members are on a roll with their amazing monthly line-up of events. I hope you were able to visit the memorable *Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art* exhibition, co-curated by Martin Rosenberg.



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Rabbi's Column

Educational Opportunities Should Not Depend on Politics

Avi Winokur

I don't know about you, but I am sick of writing about, reading about, and pushing school funding, education, etc. I also know—and I hope that you agree with me—that no matter how exhausting it is to constantly be nudged on the subject of education, it is critical.

Conservatives and righties agree with liberals and lefties on the state of education, on the inequality of educational opportunity that reflects differences in the socioeconomic status and racial/ethnic makeup of the youngsters. On the other hand, liberals and lefties disagree passionately with conservatives and righties on how to tackle these problems, on who is responsible—in fact, on just about everything about how to approach the problem of wildly disparate educational outcomes that track class/income and race/ethnicity.

No matter where one stands along the political divide, there are things that we can do to address these issues. These things are utterly apolitical. One can engage students through volunteering whether one is a bleeding-heart liberal or a bleeding-heart conservative.

The critiques that each side of the divide levels at the other ought to be irrelevant here. Conservatives will often accuse liberals of depending on paternalistic Big Brother government to solve problems. That is, if you liberals want to tackle educational inequality, get off your duff, roll up your sleeves, and go into the schools as individuals and get to work. Liberals will accuse conservatives of harping on nongovernmental solutions while being completely uninvolved in implementing those solutions, turning their supposed individualist ethos into a cover for an utter lack of social conscience.

Enough already! Helping out those in need is not simply a political issue. In Jewish speak, *g'milut hessed* (acts of loving-kindness) are incumbent upon

all of us regardless of where we stand on the political spectrum, and common sense tells us that performing those acts where they are most needed is the right thing to do. The consensus among social scientists is that educational opportunity is one of the most critical areas that needs our investment of time and energy.

Let's begin with a reality check. Infants and toddlers whose parents are on welfare hear roughly 600 words/hour. Those of working-class parents hear roughly 1200 words/hour, and those of professionals hear roughly 2100 words/hour. By age three, children of professionals have heard roughly 30 million words more than children on welfare have. I suspect that we would all agree that these groups begin their educational adventures with various degrees of advantage and disadvantage. See Tina Rosenberg's "The Power of Talking to Your Baby," *New York Times*, April 10, 2013.

While we all know that children in wealthier school districts receive more resources per child than children in poorer districts, the differences are even more insidious—and I'm not talking about children of the wealthy in poor urban districts going to private schools. Within the same district, children who live in higher-income school catchment areas receive substantially more resources *in the public schools themselves* than those who do not live in these catchment areas. After all, if I can contribute \$1,500 to \$5,000 to my child's public school, I can transform it into a top-flight school. I've made a killing in that I've saved over \$10,000 in private school tuition fees. See Robert Reich's "Not Very Giving," *New York Times*, September 4, 2013.

The task of creating equal educational opportunities for our children is enormous. In light of that enormity, I am reminded of our ancient rabbis' realistic-idealistic formulation of our duty: "You are not required to finish the task. Neither are you free to desist from it." Our synagogue has adopted the Vare-Washington School as one vehicle for carrying out our duty as an urban synagogue.

Continue on page 3

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

One of the purposes of a synagogue is to provide its members with the opportunity to fulfill this ancient rabbinic dictum. We know that our work with these less advantaged children cannot erase the opportunity gap between the more advantaged among us and the less advantaged. We are not that naïve. We also know that our duty is not to throw up our hands in despair. Rather, it is to carry on the work. There are many avenues for doing this, from the kind of policy advocacy of POWER to the hands-on opportunities to affect individual youngsters that our relationship with Vare-Washington provides.

Those of you who had the pleasure of hearing Vare-Washington principal Zach Duberstein at our early December Lunch & Learn know that we have a young, energetic, and idealistic principal who is determined to make a difference, who is not jaded or beaten down. He can use our support. What can you do? What do the students need? Please read Social Action chair Phyllis Denbo's column on page 9. Contact her and let her know of your interest. If her column does not list what you would like to contribute, contact her anyway, and she will see what she can do. What a great way to start the secular new year—by making a commitment to making a difference.

President's Column

Continued from cover

In case you missed the Lunch & Learn featuring the new Vare-Washington Principal, Zachary Duberstein, he presented an inspiring discussion about his vision for improving the school and enthusiastically invited our support. Mr. Duberstein requested winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for the students this year in place of our holiday gift drive. I know we can count on the generosity of our community to help meet this basic need for the students.

Behind the scenes, a group of members is continuing to examine strategies to address our space improvement needs, while analyzing the results of our survey and focus groups from last year. This is a slow-moving process because these folks are combing through a lot of data and collecting information about potential expenditures. We will provide an update this spring.

SHS is 50 years young. We are fortunate to have a rich history. Our founders worked hard to develop a vision for our future, and we are lucky to have a dynamic and vibrant community that continually evolves to meet our community's changing interests and needs. From our worship services and programs to our Sunday and Hebrew schools, and Playschool, to our physical facilities—we are in a continuous improvement mode. Our members continue to contribute their time, talent, and vision to make SHS the best synagogue it can be.

While I do not want to complain about the recent stretch of warm weather, I would feel better about our climate if it were seasonably cold. As we work to “repair the world”, let's also find ways to keep our government on track with our recent environmental commitments.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention what weighs heavily on my heart and mind. I am troubled by the growing reports of hatred and discrimination in our country. I feel pride in the responses of the Jewish and interfaith communities, and I am confident that each of us will do our part to dispel such dangerous and divisive rhetoric and show kindness and compassion to our Muslim sisters and brothers and immigrants from around the world.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2016. Remember to mark your calendars for our 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend on April 1, 2 and 3!



Cantor's Column

Partners with Significant Theological Differences

Bob Freedman

I am most thankful that the community of Society Hill Synagogue is not riven by rancor and enmity, unlike so many parts of our world, including faith congregations. In honor of our ability to get along with each other, I am putting on my rabbi hat and commenting on the use of different names for God.

My thinking was inspired by a news report aired on National Public Radio about a conflict at Wheaton College, a Christian college in Illinois. A faculty member, a devout Christian, was censured by fellow faculty and students when she put on a *hijab* in solidarity with her Muslim sisters and spoke about her act on her Facebook page. The objectors asserted (I am paraphrasing what I heard in the NPR report), "Muslims do not worship the same God that we do. Their deity is Allah, whereas ours is the One in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Their worship is not compatible with ours."

We Jews manage the seeming contradiction of being adamant about not pronouncing God's name and proclaiming that God has a myriad of names. We do this by maintaining that God, the *Eyn-Sof*, Limitless One, is totally beyond human comprehension. And yet, being human and grammatically hardwired, we need to have a name for that limitless unnamable God. So we use whatever divine name that we need at the moment as a lens through which we might discern what we can of divinity. The names we use are not the thing itself; they only clothe it, making it more or less visible given our limited sight. A famous treatise by the Spanish kabbalist Yosef ben Avraham Gikatilla (1248-1305) called *Sha-arei Ora* (Gates of Light) is a catalog of the myriad of names of God to be found in the Torah. *Mah* ("what") is one of the major ones! Continuing this line of thought, the most recent Reconstructionist prayer book, *Kol Haneshamah*, offers different names for God on every page: the Eternal One, the Everlasting One, and the Many-Named One, for example, in the final paragraph of *Aleinu*.

At a Shabbat Lunch & Learn a few weeks ago, SHS congregant Michael Yudell spoke about the public health dilemma of needing to treat humans both as a single species with common medical issues and simultaneously as intimately different individuals. We are similar to each other, yet quite different, and each of us has a different understanding and need. Even from minute to minute we change, so, of course, each of us has different names for God; of course, the gate words that we use to access divinity change, if not in form, at least in the intent with which we say them. (On the Internet we call them passwords. You work out the rest of the metaphor!)

I invite you to view all our names for God as threads making up a vast tapestry, a collective human worship of the Unnameable One. That tapestry could be regarded as a glorious, loudly colored affirmation and celebration of the realization that we are not the center of our universe, nor alone, but rather one of a multiplicity of centers weaving and being woven together by an ever-present divinity.

On December 3 of this year, a group of twenty-three Modern Orthodox rabbis whose number included David Rosen, Shlomo Riskin, and Irving Greenberg, figures at the forefront of interfaith dialogue efforts, issued a statement entitled "To Do the Will of Our Father in Heaven: Toward a Partnership Between Jews and Christians." Asserting that each religion has a task to perform in bringing the kingdom of God to reality, they said, "In separating Judaism and Christianity, God willed a separation between partners with significant theological differences, not a separation between enemies."

I invite us to carry this thought, "partners with significant theological differences," into 2016. Judging by recent events, it's going to be a year of a lot of ugly conflict. We'll need to remember that we truly are all in this together. Then we'll be more likely to honor the striving of others and continue to be determined in our pursuit of shalom.



Ann Spak Thal School A Cornucopia of Tu B'Sh'vat, Havdalah, and Shabbat Celebrations

Sahar Oz

The first two months of our spring semester will bring a variety of vivid celebrations, including special Shabbat experiences, a Havdalah Pajama Party, and our popular Tu B'Sh'vat skits and Seder.

Of course, January also marks the beginning of Purim Cantata preparations, with auditions for students in grades 3–6 scheduled for Sunday, January 10, at 9 AM. The auditions will be followed that morning by a cast and crew discussion about this year's theme. We encourage every eligible student to apply and are thrilled that this year's Purim Cantata will be directed by Sarah Spangenberg, who teaches in our Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Playschool; Sarah earned a BFA in Theater Arts from University of the Arts.

Outside of her work at SHS, Sarah regularly performs in regional theater. We are also delighted that Purim Cantata veterans Lily Hayman, Claire Golding, and Jack Aaron will assist in the show's production, which will take place on Wednesday, March 23, at 6 PM.

On Saturday, January 9, Rachel Moran will lead a KinderBat service at 11 AM with Shabbat songs, prayers, blessings, and stories for children who are 7 years old or younger, so don't miss out! **There are no classes on Sunday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.**

The musical TGIShabbat Friday evening services on January 22 and February 26—each at 6:15 PM—are excellent opportunities for our students to take pride in their learning and use their growing Hebrew skills. Attendance at these services also counts toward Shabbat service attendance obligations for grades 3–7.

We will celebrate the new year for trees on Sunday, January 24, with Sunday School Tu B'Sh'vat skits at 10 AM, followed by delicious fruity treats. Students from third grade through Hebrew High will have a sweet feast at our annual Tu B'Sh'vat Seder at 11:30 AM. This distinctive dining experience is certainly one of our most popular and flavorful school activities of the year!

The following Saturday, January 30, our popular Havdalah PJ Party will feature stories, songs, arts and crafts, and delicious food for Playschool and Sunday School families. The fun starts at 5:30 PM, and parents and children are encouraged to come in pajamas!

There are no classes on Sunday, February 14, in observance of President's Weekend. On February 20, our Gan students—children in Pre-K and Kindergarten—will help Cantor Bob lead the Shabbat morning service at 10:30 AM. This class service will be followed by lunch.

Enrollment fees for students in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High cover school families' participation in all meals following class-led services. So we encourage our families to join us for these services and se'udot (meals). Please e-mail Betty (bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org) by February 18 to RSVP and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests:

Last but not least, given our unpredictable weather, please remember that our KYW 1060 snow closing number is 261. During inclement weather, Hebrew School will be canceled whenever the Philadelphia public schools close, dismiss early, or cancel after-school activities. If there is inclement weather on a Sunday, I will e-mail all families as soon as it is determined that school will be canceled.



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Playschool

Happy New Year

Ali Kaplan and Gloria Parris

It's hard to believe it's 2016! We hope everyone had a very happy holiday season. The Playschool students have been so busy these past few months participating in exciting new lessons and projects, and welcoming special Afterschool Arts guests. It is always a pleasure to see the children's happy faces as they learn and play at school!

We are looking forward to continuing our energetic and fun Shabbat celebrations on Fridays with Miss Sarah and giving all of our students the chance to be "Kid of the Day." Miss Gloria's room will visit the Art Museum this half of the school year and Miss Ali's class will go on exciting field trips to Bartram's Garden, The Insectarium, and The Walnut Street Theatre!

In January, the children will talk about winter, create some "cool" projects, learn new songs, and possibly even play outside in their winter boots if we actually get some snow! In the Pre-Kindergarten class, the children will talk about the New Year and what they can do to make it special and meaningful. Our students will try to participate in 100 Acts of Kindness before the end of the school year!

The kids in all of our classes will show us their green thumbs by planting parsley seeds for the holiday of Tu B'Sh'vat. The children will care for their plants everyday and watch them grow, before taking them home in April for Passover.

During the month of February, the children will learn songs and participate in Purim-related projects in preparation for our Purim Parades in March. The Pre-Kindergarten class will take part in learning about Multiculturalism while listening to interesting presentations by classroom parents, friends, and family. They will also enjoy the 4th Annual "Donuts with Dads" celebration on Thursday, February 18.

After the winter break, we will look forward to some special presentations in our Afterschool Arts Clubs! In January, the children will enjoy a cooking demonstration with the owners of *Scratch Biscuits*, Jennifer and Mitch Prenskey; they will also learn some hands-on games with teacher and Playschool parent, Jessica Downes. Your child won't want to miss these fabulous activities! Make sure to stop by the **Havdalah Pajama Party on Saturday, January 30, at 5:30 PM** for story time, snacks, and fun!

Please note that the Playschool will be closed on Monday, January 18, for MLK Day, and on Monday, February 15, for President's Day.

It's hard to believe, but summer will be here before we know it! Stay tuned for more information regarding our Summer Camp program for children between the ages 2 and 4!

There are still a limited number of spots available in each of our classes for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to our warm and nurturing regular classes, we offer extended morning and afternoon hours, and Afterschool Arts Clubs for children aged 2-5.

Please contact Playschool Directors Gloria Parris (gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org) or Ali Kaplan (abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org) for more information; Applications can be downloaded from the SHS website.

Save the Dates

SHS Celebrates 50 Years!

**Our Community is the Secret of
Our Success.**

April 1, 2, & 3, 2016

Speaker's Corner Shabbat Series

Jeremey Newberg Will Speak About SHS Leadership

Join us on Friday, January 15, at 6:15 PM, when SHS congregant Jeremey Newberg will give a short presentation entitled "Adventures with the Society Hill Synagogue Leadership – Lessons from a Decade of Service and Thoughts Looking Forward."

Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

January: Meg Saligman Will Speak About Mural Arts

Have you ever wondered: How are murals made? How can artists paint such large images? Can murals help the communities in which they are created? Why are there so many murals in Philadelphia? How has the Mural Arts Program influenced the contemporary mural arts movement in our city and our country?

Join us in the Social Hall following Shabbat services on **Saturday, January 23**, when Meg Saligman, an award-winning national and international public artist with over two decades of experience, will discuss the community process behind the art she creates and the role that Philadelphia has played in the contemporary mural movement. Meg, who is considered one of the most influential American muralists in the past decade, and who has created many of the largest murals in the U.S., is known for her collaborative process. Her work features a variety of media, and her designs come directly from the surrounding environment of each project. Her well-known works in Philadelphia include *Common Threads* (1998), *Philadelphia Muses* (2000), *Perspective and Perception* (2014), and *Passing Through* (2006).

February: Murray Dubin Will Speak About *Tasting Freedom*

While many of us know about the modern civil rights movement in the mid-20th century, few of us know about the African American struggles for equal rights in northern cities that were occurring one hundred years before that time period. And even fewer people know about the leaders of those efforts, African American men and women who, sadly, have been left out of many of our history books.

Join us in the Social Hall following Shabbat services on **Saturday, February 13**, when longtime SHS member Murray Dubin, who was a reporter and editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for 34 years, and his co-author, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Daniel Biddle, will lead a discussion about their book, *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*.

From the *Tasting Freedom* website:

"Octavius Valentine Catto was a second baseman on Philadelphia's best black baseball team, a teacher at the city's finest black school, an activist who fought in the state capital and on the streets for equal rights, and an orator who shared the stage with Frederick Douglass. With his murder during an election-day race riot in 1871, the nation lost a civil rights pioneer—one who risked his life a century before the events that took place in Selma and Birmingham."

"Tasting Freedom presents the little-known stories of Catto and the men and women who struggled to change America. This book will change your understanding of civil rights history."

Adult Education

An Early Look at Winter Classes

Marc Schwartz

Check your Adult Education brochures to learn about the new classes that will begin in January and March. Brochures are available on the SHS website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org); hard copies can be obtained from the synagogue office. The dates for the first of class of each course appear below:

Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 PM—Liberating Talmud: Reading Talmud Through Ruth Calderon's Eyes begins. Join Rabbi Winokur for engaging discussions about Talmud through the eyes of Ruth Calderon, an unapologetic, fiercely feminist, deeply reverent, not-even-slightly-Orthodox Israeli with a PhD in Talmud—who is interested in preserving the sanctity of the text and the sanctity of contemporary progressive feminism.

Wednesday, March 2, 7:30 PM—God is Still Evolving: The Fascination of Process Theology begins. Join Rabbinical student Birgit Klein for discussions about Process Theology. Rabbi Margaret Moers-Wenig's 1990 sermon, "God is a Woman and She is Growing Older," challenges the male perception of God and contradicts the image of an eternal, unchangeable God who is alien and remote. Why is Process Theology so fascinating and persuasive? Why can't God prevent the evil in the World? Why is human choice so important?

Tuesday, March 29, 7 PM—The Mystical Teachings of the Ba'al Shem Tov begins. In the mid-18th century, in Eastern Europe, the Ba'al Shem presented a radical new way of Judaism, one that elevated joyful service of the heart over pedantic study and rigorous adherence to the minutiae of law. He and his disciples supported their ideals by understanding Torah and other texts through the lens of mystical teaching. Join Cantor Freedman as he leads interesting discussions about some of these stories, learning about Hassidic philosophy along the way.

Continued in next column

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 PM—Jews Go Green: Developing a Sense of Jewcology begins. Join Rabbinical student Birgit Klein for discussions about traditional Jewish values and principles regarding the earth and the human relationship to nature. How do these principles relate to non-Jewish concepts like Ecofeminism? How can they be applied to the crisis of global climate change? How can Jews become active in order to face and deal with environmental challenges? How can these issues be addressed during a Passover Seder?

Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

Jews Arrive in the New World

Larry Spector

From what country were the first Jews to arrive in North America? Where did they land? Did they get here before or after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock? Who greeted them with anti-Semitism upon arrival? Find out by visiting the SHS website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org) and clicking on the January/February link under "Nutshell Excerpts."

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Social Action

You Can Make a Difference at Vare-Washington!

Phyllis Denbo

At a December Lunch & Learn, we welcomed the new principal of Vare-Washington (VW) Elementary School, Zachary Duberstein, and had an opportunity to hear about his comprehensive vision for the school. His ambitious goals, from becoming a true community school to educating future college graduates, are grounded in the best contemporary research on effective schools and he has a step-by-step plan for achieving the goals. A unique text study program that has students reading actual novels instead of traditional classroom texts, a guided reading model involving small group study, a dedicated intervention instructional block for students requiring special assistance, a peer-coaching program to train teachers in new methods, and after-school programming from 3 until 6 PM each day are just a few examples of how VW is being turned around.

Mr. Duberstein expressed his appreciation for Society Hill Synagogue's contributions to Vare-Washington and said the school has many opportunities for volunteers. **There are many ways to provide assistance at the school that do not require a weekly commitment of one or more hours.**



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- You can contribute to the warm coat and winter accessories drive now in progress.
- You can purchase food cards to local markets for needy families. Please buy them in \$25.00 increments.
- You can participate in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the school. Volunteers will be painting murals, brightening the halls, and generally creating a more engaging physical space.
- You can begin to collect novels for the book drive that will begin in January.
- You can help the school arrange student trips to local high schools and, especially, colleges that can model the future for them.

And for those of you who have thought about working with students on a weekly basis, please go to the SHS website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org) and complete the survey for volunteers. For further information, feel free to contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com or 215.755.2734.

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: January 9, February 20, March 12, April 16, and May 7.

January Birthdays

Phyllis Denbo
 Daniel Feinberg
 Walter Ferst
 Nathaniel Gearhart
 Michael Hafter
 Peter Piven
 Nathan Farbman
 James Rosenstein
 Andrea Lubitz
 Peter Eizen
 Joshua Wolson
 Jeanne Bell
 Nella Bloom
 Karen Kaufman
 Gabriel Downes
 Ezra Goldfinger
 Hava Goldfinger
 Maya Pirok
 Sheri Gifford
 Judith Green
 Leslie Hafter
 Rachel Margolin
 Jarad Eizen
 Jack Goldenberg
 Samuel Lear
 Samuel Feinberg
 Elizabeth Sedran
 Yaeli Zhang
 Elias Zaring
 Jesse Abrams-Morley
 Merle Salkin
 Samuel Shemtov
 Debra Weissbach
 Nancy Morgenstern
 Scot Ziskind
 Beatrice Acker
 Jean Blumberg
 Mark Dichter
 Talia Mono
 Richard Morgenstern
 Tova Ztaoui
 Judah Galler
 Alejandro Guzman
 Steve Morley
 Ezzie Susco- Stearns
 Holman Massey
 Diane Harrison
 Rachel Akman
 Susan Jaffe
 Camille Weil

**January Anniversaries**

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
 Marc & Staci Schwartz
 Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
 Barry & Joann Slosberg

February Birthdays

Evan Chrismer
 Nancy Goldenberg
 Tobias Hart
 Ric Hayman
 Carl Dranoff
 Susan Snedden
 Yul Summers
 Morgan Miller
 Ira Rubinfeld
 Marc Goldenberg
 Gary Love
 Linda Joy Goldner
 Randi Glatzer
 Sofia Newberg
 Paul Rosen
 Liza Bresson
 Aminda Kirshenbaum
 Len Weinberg
 James Whitesell
 Jack Dubin
 Jeremy Pitok
 Gail Massey
 Giacomo Weil
 Ilana Dean-Schmidt
 Elayne Bloom
 Liron Prystowsky
 Michael Yudell

February Anniversaries

David & Linda Paskin
 Bill & Rina Mitchell
 Larry & Paula Ninerell
 Andrew Hohns & Leah Popowich
 Arthur & Janet Cherry

Community News**Mazel Tov to**

Julia Michaels-Koenig & Scott Koenig on the birth of their daughter, Cora Alice.

Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels on the birth of their granddaughter, Cora Alice Michaels-Koenig.

Condolences to

Mitchell Bach & Family and Linda Bach on the death of their father, Harry Bach.

Anne Ballen Ladenson & Family on the death of Anne's mother, Marcia Horowitz Ballen Morante.

Staci Schwartz and Family on the death of Staci's father, Lawrence Smith.

Andrea and Evyn Appel on the death of their father and grandfather, William Appel.

Welcome New Members & Families

Bernard Cohen

Ron & Robin Feinberg

Ron & Libby Kaiser

Roger & Fanny Korman

Karen Palmer

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
TGISHabbat
Services

January 22
Charles Salinger

February 26
Born Lau

April 1
50th Anniversary Gala Kick-off
Jordan Dodson & Christine Lamprea

May 20
3Js
Farewell to Cantor Bob Freedman
Recognition of 12th Grade Graduates

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

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

February 6
Jack Dubin
Son of Ken Dubin and Janis Dubin

April 30
Sloan Uygur Petersohn
Daughter of Nuriye Uygur and Josh Petersohn

May 7
Liron Prystowsky
Daughter of Galila Prystowsky

May 14
Benjamin Kauderwood
Son of Ira Kauderwood and Peter Kauderwood

June 18
Abigail Shapiro
Daughter of Adam and Amy Shapiro

June 25
Claire Golding
Daughter of Randi Glatzer and Mitch Golding

- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
Secure Memory Care
- Nursing Care



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General Fund

**In Appreciation of
Children's HHD Service**
Everett Katzen

SHS

Joseph Friedman

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hayman
The Weiss-Wolf Family

B'not Mitzvah of Andrea and Evyn Appel
The Weiss-Wolf Family

In Memory of

Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester
Susan & Bill Schwartz
Mildred Lizenbaum & Curtis Lizenbaum
Jerry & Joan Roller
Arthur & Janet Cherry

Harry Bach, Father of Mitchell Bach & Linda Bach
Jay Meadway & Roberta Jacobs-Meadway
Joseph & Lynn Manko
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
Jerry & Joan Roller
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
S. David Fineman

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz
Jerome and Lois Rosenberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller
Jerry & Joan Roller

Eugene Lizenbaum, Husband of Mildred Lizenbaum
Mildred Lizenbaum

Eugene Lizenbaum, Father of Curtis Lizenbaum
Curtis Lizenbaum

Norman Feinberg, Father of Dan Feinberg
Dan Feinberg and Family

Sam Rosenberg, Father of Jerome Rosenberg
Jerome and Lois Rosenberg

William Feldstein, Father of Lois Rosenberg
Jerome and Lois Rosenberg

Annual Giving Fund**In Honor of**

Bart & Betty Kaplan for Hosting GWCTS
Stanley & Judith Woloff

**Baby Naming of Ezzie Susco-Stearns,
Daughter of Jared Susco & Christopher Stearns**
Barbara Spector

In Memory of

Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick
Barbara Spector

Ruth Blask, Mother of Judith Woloff
Barbara Spector

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz
Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Maurice Acker, Husband of Beatrice Acker
Beatrice Acker

Rose Gordon, Sister of Beatrice Acker
Beatrice Acker

Restoration Fund**In Appreciation**

HHD 5776 Break-the-Fast
Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Memory of

Harry Bach, Father of Mitchell Bach & Linda Bach
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz
Iris Levine
Josh & Heidi Levy
Mark Segal & Dena Mallin

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

Social Action Fund**Yahrzeit Remembrance**

Harry Ruttenberg, Father of Phyllis Denbo
Jay & Phyllis Denbo

Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debra Weissbach
Debra Weissbach

Jay R. Baer Fund**In Memory of**

Harry Bach, Father of Mitchell Bach & Linda Bach
Debra Stewart

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

Cantor Bob Freedman
Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Honor of

Baby Naming of Ezzie Susco-Stearns
Jared Susco & Christopher Stearns

Adult Education**In Memory of**

Charlotte Winokur, Mother of Rabbi Avi Winokur
Stanley & Judith Woloff

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

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Alton Sutnick
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner

Rabbi Winokur & Terry Novick

Anne Ballen Ladenson

In Honor of**The Hayman Family**

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Baby Naming of Ezzie Susco-Stearns

Jared Susco & Christopher Stearns

In Memory of**Harry Bach, Father of Mitchell Bach and Linda Bach**

Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Jay & Phyllis Denbo

Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Ruth Blask, Mother of Judith Woloff

Jay & Bobbi Meadway

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFairve-Rochester

Charlotte Winokur, Mother of Rabbi Avi Winokur

Ray & Nancy Swerdlow

Yahrzeit Remembrance**William Pressman, Father of Nancy Morganstern**

Richard & Nancy Morganstern

Joseph & Shirley Graboyes, Parents of Terry Graboyes

Terry Graboyes

Ethel Schwartz Blender, Mother of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender

Morris & Beatrice Chernock, Parents of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Martha Levy, Wife of Stanley

Stanley Levy

Tillie Meyer, Mother of Harold Meyer

Harold Meyer

Ann Isacoff, Mother of Judy Gelles

Judy Gelles

Dr. Effy Oz Memorial Fund**In Honor of****Lily Hayman becoming a Bat Mitzvah**

Debra Stewart

In Memory of**Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz**

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFairve-Rochester

Kiddush Fund**In Appreciation of****SHS**

Michael & Stephanie Naidoff

Roberta Marcus

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFairve-Rochester

In Honor of**Bonny Hohenberger & Ylanah Sloane**

Bella Lewensohn-Schafer & Morton Prince

Rabbi Avi Winokur

Johanna Markind

Rabbi Marjorie Berman

Johanna Markind

Susan Berman, for her continued service to SHS

Jack & Ruth Treatman

B'not Mitzvah of Evyn & Andrea Appel

Jessica Brown

Ric & Carmen Hayman on Lily's Bat Mitzvah

Mark & Ann Steinberger

In Memory of**Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick**

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Ruth Isaac & Jack Treatman

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Jackie Pack Segal

Fred & Dinah Lovitch

Harry Bach, Father of Mitchell Bach and Linda Bach

Andrew, Joanna, Laura & Sophie Bottaro

Lewis & Karen Gold

Alan & Randee Moldoff

Eleanor Lustig

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Joan Stern

Joseph & Mary Termini

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Richard & Lisa Wiedman

Ruth Blask, Mother of Judith Woloff

Betty van de Rijn

Jerry & Joan Roller

Mark & Ann Steinberger

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz

Mark & Ann Steinberger

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg**

Rosemarie Weinberg

Rheba Shreibman, Mother-in-Law of Doris Shreibman

Doris Shreibman

Belle Mandell Fodor, Mother of Alexis Marmar

Joel & Alexis Marmar

Natalie Smith, Sister of Alexis Marmar

Joel & Alexis Marmar



Membership Engagement Initiative

SHS's 5th Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night
Amy Shapiro

It's time for SHS's 5th Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night on Saturday, February 6, at 7 PM! The attendance fee is \$54 per person, and all proceeds will benefit this year's Annual Giving Fund. If space permits, this event is also open to non-members.

Menus will be available in early January, so watch for an email that will be coming soon. Then sign up ASAP by contacting contact Amy Shapiro at hasajid@gmail.com or 215.280.3005 so that you are sure to get a seat at a table with the cuisine of your choice. You will find out which host's home you will be attending after you choose your cuisine.

Host homes may not be Kosher, however, any chicken or meat served will be from a Kosher manufacturer, no dishes will contain shellfish, and meat will not be mixed with dairy.

Don't miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation—all while supporting this community-building and fund-raising event for our shul. Remember, spaces are limited, and seats fill up quickly!



2. Arts & Culture

Jonathan Feinman and Betta Kolansky

Happy secular New Year! It has been a great 2015 for the Arts & Cultural Committee. This year kicked off with the largest exhibit of Contemporary Israeli Art that has been shown in the U.S. in more than 10 years, and the collection was co-curated by our own Marty Rosenberg! Over 30 congregants met in Camden for Marty's masterfully guided tour of the exhibit. Everyone was wowed by the intensity and diversity of the artwork. Thank you, Marty, for hosting a private tour. We all enjoyed it.

On Saturday, December 5, we had our first Adult Hanukkah party in the Social Hall. Congregants enjoyed a delicious dinner along with musical entertainment on the piano provided by new member G. Bartell. The evening started with a candle-lighting demonstration led by Rabbi Winokur and others. We thank all who contributed to making the evening merry and bright.



What are we planning for 2016? Well, our Arts & Culture Committee is organizing a movie night and an improv night, each of which will occur in the next few months. We will keep you posted on the details through email, Shabbat announcements, and Kesher articles.



Continued on next page

Mark your calendars for three other fabulous upcoming events. First, join us on Saturday, April 16, when 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.

Second, Saturday, April 23, is the 2nd night of Passover. We will be gathering in SHS Social Hall for our annual Second Night Seder.



Third, on Sunday, May 1, join us for a trip to NYC's Lower East Side to visit the Tenement Museum ("Hard Times" or Sweatshop" tour), followed by a traditional Greek-Jewish Kosher lunch and tour at the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue on Broome Street. Lunch will include Greek salad, yaprakes, bourekas, kourlouia, seasonal fruit, and hot and cold beverages. After lunch we will have a tour of the synagogue and its museum. Kehila Kedosha Janina is the only Romaniote (Greek Jewish) synagogue remaining in the Western hemisphere. It keeps alive the traditions of its founders, a band of Jewish immigrants from the Greek village of Janina, who established the synagogue in 1927.

Space for this trip is limited, so please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com or Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net ASAP to reserve your spot. The fee is \$90 per person and includes transportation to and from NYC, museum entrance fees, and lunch. We will leave SHS at 7:30 AM, and we will arrive back in Philadelphia at approximately 5 PM.

We hope to see you at any or all of these events and welcome your questions and suggestions. If you would like to join our committee, or even if you would like to help with a specific task, please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com or Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net.

Thank you and have a happy and healthy New Year!



SHS Celebrates 50 Years!

Debra Stewart

Save-the-Dates: April 1, 2, and 3! SHS will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a variety of events throughout the weekend for all members to enjoy. A full schedule of activities will be available soon!

The Young Friends of SHS

Natalie Lesser

The Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue are a group of individuals who are creating a community that fosters Jewish identity, culture, and friendship. We meet for potluck dinners, pre-Shabbat drinks, and discussions about spiritual exploration. For further information or to join our mailing list, please contact Co-Chairs: Natalie Lesser at lesser.natalie@gmail.com or Jordan Segall at segall.jordan@gmail.com.

We invite you to "like" our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/.



Hebrew High teens at Our Closet's warehouse in Springfield, where they helped to sort and prepare donated clothing for upcoming pop-up shops that provide free clothes to neighbors in need.



Students in grades 3-10 with German social action volunteers Lara and Jonas, who were the special guests at our Kristallnacht memorial observance.

Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art
exhibition, co-curated by Martin Rosenberg



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					New Year's Day Office & Playschool Closed 6:15 PM Service	Sh'mot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Building Closed	7:45 AM PS Re- sumes 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS Resumes 6 PM Philabundance 7:30 PM Liberating Talmud			6:15 PM Service	Va-era 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10 AM Service 11 AM KinderBat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Breakfast in Babylon		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Liberating Talmud	7 PM Social Action Committee Meet- ing		6:15 PM Speaker's Corner Service featuring Jeremey Newberg	Bo 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Building Closed	MLK Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Liberating Talmud			6:15 PM TGIS habbat featuring Charles Salinger	B'shallah Shira 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service 10 AM Meditative Service Lunch & Learn featuring Meg Saligman
24	Tu B'Sh'vat 25	26	27	28	29	30
9 AM SS 11 AM HS	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Liberating Talmud			6:15 PM Service	Yitro 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service 5:30 PM Havdalah Pajama Party
31						
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS			6:15 PM Service	Mishpatim 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Jack Dubin Inter-NOSH-ional Night Off-site
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11 AM Breakfast in Babylon	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Social Action Committee Mtg.		6:15 PM Service	T'rumah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service 10 AM Shabbat Study Lunch & Learn featuring Murray Dubin
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Building Closed	President's Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS			6:15 PM Speaker's Corner Service featuring Sadye Ladov	T'tzavveh 9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM GanBet Class Service with Rachel Moran followed by lunch
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS			6:15 PM TGIShabbat featuring Born Lau	Ki Tissa 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Service 10 AM Meditative Service Arts & Culture Open Mic Night
28	29					
9 AM SS 11 AM HS						

NEWSLETTER—JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE

Kesher



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