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- March & April Calendars



You are cordially invited to attend
SHS's 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend!

Friday, April 1, 6:15 PM

Join us for a **TGIS** Shabbat Service featuring Astral Artists Jordan Dodson & Christine Lamprea. A Shabbat Dinner—sponsored by Judy Lalli, Carole Le Faivre-Rochester & Michael Rochester, and Sayde & David Ladov—will follow in the Social Hall.

*Anniversary Video Presentation

Saturday, April 2, 10 AM

Join us for Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary followed by a Kiddush Luncheon, sponsored by Sayde & David Ladov, in the Social Hall.

*Anniversary Video Presentation

Saturday, April 2, 7-11 PM

Join for cocktails, dinner, and dancing in the Social Hall. RSVP by March 28.

Sunday, April 3, 11 AM-1 PM

Join us for *A Blast from the Past*. A family event with food, music, and fun for all ages!

You will soon receive your invitation in the mail!

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.6590 Phone
215.922.6599 Fax
www.societyhillsynagogue.org



Rabbi's Column

26,280,000 Minutes

Avi Winokur

The song "Seasons of Love" from the musical *Rent* never fails to get to me right in the kishkes:

"In five hundred twenty-five thousand Six hundred minutes How do you

measure A year in the life?"

Multiply that by fifty, the years of Society Hill Synagogue's life: twenty-six million two hundred eighty thousand minutes. How do you measure Society Hill Synagogue's life?

In the exquisite book *Synagogue Architecture in America: Faith, Spirit and Identity* by Henry Stolzman z'l and his son Daniel Stolzman (my Bar Mitzvah student at West End Synagogue), Henry concludes his preface with the simple truth of what is missing from their beautiful book: "Missing here are the feelings of the spaces, the sounds of the chanting of the Torah, the rustlings of the children, the greetings of congregants, the haunting cadences of prayer. These are the ingredients that bring our synagogues to life."

These minutes, then, are not the minutes of a building. They are the minutes, the moments, of a community. In some cases, they span three generations, for others two or three years, for others, over thirty years.

Some of those twenty-six million two hundred eighty minutes, "moments so dear": Joan Markman's unveiling just this past February on a frigid windy winter day under a clear blue sky; the unforgettable adult B'not Mitzvah and Dana Feinberg's challah; the equally unforgettable sight of Tom Kline escorting his ailing wife Paula to the bimah on Rosh Hashanah for what we all knew was her last aliyah; the warmth and joy of our community celebrating Rafi's Bar Kehillah (son of the community) with my beaming mother out from California for the occasion; my speaking with Walter Ferst in the shadow of his wife Nancy's death as Sarah's Bat Mitzvah approached, officiating at her Bat Mitzvah and, later, at Walter's wedding to Margie. Sarah Page with that Tennessee twang, "Rabbi, I have a question." Singing "Ha-Hamah merosh" and seeing Iris Levine's face light up; Purim cantatas and single malt scotch; closing out Ne'ilah with Cantor Bob's three-part final "Shema." Year after year of weddings, conversions, baby namings, B'nai Mitzvah, Nuts & Bolts & Beyond, Shabbat services, and Torah study, and, yes, funerals and shivas, too, and just countless conversations, both communal with leadership and staff as well as personal.

Let us not forget TGIShabbat and singing. So many more. So many more.

Let's multiply these moments by your moments, and then go beyond these moments to the lifelong friendships, even marriages, that had their genesis in our community. Those, too, must be added to the twenty-six million two hundred eighty thousand minutes of Society Hill Synagogue's life.

Mark your calendar for the first Shabbat in April, and come join our celebration of the moments, minutes, years, decades, and half century of Society Hill Synagogue's life of which your life, and those of many dear to you, are a part. I look forward to raising a glass with you and toasting our shared good fortune of being a part of Society Hill Synagogue's twenty-six million-plus minutes.

Lunch & Learn Lecture Series



Fran Gallun Will Speak About the Evolution of Her Artwork

On Saturday, March 26, Fran Gallun, veteran member of SHS and local artist will discuss the evolution of her artwork. Using images, she will show her progression over the last 20 years and talk about how her work changed to include her Jewish heritage.

Fran has taught at the Fleisher Art Memorial in Philadelphia for 25 years, where she also took classes as a high school student.

She has been represented by Rosenfeld Gallery for many years, until Mr. Rosenfeld's retirement this year. She has had numerous shows, awards, and residencies, including four visits to Israel, which greatly influenced her work.

For more information about her work, visit Fran's website at FranGallun.com.



President's Column

Spring, Celebrations, and New Beginnings

Debra Stewart

With spring around the corner, many people are working hard to prepare for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. In other behind-the-scenes projects, our 2016 Nomination Committee will convene to make recommendations for upcoming leadership vacancies, our Cantor Search Committee is making final arrangements for the last Cantor candidate's audition and collecting feedback from our members, and the Board of Directors is preparing proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws to bring us into the 21st century. We are on the verge of new beginnings.

We have named our first official SHS Ambassadors, Steve Greenberg and Larry Spector, both Board Members and Membership Gurus. They have agreed to take on this title, which includes implementing marketing strategies to attract new members, welcoming prospective and new members, facilitating connections among our current members, and functioning as our "go to people" for information about the synagogue. If you know of any friends, family members, or colleagues who might be interested in joining SHS, feel free to contact Steve or Larry at steve.elliott.greenberg@gmail.com and hspector@gmail.com, respectively. Let's keep them hopping.

Our Purim celebration will begin with our annual carnival on Sunday, March 20, 11 AM–1 PM, in the Social Hall. Then, on the evening of Wednesday, March 23, join us for our Sunday and Hebrew School Mini-Megillah at 5 PM, Purim Cantata at 6 PM, followed by a Scotch tasting at 6:45 PM, and Megillah reading at 7:15 PM. At the end of the week, drop by the Playschool to watch their Purim parades and skits on Thursday, March 24, and Friday, March 25.

On April 1, 2, and 3, we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Your invitation should arrive in the mail shortly.

Be sure to RSVP for our Annual Second Night Pesah Seder in the Social Hall on Saturday, April 23.

As you can see, there is so much going on at our shul these days. We invite everyone's participation in our activities and programs. Mark your calendars for the **Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 25**, at 6:30 PM, during which you will have the opportunity to hear reports from some of our officers, elect our next President and Board members, and vote on proposed amendments to our Constitution (which you will receive in advance, as required), while enjoying a light dinner.

I wish to thank our generous Inter-NOSH-ional Night hosts for their time, talent, and generosity. Thirty guests enjoyed meals at the homes of Ruth and Steve Greenberg, Betty and Bart Kaplan, Fanny and Roger Korman—along with cooking partner Tova Ztaoui, Sara and Noah Chrismer, and my hubby, Bill, who helped me host our guests. I thank Amy Shapiro for coordinating our hosts and guests.

Wishing everyone a safe and warm end of winter. Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of spring and the experience of new beginnings.



Cantor's Column

The Story of the Seder

Bob Freedman

One of the essential teachings of the Pesah Seder is hidden in plain sight on the set table.

Somewhere on the table are three whole matzot in a stack. Some people put them in a cloth sack with three compartments: top, middle, and bottom. It is through the middle matzah that we see the story of the Seder: descent into slavery, narrowness, and brokenness; healing through feasting and singing; and return to wholeness. (Such concealment of important concepts is so Jewish. Often these concepts are not on the top or bottom but inside, even hidden within a beautifully embroidered cover. And when we see and understand them, we all smile and say, "Ohhh! How cool!")

At the fourth station of the Seder, *Yahatz*, only one thing happens. There are no words spoken at that station and no songs sung; the only thing that occurs is that the leader removes the middle matzah from the sack, holds it up, and breaks it in half. Breaking matzah does not yield a loud sound; we need to listen carefully! Then the leader puts one half of the broken matzah back into center of the sack and wraps the second half in a napkin. The second half, named *afikomen*, gets hidden again (but in a different location) and has to be found and eaten in order for the Seder to be continued and finished.

In Kabbalah (Jewish mystical philosophy) the middle matzah has the quality of *g'vurah*: boundedness, constriction, the unyielding inflexibility of law and narrow justice. On top of it, the upper matzah represents *hesed*: outflowing generosity, the elastic sweetness of kindness and mercy. Below it, the lower matzah represents *tiferet*, the balance between those two.

Like all spiritual aspects, *g'vurah* has its beneficial side and its shadow. By breaking the middle matzah, we reenact the descent of the Hebrews into the shadow side of *g'vurah*, into slavery and, metaphorically, all those things that make our lives narrow, stiff, inelastic, and mean.

But don't worry, the Seder will redeem our broken, darkened state. Kabbalah calls this "sweetening the *g'vurah*," and the Seder provides three sweeteners: telling each other the story of the exodus from slavery; sharing and eating good food; and singing.

After the meal is done, the children scatter to find the *afikomen*. They bring it back to the table, and a magical moment unfolds. It is part of the station of the Seder called *Tzafun*. Like *Yahatz*, it has no speaking or singing. (And mirroring *Yahatz*, it's fourth from the end, as *Yahatz* was fourth from the beginning.) Silently, deliberately, the leader takes the first half of the broken matzah from the middle of the stack, fits the two halves of the matzah together, and gives each person a bit of the resulting whole to eat. Fitting the halves back together represents the return of our lives to wholeness and reminds us that living free from slavery is sweet. So sweetness is the final taste in our mouth for the Seder. We recite the blessing for the meal, and that's Elijah's cue to enter through our opened door and announce that the great redemption will occur.

Isn't it extraordinary and fitting that the very actions that bring together our family and friends and strengthen community make redemption happen? So go ahead. Tell the story in delicious detail. Serve each other and watch your neighbor across the table enjoy great-tasting food. Sing the old and new songs at the top of your voice. Listen carefully to the crack of the breaking middle matzah, and say "Ooooooh" when the two halves are reunited. Greet each other, "A zissen Pesah, have a sweet Pesah!"



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Ann Spak Thal School A Spring of Inspiration and Aspiration

Sahar Oz

Spring is upon us, and with it, comes more vivid learning, adventures, and memories—all in a Jewish milieu. In Hebrew, the word for spring is *aviv* (aleph vet yud vet), which shares a root with the word *ev* (aleph vet), meaning “bud.” Indeed, it is inspiring to see our students continue to blossom in the classroom, at Shabbat services, and in their interactions with one another.

These next two months present a variety of celebrations, services, and other special programs. On Saturday, March 12, at 10:30 AM, our 16 students in Kitah Hey (5th grade) will help to lead Shabbat services. It is not often you have the chance to see 16 young SHSers on the bimah leading a service, so don't miss out! This service will be followed by a delicious lunch. Please RSVP to Betty (bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org) by Thursday, March 10.

The following day, on Sunday, March 13, students from grades 6–10 will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia and join other volunteers as everyone packs and delivers food packages to Jewish neighbors in need of assistance. We have secured a bus to bring our delegation to the JRA and then take us on the delivery route. Parents are encouraged to join us, and everyone going from our school can either drive on their own to JRA and meet us there at 10 AM, **or arrive at the synagogue by 9 AM and board the bus.** We will return to SHS by 1 PM.

On Sunday, March 20, classes for all grades from Pre-K through Hebrew High will meet from 9–11 AM, and the Purim Carnival festivities will follow at 11 AM.

Purim begins three days later on Wednesday, March 23. Our youngest members are invited to participate in a Mini-Megillah reading at 5 PM. Then, everyone is invited to the Sanctuary at 6 PM to see this year's Purim Cantata—*Shushan Kingdom* (inspired by Disney and fairy tales). Scotch tasting will take place downstairs in the Social Hall at 6:45 PM, and the adult Megillah reading will begin in the Sanctuary at 7:15 PM. Come in costume, and join us for an evening of comedy, music, treats, and a lot of fun!

April takes us on a Jewish journey from the excitement about our congregation's semi-centennial to the seriousness of contemporary anti-Semitism—the joy and peace of Shabbat co-led by our 2nd graders to the celebration of freedom with Pesah. Our entire school community looks forward to marking SHS's 50th anniversary with a brunch and dance party, “A Blast From the Past,” on Sunday, April 3, from 11 AM–1 PM. That morning, classes for all grades from Pre-K through Hebrew High will meet from 9–11 AM.

The following week, on Sunday, April 10, we will welcome two guests from the Anti-Defamation League as they lead our students in grades 7–10 through *Words to Action: Empowering Students to Address Anti-Semitism on Campus*. This interactive education program is designed to empower and equip students with constructive and effective responses to combat anti-Semitism, and given the continuing increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S., this visit by ADL facilitators is especially timely.

Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) students will be featured at the April 16 Shabbat service, which starts at 10:30 AM, so come and start your morning with the voices and smiles of these enthusiastic girls and boys. If your family plans to join us for the lunch following the service, please contact Betty (bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org) by April 14.

There will be no classes on Sunday and Tuesday, April 24 and 26, due to our Passover break. Classes for all grades will resume on Sunday, May 1. Our faculty and I wish you a happy Purim and a liberating Pesah! See photos on page 15.

2016 Nominating Committee

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

The Young Friends of SHS Brunch & Learn Sunday, March 6 Natalie Lesser

Join the Young Friends of SHS for a Brunch & Learn, Sunday, March 6, at 11 AM. While enjoying bagels and other brunch snacks, we will discuss the Jewish perspective on a variety of issues. Have you ever wondered what Judaism teaches about life after death? Do you feel that it's hard to come up with a coherent answer to that question? You're not alone. As with many theological questions, Jewish teachings on life after death, and whether it exists at all, are complicated. The questions exhibit a range of imagination and descriptions. We'll explore the Jewish voices throughout history on the subject, from biblical times to present.

We'll provide some bagels and mimosas, but feel free to bring your favorite vegetarian brunch dish to share. To RSVP, please contact me at (lesser.natalie@gmail.com) by March 3.

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. We'd love for you to join us as we celebrate and learn more about each other.

Save the Dates

SHS Celebrates 50 Years!

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

April 1, 2, & 3, 2016

SHS Young Families Group A Mini-Megillah Reading for Mini-Members

Joanna Hart

We hope to see you at KinderBat—the especially child-friendly, interactive, musical service—on Saturday, March 12, from 11–11:45 AM.



The annual Purim celebration will occur on **Wednesday, March 23, and will begin with a wonderful Mini-Megillah reading at**

5 PM (bed-time-friendly). Come and watch our youngest members share their voices with the congregation!

Please continue to take advantage of our Young Families' Library and Baby Corner located right outside of the Sanctuary. Check out the new Purim and Pesah storybooks.

If there are any adult synagogue activities (such as the Lunch & Learn series) in which you would like to participate, but you have not done so because of childcare concerns, please contact me at the email address below.

Finally, if you would like to be included on our email list, where we share family-friendly activities with others in our community, please contact me at Joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com. Prospective members, expectant parents, and caregivers are welcome to join!

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: March 12, and May 7.

Playschool

New Hours for Summer Camp!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

Although the cold days of winter are still upon us, it is not too early to think about summer and the Playschool Summer Camp. The camp curriculum is designed for children 2–5 years old. Campers will enjoy play time, circle time, arts and crafts, creative movement, story time, and music. Each week, the projects, stories, and songs will focus on a summertime theme. In addition to outdoor tricycle riding, the children will enjoy water play in our wading pools. Snacks will be provided by one of our families each day. The children bring their own dairy lunches.

Summer Camp will begin on Monday, June 6 and will extend through Friday, July 29. Camp will now be in session Monday through Friday. A full-day camp program is planned with many options for enrollment. Early care will be available from 7:45 until 8:30 AM. The Summer Camp morning program begins at 8:30 AM and extends until 12:30 PM. We are now adding After Camp Arts to our camp schedule. This is very similar to our always-popular After School Arts program, with each afternoon focusing on a fun-filled theme. On Mondays we will feature Mitzvot (Good Deeds), Tuesdays will be for science activities, Wednesdays will be for art, Thursdays will be movement days, and Fridays will feature music. Most of our afternoon projects and activities will be held outdoors. The hours for After Camp Arts are 12:30–3 PM. Children may also be enrolled for late care from 3–6 PM. Enrollment options are flexible on a weekly and daily basis. We have a limited number of spots available for Summer Camp, so please submit your application by April 1. For more information or to receive a camp application, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or call 215.922.6590, ext. 28.

Are you looking for even more new and exciting summer activities for your child? **During the weeks of August 1 and August 8, from 8:30 AM until 3 PM, the Playschool will hold two new Specialty Camps for children 3–7 years old.**

Each week will focus on projects based on a creative theme. From August 1 through August 5, the program will focus on puppetry and drama. The children will have the opportunity to create their own puppets and present a puppet show for their families at the end of the week. The theme for the week of August 8 to August 12 will be ceramics. Campers will work with clay and learn about the history of ceramics. They will end the week with an art show featuring their one-of-a-kind projects. Children may be enrolled for the two-week session or for either of the two programs. For more information about the Specialty Camps, please contact the Playschool office.

On Monday, March 7, the Pre-Kindergarten Class will be performing an original play with the assistance of their drama teacher, Vanda Thomas. The children have chosen their own characters and created the story line; their teacher developed and wrote the play using the children's ideas. Parents and Playschool friends are invited to attend the performance.

The children in the 3–4-year-old class will be going on their third trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the *Museum Looks and Picture Books* program. This program introduces art concepts to preschool-aged children. The theme of the lesson will be "Exploring Communities."

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 20, from 11 AM to 1 PM, for the annual Purim Carnival.** All Playschool families, Sunday School families, SHS families, and friends are invited to join us for this holiday event. We will have Purim games, craft projects, face painting, music, and refreshments for all to enjoy. Prizes will be given to the children for their participation in the games. All are invited to attend the Purim Carnival dressed in their favorite costume, too. Tickets to play the games will be sold. Pizza, hamantaschen, soft pretzels, and beverages will also be offered for sale. We hope to see everyone at the Purim Carnival.

On Thursday, March 24, and Friday, March 25, the children will celebrate Purim with parades and family luncheons in their classrooms.

Continued on page 8

Playschool

continued from page 7

The boys and girls may dress in costumes that are traditional to Purim or in a costume of their choice. Families are invited to attend to hear the children sing the Purim songs that they have learned in the Playschool. After each class performance, the children and their guests will have lunch together. Our Purim celebrations are always a highlight of Playschool programming for the children and their families.

The Pre-K children will be attending a performance of *Freckleface Strawberry The Musical* at the Walnut Street Theatre on Thursday, March 31.

We hope to see many of our Playschool students in our Summer Camp programs!



Mini-Megillah

Wednesday, March 23 at 5 PM with Cantor Bob

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Social Action

SHS Stepped Up to Share Some Warmth

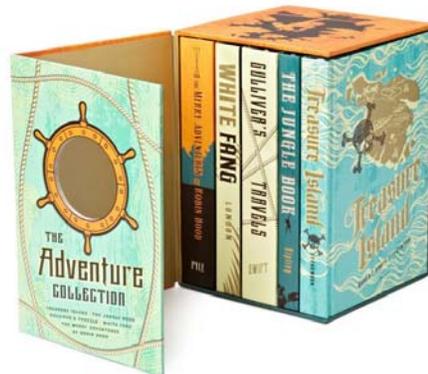
Phyllis Denbo

Our Winter Coat Drive for the students of Vare-Washington Elementary School and their families was very successful. Once again, the members of SHS were extremely generous. We collected more than 100 coats in all sizes—along with many hats, scarves, and gloves. I received a lovely note from one of the parents, Kelly Sheehy, on behalf of the Vare-Washington parents that I'd like to share with you:

"On behalf of Vare-Washington, we thank you for your kindness and generosity over the holiday season. We are so grateful for all the donations as they were greatly needed and will not be forgotten. Thank you for everything!"

Vare-Washington was not the only beneficiary of our generosity. SHS actually donated more coats and accessories than were needed, so I arranged to have the extra items donated to another school in South Philadelphia, George W. Childs Elementary School, which had also expressed a need for winter outerwear for their students.

During the next couple of months, we will be conducting yet another book drive for the school library, this time concentrating on a list of book sets requested by the teachers. We will also be working out the details of an SHS volunteer workday at Vare-Washington. Stay tuned for more information.



Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

The Russian Pale of Settlement

Larry Spector

Do your roots go back to this place? Were your forebears ever drafted to serve 25 years in the army? Were they merchants, shopkeepers, tailors, or shoemakers forced to live only in certain provinces and districts? Learn about the history of individuals who lived in the shtetl in the Russian Pale of Settlement by visiting the SHS website at www.societyhillssynagogue.org and clicking on the March/April link under "Nutshell Excerpts."



Scotch Tasting with the Rabbi

Wednesday, March 23, at 6:45 PM



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HAG SAMEAH



March Birthdays

Theodore Danoff
 Libby Rosof
 Sheryl Linhardt
 Sadie Margolin
 Lily Abelsohn Newman
 Raphael Benjamin Englander
 Mayah Gold
 Linda Rosenstein
 Sloan Uygur Petersohn
 Amy Finkel
 Ann Lebowitz Steinberg
 Toni Pitock
 Diane Siegel Danoff
 Charlotte Yudell
 Alan Casnoff
 Marjorie Goldstein
 Rachel Ladenson
 Lysander Michaels-Koenig
 Richard Braemer
 Jonah Cohen
 Ronald Krasnick
 Raphael Licht
 Charlotte Rotter
 Amy Shapiro
 Libby Kaiser
 Jeremy Newberg
 Anita Stein
 Dinah Lovitch
 Eloise Wilson
 Charlotte Coran
 Margot Englander
 Jacqueline Goldfinger
 Noah Herman
 Staci Schwartz
 Benjamin Kauderwood
 Odilia Kirshenbaum
 Amalya Wolf Weiss
 Susan Berman
 Nancy Moses
 Lilah Whitesell
 Sally Gendler
 Eleanor Oxman
 Risa Stolker
 Rita Bernstein
 Carole
 Le Faivre-Rochester
 Finley Little
 Louis Golding
 Stephanie Wolson

**April Birthdays**

Richard Summers
 Susan Leshnoff
 Leah Jordan
 Alan Casper
 Bob Blacksberg
 Natalie Lesser
 Alan Ominsky
 Barbara Rottenberg
 Greyson Sobel
 Benjamin Berman
 Zachary Downes
 Isaac Freedman
 Gerry Schneeberg
 Evelyn Segal
 Harry Feinberg
 Ashleigh Reibach
 Stella Wolson
 Jessica Downes
 William Goldberg
 Tobey Dichter
 Brian Englander
 Kathy Bernsten
 Stephen Brown
 Max Berkowitz
 Hannah Davidson
 Meredith Buse
 Ella Gutstadt
 Mary Fish
 Ruth Greenberg
 Adina Zalesne Siff
 Bruce Hirsch
 Derek Jordan
 Iris Levine
 Anna Whitesell
 Richard Balderston
 David Miller
 Esme Oxman
 Deborah Shapiro
 Scott Siff
 Thomas Borawski
 Jessica Mono
 Rafael Winokur
 Beverly Michaels
 Cristina Dorona Fey
 Carl Levitsky
 Murray Dubin

March Anniversaries

Benjamin Berman & Suzanne Fierston
 Scot & Marcie Ziskind
 Arthur & Miriam Shapiro
 Michael Yudell & Jacqueline Rick
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
 Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
 Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

April Anniversaries

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

**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 **TGISH**abbat Services

April 1

*Jordan Dodson and Christine Lamprea
Born Lau*

May 27

The 3Js

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STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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Community News

Mazel Tov to

Larry Spector and Ann Rosen Spector on the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Spector to Joel Censer.

Condolences to

Meredith Buse-Morley on the death of her father, David Buse.

Maxine Schoenholtz and Susan Blizzard on the death of their father, Benjamin Richer.

Welcome New Members & Families

Gal Cohen and Brooke Silvers

Lisa Grunberger and Robert Margolis
Rachel Margolis-Grunberger

Michael and Jennifer Raphael
*Maxon
Ezra*

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The Hayman Family

Musical Talents of Bob & Dan Blacksberg at TGISHabbat

The Hayman Family

SHS

Jonathan Freedman

In Honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Jack Dubin

Harmon Bryan

In Memory of

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz

Debra Stewart

William Appel, Father of Andrea Appel

Harris & Renee Hayman

Jerry & Joan Roller

Mae Newman Goldfine, Aunt of Lois Rosenberg

Lois & Jerry Rosenberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Adam Levy

Joseph & Dorene Rosenthal

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Walter Ferst's 65th Birthday

Gregory Weidler & Merle Jaffe

SHS

Advantage Industrial Supply

In Memory of

Ruth Blask, Mother of Judith Woloff

Barbara Spector

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Louis Schwartz, Father of Marc Schwartz

Marc & Staci Schwartz

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Len Weinberg's Special Birthday

Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Memory of

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz

Matthew & Terri Whitehorn

Lois Vederman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Helen Cohn, Mother of Alan Cohn

Alan Cohn

Social Action Fund

In Memory of

David Buse, Father-in-Law of Jesse Abrams-Morley

Gail Rudenstein

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin

Playschool Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Morton Lieberman, Grandfather of Andrew Hohns

Nancy Hohns

Morton Lieberman, Great-Grandfather of Isaac Henry Hohns

Nancy Hohns

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Honor of

Lily Hayman's Bat Mitzvah

The Hayman Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

William Appel's Funeral Service

Andrea Appel

Maralynn Appel

In Honor of

Lily Hayman's Bat Mitzvah

The Hayman Family

In Memory of

Lawrence Smith, Father of Staci Schwartz

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick

Marty Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Isadore Goldenberg, Father of Marc Goldenberg

Marc & Nancy Goldenberg

Aaron Markowitz, Father of Sayde Ladov

Sayde Ladov

Louis Blender, Father of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender

Stanley Dubin, Brother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Isadore Schertz, Grandfather of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Lillian Dictor, Mother-in-Law of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

April 30

Sloan Uygur Petersohn

Daughter of Nuriye Uygur and Josh Petersohn

May 7

Liron Prystowsky

Daughter of Galila Prystowsky and the late Elan 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



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Time: 9:30am - Noon

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in the Sanctuary



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Charoset di Pesah

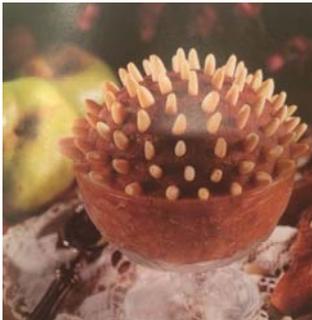
Andrew Hohns

In June of 2014, I began to learn Italian. Since that time, it is impossible to overstate the many ways in which this language has added richness to my life, through new friends and new ideas. Among these, I found a book at the Book Trader on 2nd Street—remember when it was on 5th and South!—called *Viaggio illustrato nella Cucina Ebraica: An Illustrated Voyage through the Jewish Kitchen*. This book, published by Nardini Editore in Florence, tells of the festival of the Jewish meal and the many traditions that we all know so well, having shared them with our families around holidays.

Last year, I made the recipe for Charoset in the style of the Venetian Jew. The dish was marvelous—I pureed the ingredients into a thick paste in a Cuisinart, and shaped small mounds of the paste into ice cream dishes to serve individual helpings of the traditional “mortar” that holds together the bricks of Pharaoh’s Egypt. In what follows, I have provided a rough translation of the several geographic variations that *Cucina Ebraica* offers for Charoset. I hope that you and your families will enjoy experimenting with some of these recipes as much as we have!

Charoset di Pesah (translated from *Cucina Ebraica*)

It is one of the symbolic plates to appear on the Pascal table of the Hebrews. The sweet taste of this dish is designed to symbolize the ache and the fatigue of the Hebrew bricklayers; it may be said that it also serves to balance the far more bitter taste of some of the other dishes that accompany this.



There exists, one can say, a different variation [of Charoset] for each Jewish community. Maybe for this reason, it is the dish that—more than many others much more elaborate—expresses the incredible variety and the richness of the Hebrew kitchen. The ingredients of the various recipes that follow (and they are only some among the many!) can be prepared by simply chopping and mixing them together or by pureeing them into a dense and uniform paste, almost like a kind of marmalade. The final touch of adding pine nuts endows the whole mixture with a style reminiscent of the quills of a hedgehog (see the picture for inspiration).

The apples, indispensable for this dish, would represent (so it is said) the tree under which, during the slavery in Egypt, the Hebrew ladies would give birth in hiding to evade the soldiers of the Pharaoh, because the soldiers had been ordained to murder the newborns.

Aita, Claudio. Viaggio illustrato nella CUCINA EBRAICA, 2004, Firenze, Italy, p. 200ff. Translated with permission of the publisher.

Israel

Ingredients: 20 dates, pitted and chopped, 6 peeled bananas, 2 grated apples, 1 lemon (its juice and its grated rind), 1 orange (its juice and its grated rind), 1 small glass of sweet white wine, a touch of unleavened flour.

Turkey

250g of pitted and minced dates, 80g of chopped walnuts, 2 grated apples, 150g of minced currants, 1 orange (its juice and its grated rind), 2 small glasses of sweet red wine, 2 spoons of sugar.

North Africa

70g of pine nuts, 1 grated apple, ½ a small glass of shelled and chopped almonds, ½ a small glass of chopped walnuts, 4 spoons of sugar, cinnamon, the yolk of an egg, the juice and the grated rind of 1 lemon.

Egypt

100g of pitted dates, boiled for 5 minutes prior to mincing, 100g of chopped raisins, 2 spoons of honey, 50g of chopped walnuts, ½ small cup of sweet red wine, 1/2 small cup of warm water.

Yemen

½ kg of minced apples, 100g of chopped, pitted dates, 100g of chopped dried figs, 50g of sugar, ½ small spoon of black pepper, ½ small spoon of minced ginger, ½ small cup of sweet wine.

Ethiopia

100g of chopped walnuts, 100g of chopped almonds, 70g of whole pine-nuts, 1 peeled banana, 80g of sugar, the yolk of 1 egg, the juice and the grated rind of 1 lemon, ½ of a small spoon of cinnamon.

Ashkenazi

½ kg of grated apples, 200g of chopped almonds, some spoons of honey, 1 glass of sweet wine.

Sephardic

½ kg of chopped pitted dates, 2 apples peeled and grated, 50g of chopped walnuts, 100g of chopped hazelnuts, 100g of raisins, reconstituted in water, 1 peeled banana, ½ small cup of red wine.

Balkan

½ kg of peeled and grated apples, 200g of chopped almonds, ½ small cup of wine, 2 or 3 spoons of honey. Before mixing, dilute the honey with the wine.

France

200g of minced almonds, 50g of chopped walnuts, 100g of pitted and chopped dates, 50g of sugar, 1 spoon of unleavened flour, 1 small cup of sweet white wine, ½ small cup of cognac, ½ small cup of orange juice.

Italian (Venice)

150g of chestnuts, 250g of peeled and grated apples, 100g of dried pitted prunes, 100g of minced raisins, 100g of pitted dates, 100g of minced walnuts, the juice of 1 or 2 oranges, ½ small spoon of cinnamon, powdered. The chestnuts should be boiled in water and towel-dried before mixing them with all the other ingredients.

Italian (Ancona)

½ kg of pitted chopped dates, 2 grated apples, 60g of minced currants, 200g of chopped almonds, the juice of 2 oranges.

For all of the above recipes, the ingredients may be chopped together, mixed, or pureed into a paste and served slightly chilled in ice cream dishes. Pine nuts may be used to decorate the individual servings.

Wrestling with Jewish Peoplehood: Conference and Shabbaton

Join us as we wrestle with the idea of Jewish peoplehood: what does it mean, and why does it matter. There'll be lots of big ideas and lively conversation, both at the two-day conference (April 10-11) and at the Shabbaton that precedes it (April 8-9). Come for either, or stay for the entire four days. We'll share plenaries and break-out sessions with prominent speakers, and enjoy musical entertainment on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The conference will be live-streamed and live-tweeted, so that the conversation can be interactive and widely -shared. We'll post the full roster of panels and speakers here, as soon as it's available.

Confirmed speakers are among the leading thinkers on the theme of contemporary Jewish Peoplehood:



**Peter
Beinart**



**Jane
Eisner**



**Irving
Greenberg**



**Shai
Held**



**Sharon
Kleinbaum**



**John
Ruskey**



**Deborah
Waxman**

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, Temple University's Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the University of Pennsylvania's Jewish Studies Program, and Haverford College are proud to present *Wrestling with Jewish Peoplehood: Conference and Shabbaton*.

The Shabbaton is co-sponsored by The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the Kaplan Center, Reconstructionist congregation Mishkan Shalom, and Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI). Local partners include Congregation Or Hadash, Congregation Shireinu, Lev Ha'ir, Kol Tzedek, Minyan Dorshei Derekh and [Society Hill Synagogue](#).

When:

Shabbaton: April 8-9, 2016
Conference: April 10-11, 2016

Where:

Conference:

The National Museum of American Jewish History, 101 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA

Shabbaton:

Friday: Mishkan Shalom, 4101 Freeland Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19128
Services begin at 6.30 pm, followed by dinner and a talk by President Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.

Saturday: Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI), 18th and Spruce Streets in Center City Philadelphia
(300 South 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)

Rabbi Winokur will be leading a Shabbat morning Alternative/Meditative Service at BZBI

9.30 am through Havdalah and a light dinner, and features an afternoon of learning on the peoplehood theme.

Registration and details are available at the Kaplan Center Website

Membership Engagement Initiative

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

Bonny Hohenberger

SHS is a beehive of activity! As a result of the numerous wonderful programs and events that will be occurring at our synagogue in March and April, the Board of Directors has decided to cancel the spring GWCTS event. But never fear, it WILL be back in the fall!

2. Arts & Culture

Jonathan Feinman and Betta Kolansky

Mark your calendars for four fabulous events taking place in March, April, and May. On Sunday morning, March 13, there will be a Passover cooking class at 11 AM. Learn how to prepare some delicious food for your Pesah Seder. Watch for further details in the congregational announcements.

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.

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

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 Betty 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.

3. Inter-NOSH-ional Night

Debra Stewart

For the fifth year in a row, congregants gathered as guests for a special dinner in homes hosting a special cuisine. We noshed, drank, and schmoozed all evening. This is a unique community-building and fund-raising event, initially conceived as a spin-off of the past Round Robin dinners enjoyed by the community.

Continued on page 21

PHOTOS FROM INTER-NOSH-IONAL NIGHT



Continued from page 19

Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night 2016 was coordinated once again by Amy Shapiro, with 30 participants and five host homes. Fanny and Roger Korman with cooking partner Tova Ztaoui served Cuban cuisine; Betty and Bart Kaplan presented a French Moroccan dinner; Sara and Noah Chrismer offered a Kosher Thai meal; Ruth and Steve Greenberg provided Italian fare; and Debbie and Bill Stewart served the cuisine of Jerusalem. By all accounts, a good time was had at each home. We never seem to go wrong when breaking bread together.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our hosts for their generosity in time, effort, and expense, and to those who participated through donating to SHS and bringing spirit and enthusiasm to the event.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	Va-yak-hel Shekalim 5
		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – God is Still Evolving		6:15 PM Services with Cantorial Candidate Jeff Warshchauer followed by Shabbat Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services with Cantorial Candidate Jeff Warshchauer followed by Kiddush Lunch
6	7	8	9	10	11	P'kudei 2
9 AM SS 9-9:35 AM SS visit with Cantorial Candidate 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11-11:35 AM HS visit with Cantorial Candidate 11 AM-1 PM SHS Young Friends	Playschool Drama Show with Vanda 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan Playschool Art Museum Trip 4:15 PM HS 6:15 PM Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class with Cantor Bob Pizza & Salad	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – God is Still Evolving		6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Hay Class Service & Lunch 11 AM KinderBat
13	14	15	16	17	18	Va-yikra 19
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM – 12:30 PM Arts & Culture Baking with Robin Schatz 11 AM Breakfast in Babylon with Rafi	7 PM Special BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – God is Still Evolving		6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	Tzav 26
9 – 11 AM SS/HS 11 AM to 1 PM Purim Carnival	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	Purim Celebration 5 PM Mini-Megillah 6 PM Cantata 6:45 PM Scotch Tasting 7:15 PM Megillah Reading	Playschool Parades & Skits	Playschool Parades & Skits 6:16 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service Lunch & Learn with Fran Gallun
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		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Adult Education with Cantor Bob – Tales of the <u>Hasidic Masters</u>	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – God is Still Evolving	Playschool goes to Walnut Street Theatre		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Sh'mini 2
					6:15 PM 50th Anniversary TGIShabbat featuring Astral Artists Jordan Dodsan and Christine Lamprea	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 50th Anniversary Kiddush Luncheon
3	4	5	6	7	8	Tazria 9
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Blast from the Past Celebration	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Adult Education with Cantor Bob – Tales of the <u>Hasidic Masters</u>	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – Jews Go Green		9-11 AM Playschool Open House 5 PM Playschool Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
10	11	12	13	14	15	M'tzora 16
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Adult Education with Cantor Bob – Tales of the <u>Hasidic Masters</u>	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – Jews Go Green		6:15 PM Memorial Plaque Service	9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Bet Service with Rachel Moran and Lunch
17	18	19	20	21	Erev Pesah 22	Pesah 1 23
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmoose with Rabbi	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Adult Education with Cantor Bob – Tales of the <u>Hasidic Masters</u>	No Playschool 7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – Jews Go Green	No Playschool	First Seder No Services Building Closed	2 nd Seder 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 6 PM Annual Second Night-Community Passover Seder
Pesah II 24	Pesah III 25	Pesah IV 26	Pesah V 27	Pesah VI 28	Pesah VII 29	Pesah VIII 30
Building Closed	Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan No Playschool or Hebrew School	No Playschool 7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein – Jews Go Green	No Playschool	PS & Office Closed 6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Sloan Uygur Petersohn

Kesher

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