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### President's Column

## My Last Column as Your President

Debra Stewart

**A**s I write my last President's column, I am thinking about what makes Society Hill Synagogue so warm and comfortable—a home where so many of us can find what we are looking for. Our shul is a place for spiritual growth and learning, while providing opportunities to develop friendship, self-expression, and a sense of connectedness. We work individually and collectively to attain goals for our congregation and our community. We could not be successful without the exceptional dedication and hard work from our Board members, lay-leaders, volunteers, clergy, Executive Director, Education Director, Playschool Co-Directors, and staff. As President, I have had many opportunities to see the behind-the-scenes planning and implementation of our extensive programs and services, including all of the challenges of maintaining our historic building and balancing our budget year after year.

Although we are a medium-sized congregation with a small staff, we are mighty. It is amazing to realize the scope of our continually evolving activities, given our limited physical space. Please join us at our Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, to get the inside scoop on our schools, facilities, finances, and space improvement plans. We will also vote on the proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws, elect nominees to the Board of Directors, and elect the next President. We also plan to honor certain individuals for their exceptional service to the synagogue and we will recognize our outstanding Rabbinical Intern, Nathan Kamesar. Be there by 6:30 PM if you'd like to share a lite meal and schmooze before we start the general meeting at 7:30 PM. If we are lucky, 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Anniversary Co-Chairs Judy Lalli and Eleanor Oxman may perform their anniversary rap song one more time!

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the following Board members who have completed their terms and will be stepping down: Jonathan Feinman, Steve Greenberg, and Rafi Licht. I am pleased to report that they will each continue to play active roles in our community through their contributions to Arts and Culture, membership outreach, space improvement planning, respectively.

Over the last two years, in addition to supporting the programs we know and love, we have worked hard to strengthen membership engagement and outreach, and we have developed an Arts and Culture committee, an Alternative Meditative Service, an expanded Lunch & Learn series, and a Kabbalat Shabbat Speaker's Corner.

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## Rabbi's Column

### Join Us for a Very Important Lunch & Learn on Saturday, May 21

Avi Winokur

**W**e live in a world in which hatred of and fear of the other continue to escalate and to warp our country. In my view, we are facing nothing less than the corruption of the American spirit and the gradual evisceration of American values. To the extent that we Jews give into this trend, our spirit and our values are compromised as well.

In "The Rise of Hate Search" (*New York Times*, December 12, 2015), Evan Soltas and Seth Stephens-Davidowitz observed:

"There are about 1,600 searches for 'I hate my boss' every month in the United States. In a survey of American workers, half of the respondents said that they had left a job because they hated their boss; there are about 150 million workers in America.

"In November, there were about 3,600 searches in the United States for 'I hate Muslims' and about 2,400 for 'kill Muslims.' We suspect these Islamophobic searches represent a similarly tiny fraction of those who had the same thoughts but didn't drop them into Google. . . .

"It is not just that hatred against Muslims is extremely high today. It's that it's exceptional compared with prejudice against every other group in the United States.

"We examined prejudicial searches against black people, white people, gay people, Asians, Jews, Mexicans and Christians. We estimate that negative attitudes against Muslims today are higher than prejudice against any group in any month since 2004, when Google began preserving detailed data on search volumes."

Another article, "Young Muslim Americans Are Feeling the Strain of Suspicion" (*New York Times*,

December 14, 2015) described the anxiety of teenage and college-age Muslim Americans in the age of ISIS and Trump. As 15-year-old Hebh Jamal of the Bronx said, "If a Muslim hasn't been called a terrorist in middle school, lower school or high school, then they're probably in a great school—and I'm happy for them."

Shafiq Majdalawieh, 19, a Brooklyn College sophomore who was raised in Bensonhurst, said, "I feel like it's them against us, that everybody's out to get you and you have something to prove. Our aspirations are the same as any other American or teenager or youth. It feels like they're trying to shoot down our dreams and aspirations simply because we practice a different religion."

So the question is: Are we doing anything to help these youngsters on the cusp of adulthood? In Philadelphia, Daneen Webster-Gakou has answered this challenge. Ms. Webster-Gakou will join us for a Shabbat Lunch & Learn on Saturday, May 21. A teacher at Mastery Charter, Daneen, also a Muslim, realized that the hostility toward Muslims prevalent in our society today required a response. So Daneen, with the school's blessing and support, established a safe space for Muslim students to gather for mutual support. It is a space that welcomes allies and helps to break down barriers as well.

We Jews have experienced persecution and suspicion from the majority culture throughout our history. Indeed, this past month, I attended a lecture by the *Inquirer's* Trudy Rubin sponsored by the Beitler Dreyfus Collection of the Penn Libraries' Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. As many of you know, Alfred Dreyfus, a patriotic French officer, was framed by an anti-Semitic cabal and charged and convicted (later pardoned) of treason at the end of the nineteenth century. Theodor Herzl, a relatively assimilated and cosmopolitan Viennese Jew, was covering the trial as a journalist. Herzl was so shaken by the Dreyfus Affair that he went on to rethink the place of Jews in the so-called enlightened West and became the father of Modern Zionism.

Many of us and even more of our parents and grandparents experienced anti-Semitism in these United States, often in the form of unspoken quotas

Continued on page 14

## Social Action

### SHS Service Day at Vare-Washington Elementary School

Phyllis Denbo

**S**HS members of all ages and skill levels are invited to join us for an intergenerational service day of work and fun, community, and tikkun olam on **Sunday, May 15, from 11 AM until 4 PM** at Vare-Washington Elementary School (South 5<sup>th</sup> and Federal Streets). Parking will be available in the schoolyard.

We will be working on projects to help make the school more functional and welcoming, including sprucing up the library, shelving books, painting, adding to the wall graphics we started on MLK day, organizing and cataloguing the supply room, and planting flowers. A team leader will be assigned to each project.

Hebrew School students should come directly to Vare-Washington and are encouraged to ask their parents to join them.

Lunch will be provided. Please contact Terri Akman at [terriakman@comcast.net](mailto:terriakman@comcast.net) or 215.515.3506 to RSVP so that we can plan accordingly.



## Nominating Committee

### 2016 Board Nominees

Jonathan Weiss

**T**he Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominees to the 2016 SHS Board of Directors: Gerry Faich, Barry Slosberg, and Natalie Lesser. The formal election will take place at the Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 25.

## Another Spectacular Brill Concert on Sunday, May 22!

Joe Oxman

**J**oin us on Sunday, May 22, 12—1:30 PM, in the Sanctuary for our second Brill Building Music concert. The Brill Building, located at 1619 Broadway in Manhattan was home to the publishing firm of Aldon Music, dedicated to creating sophisticated songs that were focused on teenagers. Songwriting teams from the Brill Building were the most prolific of the rock & roll era. The music includes songs by Carole King, Phil Spector, Burt Bacharach, Hal David, Barry Mann, and Cynthia Weil, among others.

Come and hear the cool renditions of this music performed by the SHS Concert Band featuring Rachel Moran (Vocals), Jud Aaron (Sax), Joe Oxman (Bass), G Bartell (Piano), and Mitch Golding (Drums).

The fee is \$20 per person, and proceeds benefit the Ann Spak Thal School.





## Cantor's Column

### Keeping the Melodies Fresh

Bob Freedman

Once there was a violinist who was invited to play regularly at the royal court. One night one of the king's ministers, a frequent guest, approached the violinist and said, "I love the pieces you play. But they do not vary much from night to night. This does not bother me; in fact, I appreciate the familiarity. But how do you manage to make them always sound fresh?"

The violinist, knowing that this particular minister loved his wife very much, answered, "How often do you say to your wife, 'I love you?'" The minister replied, "A few times a week, I guess." The violinist continued, "The words remain the same. Yet each time you say them, the situation is different, and the words convey a new meaning."

Many of the melodies that we sing are the same from Shabbat to Shabbat. Because you are a congregation that likes to sing, I've been able to expand our repertoire a lot, but still, the percentage of change from week to week is not high. Over the course of my career I've learned how to make the melodies fresh for myself each time. And in doing so, I intend to keep them fresh and newly meaningful for you as well.

I do this by regarding the melodies and their words as carriers of emotional and spiritual meaning. Aware of what has touched and changed my heart in the past week and months, I appreciate, each time, that I am not the same person I was before, and I allow my singing to reflect the "new" me.

Or, I rely on what is special to a given service. The musicians who play with me for TGShabbat programs are always inspiring. Perhaps someone in the congregation is celebrating a *simhah*, or someone is seeking comfort for a loss. At times, world news has left us all feeling bleak and in need of respite and renewal. Music is excellent at providing joy, comfort, respite, and renewal.

Much more often than not, it works. My analytical mind takes a rest, and I sing from my heart. Then, as the saying goes, what comes from the heart goes to the heart. Your hearts hear and your voices lift my heart; my heart and voice respond; and thus begins a crucial feedback loop. Together we create for each other the spiritual high we come to services hoping to find.

Thank you for allowing me to sing to your open hearts.

---

## SHS Celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut With Nitzan Haroz!

Join us **Friday, May 13, 6:15 PM**, for a repeat performance by Nitzan Haroz! Israeli native Nitzan Haroz was Principal Trombone with the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1995-2012 and rejoined the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2015, after holding the same position with the Los Angeles Philharmonic for two years (2013 & 2014). Prior to his initial position in Philadelphia, he played with the New York Philharmonic, the Israel Symphony and Opera Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Israel Defense Forces Orchestra, and the Jerusalem Symphony.

He has commissioned and premiered several works for trombones and harp with his mother, harpist Adina Haroz. He is a frequent clinician at trombone conferences and has given master classes and recitals throughout the world. His recording, *Towards the Light*, was released in 2004. An active recitalist and chamber musician, he is a current faculty member of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

All are welcome to join us for Shabbat dinner following services. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

*This evening is made possible through an Israel Cultural Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.*



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## Ann Spak Thal School A Medley of May & June Happenings

Sahar Oz

**K**ermit the Frog likes to say, “time’s fun when you’re having flies,” and at our school, time flies when you’re having fun! This past year really seems to have flown by, with so much Jewish learning and discovery, improvement in Hebrew reading abilities, discussion and debate, creativity on the stage and on canvas, Shabbat services that showcased new skills, and a lot of smiles and joy.

**But wait, there’s more!** Let’s start with four B’nai Mitzvah celebrations: Liron Prystowsky (**May 7**), Benni Kauderwood (**May 14**), Abby Shapiro (**June 18**), and Claire Golding (**June 25**). Our students’ Bar and Bat Mitzvah services are special opportunities for our entire community to come together and celebrate their accomplishments as they embrace their roles and responsibilities as maturing young Jewish adults.

These services also give our younger children an inspiring sense of what lies ahead for them. If you or your children can’t stay for the entire service from 9:30 AM until 12 PM, then please arrive by 10:15 AM, when the Torah reading segment of the service typically begins. Of course, your child’s presence at B’nai Mitzvah services counts toward the Shabbat service attendance requirement for students in grades 3–7.

And apropos of that requirement, all students who have reached their Shabbat service attendance goal for the current school year by Saturday, May 21, will be publicly honored on our last day of classes, Tuesday, May 24. That Tuesday, we invite parents and siblings of students in grades 3–7 to join us at 5:30 PM for the last Ma’ariv school service of the year, where we will usher in everyone’s *aliyah* (ascent) to his or her new grade.

The Ma’ariv service will be followed by dinner at 6:15 PM. Please RSVP for dinner by May 22 to Betty [bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org](mailto:bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org). Before we reach the last day of classes, there are some other key dates to note, starting with Mother’s Day on May 8. There are no classes that day so that we can thank our mothers and celebrate them.

On **Sunday, May 15**, Sunday School will take place as usual, but students in grades 3–10 will meet at 11 AM at Vare-Washington Elementary School at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Federal Streets for a variety of *tikkun olam* projects. Students may leave at 1 PM as regularly scheduled or stay longer with our congregation’s volunteers. Parents are strongly encouraged to join their children in helping out!

On **Friday, May 20**, come together at 6:15 PM for Kabbalat Shabbat as our congregation honors Cantor Bob Freedman and our graduating high school seniors. Please e-mail Betty by May 18 if you would like to attend the dinner following the service.

To end our year on the sweetest and most catchy note, May 22 will be “Sundae Sunday” with ice cream sundaes for children and parents to enjoy at 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM, respectively, and a special performance by the Society Hill Synagogue Concert Band for all to enjoy from 12 until 1:30 PM.

Celebrating the songs of Jewish American pop legends such as Burt Bacharach, Hal David, Carole King, Phil Spector, and Neil Sedaka, “The Brill Building: A Jewish Hit Song Factory” is free for all children, with tickets for adults at \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. All proceeds benefit our Hebrew School. Spread the word about this great show!

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## Playschool

### Looking Forward to a Great Camp Season!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

**W**e can't believe that school is almost over! We have had an exciting year filled with new field trips, special guests, and creative projects. There are some surprises yet to come as the school year draws to a close at the end of May.

The 3–4-year-old class will begin the month with a final field trip to the Art Museum on Tuesday, May 10. We need parents to chaperone, so please sign up! **On Wednesday, May 11, school will be closed for parent–teacher conferences.** Staff will be available to watch your children during your scheduled conference time, if needed. For an additional charge, childcare will also be offered that day between the hours of 7:45 AM and 6 PM. Thursday, May 12, will be a regular school day.

On Friday, May 13, the Pre-K class will celebrate our annual Pajama Day! Our school day schedule will be “backwards” because we will participate in activities that usually take place at night, such as wear our pajamas, telling bed-time stories, and even popping some popcorn!

On Monday, May 16, at 10:15 AM, all Playschool students will have a chance to meet some special visitors! Philadelphia's *Zoo on Wheels Program* will present an interactive lesson about animals from all around the world! All children, regardless of their scheduled school days, are invited to attend this special presentation.

On Wednesday, May 18, the Pre-K class will travel to Bartram's Garden. They will learn all about honeybees and the hive-making process! They will even get to sample some sweet honey and explore the beautiful grounds!

During the final week of school, we will have two special Afterschool Arts programs: On Monday, May 23, Playschool parent and former teacher Jessica Downes will present “SNAPOLOGY!” an interactive Lego building lesson, and on Thursday, May 26, Playschool parent Lauren Kriegel will lead the

children in an afternoon of musical activities.

#### **The last day of Playschool is Friday, May 27.**

The graduation ceremony for the Puppy class will occur from 11 AM until 12 PM. The ceremony for the 3–4-year-old class will occur from 12 PM until 1 PM, and the ceremony for the Pre- K will occur from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM. There will be class luncheons after the ceremonies.

We are looking forward to a great season at the SHS Summer Camp! The regular camp begins on Monday, June 6, and ends on Friday, June 29. Our regular summer camp program is designed for children between the ages of 2 and 5. Each day, campers will participate in arts and crafts, outdoor pool and bicycle time, music and movement activities, and snack time! Camp hours are from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Children should bring dairy lunches from home.

For the first time, we are offering extended hours for our summer camp program! Children can stay for our new ACA (After Camp Arts) program, which runs from 12:30 PM until 3 PM, Monday – Friday. We will also be offering extended early care hours beginning at 7:45 AM and extended late care hours from 3 PM until 6 PM, Monday–Friday. Please contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28, if you have any questions!

Guess what? There's more good news! We are SO excited to introduce our new SHS Specialty Camps, which will run during the first two weeks of August! Children between the ages of 3 and 7 can sign up for one or both exciting themed weeks!

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### 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 May 7.

## Adult Education

### The Life of the Spirit in the Face of Mortality

Marc Schwartz

**J**oin Rabbi Avi Winokur as he leads discussions about *The Life of the Spirit in the Face of Mortality* on the following Tuesday evenings: 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, & 5/24. This class will run from 7:30 PM until 9 PM in the Beit Midrash.

The suffering and/or premature death of a child or spouse, the terrible wasting away of a loved one, the fear of one's own suffering and death, the tragedy of a gravely disabled family member, the suicide of a loved one—these are the worst possible situations. How do we find inner strength amid such sadness, fear, and even terror? Is it even possible?

The final Meditative service before summer break will occur on Saturday, May 21 at 10 AM. The last two Shabbat Study classes with Rabbi Berman will occur on Saturday, May 14, and Saturday, June 11.

Look for new Adult Education opportunities in the fall. Have a relaxing summer.

## Arts & Culture

### SHS Second Night Seder—Another Success

Betta Kolansky and Jonathan Feinman

**O**n Saturday, April 23, Rabbi Winokur skillfully led a fun-filled, educational, and delicious full-course Pesah Seder in the SHS Social Hall. Over 80 members and friends participated, while enjoying each other's company and sharing the holiday. We look forward to our third annual Second Night Seder next year!

## Lunch & Learn Series

### Supporting Muslim Students in Philadelphia Schools During an Increasingly Anxious Time

Rabbi Avi Winokur

**J**oin us on Saturday, May 21, for an important Lunch & Learn in the Social Hall following Shabbat services. The Muslim Student Association at Pickett Mastery Charter (MSA@ Pickett) in Germantown was created by Daneen Webster-Gakou—in part, as a response to some of the difficulties that Muslim children face in today's America—and in part, as a place to build a positive identity and to develop the kind of character that builds inner strength in the face of many challenges, including religious prejudice, racial prejudice, and growing up in difficult homes and neighborhoods.

*This program is sponsored by the Jay R. Baer Fund, which honors the memory of a beloved Synagogue member who served as Treasurer and President of SHS in the early 1980s before his untimely death from cancer.*

*Jay, a corporate and securities attorney at Wolf, Block, Schorr, and Solis-Cohen, was a key force in professionalizing the operation of our Synagogue. His work was essential in developing the staffing and systems that moved SHS from an initially communal, volunteer group to a proficient organization that was more appropriate for a growing synagogue. All who knew him agree that his work in the Synagogue was marked by care and diligence, as well as a fine sense of humor and wit—endearing traits that his family, friends and fellow congregants continue to miss to this day.*

*Jay's family, business and professional colleagues, as well as many members of the congregation, made generous contributions to SHS when Jay died. These contributions were used to form the Jay R. Baer Fund to serve as a resource to help subsidize SHS's annual Scholar-in-Residence and educational programs. It is fitting that this fund is used for this important purpose at the Synagogue Jay so lovingly served.*

*Today, members can continue to honor Jay's memory and support Adult Education at the Synagogue by contributing to the Jay R. Baer Fund.*

**Playschool**

Continued from page 6

During the week of August 1 through August 5, the children will create their very own puppets and end the week with a puppet show! During the second week of specialty camp, August 8 through August 12, the children will learn about ceramics and end the week with a one-of-a-kind art exhibition. Specialty Camp hours are from 8:30 AM until 3 PM, Monday–Friday. Children should bring dairy lunches from home.

A limited number of spots are still available in our classes for the September 2016–2017 school year. Please contact Gloria Parris at [gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org](mailto:gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org) or Ali Kaplan at [abernstein@societyhillssynagogue.org](mailto:abernstein@societyhillssynagogue.org) for more information. You may also contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28, or visit [www.societyhillssynagogue.org](http://www.societyhillssynagogue.org) (go to the Playschool section) to print out an application.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah*

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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Hebrew School

Continued from page 5

Families of all currently enrolled students will receive school registration forms for next year (5777/ 2016-2017) by May 6, and the forms can also be downloaded from our website. The completed forms with a deposit are **due by Wednesday, June 15**. Please share your family's experiences at our school with your friends and neighbors, and invite them to join our engaging, exciting, and pluralistic Jewish learning community.

Our faculty and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Sunday, September 11. Have a wonderful summer!



Hebrew School teachers and students show off their Macarena skills — even with blindfolds on! — at the 50th Anniversary “Blast From The Past” party.



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After learning about t'fillin, what's better better than laying t'fillin at the Kotel (Western Wall), SHS Hebrew School-style.

**May Birthdays**

Noah Chrismer  
 Todd Pitock  
 Barbara Einhorn  
 Jerome Rosenberg  
 Steven Datlof  
 Liz Abrams-Morley  
 Etta Krauss  
 Karen Palmer  
 Margie Ferst  
 Allison Oz  
 Larry Spector  
 Nuriye Uygur  
 Sandra Lazovitz  
 Linda Glass  
 Leslie Heller  
 Sara Steinberger  
 Carolyn Saligman  
 Wayne S. Spilove  
 Merrily Williams  
 Andrew Becker  
 Emma Chrismer  
 Joan Roller  
 Kinney Zalesne  
 Rian Berger  
 Yelena Michaels-Koenig  
 Rona Buchalter  
 Samuel Levin  
 Samantha Coran  
 Elizabeth Heit  
 Lindsay Gorsen  
 Rosemarie Weinberg  
 Colby Grossman  
 Sahar Oz  
 Alice Schmidt  
 Ruth Schmidt  
 Julie Wilson  
 Jay Meadway

**June Birthdays**

Carol Weil  
 Henry Weil  
 Herbert Cohn  
 Bonnie Weiner  
 Jonathan Feinman  
 Richard Yaskin  
 Rebecca Hafter  
 Roger Korman  
 Harry Linhardt  
 Nathaniel Stover-Steerman  
 Joan Lear  
 Boris Pasternak  
 Jack Aaron  
 Judson Aaron  
 Daniel Rottenberg  
 Robin Feinberg  
 Eliana Gilbert-Trachtman  
 Michael Coran  
 Andrew Hohns  
 Rose Berman  
 Lilyan Galler

Avi Galler  
 Fred Lovitch  
 Adina Goldstein  
 Maya Salzman  
 Noah Kauderwood  
 Charles Schaeffer  
 Nicholas Schaeffer  
 Clayton Whitesell  
 Lois Rosenberg  
 Don Kaufman  
 William Love  
 Geoffrey Michaels  
 G Bartell  
 Michael Davidson  
 Jenavieve Kranzel  
 Eve Friedman  
 Asa Schneeberg  
 Paul Jaffe  
 Gabriel Cohen  
 Benjamin Zack  
 Samuel Hamilton  
 Marlene Lachman  
 Libby Cone  
 Stephen Shiekman

**May Anniversaries**

Derek Little & Melanie London  
 Justin & Liza Bresson  
 Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels  
 Brooke & Matthew Salzman  
 Holman & Gail Massey  
 Zachary Sigel & Winnie Cantor  
 Alexander Botwick &  
 Andrea Lubitz  
 Daniel & Dana Feinberg  
 Michelle & Lindy Nelson  
 Steven & Ruth Greenberg  
 Irving & Sharon Shapiro  
 Ric & Carmen Hayman  
 Andrew & Joanna Bottaro  
 Ira & Lynne Rubenfeld  
 Ron & Robin Feinberg  
 Josh & Leslie Heller

**June Anniversaries**

Michael & Jennifer Raphael  
 Brian & Juliet Englander  
 Michael & Leslie Hafter  
 Edward & Susanne Kaplan  
 Roger & Fanny Korman  
 David Gutstadt &  
 Julia Dranoff Gutstadt  
 Larry Spector &  
 Ann Rosen Spector  
 Lawrence & Jacqueline Goldfinge  
 Robert Blacksberg & Terry Novi  
 Edwin & Etta Krauss  
 Rabbi Avi Winokur &  
 Susan Berman  
 Brian & Jessica Mono  
 Joseph & Sheri Gifford

Micah & Joanna Hart  
 Michael & Lisa Coran  
 Michael Stemmer & Nan Schiowitz  
 Avi Galler & Debra Auspitz Galler  
 Samuel & Joan Lear  
 Stanley & Judith Woloff  
 Marc & Nancy Goldenberg  
 Yuri Rubinov & Marina Merlin  
 Stephen & Pelley Brown

**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](mailto:office@societyhillsynagogue) for more information.



Mark your  
calendars  
for the following  
**TGISH**abbat  
Services

May 20

*SHS Concert Band*

*Farewell to Cantor Bob Freedman*

*Recognition of 12th Grade Graduating Class*

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

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## Community News

### Mazel Tov to

**David and Sayde Ladov** on the engagement of their daughter, **Hillary Ladov**, to **Marc Gutstein**.

**Steven and Amy Graham** and big sister **Sofia** on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Emma Grace Graham**.

**Marty and Betty van de Rijn** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Emma Grace Graham**.

### Condolences to

The Family and Friends of **Dotty Hillman** on her recent death.

**Kathy (Barry) Bernsten and Jayne Rose Bernsten** on the death of Kathy's mother and Jayne's grandmother, **Muriel Robinson**.

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**FAMILY**  
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**General Fund**

In Appreciation of

**Edgar & Bobbi Einhorn**

Gerry Schneeberg

In Memory of

**Dotty Hillman**

Erica Ginsburg &amp; Dan Bogen

Mark &amp; Ann Steinberger

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Jennie Levy, Mother of Stanley Levy**

Stanley Levy

**Annual Giving Fund**

In Honor of

**Stephen & Susan Leshnoff**

Barbara Spector

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Leon Spector, Father of Barbara Spector**

Barbara Spector

**Social Action Fund**

In Appreciation of

**Jay & Phyllis Denbo**

Stanley &amp; Judith Woloff

**Jay R. Baer Fund**

In Honor of

SHS's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Carol Baer Mott

Peter &amp; Caroline Piven

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In Appreciation of

**Mark & Ann Steinberger for the TGISHabbat Dinner**

Stanley &amp; Judith Woloff

**Betty van de Rijn & her Stellar Staff for the TGISHabbat Dinners**

Stanley &amp; Judith Woloff

**Sale of Chametz**

Iris Levine

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Richard Druckman, Father of Karen Palmer**

Karen Palmer

**Sylvia Schwartz, Mother of Susanne Kaplan**

Susanne Kaplan

**Susan Dictor, Wife of Joel Chernock**

Joel Chernock

**Susan Dictor, Mother of Elyssa and Sarina Chernock**

Elyssa and Sarina Chernock

**Arthur Schneeberg, Husband of Gerry Schneeberg**

Gerry Schneeberg

**Arthur Schneeberg, Father of Ruth Schneeberg**

Gerry Schneeberg

**Arthur Schneeberg, Grandfather of Asa Schneeberg**

Gerry Schneeberg

**Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg**

Rosemarie Weinberg

**Richard Druckman, Father of Karen Palmer**

Karen Palmer

**Kiddush Fund**

In Appreciation of

**February TGISHabbat Dinner**

Roberta Marcus

Phyllis Cohen

In Honor of

**SHS's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Terry Graboyes

George Zolot &amp; Rob Levin

Amy Michael

**Marty & Betty van de Rijn on the birth of granddaughter, Emma**

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

David &amp; Sayde Ladov on the engagement of their daughter,

Hillary to Marc Gutstein

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Marty and Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of

**Fred Ruttenberg**

Lois Vederman

**Dotty Hillman**

Matthew &amp; Elizabeth Bass and Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Harry Winston, Father of Fred Lovitch**

Fred &amp; Dinah Lovitch

**Harry Winston,****Grandfather of Beth Dougherty & Michael Lovitch**

Beth Dougherty and Michael Lovitch

**Sarah Paller, Mother of Robert Paller**

Robert Paller

**Samuel Goldner, Father of Linda Joy Goldner**

Linda Joy Goldner

**Edward Roller, Father of Jerry Roller**

Jerry &amp; Joan Roller

## Postage for Keshet

Rosemarie Weinberg

## 50th Anniversary

Scott & Terri Akman  
Andrea Appel  
Jonathan Auerbach & Karoline Adler  
Mitchell Bach  
Capital Access, Inc.  
Bell's Beverage  
Lee Casper  
Noah & Sara Chrismer  
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach  
Jay & Phyllis Denbo  
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof  
Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich  
Steven & Lisa Eizen  
Peter & Susan Eizen  
Jonathan Feinman  
Walter & Margie Ferst  
Cantor Bob & Sally Freedman  
Fran Gallun & Len Weinberger  
Linda Joy Goldner  
Michael & Holly Gorsen  
Terry Graboyes  
Steven & Ruth Greenberg  
Greg Guzman  
Ric & Carmen Hayman  
Bruce Hirsch  
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman  
Famous 4th Street Deli  
Appel B & B  
Washington Square Pharmacy  
Legnini, Inc.  
Ron & Libby Kaiser  
Bart & Betty Kaplan  
Don & Karen Kaufman  
Betta Kolansky  
Roger & Fanny Korrman  
David & Sadye Ladov  
Judy Lalli  
Rob Levin & George Zolot  
Iris Levine  
Carl & Caryn Levitsky  
Rafi & Gabrielle Licht  
Joel Marmor & Alexis Berg Marmor  
Holman & Gail Massey  
Amy Michael  
Brian & Jessica Mono  
Jeremey & Fran Newberg  
Paula Ninerell  
Harry & Eleanor Oxman  
Sahar & Ali Oz  
Jackie Pack Segal  
Karen Palmer  
Galila Prystowsky  
Jerry & Joan Roller

James & Linda Rosenstein  
Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg  
Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg  
Marc & Staci Schwartz  
Adam & Amy Shapiro  
Irving & Sharon Shapiro  
Barry & Joann Slosberg  
Barbara Spector & G Bartell  
Larry Spector & Ann Rosen Spector  
Bill & Debbie Stewart  
The Louis & Bessie Stein Foundation  
Richard Summers & Merrily Williams  
Jack Treatman & Ruth Isaac  
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner  
Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf  
Rabbi Avi Winokur & Susan Berman  
Stanley & Judith Woloff  
Barbara Zalkind

## Special Thank you to Our Band & Sound Men

Jud Aaron  
G Bartell  
Bob Blacksberg  
Dan Blacksberg  
Aaron Blacksberg  
Rachel Moran  
Joe Oxman  
Dave Yager  
Jay Levin & Turtle Studios

## Passover Kiddush Fund

**In Memory of Our Beloved Fathers; Daniel Ellick, Bertram Schatz, Martin Greenhouse, and William Rutter**  
Lisa Eizen, Robin Schatz, Debbie Stewart, & Betty van de Rijn

## In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sloan Petersohn

Nuriye Uygur and Josh Petersohn

## Annual Giving Appeal

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

Jud Aaron & Susan Snedden  
Judith Axler  
Deborah Block & Doug Smullens  
Andrew & Joanna Bottaro  
Josh & Leslie Heller  
Barbara Spector  
Rosemarie Weinberg



**President's Column**

Continued from Cover

We brought back the Second Night Passover Seder, thoroughly examined our needs for space improvement, created the Young Friends of SHS group, strengthened our relationships with the Vare/Washington School and POWER, helped to regenerate the Center City Kehillah, expanded our Playschool and its leadership, and created a new KinderBat Service for toddlers and young children. Additionally, we examined and proposed amendments to our Constitution and amended our By-Laws, conducted an extensive Cantor search with substantial community engagement, and celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style! I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that much of our building has been painted, and we added some welcoming touches to our lobbies.

We have prepared a fiscally responsible budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting, and I'd like to thank members who have sponsored Kiddush lunches and Shabbat dinners this year.

As I look forward to my new title and responsibilities as Immediate Past President, I wish to extend my support to the next President who will, no doubt, bring exceptional vision, leadership, knowledge, skills, experience, dedication and enthusiasm to this position.

I want to especially thank all those who have served with me on the Board of Directors. All of these individuals—who represent a variety of our membership cohorts, staff and clergy—have come to the table with unwavering commitment, strong values, and diverse perspectives and levels of experience. We have worked collaboratively toward a common goal of making SHS the best synagogue it can be.

As you know, Bob Freedman will be completing his service as our Cantor in June. Though we will miss him each week during Shabbat services, we are hopeful that he will remain connected to SHS. Please join us for our farewell tribute to Bob on Friday, May 20, at 6:15 PM for a special TGIShabbat and dinner.

I look forward to sharing the details of the results of our Cantor search process with the congregation very soon.

Thank you all for your kindness and support during my term as President. We have 50 years to be proud of, an amazing legacy, and a very bright future.

**Rabbi's Column**

Continued from page 2

at institutions of higher learning and in the professions, but also in more vulgar forms. As recently as a few weeks ago, our Hebrew School children shared their own brushes with anti-Semitism—a collection of experiences that, I suspect, shocked many of the adults in attendance.

We Jews therefore have always had an abiding interest in the marginalization and demonization of the other. This special concern is both a product of our own experience that sensitizes us to prejudice and discrimination and also a product of our values—our abiding understanding that each human being is precious. Each human being deserves to be treated with dignity flowing from the simple fact of his or her humanity.

Please don't miss this important Lunch & Learn on Saturday, May 21, when we will welcome Daneen Webster-Gakou to our community to share with us her incredibly important initiative. It promises to be informative, soul-touching, and, I suspect, challenging.

## Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

### The Jewish War

Larry Spector

**J**udea rose up against Rome in 66 C.E. because there was strife among Jews and non-Jews, and the Jews realized the value of their freedom. The resulting long war lasted until 70 C.E., and hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed. The Jewish War, along with the Bar Kokhba revolt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, was responsible for the significant decline in the Jewish population due to death, falling birth rates, assimilation, and conversion to Christianity. A national state for Jews disappeared for 2000 years.

Learn why the Jewish War was one of the greatest catastrophes of the Jewish people by visiting the SHS website at [www.societyhillssynagogue.org](http://www.societyhillssynagogue.org) and clicking on the May/June link under "Nutshell Excerpts."



Purim 2016



2nd Night Seder





# 50th Anniversary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	Aharei Mot 7
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Breakfast in Babylon 9 AM – 1 PM Dim Sum Shopping in Main Lobby	Playschool Resumes 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:15 PM B'nai Mitzvah Class with Cantor 7:30 PM Face of Mortality with Rabbi		Yom Hasoah	6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Liron Prystowsky 11 AM KinderBat
8	9	10	11	12	13	Kedoshim 14
<b>Mother's Day No SS/HS</b>		7:15 AM Minyan PS Museum Trip 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Face of Mortality with Rabbi	No Playschool Parent Conferences		Yom Ha'atzmaut 6:15 PM Services featuring Nitzan Haroz	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Kauderwood
15	16	17	18	19	20	Emor 21
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM – 4 PM SHS Day at Varen-Washington Elementary School 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	PS Zoo on Wheels 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM Face of Mortality with Rabbi	PS Bartram Trip		6:15 PM Farewell <b>TGIS</b> Shabbat Service for Cantor Bob Freedman & Recognition of 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduating Class	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service Lunch & Learn with Daneen Webster-Gakou
22	23	24	25	26	27	B'har 28
9 AM SS-Last Day 11 AM HS 12 – 1:30 PM SHS Benefit Concert Band		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS-Last Day 7:30 PM Face of Mortality with Rabbi	<b>6:30 PM Annual Congregation Meeting</b>	Last Day of ASA PS Graduations	Last Day of PS PS Graduations 6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
29	30	31				
<b>Building Closed</b>	<b>Memorial Day Building Closed</b>	7:15 AM Minyan				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	B'hukkotai
					6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
5	6	7	8	9	10	B'midbar 11
Building Closed	1 <sup>st</sup> Day PS Camp	7:15 AM Minyan	7 PM Social Action Meeting		6:15 PM Confirmation Class Service & Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study  8 PM Leil Tikkun Shavuot
12	13	14	15	16	17	Naso 18
9:30 AM Shavuot I Service/Yizkor	Shavuot II Building Closed	Flag Day 7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Shapiro
19	20	21	22	23	24	B'ha'alotkha 25
Father's Day	6 PM ECM 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM Services	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Claire Golding
26	27	28	29	30		
		7:15 AM Minyan				

NEWSLETTER—MAY/JUNE 2016 ISSUE

# Kesher

**SOCIETY HILL**  
SYNAGOGUE

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Bob Freedman, **Cantor**  
Debra Stewart, **President**  
Betty van de Rijn, **Executive Director**  
Sahar Oz, **Education Director**  
Gloria Parris, **Playschool Director**

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S **KESHER**



Here's  
to  
Another  
50  
Years!