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President's Column

The Next Fifty Years

Harry J. Oxman

On April 1, 2, and 3, Society Hill Synagogue celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The weekend was filled with meaningful and diverse events, shared joyously by our community. Many congregants worked diligently to make the weekend a success, and I want to again offer my congratulations to all of those individuals who were involved in planning the array of special events, and to all members who participated. I believe we can all agree that we should be proud of our accomplishments. But, now we face the challenges of beginning the “next fifty years.”

In preparing to write this first President's column, I sought the advice of various people who have served in the capacity of President, including our wonderful Immediate Past President and my mentor, Debra Stewart. I received suggestions from her and also researched the first President's columns of Walter Ferst and Jonathan Weiss. I learned that each of them essentially used their first column to discuss their path to the SHS Presidency along with their goals and aspirations. I endorse this approach because I believe that one's experiences impact the development of his or her goals and aspirations.

My affiliation with Society Hill Synagogue began in 1994 when my wife, Eleanor, and I moved to Center City. We left a large suburban Conservative congregation—one with which we were minimally involved. For the next 10 or 12 years, our relationship with Society Hill Synagogue consisted of attending High Holy Day services, observing the yahrzeits of our parents, and attending the occasional Saturday morning service that was followed by an interesting Lunch & Learn. One particular Lunch & Learn speaker captured my interest when she addressed the issue of hunger among residents living within our Congressional District. As a result of this presentation, I felt compelled to join the Social Action Committee, led by Phyllis Denbo. Through my work on this committee, I also became involved with POWER, whose initiatives are greatly supported by Rabbi Winokur and other active members of the congregation. At this point, I realized that I shared a passion for many of the same social justice causes with other members in our community.

Then about 5 years ago, I was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. After discussion with my wife, to whom I expressed some concerns about this type of service, I decided to give it a try. I figured that if it were not satisfying,

Continued on page 3



Rabbi's Column

What Needs to Change to Bring Us Together?

Avi Winokur

"My own children asked how [the Orlando killer] could claim to be Muslim and be at a club during the month of Ramadan. I am grateful that they come to us with these questions."

—Daneen Webster-Gackou, teacher and our Jay Baer scholar, who inspired Muslim students to create a space to grapple with their identities in today's America

When I was in high school in the lily-white, peaceful Los Angeles suburb of Pacific Palisades, a far remove from the turmoil of the 1960s (even the 1965 Watts riots did not affect us), I was president of the Pacific Palisades Youth Human Relations Council, a group of idealistic upper-middle-class teenage do-gooders. We would regularly go down to one of the blighted neighborhoods as part of Project Action and paint structures in need of sprucing up and tutor youngsters from that same area. The adult who organized the Youth Human Relations Council was Ann Kerr, mother of Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

On January 18, 1984, Ann's husband Malcolm Kerr was president of the American University in Beirut. On that day, he was shot and killed by members of Islamic Jihad. Coach Kerr was then a freshman at the University of Arizona.

In a recent interview with Farid Farid (in the *New Yorker*, June 16, 2016), Coach Kerr spoke of his reflections during the moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Orlando massacre before the Warriors-Cavaliers NBA finals game: "It was very emotional. . . . I was thinking of my dad. . . . It's very personal, because you've gone through it. You understand how much they are suffering, just like how our family went through that suffering. When you think of it, all of these statistics have names and these names have faces. They are people who are now lost."

Multiply Coach Kerr's reflections and his pain by the Sandy Hook parents and siblings; those grieving the victims of Columbine, the Virginia Tech, Charleston, and San Bernardino; the Aurora theater parents; the Washington Navy Yard families, and so many others. (See the *New York Times* article "Shooting Victims' Families Watch as Gun Measures Stall Once Again," June 20, 2016.) Their lives are forever shattered.

Whether it is the Sandy Hook parents (www.sandyhookpromise.org) or senior members of our military like General Stanley McChrystal ("Home Should Not Be a War Zone," *New York Times* Op Ed, June 16, 2016), and General Wesley Clark and others (for more information, see [facebook.com/VeteransCoalitionforCommonSense](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransCoalitionforCommonSense)), there is an increasing sense that something is deeply wrong and that something must be done to curb access to firearms by those who should not have them.

One of the foundation stones of Judaism is that we are created in the image of God. In Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5 the ancient rabbis note that when human beings create a mold, each product of that mold is the same as all the others, whereas in God's case, each human being is unique.

Moreover, each human being might give birth to untold generations. Hence the Mishnah states that when one kills another human being, it is as if he killed an entire world.

The level of violence in this country should lead any honest person to conclude that there is something deeply wrong in America. No, it doesn't mean that America is entirely rotten, any more than our penchant for bigotry and xenophobia means that we are all Nazis. But it does mean that the chorus of cheerleaders and politicians needs to realize that there is indeed rot at the very heart of America.

Gun control legislation is essential. Regulation with teeth is essential. The Supreme Court's obvious misreading of the Second Amendment must be corrected or gutted. That, too, is essential. But I believe that the problems we face go far deeper. We must find a way to achieve as a nation what we seem to be capable of at times of terrible danger—a sense

President's Column

Continued from cover

I could quietly resign before the completion of my term. I attended my first meeting and, much to my surprise, I found it to be very fulfilling and enlightening to interact with a group of people who were well informed, extremely articulate, and very committed to our synagogue community. I served on the Board for the next 3 years and totally enjoyed the experience! When I was asked to renew my term for, I readily accepted. Several months into that second term, Debra Stewart and Mark Steinberger invited me to a meeting about Presidential succession. Honestly, I attended that meeting without the slightest idea that I was being viewed as a candidate to succeed Debra Stewart as President. When she made the proposal I was stunned, but obviously flattered. It was not, however, the type of request to which I could give a quick response. I took the next 3 months to give careful consideration to the offer and discussed my feelings and concerns about this nomination with my family, colleagues, and trusted advisors. During this period of contemplation, I realized that I had developed a deep connection and commitment to our congregation, along with a sense of duty to serve in this expanded capacity.

Perhaps you are curious about why this congregation has had such a significant impact on me. First, I am impressed by the fact that, collectively, we strive to be a community who cares about one another. Second, we attempt to be the best we can be in all of our endeavors. Third, when we use the word "best," we mean that our actions are ethically and spiritually consistent with our Jewish principles and traditions.

So, in early 2015, I made the decision to accept the nomination and joined the Executive Committee to learn even more about all aspects of the synagogue. I thank you for voting to elect me as your President at the Annual Meeting in May.

Now that you have learned about my history and the factors that motivated me to want to serve in this capacity, I would like to address the final component of this first President's column—namely, my goals and aspirations. As President, I view my role as

Continued

President's Column

Continued

serving as a guardian or steward of our community. In this regard, I believe that it's my responsibility to maintain the positive and engaging environment of our community, the same environment that attracted my family and me to SHS.

One of my goals is to broaden the extent of the community's active leadership and participation, especially among our younger generation of members. In my view, this is an essential ingredient to propelling us into the "next fifty years" with our cherished communal identity.

I also recognize that being President of a congregation of our size requires that I be prepared to navigate the occasional rough waters associated with managing the business aspects of a religious institution. I look forward to working with the members of our Board to deal with budgetary issues, to meet the educational needs of our Hebrew School and Playschool students, and to support the members of the Cantor Search Committee as they begin a new search process in the fall. Also, I will focus on member engagement and recruitment, the creation of a defined financial reserve fund, Social Action endeavors, and maintenance of our aging building. I am confident that with the continued outstanding service of the professional staff, the participation and commitment of our lay leaders, and the dedication of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee members, we will succeed in addressing and resolving these challenges.

Finally, my promise to all of you who are reading this column is that I will be available to address your questions and concerns. Feel free to contact at hjoxman@comcast.net. If you choose to contact me, you may be assured that I will listen and respond.

I look forward to interacting with all of you as we begin our "next fifty years" together.

2016 Exceptional Service Honorees

Debra Stewart

In keeping with our relatively new tradition, we have once again chosen 5 individuals to be honored for their exceptional service to SHS. There were many qualified candidates to consider, which speaks volumes about our community. If you would like to nominate a member for a future award, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or Harry Oxman at hjoxman@comcast.net.

Candidates must be members in good standing who are not current Board members (at the time of nomination) or past Hatan Torah or Kallat B'reshit honorees. They must have provided exceptional service to SHS that has had a significant impact on our community, or they must have demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment over time.

The following honorees were presented with awards at the Annual Meeting this year:

Dana Feinberg

Dana Feinberg has made exceptional contributions to SHS for many years. Dana has been on the planning committees for many of the celebration events at SHS. She is known for her enthusiasm, organizational skills, and creative spark. Dana has dazzled our congregation with her food contributions such as homemade challah, amazingly realistic candy sushi, and bakery-worthy, giant Cookie Walk cookie pops. Her decorative skills have been showcased at parties, in the Sukkah, and when she most recently helped to transform our Social Hall into a 1960s far out, "groovy grotto" for the 50th Anniversary celebration. One of the co-creators of the Purim Carnival, Dana still performs a unique form of plastic surgery on Queen Esther and her ladies-in-waiting each year to keep them looking their best.

Judy Gelles

Judy Gelles is an award-winning, internationally recognized photographer who has graciously shared her expertise with the Society Hill Synagogue in myriad ways. She has led discussions as part of our Lunch & Learn series, focusing most recently on her

compelling Fourth Grade Project. She has exhibited her work in our own SHS gallery and hosted SHS member trips to her gallery in Old City. Judy is a long-time member of the Social Action Committee, and she designed and led the unique and impactful Photography and Writing Program at our adopted school, Vare-Washington Elementary. For six years, students were given cameras and assigned to take pictures of themselves and their families, friends, neighborhood, and community. Subsidized by grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Mentally Gifted Program at Washington School, and the Picasso Fund of the Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), this program has allowed Judy to work with boys and girls from grades five to eight. At the end of each session, the emotionally touching portraits were exhibited at Society Hill Synagogue and compiled into a book for wider distribution. One of the students from the 2014 project was so inspired by the class that he applied (and was admitted) to the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts as a photography major—a true testament to the importance of Judy's work. From the beginning, Judy has done all of the work for the photography and writing program pro bono.

Eleanor Oxman

During her time at SHS, Eleanor has been involved in many activities. She has graciously hosted three Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night dinners and two Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™ dinners, and has assisted with special holiday events. Eleanor's major contribution to SHS this year was serving as the Co-Chair for our wonderful 50th Anniversary Celebration. Along with Judy Lalli, she developed the program of events, coordinated the Tribute/Ad book, contracted the musicians, searched for a caterer, organized the volunteers, and made sure everything ran smoothly. In fact, Eleanor and Judy "stole the show" when they performed an original rap song at the beginning of the cocktail party and at our Annual Meeting.

Joseph Oxman

Joe has been promoting and performing music at SHS for years. He has identified and nurtured the musical and vocal talent within our community, bringing individuals together to form the "Three J's" and the SHS concert band.

Continued on page 6



Ann Spak Thal School Hello, Goodbye, and Remember

Sahar Oz

The Hebrew word for summer, *kayitz* (*kuf-yud-final tzadi*) shares its root with the word *ketz* (*kuf-final tzadi*), which means “end.” The ripening of certain fruits that are staples of the Levantine diet, particularly figs, during the summer season is the agricultural connection which binds these two similar words in Hebrew.

As much as the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere marks the end of that year’s growth for certain fruits, it also marks the end of the academic year and an opportunity to relax and reenergize, get together with family and friends, and enjoy an extended vacation—perhaps at the Jersey shore or even on Israeli shores, as a number of our students and faculty members are doing this summer.

And of course, summer is also a good time to plan ahead. With that in mind, I ask all of our parents who still need to submit their child(ren)’s registration packets for the 5777/2016-2017 academic year to send them in ASAP. All of the forms—Registration, Confidential Student Record, Emergency Form, Opt Out Photo Release, and Behavior Policy (the latter necessary only for grades 3 and higher)—are available as PDFs on our synagogue website. **Please return all completed forms to the office, along with final tuition payment, by July 13.**

I want to thank four faculty members and aides who are moving on to new endeavors. We will miss their unique skills and talents and the joy that they brought to their work with our students. We wish great success to Melissa Raub in her new position as Youth Engagement Director at Beth Sholom Congregation and Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park; to Sarah Spangenberg, as she moves to New York to take her theater career to the next level; to Jack Aaron, as he begins his freshman year at Hampshire College; and to Ellie Zack, as she becomes a senior at Germantown Friends School.

With every end comes a new beginning, and thus we are thrilled to welcome three new faculty members and a new Sunday School aide:

Gabby Goodman earned her M.A. in Theological Studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible from Harvard and will be teaching our Gan (Pre-K and Kindergarten) and Tikhon (Hebrew High) classes, as well as supporting students in Kitot Gimel-Vav (grades 3–6) on Tuesdays. Gabby spent a year at Jerusalem’s Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and has previously taught at two Hebrew Schools.

Maya Paz is joining us as our new Kitah Hey (5th grade) Hebrew teacher and Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) Bible teacher. Maya is moving from Los Angeles to Philadelphia to study for her Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University and brings years of experience in Jewish experiential education through her work at Habonim Dror Camp Gilboa, where she rose from Counselor to Director of Education.

Jonah Adams, who will be supporting students in Kitot Gimel-Vav (grades 3–6) on Sundays, has a passion for Jewish learning that truly spans the world. In addition to his previous work at two Hebrew Schools, Jonah spent a gap year between high school and college studying the Middle East and the Diaspora in a program based in Israel that included travel to 10 other countries in Europe, North Africa, and Southeast Asia. Jonah was also a JDC Fellow in Estonia and is a resident of Moishe House here in Queen Village.



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2016 Exceptional Service Honorees

Continued from page 4

Joe has played bass during TGIShabbat services since their inception. Over the last few years, he has initiated benefit concerts for our Hebrew School, invited Hebrew School students to join TGIShabbat performances, and brought the concert band together to perform at our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Additionally, Joe worked with our Executive Director to secure donated pianos for the synagogue and is always seeking ways to support musical programs within our shul. We are grateful to Joe for sharing his talent, enthusiasm and time with us. He has truly enriched the culture and musical experience at SHS.

Marty Rosenberg

Marty and his wife, Ellen, have been members of SHS since 2004. In 2005, Marty joined the committee that was formed to investigate our possible affiliation with one of the Jewish movements, and he served on the Cantor Search Committee in 2008. Marty has leyned Torah, led Musaf and Shabbat services, and is a regular attendee of TGIShabbat and other services. As a Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, he has shared his passion for art with our congregants on many occasions. He put together an exhibition of women artists from our own congregation in 2007; he delivered lectures to our congregation about "The History of Synagogue Architecture" and "Medieval Jewish Spain's Art and Architecture;" he taught a course with Rabbi Winokur called "Visual Midrash: Art on Jewish Themes by Christian Artists Viewed from a Jewish Perspective;" and he arranged special tours for SHS members of "A Complex Weave: Women and Identity in Contemporary Art" and "Visions of Place," which included a performance by Mimi Stillman and Dolce Suono. Marty has delighted the art enthusiasts in our community with his contributions.

Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

Continued from page 5

As you can tell, our school continues to flourish with talented, passionate Jewish educators and students who love to learn and build strong connections to their history and traditions, while forming deep friendships with their classmates. Please share your family's experience at our school with your friends and neighbors, and invite them to join our engaging, exciting, and pluralistic Jewish learning community!

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

Playschool**We Have Two New Specialty Summer Camp Programs!**

Gloria Parris and Ali Kaplan

Our 2- to 5-year-old campers in the Playschool Summer Camp are having a fantastic time enjoying summertime activities! Each day, the boys and girls create arts & crafts projects, participate in music and movement activities, ride bikes, listen to stories, and sing camp songs. There is nothing more refreshing for the children than to cool off on a hot summer day by splashing around in our wading pools. We explore different themes each week, and we celebrate Shabbat with blessings and songs every Friday.

Camp hours are from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, Monday–Friday. Early care is available beginning at 7:45 AM. Children bring a home-packed dairy lunch each day, and healthy snacks are served.

The Playschool Summer Camp has new afternoon hours. After Camp Arts extend the day for our campers until 3 PM.

Continued on next page

Playschool

Continued from previous page

Each afternoon, we feature different activities: Mitzvot Mondays, Science Tuesdays, Arts & Crafts Wednesdays, Movement Thursdays, and Music Fridays. In addition, we offer late care hours until 6 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Playschool Summer Camp continues until Friday, July 29. Children may be enrolled on a weekly or daily schedule. There are still spots available for the remaining weeks of camp.

This year, we are excited to announce that we will also have two specialty camps for children between the ages of 3 and 7. These camps will have specific themes, but campers in both programs will also participate in water play activities. During the first week, August 1–5, we will have a Puppetry Camp. Activities will focus on making puppets, and at the end of the week, the children will put on a puppet show. During the second week, August 8–12, we will have a Ceramics Camp. The kids will create one-of-a-kind pieces that will be displayed in an exhibit at the end of the week. Parents and guests will be invited to both the puppet show and the art exhibit.

Specialty Camps will run from 8:30 AM until 3 PM, Monday–Friday. Children may be enrolled for either or both weeks. The Playschool will provide two snacks each day and the children will bring their own dairy lunches. Spots for each camp are still available, so sign up ASAP.

The 2016–2017 school year will begin in early September. There are classes for 2-year-olds, 3- year-olds, and children who are ready for Pre-Kindergarten. Spots are still available in all of our classes, and we look forward to welcoming new children to the Playschool.

For more information about any of our summer camp programs, or regular Playschool classes, contact us at 215.922.6590, ext. 28, or sending an email to gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or abernstein@societyhillssynagogue.org.

**2016-2017
Society Hill Synagogue
Board of Directors**

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*Executive Committee

**Ex Officio

Social Action

Summer & Fall Volunteers Needed!

Phyllis Denbo

Society Hill Synagogue's Volunteer Day at the Vare-Washington Elementary School was an unqualified success. Over 50 members, more than half of them Hebrew School students, spent their time on a variety of much-needed improvement projects. A large contingent enjoyed the beautiful day, digging and planting flowerbeds, filling large plant containers that now decorate the school's entrance, and cleaning the grounds. Most of the students attacked a large supply room filled to capacity with a mixed array of stuff, much of it decades old, and transformed it into a well-organized, functional space. Another team of adults and students worked in the library, labeling books by grade level and shelving boxes of books. A group of guys did heavy-duty construction work in a room that will ultimately serve as a library for the older students.

What was surprising was how much was accomplished in just two and a half hours. We had planned for a full day, but that turned out to be unrealistic. For next year, we are planning for three SHS volunteer half-days at Vare-Washington: one in the fall, one on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and one in the spring. Many thanks to everyone who came out in May, with special thanks to Ric Hayman, head of the construction team; Terri Akman, chief gardener; and Ross Weisman, who led the students working in the supply room. Finally, thank you to Sahar Oz who arranged for the participation of our enthusiastic and hardworking Hebrew School students.

In addition to the above-mentioned planned Volunteer Days, we also need volunteers to work in the library, both this summer and in the fall. Flora Wolf is organizing the room for grades K-4, a huge project, and can use help labeling and shelving books. If you are available for even a couple of hours a week this summer, contact Flora at fbwolf42@gmail.com, and she will arrange to meet you at the library and help you get started. FYI, the room is AIR CONDITIONED! In the fall, the library will be up and running – we hope—and we'll need volunteers to staff it.

Please contact Flora if you are willing to spend a half day a week helping the students and teachers select books and managing the check-in and check-out system.

As I've said before, Zack Duberstein is a visionary and dynamic principal with many exciting plans for next year and beyond. New after-school activities are planned, including chess, Scrabble, debate, and theater, as well as a Science Olympiad. Beginning in September, coaches will be needed for all of these activities, with training and possible remuneration to be provided for the first three. In addition, in-class volunteers are always needed to tutor small groups of students in reading or math.

As I can personally testify, the interaction with the students is very rewarding and often a lot of fun. Best of all, the students and teachers need our assistance and support and could not be more appreciative. Please contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com for further information.

Finally, for those of you who want to do something, but elementary education is just not your thing, we are exploring a new issue – immigration reform. The number of displaced persons worldwide has grown exponentially in recent years. What are the critical problems and how can we help? Stay tuned for further information.





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2016-2017 B'nai Mitzvah

September 10

Zach Gearhart-Robboy

Son of Peter Gearhart and Alex Robboy

November 19

Daniel Saligman

Son of Peter and Meg Saligman

December 10

Lillian Shemtov

Daughter of Joseph and Sharon Shemtov

January 7

Margot Oxman

Daughter of Joseph Oxman and Christie Rosengart

February 18

Aaron Davidson

Son of Michael Davidson and Christine Reardon

March 18

Lysander Michaels-Koenig

Son of Julia Michaels-Koenig and Scott Koenig

June 24

Noah Kauderwood

Son of Ira Kauderwood & Peter Kauderwood



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July Birthdays

Neil Epstein
 Abigail Shapiro
 Amy Steerman
 Carmen Hayman
 Ruth Schneeberg
 Gabriel Stemmer
 Jacqueline Rick
 Claire Golding
 Alton Sutnick
 Richard Gelles
 Joseph Gifford
 Alice Goldenberg
 Carla Krasnick
 Michael Gorsen
 Josh Heller
 Mitchell Bach
 Matthew Zalesne Siff
 Marc Schwartz
 Laurette Feltoon
 Liza Gendler
 Juliet Englander
 Judith Woloff
 Deanne Berkowitz
 Gabriel Steerman
 Joseph Oxman
 Jordan Segall
 Mary Ann Stover
 Mia Guzman
 Justin Bresson
 Harry Oxman
 Craig Pressman
 James Wilson
 Reuben Treatman
 Abigail Hamilton
 Libby Harwitz Blender
 Gideon Siff
 Xing Xing Zhang
 Ron Feinberg
 Isaac Hohns
 Jordyn Gorsen
 Michelle Nelson
 Joshua Smullens
 Juliette Snyder
 Tony Lalli
 Judy Gelles
 Lev Ziskind

August Birthdays

Irving Shapiro
 Debra Stewart
 Fran Newberg
 Claire Englander
 Mark Steinberger
 Zachary Gearhart-Robboy
 Myer Magen
 Jerry Roller
 Matthew Salzman

Jane Nathanson
 Bjorn Seaberg
 Leo Aaron
 Ian Downes
 Wendy Rosen
 Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
 Nina Saligman
 Marsha Silver Heit
 Isaak Popkin
 Debby Freedman
 Harvey Weiner
 Susan Eizen
 Edwin Krauss
 Joseph Freedman
 Terry Graboyes
 Jonathan Auerbach
 Kiera Schindler
 Elana Hunter
 Nathaniel Popkin
 Brian Rotter
 Rabbi Avi Winokur
 Phoebe Zaring
 Dan Rosin
 Susanne Kaplan
 Bonny Hohenberger
 Melanie London
 Orah Mahlab
 Barry Bernsten
 Jerome Kranzel
 Claudia Balderston
 Hillary Ladov
 Marvin Sachs

July Anniversaries

Brad & Maya Pirok
 Richard & Judy Gelles
 Leah & Brent Jordan
 Steven & Sally Gendler
 Theodore Danoff &
 Diane Siegel Danoff

August Anniversaries

Rick Summers &
 Merrily Williams
 Raphael Licht &
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 Mark & Tobey Dichter
 Jesse Abrams-Morley &
 Meredith Buse
 Peter & Susan Eizen
 Harry & Eleanor Oxman
 Brian Rotter &
 Marsha Silver Heit
 Abraham Summers &
 Xing Xing Zhang
 Bart & Betty Kaplan
 Jerry & Joan Roller
 Stanton & Merle Salkin

Dan & Anya Rosin
 Fred & Dinah Lovitch
 Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
 Todd & Toni Pitock
 Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick
 William & Sari Love
 David & Sayde Ladov
 Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender
 Ronald & Carla Krasnick

**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.

Community News

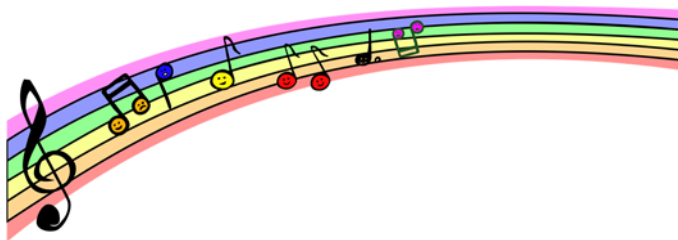
Mazel Tov to

Michael Roe & Joy Lander Roe on the birth of their daughter, Ella Jessica.

Sahar & Allison Oz on the birth of their son, Eli Matan.

Condolences to

Robin Schatz on the death of her sister, Wendy Schatz.



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Arts & Culture Club

Celebrate Independence Day With the Philly Pops!

Betta Kolansky

Come and celebrate America's birthday with the Arts & Culture Club! Pack a picnic dinner and bring a blanket or lawn chair for an evening of fun on Sunday, July 3.

We'll start with a cocktail party at my home, 4:45–6:45 PM. Then, we'll walk together to Independence Mall attend the annual **Pops! On Independence** concert, which begins at 8 PM, while enjoying our picnic dinners at the park. Feel free to invite family, neighbors, and friends!

Please RSVP (bkolansky@comcast.net) so I know how much food and drink to prepare and so I can give you my address.



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General Fund

In Appreciation of

President Debra Stewart for her commitment & service to the congregation

Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf and Family

Cantor Bob Freedman for his service to the congregation

Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf and Family

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

In Honor of

Mike & Joy Lander Roe on the birth of their daughter, Ella Jessica

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Dr. & Mrs. Murray Seltzer

Judith Spiller

In Memory of

Wendy Schatz, Sister of Robin Schatz

Ann, Mark, William, and Sara Steinberger

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Abraham & Jennie Levy, Parents of Stanley Levy

Stanley Levy

Evelyn Miller Bach, Mother of Mitchell Bach

Mitchell Bach

Evelyn Miller Bach, Mother of Linda Bach

Linda Bach

Charles Perkins, Father of Mildred Lizenbaum

Mildred Lizenbaum

Harry & Ida L. Schneeberg, In-Laws of Gerry Schneeberg

Gerry Schneeberg

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

SHS

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg

Restoration Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Louis Woloff, Father of Stanley Woloff

Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Memory of

Wendy Schatz, Sister of Robin Schatz

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Social Action Fund

In Appreciation of

Judy Gelles

Barbara Spector

Debra Stewart's Service to SHS

Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Honor of

Harry Oxman's 80th Birthday & Election as President of SHS

Debra Stewart

POWER

In Honor of

Harry Oxman, Incoming SHS President

Iris Levine

Jay R. Baer Fund

In Appreciation of

SHS

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

In Honor of

Rabbi Avi Winokur's Doctorate of Divinity

Debra Stewart

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Jay R. Baer, former husband of Carol Baer Mott

Carol Baer Mott

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Cantor Freedman's assistance with**Sloan Petersohn's Bat Mitzvah**

Nuriye Uygur

In Honor of

Cantor Bob Freedman

Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre-Rochester

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Avi Winokur's assistance with**Derek Jordan's Bar Mitzvah**

Brent & Leah Jordan

Rabbi Avi Winokur's assistance with**Sloan Petersohn's Bat Mitzvah**

Nuriye Uygur

In Honor of

Rabbi Avi Winokur's 25 Years in the Rabbinate

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Gerald Faich & Bonni Rubin-Sugarman

Judy Lalli

Tony Lalli

Barbara Spector

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Mark Steinberger & Ann Leibowitz Steinberger

Karen Palmer

Iris Levine

Fred & Dinah Lovitch

Barbara Spector

The Ziskind Family

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Terry Graboyes

In Memory of**Abner Salon**

Sharon & Irv Shapiro

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Byron Kaufman, Father of Don Kaufman**

Don & Karen Kaufman

Albert Miller, Father of Paula Ninerell

Paula Ninerell

Marion Rosof, Mother of Libby Rosof

Libby Rosof

Aaron Richman, Grandfather of Scott Richman

Scott Richman

Adult Education**In Appreciation of****Debra Stewart and Rina Mitchell**

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

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

Michael Carasik

Doris Shreibman

Rabbi David & Carole Stein

Betty van de Rijn's assistance with**Sloan Petersohn's Bat Mitzvah**

Nuriye Uygur

In Honor of**Sloan Uygur Petersohn's Bat Mitzvah**

Faye Baum

Benni Kauderwood's Bar Mitzvah

Dianna, Marc, and Samuel Falkowitz

Jonathan Feinman

Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg

Rabbi Avi Winokur's 25 Years in the Rabbinate

The Hayman Family

Michael & Joy Roe on their birth of their daughter, Ella

Jerry & Joan Roller

Sahar & Alli Oz on the birth of their son, Eli Matan**Rabbi Avi Winokur's 25 Years in the Rabbinate****Harry Oxman's Special Birthday**

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of**Muriel Robinson, Mother of Kathy Bernsten**

Walter & Margie Ferst

Wendy Schatz, Sister of Robin Schatz

Betty van de Rijn

Wendy Schatz, Sister of Robin Schatz

Jerry & Joan Roller

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Rosamond Levering, Mother of Susan Levering**

Susan Levering

Reva Goldner, Mother of Linda Joy Goldner

Linda Joy Goldner

Allen Posoff

Lillian Posoff and Family

Mannie & Rose Hechler, Parents of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Eugene Paller, Grandfather of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Silver Heit Salkin Fund**In Honor of****Rabbi Winokur's Doctorate of Divinity Award**

Stanton & Merle Salkin

Yahrzeit of**Helen Adelman, Mother of Merle Salkin**

Stanton & Merle Salkin

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund**In Honor of****Sahar & Alli Oz on the birth of their son, Eli Matan**

Walter & Margie Ferst

Stover Steerman Family

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Rose Michaels, Mother of Geoffrey Michaels**

Geoffrey Michaels

Ben Zion Meyer, Father of Harold Meyer

Harold Meyer

50th Anniversary Gala

Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Annual Giving Appeal

Contributions to the **SHS Annual Giving Fund** which are vital to the financial health of our Synagogue, enable us to make up the difference between our income from Membership dues and Playschool tuition and our operating expenses.

Nella Bloom

Richard & Judy Gelles

Ric & Carmen Hayman

Ira Kauderwood

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg

Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

Barbara Zalkind



Confirmation Speeches of Our Hebrew High Graduates

Sahar Oz



Jacob Hayman

Shabbat Shalom. My Jewish education began in kindergarten. I attended the synagogue's

Sunday School and moved up to Hebrew School. Here, I learned the fundamentals of reading Hebrew and Torah study, which would eventually lead up to my Bar Mitzvah. When I was in seventh grade, I sounded the shofar for the Rosh Hashanah kids' service. Because some people thought I was not half bad, my future at Society Hill Synagogue snowballed from there.

The following year, I continued my participation in the High Holidays by reading Haftarah, and played the wonderful shofar that my Hebrew School class had gotten for me. This was also the year I started as a classroom aide for the Sunday School. It was exciting to relive my time at Sunday School through the eyes of the teacher. It was also nice to receive a check in the mail with my name on it.

In the spring of ninth grade, I attended the first jazz concert at the synagogue. Due to my introduction to jazz through Central High School's music program, I was intrigued. Later that year, I joined the Society Hill Synagogue Concert Band on the trombone. Although I am the baby of the group, I enjoy being able to play and improve my musicianship with them.

In June of 2015, I went with a group from the synagogue to Harrisburg. There we met with an organization called POWER, an interfaith group whose mission was to promote fair funding for public schools in Pennsylvania before the state budget closed. POWER took a different approach toward their protest. Instead of waving banners in anger, they prayed and fasted. After much rallying in the lobby of the Capitol, we managed to bring our shofars into the Senate chamber and cause an eye-catching interruption, if you will. Throughout the rest of the day, we continued our moral takeover by chanting and blowing some more shofar in several

offices of the senators. It was a great experience, and if the Rabbi ever needs my certain skill-set for protesting, he knows where to find me.

Now that I have you all up to date, I will be continuing my endeavors at the synagogue religiously and musically. I would like to thank the Cantor and Rabbi for their direct help in Hebrew study and Torah comprehension. In addition, I would like to thank Sahar Oz for his involvement in Hebrew High education, and for meeting with me every Sunday at nine o'clock. A special shout out to my Hebrew High class for partaking in our last service together, even though our class size may have dwindled over the years. Of course, I cannot forget my own family. I love you all and thank you for supporting me since day one. Shabbat Shalom.



Amanda Kirshenbaum

Shabbat Shalom.

Thank you all for coming tonight to celebrate this accomplishment with us. I'm so happy to be standing up

here with my friends and fellow Confirmands. I had wanted to quit Hebrew School after 8th grade. But my mom told me that I would regret it and feel unaccomplished. I'm glad I stuck with it, because I do feel proud of myself for finishing. I have made so many memories from Sunday School and Hebrew School. I'm going to miss my classmates and the staff.

They have all impacted my life outside of Hebrew School. I feel as though Hebrew School was a guide for me. Without Hebrew School as a part of my life, I think I would be lost in a way, because coming here helped shape some of my views and thoughts. In Sunday School, we were taught Jewish values and how they are very important for everyday life. We were taught that mitzvahs are really important and learned about caring for the earth, loving nature, and many other things. If we trash this earth, it is going to die. My teachers engaging me in Jewish lessons about caring for our planet made me more conscious about not littering.

Continued on next page

In Hebrew School and especially in Hebrew High, we had discussions from a Jewish perspective about current events, which was something I really enjoyed. We would talk about major events that had occurred around the world. I enjoyed hearing what everyone had to say on the topics, and I would learn from the discussions. I remember one topic in a Hebrew High class that really captured me from the first moment, which was North Korea. We watched a North Korean propaganda video about how United States citizens ate all of the birds and other crazy sorts of claims. Before seeing that video, I had no idea North Korea was showing that to their citizens. I mean I knew they hated us, but I never knew they showed videos like the one we had seen. I was learning new things every time I went to class, and I would go home and tell my mom everything we had discussed that day in class.

I'm so grateful to have had these people in my class – Greyson, Sofia, and Jacob. We are a great group. We've had fun times together. Thank you for making this Hebrew School experience that much better. I would also like to thank the Cantor, Bob Freedman, for teaching us how to sing the prayers, helping us when we had to lead services, guiding all of us with our Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, and for helping us with our Confirmation. Thanks to the Rabbi, Avi Winokur, for helping with the Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, helping me to write my Bat Mitzvah speech, and your insightful talks. Sahar Oz, thanks for keeping Sunday and Hebrew school a positive environment for the kids to learn and grow. Thanks to my teachers for helping me learn how to read and write Hebrew and for helping us to expand our knowledge in Judaism.

Many thanks to my family for encouraging me to continue until the very end and not letting me quit. And again, thank you to my peers who stayed on this journey and made Hebrew School and Hebrew High a fun place to be. Shabbat shalom.



Sofia Newberg

Hi, I'm Sofia, and I never thought I would ever actually be in this position. I knew that one day I would be here, but it honestly does not feel real. I started going here for schooling in 2002 for *pre* preschool,

which is less affiliated with the Jewish religion. So, I actually started going to Sunday School when I was 4-5ish, and I honestly don't remember most of what we did, but I remember enjoying my time here.

And that stayed the same throughout my time at SHS. I went from Sunday School, to Hebrew School, then to Hebrew High, and I honestly enjoyed almost everything. Whether it was learning a new prayer and going over it time after time or playing weird abstract games with Yoni when he was tired of teaching us in a typical fashion. This would not have been the same without my class. Together, we have lost over five people in the class over the years and "survived" countless Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. We have brought joy and curiosity into every lesson and class to make it our own and appreciate in our own way, even if that meant trying to include Snapchat in a current events conversation.

Because of all of this, I have never felt burdened by Hebrew School, even though it was in the morning after the designated sleepover night, as selected by the world (aka Sunday morning). And, yes, I know I missed a bunch of them, but it was never willingly! I love this class and this place dearly and will miss it every Sunday to come.

With that said, I would like to thank my class. You made every Sunday fun and exciting. I have enjoyed our inside jokes, annoying games, and the fact that we have actually stayed together until this moment. You are all amazing and unique, and I am so happy to call you all my friends. I would also like to thank my teachers. There were many of you over the years, but I remember every single one, and I am so grateful to have had you as my mentors. To my outside friends, thank you for dealing with me waking you up at outrageous hours. And thank you to my family for supporting and pushing me to continue my Jewish education. I am grateful for the efforts that you made these past couple of years regarding my religious identity.

Finally, thank you to the members of this synagogue who helped guide me through this process. Cantor Bob, Sahar, and Rabbi Avi – I appreciate all the hard work that was put into this service.

Continued on next page

The community and way of life of our synagogue have truly resonated with me and are a key component of my identity. So, thank you all for coming, and Shabbat Shalom.



Greyson Sobel

Good evening. I have been a student at Society Hill Synagogue since as long as I can remember. From Playschool, to Sunday School, to Hebrew School, and

finally to Hebrew High. This place really has been a second home to me. I have always gone to very diverse schools and played on very diverse sports teams, so naturally I made friendships with people from all different cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds, but honestly I never really had any true Jewish friends from these schools or teams. Our synagogue was the only place where I was able to identify and create bonds with other Jewish kids like myself. I am extremely lucky I got to have this safe place growing up with so many that supported me.

I have always looked to the teachings I have studied here as important ways to live and better my life. My Bar Mitzvah portion talked about “never put a stool in front of a blind man, instead move it.” From this, I was taught how to try and help better others, and learn about others situations and how I could help better them, which in turn will help better me.

I have truly loved all my years as a student here at this special place, and they have helped shape me into the person I am today. From the first moment I stepped into this synagogue so many years ago to today, I have been welcomed and encouraged to do my best in everything I do and to strive for greatness. I will never forget the amazing experiences and memories I have had as a student here and look forward to making new memories as a true adult in the community.

I would like to thank the many great people that have helped me get here. Rabbi Winokur, for helping me to find meaning in many of the Torah's teachings

and really making me feel invested in the life lessons that the Torah offers. Cantor Bob, for helping me learn how to recite the songs and readings in Hebrew. All of the amazing Hebrew School and Sunday School teachers I have had throughout my years here. And finally, my family for supporting me in whatever I do and always believing in me. I am very thankful to have all of these amazing people that helped make this special night happen. Shabbat shalom.

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

that we really are one nation, not just a collection of interest groups jockeying for a larger piece of the American pie at the expense of another interest group.

I leave you with the observations of Sebastian Junger in his book *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* (2016):

“The first time that the United States suffered a wave of rampage shootings was during the 1930s, when society had been severely stressed and fractured by the Great Depression. Profoundly disturbed, violent individuals might have felt inhibited by the social bonds that restrained previous generations of potential killers. Rampage killings dropped significantly during World War II, then rose again in the 1980s and have been rising ever since. It may be worth considering whether middle-class American life—for all its material good fortune—has lost some essential sense of unity that might otherwise discourage alienated men from turning apocalyptically violent.

“The last time the United States experienced that kind of unity was—briefly—after the terrorist attacks of September 11. There were no rampage shootings for the next two years. The effect was particularly pronounced in New York City, where rates of violent crime, suicide and psychiatric disturbances dropped immediately. . . . New York's suicide rate dropped by around 20 percent

Continued on page 17

The Young Friends of SHS

Join the Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue!

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

Save the date on **Tuesday, September 13, 6–9 PM, for a High Holy Day Wine Tasting** with the Groups for Jewish Grads and Young Professionals. The Young Friends of SHS will be there!

Look for more events, Shabbat dinners, Havdalah services, and opportunities for learning this fall. We welcome you to “like” our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/>.

For further information, or to join our mailing list, please contact me at lesser.natalie@gmail.com or my Co-Chair, Jordan Segall, at segall.jordan@gmail.com.

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 16

in the six months following the attacks, the murder rate dropped by 40 percent.”

During the Days of Awe we will come back to Junger, but for now let us ask ourselves if, in Junger's words, we have “lost some essential sense of unity that might otherwise discourage alienated men from turning apocalyptically violent.” By all means, let us do all we can in the short and medium run to lessen the likelihood of another Orlando. But let us also think about the issue that Junger raises. Let us give it very serious thought. What needs to change in our society to bring this disparate and varied polity of ours together, short of banding together only when we are under attack? It is more than this or that piece of legislation. While I don't have the answer, I know it has to do with regaining a sense of shared community, shared destiny, and shared obligations to each other.

One approach that has come to my mind is a form of national service in which the privileged classes are not funneled off into soft service divorced from the less advantaged classes. But I am sure that this is only one idea. What are your ideas about what needs to change for each of us Americans to see ourselves as bound to each other and to our nation as a compassionate and caring community on a grand scale? I would love to discuss this with those who are interested in reflecting on this issue over the course of the summer.

SHS PHOTO GALLERY



2016 Exceptional Service Honorees (Joe Oxman not pictured)



2016 Confirmation Class





Burning of the 430 Spruce Street Mortgage at the 2016 Congregation Annual Meeting





2016 Congregation Annual Meeting





"Rapping It Up" at the beginning of the Annual Congregation Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Sh'l'ah L'kha 2
					No Kabbalat Shabbat Service Building Closed	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
3	4	5	6	7	8	Korah 9
Building Closed	4 th of July Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan	12:15 PM ELM		No Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
10	11	12	13	14	15	Hukkat 16
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
17	18	19	20	21	22	Balak 23
Building Closed	6 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
24	25	26	27	28	29	Pin'has 30
Building Closed	7 PM Board Orientation	7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service Last Day of Regu- lar Summer Camp	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
31						
Building Closed						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	Mattot-Ma'sei 6
	Puppetry Camp Begins	7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
7	8	9	10	11	12	D'varim 13
Building Closed	Ceramic Camp Begins	7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services 9 PM Tisha B'Av Service followed by study session
Tisha B'Av 14	15	16	17	18	19	Va-ethannan 20
Building Closed	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service Building Closed	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
21	22	23	24	25	26	Ekev 27
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Kabbalat Shabbat Service Building Closed	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Services
28	29	30	31			
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan				

Kesher



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Avi Winokur, **Rabbi**
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

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SHS MEMBERSHIP!

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

Your tickets will be mailed in September, after the Labor Day holiday.

Enjoy your summer!

