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LimmudPhilly: A Panoramic Jewish Learningfest!

Debbie Stewart

There is still time to register for **LimmudPhilly: A Panoramic Jewish Learningfest**. This annual event will take place on **Sunday, December 4, 12 PM–6 PM**, at the Gershman Y (401 South Broad Street).

LimmudPhilly, a program of The Center City Kehillah, is the all-volunteer learningfest that brings together an amazing community of teachers and learners every year in Philadelphia!

There are activities for all ages. Families are welcome to explore Young Limmud, a special learning experience for children ages 3–12. Children will have the opportunity to connect to Judaism in a fun and engaging multi-sensory space through art, cooking, music, immersive Hebrew, and dramatic storytelling.

The fees: \$20/adults (18+), \$10/kids (0-17), \$50/families (max 2 adults). Scholarships are available. For more information, contact limmudphilly@gmail.com. Sign up now at <http://limmudphilly.org/>.

Lunch & Learn With Trudy Rubin on December 3!

Avi Winokur

Join us for a Lunch & Learn in the Social Hall immediately following Shabbat services on Saturday, December 3, when we will welcome award-winning international reporter Trudy Rubin, author of the Philadelphia Inquirer's Worldview column on Thursdays and Sundays.

Over the past decade, Ms. Rubin has traveled to Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, South Korea, and China. Author of *Willful Blindness: The Bush Administration and Iraq*, Ms. Rubin was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary, a recipient of the Edward Weintal prize for international reporting, and winner of the Arthur Ross award for international commentary.

Ms. Rubin will discuss the election results and how the Middle East quagmire could be affected. What are the Middle East challenges that the new president will face? What strategies will we see implemented as a result of President-Elect Trump's approach to foreign policy in the Middle East?

Don't miss what is sure to be a lively and interesting discussion!



Rabbi's Column

Love the Stranger

Avi Winokur

In July 1941, soon after becoming a United States citizen, Albert Einstein wrote a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt expressing his dismay that a “wall of bureaucratic measures” had been erected by the State Department, “alleged to be necessary to protect America against subversive, dangerous elements,” which made “it all but impossible to give refuge in America to many worthy persons who are victims of Fascist cruelty in Europe.” Einstein urged Mrs. Roosevelt to take up the matter with her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. While we do not know if those conversations took place, we do know that the “wall of bureaucratic measures” remained in place while millions of Jews and other victims were murdered in the Holocaust.

Today refugees and immigrants face that same “wall of bureaucratic measures” that we Jews faced over a half-century ago. Roughly 800,000 refugees have resettled in the United States since September 11, 2001. Not one has committed a terrorist act. Of the very few who have been charged with terrorism-related offenses, the vast majority of those very few were charged in relation to supporting terrorist groups abroad, not in relation to terrorist activity on American soil.

Of 5.5 million people who have fled the bloody and horrific conflict in Syria, only 10,000 (0.2 percent) have been resettled in the United States under the Obama administration.

Let us recall the Gallup poll from 1939 that I mentioned during my Kol Nidre talk. The poll asked Americans if the country should accept up to 10,000 children from Europe, most of whom would be Jewish, as Gallup explicitly stated. This was a few months after Kristallnacht, the widely publicized Nazi-inspired pogrom against Jews in Germany. Only 30 percent of Americans said yes; 9 percent had no opinion; 61 percent said no, we should not accept these children. Ultimately 1,500,000 Jewish children perished in the Holocaust, as well as hundreds of thousands of Roma and other children.

Like the United States government during World War II, the government today is again held hostage by xenophobic nativists who see a potential terrorist in every poor refugee who is seeking asylum. Once this xenophobia sets in—and let us face it, our president-elect fanned those flames—the facts no longer carry with them the power to persuade. Human nature has not changed from World War II until today.

Our duty as Jews is clear. It is to fight against xenophobic nativism.

There are numerous passages in the Torah about our duty not to mistreat the stranger. Consider Exodus 23:9: “You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the life/soul of the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” In the Holiness Code in the Book of Leviticus (19:34), the Torah goes even further: “The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt; I Adonai am your God.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, reflected on the biblical command to love the stranger in a column in the British paper *The Guardian*:

I used to think that the most important line in the Bible was “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Then I realized that it is easy to love your neighbor because he or she is usually quite like yourself. What is hard is to love the stranger, one whose color, culture or creed is different from yours. That is why the command “Love the stranger because you were once strangers” resonates so often throughout the Bible. It is summoning us now.

Continued on page 14



President's Column

Meeting the Challenges

Harry J. Oxman

When I addressed the congregation on Kol Nidre, my comments mostly focused on the challenges that confront us as members of an urban synagogue community. These challenges, in my opinion, are directly connected to the need to grow our membership. I believe that there is a clear path that will enable us to achieve this goal. I have several ideas that will be integral parts of that path.

First, I have suggested that we, as members of this community, need to achieve a level of comfort in reaching out to others to share our synagogue's history, story, and mission with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors, with the ultimate intention of enticing them to join our congregation. Being a proud and dedicated Ambassador for our shul, I submit, will not only provide personal gratification, but will assist us in sparking interest among potential new members.

Second, I propose that if we increase our personal and/or family participation in the many activities available at Society Hill Synagogue, the increase in attendance at these events will result in greater enthusiasm for all participants. We can all agree that this type of vibrancy and engagement make a strong statement for the benefit of membership. Some of the programs and activities in which I would like to encourage more participation are:

- Attendance at Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services
- Adult education classes
- Arts and cultural activities within and outside of the synagogue with members of our congregation
- Special occasion activities such as TGIShabbat services, volunteer musical programs, Social Action events, Lunch & Learn programs following Saturday services, and any forms of social interaction with members of our community outside of our building
- Involvement in one of our 18 to 20 active synagogue committees
- Engagement and participation in the life cycle events of our own and of other members of the congregation

I believe that our increased individual and collective engagement will ultimately lead to our being more attractive to potential new members.

Third, I have announced that we will be moving forward with our space enhancement and improvement program that I submit is a sound approach for growing our membership. While preparing to make this announcement on Kol Nidre, I spoke with various members of the lay-leadership to address the question: "Why do I believe that this is the appropriate time to move forward?" Others have asked as well. I would, therefore, like to use the balance of this column to explain my thoughts.

As I have previously stated, we are an urban synagogue, and as such, we were very fortunate to acquire adjacent property. We own it free of any debt. We can now concentrate our resources on expansion and improvement.

For many years, we have functioned in one building (418 Spruce Street). Remember, that this fact was the motivation for acquiring 430 Spruce Street. Expanding our space to two buildings will not only decrease the wear-and-tear on our current building, it will enable us to ultimately remodel and beautify both spaces.

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Cantor's Column

The Miracle of the Lights

Steven Friedrich

Hanukkah is a holiday of miracles. Just watch the faces of children as they light candles or spin dreidels (and, of course, as they open presents). And the celebration of the miracle of the lights always occurs at the darkest time of year (at the winter solstice and the new moon of Tevet), a perfect time of year to drive off the double demons of physical and spiritual darkness with the ever increasing light of the Hanukkah candles.

It has always fascinated me that the Mishnah, which was formed during and after the events surrounding the miraculous victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus and the Syrian Greeks, has absolutely nothing to say about the wars led by the priestly family of Mattathias. Rather, it discusses the miracle of the lights in the rededication ceremony of the Temple, the miracle that one day's worth of oil lasted for eight days. Why would the Rabbis of the Mishnah discuss an unsubstantiated miracle rather than a factual one?

I believe that the answer can be found in the Haftarah that is read on Shabbat Hanukkah (December 31 this year). It is a reading taken from the prophet Zechariah, who, 350 years before the Maccabees, had predicted that the Kingdom of Israel would be reestablished under the rule of a descendant of the House of David. As God provides for the miracle of Israel's rebirth, He speaks through the prophet saying that this miracle would occur "not by might, and not by power, but by My [God's] Spirit."

So, you might ask, what does this have to do with the miracle of Hanukkah? Well, look at the Torah's account of the creation of the world. On the first day of creation, it was God's spirit that hovered over the chaos. And God's spirit commanded, "Let there be light!" When our Rabbis commanded us to ignite the lights for Hanukkah, those lights were to remind us of the light produced by God's spirit. It is a light capable of establishing physical order out of physical chaos as with the creation of the world, but it is also a light

Continued next column

capable of refreshing one's spirit when darkness has enveloped one's soul. The prophet Isaiah says, "I will lead the blind by a road they did not know. . . . I will turn darkness before them to light" (Isaiah 42:16). The Rabbis of the Mishnah knew that the physical miracle of the Maccabees was short-lived, and indeed the Temple restored by them was eventually destroyed. But the miracle of the lights is a miracle that is repeated for us every year at this season.

Happy Hanukkah to you all.

Young Families Group

Join Us for Friday Nights With Young Families on December 2!

Joanna Hart

On Friday, September 9, we had a wonderful kick-off of our *Friday Nights With Young Families* program. Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 2, for another lively potluck dinner and lay-led celebration of Shabbat.** The SHS Young Families Group invites all your wigglers and babblers to our community! Geared especially towards families with babies and kids through Pre-K, we will celebrate Shabbat with song, dance, prayers, including our own special Kiddush. Attendees are invited to bring a vegetarian or dairy dish to share. The program will run from 5:15–6:15 PM, allowing family members to also attend the following 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service in the main Sanctuary if they are interested. A professional educator, who has many years of experience in Jewish youth programming, will focus on age-appropriate music and movement, creating a warm exposure to Shabbat and synagogue experiences. We aim to help children and their families learn rituals that can provide a basis for Jewish life in the home and synagogue.

The other dates for the Friday Nights With Young Families program will be February 3, March 3, May 5, June 2. Please RSVP to Joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com if your family plans to attend, but feel free to join us, even at the last minute.



Ann Spak Thal School

December Delights

Sahar Oz

As the days grow shorter and earlier nights settle in, the aroma of latkes signals that Hanukkah is about to begin. December is upon us, and with it comes special events, including, of course, our Hanukkah Happening featuring delicious homemade latkes prepared by the renowned SHS “Latke Brigade,” as detailed below.

On **Saturday, December 3, at 10:30 AM**, our sensational sixth graders from Kitah Vav will lead the Shabbat morning service with Cantor Friedrich, so come start your day with smiles and a lot of soul! A delicious meal will follow in the Social Hall, and everyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP to Betty bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org if you plan on joining us for lunch.

The following **Sunday, December 4, at 10 AM**, we will be holding auditions for this year’s Purim Cantata, and all students in Kitot Gimel-Vav (Grades 3-6) are welcome and encouraged to try out for the show, which will be performed for the congregation on Saturday, March 11, at 7 PM. Rehearsals for the Purim Cantata will take place on Sunday mornings from 9–11 AM, starting January 8.

Please join us on **Saturday, December 10, at 9:30 AM**, for the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Shemtov, as we celebrate this outstanding seventh grader being called to the Torah for the first time. Lily’s Bat Mitzvah service provides an ideal opportunity to model community and Jewish learning and living for your child(ren), so don’t miss out!

In preparation for the aforementioned Hanukkah Happening on **Sunday, December 11, classes for all grades will meet from 9–11 AM**. The Hanukkah Happening will then take place **from 11 AM–1 PM** and will feature latkes, laughter, and lots of fun for all ages, with a variety of activities designed especially for our younger children.

Our last day of classes before Winter Break will be Tuesday, December 13, and classes will resume in 2017 on Tuesday, January 3.

Our faculty, student aides, and I wish you and your family a happy Hanukkah filled with love, light, and latkes, and a joyous and healthy start to 2017!

See photos of HS activities on page 18.

SHS Young Families Group

Continued from page 4

During regular Friday night and Saturday services, we invite you to take full advantage of our Young Families’ Library outside of the Sanctuary. Book donations that promote Jewish and SHS values are welcome!

As always, children are welcome to attend all services at SHS. If your child would rather play while you attend services, supervised childcare is now available, at no charge to families, in the rear Playschool classroom on the first floor. You can find this space, affectionately known as “The Wiggle Room” just behind the Lawrence Court Lobby.

If there are adult synagogue activities in which you’d like to participate, but you are limited due to childcare concerns (such as the Lunch & Learn series), please let me know.

To join our email list, where we share family-friendly activities with others in our community, contact me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com. Prospective members, expectant parents, and any caretakers are welcome to join!



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Playschool

Hanukkah Happening and Open House on Sunday, December 11!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

On Tuesday, December 6, the students in the 3–4-year-old class will take their second trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to learn about mythological creatures. Parent chaperones are invited to attend the trip with the class.

On Wednesday, December 7, the Playschool will have parent-teacher conferences for the children in all of our classes. Although no classes will be in session that day, the staff will be available to care for children during scheduled conference times. Teachers will be available from 7:45 AM until 6 PM, if parents need additional hours of supervised care for their children. Please contact us if your child will be at school during any of the hours around your scheduled conference time.

The annual Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House will take place on Sunday, December 11, from 11 AM until 1 PM. All SHS Sunday, Hebrew, and Playschool families—along with friends and neighbors you wish to invite—are welcome to attend our Hanukkah celebration. We will celebrate with holiday crafts for the children, festive music, dreidel games, and cookie decorating, and we'll feast on sweet treats and those delicious homemade latkes prepared by our very own Latke Brigade, led by Len Weinberg.

Even though it seems that the school year began a short while ago, it is already time to enroll your child for the September 2017 academic year. The Open House gives prospective parents the opportunity to meet teachers and the families of current students, and to learn more about the Playschool. Applications for the September 2017-May 2018 school year will be available at the Open House or they can be downloaded from our website www.societyhillsynagogue.org. Classes are filled on a first come-first served basis, with priority given to SHS members and current Playschool families. Please contact the Playschool office (215.922.6590, x28) for further details or questions.

The SHS Playschool offers a wonderful “first school experience” for children, and we have stimulating programs for 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds, as well as an academic Pre-Kindergarten class for 4-year-old children. Our popular school features welcoming classrooms, a warm and nurturing staff, and an outdoor play area. All of our classes offer age-appropriate learning activities, creative art projects, weekly Shabbat and holiday celebrations, and special programs and trips throughout the year. As participants in our rotating Parent Co-Op, parents and caregivers can get to know their child's friends and learn about our dynamic curricula, first-hand.

The Playschool offers flexible hours for our busy parents by providing Early Care beginning at 7:45 AM, and Late Care from 3 PM until 6 PM, Monday through Friday. Classes for 2-year-olds meet from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM, with an option for students to stay for lunch until 12:30 PM. Classes for 3–4-year-olds meet from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, and the Pre-K Class meets from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. Every afternoon, from 12:30 PM until 3 PM, the children may participate in After School Arts featuring activities that focus on cooking, science, art, movement, and music..

If you would like more information about the upcoming enrollment process or if you would like to schedule an appointment to visit the Playschool, please call the Playschool office at (see phone number above) or contact one of the Playschool Co-Directors at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org.

The Playschool will be on winter break from Monday, December 19, through Monday, January 2. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Happy Hanukkah and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.



Social Action

SHS Shabbaton About Immigration on December 16 & 17

Phyllis Denbo

At the end of Rabbi Winokur's amazing sermon about immigration on Kol Nidre, he announced that the Social Action Committee is organizing a Shabbaton on Friday, December 16, and Saturday, December 17, that will be focused on this complex and difficult issue. Over the course of these two days, we will hear from a number of experts about the challenges faced by immigrants in our communities and country. At the conclusion of the program, we will have a discussion about the possible steps that we, as a congregation, might take to address the needs of the immigrant population. Be sure to save the dates and stay tuned for further information.

Immigrants typically arrive here with few possessions. Resettlement is a major responsibility of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society—a non-profit, nonpartisan refugee protection organization) and other immigrant agencies. They find housing for the new arrivals, but these dwellings must then be furnished with the many necessities of daily living. **We will be collecting small household items such as blankets, sheets, towels, and kitchenware (eating utensils, frying pans, and small appliances) that are in good condition.**

With winter coming, there is also a need for warm coats for children and adults. **Look through your closets and donate lined jackets, coats, and vests that you've rarely worn or that are still in good condition.**

Please bring all items to SHS, and we will see that they are delivered. For further information, please contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com.

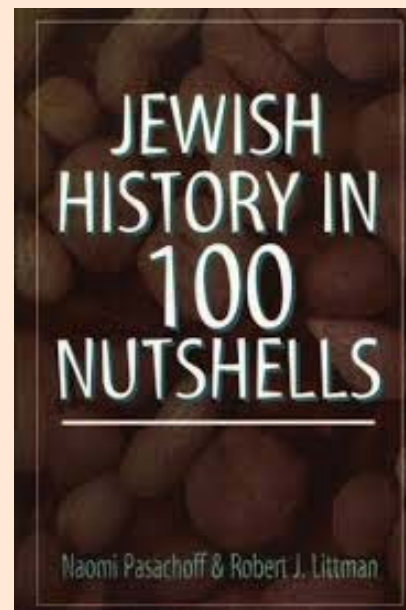
Jewish History in 100 Nutshells

German Restitution to Victims of Nazism

Larry Spector

In 1952, there were riots in the streets of Jerusalem. They had nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Provoked by Menachem Begin, these riots broke out after a demonstration over whether Israel should accept reparations from Germany.

Learn about the history of Germany restitution to the victims of Nazism by visiting the SHS website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org and clicking on the December link under "Nutshell Excerpts."



Fall–2016: Guess Who Came to Shabbas?

Bonny Hohenberger

"What a terrific choice of guests!"

"We really enjoyed meeting fellow congregants."

"It was a pleasure to host this event. Everyone mixed and mingled and met someone they did not know before. When we gathered for the blessings, the room became quiet and it set the framework for dinner—a special Shabbat dinner—that made the occasion different from other social gatherings. It was also special to have the Rabbi lead blessings and songs in our home and to include some of the Reconstructionist versions of the prayers. It was a beautiful communal evening."

Above are the comments of a few of the SHS members who played a part in our 5th annual "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™" (GWCTS) event, held in November. This year, eleven families served as hosts, and a total of 85 individuals participated. Several families were new and/or prospective members who welcomed the opportunity to become acquainted with members of our congregation. Some long-time members were delighted to meet newer members who looked familiar to them, but to whom they had never been formally introduced. Dinners were served in a variety of styles, from formal sit-down meals to more casual buffets. Check out the smiling faces in the photos taken by some of our hosts.

I would like to thank all of our enthusiastic participants who helped to make this event a success, with a special note of thanks to our generous hosts:

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The Young Friends of SHS A Celebration of Hanukkah & Shabbat on December 30!

Natalie Lesser and Jordan Segall

Join us for a dairy potluck Shabbat dinner and Hanukkah celebration on Friday, December 30, at 7:30 PM. We'll enjoy delicious latkes and doughnuts in the spirit of the season. Please RSVP to Natalie at lesser.natalie@gmail.com by Friday, December 23, and we will provide the Center City address for this event.

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, a 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.

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/HSYoungFriends/>.

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.

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GWCTS

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Nancy & Richard Morgenstern
 Susan & Ed Kaplan
 Tova Ztaouri
 Debbie & Bill Stewart
 Betty & Bart Kaplan
 Randi Glatzer
 Susan & Steven Leshnoff
 Jackie Rick & Mike Yudell
 Ashleigh Reibach & Rich Huggett
 Joanna & Micah Hart
 Dinah & Fred Lovitch

(Unfortunately, Dinah was under the weather and has graciously offered to host a brunch during the next GWCTS.)

“Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” dinners encourage connections among the members of our “jewel of a shul.” Stay tuned for details about the next GWCTS event!



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2016-2017 B'nai Mitzvah

December 10

Lillian Shemtov*Daughter of Joseph & Sharon Shemtov*

January 7

Margot Oxman*Daughter of Joe Oxman & Christie Rosengart*

February 18

Aaron Davidson*Son of Michael Davidson & Christine Reardon*

March 4

Maxon Raphael*Son of Michael & Jennifer Raphael*

March 18

Lysander Michaels-Koenig*Son of Julia Michaels-Koenig & Scott Koenig*

June 24

Noah Kauderwood*Son of Ira Kauderwood & Peter Kauderwood*



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November Birthdays

Rachel Goldfinger
 Pippa Pasternak
 Andrew Newman
 Lillian Shemtov
 Jacob Wycoff
 Noah Ferst
 Richard Huggett
 Henry Gutstadt
 Stephanie Naidoff
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 Fanny Korman
 David Ladov
 Jacqueline Pack Segal
 Hana Meadway
 Mark Dembert
 Ira Kauderwood
 Sarah Levitsky
 Yuri Rubinov
 Arthur Cherry
 Scotty Jordan
 Ron Kaiser
 Edward Kaplan
 Laura Bottaro
 Sophie Bottaro
 Nancy Burd
 Frank Goodman
 Micah Hart
 Marcie Ziskind
 Deborah Casnoff
 Sara Chrismer
 Brad Pirok
 Maxwell Nelson
 Cora Michaels-Koenig
 Evyn Appel
 Edward Landau
 Josh Akman
 Teresa Novick
 Pelley Brown
 Rina Mitchell
 Sophia Yudell

**December Birthdays**

Noah Schindler
 Sarah Buse-Morley
 Meranda Love
 Ella Marchant
 David Stemmer
 Melba Axelrod
 Holly Gorsen
 Howard Sedran
 Joel Chernock
 Evelyn Eisenstadt
 Myron Bloom
 Ariana Eizen
 Joanna Hart
 Oren Pipano
 Arthur Shapiro

Jamie Axelrod
 Chloe Pirok
 Joanna Bottaro
 Harold Jacobs
 Leah Popowich
 Mikhail Rubinov
 Barbara Zalkind
 Max Ladenson
 Phoebe Ladenson
 Robin Schatz
 Abraham Bernstein
 Steven Eizen
 Judith Lalli
 Roberto Pace
 Barry Slosberg
 Ned Wolf Weiss
 Elyse Pitok
 Aaron Wolson
 Margot Oxman
 Barbara Spector
 Steven Gendler
 Joshua Goldwert
 Thomas Kline
 Michael Feinberg
 Maya Fey
 Hannah Myers
 Alexander Ehrlich
 Debra Galler
 Abigail Gendler
 Joan Goodman
 Andrew Katzen
 Steven Greenberg
 Clara Landes
 David Paskin
 Stanley Woloff
 Cole Pressman
 Seth Slosberg
 Rebecca Buse-Morley
 Lisa Coran
 Mimi Hunter
 Stephen Klasko
 Ellianna Zack
 Marina Merlin
 Isaac Torchinsky-Field
 Barbara Miller
 Jamie Cooperstein
 Joel Hirsch
 Moshe Mahlab
 Lindsay Saligman
 Wendy Brookstein
 Samuel Datlof
 Jacob Grossman
 Stanton Salkin
 Roberta Jacobs Meadway
 Emily Zimmerman
 Emily Bach
 Sabryna Pasternak

November Anniversaries

Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 James & Julie Wilson
 Jeremy & Fran Newberg
 Judson Aaron & Susan Snedden

December Anniversaries

Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
 Adam & Amy Shapiro
 Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

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 STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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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 a 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

Welcome New Members

Larry Axelrod

Robin

Jamie

Melba Axelrod

Joshua Cooper & Jamie Cooperstein

Frank & Joan Goodman

Howard & Andrea Lander

Elliot & Morgan Landes

Clara

David & Rebecca Makuen

Jenna

Luke

David & Hyla Rosenberg

Noam

Benjamin

Ira & Myra Silverstein

Michael & Bonnie Slobodien

Sara Steinbock

Izzy

McClain

Adam Ziegfeld & Michele Margolis

Rafael

Continued next column

Mazel Tov to

Jerry and Joan Roller on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Prell Dilworth.

Joel Chernock on the birth of his granddaughter, Shaynah Heere.

Adam Ziegfeld and Michele Margolis on the birth of their son, Rafael Ziegfeld Margolis.

Harvey and Babs Snyder on the birth of their granddaughter, Wynn Shiloh Canno.

Condolences to

Susan Jaffe on the death of her husband, Paul Jaffe.

Scot & Marcie Ziskind and **Miles and Lev** on the death of Scot and Marcie's son and Miles and Lev's brother, Harrison Ziskind.

Peter (Meg) Saligman, Carolyn Saligman, and Alice Saligman on the death of Peter and Carolyn's brother and Alice's son, Ira Saligman.

Julie (John) Liedman and Family on the death of Julie's mother, Tybie Moshinsky.



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General Fund**In Appreciation of****SHS for Aliyot on Rosh Hashanah**

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

SHS During the High Holy Days

Lorraine Weissbach

Carol Buchalter

Rebecca Leaf & Family

Pamela Zimmerman

SHS

Stephanie King & Matthew Roth

Joseph Freedman

In Honor of**Dana Feinberg's Special Birthday**

Dan, Sam, Hannah, & Harry Feinberg

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick's Special Birthdays & Anniversary

The Hayman Family

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Bruce & Carol Katcher

Aaron Blacksberg's Special Birthday

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Jerry & Joan Roller, Birth of their Grandson

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Marc Schwartz, 2016 Hatan Torah Recipient

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Phyllis Denbo, 2016 Kallat B'reishit Recipient

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

In Memory of**Harrison Ziskind, Son of Scot & Marcie Ziskind**

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Danny & Eileen Alva

Crystal Gurin

Adam Burgos & Evan Burgos

Joe & Sheri Gifford & Family

Brian Baratz

Steve Graham & Amy van de Rijn-Graham

Irwin Friedrich, Father of Cantor Steven Friedrich

Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Ben Levering, Father of Susan Levering**

Susan Levering

Gloria Berman, Mother of Marjorie Berman

Marjorie Berman & Daniel Swartz

Sara Belkina, Mother of Yuriy Rubinov

Yuriy Rubinov & Marina Merlin

Anna Paller, Grandmother of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Seymour Schwartz, Father of Susanne Kaplan

Susanne Kaplan

Irene Gelb, Grandmother of Ron Feinberg

Ron & Robin Feinberg

Eva Pevzner, Grandmother of Robin Feinberg

Ron & Robin Feinberg

Minna Cohen, Mother of Robin Feinberg

Ron & Robin Feinberg

Jack Pevzner, Uncle of Robin Feinberg

Ron & Robin Feinberg

Sigmund Weinberg, Father-in-Law of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Anna Weinberg Trust, Mother-in-Law of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Norman Feinberg, Father of Dan Feinberg

Dan, Dana, Sam, Hannah, & Harry Feinberg

Ilse Roller, Mother of Jerry Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund**In Honor of****Baby Naming of Emma Grace Graham**

Barbara Spector

Marc Schwartz, 2016 Hatan Torah Recipient

Barbara Spector

Restoration Fund**In Appreciation****Marc Schwartz**

Harold & Marcia Epstein

In Honor of**Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz**

Lois Vederman

Marc Schwartz, Hatan Torah Recipient

Gloria Schwartz

Rona & Arthur Greenfield

In Memory of**Irv Friedrich, Father of Cantor Steve Friedrich**

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrance**Henrietta Levine, Mother-in-Law of Iris Levine**

Iris Levine

Robert Segal, Husband of Evelyn Segal

Evelyn Segal

Social Action Fund**In Appreciation of****SHS**

Linda Seidel

In Honor of

Phyllis Denbo, 2016 Kallat B'reishit Recipient
Barbara Spector
Iris Levine

Marc Schwartz, 2016 Hatan Torah Recipient
Iris Levine

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

Emma Grace Graham's Baby Naming
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

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

Zack Robboy-Gearharts's Bar Mitzvah
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Robboy

Harry Oxman's 80th Birthday
Bonnie Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Rick Summers
Cliff Klein

Emma Grace Graham's Baby Naming
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of

Ira Saligman
Alice Saligman
Peter & Meg Saligman and Family

Harrison Ziskind, Son of Scot & Marcie Ziskind
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Manuel & Beatrice Sloane, Parents of Ylanah Sloane
Ylanah Sloane

Mona Sutnick, Wife of Alton Sutnick
Alton Sutnick

Samuel D. Sablove, Father of Pelley Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Charlotte Winokur, Mother of Rabbi Avi Winokur
Barbara Spector

Bernard Farbman, Cousin of Nathan Farbman
Bonnie Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Rose Schertz, Grandmother of Pelley Brown
Pelley Brown

Bernard Dembert, Father of Mark Dembert
Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Kiddush Fund**In Appreciation of**

Alton Sutnick Hosting TGISHabbat in memory of Mona Sutnick
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Shabbat Study and Nosh & Schmooze
Elayne Bloom
Linda Joy Goldner
Debbie Stewart

5777 Break-the-Fast
Betty van de Rijn and Staff
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Kinney Zalesne
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Richard Highbloom
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

In Honor of
Birth of Jerry & Joan Roller's Grandson
Walter & Margie Ferst

Marc Schwartz, 2016 Hatan Torah Recipient
Phyllis Denbo, 2016 Kallat B'reishit Recipient
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of
Irwin Friedrich, Father of Cantor Steven Friedrich
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Ira Saligman, Brother of Peter & Meg Saligman
Ira Saligman, Son of Alice Saligman
Ira Saligman, Brother of Carolyn Saligman
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Harrison Ziskind, Son of Scot & Marcie Ziskind
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Speedy Recovery to
Beverley Feldman
Curtis Lizenbaum

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Eugene Lizenbaum, Husband of Mildred and Father of Curtis
Mildred Lizenbaum and Curtis Lizenbaum

Silver Heit Salkin Fund**In Honor of**

Baby Naming of Ella Jessica Roe, daughter of Michael & Joy Roe
Terry Dudnick

Marc Schwartz, 2016 Hatan Torah Recipient
Stanton & Merle Salkin

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund**In Honor of**

Sahar Oz & the SHS Hebrew School
Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg

Grandchildren Judah & Lilyan Galler
Leonard & Judith Galler

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

And when your children and your children's children ask you, "What did you do when the terrified strangers sought refuge on our shores?"—what will your answer be?

Join us on Friday, December 16, and Saturday, December 17, for a Shabbaton focusing on our response to today's terrible refugee crisis, rivaled only by that of World War II and the Holocaust. Perhaps this Shabbaton will be the beginning of an answer to that urgent and challenging question.

President's Column

Continued from page 3

Geographically, we are located in a community (Center City, Philadelphia) in which there is a resurgence of significant residential growth. While I would not endorse expansion and improvement of our existing buildings solely on the basis of the expected increased population in our neighborhoods, I submit that it is likely to have some positive effect on our membership growth. In any event, it certainly cannot hurt.

By expanding and improving our physical presence and appearance, we would convey a very positive message to our existing membership and to potential new members. Our leadership believes that we are capable of increasing our membership in spite of the expressed opinion in recent articles that most religious institutions cannot successfully grow at this point in time. I strongly believe that our community possesses the spirit, connection, and commitment necessary to avoid being adversely affected by such a trend. Clearly, having new spaces that have been updated and expanded will help us to achieve our goal of maintaining and increasing our membership.

Despite my enthusiasm for this expansion and renovation project, I assure you that your leadership will not commit to a direction that we cannot financially support. It has been our approach, therefore, to measure our plans by our financial capabilities. Based upon feedback from the congregation, we have developed a group of

Continued next column

options to significantly improve our functional spaces. I suggested on Kol Nidre that it would be reasonable for us to spend approximately \$1.5 million dollars for this project. Of course, the extent of our plans will be based upon our capability to raise the necessary monies, and our plans may have to be modified, in either direction, depending upon our ability to raise the necessary funds.

Specific options and their approximate costs will be presented to the congregation on Friday, February 24, 2017. You will hear more about this presentation soon. Your lay-leaders will also develop strategies for obtaining financial commitments from our members to support this endeavor, and each member of the congregation will be contacted and offered the opportunity to provide strong support for this project.

Finally, I wish to convey to all of you who read this column that I am strongly committed to these efforts and look forward to working with each and every one of you as we address the challenges of improving our space and increasing our membership.

A Message From Cantor Steve

To the Members of SHS—

My sincere thanks to all of you for your condolences and contributions in memory of my father, Irwin Friedrich.

It is at moments such as these that association with caring members of a community is so deeply appreciated. I am blessed to be a part of the SHS Kehillah.

With great appreciation,
Cantor Steven Friedrich

A Message From the Treasurer Mark Steinberger

As the end of the year approaches, if you would like to take advantage of the recent stock market gains, then call the office to ask for our stock wire transfer instructions and donate appreciated securities to cover your 2016-2017 members dues and Annual Giving obligations! The synagogue also accepts donations now to be immediately recorded against your 2017-2018 obligations.

Take the same tax deduction as cash; conserve your own cash; and beat the capital gains tax!



Mark your calendars for the following **TGIS**habbat Services

December 23

Bob, Dan, & Aaron Blacksberg

January 27

Eliezer Gutman

February 24

Astral Artist Eunice Kim

March 24

TBA

April 28

Yom Ha'atzmut

TBA

May 19

SHS Concert Band



Jennifer Kerstetter
Store Manager
NMLSR #657154

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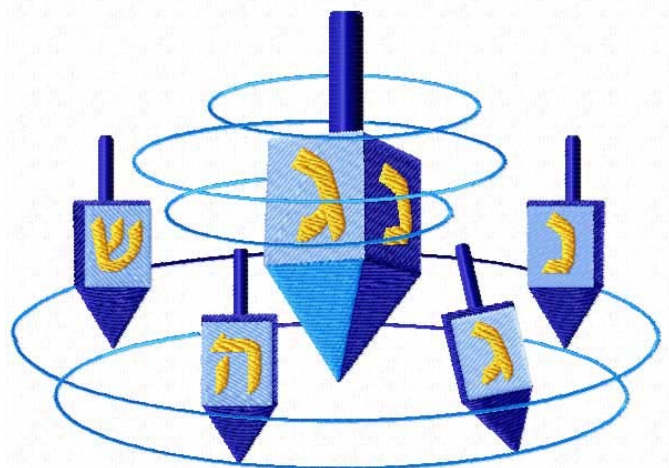
Annual Giving Appeal

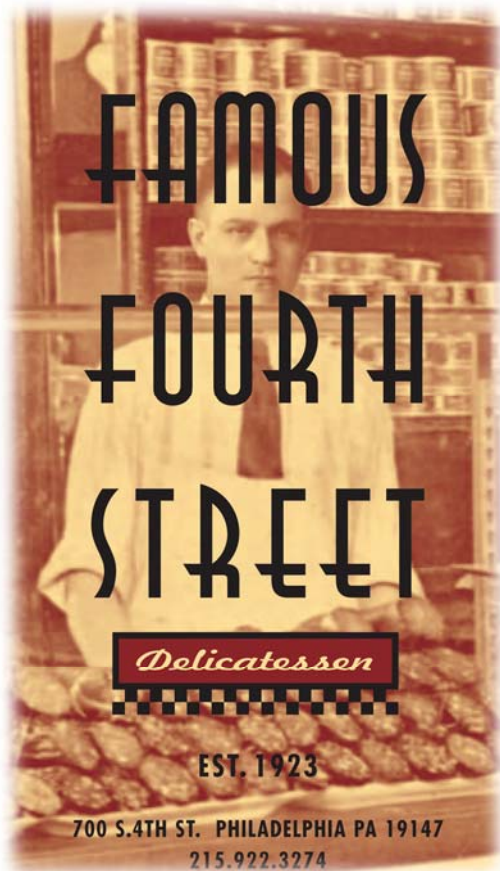
Thank you for your recent contribution to the **SHS Annual Giving Fund** which is vital to the financial health of our Synagogue. Your continued generosity has enabled us to make up the difference between our income from Membership dues and Playschool tuition and our operating expenses.

- Elayne Bloom
- Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
- Tom Borawski & Libby Cone
- Herbert Cohn
- Robert Einhorn
- Dan & Dana Feinberg
- Avi & Debra Galler
- Ric & Carmen Hayman
- Betta Kolansky
- Elliot & Morgan Landes
- Moshe & Orah Mahlab
- Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
- Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fenick
- Barbara Spector
- Amy Steerman & Mary Ann Stover
- Jared Susco & Chris Stearns
- Jack Treatman & Ruth Isaac



 <i>Nun (nes) – Miracle</i>	 <i>Heh (hayah) – Happened</i>	 <i>Gimel (gadol) – Great</i>	 <i>Shin (sham) – There</i>
If <i>Nun</i> is facing up, the spinner does nothing.	If <i>Heh</i> is facing up, the spinner takes half of the pot.	If <i>Gimel</i> is facing up, the spinner wins the whole pot.	If <i>Shin</i> is facing up, the spinner must add a penny to the pot.





Happy Thanksgiving From Our SHS Family to Your Family

*"It may be I am getting old and like too much to dwell,
Upon the days of bygone years, the days I loved so well,
But thinking of them now I wish somehow that I could know,
A simple old Thanksgiving Day, like those of long ago,
When all the family gathered round a table richly spread,
With little Jamie at the foot and grandpa at the head,
The youngest of us all to greet the oldest with a smile,
With mother running in and out and laughing all the while!"*

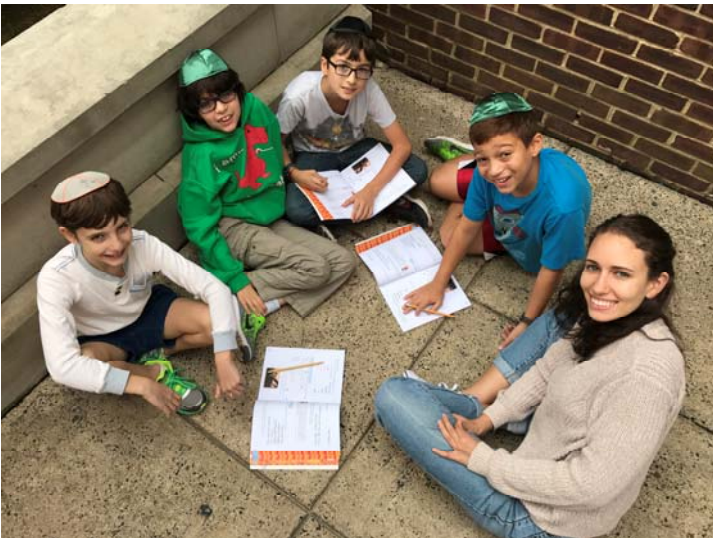




Kitah Gimel (3rd Grade) students enjoy the edible sukkot they created.



Students and teachers with German guest speakers Felicitas, Abel, Marthe, and David from Action Reconciliation Service (ARSP) at our Kristallnacht memorial program.



Students in Kitah Hey (5th Grade) enjoy a Hebrew Lesson on a beautiful autumn day.



SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE

HANUKKAH HAPPENING & PLAYSCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 11, 11 AM – 1 PM



Enjoy festive Hanukkah music with Playschool parent Lauren Krigel and Playschool Drama teacher Vanda Thomas, both of whom are instructors at *The Music Class*. Join SHS Play, Sunday, and Hebrew School families for dreidel games, face-painting, Hanukkah crafts, and cookie decorating. Don't miss your chance to feast on delicious homemade latkes prepared by the famous "SHS Latke Brigade!"

New students and their families will have the opportunity to meet our teachers and speak with Playschool Co-Directors Gloria Parris and Ali Kaplan.

The SHS Playschool offers wonderful, play-based, educational programs for children aged 2 through 5 years old.

Applications for the 2017-18 academic year will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications will be available at the Open House, or you may download a copy from our website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org). Please call the Playschool office (215.922.6590, ext. 28) and

provide your address if you would like to receive a copy in the mail. For further questions, or to RSVP, contact Gloria Parris at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Did we mention...

We will also have yummy chocolate gelt?

Get your picture taken with our very own stuffed potato celebrity, Mr. Latke!

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**



Arts and Culture

We Have Been a Busy Bunch!

Betta Kolansky, Eleanor Oxman, & Ellen Fennick

Here is a recap of the past few exciting, informative, and educational activities organized by the Arts and Culture committee:

On Sunday, September 25, Marty Rosenberg, Professor of Art History at Rutgers, led SHS members on a very interesting private tour of two exhibitions, "George Segal in Black and White: Drawings and Sculptures," and "George Segal in Black and White: Photographs of Donald Lokuta."

On Thursday, October 20, we attended the 1812 Production of *This is the Week That is: The Election Special*. This extremely funny show provided a nice distraction from the tension during the weeks prior to the election.

On Sunday, October 23, Meg Saligman graciously led us on a tour of her most recent installation, "**Our Common Ground**," at the Moore College of Art and Design. This beautiful and creative exhibit was featured at both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

On Friday, November 11, members of the congregation attended a Lecture/Luncheon sponsored by the Rittenhouse Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra featuring Principal Horn, Jennifer Montone. Ms. Montone was especially pleased to meet our group because her child is a student at the SHS Playschool.

Our next event will be an **SHS Open Mic Cabaret**, featuring singers, a "Learn About Judaica" session, and a "bit" of stand up comedy on **Saturday, January 21, at 7 PM**. SHS members are encouraged to come prepared to sing their favorite songs, Auctioneer Barry Slosberg will on hand to appraise Judaica pieces brought from home, and several of our members will tickle our funny bones with jokes (share the best ones you know). It will be

Continued

a night of celebration, showcasing our members' "Jewels" of talent from their homes, hearts, and voices. Refreshments will be served. Stay tuned for further details.

Looking ahead...

On Tuesday, April 11, SHS will host its third annual Pesach Seder in the Social Hall.

Save the date: On Sunday, May 7, at 1 PM, we are organizing a walking tour of Jewish Philadelphia led by noted historian, Rabbi Lance Sussman.

Religion Committee

Check Out the New Transliterated Siddur

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

As your Religion Committee Co-Chairs, we are delighted to report that we have successfully compiled and produced a Transliterated Siddur for Shabbat Morning services!

This new publication is now available for use and will help anyone who is not able to read Hebrew to follow along with the service and join in reciting and singing the prayers by reading the transliterated text. Each transliterated prayer and song lists the specific corresponding page number where it can be found in the blue prayer book, *Siddur Sim Shalom For Shabbat and Festivals*, the liturgy used by our congregation.

We hope this Transliterated Siddur will help more of our members to feel comfortable participating in Shabbat services, thereby enhancing the experience for our entire congregation.



HONORABLE MENSCH-ION

Why Does Staff Appreciation Matter

Betty van de Rijn

Sixty-four percent of Americans who leave their jobs say it is because they didn't feel appreciated.

This astounding statistic sends a clear message about the impact of staff appreciation on employee retention and performance. Letting staff know that you recognize their work and appreciate their efforts results in increased productivity, which in turn leads to reduced absenteeism and safety issues, as well as, fewer mistakes, theft, and carelessness in organizations.

Recognizing employees now by communicating your appreciation for their work will increase loyalty as well as increase employee production. In short, affirming your employees' value now will help you retain them in the future. Staff appreciation is an important part of keeping employees engaged and motivated. However, it doesn't work in a vacuum.

Bob Senick, Sr., Dave Driscoll, Rhonda Bello, Leanne Bendetti, Rob Senick, Jr., and Jessica Salvatore

U.S. Department of Labor

Bottom line, we must continue to create a "culture of gratitude," appreciation, and acknowledgement of our employees' work and an integral part of communication.

Once a year, I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge our amazing staff of employees, who keep Play, Sunday, and Hebrew Schools functioning smoothly and who work hard everyday to ensure that our holiday and regular services are conducted in a clean, safe, and welcoming environment.

Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	Tol'dot 3
					5:15 PM Young Family Group Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Vav Class Service Trudy Rubin Lunch & Learn
4	5	6	7	8	9	Va-yetzei 10
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze with Rabbi		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7:30 PM AE – Who is Maimonides? With Rabbi	Playschool Parent Conferences		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Lillian Shemtov
11	12	13	14	15	16	Va-yishlah 17
9-11 AM SS/HS 11 AM Hanukkah Happening	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:15 PM Winter Break begins 7:30 PM AE – Who is Maimonides? With Rabbi			Playschool Winter Break begins at end of day 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service Immigration Shabbaton	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service
18	19	20	21	22	23	Va-yeishev 24
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM TGIS Shabbat Service Featuring Bob, Dan & Aaron Blacksberg	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study Erev Hanukkah 1 st Candle
25	26	27	28	29	30	Mi-ketz 31
Christmas Building Closed Hanukkah 2 nd Candle	Building Closed Hanukkah 3 rd Candle	7:15 AM Minyan Hanukkah 4 th Candle	Hanukkah 5 th Candle	Hanukkah 6 th Candle	Hanukkah 7 th Candle 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	New Year's Eve Hanukkah 8 th Candle 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services

NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Keshet



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Betty van de Rijn, **Executive Director**
Sahar Oz, **Education Director**
Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan, **Playschool Co-Directors**
Staci Schwartz, **Keshet Editor**

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S KESHER