Kesher

Inside

Messages from:

- 2 3
- Student Rabbi's Column
- · President's Column
- 4 5
- Cantor's Column
- · Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School
- 6 7
- Playschool
- · Nominating Committee
- Arts & Culture
- Inter-NOSH-ional Night
- 8 9
- PIC
- POWER
- · Young Friends of SHS
- 2016-2017 B'nai Mitzvah
- 10 11
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Social Action Committee
- 12 13
- Contributions
- 14 15
- TGIShabbat Schedule
- 16-17
- · Annual Giving Thank you
- Hebrew School Photos
- 18 19
- Photo Gallery
- Purim Carnival
- 20 21
- Young Families Group
- Photo Gallery
- 22 23
- · March/April Calendars





SHS Annual Community Seder

Tuesday, April 11, 6 PM

Come to SHS's Annual Second Night Passover Seder!

Join us in the Social Hall where Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar will lead a creative, fun-filled, and interactive Community Seder on the second night of Passover.

We will be ordering delicious kosher meals from Panache Catering.

(www.foodarama.com)

Cost: \$45 per adult
\$20 per child (under 13)
Fee includes a complete Seder plate for each table.
Bring your own **Kosher for Passover** wine!

RSVPs and payments are REQUIRED by Monday, April 3. Seating may be limited, so please contact the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590 ASAP.

Menu: Gefilte Fish with Horseradish, Chopped Chicken Liver, Apricot Glazed Roasted Chicken or Grilled Salmon, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Carrot Medley, Potato Kugel, Mixed Garden Salad, Pickles, Sour Tomatoes, Olives, Matzah, Assorted Passover Cakes, Cookies, and Fresh Fruit. Seating requests will be honored if possible.

Wishing everyone a sweet and happy Passover!



Student Rabbi's Column How Can We Keep Our Spiritual Tanks Filled? Nathan Kamesar

n these trying times, one of the virtues of being affiliated with a religious institution is that that institution is (or should be) unwaveringly concerned with what it means to be a human being, and particularly with what it takes to ensure that we, as human beings, are not running on

empty—that we are physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually nourished. This enables us to serve others with the urgency that this moment deserves.

So how does a synagogue, for instance, do this? How can it help you to keep your soul nourished so that you can, in turn, help those around you?

In many different ways. And not all of these ways are compatible with all of our spiritual needs.

For some, religion and spirituality are largely matters of thinking: we like to intellectualize our religious experience. For us, the most relevant sites for spirituality might be Torah study or Adult Education classes. We like to theorize, for instance, about why our ancestors would have chosen the specific laws they chose. Why prohibit consuming meat and milk together? Could that have been based on ancient intuitions about health needs? Or was it merely a matter of making ourselves distinct from neighboring peoples? Questions of this nature and the discussions they evoke can have the effect of nourishing our souls, lifting us off the ground, giving us a little hop in our step so that we feel more energized to help folks around us.

For some of us, spirituality takes place in prayer spaces. The liturgy itself, largely focused on grandiosity—sovereignty, celestiality, vastness, immensity—lifts us beyond the mundane we typically encounter and takes us up into the clouds, so to speak, allowing us to feel rejuvenated for the work down below. Alternatively, prayer spaces give us the room to have personal dialogues with God: we may not be entirely clear about who is on the other end of our two-way conversation, but we feel heard. Perhaps we even feel guided. We feel what the <u>Hasidic masters called d'vekut</u> (cleaving to God), and that relationship propels us forward.

For others, perhaps, it's a combination of the two: the traditional liturgy gives us the roadmap to talk to God; someone has provided the script, and we inhabit the character uttering those words. Someone has provided the lyrics and we provide the melody. Talking to God can be daunting otherwise. It can help to travel the road already traveled by our ancestors, even while our own footprints look and feel different.

Finally, with respect to prayer spaces, there are those of us for whom the traditional liturgy is an obstacle to holiness, rather than a vehicle. Ancient idioms about kings alienate us. Talk of angels weirds us out. Still there is something about sharing a physical space with fellow Jews or with friends and family that lifts us to a higher place.

Music is another mode of spirituality for many people. Whether it is the beautiful performances we see once a month here during TGIShabbat services, or the soulful dirge of a High Holy Day melody, or the cheery finale to a Shabbat service like Adon Olam or Ein Keloheinu which brings us back to our childhood, music can lift our spirits. Our ancestors recognized this. It is why so many of the Psalms contain the superscription (first verse) "For the leader, with instrumental music" or words to that effect. It may even be non-Jewish music that does it for you (Ray Charles, Muddy Waters, and Otis Redding all tend to have this effect on me).

The point is to be conscientious about making sure your tank is filled and not assuming that because a particular mode of spirituality doesn't work for you—traditional prayer liturgy, for example—that you are "not a spiritual person."

We often get the sense that self-care is important. To that end we seek out physical fitness routines that feel good; we find foods to nourish us; and we attend to our psychological and emotional needs, finding friends to talk to, or a therapist perhaps. But with the enterprise of self-care seeming all the more central given the levels of social anxiety we encounter, it is important that we not neglect the spiritual element of our well-being.



President's Column
Service and Satisfaction
Harry J. Oxman

ecently a close friend, who is not a member of SHS, asked me whether I found the job of congregation president to be very demanding. I was tempted to ask him if he was joking, but then I remembered that he had been the president of a large suburban congregation and that his question was actually more nuanced. We then had a discussion about the demands of the job, but also about the tremendous opportunities for serving the community and for personal satisfaction that the position makes possible.

So, while I must confess that there are times this job makes more demands of my effort, my time, my thoughts, and my emotional commitment than I originally imagined, I also must admit that on the personal satisfaction side, my expectations have been overwhelmingly exceeded. A big explanation for my good fortune stems from the collective community spirit in our shul. Like other members of this congregation who devote their time and passion to our community, I have been deeply moved by the appreciation and thanks I receive. There is nothing more satisfying, and motivating then to know, by both word and response, that my efforts are realized and appreciated. So, eight months into this first year of my presidential term, I thank you all for your support and promise that I will continue to make every effort to lead this community in meeting the challenges ahead.

Let us look at what has occurred since July 1, 2016, and then I will address plans for the future.

First, Rabbi Winokur is now on a long overdue sabbatical that started at the beginning of February and will continue until the middle of May. The synagogue leadership was well prepared, and together with Student Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, Cantors Friedrich and Friedman, and our outstanding Religion Committee members, our schedule of engaging and spiritually uplifting services will continue without interruption. If you have not heard one of Nathan's D'var Torahs, I recommend that you do so soon. His talks regularly provide deep and interesting insights. I offer my thanks to the SHS membership for the gracious manner in which you are supporting Rabbi Winokur's temporary absence.

As you know, the Cantor Search process is underway. Rather, than showing reluctance to undertake this task so soon after completing a search last year, Co-Chairs Terri Novick and Marc Schwartz, along with the members of their committee, have enthusiastically begun the work necessary to make this new effort successful. Cantor Jessi Roemer had her interview and auditions in January, and we expect to have several more candidates participate in the interview and audition process in March and April. I applaud the congregation's participation in the evaluation of Cantor Roemer and expect an equal level of involvement going forward. Your input is critical and your participation confirms to the leadership that you appreciate the Search Committee's efforts to find the best candidates for this job.

As a result of the current Board's initiative, we established an SHS Past Presidents Advisory Committee. Immediate Past President Debra Stewart chaired the first meeting on January 17, and more than ten past presidents attended. This productive meeting allowed experienced past leaders to share their institutional memory and advice with current Board members. Most inspiring was that so many of our Past Presidents remained dedicated to Society Hill Synagogue. We look forward to scheduling more of these meetings in the future.

In addition to our Cantor Search, we will also be undertaking a search to find a new B'nai Mitzvah Educator. Cantor Friedrich has been working with the Hebrew School students in this capacity, and we will certainly miss his presence and skillful training. Unfortunately, it is not possible for him to continue to travel the substantial distance from his home to perform these duties next year. A search committee has been formed under the leadership of Educational Director Sahar Oz and Education Committee Co-Chairs Carmen Hayman and Sara Chrismer. This group and their respective committee members are dedicated to finding a highly qualified educator for the students in the Hebrew School as they prepare for their B'nai Mitzvah.



Cantor's Column
Join Us for a Noisy
Purim Celebration
Steven Friedrich

any of the customs associated with the celebration of Purim are certainly unique among Jewish

holiday traditions. Purim is, after all, a festive event whose revelries stand out in stark contrast to the formal dignity of most other Jewish holy days. It has been my experience on Purim in many synagogues that the noise level during the reading of the Megillah occasionally rivals the volume of a rock concert.

According to research by Cantor Abraham Binder published in 1949, noisemaking at the mention of the name of Haman dates back to the earliest days of public Megillah readings. Based on Deuteronomy 25:19, Jews are commanded to blot out the name of Amalek (Haman's ancestral tribe), the first enemy of the Jews after they left Egypt. Various noisemaking techniques developed in the Diaspora. East Asian Jews would write the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, then rub them or stamp them on the ground to obliterate Haman's name. It was a common practice of Jews in the Mideast to knock two stones together and stamp their feet at the mention of Haman's name. In Persia, children wearing masks would go from house to house beating drums and collecting food. In Italy, where Jews on Purim would circle around a burning effigy of Haman, trumpets were blown. The practice of using the grogger at the mention of Haman's name, as we know the custom today, goes back to thirteenth-century France and Germany.

Today's grogger is actually a percussion instrument very much related to an instrument called a ratchet found in modern orchestras. It is a combination of two primitive instruments: the bull-roarer and the scraper. The bull-roarer consisted of a long stick at the top of which was attached a string, and at the end of the string was a thin board. When the instrument was twirled, it made a weird noise. The faster it was twirled, the higher the pitch of the noise. The scraper consisted of a notched shell, bone, or gourd, which was scraped with a rigid object. Noisemaking of this kind was an old custom among primitive people at the outgoing and incoming of new seasons, to scare away the evil spirits. (Sounds just like the way New Year's Eve is celebrated in Philadelphia, doesn't it?) Purim, which comes at the beginning of springtime, may have adopted the grogger from similar Gentile practices at this season.



Whatever its origin may actually be, the grogger has survived centuries of use (abuse?) to link it with the shofar as the only primitive Jewish musical instruments to be played into the twenty-first century. However, unlike the shofar, which must be carved from

a ram's horn, the grogger can be formed from any material. I have seen them made out of wood, plastic, aluminum, Popsicle sticks, and tongue depressors, each material having its own unique sound. I for one would be happy to see and hear other kinds of noisemakers. Be creative and come join us in the revelry of Purim. Our celebration this year will take place on Saturday evening, March 11. It is sure to be a noisy night.





Ann Spak Thal School Spring Splendors Sahar Oz

he Talmud teaches us that "when Adar enters, we increase joy" (" משנכנס אדר mand this Adar, we have),

many reasons to rejoice!

We have two B'nai Mitzvah celebrations coming up, with Maxon Raphael's big day on Saturday, March 4, and Lysander Michaels-Koenig's Bar Mitzvah two weeks later on Saturday, March 18. Each service will begin at 9:30 AM, so come experience these seventh graders' achievements in Jewish learning and Torah and Haftarah reading.

On Sunday, March 5, students from grades 6–9 (Kitot Vav–Tet) will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia and join other volunteers to organize and deliver food packages to Jewish neighbors in need of assistance. We have secured a bus to bring our delegation to the JRA and then take us on the delivery route.

Parents are encouraged to join us, and everyone going from our school can either drive on their own to JRA and meet us there at 10 AM or arrive at the synagogue by 9 AM to board the bus. We will return to the synagogue by 1 PM.

Of course, Adar also brings us Purim! The holiday begins on Saturday night, March 11, in the Sanctuary with our *Despicable Me*-themed Purim Cantata at 7 PM, featuring a wonderful cast of 13 students from 3rd through 6th grades. Scotch tasting will follow in the Social Hall at 7:30 PM, with the Megillah "mishegas" reading upstairs in the Sanctuary at 8 PM. Come in costume, and join us for an evening of comedy, music, treats, silliness, and a lot of fun!

The next day, Sunday, March 12, classes for all grades from Pre-K through Hebrew High will meet from 9–11 AM, and then the Purim Carnival festivities will follow from 11 AM–1 PM. Buy your tickets at the door, play the games, and see how many prizes you can win!

On Sunday, April 2, our students in grades 7–9 (Kitot Zayin–Tet) will have the opportunity to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum with fellow Jewish teens who are students at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, and Congregation Kesher Israel. The subsidized registration cost of \$36 per student includes round-trip bus transportation and a Kosher boxed lunch.

We have two Shabbat Class Services set for April, the Gan (Kindergarten) class will help lead services on Saturday, April 8 at 10:30 AM, and Kitah Dalet (4th grade) will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday, April 21 at 6:15 PM. **Note that the 4th grade service has been rescheduled from its original date of March 31.**

Each service will be followed by a delicious meal, with lunch on Saturday and dinner on Friday. To optimize our preparations, we ask for your RSVP for each meal to Betty at least two days before each service: bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org.

There will be no classes from Sunday, April 9 through Tuesday, April 18, in celebration of Passover. When we return to class from the Passover break on Sunday, April 23, students in grades 3 and above will participate in a memorial observance of Yom Hasho'ah (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day).

On Sunday, April 30, we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High. Our older students will precede their celebration with a brief ceremony to mark Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism).

Our faculty and I wish you and your family a happy Purim, a liberating Passover, and a spring season filled with joy and wonder! Hag same 'ah!

See Photos on page 17.



Playschool

The Playschool Is Buzzing With Spring Activities!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

arch begins with the celebration of Purim in the Playschool. Each of the classes will sing Purim songs for their families and invited guests. The children will dress in costumes of their choice, including ones that are traditional to Purim. After each class performance, everyone will have lunch together. On Thursday, March 9, at 10:30 AM, the Pre-Kindergarten class will perform their songs. At 11:30 AM, on Thursday, students in the 3–4-year-old class will perform. On Friday, March 10, at 11 AM, the children in the 2-year-old class will sing the Purim songs that they have learned. All children are invited to participate with their classes, even if Thursdays or Fridays are not their usual days to attend the Playschool.

The Purim Carnival will be held on Sunday, March 12, from 11 AM until 1 PM. All Playschool and Sunday School, and friends are invited to attend this holiday event. Join us in the Social Hall for Purim for games, craft projects, face painting, music, refreshments, and prizes! Children and adults are invited to wear their favorite costumes. We will need adult and Hebrew School the booths, volunteers to run please contact the Playschool office if you would like to help.

On Monday, March 20, at 1 PM, the children in Pre-K will perform the original play, *Flap Your Wings*, adapted from a children's book by P. D. Eastman. The Pre-K will present this play under the direction of their drama teacher, Vanda Thomas. Parents and friends are invited to attend the performance.

On Tuesday, March 21, the children in the 3–4-year-old class will be going on a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to participate in the *Museum Looks and Picture Books* program to tour the Modern Art galleries to learn about Abstract Art.

The Pre-K Class is looking forward to attending a performance of *Skippyjon Jones* at the Walnut Street Theatre on Thursday, April 6.

The Playschool Spring Shabbat Dinner will be held on Friday, April 7, from 5–6:30 PM. All Playschool families are invited to attend this potluck dinner. The children will recite the blessings that they have learned during our weekly Shabbat celebrations. Shabbat Dinners are always a wonderful way to celebrate and welcome Shabbat with

The Playschool will be closed from Monday, April 10 through Tuesday, April 18, for Passover.

Upcoming special presentations in our After School Arts will include a music program performed by the students of *Play on Philly at St. Francis De Sales School*, on Thursday, March 2. On Tuesday, April 4, the children will learn about dinosaurs and fossils, and each child will take home their very own fossil. We hope that all of the children will extend their Playschool days by attending these exciting programs.

Summer camp information and applications will be available soon. The Playschool Summer Camp will begin on Monday, June 5, and extend through Friday, July 28. Children, between the ages of 2 and 5 may be enrolled for the full 8-week program, weekly, or daily. The regular camp hours are 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Early care begins at 7:45 AM. After Camp Arts and Late Care until 6 PM will also be available.

This is the second summer that the Playschool will present two Specialty Camps during the weeks of July 31 and August 7. All projects and activities will focus on a weekly theme. Children between the ages of 3 and 7 may be enrolled during either or both weeks of Specialty Camp.

Finally, there are still a few class spots remaining for the upcoming school year beginning in September 2017. Please make an appointment to visit our classes to learn why the Playschool is a wonderful "first-school experience" for children.

Board of Directors Nominating Committee

Debra Stewart

s Chair of the 2017 SHS Board of Directors Nominating Committee, I am pleased to inform you that joining me on this year's committee are the following members: Sara Chrismer, Lisa Eizen, Fran Gallun, and Michael Yudell. We look forward to recommending strong candidates for any vacant Board seats.

Arts & Culture

Join Us for the Second Night Passover Seder on April 11!

Eleanor Oxman, Betta Kolansky, & Ellen Fennick

here was an amazing turnout at our first SHS Cabaret on January 21. A huge thank you is extended to Sahar Oz, our emcee for an evening packed with jokes and singing. For any of you who don't know, Sahar is a comedian extraordinaire and had us rolling on the Social Hall floor as he provided us with a brief history of Jewish humor. Take a look at some of the photos from the night of talent on pages 18 & 21.

Several people joined us in the Social Hall on February 4, for Israeli dancing with Rak-Dan. Don Schillinger was an excellent and patient instructor and we all had a good workout to some wonderful Israeli music.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 11, when we will have our annual Second Night



Passover Seder in the Social Hall. Check out the cover for all of the details and RSVP ASAP to ensure your spot at the table!

Finally, we hope you will join us on Sunday, April 30, at 1 PM, when Rabbi Lance Sussman, historian of American Jewish History, college professor, and the Senior Rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, will lead a walking tour of Jewish South Philly. The

tour will begin at SHS with stops at Kesher Israel, B'nai Abraham, Fabric Row, the Hebrew Literature Society, and Catharine Street. The tour will run for about 2 hours and will cover

approximately 2.5 miles in distance. The fee will be \$10 per person.

SHS Inter-**NOSH**-ional Night Amy Shapiro

ts' time for SHS's Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night on Saturday, April 22, at 7 PM! The attendance fee is \$54 per person, and all proceeds will benefit this year's Annual Giving Fund. If space permits, this event will also open to non-members.

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

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

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



Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC)

The Intersection of Medicine & Religion

Debra Stewart

ow do medical facilities and other health care settings accommodate the religious needs of people of different faiths?

Join us on Tuesday, March 28, 7—9 PM, at Old St. Joseph's Church (located at 321 Willings Alley) when SHS member Linda Joy Goldner and others will share their Chaplaincy experiences. Don't miss what is sure to be an interesting conversation.

POWER

Carl Levitsky

ince the election, POWER has been active dealing with the changes at the state and federal level. Many in the organization, both in the leadership and among the members, have been searching for ways to respond to threats to the goals toward which we have been working. We are concerned about public education being attacked both at the state and federal levels, and our fight for a livable wage for airport workers and city employees must be protected.

On MLK day on January 16, we participated in a march from Sixth and Market Streets to Mother Bethel Church, located at Sixth and Lombard. A few thousand people, including many SHS members, gathered to hear impassioned speakers talk about protecting workers' rights, refugee and immigrants' rights and fighting minority oppression. The afternoon concluded with a stirring benediction by Rabbi Winokur.

POWER itself has undergone significant changes in its leadership. The new executive director is Reverend Gregory Holston, a force of energy, who is leading the organization toward focusing on the current issues for which we must aggressively continue to fight.

We hope congregants will continue to support our efforts to promote equality, fair funding for our public schools, an end to racism, and compassionate treatment for refugees fleeing war and oppression. If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact me (Carl Levitsky) at at <a href="mailto:mailto



The Young Friends of SHS Stay Tuned for Our Spring Activities

Natalie Lesser & Jordan Segall

The Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue are a group of individuals who are creating a community that fosters Jewish identity, culture, and friendship. We meet for potluck dinners, pre-Shabbat drinks, and discussions about spiritual exploration.

For further information or to join our mailing list, please contact Co-Chairs: Natalie Lesser at lesser.natalie@gmail.com or Jordan Segall at segall.jordan@gmail.com.

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



301 Bainbridge St, Philadelphia, PA 19147 PH: 215-925-7330 Fax: 215-925-7331 www.queenvillagefamilydentistry.com

President's Column

Continued from page 3

Finally, I would like to discuss the status of the Space Enhancement Initiative. I strongly advocate that our community should begin the process of putting into place the plans for us to be able to renovate our current space and expand into our property at 430 Spruce. Jeremey Newberg and Jonathan Weiss are leading us toward our goals. Immediately following the TGIShabbat service on February 24, preliminary plans and ideas were presented and discussed. We look forward to your feedback. Although, we have hard work ahead of us, the effort to date has been strong and positive. More specifics will be forthcoming over the next several months as we start the exciting next phases of the process.

As always, I invite all of you to contact me (hjoxman@comcast.net) at any time to discuss your thoughts and observations.

2016-2017 SHS B'nai Mitzvah Celebrations

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

Community News

Mazel Tov to

Mel Nasielski and Nancy Burd on the engagement of their daughter, Katharine Burd Nasielski to Benjamin Kurland.

David and Sayde Ladov on the recent marriage of their daughter, Hillary Ladov to Marc Gutstein.

Holman and Gail Massey on the birth of their grandson, Asa Wilder Massey.

Condolences to

Bruce (Carol) Katcher on the death of Bruce's mother, Miriam Katcher.

H.P. and Debbie Baker on the death of their mother, Liesel Baker.

Bonni (Jerry Faich) Rubin-Sugarman on the death of Bonni's father, Larry Rubin.

Welcome to

Cindy Farlino Meyer and Judy Rohtbart



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Theodore Danoff

Joshua Cooper

Libby Rosof

Sadie Margolin

Lily Newman

Maxon Raphael

Benjamin Brookstein

Isabella Brookstein

Raphael Englander

Mayah Gold

Linda Rosenstein

Amy Finkel

Daniel Horowitz

Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Toni Pitock

Diane Siegel Danoff

Charlotte Yudell

Alan Casnoff

Marjorie Goldstein

Rachel Ladenson

Lysander Michaels-Koenig

Richard Braemer

Jonah Cohen

Ronald Krasnick

Sara Steinbock

Raphael Licht

Charlotte Rotter

Amy Shapiro

Jeremey Newberg

Anita Stein

Dinah Lovitch

Eloise Wilson

Charlotte Coran

Margot Englander

Jacqueline Goldfinger

Noah Herman

Staci Schwartz

Benjamin Kauderwood

Odilia Kirshenbaum

Mira Treatman

Amalya Wolf Weiss

Susan Berman

Nancy Moses

. Sophie Coran

Sally Gendler

Sally Genulei

Eleanor Oxman

Risa Stolker

Nina Datlof

Carole Le Faivre-Rochester

Louis Golding

Elliot Landes

Megan Weisman

Stephanie Wolson

Drew Cohen

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Richard Summers

Olivia Coran

Morgan Landes

Susan Leshnoff

Hyla Rosenberg

Leah Jordan

Alan Casper

Steve Graham

Robert Blacksberg

Natalie Lesser

Alan Ominsky

Barbara Rottenberg

Greyson Sobel

Zachary Downes

Isaac Freedman

Gerry Schneeberg

Evelyn Segal

Harry Feinberg

Ashleigh Reibach

Stella Wolson

Jessica Downes

William Goldberg

Brian Englander

Kathy Bernsten

Stephen Brown

- 0 1

Evan Cohen

Hannah Davidson

Meredith Buse

Ella Gutstadt

Mary Fish

Ruth Greenberg

Bruce Katcher

Michael Raphael

Adina Zalesne Siff

Jonathan Freitag

Bruce Hirsch

Derek Jordan

Iris Levine

Isabella Sobel

Richard Balderston

Emma Graham

Esme Oxman

Deborah Shapiro

Scott Siff

Thomas Borawski

Hope Honeyman

Nancy Machinist

Jessica Mono

Rafael Dov Winokur

Beverly Michaels

Luke Makuen

Carl Levitsky

Murray Dubin

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

David & Rebecca Makuen

Scot & Marcie Ziskind

Arthur & Miriam Shapiro

Michael Yudell & Jacquie Rick

Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Bruce & Carol Katcher

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

Continued on page 11

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

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE
PERSONALIZED CARE

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

1015 CHESTNUT STREET SUITE 1518 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

(215) 955-8706

Fax (215) 955-8509

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.org for more information.

Social Action

We Are Making Progress With Two of Our Objectives

Phyllis Denbo

Vare-Washington Elementary School

t was really hopping at the Vare-Washington library on Martin Luther King Day! Almost forty SHS members of all ages showed up to help organize and shelve books. Early arrivals sat at tables assigning grade levels to the books. Families arriving later took responsibility for placing the books on the appropriate shelves. Under the able leadership of Flora Wolf, the volunteers worked efficiently, collaboratively, and with good humor. When they began, there were boxes and boxes of books on the floor and individual books scattered randomly wherever there was space. Three hours later, the boxes were gone and the books were neatly arranged by grade level and subject matter. It looked like a real library! I want to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm.

The biweekly reading program at the library continues to be a favorite activity for all of the students in grades K-4, as well as for the volunteers. Beginning in March, a class of autistic students will also be spending an hour in the library every other week, listening to volunteers read stories and then selecting books to check out and read at home. If you wish to volunteer at Vare-Washington, please contact me at prdenbo@gmail.com.

Immigration

The Social Action Committee has had two meetings since the very successful December Shabbaton on Immigration. We decided to take on the important job of advocating for immigration/refugee support. Jordan Segall has agreed to lead this effort. He will keep track of relevant legislation

and related activities, inform the SHS community of proposed/actionable items, and provide guidance when phone calls and emails to our legislators are needed. We are continuing to explore other related activities and will be reaching out to the congregation shortly for input. What programs do we want to make our own? To what extent are we willing to commit ourselves? Stay tuned for further information.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Continued from page 10

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



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



Center:

Rehabilitation

Post-Hospital Care Outpatient Open to Public

LIONS GATE
Lifestyle. Care. Community. Tradition.

Inspiring (Nellness!

Phone: 1-856-782-1200 • www.lionsgateccrc.org

1110 Laurel Oak Road • Voorhees, New Jersey



General Fund

In Honor of

Society Hill Synagogue

Stanley Levy

In Memory of

Elsa Kolansky, Mother of Betta Kolansky

Miriam Katcher, Mother of Bruce Katcher

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger Elliott & Susan Schaffer Bob & Jane Belopolsky

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Adam Levv

Joseph & Dorene Rosenthal

Belle Mandell Fodor, Mother of Alexis Berg Marmar

Alexis Berg Marmar & Joel Marmar

Natalie Smith, Aunt of Alexis Berg Marmar

Alexis Berg Marmar & Joel Marmar

Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn

Herbert Cohn

Louis Blender, Father of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Margot Oxman

Dan & Dana Feinberg

In Memory of

Elsa Kolansky, Mother of Betta Kolansky

Dan & Dana Feinberg

Restoration Fund

In Honor of

Harry & Eleanor Oxman's Granddaughter, Margot Oxman **Becoming a Bat Mitzvah**

Iris Levine

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Social Action Fund

In Honor of

Birth of Tema Henya Elitzer, Granddaughter of Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Harry & Eleanor Oxman, Granddaughter

Margot's Bat Mitzvah

Larry & Shelia Burtstein

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Herb Weissbach, Father of Debbie Weissbach

Debbie Weissbach

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of

Terry Novick

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Saligman

Peter and Meg Saligman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Hy Blask, Uncle of Judith Woloff

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Henry Blask, Father of Judith Woloff

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Kindness Extended to Kolansky Family

Betta Kolansky

In Honor of

Baby Naming of Shayna Heere, Granddaughter of

Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Saligman

Peter and Meg Saligman

In Memory of

Elsa Kolansky, Mother of Betta Kolansky

Betta Kolansky

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Isadore Goldenberg, Father of Marc Goldenberg

Marc & Nancy Goldenberg

Ruth Blask, Mother of Judith Woloff

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Pauline Schertz Rosen, Mother of Pelley Brown

Stephen & Pelley Brown

Ann Isacoff, Mother of Judy Gelles

Judy Gelles

Beatrice K. Chernock, Mother of Joel Chernock

Joel Chernock

Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Honor of

SHS Hebrew School

Tal & Valerie Pipano and Family

Holman & Gail Massey on the birth of their grandson, Asa.

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

David & Sayde Ladov on the recent marriage of their daughter

Hillary to Marc Gutstein.

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming TGIShabbat Services



Friday, March 24

oin us on Friday, March 24, 6:15 PM, for a TGIShabbat service featuring internationally acclaimed saxophonist and artist Jonathan recording Wintringham. Mr. Wintringham has given recitals, master classes and residencies, and has collaborated composers, well-known with throughout the United States, Canada, China, England, Japan,

and Mexico. A recipient of multiple awards and the winner of a multitude of competitions, Mr. Wintringham is currently the soprano saxophone chair of the awardwinning chamber ensemble, the East End Quartet, which will release its debut album in the fall of 2016, featuring the music of J.S. Bach, Michael Djupstrom, Jun Nagao, Astor Piazzolla, and more. Wintringham holds a Master of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Arizona. He received the University of Arizona's Undergraduate Research Grant and the Eastman School of Music's Professional Development Grant, and has performed significant research involving the role of saxophone in Japan, including a six-month Tokyo based investigation into the inner workings of the collegiate training systems and musical cultures of Japan.

Friday, April 28



oin us to celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) at a special TGIShabbat service on April 28 at 6:15 PM, featuring award-winning active recitalist and cham-

ber musician Nitzan Haroz, Principal Trombone of the Philadelphia Orchestra and a native of Israel. Having Nitzan join us for this celebration of Israel through Shabbat spirituality, world-class sound, and Sabra soul has become one of our favorite SHS traditions. At the Federation's request, we will be live-streaming the service to senior centers and communities throughout Greater Philadelphia, thus bringing the ru'ah (spirit) of Society Hill Synagogue to the entire region!

Mr. Haroz has performed as Assistant Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic, Principal Trombone of the Israel Symphony and Opera Orchestra.

Continued on page 14

Kiddush Fund

Michael Davidson & Christy Reardon
Jonathan Freitag & Sara Shelley
David & Sayde Ladov
Jeremey & Fran Newberg
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Peter & Meg Saligman
Barry & Joann Slosberg
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Bill & Debbie Stewart

Tree of Life

Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Leaves In Honor of

Birth of Sosi Shelley, Daughter of Jonathan Freitag & Sara Shelley SHS Board of Directors

Marriage of Dana Roen to Louis Backover
Alexandra Rosen's Graduation from Newhouse School at
Syracuse University
Paul & Wendy Rosen's 30th Wedding Anniversary
Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Rosen
Marriage of Jennifer Rosen to Michael Raphael
Bar Mitzvah of Maxon Raphael
Paul & Wendy Rosen

Branch

Paul & Wendy Rosen



Student Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

Oftentimes, it's the language itself that gets in the way. The word "God" has been used and misused in so many different ways that it can carry little meaning for us, at best, or be full-on alienating, at worst. For me, the word "God" is a stand-in. Just as in Parashat Ki Tissa we read that God tells even Moses that he cannot glimpse God's face, for it is too powerful, for me, I recognize that fully grasping who or what God is is futile. And yet I can feel my heart yearning, searching for That Which Escapes Encapsulation in a Mere Word. "God" or "Adonai" or the many Hebrew words we have devoted to this endeavor serve as a means of providing a common template, so we can engage in this search together—with those who came before us, with those who will be here after us, and with our friends, family, and community today. Just as we recognize that no physical manifestation can fully represent God, neither can a verbal or linguistic one.

All this is to say that we should not let the limits of our idiom be an impediment to our search for meaning, to our search for truth, and to our search for nourishment.

If we are to be our brothers' keepers, our sisters' keepers, as our tradition implores us, it is important that we tend to our spiritual needs in the same way we might tend to our physical and emotional needs. It is important that we embody what it means to be of the people Israel—wrestling with, grappling with, engaging with "EI." God. Whatever that means to us.

Here at SHS, we hope to continue the conversation of how we can keep each other's spiritual tanks filled: how we can meet the wide range of individual spiritual constitutions—be they intellectual, liturgical, musical, or otherwise—and not assume that spirituality looks the same to everyone. To paraphrase the inimitable words of Jerry Maguire, help us help you. Help us continue to understand how we can build a space that allows us to feel rejuvenated for the important work to come.

Upcoming TGIShabbat Services

Continued from page 13

Principal Trombone of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and First Trombone of the Israel Defense Forces Orchestra. Nitzan Haroz rejoined the Philadelphia Orchestra as Principal Trombone (which included his Carnegie Hall solo debut) in 2014 after holding the same position with the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2012.

He has commissioned and premiered several works for trombone and harp with his mother, harpist Adina Haroz, and has given master classes and recitals in Israel, the U.S., Europe, and Asia. His recording, *Towards the Light*, was released in 2004. Nitzan currently serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

The service will be followed by a delicious Israeli dinner, and RSVPs to Betty (bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org) are requested by Wednesday, April 26. The service and dinner are open to the entire community, and this TGIShabbat celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut is generously supported in part by an Israel Cultural Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

At a Glance Dates

Purim Celebration Saturday, March 11

7 PM Cantata 7:30 PM Scotch Tasting 8 PM Megillah Reading

The celebration will continue...

with SHS's

Annual Purim Carnival

Join us on Sunday, March 12, 11 AM to 1 PM

Adult Education

Two New Spring Courses

Marc Schwartz

ust a reminder that in addition to our year-long courses like Shabbat Study With Rabbi Berman, Nuts & Bolts With Rabbi Winokur (now with Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar), and I See Bagels in Your Future: Prophecy, Kingship, & Cream Cheese with Rafi Licht, we have two new spring courses beginning soon.

How Does One Become Part of the Jewish People?

Dates: Wednesdays 3/1, 3/1, 3/15, & 3/22

Time: 7:30-9 PM

Faculty: Advanced Standing Rabbinical Student Birgit Klein

Location: Beit Midrash

Fee: No charge

In his recently published book, American Post-Judaism: Identity and Renewal in a Post-ethnic Society, Shaul Magid discusses alternative methods of conversion to become part of the Jewish people. Indeed, the biblical "stranger." Ruth—who was integrated into the Jewish people and became a famous role model for converts—never formally converted to Judaism. Only rabbinic Judaism developed a conversion ritual that still serves as the outline for today's conversion to Judaism. Thus, the way in which "strangers" were and are integrated into Judaism and the Jewish Community reflects the criteria of belonging to Judaism and Jewish core values. In this class, we will analyze and discuss these criteria and values, as well as the different pathways of conversion over the centuries since ancient times.

The Amidah: What We Say, Why We Say It, and What Else We Could Be Saying

Dates: Wednesdays 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, & 5/10

Time: 7–8:30 PM

Faculty: Rabbinic Intern Nathan Kamesar

Location: Beit Midrash

Fee: No charge

One of the paradigmatic Jewish prayers is the Amidah, said morning, noon, and night—with variations from weekdays to Shabbat to holidays. But why has it become so important? Where does it come from? And what are we truly saying when we say it? The weekday version is one of the most complex, multifaceted human prayers our tradition has to offer with blessings as varied as a plea for sustenance and health to hopes that our enemies don't prosper to blessings of gratitude. We take a close look at this prayer as a means of furthering our own spiritual growth and of wrestling with our tradition to gain new meaning for our own lives.



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

March 24

Jonathan Wintrigham

April 28

Yom Ha'atzmut Nitzam Haroz

May 19

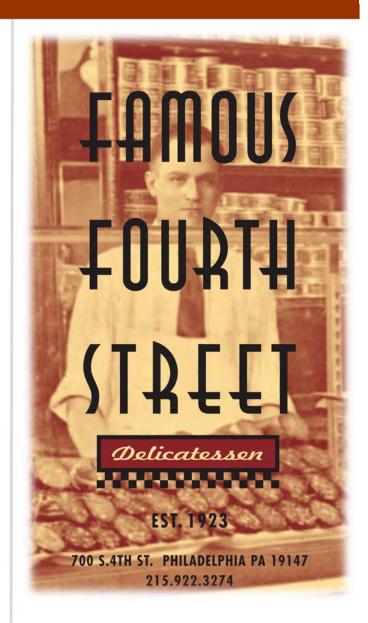
TBA

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.

Jud Aaron & Susan Snedden
Judith Axler
Dan & Dana Feinberg
Steve Graham & Amy van de Rijn-Graham
Don & Karen Kaufman
Iris Levine
Michael & Jennifer Raphael
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Irving & Sharon Shapiro
Bill & Debra Stewart
James & Julie Wilson
Avi Winokur & Susan Berman
Stanley & Judy Woloff







Jennifer Kerstetter Store Manager NMLSR #657154 833 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215.829.8301
Fax: 215.829.8305
Cell: 609.440.5543
jkerstetter@myrepublicbank.com
myrepublicbank.com



Hebrew School students enjoy a variety of Israeli dances as part of the monthly Israeli culture series called "Ketzev: The Rhythm of Israeli Culture." This series explores Israeli slang, short stories, dancing, pop/rock music, history, heroes, and national symbols with an exciting multimedia approach.



CABARET NIGHT









MLK Day at Vare-Washington Elementary School













Young Families Group

Join Us on March 3 for a JKidPhilly Center City Event!

Joanna Hart

We're going CITYWIDE with our next *Friday Nights with Young Families* program! **On Friday, March 3, from 5:15 until 7 PM, SHS will host a** *JKidPhilly Center City* **official event!** Join us as we welcome families from around Philadelphia to celebrate with us during the special and creative new service we've created for young families. Let's show our larger Jewish community how special and welcoming our synagogue can be!

Geared especially towards families with babies and kids through Pre-K, we celebrate Shabbat with song, dance, prayers, including our own special Kiddush. The program runs 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.

Following our musical and relaxed service, we will share a meatless potluck dinner. Bring a dish (main, side, or dessert) or drink to share, if you are able. As always, families with new babies and/or who have had particularly busy weeks are excused from contributing to the feast, and we will just be grateful for your presence.

Mark your calendars for the other dates for which the *Friday Nights With Young Families* program is scheduled: May 5 and June 2. Please RSVP to Joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com if your family plans to attend, but feel free to join us even if you don't!

On another note, we hope you will continue to take full advantage of our book collection outside the main Sanctuary, as well as the child care services that are available during regularly scheduled Shabbat services.

To join our email list, please contact me at the above address. Prospective members, expectant parents, and any caretakers are welcome to join our group

Come check out what this fun service is all about!



More photos from Cabaret Night







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			7 PM Education Committee Mtg. 7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein	2	5:15 PM Young Families Service 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	T'rumah 4 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Maxon Raphael
5 9 AM SS 11 AM HS	6	7 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:15 PM Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein	9	6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	T'zavveh 11 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study 7 PM Cantata 7:30 PM Scotch Tasting 8 PM Megillah Reading
Purim 12 9-11 AM SS/HS 11 AM to 1 PM Purim Carnival	7 PM ECM	14 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein	16	17 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Ki Tissa 18 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Lysander Michaels-Koenig
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Nathan Kamesar 11 AM HS 11:15 AM I See Bagels with Rafi Licht	20	21 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7:30 PM Adult Education with Birgit Klein	23	6:15 PM TGIShabbat Service featuring Astral Artist Jonathan Wintrigham	Va-yak hel/ P'kudei 25 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
9 AM SS 11 AM HS	27 7 PM BDM	28 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	29	30	31 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Va-yikra 1 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 12 PM B/M Parent Class with Cantor	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	5	6	7 5 PM Playschool Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Tzav 8 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Gan Class Service & Lunch
Building Closed	Erev Pesah Building Closed 1 st Seder	Pesah I Office/PS Closed 9:30 AM Service 6 PM Community Passover Seder	Pesah II Building Closed	13	14 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Hol Hamoed 15 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
Head of the Building Closed	Pesah VII Building Closed	Pesah VIII Office/PS Closed 9:30 AM Service with Yiskor	7 PM Adult Education with Nathan Kamesar	20	6:15 PM Dalet Class Service & Dinner	Sh'mini 22 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
Yom Hashoah 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM I See Bagels	24 7 PM BDM	25 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Adult Education with Nathan Kamesar	27	6:15 PM TGIShabbat featuring Nitzan Haroz	Tazria/M'tzora 29 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Shabbat Study
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS Arts & Culture Walking Tour of Center City						

NEWSLETTER—MARCH/APRIL 2017 ISSUE

Kesher



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

Avi Winokur, Rabbi
Nathan Kamesar, Rabbinic Intern
Steven Freidrich, Interim Cantor
Harry Oxman, President
Betty van de Rijn, Executive Director
Sahar Oz, Education Director
Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan, Playschool Co-Directors
Staci Schwartz, Kesher Editor

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S **KESHER**