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### President's Column

#### Past and Future

Harry J. Oxman

In my last column, I asked all of you to mark your calendars for the Annual Congregation meeting that was held on Wednesday, May 24. Unfortunately, a number of you were either engaged in other conflicting activities or forgot to follow my request. I will, therefore, use a portion of this column to bring attention to several of the announcements that were made at that meeting.

First, I am pleased to inform you that the Cantor search was completed and Hazzan Jessica Roemer is SHS's new Cantor. She is well known to many of our congregants through her previous work within the synagogue related to our children's and family services. She will commence her official duties on July 8, but she has already been meeting with several members of the staff and leadership since early June. The Board of Directors, as well as many members who have previously worked with Hazzan Jessi, are extremely pleased that she will become such an important part of our synagogue life. I believe that she is the right fit for our congregation and will look forward her exciting and spiritual contributions. Again, I extend my deep appreciation to the entire Cantor Search Committee, led by Co-Chairs, Terry Novick and Marc Schwartz. Their job over the last two years has been demanding and, at times, extremely difficult, but their dedication has paid off because we were lucky enough to hire Hazzan Jessi.

Second, I announced that after several years of consecutive increases in dues and fees at Society Hill Synagogue, the dues and fees for next year will remain exactly the same. Further, we plan to establish a Reserve Fund with any income surplus over the course of the next fiscal year—an important and fiscally responsible step the leadership feels we should take. In addition to careful financial management, our 2016-2017 budgetary success can be attributed to improved Playschool enrollment. Increased programming, lengthening of the school day, and outstanding efforts from the Playschool staff under the direction of Committee Co-Chairs Lisa and Susan Eizen have resulted in larger numbers of students and increased income. Continued Playschool success is anticipated for the coming year based upon the current demands for enrollment.

Third, I shared the progress of our Space Enhancement and Fundraising Committee activities. While there continues to be refinement of the Space Improvement Plan, the fundraising component has begun to take meaningful and significant shape. Preliminarily, we already have 100% participation from the Board of Directors. As I write this article, including the Board contributions plus those of other lay leaders, we have raised slightly in excess of \$292,000. While I view this as a good start, it goes without saying that we must now move forward to reach out to all of our Past Presidents and to personally ask each and every congregant for a generous gift to the campaign. When you are contacted by a member from the Fundraising Committee, please agree to meet with that person(s) promptly so that your help and involvement can be discussed. The cooperation and generosity of our congregants will ultimately determine the success of our efforts. Please remember that we are all in this together.

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## Rabbi's Column

### The Balance Between Relaxation & Responsibility

Avi Winokur

**F**or some time, without even noticing it, I have been in the middle of a spiritual crisis. It is not a crisis of faith. My faith is not shaken. But I find myself relatively uninterested in spiritual growth, strength, and resilience in these times, when in fact the need is great. I am much more eager to engage in straightforward activism—such as going up to Harrisburg to advocate for educational funding. When I look at the issues we face surrounding class and race, health care, the environment, mass incarceration, job loss, and the hollowing out of middle America, my level of agitation focuses my concentration on activism related to these issues.

There is nothing inherently wrong about concentrating my energy on social justice issues, and many may applaud it. But I'm out of balance. I suspect that I am not the only one, and I suspect that I am not the only one to suppress consciousness of this nagging issue. For some, it is a single-minded pursuit of career objectives at the cost of real time with family. For others, it is the opposite: a single-minded devotion to parenting or to caring for someone ill or elderly. In each of these scenarios, what is shortchanged is the personal and often the interpersonal. Ironically, even while caring for and engaged with another, the interpersonal is often compromised. There is now a mini-industry on care for the caregiver. (See, e.g., [caringforthecaregiver.org](http://caringforthecaregiver.org).)

It's not about taking time to smell the roses; it's not a quick fix. I have a spiritual practice and have for many years now. But I'm investing less in it. I'm taking it less seriously even as I engage in it. Not surprisingly, it is less effective.

In order to regain a semblance of balance, I need to enrich it. I need a boost, maybe a day retreat every now and then. Maybe it's taking time to find a quiet place out of doors, things that can enhance and deepen the practice, or maybe a coach who is more skillful and has greater wisdom than I.

While the time squeeze is a real issue, it is also the quality issue that many of us face. The career person can spend time with family, but the quality of the time may not be as deep and meaningful as it could be. The caregiver may shortchange his or her other relationships or not take enough time for his or her own development.

In fact, I did not realize that I was out of balance until I began to write the original draft of this message, and I suspect that I am not alone—both in being out of balance and in suppressing that knowledge. Even a cursory look at the literature indicates that lack of balance is endemic to our society: from two of the ur-books on the subject—Juliet B. Schor's 1991 book, *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure*, and Arlie Russell Hochschild's 1997 book, *Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*—to Brigid Schulte's 2014 work, *Overwhelmed: How to Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time*, and many more. Just perusing the titles tells a disquieting story.

It's summer, a time to relax, but it can also be a time for leisurely reflection: thinking about the big picture, taking the measure of things. I find that thinking about the things in my life that are out of whack, off-kilter, is actually more relaxing than the hidden cost of avoiding difficult questions. Among other things, avoidance expresses itself even when I'm unaware of it by a nagging disquiet—almost a low-level static or interference that I notice only when I allow myself the time to pay attention.

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## Student Rabbi's Message

### Allowing for the Fullness of Human Experience

Nathan Kamesar

Summer can be a slow few months. For the team sports fans among us, baseball is the lone shrubbery in a dry landscape. And with the Phillies season what it is, well, the terrain feels especially arid. Meanwhile, Jewishly, too, the landscape feels a bit barren at first glance. We have come down from the high of Passover, commemorating our Exodus from Egypt, which culminated in a dairy-filled Shavuot holiday, celebrating the receipt of our sacred Torah.

Far on the horizon are the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, where we wake from our proverbial slumber to the sound of the shofar blast, performing our internal accounting, examining ourselves to determine where we missed the mark, whom we might have hurt, what sorts of t'shuvah (colloquially, repentance) we need to make. This is followed by the Sukkot holiday, where, in booths, we celebrate. We celebrate the plenty in our lives, feeling buoyed in the aftermath of the hard spiritual work we have just completed.

So what do we do with these summer months? Well, history has filled that void, providing us with an opportunity, tragic as it may be. As many of us know, summer is when we commemorate Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. This is the day on which it is said *both* iterations of our holy Temple were destroyed. Remember that the first temple, said to have been built by King Solomon, was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, while the second was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. (For a particularly visceral and rich narration of the latter, check out the prologue in Simon Sebag Montefiore's *Jerusalem: The Biography*.) Tradition went on to hold that such tragic events as the expulsion from Spain in 1492, and pogroms in Ukraine in 1648, took place on that same date. To honor this day, tradition holds that we abstain from daily pleasures such as eating and drinking, and even abstain from the joyous study of Torah, focusing instead on heavier texts like Lamentations, Job, and Jeremiah. (For those of you looking for an excuse *not* to spend your day reading Leviticus, you've got one.)

So why do I call this an opportunity? I believe the Rabbis who instituted this day of mourning understood something profound about the human condition—that we need to create time and space in our lives for acknowledging loss. For feeling pain. For bereavement.

This is not to say we strive to be a people that chains ourself to the dead or to the past. Our people's embrace of life is effectively encapsulated in our toast: "L'chayim! To Life!" Much of our tradition focuses on celebration and embracing life.

But part of life *is* pain, *is* loss. To sweep these all-too-human experiences under the rug misses an opportunity. Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, a prominent 18th Century Hasidic rebbe, taught often of the opportunity to discern sparks of holiness in times of difficulty. To light a candle rather than curse the darkness (a paraphrase of a saying from another tradition). By carving out time in our days or years to focus on those difficulties, to focus on that pain, we give oxygen, light, to the full range of human experience, allowing difficulties to heal. Our heart bursts, he seems to suggest, at the fullness of human experience.

Perhaps this is particularly so when this reflection is done within the confines of a tradition that calls on our fellow human beings to support us while we mourn, or, in the case of Tisha B'Av, to mourn a collective tragedy. As my colleague Rabbi Linda Potemkin writes, "Just as the time frames placed on mourning practices such as shiva and sh'loshim [30 days of restrictions on participating in celebrations after the loss of a loved one] help us to mourn and move on, this annual container [of Tisha B' Av] invites us to remember and grow from these historical tragedies without becoming stuck in ongoing grief or mourning. A vessel for grief becomes a vessel for healing and for transformation."

Continued on page 7



## Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Bobby

Betty van de Rijn

As many of you know by now, our staff member, Bobby Senick, has been diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. Bobby is a beloved and devoted employee, and for the past few months, Playschool, Sunday, and Hebrew School kids have missed seeing his smiling face when they enter and leave the building. As is often the case, we don't appreciate the impact someone has on making our synagogue the warm and well-run place it is until they are absent from work.

I'd like to thank Rob, Dave, and Jess for stepping up to take on additional shifts and duties while Bobby is undergoing treatment.

**We will continue to collect donations and cards for Bobby to SHS at 418 Spruce Street. Checks can be made out to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Please add "For Bobby Senick" to the memo line, so that the funds will be appropriately earmarked.**

Save the Date: **Sunday, October 8**, there will be a fund-raising event organized by Riverfront Mummies for Bobby "Onion" and his family at the EOM Athletic Association at 136 Mifflin Street. Further details will follow.

On behalf of the SHS Board of Directors, staff, clergy, and members, we continue to send Bobby love, hugs, and prayers from his synagogue family and hope that he is feeling better soon.

## Playschool

### Summer Specialty Camps are Back!

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

The Playschool children are enjoying a fabulous time in Summer Camp. Each day, children between the ages of 2 and 5 participate in indoor activities, including circle time, themed arts and crafts projects, creative movement, reading stories, singing songs, with time for free play and socialization. Outdoor activities include tricycle riding, garden play, and cooling off under our water sprinklers. Campers bring a home-packed dairy lunch that they eat with their friends, and a healthy snack is provided during the day.

Summer Camp is in session Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Extended early care begins at 7:45 AM. Each afternoon, our After Camp Arts program, that runs from 12:30 PM until 3 PM, offers activities with the following themes: Mitzvot on Mondays, Science on Tuesdays, Creative Arts on Wednesdays, Movement on Thursdays, and Music on Fridays. For parents needing longer daily care for their children, late care is available until 6 PM Monday through Friday.

The last day of Summer Camp is Friday, July 28. There is still time to enroll your child in the camp programs for this summer, so please contact the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. # 28, to learn about our flexible enrollment options.

Our Specialty Camps, designed for children ages 3 to 7 years old, are back for a second year!

During the week of July 31 to August 4, children will create unique costumes in our Costume Camp. On Friday, August 4, campers will show off their work in a costume parade for their families. In observance of Tisha B'av, the Playschool will be closed on Tuesday, August 1.

During the week of August 7 to 11, the children will learn how to tell stories with photos that they take in our Photography Camp. On Friday, August 11, campers will present a Photography Exhibit of their work for their families.

Continued on page 6



## Ann Spak Thal School “Summertime, and School- Plannin’ is Busy”

Sahar Oz

With appreciation and apologies to George Gershwin for appropriating his opening words to “Summertime,” I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer and staying cool in the heat. Summer is an excellent time to relax and reenergize, to explore new destinations and experience fun adventures with family and friends—perhaps at camp or abroad, or right here in the City of Brotherly Love.

Of course, summer is also a good time to reflect and plan ahead. With that in mind, I want to remind all of our parents who still need to submit their child(ren)’s registration packets for the 5778 / 2017–2018 academic year, to send them in ASAP. All of the forms—Registration, Confidential Student Record, Emergency Form, Opt-Out Photo Release, and Behavior Policy (the latter necessary only for grades 3 and higher)—can be downloaded from PDFs on our synagogue website ([www.societyhillssynagogue.org](http://www.societyhillssynagogue.org)).

I want to thank four faculty members who are moving on to new endeavors locally, regionally, and across the Atlantic. We will miss their dynamic presence and the joy that they brought to their work with our students.

We wish *hatzlaḥa rabah*—great success—to Adina Goldstein, who has moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to pursue her Master’s in Education at Harvard; to Sydney Halberstadt, who will be studying abroad in London at Goldsmiths, University of London; to Gabby Goodman, who is beginning a full-time teaching position at Germantown Friends School; and to Ariana Solodar-Wincele, who is spending this coming year in Israel as a volunteer through the Yahel service-learning program.

With every end comes a new beginning, and thus we are thrilled to welcome four new faculty members, one of whom is a graduate of our Hebrew High program. Meranda Love, who was a Sunday School aide throughout her high school years, will be supporting students in grades 3-6 (Kitot Gimel-Vav) one-on-one and in small group settings on Sundays.

A 2015 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Meranda is pursuing her Master’s Occupational Therapy at Temple University.

Bluma Millman is joining our faculty as our new teacher for Kitah Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Kitah Vav (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) Hebrew, and Kitah Dalet (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) Bible. Bluma graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2014 with a double major in Mathematics and Russian. At Bryn Mawr, Bluma was President of Hillel for three years. She attended Jewish day school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and later worked as a camp counselor at the JCC of Greater Washington and at another camp specializing in theatre education.

Carly Baron is moving from Long Island to Philadelphia this summer and will teach Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Gimel (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) Hebrew, and Kitah Vav (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) Bible. A 2015 graduate of Muhlenberg College, Carly will soon begin her studies for a Master’s in Music-Vocal Performance at Temple University. Carly’s passions for Jewish learning and music came together at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Long Island, where she taught 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and also led weekly music classes for students in grades 3-6.

Orly Mintz, who is entering her sophomore year at the University of Pennsylvania, will teach Kitah Hey (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) Hebrew and Kitah Gimel (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) Bible.

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**Rabbi's Column**

Continued from page 2

Will this reflection rectify my imbalance? Probably not if I beat myself up and march boldly forward to "fix it." If I remain honest and cognizant of it and don't try the typical American self-help approach of "the half-hour exercise to spiritual balance" or "the three sure-fire strategies for work-life balance" but rather look for and explore approaches that fit my particular situation, it should help me gain and maintain a more balanced life.

Enjoy your summer and don't be afraid that some serious and even challenging reflection will take away all the fun. If you're kind to yourself, it just might enhance your joy. At the very least, it will enhance your preparation for the High Holy Days, the Days of Awe, in September.

**Ann Spak Thal School**

Cont'd from page 5

Orly graduated from Manhattan's renowned Ramaz School and is currently in her fourth year on staff at Camp Ramah Nyack, where she is an Assistant Division Head. Orly was very active in her synagogue's youth group and did a gap year of study in Israel before starting at Penn, where she is a proud member of the Jewish a cappella group, The Shabbatones.

As you can see, our Sunday, Hebrew, and Hebrew High Schools continue to flourish with talented, passionate young Jewish educators and students who love to learn and build strong connections to their history and traditions, as well as deep friendships with their classmates. Please share your family's experience at our school with your friends and neighbors, and invite them to join our engaging, exciting, and pluralistic Jewish learning community!

Our faculty and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in the fall on Sunday, September 10. Have a wonderful summer!

**Playschool**

Continued from page 4

Each of the Specialty Camps will be in session from 8:30 AM until 3 PM. Two snacks will be provided. A home-packed dairy lunch, swimsuit, and towel should be brought to camp each day.

Campers may be enrolled for one or both Specialty Camps. Please contact the Playschool office for Summer Camp and Specialty Camp applications. We would love to have your child join us for summer fun!

A limited number of classroom spots are still available in the Playschool for the new academic year beginning in September. Please contact the Playschool office at the number listed above or email Playschool Co-Directors Gloria Parris ([gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org)) or Ali Kaplan ([abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org)) for more information or to make an appointment to visit the school.

See 2016-2017 Playschool class photos on page 17 and 21.

**President's Message**

Continued from cover

As I move into the second year of my Presidency, I am mindful of the fact that there is much more work to be done. I have interacted with many congregants over the past year, and it has become evident to me that our congregation would like to be able to maintain and expand our wonderful synagogue spaces. Your leadership is committed to achieving these goals by involving **100%** of the membership in our fundraising campaign; no contribution is too big or too small.

Let's take this opportunity to make our future as meaningful as our past.

## Student Rabbi's Message

Continued from page 3

Contemporary psychology seems to understand this. As Dr. Tian Dayton writes in *Heartwounds: The Impact of Unresolved Grief and Trauma on Relationships*, "The way out is the way through." In other words, there is no healing without reflection.

In the context of Tisha B'Av, perhaps relying on an opportunity to communally mourn, to come together so we can acknowledge the loss, both helps to make the experience holy, and helps us to build from it.

Build we did. Out of the devastation from the destruction of the temple—remember that bringing sacrifices to the temple was the primary means of reaching out to God; its loss deprived us of our sense of closeness to the Holy One, in whose hands we presumed our lives were placed—came, in many ways, the Judaism that we know today. The Judaism that we know today is in many ways far more similar to the edifice of Jewish tradition that was constructed in the wake of the temple's destruction than that outlined in the plain words of the written Torah. The rabbis conjured up prayer, study of Torah, and ritual and ethical practices as the means through which we were to carry out our religious lives, rather than through temple sacrifice. Sound familiar? Out of the fires of the destruction of the Temple came, in large part, the very practices we engage in in our own Jewish communities today. Practices that have sustained us for generation upon generation.

One of these practices included the understanding that it was important to mourn our loss, once a year, each year. The rabbis seemed to understand that to be human is to feel pain, and to acknowledge that pain is to initiate the process of healing, slowly, so that life can blossom, and creativity can proceed. While we want to tread lightly around our losses and treat ourselves with care, we want to create space to remember, with the support of those around us.



## The Young Friends of SHS Join Our Mailing List!

Natalie Lesser & Jordan Segall

**T**he Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue is a group of individuals who is creating a community that fosters Jewish identity, culture, and friendship. We meet for potluck dinners, pre-Shabbat drinks, and discussions about spiritual exploration. Look for fall events in the next issue of the Keshet.

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

We invite you to "like" our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/](https://www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/).



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## Arts & Culture

### 1. Jewish South Philly in the Olden Days

Bonny Hohenberger

Did you know that a Jewish philanthropist and founding member of Kesher Israel once owned the Powel House, and he sold some of his furniture to the Metropolitan and Philadelphia Museums of Art and then used the house as a warehouse for his horse hair business? Or that few synagogues were built in the Gothic style because this was the predominant style of Catholic churches?

These were just a few of many facts presented by Keneseth Israel Senior Rabbi and American Jewish History professor Rabbi Lance Sussman, during his highly informative and entertaining walking tour of Jewish South Philadelphia on April 30. The sold-out tour, capped at 25 people, included both synagogue members and non-members. A young non-Jewish couple also joined us to learn more about their neighborhood.

We hope that Rabbi Sussman will lead this tour again next spring. It was so interesting that I intend to go again! See photos on page 9.

### 2. Celebrate America's Birthday With the Philly Pops!

Betta Kolansky

**On Monday, July 3, at 7 PM, join members of the SHS Arts & Culture group to attend the annual Philly Pops Pre-Independence Day concert on Independence Mall.** This free concert in celebration of America's birthday is part of the Wawa Welcome America week of events. Attendees are encouraged to pack a picnic dinner and bring a blanket/towel or lawn chair to enjoy the Pops concert in comfort.

SHS members are invited to attend a pre-concert cocktail party at my home located on Washington Square from 4:30 until 6:30 PM. Come and enjoy cocktails and conversation before heading to the Mall for the concert.

If you plan to attend the cocktail party, please text me at: 215.582.7704 or call 215.925.6610 to RSVP and to get my address.

### 3. Save the date for a Symphony in C Concert Event

Eleanor Oxman

Our own Al Sutnick is inviting SHS members to attend a special concert event on Saturday, September 16, at 8 PM, at the Rutgers University Walter K. Gordon Auditorium, to see a performance by Symphony in C, featuring Israeli pianist Roman Rabinovich. The performance is entitled *Mozart and Tchaikovsky*, and the musicians will play Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, among other selections.

Tickets are \$24 with a 25% discount for SHS members. Al would like to reserve a table at Victor's Pub so that the group can meet for dinner before the concert.

These tickets are likely to go fast, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Al at [altonsutnick@msn.com](mailto:altonsutnick@msn.com) and visit the website at [symphonyinc.org](http://symphonyinc.org). Further details will follow.





Photos from Walking Tour of Jewish South Philly.



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Neil Epstein  
 Abigail Shapiro  
 Amy Steerman  
 Carmen Hayman  
 Ruth Schneeberg  
 Noah Davidson  
 Jacqueline Rick  
 Claire Golding  
 William Steinberger  
 Alton Sutnick  
 Richard Gelles  
 Joseph Gifford  
 Alice Goldenberg  
 Carla Krasnick  
 Michael Gorsen  
 Josh Heller  
 Mitchell Bach  
 Seth Cohen  
 Matthew Zalesne Siff  
 Marc Schwartz  
 Betty van de Rijn  
 Liza Gendler  
 Juliet Englander  
 Judith Woloff  
 Gabriel Steerman  
 Joseph Oxman  
 Jordan Segall  
 Mary Ann Stover  
 Harry Oxman  
 Craig Pressman  
 James Wilson  
 Reuben Treatman  
 Zachary Goldberg  
 Abigail Hamilton  
 Libby Harwitz Blender  
 Gideon Salesne Siff  
 Xing Xing Zhang  
 Ron Feinberg  
 Isaac Hohns  
 Jordyn Gorsen  
 Michelle Nelson  
 Joshua Smullens  
 Tony Lalli  
 Judy Gelles  
 Lev Ziskind

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Samantha Goldwert  
 Irving Shapiro  
 David Weisman  
 Debra Stewart  
 Fran Newberg  
 Claire Englander  
 Mark Steinberger  
 Zachary Gearhart-Robboy  
 Myer Magen  
 Jerry Roller  
 Matthew Salzman  
 Jane Nathanson  
 Valerie Pipano  
 Bjorn Seaberg

Leo Aaron  
 Wendy Rosen  
 Julia Dranoff Gutstadt  
 Nina Saligman  
 Marsha Silver Heit  
 Isaak Popkin  
 Debby Freedman  
 Harvey Weiner  
 Susan Eizen  
 Edwin Krauss  
 Joseph Freedman  
 Terry Graboyes  
 Meyer Rohtbart  
 Jonathan Auerbach  
 Kiera Schindler  
 Elana Hunter  
 Zev Pipano  
 Nathaniel Popkin  
 Brian Rotter  
 Rabbi Avi Winokur  
 Rachel Cohen  
 Phoebe Zaring  
 Dan Rosin  
 Susanne Kaplan  
 Rebecca Makuen  
 Lucas Gorsen  
 Bonny Hohenberger  
 Orah Mahlab  
 Michael Naidoff  
 Barry Bernsten  
 Jerome Kranzel  
 Claudia Balderston  
 Hillary Ladov Gutstein

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

Richard & Judy Gelles  
 Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton  
 & Roy Hamilton  
 Elliot & Morgan Landes  
 Leah & Brent Jordan  
 Steven & Sally Gendler  
 Theodore Danoff  
 & Diane Siegel Danoff

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

Cindy & Alfred Farlino  
 Richard Summers  
 & Merrily Williams  
 Raphael Licht  
 & Gabrielle Applebaum  
 Mark & Tobey Dichter  
 Jesse Abrams-Morley  
 & Meredith Buse  
 Peter & Susan Eizen  
 Harry & Eleanor Oxman  
 Abraham Summers  
 & Xing Xing Zhang  
 Bart & Betty Kaplan  
 Jerry & Joan Roller  
 Stanton & Merle Salkin  
 Dan & Anya Rosin  
 Fred & Dinah Lovitch  
 Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses  
 Stephen Klasko & Colleen Wyse  
 Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick  
 William & Sari Love  
 David & Sayde Ladov  
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 & Libby Harwitz Blender  
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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.org](mailto:office@societyhillsynagogue.org) for more information.

## Community News

### Speedy Recovery to

Bobby Senick

### Mazel Tov to

Jim and Linda Rosenstein on the birth of their grandson,  
Eli Benjamin Gladshtein

Josh Cooper and Jamie Cooperstein on the birth of their  
daughter, Josephine Leora Cooper

### Condolences to

Robert Zalkind on the death of his sister, and long-time  
SHS member, Barbara Zalkind.

Stanley Woloff on the death of his brother, Neil Woloff.

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Secure Memory Care
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In Honor of

**SHS & Unveiling of Lennard & Gloria Steinberg's Plaques**  
Merlin-Rubinov Family**Irv & Sharon Shapiro's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**Ruthanne & George Singal  
Sally & Robert Salon**Birth of Eli Gladshtein,  
Grandson of Jim & Linda Rosenstein**Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick  
Walter & Margie Ferst

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Samuel & Reva Goldner, Parents of Linda Joy Goldner**  
Linda Joy Goldner**Rose Michaels, Mother of Geoffrey Michaels**

Geoffrey Michaels

**Eugene Paller, Grandfather of Robert Paller**

Robert Paller

**Gloria Steinberg**

Merlin-Rubinov Family

**Ruth Cohen, Mother of Neil Cohen**

Neil Cohen

**Annual Giving Fund**

In Honor of

**Nathan Kamesar**

Barbara Spector

**Birth of Jerry & Joan Roller's Grandson, Alexander Dilworth**

Barbara Spector

**Restoration Fund**

In Honor of

**Irving & Sharon Shapiro's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun  
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Rose Hechler, Mother of Iris Levine**

Iris Levine

**Social Action Fund**

In Honor of

**Merrily Williams**

Stanley &amp; Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Albert & Molly Miller, Parents of Paula Ninerell**

Paula Ninerell

**Harry Winslow, Father of Dinah Lovitch**

Fred &amp; Dinah Lovitch

**Clarence Lovitch, Father of Fred Lovitch**

Fred &amp; Dinah Lovitch

**Al Shreibman, Father of Doris Shreibman**

Doris Shreibman

**Playschool Fund**

In Honor of

**Jacqueline Goldfinger's Yale Drama Series Prize Award**

Len Weinberg &amp; Fran Gallun

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

In Appreciation of

**Cantor Steve Friedrich**Stanley & Judith Woloff  
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

In Honor of

**Birgit Klein's Graduation from the RRC**

Stanley &amp; Judith Woloff

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Speedy Recovery to

**Bobby "Onion: Senick**Barbara Spector  
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman  
Jay & Phyllis Denbo  
Linda Joy Goldner  
Gerry Schneeberg  
Bruce & Carol Katcher  
Stanton & Merle Salkin  
Debby Freedman  
Jerry & Joan Roller  
Betta Kolansky  
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff  
Harry & Eleanor Oxman  
Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg  
Tom Borawski & Libby Cone  
Edgar & Bobbi Einhorn  
Dan & Dana Feinberg  
Ric & Carmen Hayman  
Harry & Eleanor Oxman  
Rosemarie Weinberg

In Appreciation of

**Nathan Kamesar**Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun  
Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Honor of

**Baby Naming of Alexander Dilworth,  
Grandson of Jerry & Joan Roller**

Jerry &amp; Joan Roller

In Memory of

**Sylvia Vigderman, Sister of Stanley Levy**

Stanley Levy

Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Susan Dictor, Wife of Joel Chernock**

Joel Chernock

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

Elyssa Chernock &amp; Sarina Chernock

**Fred Lovitch, Mother of Fred Lovitch**

Fred &amp; Dinah Lovitch

**Ruth Stark, Grandmother of Jonathan Auerbach**

Jonathan Auerbach

**Bernard D. Brown, Father of Stephen Brown**  
Stephen & Pelley Brown

**Jean Schertz Sablove, Mother of Pelley Brown**  
Stephen & Pelley Brown

**Marion Rosof, Mother of Libby Rosof**  
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

**Samuel Dictor, Father-in-Law of Joel Chernock**  
Joel Chernock

**Harry & Ida L. Schneeberg, Parents of Arthur L. Schneeberg**  
Gerry Schneeberg

## Adult Education

### Yahrzeit Remembrance

**Bonnie Abramsky, Sister of Iris Levine**  
Iris Levine

## Kiddush Fund

Harry Oxman  
Betty van de Rijn  
Joseph Oxman & Christi Rosengart  
Stanley & Judith Woloff

**In Appreciation of**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> TGISHabbat Dinner**  
Rosemarie Weinberg  
Lorraine Gordon

**Betty van de Rijn**  
Stanley & Judith Woloff

**In Honor of**  
**Engagement of Sarah Ferst**  
Mark & Ann Steinbeger

**Walter & Margie Ferst, on the birth of their grandson,**  
**Micah Ferst**  
Mark & Ann Steinberger

**Bar Mitzvah of Lysander Michaels-Koenig, grandson of**  
**Geoffrey and Beverly Michaels**  
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

**Jane Nathanson & Andy Newman, on the birth of their son,**  
**Jacob Newman**  
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

**Baby Naming of Alexander Dilworth, grandson of Jerry &**  
**Joan Roller**  
Jerry & Joan Roller

**Baby Naming of Sosi Elizabeth Shelley, daughter of**  
**Jonathan Freitag and Sara Shelly**  
Jonathan Freitag & Sara Shelley

**Birgit Klein's Graduation from RRC**  
Rabbi Avi Winokur & Susan Berman

**In Memory of**  
**Elsa Kolansky, Mother of Betta Kolansky**  
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

**Barbara Zalkind**  
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**  
**Jeanne Kline, Mother of Thomas Kline**  
Thomas Kline

**David Cohen, Grandfather of Robin Feinberg**  
Ron & Robin Feinberg

**Martin Auerbach, Father of Jonathan Auerbach**  
Jonathan Auerbach

**Ruth Stark, Grandmother of Jonathan Auerbach**  
Jonathan Auerbach

**Josephine Weiner, Mother of Harvey Weiner**  
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner

**Mannie Hechler, Father of Iris Levine**  
Iris Levine

## Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund

**In Memory of**  
**Neil Woloff, Brother of Stan Woloff**  
Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**  
**Martin Greenhouse, Father of Debra Stewart**  
Debra Stewart

**Ben Zion Meyer, Father of Harold Meyer**  
Harold Meyer

**Effy Oz, Husband of Narda Oz**  
Narda Oz

## God's Unfinished Business

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**  
**Martin Auerbach, Father of Jonathan Auerbach**  
Jonathan Auerbach

## Membership Renewal Information

By now, you should have received your annual Membership Renewal/High Holy Day Information packet in the mail. Please fill out all forms and return them in the enclosed envelope with the required membership dues and holiday related payments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at [office@societyhillssynagogue.org](mailto:office@societyhillssynagogue.org) or 215.922.6590. Remember, membership renewal fees and previous balances must be paid in order for you to receive your High Holy Day tickets. The deadline for entries to be included in this year's Yizkor Book is July 26.



## A Note of Thanks From Bobby "Onion" Senick

My family and I want to thank the members of Society Hill Synagogue for all of your prayers and generous support while I have been fighting this terrible disease.

Thank you with love from the bottom of our hearts!

Miss you guys!

Robert Senick, Sr. and Family

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## Young Families Group

### Join Our Email List to Learn About Summer Activities!

Joanna Hart

**W**e had a wonderful *Friday Nights with Young Families* season. Our group is growing, welcoming new SHS members, and making new memories. We hope to see you again in the fall! We'll notify our members about any summer events by email. If you'd like to be added to our email list, contact me at [joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com). Members, prospective members, expectant parents, and any caretakers are welcome to join!

## Social Action

### Volunteers Needed to Read to Vare-Washington Students

Phyllis Denbo

#### Vare-Washington Elementary School

**O**ur first year as volunteer readers in the school library has been a great success. In teams of two, the volunteers met with every K-4 class for 45 minutes every other week. They read books to the students and then encouraged each of them to choose a book that they could take home for two weeks. If time allowed, the students then found a comfortable spot to begin reading their books alone or to one another. The feedback has been uniformly positive. The teachers often tell me how much the students **love** their visits to the library.

The school continues to receive donations of books from many sources. At the end of the year, we culled the collection, sorting out duplicates, and gave two books to every student in grades three to eight. The younger students received new books from a separate donation to the school.

Plans for next year include moving to weekly reading sessions with the students and adding the fifth and sixth grade classes to the program. This will only be possible, however, if there are a sufficient number of volunteers. The time commitment of one and a half hours weekly or bi-weekly is minimal relative to the personal rewards. The students, teachers, and principal are extremely appreciative, and the volunteers find the hours spent in the library to be most enjoyable. Contact Flora Wolf at [fbwolf42@gmail.com](mailto:fbwolf42@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering next year.

#### Immigration

Thank you to all of the members who responded to the survey on immigration. Based on your thoughtful answers, a plan of action has been drafted. More than 80 percent of you think we should run another clothing and housewares drive, so we will begin collecting items for arriving immigrant families in the fall. More than 60 percent of you want to establish an SHS fund for unanticipated family needs. Details regarding collection, administration, etc. will be worked out over the next few months, with kick-off in the fall. And half of you said you would like to adopt a family. This calls for a greater commitment. It's hands-on and requires a dedicated team of volunteers. We are exploring the potential for partnering with BZBI, which is also committed to immigration reform. We are thinking about hosting an open meeting in the fall to discuss what adopting a family is likely to entail. We would invite HIAS staff, representatives of BZBI, and members of Germantown Jewish Center who have already worked with an adopted immigrant family. Stay tuned for further information and feel free to contact members of the Social Action Committee with your questions and suggestions.

### Annual Giving Appeal

- Deborah Block & Doug Smullens
- Michael Davidson & Christine Reardon
- Jessica Downes
- Cindy & Alfred Farlino
- Jonathan Freitag & Sara Shelley
- Richard & Judy Gelles
- Laurie Gold
- Lawrence & Jacqueline Goldfinger
- Terry Graboyes
- Lisa Grunberger & Robert Margolis
- Leah & Brent Jordan
- Jeremey & Fran Newberg
- Paula Ninerell
- Joseph Oxman & Christi Rosengart
- Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
- Barbara Spector
- David & Jacoba Zaring

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Society Hill Synagogue Playschool - Miss Ali's Pre-K Class - 2016-2017

Society Hill Synagogue Playschool 2016-2017 Pre-K Class

### 2017—2018 SHS B'nai Mitzvah Celebrations

September 16

**Jenna Makuen**

*Daughter of David & Rebecca Makuen*

October 7

**Stephen Stein**

*Son of Dennis Stein*

October 21

**Anya Applebaum Licht**

*Daughter of Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum*

October 28

**Cora Rosin**

*Daughter of Dan & Anya Rosin*

November 4

**Jacob Mono**

*Son of Brian & Jessica Mono*

November 25

**Harry Feinberg**

*Son of Dan & Dana Feinberg*

December 2

**Scotty Jordan**

*Son of Brent & Leah Jordan*

January 6, 2018

**Cole Pressman**

*Son of Craig Pressman & Sandra Lazovitz*

March 3

**Rachel and Max Ladenson**

**Anne Ballen Ladenson**

*Daughter and Son of Anne Ballen Ladenson & Michael Ladenson*

*Continued on page 20*



## 2017 Extraordinary Service Honorees

Debra Stewart

Four years ago, we began a tradition at SHS to recognize members in our community for their extraordinary service. Each year, there are many qualified candidates to consider, which speaks volumes about our community. If you would like to nominate a member for a future award, please contact me at [beachethic@gmail.com](mailto:beachethic@gmail.com) or Harry Oxman at [hjoxman@comcast.net](mailto:hjoxman@comcast.net).

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

Nominations come from our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, and then our own committee members (who may also suggest names) have a discussion about each nominee, identifying all contributions these individuals have made to our congregation. I would like to thank the members of this year's Extraordinary Service Recognition Committee—Neil Cohen, Phyllis Denbo, Bonny Hohenberger, Staci Schwartz and Betty van de Rijn—for their important work.

The following honorees were presented with awards at the Annual Congregation Meeting in May:

### Erica Ginsburg

Erica joined Society Hill Synagogue in 1997. Her strong connection to this jewel of a shul is evidenced by her long history of attendance at Shabbat and holiday services, Adult Education classes, and special programs. Over the years, she has served on GUB (God's Unfinished Business), offering many members words of comfort and condolence when they have suffered the loss of a loved one. She was an active member of the Social Action Committee, back when it was led by Rick Summers, before he passed the baton into the skilled hands of Phyllis Denbo. She also used to write the Keshet column now known as Philadelphia Interfaith Community, informing our interfaith families and members with interests in other faith practices about lectures and events in and around the city. Another role of significant meaning to Erica was one she took on many years ago to coordinate the care for Avi's son, Rafi, on Saturday mornings at the synagogue so that Susan could attend Shabbat services with our community.

Many members may not know that Erica has served as a member of the Communications Committee for the past 10 years, lending her professional editing skills, otherwise known as "Erica's Eagle Eyes," to the Rabbi's and Cantor's Keshet columns. She painstakingly reviews their text—adding, deleting, condensing, clarifying, and polishing their words until they become the inspirational and informative articles that SHS members are treated to read every other month. Rabbi Winokur, Cantor Bob, Cantor Steve, and Student Rabbi Nathan have all appreciated her gentle suggestions and attention to detail. Erica also graciously lent her editing skills to the final draft of the SHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute & Ad Book.

Erica has made significant and enduring contributions to our shul. She and her husband, Dan (whom she met in this very room during one of Rabbi Marjorie Berman's classes) are valued members of the SHS Family.

Continued on page 19

## **Merrily Williams**

A long-time member of Society Hill Synagogue, Merrily embraced Judaism here, became a Bat Mitzvah here, and renewed her marriage vows with her husband Rick in a Jewish ceremony here. Her commitment to social action causes has been evident since she first joined the synagogue. When Society Hill Synagogue adopted the George Washington Elementary School (now Vare-Washington Elementary School) more than ten years ago, Merrily quickly became engaged in that program. She was an in-class volunteer who worked with one group of students as they progressed from second through seventh grades. She was also a mentor to several of these students beyond school hours. In addition, Merrily helped to establish the very popular after-school knitting program, which owes its longevity to her continued commitment through multiple changes in the school's administration. As a regular attendee of Social Action Committee meetings, Merrily has participated in the planning and implementation of numerous other committee programs.

We are thrilled to recognize Merrily for her extraordinary service to SHS and her dedication and commitment to our community.

## **Julie Wilson**

Julie and her family have been members of Society Hill Synagogue since 2005. Julie served on the Board of Directors for three consecutive two-year terms from 2008-2014. She has continued in her capacity as a lay-leader serving our community as Chair of the critical committee, God's Unfinished Business. Julie has assembled a team of volunteers who support fellow members in times of need. Working behind the scenes, Julie reaches out to SHS members who are ill to offer to arrange for meals and assistance with errands or transportation to and from doctor's appointments. She and her team of dedicated volunteers respond to a variety of member needs as they arise. Our Rabbi always keeps Julie informed about members who would benefit from help or support, and then she implements a plan in her low-key but effective way. Julie values her volunteers and continually recruits new people to join her team. One GUB volunteer provides personalized letters to families mourning the loss of a loved one as well as a follow-up note one year later. It is not unusual for congregants—having received the loving support from a member of this team—to offer to pay it forward by later joining GUB themselves.

Society Hill Synagogue recognizes Julie's exceptional service and honors her dedication and commitment to the well-being of our members. Julie's work enables us to be a Kehillah Kedoshah, a holy community. Julie and her family are valued members of our congregation.

## **Judy Woloff**

Judy is a second-generation member of SHS. In fact, her parents were two of the founding members of this congregation. Judy and Stan were married at SHS by Rabbi Caine in the 1970s, and their 2 sons, Aaron and Isaac, attended Hebrew school and each became a Bar Mitzvah here. Their older son was even a member of the very first Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School confirmation class. During this time, the Woloff family was very involved in the synagogue and Judy participated in many school activities. Judy was also part of one of the first groups who became B'nai mitzvah as adults (Rabbi Caine referred to these celebrations as "adult affirmations").

From the '70s to the early 2000's Judy (and Stan) were always involved in organizing and working at the booths during the beloved annual Spring Fair, otherwise known as the Midi Fair.

## 2017 Extraordinary Service Honorees

Continued from page 19

And, of course, a major event that Judy organized for many years was the annual Hanukkah party at the Stiffel Center, a joyous event enjoyed by both elderly Jewish and non-Jewish individuals from the neighborhood. SHS provided a delicious luncheon and volunteers, including Hebrew School students, staffed the tables. The Cantor (first Cantor Alan and then Cantor Neil) led an engaging sing-along. Judy could be seen bustling around to make sure everything went smoothly. Judy also worked tirelessly to organize fundraisers to save the Stiffel Center, which, sadly, closed in 2011.

Last but not least, Judy has been an active participant in the Tuesday morning minyan for many years.

Judy is a valued member of the Society Hill Synagogue family.

### Stan Woloff

Stan and his wife, Judy, are long time members of Society Hill Synagogue. Stan has been a committed, active congregant for the past 41 years. He and Judy have 2 sons, Aaron and Isaac, who were both called to the Torah as B'nai mitzvah at SHS. Stan has been a reliable pillar of the Tuesday morning minyan, and he is a longstanding participant (if not a founder!) of the beloved SHS Latke Brigade, which is now under the leadership of Len Weinberg. Stan has always been very supportive to our SHS family as a participant in Shiva minyanim. He is a regular attendee of Shabbat services and the synagogue's wide variety of social and other events. Among his other significant contributions to SHS, for many years Stan has been the supplier of all maintenance products needed by the synagogue. All of Stan's contributions have been delivered with kindness and humility.

We thank Stan for giving so unselfishly to Society Hill Synagogue in so many ways, for so many years. Mazal Tov on this well-deserved honor!

Congratulations to all of our honorees!

## 2017—2018 SHS B'nai Mitzvah Celebrations

Continued from page 17

March 10

**Sadie Margolin**

*Daughter of Rachel Margolin*

March 17

**Raphael Englander**

*Son of Brian & Juliette Englander*

May 26

**Nathaniel Stover Steerman**

*Son of Amy Steerman & Maryann Stover*

June 9

**Maya Saltzman**

*Daughter of Matthew & Brooke Saltzman*

June 23

**Chuck & Nick Schaeffer**

*Sons of Brett Scheffer & Sarah Rottenberg*



Society Hill Synagogue Playschool—Miss Maggie's Class

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Society Hill Synagogue Playschool Miss Gloria's Class

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Hukat 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Building Closed	Building Closed	Independence Day Building Closed			No Services	Balak 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Building Closed	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	Pinhas 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	Mattot/Masei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Building Closed	7 PM Board Orientation Mtg.	7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	D'varim Hazon 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
30	31					
Building Closed						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	9 PM Tisha B'Av Services	Tisha B'Av Building Closed			No Services	Vaethannan 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	Eikev 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Building Closed	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	R'eih 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Services	Shof'tim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
27	28	29	30	31		
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan				

# Keshet

**SOCIETY HILL  
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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

Society Hill Synagogue Past President's Meeting

