

Mazal Tov

to Rabbi Kamesar on
his installation
ceremony this month!

Read more inside!



SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

KESHER

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From the President's Desk: **FROM LATKES TO LEADERSHIP**

by Carmen Hayman

Each time I have an opportunity to give greetings and announcements from the *bimah*, I am impressed by the number of activities and events that our jewel of a *shul* offers to our members each week. It is through the work of our incredible staff, the dedication of volunteer leadership, and your continued financial support that we are able to provide these wonderful opportunities. I want to express my gratitude to all who supported our End-of-Year appeal. Your commitment to our synagogue is truly heartwarming and plays a crucial role in sustaining the vibrant spirit of our community. Please let me highlight some of the wonderful winter experiences we enjoyed together and events you can look forward to in the coming months.

Winter Simchas

Remember *Hanukkah*? Yes, it was three months ago, but I can still remember the smell of latkes cooking as I entered the synagogue on the morning of December 3. Our Society Hill Synagogue Latke Brigade, led by Chef Len Weinberg and Chef Marc Schwartz, peeled, grated, chopped, and fried over 100 pounds of potatoes and onions.

Our Playschool and Hebrew School teachers provided activities and entertainment for our younger guests, and 352 members and guests attended this festive celebration. I'm already looking forward to next year's *Hanukkah* Happening!

In January, we had the opportunity to be together and support two amazing students as they were called to the Torah to share their insights and reflections during their B'nei Mitzvah services. Please join me in wishing a hearty mazel tov to **Rebecca Buse-Morley** and **Aiden Laver**. Thank you to the family members who sponsored Oneg dinners and Kiddush lunches for the synagogue community.

Leadership Development Retreat

I am pleased to share with you that on January 21, the Board of Directors and committee chairs came together for a Leadership Development Retreat with **Rabbi David Teutsch**. Rabbi Teutsch served as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College from 1993 to 2002 and is the author of *Making a Difference: A Guide to Jewish Leadership and Not-for-Profit Management* and

Spiritual Community: The Power to Restore Hope, Community and Joy, among many other works. Rabbi Teutsch received his Master of Hebrew Letters and rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City and earned his Ph.D. at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where his work focused on organizational ethics.

Rabbi Teutsch led us in reflection and discussion on how we approach leadership development and governance at Society Hill Synagogue, specifically focusing on four areas: **Organizational Structure, Governance, Committee Functioning, and Leadership Development**. Thank you to our synagogue leaders for providing thoughtful feedback and for our energizing and productive discussion. Through continued conversations, the Board of Directors will work to formalize our leadership structure, continue to review our bylaws, and learn to better support volunteer leaders. **I look forward to telling you more at our Congregation Annual Meeting on June 5.**

Save that date!

February Events

Thank you to our **Inclusion Committee**, and especially event facilitator Amy Goldman, for the time and energy spent organizing a wonderful Lunch & Learn this February in honor of **Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month**.

On February 23 and 24, we came together for our second Scholar-in-Residence weekend of the year, with **Reb Simcha Raphael**. I am so pleased that we can offer these extended learning opportunities to our congregation.

Mark Your Calendar & Join Us!

Rabbi Kamesar's Installation

I am thrilled that we will finally come together on March 10 for the Installation our "new" Rabbi, Nathan Kamesar. The pandemic prevented the celebration of this milestone for Rabbi Nathan and our synagogue community. Rabbi Nathan's first contract as our Rabbi actually ended in June 2023, and we signed a new five-year contract that will run until summer 2028! The event is much overdue, but it is still so special to get to celebrate this historical moment.

Purim

I have so many fond memories with my children of past Society Hill Synagogue Purimspiels and our amazing Purim Carnival. If you are like my husband, Ric, you may also be looking forward to the Society Hill Synagogue



Families, teachers, and the Latke Brigade at the Hanukkah Happening.

tradition of dinner and scotch tasting. Last year, we started a new tradition of a Hamantaschen Bake-Off, and this year we are adding a "Traditional" Megillah reading. I invite you and your family to join me for all or some of these wonderful synagogue celebrations – *costumes encouraged but not required!*

There is so much happening at Society Hill Synagogue that I cannot mention it all in this

article. Our Young Families Shabbatot, Coolanu events, Young Friends gatherings, Mah Jongg, Book Club, adult education classes, and so much more. Please read the weekly email announcements, mark your calendars, and join us when you can. There truly is something for everyone here.

I look forward to seeing you soon and eating many hamantaschen together!



From the Rabbi's Desk: REFLECTING ON THE PAST, LOOKING FORWARD

by Rabbi Nathan S. Kamesar

You should be receiving this days before I am formally “installed” as Rabbi of Society Hill Synagogue.

The installation is a symbolic event which typically takes place in the first year of a rabbi's service to a community to signal a passing of the torch, so to speak, between two rabbinic leaders, also representing the start of a new chapter in a community's history.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended a number of life cycle rhythms, both in our personal lives and the life of the community. Thus, while I began as Rabbi in June of 2020, preceded by two years as Associate Rabbi and four years as Rabbinic Intern, the event was postponed until this year. I am so grateful that the community still wants to honor this transition in this way.

This *Kesher* provides an opportunity to reflect on some of the areas that have evolved over these past years, and where we are looking to go from here.

Membership Growth

Sahar Oz recently reminded me that since March 2020,

Society Hill Synagogue has grown from 279 member households to almost 350!

Even more incredibly, this marks the exact period in which the pandemic began, when many communities saw membership growth come to a screeching halt; it is difficult to join a community that you can't physically attend and experience.

Yet together, through a combination of volunteer and staff leadership, we weathered the initial phase of the storm. Through consistent, intensive and creative opportunities to engage online and sustained outreach to our members by phone, we remained connected.

Coming out of this first phase of the pandemic, we identified a few priorities to help us rebuild the in-person experience and pave the way to growth.

Shabbat

We identified that Shabbat is a crux of the synagogue experience, even with our members who don't consider themselves especially religious. Shabbat is the regular moment of gathering and connection in the rhythm of Jewish life, and it's

also when guests who are “*shul shopping*” visit synagogues.

It was so important that we build a vibrant Shabbat experience upon returning to the synagogue for all to share.

So, we moved **Hebrew School** from Sundays to Saturdays. Bringing together multiple generations under one roof at the same time to foster an experience of intergenerational learning and togetherness at a time when that sense of community, in the face of a society filled with isolation, is so important. In our **Shabbat morning Torah discussions**, kids and adults learn from one another and see each other embracing Judaism on their own terms.

We invested in **music** on Friday evenings, filling our sanctuary with beautiful sounds, not just once per month, but every week.

And we fed people.

Recognizing that people are yearning for the chance to connect after services, we have a bustling social hall twice a week, every week, as people gather to break bread together.

We've gone from struggling to get a minyan most Friday nights to rarely dipping below 40 people per service, and **often welcoming upwards of 100 people**. On Saturday mornings, we went from an average of 20-30 people to rarely falling below 60 adults in attendance, in addition to our nearly 100 Hebrew School students. **Shabbat at Society Hill Synagogue is the place to be.**

Inclusion

We also recognized that a key part of synagogue growth is about **expanding the tent**. Some groups in particular have found it harder to feel at home in Jewish community (and many communities) — people in interfaith families, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and Jews of Color, just to name a few. A dedicated group of committed volunteers set about to examine, review, and rebuild the systems of welcome and inclusion we have in order for people with these identities to feel embraced when they come here. I have seen firsthand the impact of these volunteers' efforts.



Our Voice

Relatedly, we recognized that, as beautiful an experience as many people have when they come to Society Hill Synagogue, word of our existence mostly reached others slowly, through word of mouth. We invested in both refreshing how we talk about Society Hill Synagogue — our branding, so to speak, talking more about our inclusion, our vibrancy, and four pillars of what we offer: **learning, social action, music and prayer, and community** — and investing in how we get the word out. We recruited outside support to help us devise a **digital media strategy** and hired a talented **Communications Manager** to help implement it. This is already extending the reach and connections we make in the Philadelphia community.

Community Initiatives

Finally, we recognized that while the Shabbat experience is the core of synagogue gathering, many people are looking for more opportunities to come together and connect with their synagogue community. We formed **Coolanu** (a play on the Hebrew word *kulanu*, which means "all of us"), to generate more opportunities for fun social events. This includes everything from Eagles watch parties and architecture walking tours to ice skating and live theatre. This has been supplemented in our community by others gathering for Mah Jongg and the Book Club, and by our Young Friends

(20- and 30-somethings) who plan monthly events, and whose email list includes almost 100 subscribers, and growing.

Continuing Investments

Alongside these four areas of growth that we invested in were areas of pre-existing strength which we sought to reinforce.



Society Hill Synagogue's Young Families Group volunteering at the Jewish Relief Agency's monthly food packing and distribution event; submitted. Read more about the event on Page 15.

Micah and Joanna Hart lead absolutely fantastic monthly **Young Families Shabbatot** on Friday nights for kids ages six and younger and their families to connect.

Due to the overwhelming success of Friday night Young Families Shabbatot, we added Saturday morning Shabbatot as well, including our Gan (Pre-K and Kindergarten) Hebrew School students, and families for whom Saturday morning is a better fit.

We've also invested more in our rapidly growing Hebrew School, partnering with **Makom Community**, a Jewish enrichment center that is working with our educators so that we can keep our curriculum fresh, and so that we can work to refine and further develop our pedagogy.



Society Hill Synagogue has a long history of involvement in **social action** — from working closely to support **Vare-Washington Elementary School** to our founding membership of **POWER**, a grassroots organization of over 100 Pennsylvania congregations committed to racial and economic justice on a livable planet. Over the last several years, we opened space for more social action initiatives, especially our **Food Insecurity Initiative**, led by Bob Kaufman and Laurie Krivo. We've revamped our **Social Action Committee** to make space to respond to new areas of need as well.

Adult Education continues to be a strength at Society Hill Synagogue. Talented teachers like Rabbi Avi Winokur, Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Hazzan Jessi Roemer, and Dr. Marc Schwartz support me in offering a rich roster of classes, available every week. We are committed to continuing to identify more teachers who bring a blend of spiritual, intellectual, and scholarly perspectives to learn from.

Looking Forward

Apropos adult learning, one of my commitments and priorities over the next several years is to **identify and invite guest speakers and teachers who can speak to where we are as a society and where we are going**. Society Hill Synagogue is a hub of religious, spiritual, intellectual, and social life, and I want more **civic, business, cultural, and religious leaders** to visit our congregation and engage with us in dialogue to help us build a better future for our society.

These are lofty goals, and I've already seen us come so far. Our talented, dedicated staff and volunteers have already helped bring these goals to fruition and will continue to do so.

Of course, the famous saying that "**man plans and God laughs**" is a yiddish one: "**der mensch tracht, un Gott lach.**" Two seismic events in the brief time I've been Rabbi here

demonstrate this. My tenure here as Rabbi began with the COVID-19 pandemic, and now as we approach the Installation, we are still in the shadow of the horrors of **October 7**. As with the pandemic, we have tried to respond in a concerted way that does not miss the magnitude of this moment. I've tried to share my reflections on this war between Israel and Hamas and its reverberations around the globe nearly every week since October 7, and I've heard from many congregants sharing their perspectives and engaging in dialogue with me. **I am so grateful to this community for responding with heart, mind, and spirit.**



Rabbi Kamesar with his wife, Caroline, and their daughters

Todah Rabah

I'm grateful to this community for so many things — for welcoming my family and me, for supporting a vision of creating community, and now for offering this celebration of marking a new chapter in this community's history. Thank you.



From the Hazzan's Desk:

MIMICKING THE MYSTICS: WHAT WE SING WHEN WE SING ON FRIDAY NIGHT

by Hazzan Jessi Roemer

As a child, I experienced services as a seemingly endless sequence of events in no particular order; songs and silences, Hebrew and English, chanting and reading, engagement and boredom. I knew we were moving through the *siddur* (prayerbook) to an end point, but where that point was, and what exactly would happen along the way, was always a mystery.

As adults, even if we're not very familiar with the service, we understand that there is an order and flow to it. If you've attended TGIShabbat services at Society Hill Synagogue on Friday evenings, you may or may not have noticed that this service has two parts: *Kabbalat Shabbat* (Welcoming Shabbat), and *Ma'ariv* (the evening prayers). (Ok, three parts if you count dinner!)

Ma'ariv, the second part, contains all the evening prayers — the *Barkhu*, *Sh'ma*, *V'ahavta*, *Mi Khamokha*, *Hashkivenu* — these show up whether it's a weekday or Shabbat. *Ma'ariv* contains music, but its mood is contemplative; the procession of prayers leads up to (and back down from) the central "standing prayer," the *Amidah*,

which is said in silence.

But the first part, **Kabbalat Shabbat**, is joyous and special to Friday night. The youngest section of the Shabbat service, it originated in the mid-sixteenth century, when a group of Jewish mystics in Tzfat (located in today's northern Israel) **created a new ritual to greet Shabbat by dancing out into the fields each Friday as the sun was setting**. They sang joyful psalms and excerpts from the Song of Songs. They wrote liturgical poems, or *piyutim* — among them, *Lekha Dodi* and *Yedid Nefesh* — celebrating the love between God and the people of Israel.

Over time, this innovative pre-Shabbat practice morphed into the *Kabbalat Shabbat* we know today: a collection of psalms, *piyutim*, and *z'mirot* (folk songs) at the front end of the Shabbat evening service — a special time to sing, open our hearts to Shabbat joy, and warm up for the *Ma'ariv* prayers. So with every *Kabbalat Shabbat*, even if we aren't dancing into the fields, we still mimic the mystics.

Needless to say, the melodies that have carried these texts

over the centuries are rich and varied; wherever in the world Jews were living, **each generation of Jews has brought its own musical compositions to the service**, often within a particular framework of *nusah* (liturgical melodic patterning). The beauty of the *nusah* tradition is that it creates continuity by setting musical guidelines, while also allowing for innovation; this combination has long been part of Jewish musical practice. On Friday nights at Society Hill Synagogue, for example, when we slowly chant the opening of a psalm and ask you to join in on the long notes, we are using a special *nusah* for those psalms from Ashkenazi tradition!

The congregational melodies we sing at our congregation are a mix of older tunes from both Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions, and newer compositions. As always, each generation's innovation becomes "traditional" for the next; folks are often shocked when I tell them the *Oseh Shalom* melody that we all think of as very old and traditional was written in 1969 by Israeli musician, conductor, and composer Nurit Hirsh for the

first ever Hasidic Song Festival (where it took third prize). Closer to home, ask any Friday night regular at Society Hill Synagogue to sing *the Hashkivenu*, and chances are they'll break into the beautiful, original tune by our previous cantor, Bob Freedman, brought to us only about 14 years ago!

There is comfort in returning to melodies we know. Some of us grew up hearing specific tunes on Shabbat or learned them from communities we joined as adults. For us, they encapsulate the **joy of Shabbat**; we seek them when we enter the synagogue. As I mentioned in the last *Kesher*, I would love to know what those melodies are

for you — feel free to reach out and tell me!

In recent years, we've also been faced with questions about what to do when we discover that the creators of some of our most deeply-cherished Jewish music and scholarship were also perpetrators of harm — how do we personally engage with their creative legacies? To what extent do we lift up their creations in Jewish spaces while the people they've harmed are still living and may be part of our community, or may happen to walk into our *shul* (synagogue) one day? How do we continue to support and inspire those in our communities who still hold those creations dear? These are not easy questions to answer, and

they all factor into the curation of the musical (and liturgical) palate of every service. **I'm happy to further discuss my thinking around this with anyone who is curious.**

Whether or not you're interested in musical choices and liturgical structures, it is undeniable that we at Society Hill Synagogue are incredibly lucky to have such a talented ensemble of **TGISHabbat musicians**, not to mention a wonderful new **sound assistant** (Dylan Howe), and our amazing **custodial and administrative staff** supporting each service! No matter what, the spirit of Shabbat is carried on through their beautiful notes and your beautiful voices — **I look forward to every week.**



Hazzan Jessi sings with third and fourth grade Hebrew School students in preparation for them to lead at TGISHabbat Services.



Society Hill Synagogue Playschool:

PURIM AND PESAH AND PLAYSCHOOL – OH MY!

by Megan Nachod



The **Jewish holidays** certainly keep us busy at the Playschool over the next two months. We will get to finish on a high note with our end of the year festivities in May. Following our festivities, we get ready for camp and all the outdoor activities that it involves.

Purim

There is no doubt that Purim is a wildly popular holiday in a classroom of young children! **Dressing up in costumes, baking hamantaschen, and constructing loud graggers (noisemakers) all appeal to their sense of fun, and isn't that the theme of the holiday?** We will also invite families to join in our Purim Parade when we celebrate the holiday as a school. It's hard to find a cuter spectacle than a line of children dressed up in their Purim costumes.

Hopefully we will also be spending more and more time outside with warmer weather around Purim. Heading outdoors without piling on layers of coats and mittens sounds lovely after an appropriately cold winter.

Pesah

Pesah (Passover) follows right on the heels of Purim and we will switch our focus almost as soon as Purim is over. Our Pesah celebrations include **crafting memorable items for the Seder table, reading the great books that explain the story of Passover, and singing song after song.** The toddlers are particularly fond of shaking their fingers and saying "no, no, no!" in the classic *Let My People Go*. It's not surprising to see kids hopping like frogs, either. Our study of Passover concludes with a child-friendly Seder at school.

Summer Camp

Our summer camp begins on June 3. We will have 11 weeks of water play, trips to neighborhood parks, and overall summer fun. If you would like more information about the summer camp or our school year, please reach out to me at megan@shsplayschool.org or call 215-922-6590. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have and tell you about what we do here at the Playschool.

Hag Purim Same'ah (happy Purim) and Hag Pesah Same'ah (happy Passover)!



Playschool students celebrate Valentine's Day in a photobooth set up by Playschool teachers.



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School:

SPRING CELEBRATIONS AND SIMCHAS

by Mike Roe

Every February, I find myself in a state of disbelief that we are already discussing the “home stretch.” **This year has been successful in many ways**, and it’s not over yet. I am excited for our last few months and all of the happiness, joy, and celebration that await us. This past month, we gathered for our first ever **mid-year Back to School Day**, complete with a belated **Tu BiSh’vat celebration** with our students and families in Gan, Kitah Alef, and Kitah Bet (pre-K through second grade).

We have been lucky to celebrate so many **B’nei Mitzvah services** this year. All of our students have done a spectacular job chanting Torah and sharing their teachings with us. They all have such unique ways of grappling with the tough and thoughtful moments that accompany becoming B’nei Mitzvah.

We hope you will be able to join us for the B’not Mitzvah of **Phoebe Zaring** on March 17, **Mimi Hunter** on April 6, **Ariana Eizen** on April 13, **Lara Goldwert** on June 8.

A new favorite among many of our students and families this

year has been our participation at **TGISHabbat services**. If you missed class-led during the first half of the year, we hope you will be able to join us this semester. It is such a treat to see our students crowding the bimah, excited to help sing us into Shabbat. **Please join us for class-led services on April 19** with **Kitot Hey** and **Vav** (5th and 6th grades) and on **May 3** with **Kitah Zayin** and **Tikhon** (7th grade and Hebrew High).

On Sunday, March 3, students in Gan through Kitah Dalet and families, have a fun Israeli cooking class planned with **Camp Galil**.

Purim is rapidly approaching, and I can taste the hamantaschen already. This year, our Purim celebrations will span two weekends, so mark your calendars for both **March -17** and **March 23-24**. On March , we will have our **Purim dinner**, including our **Hamantaschen Bake-off** and **Scotch Tasting**, followed by our **Rock Purimspiel**, with participation from the Hebrew School community. On Sunday, March 17, we will have our annual **Purim Carnival**, filled with more

hamantaschen and fun, exciting games. The following weekend, we will hold our **“traditional” Megillah reading** on Saturday, March 23.

We have a number of dates with **no classes** in March and April:

- The week of **March 23-30** (during most area schools’ spring break)
- Tuesday, **April 23**
- Tuesday, **April 30**

We will have classes during Hol Hamo’ed Pesah, on Saturday April 27.

We wrap up our school year on **Saturday, May 18**. We hope you will join us as we celebrate our students’ accomplishments this year and thank our teachers. We know our students will be excited as we celebrate a sensational Shabbat, concluding with with our traditional ice cream sundaes!

We wish everyone a Hag Purim same’ah and Pesah same’ah, a happy Purim and happy Passover, as well as a beautiful and warm start to the spring season.

From Coolanu:

SPRING ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS

by Elliot Landes and Lesli Reich

Coolanu had a number of well attended events and activities this past fall and winter:

- Community Sukkah Building followed by "Salsa and Sips" in the Sukkah
- Group outing to Theatre Exile to see the play, *Camp Siegfried*, directed by Society Hill Synagogue member Deborah Block
- Exclusive reception and Hanukkah shopping at the SPACE Art Gallery, hosted by Society Hill Synagogue members Andrea Appel and Chris Brown
- First-annual ugly Hanukkah sweater contest at the Hanukkah Happening
- Ice skating at Rizzo Rink followed by s'mores and hot chocolate at the home of Morgan and Elliot Landes

March - The Second Annual Great Jewish Bake-Off

This event will take place before the Rock Purimspiel. Judging will take place during dinner, so all entries must be received by 5:45 pm that day.

Our reigning champion, **Morgan Landes**, will crown a new winner for Best Overall, and also Best Sweet and Best Savory hamantaschen. We need bakers and judges. Please email

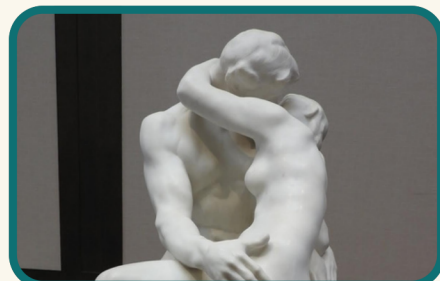
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March 14.

April 7 - Philadelphia Architecture and Public Sculpture Walking Tour

On Sunday, April 7, from 2:00-4:00 pm, congregants Dr. Marty Rosenberg and Carter Reich will lead the next installment of our *Philadelphia Architecture and Public Sculpture Walking Tours*.

The focus of this tour will be the architecture and sculptures along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia's "museum without walls." We will see works by the Calder family, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and many other notable works, as well as remarkable buildings such as City Hall and the Barnes Foundation.

We will begin at City Hall and make a brief detour north to view the Pennsylvania Academy (1876). Then, we will return to Love Park, with its landmark pop art sculpture by Robert Indiana, and head up the Parkway. We will end with a tour of the Rodin Museum, the largest collection of Rodin's work outside Paris.



Rodin's sculpture "The Kiss," photo by Patrick Stam.

Dr. Rosenberg is Professor Emeritus of Art History at Rutgers and taught Modern Architecture for many years, with a particular focus on the architecture of Philadelphia. Carter Reich is a highly-experienced AIA architect.

We will meet on the west side of City Hall at 2:00 pm. Wear comfortable shoes (we will be walking over two miles!) and be prepared for the weather. Participation is limited to 15 people first come, first served. **RSVP to the synagogue office by March 15.**

June 2 - A walking tour of The Old Jewish Quarter of Philly

From the 1880's through the 1920's, the area between Spruce and Christian Street and 2nd and 6th was the Philadelphia equivalent of New York's Lower East Side. Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe created a community with a Yiddish Theater, literary societies and newspapers, synagogues, banks, bath houses, and delicatessens.

Led by congregant Jerry Silverman, this two hour tour will cover two miles and be capped at 20 participants. A suggested \$10 donation per participant to Society Hill Synagogue is greatly appreciated.

The tour will begin at the front steps of Mother Bethel Church at 419 South 6th Street at 1:00 pm. **RSVP to the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215-922-6590.**

Save the Date:

SHARIM V'SHAROT'S L'DOR V'DOR CONCERT

by Marty Rosenberg

On May 19 at 3:00 pm, Society Hill Synagogue will sponsor and host the Spring Choral Concert of **Sharim v'Sharot** (People of Song). Sharim v'Sharot is a select Jewish choir that performs a wide range of Jewish music under the excellent guidance and leadership of **Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman**, the choir's founder, Conductor, and Music Director. In its 24th year, Sharim v'Sharot's members come from central and south Jersey and the greater Delaware Valley.

Sharim v'Sharot sings Jewish music of many eras, locations, and languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, French, Italian, and English. They perform both Ashkenazic and Sephardic folk music. Their repertoire spans a wide variety of musical eras from medieval times to the present, from Italian Renaissance works of Salamone Rossi, to 21st century Israeli and American classical works, showtunes from the Yiddish theatre, and modern popular styles. The choir also performs many works by leading contemporary Jewish composers.

The theme of the 2024 Spring Concert is "**Generations: L'Dor V'Dor**," and it will include selections in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and French. The choir fulfills its mission to promote the performance, preservation, and study of high-quality Jewish music, and to educate the public about a broad range of Jewish music. It seems particularly appropriate for Society Hill Synagogue to host this concert, given how, under Hazzan Jessi's leadership, music is such an important part of the spiritual and cultural life of our synagogue. This concert will provide a wonderful opportunity for both our members and the larger Philadelphia Jewish community to hear one of the finest Jewish choirs in the region.

In addition, four members of our congregation, **Stephen Cohen**, **Naomi Basickes**, **Marty Rosenberg**, and **Ellen Fennick**, are devoted members of Sharim v'Sharot and look forward to sharing their choir with our congregation.

Information about registration and ticketing is coming soon, but for now, please save the date, **May 19, 3:00 pm**, for a rich Jewish musical experience at our synagogue.



Image from the Sharim V'Sharot Spring Concert in 2023; submitted.



L'DOR V'DOR: GENERATIONAL COHORT GROUPS

YOUNG FRIENDS GROUP

by Anna Wiener

The Young Friends group, which serves adults in their 20s and 30s, traces its roots back to a serendipitous gathering orchestrated by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar in the summer of 2020. Two couples, Anna and Phillip Wiener and Megan Helzner and Jason Flamendorf, met, sparking the beginning of enduring friendships and a flourishing community. Under Rabbi Kamesar's guidance, the Young Friends Group took root during the challenging times of the pandemic and has blossomed into the community niche that young people look for when joining a synagogue.

5784 So Far:

- We joined with Tribe 12 to co-host over 70 attendees for a **Sukkot Happy Hour** in our *sukkah*. Many of the attendees learned about Society Hill Synagogue and our Young Friends for the first time, and it was wonderful to welcome them.
- We continued our **Friendsgiving Feast** tradition this year at Niki Torskiy's home. The potluck gathering was great; more than 50 people arrived with food to share!
- To celebrate **Hanukkah**, the Young Friends met at Federal Donuts for *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts) and coffee.
- Most recently, we came together to mark **Tu BiSh'vat** to paint and plant, symbolizing growth and renewal.

Upcoming Events:

- **3/14/24** Talmud on Tap Happy Hour at Iron Hill Brewery
- **4/25/24** Matzah Pizza Night
- **5/19/24** Challah Bake

For the full list of our events or to learn more, visit societyhillsynagogue.org/young-friends.

If you are interested in participating or becoming involved as a leader, please reach out to us YoungFriendsAtSHS@gmail.com.



Young Friends at this year's Friendsgiving Feast; submitted.

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP VOLUNTEERS AT THE JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

by Joanna Hart

In addition to integration throughout synagogue life, the Young Families group also provides special opportunities for families with young children to come together for community and *ru'ah* (spirit). In February, we volunteered at the Jewish Relief Agency's monthly food packing and distribution event to share in this *mitzvah* (good deed) that got our families out in the community.

Learn more and sign up as a family directly at their site jewishrelief.org/jra-juniors — or wait for our next group outing!

Our monthly Friday Kabbalat Shabbat program starts at 5:45 pm, and Saturday morning



Young Families at the Jewish Relief Agency's monthly food packing and distribution event; submitted.

Shabbat celebrations begin at 11:15 am. Upcoming dates through June are: **March 9, April 5 and 20, May 11 and 17, and June 7.** While our program is geared toward children newborn through age six,

older siblings and children are welcome to come help us lead the group in song and dance! Enjoy guitar grooves, singing, instruments for all ages, blessings, dancing, and the company of new friends and familiar faces! A delicious dinner or lunch is always included, giving carers of young children a moment to chat and feel the warmth of the community. You can RSVP via the quick and easy online form linked in eNews, on Facebook, and on our website. You do not need to be a Society Hill Synagogue member to attend. Please contact Sahar with any questions at soz@societyhillsynagogue.org.

We look forward to celebrating with your family!

TRIPLE CHAI RETURNS TO SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE

by Robin Cohen

Triple Chai is making a return to Society Hill Synagogue. This group is for adults ages 54 and older who are looking to make connections within our community at social events.

We are looking for committee members to help brainstorm ideas and plan future events. If you are interested, please email Robin at robin@shs.org



The first event is set for Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 pm. We will attend a premiere of the play, *The Last Yiddish Speaker*, at Interact Theatre.

Tickets are \$25 for Society Hill Synagogue members (\$35 for the general public), and can be purchased at

www.interacttheatre.org.

Use access code "**SHS2024**" to receive the member discount.

From the Inclusion Committee:

THE INCLUSION CORNER

by Gail Massey and Staci Schwartz

May 11 Lunch & Learn – Wrestling with Tradition: Sharing Congregant Experiences with Interfaith Inclusion

In Judaism, tradition sometimes creates challenges in interfaith and single-faith homes alike. It can be helpful to find a balance between traditional religious practices and compromises that feel comfortable for individuals and families from different backgrounds — both in the home and in the community.

Please join us on Saturday, May 11 for a panel discussion with some of your fellow congregants who will share their experiences balancing Jewish tradition and the needs of their families. Our panelists will relate successes, challenges, works in progress — and even failures. We'll also have representatives from the clergy and the Religion Committee available to answer questions.

On the panel, we will have:

- a parent from an interfaith home who grew up with Judaism, and one who grew up without Judaism,
- a teen from an interfaith home,
- a grandparent with grandkids in an interfaith home, and

- someone from a home with different levels of Jewish observance.

Please send questions to panel moderator Jared Susco at [REDACTED] ahead of time, questions put forward during the discussion will also be welcome!

The Interfaith Subcommittee is also continuing to explore ways in which members and guests of other faiths can participate in services at Society Hill Synagogue and to clarify language in our printed materials and announcements.

Updates from our Subcommittees:

Accessibility

Society Hill Synagogue celebrated Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) in February with a Lunch 'n' Learn on universal design, a strategy used to make environments and programs accessible to all.

Gender and LGBTQ+ Inclusion

We now have a combined subcommittee on gender and LGBTQ+ inclusion, and it is seeking additional members. We are pleased to report that all-gender single bathrooms

(labeled as such) are available in both buildings. We have modified gendered language in the Shabbat announcements and considered the various honors — such as *Hagbahah* (Torah lifter) and *G'lilah* (Torah dresser) — in relation to gender. We continue to offer input to those who are shaping the greeting procedures. We are learning more about nongendered terms that can be used in relation to B'nei Mitzvah. We look forward to working with LilyFish Gomberg, our new Communications Manager, so that the full diversity of our community can be represented.

People of Color

The People of Color (PoC) subcommittee had a great kick-off meeting of interested congregants and synagogue leadership for a passionate, idea-filled exchange in late January.

At our next meeting, we will review an environmental scan by **Erica Ginsburg** that covers what other Jewish institutions are already doing and how we can foster better inclusion of PoC over time.

If you are interested in joining the People of Color Subcommittee, contact **Jared Susco** at

or **Debbie Stewart** at



From *POWER Interfaith*:

THE PEOPLE'S ENERGY PLAN FOR PECO

by Wendy Greenspan

POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs Team created the People's Energy Plan to challenge PECO and our state regulator, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), to make a shift away from fossil fuels to affordable clean energy.

Why does this matter?

The energy we depend on must be safe for the communities and workers who produce it, affordable for all who use it, and safe for our land, water, air, and climate. We all deserve a voice in shaping the decisions that affect our communities.

What's our strategy?

The People's Energy Plan aims to change the way PECO buys the electricity they sell to us. Every four years, PECO proposes for PUC approval a plan for how it intends to buy electricity they will sell to us. PECO currently sources just 0.5% of our electricity from solar energy. We need to change that!

What is the People's Energy Plan?

The People's Energy Plan puts forth three ways that PECO's energy procurement plan can begin to build a sustainable future for everyone in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Here are the three methods:

1. Fix the Mix

When PECO buys the electricity they sell to us, they only accept short-term contracts for fossil fuels, because fossil fuel prices are constantly changing. Renewable energy doesn't suffer from the wild price swings we've seen in natural gas the past couple of years. With long-term contracts, PECO can buy cheaper solar and wind energy. PECO needs to end this artificial barrier to affordable renewable energy.

2. Democratize Energy

PECO must open up its procurement planning process and meaningfully engage with stakeholders.

3. Lead, Don't Follow

PECO must be a leader in the region's clean energy future and commit to securing affordable clean energy. PECO must stop "passing the buck" to the government to enforce action. It must stop ignoring the costs to our health and communities. The longer PECO delays taking action on climate change, the more it will cost, both in dollars and in lives.

How will we do this?

POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs Team is partnering with environmental lawyers from Earthjustice to litigate our case before the Public Utility Commission. We are coordinating with community groups, environmental organizations, and economic justice organizations. We are reaching out to elected officials to support the People's Energy Plan, and we are working on a media campaign. This spring, POWER members will testify before the Public Utility Commission regarding PECO's energy procurement plan.



Where do you come in?

There's a lot of work to be done! No matter how much or little time you have, no matter how much or how little you know about renewable energy, there's a place for everyone. Learn more and get involved at powerinterfaith.org/campaigns/climate-justice.

From the Food Insecurity Committee:

FIGHTING HUNGER IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

by Laurie Krivo and Bob Kaufman

Our collaboration with Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) to help feed our neighbors continues to energize Society Hill Synagogue members in this joint effort to provide healthy food with dignity to families in our community. In four months, we've increased from serving 35 families per week to 75! This collaboration with OPCC provides food to families living in the Courtyard Apartments. Thank you to our volunteers; your work makes such a difference.

We are working with OPCC on a new effort to provide 50 bags of food to Vare-Washington Elementary School families once a month.

How can you help?

Volunteer to pack and prepare food at Old Pine Community Center any Tuesday afternoon from 4:00-5:30 pm. You must register on the Society Hill Synagogue website.

Make a donation to the **Society Hill Synagogue Food Insecurity Fund**, through your dues and/or as a direct donation. The synagogue now purchases foods that are highly desired by families but hard to obtain (such as eggs and bread) through donating organizations. Thank you to Old Pine Community Center for all they do and for welcoming us!



Volunteers from Society Hill Synagogue packing food bags at OPCC; submitted.

If you have questions, contact Bob Kaufman at

Laurie Krivo at

From the Vare-Washington Elementary School Committee:

SEEKING MORNING VOLUNTEERS IN HEAD START

by Joan Roller

The Head Start program at Vare-Washington Elementary School is looking for volunteers to help out in the classroom.

When:

Mornings anytime between 8:30 am and 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Frequency is up to the volunteer, but consistency is very much appreciated.

What:

The Pre-K teachers would love help supervising children, keeping children engaged in classroom learning projects, preparing educational materials, and maintaining order and cleanliness in the classroom. The school has two Head Start Pre-K classes in need of additional support, so there are many opportunities.

Requirements:

To volunteer inside the School District of Philadelphia's schools, you must complete a volunteer packet. Vare-Washington HSA members are more than happy to assist anyone interested with completing this packet.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact the synagogue office.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Welcome New Members:

Edward and Rivka Weinstein and their children, Aviva and Daniel

Liz Sall

Coby Fisher and his daughter, Johanna

David Weinfeld and Marjie Patterson and their daughters, Opal and Nancy

Warren Manning and Susan Rodgin

Deena Goldstein and Asher Kline and their children, Alexander and Noah

Adrian and Debora King and their children, Soleil and LuAya



Mazal Tov to:

Ann Rosen Spector and Larry Spector on the birth of their grandchild, Shiloh Ruby Spector Louden

Condolences to:

Josh Lehrer and Laura Gessman and their daughter, Raina, and their family on the passing of Josh's mother, Helena Lehrer

Matt and Mindy Fingerman and their family on the passing of Matt's mother, Wendy Fingerman

The family of Eleanor Jarosh

Naomi Basickes and Steve Cohen and their children, Hannah and Daniel, on the passing of Naomi's mother, Sandy Basickes

Beverly Michaels and her children, Julia Michaels-Koenig and son-in-law Scott Koenig, Annika Michaels, and Carolyn Michaels; and her grandchildren, Lysander, Edgar, and Cora Michaels-Koenig, on the passing of Beverly's husband, Geoffrey Michaels



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March Birthdays:

Theodore Danoff
 Dana Gallant
 Caroline Kamesar
 Madeline Riskowitz
 Marsha Cohen
 Joshua Cooper
 Susan Fisher
 Libby Rosof
 Marc Cohen
 Maxon Raphael
 Raphael Englander
 Mayah Gold
 Linda Rosenstein
 Polina Ferd
 Samuel Marion
 Sophia Spiegel
 Jaclyn Polakoff
 Amy Finkel
 Mirit Schwartz
 Darryl Hazelwood
 Ann Lebowitz
 Zachary Lilien
 Diane Siegel Danoff
 Miles Skolnik
 Alan Casnoff
 Marjorie S. Goldstein
 Bill Hauptman
 Rachel Ladenson
 Lysander Michaels-Koenig
 Richard Braemer
 Jonah Cohen
 Jordan Fox
 Leo Kastenbergl
 Rafi Licht
 Gdaly Berlin
 Anna Elbaum
 Jeremy Newberg
 Jane Peskin
 Ezekiel Hazelwood
 Dinah Lovitch
 Eloise Wilson
 Margot Englander

Jacqueline Goldfinger
 Sarina Kaplan
 Julie Liedman
 Staci Schwartz
 Richard Frantz
 Benjamin Kauderwood
 Odilia Kirshenbaum
 Eve Cohen
 Erica Ginsburg
 Amalya Wolf Weiss
 Susan Berman
 Nancy Moses
 Isabella Schwartz
 Stewart Fisher
 Rachel Howe
 Daniel Strunk
 Ashley Toal
 Dan Kessler
 Eleanor Oxman
 Daniel Sztul
 Aaron Silberstein
 Amy Goldman
 Bob Kaufman
 Maya Litwack
 Stephanie Reinitz
 Jake Rainwater
 Carole Rochester
 Louis Golding
 Elliot Landes
 Hannah Marion
 Stephanie Wolson
 Ken Tobacman

April Birthdays:

Richard Summers
 Morgan Landes
 Susan Leshnoff
 Jonah Miller
 Leah Jordan
 Megan Nachod
 Zev Epstein
 Ana Atach
 Alan Casper

Bob Blacksberg
 Benji Nachod
 Alan Ominsky
 Barbara Rottenberg
 Sarah Liffmann
 David Mink
 Miriam Silberstein
 Julian Tablin-Wolf
 Isaac Freedman
 Samantha Goodman
 Evelyn Segal
 Harry Feinberg
 Michaela Moonblatt
 Maxine Mann
 Leslie Richards
 Leon Sakkal
 Beth Schwartz
 Motty Seal
 Stella Wolson
 Josie Cooper
 Madeline Mohajer
 Bill Goldberg
 Tobey Dichter
 Brian Englander
 Stephen Brown
 Hannah Davidson
 Meredith Buse
 Ethan Gutstadt
 Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
 Leily Schoenhaus
 Matilda Hart
 Bruce Katcher
 Robert Bass
 Amelia Ruggieri
 Bruce Hirsch
 Iris Levine
 Asher Bruton
 Brett Cohen
 Rafael Mesznik
 Darren Seltzer
 David Miller
 Esme Oxman
 Scott Siff

Thomas Borawski
 Nancy Machinist
 Jessica Mono
 Rafael Winokur
 Zachary Fernberger
 Beverly Michaels
 Alex Seldin
 Emma Borow
 Alexander Goldstein
 Luke Makuen
 Benn Cohen
 Carl Levitsky
 Murray Dubin
 Levi Goldstein
 Wally Morano

May Birthdays:

Noah Chrismer
 Miles Kessler
 Barbara Einhorn
 Jerry Rosenberg
 Renee Edelman
 Jessica Tropea

Steven Datlof
 Jacob Fishman
 Mindy Fingerman
 Lynn Gottlieb
 Liz Abrams-Morley
 Eliana Hazelwood
 Emily Perschetz
 Rose Morano
 Allison Kirshner Oz
 Lincoln Kornberg
 Larry Spector
 Susan Banchek
 Dylan Howe
 Lev Silber
 Alan Berlin
 Linda Glass
 Wayne Spilove
 Merrily Williams
 Jillian Borow
 Emma Chrismer
 Randi Kamine
 Joan Roller
 Kinney Zalesne

Carter Reich
 Rian Berger
 Edgar Michaels-Koenig
 Rona Buchalter
 Ella Roe
 Mariel Kornblith Martin
 Barbara Behar
 Jayne Bird
 Steven Moonblatt
 Tammy Noth
 Stefanie Rosen
 Eric Raab
 Arielle Schwartz
 Robin Ireland
 Hazel Saltzman
 Julia Sztul
 LilyFish Gomberg
 Sahar Oz
 David Makuen
 Cat Nguyen
 Julie Wilson
 Rebecca Mann



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March Anniversaries

Arnold & Linda Freedman (50th)
 Maxine Mann & Jay Goodman
 David & Rebecca Makuen (20th)
 Scot & Marcie Ziskind
 Jenny & Adam Saltzman
 Seth & Rachel Cohen
 Louis & Mirit Schwartz
 Liz Abrams-Morley & Steve
 Morley
 Bruce & Carol Katcher
 Jordan & Rebecca Fishman
 Myer & Miriam Magen
 Joanna Lack & Brendan Lowe
 Edward & Rivka Weinstein
 Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
 Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

April Anniversaries

David & Pam Levine
 Randi Kamine & Hop Sears
 Carl & Roberta Dranoff
 Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich
 Josh & Stephanie Wolson
 Mary Fish & Mark Dembert

May Anniversaries

Jonathan Grode & Jayne Bird
 Max & Maria Goldberg (1st)
 Megan Helzner & Jason
 Flamendorf
 Josh Lehrer & Laura Gessman
 Brooke & Matthew Salzman
 Holman & Gail Massey
 Anna & Philip Wiener
 Justin Lilien & Ami Fisher (10th)



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund

In Appreciation of
Society Hill Synagogue
 Samuel & Jill Elias and Family

Borrowing a Torah Scroll
 Debbie Jaffe and Hebrew Helpers

In Honor of
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun's Wedding Anniversary
 Donna Tartasky

Wedding of Will Steinberger & Annie Norbitz
 Jon Broder
 Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz
 Carter & Lesli Reich
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Josephine Cooper
 Joel & Janet Cooper

In Honor of
Carter & Lesli Reich's 45th Wedding Anniversary
 Marty Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick

In Memory of
Libby Kaiser, Wife of Ron Kaiser
 Betta Kolansky

Wendy Fingerman, Mother of Matt Fingerman
 David & Pam Levine

Geoffrey Michaels, Husband of Beverly Michaels
 Tom Borawski & Libby Cone

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine
 Iris Levine

Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine
 Iris Levine

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Don Kaufman, Husband of Karen Kaufman
Karen Kaufman

Adam Levy
Dorene Rosenthal

William Sarnacki, Friend of Carl Kaplan
Carl Kaplan

Meyer Tartasky, Father of Donna Tartasky
Donna Tartasky

Meyer Rohtbart, Husband of Judy Rohtbart
Rona Pietrzak

Sidney S. Lachman, Father of Marlene Lachman
Marlene Lachman

Dorothy S. Goldman, Mother of Amy Goldman
Karl Janowitz & Amy Goldman

Roy B. Rieder, Father of Joan Roller
Jerry & Joan Roller

Pearl Janowitz, Mother of Karl Janowitz
Karl Janowitz & Amy Goldman

Albert Berger, Father of Adrienne Berger
Adrienne Berger

Aaron Markowitz, Father of Sayde Ladov
David & Sayde Ladov

End-Of-Year Appeal

Robert & Wilma Bass
Randi Kamine & Hop Sears
Marc & Nancy Goldenberg
Enid Krasner & Alan Rothenberg
Rabbi Avi Winokur & Susan Berman
Adriel Mesznik & Liz Heller-Mesznik
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Elena Brachtel
Dan & Barbara Rottenberg
Jeremy Peskin & Sara Manning Peskin
Timothy Cravens
Tony & Judy Lalli
Bob Kaufman & Laurie Krivo
Merle Jaffe

End-Of-Year Appeal

Joseph Freedman
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
Harvey & Vikki Wiener
Nancy Morgenstern
Jennifer Raphael
Marc & Anita Cohen
Rob Einhorn
Gregg Greenberg & Jamie Goren
Stephen Cohen & Naomi Basicckes
Carl Kaplan
Larry Dubinski & Vicki Markovitz
Samuel Mink & Anthony Padilla
David & Sayde Ladov
Carter & Lesli Reich
Myer & Miriam Magen
David Pressel & Jill Feldman
Sahar Oz & Allison Kirshner Oz
Alex & Stefanie Seldin
Robert & Barbara Behar
Neil Epstein
Judy Rohtbart
Michael & Valerie Yasner
Elliot & Morgan Landes
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman
Ben Schindler & Becky Rohtbart
Barry & Joann Slosberg
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
Alex Tablin-Wolf & Cat Nguyen
Jonathan Auerbach
Josh & Stephanie Wolson
Lois Vederman
Alan & Lynn Gottlieb
Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton
Philip & Anna Wiener
Steven Gendler
Stephen Kastenberga & Robin Ireland
Jamie Cooperstein & Josh Cooper
Lance & Blair Goldstein
Francine Cohen
William Goldberg
Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
Carmen & Ric Hayman
Leonard & Gail Pogach
Leonard & Deena Friedland
Ben Honig & Dana Ovadia
Beverly Levy
Jerry & Joan Roller
Mitchell Bach & Elayne Bloom

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
**Rabbi Kamesar Officiating the Auf Ruf of Shira
 Cohen & Marjorie Alexander**
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
 Jerry Silverman
 Rabbi Jacob Staub
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

**In Gratitude for Rebecca Buse-Morley's Bat
 Mitzvah**
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

In Honor of
Rabbi Kamesar's Installation
 Ron & Robin Feinberg

In Memory of
Libby Kaiser, Wife of Ron Kaiser
 Ron Kaiser
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Naomi Greenberg, Mother of Susan Fisher
 Stew & Susan Fisher

Geoffrey Michaels, Husband of Beverly Michaels
 Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Louis Blender, Father of Burton Blender
 Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Hazzan Jessi Roemer
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

**Hazzan Jessi Roemer Officiating the Wedding
 of Shira Cohen & Marjorie Alexander**
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
**In Gratitude for Rebecca Buse-Morley's Bat
 Mitzvah**
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

In Memory of
Libby Kaiser, Wife of Ron Kaiser
 Ron Kaiser

Geoffrey Michaels, Husband of Beverly Michaels
 Cantor Bob & Sally Freedman

Rabbi Winokur Legacy Fund

In Memory of
Libby Kaiser, Wife of Ron Kaiser
 Ron Kaiser

Eleanor Jarosh
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Social Action Fund

Vare-Washington Elementary School Coat Drive
 Tony & Judy Lalli
 Carl Levitsky
 Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

**In Gratitude for Rebecca Buse-Morley's Bat
 Mitzvah**
 Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin
 Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Stanley Dubin, Brother of Murray Dubin
 Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Natalie Smith, Sister of Alexis Berg Marmar
 Joel Marmar & Alexis Berg Marmar

**Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debbie
 Weissbach**
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

**Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debbie
 Weissbach**
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Jules Cohen, Father of Neil Cohen
 Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Food Insecurity Fund

General Donation
 Ruth Peterson

In Honor of
**Leanne Bendetti for her work with the Vare-
 Washington Elementary School Coat Drive**
 Jerry & Joan Roller

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Food Insecurity Fund

In Honor of
**LilyFish Gomberg, New Communications
 Manager**
 David & Pam Levine

In Memory of
Cantor Alan Cohn
 Jerry & Joan Roller

Geoffrey Michaels, Husband of Beverly Michaels
 Nancy Morgenstern

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Joan Fries, Mother of Lesli Reich
 Carter & Lesli Reich

Anita Reich, Mother of Carter Reich
 Carter & Lesli Reich

Kiddush Fund

In Appreciation of
Society Hill Synagogue
 Stephen Cohen & Naomi Basicckes
 David Meron
 Annie Zhu

In Honor of
Wedding of Will Steinberger & Annie Norbitz
 David & Pam Levine

Elliot & Morgan Landes, for Après Skating Event
 David & Pam Levine

In Memory of
Geoffrey Michaels, Husband of Beverly Michaels
 Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
 David & Pam Levine
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

Fred Billet
 Marsha Cohen

Libby Kaiser, Wife of Ron Kaiser
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

Kiddush Fund

In Memory of
**In memory and in honor of those who lost their
 lives or freedom on October 7 and the brave
 soldiers who lost their lives protecting Israel**
 Tal & Valerie Pipano

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Max Levine, Grandfather of David Levine
 David & Pam Levine

Jay Denbo, Husband of Phyllis Denbo
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

Betty Kaplan, Grandmother of Pam Levine
 David & Pam Levine

Julius Wartell, Grandfather of Lesli Reich
 Carter & Lesli Reich

Frank Hollin, Father of Edward Hollin
 Edward Hollin

William Freistadt
 David & Pam Levine

Laurie Goldman
 David & Pam Levine

Adult Education Fund
 In Memory of
Vivian Shapiro, Mother of Marilyn Schapira
 Susan Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
**Harry & Rose Greenberg, Parents of Miriam
 Magen**
 Myer & Miriam Magen

Morris & Dorothy Serlin, Parents of David Serlin
 David Serlin & Susan Denbo

Benjamin Dubin, Father of Murray Dubin
 Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund
 General Donation
 Kathy Kaplan

In Honor of
Sahar Oz, for the Speedy Recovery of Narda Oz
 Carmen & Ric Hayman

PESAH SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Tuesday, Apr. 23 @ 6:00-8:30 pm

Cost: \$60/Adult (Ages 13+) • \$40/Child (Under Age 13)

Register by March 25 by emailing Leanne at office@societyhillssynagogue.org or calling 215-922-6590

Celebrate Pesah (Passover) at our annual Second Night Seder with Society Hill Synagogue members, family, and friends. Led by **Rabbi Nathan Kamesar**, we'll march through the *Haggadah* together with interactive readings and interpretations as we envision ourselves journeying from Egyptian bondage to freedom. Enjoy a delicious Kosher for Passover meal, including wine — and you're welcome to bring your own additional Kosher for Passover wine as well.

Menu

Entrées:

- **Option 1:** Tender Roast Prime Brisket of Beef Au Jus
- **Option 2:** Rolled Eggplant with Roasted Red Pepper & Portobello Mushroom Stuffing
- **Option 3:** Atlantic Salmon Fillet Grilled with Lemon, Dill, White Wine

Along With:

- Gefilte Fish, String Beans, Potato & Onion Kugel
- Mixed Green Salad
- Pickles, Sour Tomatoes, Olives & Matzah
- Sweet Tray with Passover Cakes & Cookies, and Fresh Fruit

Each table also receives a Seder Plate, a Bottle of Red Wine, and a Bottle of White Wine.



**SPONSOR A
SHABBAT ONEG DINNER
OR KIDDUSH LUNCH**

Sponsor a Shabbat Oneg Dinner or Kiddush Lunch

Following Friday evening TGIShabbat services, Saturday morning Shabbat services, and holiday services, the Society Hill Synagogue community comes together to bless the wine and challah and enjoy delicious meals **made possible thanks to the generosity of members like you.**

Sponsoring these meals, collectively called “Oneg” dinners and “Kiddush” lunches, is a wonderful way to celebrate a *simhah* (happy occasion), share a special moment in one’s life, or honor someone’s life and memory.

Sponsoring an Oneg dinner or Kiddush lunch helps the congregation get to know you and supports your synagogue.

To sponsor a meal, please contact Leanne at 215-922-6590 or office@societyhillssynagogue.org.

MARCH • APRIL • MAY 2024 • • • ADAR I • ADAR II • NISAN • IYAR 5784

SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

MARCH

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						





APRIL

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15		17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SPRING CALENDAR KEY:

-  = Young Families Shabbat
-  = Book Club Meets
-  = B'nei Mitzvah
-  = Save the Date for a special event:

March 8: TGIShabbat with Kitot Hey & Vav

March 10: R' Nathan Installation Ceremony

March 14: Young Friends Talmud on Tap

March 16: Dinner, Scotch Tasting & Purimspiel

March 17: Purim Carnival

March 23: "Traditional" Megillah Reading

April 23: Pesah Service & Second Night Seder

April 29: Pesah Yizkor Service

May 3: TGIShabbat with Kitah Zayin & Tikhon

May 5: Yom HaShoah Observance & Minyan

May 11: Interfaith Inclusion Lunch & Learn

May 19: Young Friends Challah Bake

May 19: Sharim v'Sharot Choir Performance

This calendar is subject to change.

For up-to-date information, check

www.societyhillssynagogue.org/calendar

or contact our office.

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR:



PLAYSCHOOL CALENDAR:



Mail To:

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

215.922.6590
www.societyhillsynagogue.org

Carmen Hayman, President
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
Rabbi Avi Winokur, Rabbi Emeritus
Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Sahar Oz, Executive Director
LilyFish Gomberg, Communications Manager

